

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

This year is the 75th Anniversary of the first time Australian Territory was invaded by an enemy, the Japanese when they invaded and occupied Rabaul and New Guinea Islands in the Australian Mandated Territory of New Guinea. NGVR was one of the few Australian military units facing the enemy during this stressful time; in Rabaul as part of Lark Force and the only unit on the New Guinea Mainland.

Our Boundary Road Wacol Memorial Museum was established and dedicated to the men of NGVR who served, particularly to those who died. It is a Community facility. The Museum's objective is to preserve artefacts, memorabilia, photographs and documents about the Pacific War in PNG so future generations may keep and learn of their deeds and sacrifice. We invite you and your relatives/friends to visit our Memorial Museum. Just ring Curator John Holland on 0440 504 058.

We had 40 marching in **Brisbane on Anzac Day**, 30 in attendance at our NGVR Memorial Service in the Hall of Memories, Brisbane Cenotaph and 70 at the post-march reunion at the Royal Exchange Hotel. Many people comment about the smartness of our group and that we actually march - yes, we do take it seriously and are proud of our units and turnout. Arrangements for all events were of the usual high standard, thank you to Colin Gould, Paul Brown, Mike Griffin, Doug Ng and Peter Rogers Jnr. There is montage of photos on page 15.



*Jerry McGrade's Quintet
25 April 2017*

Many members have been in contact, some with photographs of their attendances at **Anzac Day ceremonies** around Australia: Bill Bickerton at Manjimup, Ross Johnson in Sydney, Bob Harvey-Hall in Melbourne, Norm Mundy and Barry Wright at Crows Nest, Barry Beaman at Pt Douglas, Bruce Johnson at Redcliffe and many more. Page 15 shows a group who marched under the NGVR/ANGAU banner in Sydney.

Eight of our members turned out for 29th April **Richlands Remembrance Day** held at the Serbian Orthodox Church grounds, Richlands. This was a successful first time event arranged by the Serbian Orthodox Community when about 100 attendees were addressed by Councillor Charles Strunk, Stevo Vlasisavljevic and your President, followed by an excellent barbeque luncheon prepared by the ladies of the Church. A big thank you to John Holland and Colin Gould for co-ordinating arrangements.

Our next events include the management committee meeting at 10 am, 20th May (all welcome) and **our 75th Anniversary Commemoration of the sinking of the Montevideo Maru to be held at 10am in the Hall of Memories, Brisbane Cenotaph** followed by morning tea in the nearby Adina Apartments Hotel. Our Patron, Maj-Gen John Pearn will be the keynote speaker and a special effort has been made to ensure high representation of our three levels of government as well as other allied organisations are present for this significant 75th Anniversary Public Commemoration. Again thank you to our Secretary, Colin Gould and Paul Brown for the organising of the event. Dress is our Anzac Day dress with beret and full medals. See accompanying flyer for further details or contact Colin Gould on.

For those members who live close to Canberra and are unable to attend the Brisbane ceremony on 1st July, the PNGAA/PNGVR Assoc. has organised a **75th Rabaul and Montevideo Maru (R & Mvm) Commemoration Service for 1pm, 1st July at the R & Mvm National Memorial, Australian War Memorial, Canberra** with Dr Brendon Nelson being the keynote speaker. A dinner at Mercure Hotel has been arranged for 6pm the same day. Please view



Colin Gould 29 April 2017

the accompanying flyer for further details. If you wish to attend please contact admin@memorial.org.au, who will also provide you an accommodation package at the Hotel, if you are interested.

PNGAA/PNGVR Assoc. in conjunction with the Rabaul Historical Society and Susie McGrade are arranging a **75th R & Mvm Commemorative Service on Thursday, 22nd June in Rabaul** with the Australian High Commissioner, Bruce Davies being the keynote speaker. The 22nd June is the fated day the Montevideo Maru departed Rabaul loaded with 1,053 Australian men, civilian and military. A travel and accommodation package has been arranged by Susie McGrade, the proprietor of the Rabaul Hotel and President of the Rabaul Historical Society. Please view the accompanying flyer for details or contact admin@memorial.org.au or susie@rabaulhotel.com.pg.

Phil Ainsworth

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**A Citizen Military Forces (Reservist) Officer
in South Vietnam
Maj Bob Harvey-Hall RFD ED (Rtd)**

Towards the end of 1966 the CO PNGVR Lt Col Mal Bishop and the Commander PNG, Brig Ian Hunter, came to afternoon tea at the Harvey-Hall residence in Lae, and in doing so asked if I would go to South Vietnam; whilst there I would be attached to 1 Task Force at Nui Dat: I would be the first PNGVR officer to be so posted. I had no prior warning of the subject. Later I agreed, after having clarified my employment conditions with Trans Australian Airlines.

CMF Officer attachments (not a posting according to the Military Board) to the Task Force in Vietnam was the brainchild of Maj Gen Paul A Cullen, at the time the CMF Member of the Military Board.

The Nominal Roll of Veterans, produced by the Dept of Veterans' Affairs shows under Codes for Australian Defence Force Units, the listing 221 Citizen Military Forces - Officer Visit. The names of all persons, military and civilian who went to Vietnam are listed alphabetically in the publication. The CMF Officers were eligible to receive the Vietnam Logistics Service Medal and where applicable, the Australian Active Service Medal with Vietnam Clasp: these awards did not occur until about 25 years after the end of the South Vietnam conflict.

In 1965 I had purchased Bernard Fall's iconic book Street Without Joy story of the debacle of the French Far East Expeditionary Forces is what was then Indo China. The Viet Minh fortified a 32 km strip of Route 1 (Street without Joy) wherein they set up fortified villages, each connected to the other by trenches and tunnels from which they set up ambushes continually harassing the French: this was not the only tactic they used. The final defeat for the expeditionary force was at Dien Bein Phu. Ironically Bernard Fall was killed by a land mine on the Street Without Joy in 1967 during a US Marine operation.

The Task Force at Nui Dat was situated in Phuc Tuy Province. Militarily the formation was responsible for keeping its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) secure and, at the time, conducting operations anywhere in the province: this also meant securing Route 15 (another significant highway) and ensuring control of the port at Vung Tau. Politically the Task Force was tasked with extending government control in the province.

When I arrived in Nui Dat 1 Task Force (1TF) had been in location about 10 months. In Feb the unit consisted of 5 and 6 Battalions RAR, 1 Field Regt RAA, consisting of two Australian batteries using 105 pack howitzers and one New Zealand 105 howitzer battery, 1 APC Squadron, 1 Field Squadron and an Engineer support troop. 1 ALSG which dealt with the medical and the administration aspects of the Task Force (TF) was at Vund Tau. The Army Aviation Regt was represented by 161 Recce Flight with Cessna 180 fixed wing aircraft and Bell H-13 Sioux observation helicopters; 9 Squadron RAAF operated UH-1B helicopters: this list may not be complete. In 1967 the formation consisted of about 4300 personnel. Prior to leaving Lae to go to South Vietnam I commenced a diary that was a string of abbreviated notes which, on my return was to be the basis for my report to PNGVR. The report was in longhand and my duplicate carbon copy disappeared before I left PNGI I do not recall seeing any of the reports by the PNGVR Officers who followed me. Recently I 'found' some of my notes and this writing is an extrapolation of those scribbles.

Prior to my arrival, during Operation Beaumaris, a 5 RAR cordon and search of An Nhut, lying between Long Dien and Dat Do in Phuc Tuy province, the Charlie Company commander Maj Don Bourne, the Company second in command Capt Bob Milligan, an ex PIR officer, and a New Zealand FO were killed by a mine during a Company O group. On arrival at the 5 RAR location in the TF area I was allocated Bob Milligan's bed which had an inverted issue pannikin on the bed head: there were other beds available, however I accepted the situation. An Australian CMF Captain, who was about to return to Australia and who was with the C Coy HQ group on Beaumaris, told me that he was almost killed with the three officers; he said a walk to a nearby fence by one of the group triggered the mine.

I was part of a group of five CMF Officers who had flown from Richmond RAAF base, via Darwin airbase, Udon airbase in Thailand and into Luscombe airfield in Phuc Tuy. I found the flight interesting and as an engineer with similar qualifications to the RAAF Flight Engineer I was invited to travel on the flight deck of the aircraft. I was able to talk to the crew about transport type aircraft operations and particularly discuss the Allison engine on the RAAF Hercules: TAA Electra passenger aircraft were powered by the same engine. The aircraft navigator was a USAF Captain on exchange duty and when we arrived at Luscombe, he walked off the aircraft as a Major; he had been automatically promoted during the flight. After being administratively cleared at Vung Tau we travelled by vehicle to Nui Dat and received a briefing at TF HQ which included a USAF Lt Col, a Huey jockey who gave a vivid description of an encounter with several Viet Cong near Long Dien the day before we arrived which resulted in all being killed: his 'gung ho' performance was a lot better than some actors I later saw in war movies on Vietnam. We were told that 5 RAR had begun Operation Renmark which was to clear a large part of the Long Hai hills, to be followed by Operation Ulmara which was to be a cordon and search of a village. Mention was made of a B52 stricke on the hills; I do not recall when the bombing occurred. At the completion of the briefing I was informed I would join 5 RAR next day. On Day 1 that night in the Officers Mess I met the RC Padre who gave me a rosary in the form of a finger ring" I did not make use of the icon, however I still have it among my souvenirs.

On Day 2 I was checked out on various weapons on what I took to be the TF range by the Support Coy 21/C. He told me that the Long Hai hills, in which the 5 RAR battle group was to operate, were about 18 km from the TF and was controlled by the Viet Cong and that the place was lousy with mines and booby traps. He also said there were many caves and the terrain was pretty rugged.

On arrival at Battle HQ I met the CO Lt Col John Warr, the IO Capt Robert O'Neill and the Adjutant whose name I did not record. I also met the OC of C Coy (to which I was to be attached), Maj John Miller who had taken over after Don Bourne was killed during Beaumaris: John Miller informed me he was about to hand over C Coy to Maj Ron Shambrook: later I found out Shambrook was an ex CMF Officer. At the handover for which I supplied some Chivas Regal scotch, I was informed I would remain with C Coy and join B Coy for Operation Ulmarra, a cordon and search which would occur after the completion of Operation Renmark. After the handover I was told that C coy would take over from A Coy for the defence of 5 RAR HQ and in doing so would proceed to the new HQ area and secure it: during the occupation of this area several shots were fired by the Viet Cong (VC). I was also informed that B Coy was moving as the vanguard of the battalion in APCs, that some small camps, tunnels and jumping jack mines had been found and VC had been encountered in small groups. The next day the search and destroy operation restarted. A light wind was blowing, it was



humid and dusty, I found the going difficult and very soon I was sweating like the proverbial pig; I guess I was carrying about forty pounds weight, most of the load seemed to be food and ammunition, with three water bottles and bedding and hutchie. I had been issued with a SLR and a 9 mm pistol, the latter I kept with me during my posting. I recalled thankfully I had been doing a lot of running around the football oval at Lae soon after I was confirmed to go to South Vietnam. C

Coy HQ comprised 8 people including myself; OC and radio operator and OCs protection party of 3 Other Ranks, including his batman, the A Company Sgt Major and a soldier dedicated to the CSM. On my first day I think we harboured about 1630, maybe 1799. The OC included me in his inspection of 7 and 8 Platoons; he indicated he knew what he was after, both platoons seemed to be well set up, probably due to the number of times the sub units had been doing that drill: 9 Platoon seemed to be directly related to the Battalion Commanders protection. Ron Shambrook took time to give me a running briefing on what he expected from the Platoon commanders in harbour. Prior to digging in that night, just a shellscape, two US Army Chinook delivered mortar and howitzer ammunition and beer and cigarettes. It was fascinating seeing those two 'giant' lowering and shaking their backsides ((the doors had been removed), and watching the cargo sliding out onto the ground; for some reason it made me think of the 'cargo cult' in PNG. I had given up smoking some six months earlier so I was popular for a short time when I gave 'my' fags away" later I would wish I had them On my Day 3 the battalion continued the search and destroy operation and again I found the going very hard.

Probably about 1430 hrs the OC received a call to report to Battalion HQ, he included me in his party of six; on arrival we were told that B Coy had problems from a mine blast and that there were dead and wounded. Very soon after our arrival a voice said to me 'what the hell are you doing here'; it was Ross Wormold, at one time the ARA Instructor of A Coy at Lae who was now the acting RSM of 5 RAR Battle Group. Wormold was not friendly, he was just plain busy and without pausing, looked at our group and others on the periphery and said 'give me your shell dressings': we had been told that a temporary RAP was being set up. Not long after I found myself looking at a lanky figure with a large untidy moustache laying on a stretcher whose clothing was peppered with small holes' later I was told he was Jack Carruthers, the OC of 4 Platoon' Carruthers died some days later. A short time later US Air Force Martin B57 Canberra bombers began delivering their loads of 'iron bombs' on the elusive VC in front of where the battle group had come to a shuddering halt. The Canberra bombers, made under licence in the US, were followed by Super Sabres with napalm and finally US Army Huey gun ships took over. Well before this happened it seemed just about everyone had their cameras recording the events unfolding in front of us. Meanwhile one of the rifle companies had moved up with sapper teams which found more mines and booby traps. We remained in position overnight, with howitzers and mortars firing on the hill slopes and the APCx firing their 50 and 50 caliber guns. The Coy Comd said it was an ideal situation for tanks: a third Battalion and battle tanks were still on the TF wish list. I spent an uncomfortable night, trying to digest the piece-meal information coming to us from various locations. The Coy Comd was called to battle HQ more than once; he did not ask me to go with him and he did not say what had occurred; he had several conversations with the CSM and two O groups with the PI Comds: Ron Shambrook was focused on making sure battle HQ and C Coy were secure. After a couple of false starts we departed for Nui Dat the next morning: some troops went by US Army helicopters, whilst the majority went by road transport. Back at base I was told

that the reason for the withdrawal was that the Australian Govt was concerned at the number of casualties, now said to be 5 dead and 26 wounded. The CO informed the battalion and others concerned that the TF Comd said the reason for the return was that sound intelligence suggested the VC were going to attack the TF and 5 RAR was needed at Nui Dat. Whilst precautions were taken, history records the VC threat was a non event. The final casualties were probably 8 Aust dead and 26 wounded, including some losing limbs, versus a few VC dead: I left Nui Dat still thinking the withdrawal was political. The day after I returned to Nui Dat I was taken on a recce flight over the TF TAOR and, among other places, I was able to get a good look at that area of the Long Hai hills where we had been; indeed a bleak looking place, either from the air or on the ground. The skeletal remains of the lead APC was clearly defined lying on its side; apparently important equipment had been removed from the vehicle prior to the withdrawal. The flight was done at a minimum of 1500 feet and I sat on an armoured vest. My introduction to active service was a sobering experience. During the remainder of my time with the TF I was kept busy within the TAOR, and with TF HQ and in Saigon with the 'Friendly Forces' HQ. Being busy inside the TAOR meant I was able to be part of Coy sized patrols, with APCs covering the likely enemy approaches seen to be mainly from the north of the TF. A number of tunnels were found which were investigated and then destroyed by engineers delivered to wherever by helicopter; on my second excursion I fired a 50 caliber machine gun on an APC: the target was an area of ground about 800 m inside the TAOR which was engaged by three other M113s: later I was shown a series of tunnels which were then destroyed by the engineers.

Before leaving Nui Dat I was given some more information as to what happened on that fateful day. I was told that 4 PI, under Lt John Carruthers (a Portsea graduate and Vietnamese linguist) was moving in APCs when a short time after midday the lead APC slowed to cross a track and a big explosion blew it into the air causing it to end up on its side. The driver and vehicle commander were killed. Whilst all carriers were halted, in moving forward the Coy Comd Maj Bruce McQualter (Duntroon graduate) with radio operator and company medics seemingly set off another explosion when they moved to the blast site in which more deaths and wounded occurred. Bruce McQualter and Jack Carruthers were among the wounded, both dying some days later. A Coy, the designated relief force, only reached the beleaguered B Coy at nightfall after the area had been cleared. The RMO, Capt Tony White, came by helicopter to treat the wounded and very soon he was in the midst of the mined area determining the level of injury for extraction by helicopter.

The above writing hovers somewhere near the truth of the matter; it is my version of events: it is accurate according to my notes. On my return to Lae I sent my report to PNGVR HQ: I made use of the experience I gained in Vietnam during my time as a Coy Comd and as Battalion 21/c of PNGVR. Another positive thing occurred in that using the 5 RAR Standing Operating Procedures I was given by the 5 RAR C Coy Comd, I wrote a set of procedures, which, with some amendments by HQ became the PNGVR Battalion SOPs. Every day, including most nights I was at Nui Dat, or outside the TF TAO I had something to do; something new and interesting and all in harms way.

Thank you Bob. Should any member have a story of their experiences in the Military I would love to receive them for publication in HTT.
Editor.

Beating retreat and tattoo

There is often a good deal of confusion between beating retreat and tattoo. Retreat is the older custom and dates to the 16th century, when it was known as watch setting. The retreat consisted of prolonged drum-beating at sunset to warn the night guard to mound and to give notice to soldiers beyond the confines of either the camp or the town walls that the gates were about to close and that they should return. This drill also signalled civilians working in the fields it was time to come back to the safety of the garrison.

The custom has its origins in the days when fighting ceased at sunset; the drum beats signalled that the fighting was over. The soldiers in the main body of troops would fire three volleys of muskets (for troops who were far spread and may not hear the drums) and a hymn would be played between the volleys in honour of those who had fallen during the day.

It was said that the volleys put to flight the evil spirits of departed soldiers. It was during this time of the evening that the colours would be trooped. This drill is replaced today by the lowering of the national flag.

There is some confusion over the post calls. It seemed that the First Post and the Last Post came into being in the early part of the 19th century. First Post was sounded as the orderly officer, the orderly sergeant and a drummer (with bugle) started the tattoo. They then marched from post to post with the drummer beating his drum. Upon reaching the final post the drummer would sound the Last Post. This is why drummers also carry a bugle.

Another line of thought is the tattoo began at 9pm, the same time as the warning piece (gun) sounded. Soldiers then had to be at their beds by 9.30pm - First Post where the orderly sergeant checked for absentees and by 10pm, when the Last Post sounded, the troops had to be in bed. This was followed 15 minutes later by lights out.

There is some conjecture over the origin of the word tattoo but in the main it is agreed that the word is derived from the old Dutch expression *doe den tap toe*, which freely translated into English is turn off the taps. The phrase tap toe was used in official books for a long time and gradually gave place to the familiar word tattoo.

This drum call was to get the soldiers back to their billets by having the innkeepers turn off their beer taps and cease selling liquor.

The Last Post was really the end of the day (a hard day's fighting and a hard night's drinking). This bugle call has been passed down through the centuries, in many countries of the world, as an accompaniment to the impressive rites of a soldier's farewell, where the closing bars wail out their sad farewell to the departing warrior.

WO1 C.J. Jobson, RSM Ceremonial ADHQ

A Russian, an American, and a Blonde were talking one day.
The Russian said, 'We were the first in space!'
The American said, 'We were the first on the moon!'
The Blonde said, 'So what? We're going to be the first on the sun!'
The Russian and the American looked at each other and shook their heads.
You can't land on the sun, you idiot! You'll burn up!' said the Russian.

Each year our Association gives a Medallion and a Certificate to the best Section in 9RQR. The Unit devotes a weekend of Section activity and competition to determine the winning section. The weekend exercise is termed "Steele Tuff" and the name comes from one of the 9th Bn members who served on Gallipoli and the Western Front.

Major Alexander Steele, DSO. DCM. MID.

Alexander Steele, (1883-1917) was born on 20 August 1883 at Mount Gambier, South Australia, son of Dugald Steele, painter, and his wife Elizabeth Burton. Educated at Mount Gambier Grammar School, he worked for a local bootmaker (a member of the Volunteer Corps) under whose influence Steele began his military career in the ranks of the South Australian Infantry Regiment.

From qualifying school, he was appointed to the Administrative and Instructional Staff of the Permanent Military Forces in August 1910 and posted to Gawler where in January 1911 he was appointed Staff Sergeant Major (SSM); next year he qualified at the Permanent Military Force's School of Musketry. Posted in September 1913 to the Royal Military College, Duntroon, as the non-commissioned instructor in infantry and musketry, he passed a course on machine-guns at the School of Musketry and applied for a commission but withdrew from the examination.

Travelling to Queensland reputedly to meet a friend who was about to join up, Steele enlisted on 25 August 1914 in the 9th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force at Enoggera. He had no idea what was to occur on this date twelve months later. There is still some question as to why he did not seek commission on or before enlistment, as he had applied. It might be considered whilst his friend joined he would not want to miss out in awaiting his commission and also joined when patriotism was high. Also as he was an instructor at RMC, maybe he thought he would miss out if he did not join when he did.

He sailed with the unit's machine-gun section the next month and served as machinegun sergeant during the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915. His work in the first ten days ashore earned special mention in Army Corps routine orders. For manning and maintaining his gun in action for several days after the rest of his section had been killed or wounded, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal; on 28 April he was also commissioned Second Lieutenant. Wounded on 19 May when an expanding bullet struck his forearm, he was evacuated to hospital in Egypt. He was mentioned in dispatches on 3 August and promoted Lieutenant on the 4th; he returned to his Battalion on the 9 August, but was re-admitted to hospital after being wounded again on 31 August 1916 and did not rejoin his unit until 9 December.



Having been made machine-gun officer for the 3rd Brigade, in February 1916 Steele was promoted Captain. He raised the brigade's 3rd Machine-Gun Company and was its Commanding Officer when the brigade went to France in March. During the period of trench-raids to which the A.I.F. was first exposed on this front, Steele showed himself to be skilled in machine-gun tactics. In the battle of the Somme in the months to October, his services were 'conspicuous and consistent for displaying marked resourcefulness and leadership'. He was promoted Major in August, awarded the Distinguished Service Order in December and again mentioned in dispatches in January 1917.

After attending a senior officers' course in early 1917 at Aldeshot, England, he resumed command of his machine-gun company on 4 April. On the 27th he was given temporary command of the 10th Battalion and led this unit in the 2nd battle of Bullecourt on 6th May. Transferred to the 11th Battalion on 5 July as second-in command, which only seemed temporary and was regarded by many as a foreshadow to his promotion to command a battalion. He was temporarily commanding this unit at Broodseinde Ridge, when, on 7th October, the battalion headquarters were heavily shelled and he was killed; nothing reportedly remained of Steele save his tunic. He had been, as the historian C. E. W. Bean noted at the time, 'a splendid officer, who was a Sergeant instructor in Australia, and was the makings of the 11th Battalion' and 'Steele will make something of the 11th - the 11th certainly looked hardest'.

Steele's rise from non-commissioned rank on the outbreak of war to his first command of a battalion three years later, at the age of 28, was clear evidence of the calibre of the personnel serving in the ranks of Australia's small pre-war permanent forces. The fact that, by his ability, he was so able to rise was one of the strengths of the A.I.F. Maj Steele had the making of a very good commanding officer, he understood use of supporting elements in his tactics and always ensured his officers and men were well briefed. His planning was very thorough and on many occasions displayed exceptional courage. All of this from a soldier and officer who was still only 29 years of age at his death.

An example of his courage and leadership is in this quote that was overheard by a fellow soldier and given by Captain Steele at Pozieres; "Men of the 9th Battalion, the first to land at on Gallipoli, the Germans are working up to another counter attack by the shelling that you can hear coming over. They have already made one and were driven back, but by sweet Jesus now they will not take this post".

He was unmarried - although there were reports he may have been engaged.

Thank you Secretary, Colin Gould MBE for this article

Interesting Facts.

Marching Rates – Paces per minute:

Napoleonic Grande Armee 120
British Army (line infantry and corps) 120
Chinese People's Liberation Army 108
Ancient Roman Legion 100
French Foreign Legion 100
British Army under Wellington 75

Loads carried:

Weight of personal weapons and equipment:
Roman Legionary – first century 66 lbs
Armoured French Knight at Agincourt 1415 80 lbs
Union Soldier at Gettysburg 1863 50 lbs
Allied Infantryman on D-Day 1944 80 lbs
Russian Soldier advancing on Berlin 1945 40 lbs
Royal Marine in the Falklands 1982 120 lbs
US Army Soldier in Afghanistan 2002 100 lbs

Ex RAAF Hercules crash in West Papua kills 13

An ex-RAAF C-130H Hercules crashed into a mountain in West Papua in January killing three crew and 10 military passengers.



Bad weather is the initial reason given for the crash that all but destroyed the airplane.

The plane was carrying food and cement to a remote village when it apparently hit a mountain, in bad weather, just minutes before its scheduled landing.

One report suggests the air-traffic-control tower at the airport actually spotted the plane, but that the crew couldn't see the airport in the bad weather.

The aircraft with Indonesian registration A-1334 was formerly owned and operated by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) for more than 30 years, with tail number A97-005, and was one of four C-130H Hercules sold to Indonesia in 2012.

A97-005, with a distinctive commemorative tail artwork, was the centrepiece of a farewell formation flight over the Blue Mountains, the NSW Coast and Sydney Harbour area, on 19 November 2012, to acknowledge the strong links the C-130H held with these communities since the first of 12 C-130H arrived at RAAF Base Richmond in July 1978.

Reports suggest the aircraft was adequately maintained in Indonesian service and was not due for another scheduled maintenance for more than 50 hour.

In July last year, another Indonesian Hercules (not ex-RAAF) crashed shortly after takeoff in a residential area of Medan, North Sumatra, killing 140 people in the aircraft and on the ground.

According to Flight Global web site, this is the fifth C-130 Indonesia has lost since the year 2000.

The same web site says...

The aircraft bore serial number A-1334. Flight Fleets Analyzer shows that it was delivered to the Royal Australian Air Force in 1977, and served with it until it was parked in 2012.

It returned to operation on 8 February 2016 after refurbishment by Airbus Defence & Space in Australia.

A-1334 is the first aircraft from a five aircraft deal from 2013, under which Indonesia purchased former RAAF C-130Hs. Powered by four Rolls-Royce T56 engines, its manufacturer's serial number was 4785. In RAAF service it bore serial number A97-005.

This five aircraft sale was subsequent to a previous deal under which four former RAAF C-130H aircraft were gifted to Indonesia.

Source. Air Land & Sea Magazine



Kukukuku Dictionary

1914 photo of Patrol Officer Fred Chisholm compiling a Kukukuku dictionary or vocabulary. This image appears in Hank Nelson's book "Black, white and gold - goldmining in New Guinea 1878 - 1930."

Plaque Presentation



Hank and Berry Cosgrove receiving an Assn plaque from John Holland and Colin Gould in appreciation of their support over many years of our Association and its various activities including the Museum and the Mixed Field Dining Nights.

Cpl Francis Pegahmagabow MM and 2 bars Canadian Army WW1

HTT Vol 96 mentioned Cpl Pegahmagabow together with other snipers.



His Ojibway name was Binaaswi, translating roughly to "the wind that blows off."

How apposite it is, then, that a hard wind was blowing off the choppy waters of Ontario's Georgian Bay when the most decorated Indigenous soldier in Canada's history was finally given an honour befitting the man.

History largely remembers him as Corp Francis Pegahmagabow —

the deadliest sniper and scout of the First World War, credited with 378 kills and 300 captures.

But those in the tight-knight Indigenous communities where he lived have always remembered him for so much more than his



a s t o n i s h i n g accomplishments during the war. He was a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, teacher, leader, fierce activist and icon.

And on 21st June 2018 a life-sized

bronze monument of Pegahmagabow was unveiled in Parry Sound, Ontario, almost 100 years after he earned his first medal for courage in battle. It was a tribute that many believe should have come sooner.

Francis Pegahmagabow, volunteered to join the military as soon as Britain declared war on Germany in 1914. At the time, there was a general ban on Aboriginal people joining the army, but that didn't stop him.

It's difficult to imagine the horrors that Pegahmagabow would have witnessed.

He fought in the Second Battle of Ypres, the first time chemical gas was deployed as a weapon. He also navigated the death and decay of the mud-soaked fields near Passchendaele, a battle that killed 4,000 Canadians and wounded 12,000 others.

Pegahmagabow earned renown for crawling alone under the cover of darkness into no man's land, camouflaging himself in the cratered earth — sometimes for days at a time — until a German helmet filled his rifle scope.

For all his skill as a sharpshooter, however, he was perhaps even more effective as a scout and messenger, saving countless Allied lives by shuttling critical orders between trenches and units all along the front.

By war's end, Pegahmagabow had earned three Military Medals for his breathtaking courage. He's one of only 37 soldiers in the Canadian Expeditionary Force to hold that distinction. The monument shows Pegahmagabow standing defiantly with an eagle perched on one arm; his right hand clenched in a tight fist; a Ross rifle slung over his shoulder; a caribou at his feet to represent his clan.

Source CBC News 21 June 2016.

What is Celibacy?

Celibacy can be a choice in life,

Or a condition imposed by circumstances.

While attending a Marriage Weekend, my wife and I, listened to the instructor declare,

"It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other.."

He then addressed the men, 'Can you name and describe your wife's favourite flower?'

I leaned over, touched my wife's hand gently, and whispered, 'Self-raising, isn't it?'

And thus began my life of celibacy.

Humvees Plummet to the Ground in Parachute Drop

Germany -- A training mission gone awry resulted in the loss of three Army Humvees during a heavy equipment drop mission last week in Hohenfels.

A video circulating on social media shows the vehicles falling out of the back of passing C-130s during a routine training exercise for the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade on April 11. Connected to parachutes, most of the Humvees simply float gently to the ground. But during a second C-130 pass, one of the Humvees disconnects from its chute and is sent hurtling to the ground.

A minute later, a second one breaks free from its chute. Then, a third.



A spokesman for the 173rd said that no one was injured as a result of the mishap and that the cause of the incident is under review. The brigade is wrapping up operations on Saber Junction

16, an exercise that saw hundreds of successful air drops over the course of the past few weeks.

"Everything is planned for safety purposes; everything is done according to Army regulations and policies to ensure the safety of personnel and equipment," said Maj. Juan Martinez.

"However, things do happen, and that's why investigations come up to identify what went wrong, what happened so we can learn from here and continue so when we do real operations, these things don't happen," he added.

US Army Stars & Stripes 22 April, 2016



The Pidgin leaflet above was typical of those distributed by the allies during the early days of the Japanese invasion of New Guinea. This was among a number of documents given to the Association by NGVR veteran Stan Burton. It is very poor Pidgin and reads:

PEOPLE OF NEW GUINEA Government Announcement

Our warships and PT boats have blocked the Japanese ships from entering. The Japanese on our shores are unable to be supplied with food, they will be stealing it from you. It's not good if the Japanese stay in your area, toilet all over the place, and you will get very sick.

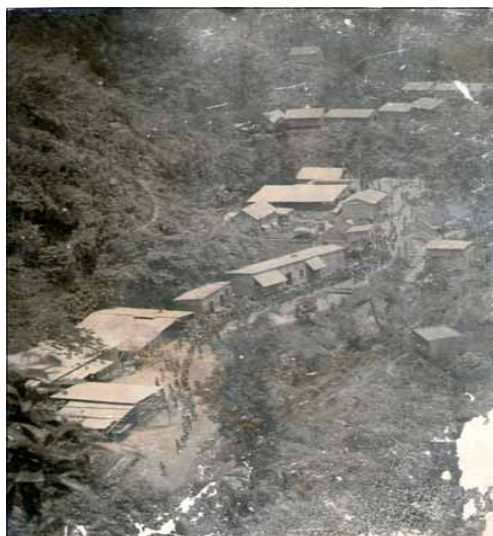
Give this note to the Japanese and if they want to surrender, alright, bring them to our soldiers. You will be paid for this work. If the Japanese want to continue fighting, don't worry, you must get well away from the area.

Did you know?

Women wearing poppies.

Women should wear their poppy on their right side; the red represents the blood of all those who gave their lives, the black represents the mourning of those who didn't have their loved ones return home, and the green leaf represents the grass and crops growing and future prosperity after the war destroyed so much. The leaf should be positioned at 11 o'clock to represent the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the time that World War One formally ended.

Younger generations won't understand this and this generation won't be around for much longer to teach them.



The goldfield workings, dwellings and processing plant at Umuma, Misima Island, prior to WW2. Stan Burton, NGVR, first worked there when he and his wife, Daphne, went to New Guinea in 1937

William John (Jack) READ Coastwatcher



William John (Jack) Read (1905-1992), coastwatcher and public servant, was born on 18 September 1905 in Hobart, the only son of locally born parents William George Read, hairdresser, and his wife Eleanor Elfridine, née Absolom. After attending Hobart State High School, Jack worked as a bookkeeper for the Electrolytic Zinc Co. of Australasia Ltd. In December 1928 he successfully applied for a cadetship in the public service of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. On

26 June 1929, the day before he left Tasmania, he married Gwenneth Ballantyne, a teacher, at the Holy Trinity Church, Hobart.

Arriving in Rabaul, Read was informed, probably by Harold Page, the government secretary, that his appointment would be cancelled because he was married. A subsequent investigation found that the job advertisement made no mention of a marriage bar and Read was allowed to remain. He initially served on New Britain under the district officer Ted Taylor. On patrols he was trained by, among others, Lance Corporal Ludwig Somare Sana, whose eldest son would become prime minister of Papua New Guinea. In 1931 together with two other cadets, he undertook a course in social anthropology at the University of Sydney.

Returning to Rabaul in February 1932, he was assigned to a single-officer's post 247 miles away up the dreaded outlandish Sepik River and promoted to patrol officer. He moved to Madang, from where he established a new post at Bogia. Suffering amoebic dysentery, he took leave in Sydney in December 1933. Next year he returned to Bogia accompanied by Gwen. Elevated to assistant district officer in August 1936, he served at Madang, Wau, and Lae.

At the outbreak of World War II, Read took Italian and German gold miners into custody before their internment in Australia. On leave, in mid-1941 he went to Australia with his wife and four-year-old daughter, Judith; he returned to New Guinea alone. Refused release for military service, in November he was sent to Bougainville, attached to the Buka Passage subdistrict.

His duties included coastwatching under the command of Lieutenant Commander Eric Feldt. As a former district officer at Madang, Feldt knew Read well, describing him as being of medium height and wiry in build, with a deep and somewhat harsh voice and an explosive laugh. His manner was 'blunt and straightforward, with more firmness than tact.

From March 1942 Japanese military forces occupied Buka and Bougainville. Although Read had been mobilised as a sergeant in the New Guinea Administrative Unit in February, he preferred to go to Australia and enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Feldt persuaded him to stay and on 2 April he was appointed as a lieutenant in the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RANVR). He quickly established a coastwatching network across Bougainville to provide information on enemy movements. On 8 August, the day after

Allied forces had landed at Guadalcanal, he transmitted 'forty-five dive-bombers going south-east'. His signals and those sent by a fellow coastwatcher, Paul Mason, gave the Allies time to disperse their ships and have the fighters fuelled and waiting. On 7 October Read and Mason were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (United States of America) for their extraordinary heroism.

On Bougainville the Japanese intensified their hunt for the coastwatchers with the support of some of the coastal people, and Read was lucky to escape alive from one attack. In late June 1943 he urged immediate evacuation. On 24 and 28 July the submarine USS Garfish removed the coastwatchers, scouts and native police who had assisted them, military personnel, and civilians. Admiral William F. Halsey, the US Navy commander of the South Pacific Area, said that the intelligence forwarded from Bougainville had 'saved Guadalcanal and that Guadalcanal had saved the South Pacific' Commissioned in the AIF in September 1944, Read was appointed as a major in the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit and served as acting district officer on Bougainville. In May 1946 he joined the provisional administration of the Territory of Papua-New Guinea as assistant district officer and moved to Kavieng, New Ireland. He transferred to the Reserve of Officers on 26 July and was mentioned in dispatches for exceptional service in the field. Having retained his RANVR commission, he was promoted to lieutenant commander in 1950 and would be placed on the Retired List in 1963.

On 3 May 1951 Read left the Territory of Papua and New Guinea's public service and took civilian employment with the Department of the Navy in Melbourne.

Hating the winters, a year later he returned to a new position in the Territory as native land commissioner. In this role he investigated local histories of occupation and determined what land was the hereditary property of individuals or communities by customary right. Retiring in March 1975, he left for Australia soon after Papua New Guinea achieved independence. In Melbourne he continued his hobby of photography. After Gwen's death, in 1980, he moved with his ageing dog, 'Hawke,' to Ballarat to be closer to Judith. Survived by her, he died on 29 June 1992 at Ballarat and was cremated.

*Thank you Philip Selth
OAM Former Executive Director, NSW Bar Association.*



Papuan Police - Kokoda - Post WW2.

Now that I'm on a fixed income, I've disconnected my home alarm system. I also decided to turn off my external lights and resigned from Neighbourhood Watch.

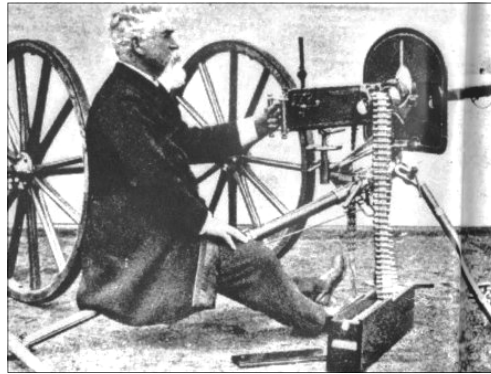
I've hoisted 2 Pakistani flags in my front yard, one at each corner and have the black flag of ISIS in the centre.

It's so good now, my neighbours, local Police, AFP, Border Security and ASIO are all keeping watch on my house 24/7. In addition, I am followed & watched everywhere I go.

I've never felt safer, and I'm saving \$149.50 a month!

Hiram Maxim's Machine Gun

One of the most important principles in the conduct of WW1 would be established in 1893 when four new Maxim machine guns cut loose in Matabeleland, into an attacking force of thousands of native warriors. Fifteen hundred Ndebele braves were killed for a loss of four British South African Police. When the process was repeated a few days later against the same trial group, the survivors became totally pacified. Similar events occurred in Kitchener's Sudan (1899), the Boxer Revolution (1900) and the Boer War (1899-1902) where, in the case of the latter, the new gun was a great morale booster to British troops.



But Britain foolishly did not monopolise the gun's production and, consequently, it fell into the hands of the Austrians, Germans, Russians and others. The Germans produced their own modified Maxim, designated as the Maschinengewehr '08. When war broke out in 1914, the enemy had 12,000 available, and the British and French could only count theirs in hundreds. Within a few months, and after some 200,000 casualties, the war became static along a 440 mile front, dominated by artillery and the Maxim machine gun. By 1915 the British version was known as the Vickers Gun after some minor modifications were made by that company, when it took up the weapon's manufacture at Crayford in Kent.

Hiram Maxim was one of the most productive and versatile inventors of his time. His creations varied from mousetraps to machine guns, with a special enthusiasm for flying machines.

Born in Maine, USA, on 5 Feb 1840 he was eccentric and mischievous but with a tremendous capacity for work. He gained experience in local engineering firms and by 1873 was a partner in a New York firm building gas and steam engines.

He became senior engineer in US's first electric lighting company. He then competed with Edison in the production of an incandescent light bulb.

Business interests took him to London where he remained for the rest of his life.

He started work on his machine gun and conducted firing tests in a large garden with courteous warnings to his neighbours on test days.

The completed gun was water-cooled with a toggle link action similar to a Luger pistol, but it had a weight of some 40lbs in full



A Russian Maximum gun in the Georgian Museum

operational mode. It would fire a theoretic 666 rounds per minute from a cloth belt, which could accommodate a total of 250 cartridges. Chambered for a standard.303



Camouflaged machine gunners of the 12th Light Horse Regt using a Vickers-Maxim machinegun.

round and with a smokeless propellant invented by Maxim and his brother, it would remain in service up until the Korean War.

It eventually came to the V i c k e r s

Company to manufacture it in WW1, and thereafter it became known as the Vickers Gun. A parsimonious British Govt, however, had forced Maxim, for economic reasons, to sell his gun to other countries in the years before WW1, so British troops suffered the consequences on the outbreak of hostilities.

Many have made the observation that it was "a machine gun war" and the Maxim and its variants were estimated to have the combined firepower of 80 riflemen per gun. In the astonishing casualty total of some 60,000 on the first day of the Somme offensive, the German Spandau (Maxim) guns played a huge part. If the description of Western Front warfare as a campaign of "lions led by donkeys" was ever true, it certainly had validity on this day of repeated failed frontal attacks on entrenched machine gun positions.

And what would be described as "the worst day in Australia's history" was looming. A hastily conceived plan had the Australians in their first action on the Western Front undertaking a traditional infantry position at Fromelles as a diversionary tactic to draw the Germans northwards away from the Somme. The enemy positions, known as the "Sugarloaf", bristled with machine guns, and when the Australian leader Brig Gen 'Pompey' Elliott, attempted to have the situation reviewed, there was no response from HQ. The operation involved the 5th Australian Div, and when troops went over the top at 6pm into no man's land, the 59th and 60th Battalions were almost wiped out by massed machine gun fire from 'Sugarloaf', which had not been effectively subdued by artillery.

Of the 5535 casualties for the night, including some 2000 dead, the greatest slaughter took place in front of "Sugarloaf" from the massed Spandau Maxims.

Strangely when Maxim had perfected his gun, he believed he had created an instrument of peace - not of war. He argued "how could civilised humanity use such a deadly tool on itself?"

During his lifetime his inventions were numerous and varied. They included a curling machine, and apparatus for de-magnetizing watches, devices for stabilizing ships, eyelet and riveting machines, aircraft artillery, coffee substitutes and various oil, steam and gas engines. He also invented the first automated fire sprinkler, and back in 1899 Maximum had made aeronautical experiments leading to the construction of a flying machine.

Late in 1915 the Vickers was classified as a heavy machine gun and the guns were grouped in the hands of a new Machine Gun Corps. The much lighter Lewis Gun was not the choice for battalion use. Both guns were also used in WW1 aircraft and tanks, and remained in general service up until the Korean War.

Hiram became wealthy from the Maxim - Vickers - Spandau gun. He became extremely deaf, no doubt from constant exposure to experimental machine gun fire.

Source Qld RSL News.



A long street of bunches of bananas in Gomoridobu village near Rigo prior to a village festival dance.

New EF88 assault rifle

There are few things more precious and personal to a soldier than their rifle. They need it to function reliably, be easy to maintain, be accurate, prove lethal in combat, never be more than an arms-length away and, well, just feel 'right'.

For almost a whole generation of Australian soldiers, the F88 Steyr has been the rifle employed by the Australian warfighter. Before its introduction into service, this space-age-looking weapon of plastic, metal, bull-pup configuration, fixed telescopic sight and enigmatic colour scheme was limited to the stuff of Hollywood blockbusters. Since its roll out, it has been issued, carried and employed operationally by Australian soldiers across the world.

It would be fair to say the F88 has proven to be a functional, reliable, accurate and lethal rifle for the Australian soldier. It has been demonstrably more accurate than its predecessor, the venerable 7.62mm Self Loading Rifle. Furthermore, it is lighter, easier to maintain and, well, 'feels much better' than its forebear. Finally, it has been employed both effectively and expertly in combat operations.

This is not to say the F88 did not have areas for improvement – both perceived and actual. After all, there is no such thing as a 'perfect' weapon. Each and every rifle possesses comparative advantages and trade-offs.



Many of the F88's perceived and actual areas for improvement emerged in the

'noughties' when operational realities and evolutions in weapon and target acquisition ancillary design progressively made the F88 feel heavier, less balanced and, by virtue of its fixed 1.5-power telescopic site, less accurate (arguably, this same trend affected most, if not all, assault rifles). Overall, the F88 eventually started to feel less 'right'.

This feeling was compounded by Special Operations Command (SOCOMD) migrating to the M4 assault rifle. The take-up of the M4 by SOCOMD fuelled an unsubstantiated assumption that the F88 was inferior to the M4 in terms of function, performance, accuracy, reliability and lethality. In



many cases, this assumption was exacerbated by the natural allure of all things 'special forces'. For many, assumption both invariably and erroneously became fact over time.

Of course, the F88 remained as accurate and lethal as ever. Moreover, its reliability never faltered. Over the past 15 years, Army, in cooperation with industry, attempted to address its perceived and actual areas for improvement by introducing successive upgrades.

First came the grenade launcher attachment and a STANAG rail system. Then the SA2 arrived. These upgrades were matched by the rollout of a range of target-acquisition ancillaries – from the night aiming device to the ELCAN 4x sight and the TA31 ACOG.

However, the desire to pursue a number of improvements to the F88 endured. Consequently, around 2010, Army embarked on a journey to once again deliver a leading, highly reliable, readily maintainable, exceedingly accurate and lethal rifle to the Australian soldier.

Critically, Army also intended to deliver a rifle that had the potential to evolve rapidly over its life span. That is, deliver a weapon that was 'future proofed' against the type of operational and commercial developments that exposed real and perceived areas for improvements in the F88 throughout the 'noughties'. Five years later and – voila! The Enhanced F88 (EF88) is being introduced to the Australian Army.

What is Army's intent with the EF88? In short, deliver a rifle in which Australian soldiers have absolute confidence; a weapon they know is highly reliable, easily maintained, devastatingly lethal, light and modular, can readily evolve and, yes, feels 'right'.

Initial issue of the EF88 commenced in June 2015 with the provision of 700 weapons to the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR). During the period 2016 to 2019, some 30,000 EF88s will be issued to Army's Combat Brigades, Support Brigades, 1st Division, 2nd Division's Multi-Role Battlegroup and Security Force units in Air Force.

Those units from Forces Command, 1st and 2nd Divisions not receiving the EF88 will continue to employ the F88SA2.

What About the Facts

Some of the key improvements include:-

- It is substantially lighter. The 20" standard variant is 3.39 kg and the 16" model is 3.25 kg – almost half a kilo lighter than the F88SA2.
- The stock has been redesigned to make it far more ergonomic. This includes a ribbed buttplate that allows better purchase when firing from the shoulder – with or without body armour.



- In addition, the movement of the ejection port and the inclusion of a cheek-weld make the weapon easier to fire – with or without a combat helmet.

- The STANAG 4694 extended rails on the top and right side of the receiver group enable the weapon to readily accommodate a range of current and likely future target acquisition ancillaries. Such ancillaries are being delivered with the EF88 – see below for description.
- The centre of gravity of the weapon has shifted rearwards, thereby making the weapon feel even lighter than it is – as well as remarkably well-balanced.
- The barrel is fluted, more rigid and enables better heat dispersion.
- The gas plug and folding cocking handle are far more user-friendly than previously.
- The side-opening GLA accommodates all lethal and non-lethal munitions. Moreover, its lightweight construction makes it one of the lightest GLAs commercially available. The inclusion of a bottom, or 6 o'clock rail that allows a bipod to be fitted. This feature dramatically increases the accuracy of the rifle. It also allows the GLA to be attached and removed by the operator.

Of course, the EF88 constitutes only one half of Army's formula to enhance the accuracy and lethality of its rifle. Concurrent to the introduction of the EF88, Army will deliver the following target acquisition ancillaries:

- the side-opening Steyr Manlicher SL40 40mm GLA
- an enhanced day sight for all combatants
- an in-line image intensification device that will enable select combatants to surveil and acquire targets by night and in low-light conditions
- an in-line thermal weapon sight that will enable commanders and marksmen to surveil and acquire targets
- a high-powered weapon torch that attaches to the 6 o'clock rail

a series of foregrips and bipods that enable a much more stable firing platform for each combatant – extending the effective range of the weapon out to 600m.

This lethality will be further enhanced through Army's night-fighting-equipment replacement project. Aside from delivering a far better night fighting binocular, this project will also deliver state-of-the-art laser aiming devices for the EF88.

One of the most encouraging attributes of the EF88 is its potential for future design growth. Already, Army is working with the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group to consider a range of design initiatives for the EF88. Given Army's intent to incorporate spiral development into all of its soldier combat system initiatives, the future for the EF88 looks very promising.

The Elephant in the Room

Why not just buy the M4? While Army is very satisfied with the M4 for SOCOMD's unique mission profiles, it has absolute confidence the EF88 and target-acquisition ancillaries it is delivering to the rest of Army is the right way forward.

In short, extensive trials have confirmed it fits the bill! It is functional, extremely reliable, devastatingly accurate and lethal, lightweight, superbly balanced, is future-proofed and, critically, according to user feedback thus far, feels 'right'.

The investment made by Thales, Army and the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group in developing the EF88 is unmatched.

Finally, one cannot dispute the fact that Army can transition to the EF88 far more readily than it could convert to the M4. This is no small consideration when analysing the impacts on retraining soldiers and maintainers in a fundamentally different weapon system (M4), while also sustaining Army's readiness requirements.

Army has commenced the roll out of its new rifle, the EF88. From 2016, a range of state-of-the-art target acquisition ancillaries will complement it.

Source. Contact, Air Land & Sea Magazine.

This morning I was sitting on a bench next to a homeless man, I asked him how he ended up this way.

He said: "Up until last week, I still had it all!!! I had a roof over my head, a cook, my clothes were washed & pressed, I had TV, internet, I went to the gym, the pool, the library, school if I wanted ..."

I asked him, "What happened? Drugs? Alcohol? Divorce?"

"Oh no, nothing like that" he said. "No, no ... I was let out of prison."?"

WW2 history uncovered

Three ex-WW2 German bunkers on a beach have been uncovered by violent storms off the Danish coast, providing a store of material for history buffs and military archaeologists (2012). The bunkers were found in practically the same condition as they were on the day the last German soldiers left them, down to the tobacco in one trooper's pipe and a half-finished bottle of schnapps. This bunker was entombed under the sand dunes until a violent storm swept away the sands three months ago.

The bunkers had not been touched since the war. The bunkers were three of 7,000 built by the Germans as part of Hitler's 'Atlantic Wall' from Norway to the south of France.



But while the vast majority were almost immediately looted or destroyed, these three were entombed under the sand dunes of a remote beach near the town of Houvig since 1945.

They were uncovered only because recent storms sent giant waves cascading over them, sweeping away the sand and exposing glimpses of the cement and iron structure.

The discovery of the fully-furnished bunkers was 'unique in Europe,' said Bent Anthonisen, a Danish expert on European bunkers. A third expert, Tommy Cassoe, enthused: "It was like entering the heart of a pyramid with mummies all around. What I saw blew me away: it was as if the German soldiers had left only yesterday."

The team working with Cassoe emptied the structures within a few days of boots, undergarments, socks, military stripes, mustard and aquavit bottles, books, inkpots, stamps featuring Hitler, medicines, soda bottles, keys, hammers and other objects. All of the objects from the shelters have been taken to the conservation centre at Oelgod museum, some 30Kms from the beach, to be examined.



Inside one of the bunkers

Historical records show that Gerhard Saalfeld was a 17-year-old soldier with the German army when he arrived at the bunker in January 1945. Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945, but it wasn't until two days later that he and his fellow soldiers left their remote station.

They shut the steel doors of the bunker behind them and went to the nearest town 16 Kms away to surrender. "The remote location of the bunkers and the drifting sands that covered them saved them from being ransacked," said Cassoe.

Daily Mail, Australia

HMAS Rankin home after 'longest deployment'

HMAS Rankin has returned to HMAS Stirling following her recent nine-month deployment which Commander Submarine Force Captain Matt Buckley, described as "the longest single deployment for a Collins Class Submarine".

During her deployment, the submarine participated in Exercise PACIFIC REACH, the International Submarine Escape and Rescue Exercise, operating out of South Korea.

Captain Matt Buckley, said that Rankin achieved many high points including: operating out of Fleet Base East for an extended four-month period; supporting Fleet Exercises like OCEAN MASTER; DIPEX (dipping exercise) with the new Seahawks MH60R and providing the broader fleet with visit and sea-ride opportunities.

"Rankin has achieved all key mission objectives, including a number of firsts for Navy. I am extremely proud of the efforts of Rankin's CO and ship's company and am very thankful for the enduring support of their family and friends".

"This deployment underscores the ongoing success of our submarine enterprise and our capacity to deliver a potent national strategic deterrent capability," Capt Buckley said.

"This extended period of high-level activity has enabled the submarine to qualify numerous sailors and officers as submariners and provide the opportunity for on-the-job continuation training for many other," he said.

Rankin's role as one of the submarines deploying into the Indo-Pacific theatre in 2016 underscores a resurgent submarine force now comprising five boats in service.

Commanding Officer HMAS Rankin, Cmdr Doug Theobald, said that the busy program and time away had been challenging for the crew and families.

"There have been trying times, as to be expected during long periods away from home, but the team jelled and performed exceptionally throughout," Cmdr Theobald said.

"A controlled and steady rotation of Rankin's personnel has provided opportunity for respite as well as enabling members to spend some time with family especially over the Christmas period" he said.

This approach contributed to the success of this deployment as well as assisting in maintaining high levels of morale.



First published in Navy Daily, 20 July 2016

Helicopter Gunner Kirstie Ennis

Injured in 2012 when her helicopter crash landed has endured 38 operations and Hiked 1,000 miles for wounded troops (from Scotland to London)

Kirstie's life changed forever in 2012 when her massive Sikorsky CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter crash-landed in Afghanistan. Miraculously she survived, but without a jaw and missing half her face., destroyed when her 50 cal machine gun smashed through the left side on impact. Then there were smashed legs and arms, the brain and spinal damage.

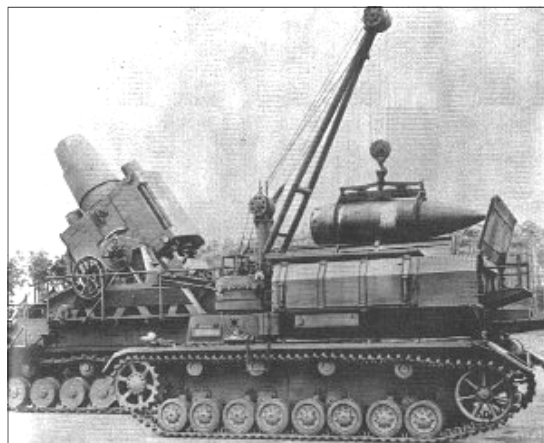
Her career with the US Marine Corps was over.

"We had a medic with us at the site and he stayed with me and told me not to close my eyes, or I'd be gone. I owe him a lot and I didn't blink until we got back to Camp Bastion."

Kirstie was due to have an amputation below her left knee this summer so that surgeons can fit a more comfortable prosthetic, but she bravely postponed the operation to take part in the expedition "Walking with the wounded". She opted to wear a carbon-fibre leg brace for the walk. "When I told my doctors I was not going to have the operation until later in the year they were pretty stunned, especially when I told them I was planning to walk 1,000 miles across Britain. It is the hardest thing I've done apart from my rehabilitation."

This was the fourth expedition for Walking with the Wounded and Prince Harry has been on all of them, visiting north and South Poles and Everest. The Walk of Britain has so far raised nearly 400,000 pounds from public donations. Despite the damage to her legs Kirstie is an expert snowboarder and has just been named in the national team for Paralympic swimming. She plans to compete in the pool in Prince Harry's Invictus Games for wounded servicemen and women in Orlando next year.

Kirstie underwent three years of rehabilitation including speech therapy, she has an MA in business studies and psychology and is a qualified stockbroker.



Reloading a German KARL mortar outside Sebastopol on the Russian Front during WW2.

Extracts from Daily Mail, Australia, 3 November 2015

Sight for Beachgoers

Against the blue summer skies of Sydney, soldiers from 1 Cdo Regt parachuted into the waters off Manly Beach as part of the regiment's annual currency training, called Exercise Red Pegasus 2. More than 70 soldiers leapt from several Air Force C-130J Hercules using the T10 series parachute for the last time.



A soldier from 1 Cdo Regt jumps from a C-130J Hercules into the waters off Manly Beach as part of Exercise Red Pegasus

CO 1 Cdo Regt, Lt-Col M, said the training was part of the annual suite of commando activities designed to maintain the niche special operations capability. The regiment is an integrated unit comprising a high number of regular and reserve soldiers, who are all required to meet the same rigorous standards of a regular commando. Our parachute training is part of that requirement," he said.

On the first day of the exercise, commandos and support staff conducted an aerial certification and familiarization jump several kilometres offshore. The following day the commandos conducted a parachute load follow in full view of Manly beachgoers.

The crowd witnessed the airborne insertion, where Zodiac bundles were deployed out of the aircraft followed by a small number of paratroopers for assembling the bundles and a large follow-on force. Once in the water, the Zodiacs were inflated and used to pick up the follow-on force to simulate a beach infiltration. Lt-Col M hoped the demonstration would appeal to prospective candidates as part of the unit's recent recruitment initiative.

"We are undertaking a large recruiting drive and are looking for smart, fit, enthusiastic go-getters who can balance both a civilian career as well as reserve service," he said. As part of the recruitment drive, 1 Cdo Regt will re-raise training platoons in each of the commando companies to give reserve members the opportunity to prepare for October 2016 selection.

"Our program will pool like-minded aspirants, providing a vehicle to encourage their training and preparation," Lt-Col M said.

Source Army Newspaper.

Veterans May be Prosecuted for War Crimes

British troops that fought in the Iraq war between 2003 and 2011 could be prosecuted for war crimes.

That's according to Mark Warwick, a former police detective in charge of the Iraq Historic Allegations Team (IHAT), in an interview with The Independent newspaper who said there are "lots of significant cases" that would warrant a discussion over whether they fell into the war crimes threshold.

Currently, lawyers are referring a raft of alleged abuse cases by soldiers to IHAT and the organisation has already



British Royal Marines from 40 Commando, Delta Company, are transported in a Chinook helicopter over the al-Faw peninsula in Iraq, 2003.

considered at least 1,515 possible victims. So far, 280 were allegedly unlawfully killed.

"Over the next 12 to 18 months, we will review all the caseload to better understand the picture and then I think we can say whether 2019 seems realistic," said Warwick. IHAT has budget of £57.2 million (\$84.5 million), which only runs until the end of 2019. We would look at the credibility of the allegation in

"Of course one has to be concerned about these allegations, but the number, the sheer number, thousands of allegations made against British soldiers in Iraq, I just cannot believe that any significant number of them can be valid," he said.

The revelation comes just months after former Royal Marines Sergeant Alexander Blackman convicted of murdering an injured Afghan fighter on the battlefield and given a life sentence in which he would have serve a minimum of 10 years in jail. Lackman was convicted of the murder after he "shot his victim in the chest at close range in Helmand province after the Afghan had been seriously injured in an attack by an Apache helicopter in July 2011."

Source. *The Royal Marine Assn of Qld Assn "Sea and Land"*

Reminiscent of the manslaughter charges brought against two Australian Army Commandos in October 2010 over the deaths of Afghan civilians in February, 2009. It took until May 2011 for the charges to be dismissed.

Welcome Home parade in Brisbane

On 17 Sep 2016 more than 1000 personnel who deployed on various operations in the Middle East Region during 2015 and 2016 were officially welcomed home at a ceremonial parade through the Brisbane CBD, reviewed by Governor of Queensland Paul de Jersey.

The predominantly Army personnel were all members of Force Element units mounted by Brisbane's own 7th Combat Brigade who served in the Middle East Region on various operations during 2015 and 2016. Those operations were:

Operation Okra – Iraq – Task Group Taji 1 and 2
Operation Highroad – Afghanistan
Operation Accordion – Middle East region

Commander 7th Combat Brigade Brigadier Anthony Rawlins said he was grateful to the many people of Brisbane who lined the streets to welcome home the veterans.

"Our people did a great job in the Middle East, no matter where they were deployed or what role they were in, and it is great to see that commitment acknowledged today," Brigadier Rawlins said.

"It wasn't easy for them, and it wasn't easy for their families at home who provided an immense amount of support and comfort to their partners, fathers, husbands and wives who were away for periods up to six months, generally serving in quite austere and dangerous environments."

Brigadier Rawlins said that the Welcome Home parade was as much an acknowledgement of the families as it was of



3 SAS Sqn Ops 22/69

SECRET

Copy No. 6...

3 SAS Sqn

MUI DAT

10 May 69

Recco Ptl/Ptl 31

Ref maps VIETNAM XUYEN HOC 1:50,000 sheet 6130 11

and Pistonep Supplement 1:25,000 sheet 6130 11 S

PATROL REPORT

A. Size and Composition of Patrol

Capt	T.H.	GULLAY	Ptl Comd
WO2	E.	BALL	2ic
Cpl	J.K.	H. HUNTER	Ssg
Tpr	D.H.	TEERY	Medic
Cpl	S.T.	THURLOW	Rtn
Tpr	S.	PREY	Rtn

B. Task Recco Zone '2304

C. Date Time Out 231620H

D. Date Time In 061620H

E. Route Infil by hel into LZ YS 710598
Exfil by hel from LZ YS 704691
For patrol route see annex F

F. Terrain Flat terrain with gullies up to 15 - 20 ft at creeks. Area covered with mod primary jungle dense secondary 5 - 15 ft high consisting mainly of saplings. Visibility 5 - 40m. Flowing water in SWOI BA YS 700690 and creek YS 704693.

G. Do

At YS 709701 at 291030H ptl estb at LUP.

At 291055H heard large dal 5000m W.

Further dal heard at 2000 hrs and two more 30 mins later.

At YS 707703 at 290030H ptl obs NE well defined foot track. Showed signs of recent use by small gms persons.

At 290035H ptl estb OP 20m E of track.

At 290042H ptl heard sounds hvy chopping and trees falling from 50 - 60m NWE. 2 mins later heard voices of approx 3 pers from 40m NWE.

At 290045H ptl heard sound of mod rkt fired from 200m E.

Shortly afterwards ptl heard 1 short burst of HMG fire from same loc.

At 290047H ptl heard voices approx 6 pers from loc of tree falling.

At 290048H ptl obs 1 VC mov SW on track. Dressed blue shirt white shorts armed with short gun. Pers appeared to be CAUCASIAN - well built, fair complexion, brown hair and 5 ft 10 - 11 ins tall.

At 291048H ptl obs 3 VC (incl 2 females) mov NE on track. Dressed male in black, 2 females coloured blouses and black trousers. Females talking and using wicker to scatter leaves on to track.

From 291100H to 1430H withdrew 50m E for comms.

At 291125H ptl obs 1 VC mov SW on track. Dressed black and carrying wgn slung.

At 291205H ptl obs 2 VC mov NE on track. Dressed black both carrying bundles of wood on poles.

At 291750H ptl heard 1 pers mov towards loc falling small trees and apparently marking others with machete. Pers reached 30m

It was reported that up to 3,000 Russian advisers served in Vietnam. The Chinese also had advisers as some were killed in 1 Corps. The above is an SAS report which states that they saw a Caucasian on one of their patrols.

the personnel who deployed.

"It was wonderful to see the pride in the families as they watched their loved ones participating in the parade."

At the conclusion of the parade in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, the veterans and their families were joined by other Defence families for a Family Fun Day hosted by the Queensland RSL.

Brigadier Rawlins acknowledged the support of the Brisbane City Council, the State Premier's Department and the Queensland RSL in the planning and conduct of the parade and Family Fun Day.

The personnel welcomed and publicly acknowledged during the parade served in a variety of operations in the Middle East Region.

Source - Contact, Air Land & Sea Magazine.



We all saw stakes outside villages in PNG, particularly in the Highlands as a defence against intruders. This was a panji (sharpened bamboo) barrier outside an ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) outpost in Duc My Province, South Vietnam.

This is a story of self-control and marksmanship by a cool-headed woman with a small pistol against a fierce predator. What is the smallest calibre that you would trust to protect yourself? Here is her story in her own words:
 "Always be prepared! "While out walking along the edge of a lagoon just outside of Gagudju Lodge in Kakadu National Park with my soon to be ex-husband discussing property settlement and other divorce issues, we were surprised by a huge 16 foot crocodile which suddenly emerged from the murky water and began charging us with its large jaws wide open. She must have been protecting her nest because she was extremely aggressive. If I had not had my little Beretta Jetfire 25 calibre pistol with me, I would not be here today! Just one shot to my estranged husband's knee cap was all it took. The croc got him easily and I was able to escape by just walking away at a brisk pace. It's one of the best pistols in my collection! Plus the amount I saved in lawyer's fees was really incredible."

Email received from Assn Member Max Hayes

Phil,

I wish that I was there to march with you and other veterans on Anzac Day and I am sure that the unit will do us proud. As you may know, I spent my first seven years in RPNGC in Rabaul which I still love and a daughter was also born in the old tar paper European Hospital atop Namanula Hill.

In Rabaul I have done a lot of research on our first battle in WW1, the capture of the German wireless station at Bitapaka, on 11.9.1914, seven months before Gallipoli and which constantly receives no recognition, even from my own RSL President, despite me prompting him regularly. I have also done a considerable amount of work on the Montevideo Maru disaster, etc.

Simply, I am not up to interstate travel these days nor will I be going to the annual RPNGC luncheon at Wynnum. I am still getting about fairly well, but every single bloody daily task is with difficulties.

I will have to content myself, this Anzac Day, with being at our local RSL and laying a wreath at 5.45am on behalf of Korean Veterans (of which I am one). Our Korea Veterans RSL Sub-Branch, (the only one in Australia) is down to about 4-5 active members and will have to cease in a few months. There will still be the K.V.A.A. from which we broke away some 20 years ago and even that larger group has a rapidly declining membership.

I really appreciate you, and a few others, keeping the flag and the unit banner flying for PNGVR.

Warm regards,
Max.

Did you know?

The girlfriend of Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone, was named Margaret Hello, and the practice of starting each call was "Hello" and has continued to this day.

One can forget the name of Alexander Graham Bell, but not the name of his girlfriend! That is love!



Army receives six new M88 HERCULES

Defence has bought, received and deployed six new M88A2 HERCULES armoured recovery vehicles.

Minister for Defence Industry Christopher Pyne said the delivery of the HERCULES (Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lift and Evacuation System) vehicles was critical to ensure the safe and effective operation of Australia's Abrams main battle tank capability.

"HERCULES is a 64 tonne tracked vehicle used primarily for the repair and recovery of tanks and other vehicles whilst under fire and will complement the seven currently in operation," Minister Pyne said.

"Valued at more than \$58 million, the six new HERCULES will support armoured units based in Darwin and Townsville, and operator and maintenance training at Puckapunyal and Bandiana in Victoria.

"Pleasingly the maintenance, servicing and engineering support for this equipment will be delivered regionally by Broadspectrum, with four new jobs to be created in Darwin."

Since their delivery to Defence, all six vehicles have been accepted into service, painted in Australian camouflage and sent to their units.

HERCULES features overlay armour protection, ballistic skirts, a 35-ton boom, a 63-tonne constant-pull main winch with

85m cable, and an auxiliary 3-tonne winch to aid main-winch-cable deployment.

Specifications

Gross vehicle weight 63,500kg
 Personnel capacity 7
 Gross horsepower 1050@2400 rpm
 Speed 42-48km/hr
 Estimated cruising range 480km
 Slope 60%
 Trench crossing 2.6m
 Vertical wall crossing 1m
 Overall length 8.5m
 Width 3.6m
 Height 3.1m
 Ground clearance 400mm

Source. Air Land & Sea Magazine

Below: Paul Brown, Assn

President Phil Ainsworth and Doug Ng. For the first time in many years now we were led in the march by two members in Juniper Greens



Above: Bena Bena landing ground during WW2. There is now no airstrip at Bena Bena as the airstrip was moved to Goroka.



L-R Jesse Chee, Ian Thompson, Simon Hui, Bob Collins, Doug Ng, Roy Edward (rear), Ralph Seeto, Gerry McGrade, Gordon Robertson



Our Banner and Marchers, ANZAC Day 2017



Some of those marching behind the NGVR / ANGAU banner, ANZAC Day Sydney, 2017.



ANZAC DAY 2017. BRISBANE

A warm sunny day saw 40 members and friends at the Brisbane Anzac Day march. It was great to see Lt Douglas Ng and Cpl Paul Brown make the effort to turn up in Juniper Greens and together with President Phil Ainsworth and the Flag carriers they preceded the Association banner.

At the conclusion of the march some 30 assembled at the Hall of Memories for a short service to commemorate our predecessors, the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles.

Approx. 70 then turned up at the Stock Exchange Hotel for our post Anzac Day march celebrations. Toasts were proposed and a short address by President Phil Ainsworth bringing all up to date with the Association activities were the only formal matters to take place.

It was great to see those members who made the long journey to march with their old unit. Members were there from the Gold and Sunshine Coasts and Mal Zimmerman travelled from Tenterfield. The traveller's award for the day, however, went to Charles Nelson from Canberra.

Obtain your Harim Tok Tok by email. Benefits:

1. You obtain a colour copy
2. You can adjust the font size of the print to suit your vision and give you a clearer read.
3. There is a distinct benefit to the Association by saving the cost of printing and postage.
4. If you wish hard copy you can print one in colour.

The Fact That There's A
HIGHWAY TO HELL
And Only A
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN
Says A Lot About Anticipated
Traffic Numbers.

EVERY DAY, THOUSANDS
OF
**INNOCENT
PLANTS**
ARE KILLED BY VEGETARIANS.
HELP END THE VIOLENCE.
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15% Discount for all PNGVR members



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

Includes former members of the PIR, PIB and NGIB.

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/ngvrndpngvrilitarymuseum/>

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.



Salamaua Hospital Pre WW2

*A wealthy Nigerian Prince has died
and left \$230 million to his cat.*

*He said he tried to give away his fortune for years,
but no one ever responded to his e-mails.*

FUNCTION DATES

20th May Committee Meeting
22 Jun Rabaul & MM Comm service at Rabaul
1 July 10am R & MM Comm service Hall of Memories, Anzac Square, Brisbane. Morning tea to follow. Contact Colin Gould if attending.
1 July 1pm R & MM Comm Service National Memorial AWM Canberra
15 Jul Committee Meeting

MUSEUM EVENTS

28 June Redlands Genealogy Society
30 July Bunnings BBQ Oxley
Volunteers required for this—Contact Colin Gould details opposite



Industrial property specialists

**Leasing
Sales
Property Management**

**Contact Phil Ainsworth
07 3844 3222**

Email: p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au

99 Annerley Road, Woolloongabba QLD 4102

www.kingco.com.au



75th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE
RABAU and MONTEVIDEO MARU GROUP,
PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA Inc

RABAU on 22 JUNE 2017

To remember all those lost in the New Guinea islands in 1942

Thursday 22 June 2017

The 75th anniversary service will be held on dusk at the Montevideo Maru and Rabaul 1942-1945 Memorial, Rabaul, Papua New Guinea

The PNGAA Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group together with the Rabaul Hotel/Rabaul Historical Society are commemorating this 75th anniversary of WWII in Rabaul. Tours include historical sites. Rabaul Hotel has put together a package including accommodation, meals, tours and transfers for five nights.



Cost: \$350 pp twin share/double or \$500 pp single per night. Please contact Susie McGrade at Rabaul Hotel on email: susie@rabaulhotel.com.pg.

Airfares, drinks and any optional expenses are additional and to be organised and paid for independently.

Air Niugini - daily flights from Brisbane to Rabaul and return.

Three flights weekly from Sydney to Rabaul and return.

Further information: admin@memorial.org.au



www.pngaa.org www.memorial.org.au

Facebook: Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society

Facebook: Papua New Guinea Association of Australia



75th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE AND DINNER AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA

Saturday 1 July 2017

RABAUL and MONTEVIDEO MARU GROUP, PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc

75th Anniversary Service Saturday 1 July 2017

Time: 1 pm

Venue: Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT.

All welcome – please let your family and friends know.

RSVP by 8 June 2017:

<http://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/03/01/rabaul-and-montevideo-maru-75th-anniversary-commemorative-service-1-july-2017-australian-war-memorial-canberra-act/>

75th Anniversary Commemorative Dinner Saturday 1 July 2017

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Mercure Canberra, Corner of Ainslie and Limestone Ave, Braddon, ACT 2612

COST: \$80 - 3 course meal including soup - Payment will confirm booking. Drinks available from a cash bar. Free parking available.

RSVP: 8 June 2017

Further information and payments:

<http://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/03/01/1-july-2017-rabaul-and-montevideo-maru-75th-anniversary-commemorative-dinner-canberra-mercure-hotel/>

Note: Mercure Canberra have a two night accommodation package available 30 June-2 July for the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia. Please email:

stay@mercurecanberra.com.au



Please email to admin@memorial.org.au advising the following details.

§ The full name of each person who wishes to attend.

§ The age of each person who wishes to attend (optional but helpful).

§ Any mobility issue

§ The full postal address, phone number (home and mobile) and email of each person who wishes to attend.

§ The relationship, if any, of the person to the events of 1942 (if you did not attend a previous event in Canberra).

§ The address and phone number, where each person intends to stay while in Canberra.

§ Any other people you are travelling with.



Even if you do not have all this information at this stage, please tell us what you can.

www.pngaa.org www.memorial.org.au

Facebook: Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society

Facebook: Papua New Guinea Association of Australia



QUEEN'S COLOUR

**NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
and
PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
Ex Members Association Inc**

PER ANGUSTA AD AUGUSTA—Through Trials to Triumph



REGIMENTAL COLOUR



BATTLE HONOURS
Rabaul Wau South-West Pacific 1942-43

(Association) ABN: 79 434 396 499
(Military Museum) ABN: 85 845 181 461



The President Mr Phillip Ainsworth,
and members of the Executive Committee cordially invite Members
to attend the

75th Anniversary Memorial Service

1 July 1942—1 July 2017

of the tragic loss of 1056 allied military and civilian personnel
who were taken prisoner during the Japanese invasion of Rabaul and
surrounding areas in January 1942, and who lost their lives as
prisoners of war during the sinking of the Japanese prison ship
"Montevideo Maru" off the Philippines coast on 1 July 1942.

This tragic event is still today, the largest loss of Australian lives at sea.

Date: Saturday 1 July 2017
Venue:- Shrine of Memories—ANZAC Square— Brisbane
Time:- 9.45 am for 10.00 am Service Private Wreaths welcome

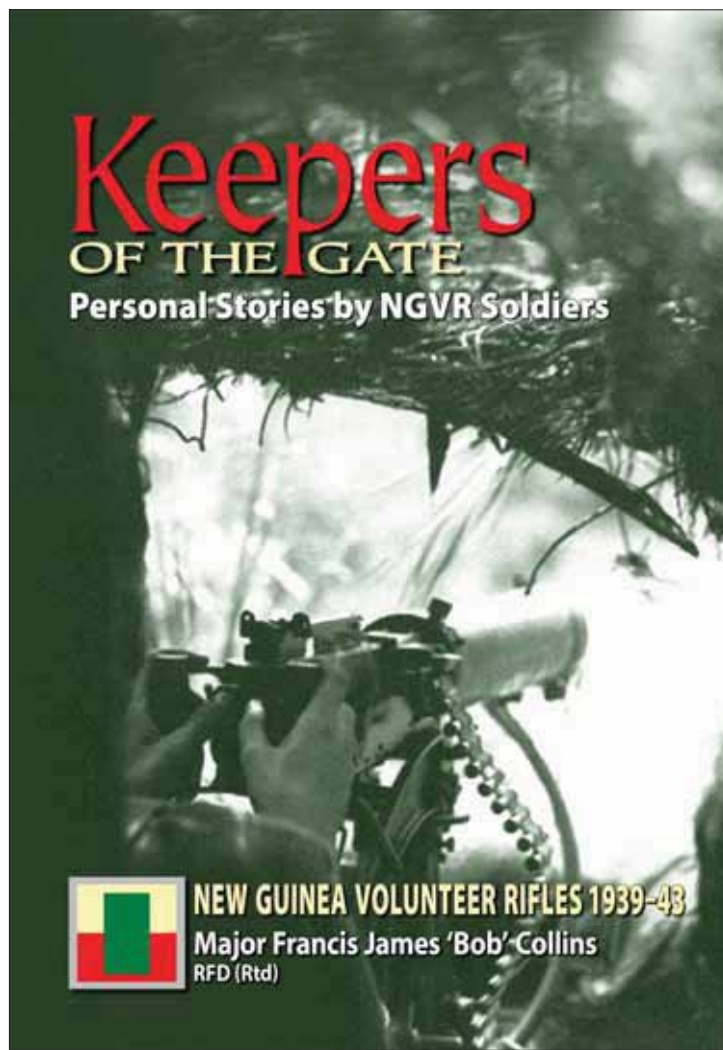
Morning tea / refreshments:- 10.45 am Berkley's on Ann (opposite Central Station)

Your RSVP by 20 th. June will assist for catering purposes.

Colin Gould, MBE (Secretary) Mob: 042 456 2030 email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au
Paul Brown (Welfare Officer) Mob: 040 264 4181

Email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au PO Box 885 Park Ridge, Q 4125

LEST WE FORGET



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)

☐ Enclosed please find my cheque, made payable to NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association, for \$..... **OR**

☐ I have transferred \$..... to **NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association, BSB: 064006 A/C: 10001126**

Name: Email or Phone

No.:

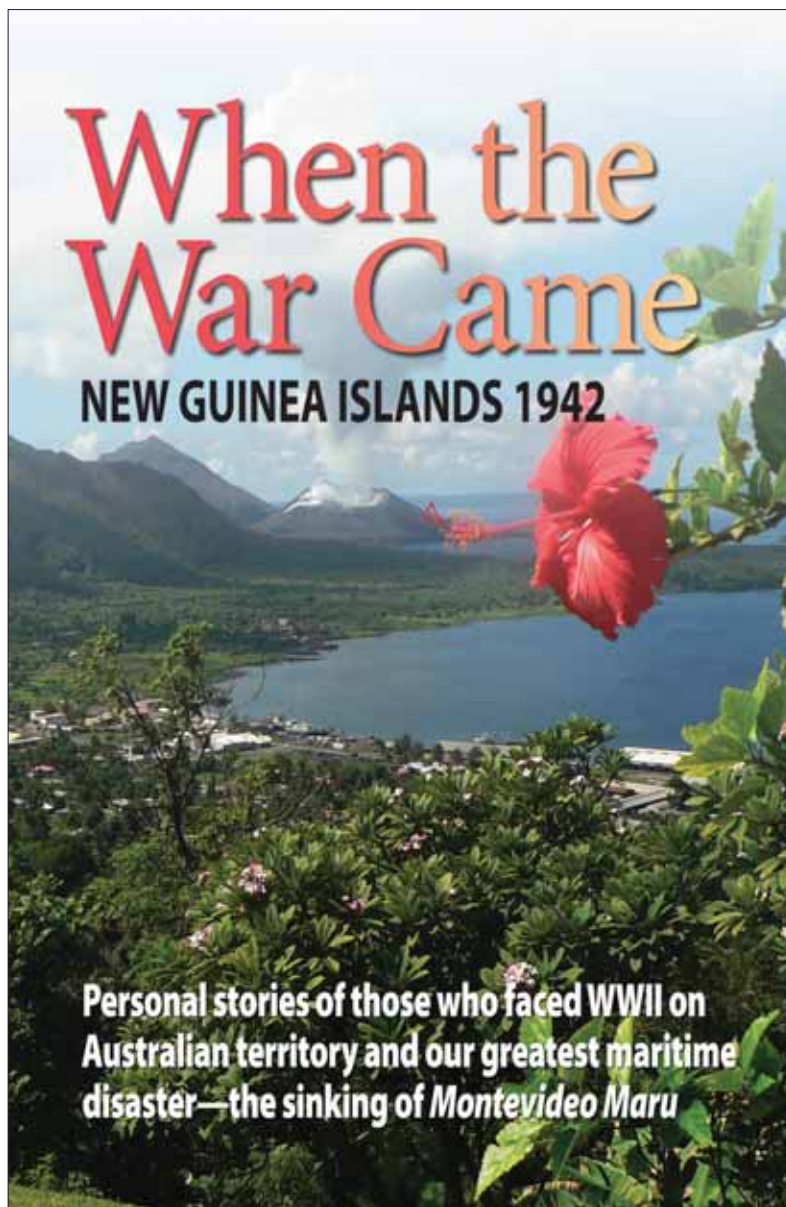
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If transferring funds electronically, please be sure to include your name with your transfer, then either post this form or email details of your order

For more information, please contact Phillip Ainsworth --p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au (email) --0418 730 348 (mob.)

Kieran Nelson: kierannelson@bigpond.com (em



This book is a collection of personal stories, memories and reflections that enhance the history of civilians and soldiers living in Rabaul, Kavieng and the New Guinea islands at the outbreak of World War II, who suffered a fate that is seldom acknowledged—when the Japanese bombed, and subsequently invaded Rabaul, the capital of New Guinea, in January 1942.

The stories also cover the largest maritime disaster in Australia's history, where 1,053 prisoners of war and residents were loaded onto a Japanese merchant vessel, *Montevideo Maru*. All perished at sea when the unmarked boat was sunk by a US submarine on 1 July 1942 off the coast of the Philippines.

When the War Came, published to commemorate the 75th anniversary of this period in the New Guinea Islands, validates and brings into focus the actions and characters of young men, who left home to willingly serve their country, and then literally vanished off the face of the earth; of nurses and missionaries who volunteered to stay to help both the war effort and the local people; and of civilians—both men and women—caught at home on WWII's Pacific front line. Alongside are incredulous stories of escape and survival in an environment that threw every obstacle in their path. Their journeys deserve to be heard, too.

As I gathered more material, anger bubbled just below the surface, not just because of official silences and bungling or the terrible waste of life, but because so few knew about the tragedy of Montevideo Maru, even today. How, when more Australian men died on Montevideo Maru than Australia lost during the Vietnam War, was it not a discussed part of our history?

For those of you that had family members or friends involved in this time of our history—or are just interested in Australia's past—*When the War Came*, with over 460 photographs and 540 large format pages, is an invaluable addition to your library.

This is a vital chapter in a tragic conflict that should be better understood, and hopefully more deeply remembered.

To: PNGAA, PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069

admin@pngaa.net—www.pngaa.org/site—www.memorial.org.au

Prepurchase before 31 July 2017 at the discounted price of \$55.00 per copy

(Retail price after 31 July 2017 will be \$60.00 per copy)

Please send me copies of **WHEN THE WAR CAME: NEW GUINEA ISLANDS 1942** at the prepurchase price of \$55.00 per copy plus \$20.00 p&h each (more if overseas)*

☐ Enclosed please find my cheque, made payable to Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc., for \$..... **OR**

☐ I have transferred \$..... to PNGAA, BSB: 062-009, A/C: 0090 7724 (Please use your name as a reference and notify contact details by email to admin@pngaa.net)

Books pre-purchased prior to 16 June 2017 can be collected on 1 July in Canberra, if you wish to collect in Canberra, please tick box ☐

Name: Email or Phone No.:

Delivery Address: P/Code

For more information, please contact Andrea Williams: E: admin@memorial.org.au

* Books will not be available for postal delivery until after the book launch at the 75th Anniversary, Canberra on 1 July 2017