

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

It has been a busy time since the publication of our last edition of Harim Tok Tok. Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July was the Boonah Light Horse Rifle Shoot, see page 14.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August, Vice President Bob Collins represented the Association at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kokoda Commemoration service at the Kokoda Memorial, Cascades, Gold Coast. Over 100 attended and the keynote speaker was Major General Horrie Howard, Patron of the PIR Group.

This was followed with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kokoda Day Ceremony at the Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL, Corinda on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August. This RSL has a strong association with the 39 Battalion, the unit which initially bore the brunt of the Japanese advance across PNG. Our connection with the 39 Battalion is through Lt Col William Owen, who was previously A Company Commander, 2/22 Battalion, at Rabaul, the company under which, at the time of the Japanese invasion, NGVR Rabaul was attached. Owen escaped on the Laurabada, was appointed CO of 39 Bn and killed on 29<sup>th</sup> July at Kokoda. The Association was represented by Committee Member Mike Griffin and your President.

Lex McAulay gave an informative talk about the Battle of the Bismarck Sea over lunch at the United Service Club, Brisbane on 18<sup>th</sup> August. Your President was present and spoke with Lex afterwards, who presented our Association with a CD, his story of Colonel Scanlan, the Commander of Lark Force. Colonel Scanlan had a remarkable WW1 career and Lex considers he was maligned over his defence of Rabaul. The CD fills a gap in our knowledge of this little known field and is well worth reading.

On 26<sup>th</sup> August, Committee Member Tony Boulter represented the Association at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Milne Bay Battle at the Light Horse Research Centre, Chermshire, Brisbane, see page 15 for details.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Battle for Australia was commemorated at the Light Horse Research Centre, Chermshire on 6<sup>th</sup>

September when about 150, including the Governor, State and Federal members, the top military personnel in Queensland and public attended. The keynote speaker was the Commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Division. This was the first time the ceremony has been held at Chermshire since the plaque was transferred from its original site in George Street, City because of the Queen's Wharf project. The Association was represented by your President.

Our Association in conjunction with NSAAQ and PNGAA hosted a successful event on 9<sup>th</sup> September, a talk by Philip Selth in Everyman's Hut about coast watchers, Jack Read and Paul Mason of Bougainville fame and the controversial John Murphy. Over 130 attended. Attendees included Ingrid Mason, the daughter of Paul Mason, Ken Cheung, who was evacuated from Bougainville in the US Submarine Gato with Paul Mason and Jack Read left Bougainville, and Rudi Buckley, who can verify the existence of the Montevideo Maru. The talk was preceded with morning tea and concluded with a visit to the nearby NGVR Military Museum. There were too many people from the 3 organisations to thank for their contribution in the small space here. It was a text book piece of coordination and cooperation by all concerned, thank you all.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September Bob Collins, Colin Gould, Paul Brown and your President attended a Steel Tuff Exercise presentation at 9 RQR, Enoggera Barracks, Brisbane. For the past 22 years the Association has presented these medallions of excellence to the members of the best section in the Battalion. Over the weekend sections, one from each company, competed in a number of exercises including a night navigation and live firing exercises to ascertain the winner.



Visitors from the History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference held in Brisbane from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September attended the Museum Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> to gain a better understanding of Australia's long relationship with Papua New Guinea, particularly the influences of the two world wars on this relationship. Their comments were most complementary. The visitors were guided by members Bob Collins, Paul Brown, Colin Gould and Phil Ainsworth. The Montevideo Maru Memorial Group of the PNGAA sponsored the visit using its volunteer member Karen McPherson, a high school teacher from Canberra as speaker for the two sessions of the conference devoted to this workshop. Former long time President of PNGAA, Andrea Williams, was also present.



*Continued on rear page -*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BOB DAVIES, PNGVR (CONCL)	2
RETREAT, REVEILLE AND ROUSE	4
MOST DECORATED WW2 US SOLDIER	4
THE SPOTTERS	5
WEAPONS OF THE ADF	6
BATZEE FARMING IN N.G.	8
DONATED QANTAS 707 TO HARS	10
ADF BUYS WASP UAS	10
SLOUCH HAT & BERET, PNGVR	11
HMAS SYDNEY SCRAPPED	11
RAAF BUTTERWORTH	12
WORLD RECORD, SNIPER	13
SECRET TUNNELS, UPNG	13
LIGHT HORSE SHOOT	14
BATTLE MILNE BAY SERVICE	15
VALE JOHN WEIR	15

## ROBERT GREGORY DAVIES 860410 (Contd)

### I Return to the Sepik District in PNG

Early 1982 I returned to PNG to as Headmaster of the Angoram High School, on the Sepik River. I arrived in Wewak and was advised by the Dept officials "You must go to Angoram now – the High school is ready to start". My immediate response was that I was not going to Angoram now because I wanted to go to the relevant offices and speak to people, as this was a new high school.

When I did arrive at Angoram I found out that there was no high school at all. Joe Kenny, who ran the Angoram Hotel, was renovating the Angoram Vocational school for us. The authorities had decided to move the Vocational school out of town and the Vocational school facilities were to become a high school until the new one was built.

Consequently I lived in the Angoram Hotel for 3 months and found out later that the Department never paid Joe for my stay. Most of the time I was the only one at the hotel.

So it took me and two other staff a whole term to commence the high school functioning. My assistants were a chap from one of the islands and another from Yangaru, on the highway between Angoram and Maprick on the Sepik River.

### Move to the Eastern Highlands of PNG

In 1985 I moved from Angoram to Henganofi, in the Eastern Highlands, between Goroka and Kainantu. I had received a phone call from a friend in the Dept who was aware that I was unhappy at Angoram, advised me that there was a vacancy at Henganofi, so I phoned the Secretary of the Department and was transferred. In all my time in PNG this was the only transfer that I had actively sought.

I thoroughly enjoyed Henganofi as the school comprised more select students and was always in the top half dozen in PNG academically. I found the highlanders a people to whom you could say just about anything – provided of course that you were right – and they would accept this without any bad feelings or any comeback. I lived at the school whilst here.

There was a local 'raskol' from the area, Sunup, who caused the road from the Markham valley, the Highlands Highway, to be closed or blockaded by the police on a number of occasions. At one stage an approaching vehicle slowed but did not stop and ran the blockade. The police fired at it with every weapon they had and managed to kill one passenger and wound the driver. However it was not the vehicle they were looking for – only a local driver who was drunk, did not have a licence, and did not want to stop at a police blockade – a pretty high price to pay for being an unlicensed, drunk driver. In the end they managed to apprehend Sunup.

### Another return to Australia

At the end of 1987 I returned to Australia for 2 years. While I was there all I did was a bit of painting for people – all underquoted jobs and then decided I needed some more cash and returned to PNG.

### Return to PNG to Madang Province

In 1990 I returned to Madang to Tusbab High school, directly opposite Smugglers Inn on the road past the Coastwatchers Memorial and the Golf Club.

I lived at the school, being the headmaster. We had 850 students at the school with about 32 teachers – all locals.

Madang was one of the few places in PNG at the time where you could safely walk anywhere without fear of anything happening to you. I would often walk up to the Lodge for a drink or meal and never felt nervous.

The school was a mixture of the children of privileged locals and the children of squatters who had established a large settlement at the back of Government Stores. It was an interesting mix. There were about 150 boarders but it was strictly a day school.

When I went there it was a school which was not achieving very well academically but in my last year at the school it had been turned around to equal Malala Catholic school as equal top in the district, and this was, for me and the staff a pleasant turn around.

### Move to West New Britain

At the end of 1992 I was offered a position as Headmaster at Kandrian High School in West New Britain.

The whole staff at Kandrian had been sacked and a totally new staff selected. I returned from leave in Australia, went to Madang and put all the finance books in the office, and went to Lae where I purchased food and books for Kandrian High School.

I received a phone call asking me to come to Kandrian as soon as possible, but, at the same time, advised that my contract was not yet ready for execution. I went to Walindi, West New Britain, at my own cost and stayed in the Hotel there for the weekend. On the Monday my contract was still not ready but I was requested to go straight to the school. On arrival I discovered only one other teacher there. Unfortunately that was the way West New Britain education was being run at the time and my contract was not signed until September of 1993 and I received my first pay in December of that year, after almost one year at the school, however I did receive all my back pay.

Interestingly, I worked at Kandrian for almost a year without either a work visa or a valid contract.

Some 4 years later there was still an argument going on because I had stayed in Walindi in "too good a hotel" and I had to personally approach the Governor of the province in order to have all my outstanding accounts paid.

I had a house at the high school at Kandrian overlooking the sea and stayed there 3 years. For the first 3 months there was no power, no telephone and no cooking facilities in the house. All of the staff were in the same position, so I purchased gas butterfly stoves for everyone, tilly lamps etc – a most unsatisfactory situation. To run the school I had to fly to Kimbe, book into the hotel, ring through the orders for the school, find out when the boats were coming with our supplies. At one stage we went three months without a boat coming in with supplies and I had to purchase biscuits from Rabaul, rice in by plane from Kimbe etc. which was a lot cheaper than purchasing from the local Chinese stores. It was an utter disgrace the way the education dept worked in PNG at the time but that is how it was.

In October 1995 I rang the Dept of Education that I was not prepared to work for them any longer – I had been at Kandrian for 3 years without any support whatever and I was leaving. One month later I was offered a position at Hoskins Secondary School by the same person to whom I had spoken.

In 1996 I commenced at Hoskins Secondary School, initially taking the position of head of Dept of Maths and the following year the academic head went to Milne Bay without any replacement being appointed. We were one week from commencement of school and the timetables had not been

prepared, so the headmaster said to the Dept that I could also be the Deputy Academic and this occurred. When I approached the previous Deputy Academic regarding the timetables I was advised that it was my problem so I had a busy week ahead of me.

A couple of years later the Deputy Head of Administration left and I assumed that role for my remaining time at Hoskins. There were probably 40 teachers at Hoskins with the classes ranging from years 9-12. In December, 2000, I returned to Brisbane and have not been back to PNG since.

### Leave from PNG

When I first went to PNG it was the administration practice for staff to work for 21 months and then have 3 months leave. I only ever took one long leave and this was in 1967 when I was at Navuneram primary school. I took my 3 months leave at the end of the year and also had 6 weeks school holidays tacked on so I had an 18 week holiday (4 and a half months).

Then the administration realised that it was more cost effective to send everyone down on leave every year during the long school holidays then employ relief teachers to move around the country filling in for those teachers who were taking their long leave.

From then on I came down every year for 6 weeks.

### My Residence

In 1978 while I was at Manus high school I purchased a house at 15 Whitfield Ave, Springwood, Qld and this is where I now live. 1978 was a year when houses were moving quickly so a friend of mine inspected the house and signed the contract on my behalf.

It was rented out until I returned to Australia at the end of 1979 and also when I returned to PNG from 1982 to 1988 and 1990 until 2001. Whilst I have been the owner, the house has been rented for longer than I have occupied it.

### Sporting Activities

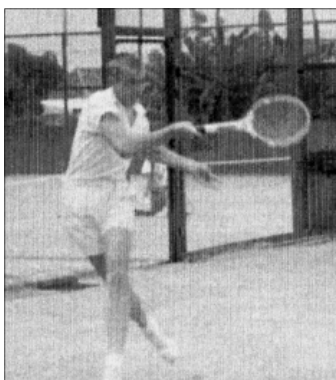
I commenced playing tennis as a child of 8 or 9 at Cremorne with my next door neighbour's son, Geoff Pares and took up squash when I left school aged about 16 or so. I was competent at both sports and played tennis until I went to PNG and didn't get back into it until about 1965.

### Tennis

The Northern Suburbs Tennis Association was one of the stronger ones in the Sydney region.

From 1954 to 1961 I won a number of the Age and Open single and doubles events, played Presidents Cup and Blackwell Cup and was selected in the inter-district tennis team. One of my team mates in the Blackwell Cup and Inter-district team was John Newcombe.

We were written up in the Northern Suburbs paper regularly as a group of players with a future.



When I went to PNG I only played from time to time but some of the postings I had did not allow me to continue playing on a competitive basis.

I played in the PNG championships in Lae in 1966 and **represented PNG at tennis that year in Noumea in the South Pacific Championships winning Silver** in the men's team events. My partner in mixed doubles that year was Iris

Hopkins, from West New Britain, an Anglo Indian woman, very dark and an excellent tennis player whom I met in Rabaul when I was at Navuneram and travelled into town on occasional weekends to play tennis.

In 1969 the President of the Wewak tennis association asked me to go to Port Moresby for the PNG tennis championships on an MAF aircraft – thus giving me a free trip over. This was a Missionary aircraft and we flew all over the place to get to Port Moresby, landing at times on marsden matting strips. I played men's doubles with Bob Eagles and mixed doubles with Helen Chittock who ran a sports store in Port Moresby. The Championships were held at Boroko. On occasions I also played mixed doubles with Joan Ainsworth, the NGVR/PNGVR Association President, Phil Ainsworth's wife.

**On more than one occasion I took out the PNG Championships.**

**I also represented PNG in the South Pacific Games in 1969 in Port Moresby and 1975 in Guam. In addition to the silver medal at Noumea I also won gold and silver medals.**

**In 1984 I was the male and female tennis coach for PNG's tennis team at the South Pacific Games in American Samoa.**

Whilst in Australia I played both tennis and squash and played in the night competitions around the local area at Park Ridge etc. in men's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles. Obviously whilst managing the squash courts I was a constant squash player.

### Health Problems

In 2003 I was experiencing a loss of feeling in my feet and, whilst this was being checked out by a specialist, she advised me that I had a heart murmur.



I saw a Cardiologist who carried out stress tests in November, 2003, and again in February, 2004, and there had been a distinct decline in my health. I had to then have a heart valve repaired to stop flow back of blood into the heart.

In December, 2005, I had to have a kidney removed. About March, 2005, I had an ultrasound and was advised that one of my kidneys had grown smaller. For the next 9 months I was undergoing various tests and was having a nuclear medicine test when I mentioned that one kidney was small. I was advised then that this was not the case and it was, in fact, larger than the other. On checking the arteries into my kidneys it was found that there was a problem and I had to have one of my kidneys removed in December, 2005 by keyhole surgery. I did not realise at the time but I had "renal cell carcinoma".

About 18 months later, after working on a block of land I have at Daisy Hill, I felt quite ill and, whilst showering later discovered that I had swollen lymph nodes in my neck which had been caused by the kidney cancer.

**Bob's kidney cancer returned and he died on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2008. He had spent some 36 years in PNG.**



## BEAT RETREAT, LAST POST, TATTOO, REVEILLE AND ROUSE

There is often a good deal of confusion between Beating the Retreat and Tattoo. Retreat is the order custom and dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century when it was known as 'Watch setting'.

Retreat consisted of prolonged drum-beating at sunset to warn the night guard to mount and also to give notice to soldiers beyond the confines of either the camp or the town walls that the gates were about to close so they should return. This drill also signalled to civilians working in the fields that it was time to come back to the safety of the garrison.

The custom also had the origins in the days when fighting ceased at sunset and drum beats signalled that the fighting was over. The soldiers in the main body of troops would fire three volleys of musket (for those troops who were spread further away 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 also "put to flight the evil spirits of departed soldiers". It was during this time of the evening that the Colour would be trooped, this drill has been replaced by the lowering of the National Flag today. It should be noted that the correct terminology is "Beat Retreat" and not "Beat the Retreat".

There is some confusion over the "post" calls. It seems that the 'First Post' and 'Last Post' came into being in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The "First Post" was sounded as the orderly officer, the orderly sergeant and a drummer (with a bugler) started the Tattoo. They then marched from post to post with the drummer bearing his drum. When they reached the final post the drummer would sound the "Last Post"; this is why drummers also carry a bugle.

Another suggestion is that the tattoo commenced at 9 o'clock in the evening, the same time as the "warning piece" (gun) sounded. Soldiers then had to be at their beds by 9.30. 'First Post' was when the orderly sergeant checked for absentees and by 10 o'clock, when the "Last Post" sounded the troops had to be in bed. This was followed fifteen 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 an old Dutch expression "Doe Den Tap Tow" which, freely translated into English, means "turn off the taps". The word "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 stop selling liquor.

The "Last Post" was really the end of the day (following 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 burial, when the closing bars wail out their sad farewell to the departing warrior.

There is a good deal of confusion about the calls "Reveille" and "Rouse". Many suppose that "Rouse" is the American version of "Reveille"; they are in fact two completely separate long-standing traditional calls. "Reveille" from the French "reveillez", meaning "wake-up", which in turn came from the Latin "vigilare" (to watch) was the call that woke the soldiers in the morning and it was originally performed by fifes and drums just before daybreak. Its two-fold purpose



*A man was walking down the street when he was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man who asked him for a couple of dollars for dinner.*

*The man took out his wallet, extracted ten dollars and asked, "If I give you this money, will you buy some beer with it instead of dinner?"*

*"No, I had to stop drinking years ago," the homeless man replied.*

*"Will you spend this on green fees at a golf course instead of food?" the man asked.*

*"Are you NUTS!" replied the homeless man. "I haven't played golf in 20 years!"*

*"Well," said the man, "I'm not going to give you money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a hot shower and a terrific dinner cooked by my wife."*

*The homeless man was astounded.*

*"Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that?"*

*The man replied, "That's okay. It's important for her to see what a man looks like after he has given up drinking and golf."*

was to wake up the sleeping soldiers and to let the sentries know that they could cease challenging. It was also signal to open the town gates and let out the horse guard, allowing them to do a reconnaissance (clearing patrol) of the immediate area beyond the walls. The fifes and drums were replaced by the bugle after its introduction into the British Army in the late 1700s. "Rouse", a shorter call was played to signal soldiers to get out of bed. In other words "Reveille" was played first, followed shortly after by "Rouse". For most of the past 100 years "Reveille" has been played in barracks without "Rouse"; however "Rouse" is still played today at funerals and memorial services.

It is generally considered that "Reveille" is the first call of the day, whilst "Last Post" is the last. The exception to this is the ANZAC Day dawn service. The first call is the "Last Post", commemorating those who have died ("the end of their day"). After the silence, during which we remember them, "Reveille" is played representing the start of a new day. This format is changed for memorial services conducted during the day, when "Rouse" is played, representing the raising of the dead rather than their awakening.

**WO1 C.J. Jobson, former RSM Ceremonial ADHQ**

## The Most Decorated US Serviceman of WW2

Audie Murphy was only 5'5" and 110 pounds and played cowboy parts. He was also the most decorated serviceman of WW 2 and earned: -Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, 2 Silver Star Medals, Legion of Merit, 2 Bronze Star Medals with "V", 2 Purple Hearts, U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal 2 Distinguished Unit Emblems American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with One Silver Star, Four Bronze Service Stars (representing nine campaigns) and one Bronze Arrowhead (representing assault landing at Sicily and Southern France)



World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar, Expert with Bayonet Badge and Bar, French Fourragere in Colors of the Croix de Guerre, French Legion of Honor, Grade of Chevalier, French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star, French Croix de Guerre with Palm, Medal of Liberated France, Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 Palm.

## THE SPOTTERS

This appeared in 'Reveille', the NSW RSL magazine in 1957

In Jan 1942 the nucleus of an Australian Army unit became operationally active, and continued on until Aug 1944 when, for the first time in its history it was withdrawn from operations and enjoyed a much longed for leave. This unit, The New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company (AIF), because of the nature of its duties, received no publicity and was little-known outside of those who were directly concerned with its employment, but its role in the defence of New Guinea contributed greatly to the launching of the major offensives of 1944.

A unit of the Aust Corps of Signals, its main purpose was to place 'spotter teams' at vantage points where the movements of Japanese troops, aircraft or vessels could be watched and reported to Headquarters.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 the Navy had a coast-watching network throughout the islands, using mainly the AWA Teleradio networks which plantations, Govt stations and other isolated places relied on for communication with the main centres. The gripping story of the heroism of these men, and the privations they suffered is told by Commander E..A. Feldt OBE, RAN, in his book "The Coast Watchers".

When Rabaul was first attacked from the air, Fortress Signals was the main Army Signal unit in Papua and carried all the Army communications for the Moresby area. The Rabaul garrison had been unable to use the limited air defences to full effect because of lack of warning of approaching enemy aircraft, when details of numbers, height of flight and direction of approach were essential. The Chief Signals Officer at Port Moresby proposed therefore, that a wireless network be placed around Moresby at roughly 100 miles radius, so that the area could be given at least half an hour's warning.

There were certain existing stations doing coastwatching work for the Navy, but these would need to be supplemented to provide the network considered necessary, so 37 Infantry privates were drawn from G.D.D. Moresby, and, after some hasty instruction in R/T operation, cipher and spotting duties, were flown, with their equipment, to Tufi, Buna and Samarai, the men at the latter place to await movement to Baniara and East Cape.

By the end of March 1942, 10 Army spotting stations were in operation in the area from Buna to the China Straits. All the early stations were poorly equipped and poorly rationed. One beer bottle of liquid quinine was expected to last a two-man station indefinitely. Supplies often could not get through to stations for weeks on end. When their rations ran out, the men lived on native foods, often smoked native tobacco, and when petrol for the battery charger was used up, kept their sets on the air by the utmost economy in battery use.

Just after midnight on the morning of 3 Feb 1942, what was probably the first air warning in Papua was flashed to Port Moresby by the Tufi station. It reported aircraft overhead, flying south-west. They were the flying boats which gave Moresby its first raid.

It was actually in Oct 1942 that the spotting stations were incorporated and identified as a unit, and the New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company came into existence as a part of Signals, New Guinea Force.

"The Spotters" by this time, had built up a good reputation for themselves. In addition to their normal work of air warning, coastwatching, weather reporting and handling traffic for the

Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit and other arms of the services in their particular areas, they had, time and again, rescued airmen forced down in their isolated localities, buried those who had perished, gone out on patrols to spy out enemy activities, dealt with Japanese refugees who came into their areas, forwarded enemy documents and war material to Intelligence, given care to the natives nearby, and settled disputes among the natives, pending the arrival of the ANGAU officer.

With the relentless pressure on the Japanese, their defeat at Milne Bay, Wau, Lae, Finschhafen, and their retreat up the Markham Valley, it became necessary for the spotting stations to move with the troops into the new areas, and in Oct 1943, the Company was operating five sub areas based on Port Moresby, Milne Bay, Dobodura, Nadzab and Gusap, with a total of 78 spotter stations and six report centres.

A spotting station consisted of two or three personnel, an Acting-Sgt, and one or two Acting-Cpls, and although their equipment was of necessity 'cut to the bone; it had to be adequate, and included such items as five four-gallon drums of petrol, four gallons of oil and two gallons of kerosene, a telescope, cipher and meteorological documents, a complete portable medical kit and at least one month's food rations.

Service of this nature, with its attended risk, hardship and loneliness, demanded more of a man than was customary. Temperament and compatibility therefore, were major considerations when perhaps just two men had to bear each other's company for some considerable time.

The effectiveness of the 'spotters' during their long period of service in operational areas was such as to bring praise from the highest Allied levels, and the fact that the Company was awarded an MBE, eight Military Medals and seven MID's bears testimony to the courage and resourcefulness of its members.

The life these men led was full of incidents and near death escapes from Japanese patrols. Some, unfortunately, were not so lucky. To recount fully the stories that could be told would require a book. This article can only permit the telling of a few incidents.

In June, 1942, an observation post was established 300 meters south of the enemy-held Salamaua airstrip. It consisted of a platform 30 feet from the ground on the forked



branch of a tree covered with dense foliage. From there a telephone wire ran to a wireless set concealed nearby. The noise of the charging motor was deadened by running water. As smoke would have been obvious, all meals were cooked on a primus stove or by the use of 'solidified alcohol'.

This is Nuk Nuk OP established by the NGVR scouts Jim Cavanaugh, Geoff Archer and Jim McAdam. In the photo are Damien Parer and Jim McAdam. This was the OP relaying Japanese air, land and sea movements at Salamaua to 8MD in Port Moresby.

Unsuspecting enemy aircraft constantly roared over, a hundred feet or so above the station. Incredible though it seems, the 'spotter' remained there for three weeks reporting all aircraft, shipping and troop movement.

A war photographer took photos from this post, and it may have been merely coincidence that, 48 hours after their publication in Australian papers, a Japanese patrol proceeded to the station. The 'spotters' escaped to Mubo, but their equipment was lost.

In April 1942 a spotting station intended for Misima Island left Milne Bay in the launch 'Mascot', but was captured by a Japanese naval vessel. The following Nov another team of 'spotters' was sent there. When the lugger entered the harbour a submarine surfaced out to sea and shelled them, hitting the deckhouse. The station was quickly set up on shore, however, and the incident reported.

While the Japanese were being pushed over the Owen Stanleys in Oct 1942 an attempt was made to establish an observation station post in the hills behind Buna. Three men penetrated eastwards of the Japanese line of communication and had just reported an enemy troop concentration when they were surprised by a patrol of 20 Japanese. The party escaped, managing to recover all documents, but the equipment was lost.

In another instance a surprise attack by a Japanese patrol on a spotting station was reported, and a dramatic "Wait!" from the operator was the last word heard of the 'spotters'. During an attack on Lae an observation post was established on the 'Malahang Wreck'. A 'spotter' in the crow's nest of this beached and burnt-out Japanese transport a mile or so from Lae was in telephone communications with the spotter station 100 yards away. While there, a near-miss on the wreck by an enemy bomb severed the telephone line, but caused no other damage.

In May 1944 a spotting station was landed by Catalina on Lake Rembebai, approximately 200 miles west of Hollandia and 100 miles ahead of Wakde Island where the nearest Allied force was located. The 'spotters' were protected by a small US Army patrol of a Cpl and six men. This station was able to provide up to 85 minutes warning of enemy raids on Wakde Island, and general intelligence was also passed back of Japanese movements in the area.

The activities of this station were brought to a dramatic conclusion on 31 July 1944. At 0300 hrs the station was the object of an organised attack by 40 Japanese. Sound leadership resulted in the attack being successfully repulsed. Of the 40 Japs, 38 were killed or drowned, one was captured, and the remaining one escaped. Two of the 'spotters' and five US personnel were wounded. As the prisoner gave information of 150 more Japanese in the area, the station was evacuated the same day.

While air-warning wireless was not a competitor of radar, the mobility of the spotter station and its ability to operate deep in enemy territory made it more suitable than radar in the early phases of a campaign. The success of these stations was entirely due to courage, ingenuity and determination of their staff. Well may the men of the New Guinea Sir Warning Wireless Company be proud of their war service.

Below: extracts of service with the "Spotters" of 2 NGVR men.

*Stan Burton NG2116 NGX452 (dec'd) record of service shows:*  
22.1.42 Taken on full time strength NGVR. Class Signaler

16.8.42 Trans Kanga Force

21.8.42 Attached to ANGAU

15.1.43 Transferred to New Guinea Line of Comms Signals

26.4.43 Promoted A/Cpl whilst allotted to Spotting

29.5.43 Reverted to Sig on return from spotting.

24.10.43 Trans NG Air Warning Wireless Coy

Later transferred to Allied Geographical Section S.W.P.A

Carlo Cavalieri NG2234 NGX388 in March 1943 was sent to Onga Village in the Markham Valley to establish a teleradio station and report on Japanese movements in the area.

## WEAPONS OF THE ADF

### Assault rifles

Calibre	5.56mm
Weight	3.1kg (with 30-round mag)
Length	840mm stock extended 756mm (stock retracted)
Barrel length	370mm
Effective range	Muzzle velocity 884m/sec 500m

Cyclic rate of fire 700-950 rounds per minute.



The M4A1 carbine, designed and built in the US, closely related to the M16, is a shorter and lighter variant of the M16A2 assault rifle, and an updated variation of the older M4.

It is a gas-operated, air-cooled weapon fed by a 30-round magazine that has selective-fire options for semi-automatic or fully automatic.

The shortness of the weapon (370mm barrel and telescoping stock) allows soldiers to better operate in close-quarter battle and, as such, is the standard-issue weapon for Australian special forces.

It features a Picatinny rail\* on all four sides, allowing scope for a wide range of accessories.

### Assault rifles

Calibre	5.56mm
Weight	3.89kg (with full magazine)
Length	802mm
Barrel length	508mm
Muzzle velocity	930m/sec
Effective range	300m
Cyclic rate of fire	680-850 rounds per minute



Enhanced F88 or EF88 is the future weapon of the Australian Army, with many units rolling out in 2016.

Defence contracted Thales to produce the new rifle, grenade launchers, spare parts and various ancillaries, at their facility in Lithgow, NSW.

The EF88 can be field fitted with a grenade launcher



attachment (GLA) with no special tooling required.

One significant difference between the EF88 and older variants is that the barrel is fixed.

It can also be fired right or left handed without adjustment.

The weapon as issued to the Army will be black, but soldiers and units will be authorised to custom paint their weapons.

#### Machine Guns Minimi

Calibre	5.56mm
Weight	7kg (with 100-round box magazine)
Length	1,080mm (865mm Para)
Barrel length	570mm (349mm Para)
Muzzle velocity	930m/sec
Effective range	400m
Cyclic rate of fire	800-900 rounds per minute



The F89 Minimi light support weapon (LSW), manufactured under licence in Australia, is employed as the primary support weapon at the brick, squad or section level.

It is gas operated, fully automatic, air cooled and fed by a disintegrating-link belt, either loose or from a 100-round belt box, and is capable of high rates of effective fire against point and area targets.

The LSW 5.56mm Para Minimi (shorter, with collapsible stock), is employed as the primary support weapon for special forces teams and as a section-support weapon for parachute units.

LSW is fitted with a Picatinny rail\* and is configured with standard optical weapon sights or can be fitted with an enhanced optical sight, night-aiming device, laser target designator or night weapon sight.

#### Machine Guns MAXIM

Calibre	7.62mm
Weight	8.2kg
Length	1,000mm
Barrel length	502mm
Effective range	600m
Cyclic rate of fire	710 rounds per minute.



The 7.62mm Maxim is a recent addition to the Australian Army and is basically a scaled-up version of the 5.56mm Minimi LSW.

It is gas-operated, fully automatic, air-cooled machine gun fed by a disintegrating link belt.

It is capable of a high rate of effective fire against point and area targets with heavier, harder-hitting 7.62mm ammunition.

The Maxim is reliable, effective and proved popular during recent operations undertaken by Australian soldiers – though

CONTACT has been told the ADF added generic 5.56mm-calibrated sights when they purchased the weapon from the US instead of forking out for 7.62mm-calibrated sights intended for the weapon.

#### Machine Guns MAG58

Calibre	7.62mm
Weight	10.9kg
Length	1,231mm
Barrel length	679mm
Cyclic rate of fire	750-1,000 rounds per minute



The Belgian-made general support machine gun (GSMG) FN MAG58 is designed in the 1950s for general support purposes.

It can be used either as a light support weapon (LSW), fired from a bipod, or fired from a tripod in the extended-range role and was very popular in Afghanistan as a vehicle-mounted weapon.

It can also be mounted on a tripod with a C2 sight and used in the indirect sustained-fire role.

It is a fully automatic, 7.62mm, belt-fed, air-cooled, gas-operated weapon, and is capable of a sustained high volume of fire.

Stoppages can be easily and quickly remedied.

Ammunition belts are made up of disintegrating links, factory packed in 500-round boxes, normally fitted in the ratio of one tracer round to every four ball rounds, although all-ball-round belts are available.

Maximum effective range of the MAG58 in the LSW role is 800m.

#### Machine Guns M2HB QCB

Calibre	.50 cal
Weight	25kg
Length	1,656mm
Barrel length	1,145mm
Cyclic rate of fire	450-600 rounds per minute 1,200 rpm Navy variant



Designed in 1918, the Browning M2HB (heavy barrel) QCB (quick-change barrel) machine gun is still a very effective and popular weapon as a primary or secondary armament on various vehicles and watercraft and helicopters.

It can also be used in the ground role, fired from a tripod. On vehicles and watercraft, it is used to provide close-range fire

support against surface and air targets. Navy uses a variant (capable of 1200 rounds per minute) as a helicopter door gun. When mounted on a tripod, it can be used in direct- or the indirect-fire-roles.

It is an automatic, belt fed, air-cooled, spring and recoil-operated weapon, also capable of firing single shots. It fires from a positively locked breech position and is capable of a sustained high volume of fire. The maximum effective range in the direct fire role is 2,000m and in the extended-range role out to 6,800m.

\* Picatinny rail is a rail integration system used for attaching accessories to small firearms. It is named after the Arsenal in New Jersey, USA which evaluated it to create a military standard in early 1995.

Source - Air, Land & Sea, Magazine

*Bert, at 85 years old, always wanted a pair of soft spike Golf Shoes like Freddie Couples, so, seeing some on sale after his round, he bought them.*

*He was so delighted with his purchase, he decided to wear them home to show the Missus.*

*Walking proudly into the House, he sauntered into the Kitchen and said to his Wife, "Notice anything different about me?" Margaret at age 83 looked him over and replied, "Nope."*

*Frustrated as all get out, Bert stormed off into the bathroom, undressed and walked back into the Kitchen completely naked except for the new Golf Shoes.*

*Again he asked Margaret, a little louder this time, "Notice anything different now?"*

*Margaret looked up and said in her best deadpan response, "Bert, what's different? It's hanging down today, it was hanging down yesterday, and it'll be hanging down again tomorrow."*

*Furious, Bert yells out, "And do you know why it's hanging down, Margaret?"*

*"Nope. Not a clue", she replied.*

*"It's hanging down, because it's looking at my new Golf Shoes! Without missing a beat old Margaret replies, "You shoulda bought a new Hat."*



Markham River pre WW2. Note the many channels and islands.  
Photo courtesy Stan Burton, NGVR, (Dec'd)

From Phil Ainsworth

### The Batze Family in New Guinea

This is John Batze's family story of colonial hardship in the New Guinea Islands. John gave this article to me after receiving it from his sister; it is a copy of an article written by Jack McCarthy from the Post Courier published sometime in 1970. John was prompted to ask for the article from his sister when asked about the family plantation in the Bainings prior to WW1, as it was the plantation which the Australians sent the German soldiers under honour not to escape. The plantation's name is Muesfersberg comprising about 490 ha in the Bainings on the north coast of Gazelle Peninsula.

John Holland has a map in the Museum with all the plantations shown.

### The Batzes call it a day, just short of a century

Adolf and Agnes Batze, of Lae, are leaving the Territory, just two years short of chalking up 100 years of residence between them.



Agnes and Adolf Batze with granddaughter Keran, daughter of Assn member John Batze and wife Thelma.

Adolf arrived here on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1908; his wife came in 1936, and that's 98 years of active work from primitive to modern times, under all conditions.

With their four children, the family can claim a total of 209 years in New Guinea.

Adolf's father was granted 490 hectares of land by the German Government so he, his wife and 12 children, wrapped up

everything on their farm, including 12 head of cattle, put the lot on a steamer and finished up being offloaded on to a beach in the Bainings.

Rabaul had not then been founded and their destination was to have been Kokopo, but with beasts aboard the whole party were dumped in the scrub.

"We should have landed on New Year's Day" Adolf recalls, "but quarantine was strict and we were kept on the boat for four days."

Work began from the moment they landed, axes out to fell the timber and scrub, build a house, stockyards and start off on clearing for a plantation that later became Muesfersberg.

Their original 12 head of cattle couldn't stand up to the new conditions and died and were replaced by caribou, water buffalo, but these brought other problems.

"They were not good animals. Large beasts, big horns and hard to control," he remembers. "They would stay for a while and then move off to another place. You just couldn't hold them so we sold them and bought seven Zebu."

There were three other German families settled in the area, all going well until 1914 when war came along.

Everything was disrupted and, being aliens, they were left to get along as best they could on the plantation, isolated, short of supplies and unaware of what was happening.

Father was boss in every way' head of the family and complete controller of everything that concerned it in domestic and business affairs, and when he died suddenly during the war, confusion fell on the family.

By then there were two properties, but the papers belonging to them had been lost. They were now called *Mobisberg* and *Lilinakaia*.

Nobody in the family had been told anything about the business. Their contributions had been in hard labour and long hours, so they stayed and worked, living off the land until, with the war finished, their mother remarried.

Then they discovered that they no longer owned their properties, that they had been acquired by a large firm and that, without legal papers they could do nothing.

Copra, at that time, was bringing \$6 a ton which induced Adolf to leave the land and go fishing for trochus shell at \$300 a ton.



In 1921, he was skipper of the 'John Douglas' and sailed her into Lae with the settlement's first tractor aboard. Coming ashore he worked for a while with Burlie Gorman and Alan Innes at Lae and Salamaua and in 1927 began building the first airstrip at Lae. Until then aircraft had been flown to Rabaul and, from there, shipped to Lae and, with the completion of the strip, a De Havilland 27 was flown in.

At this time he was working for Guinea Airways and stayed with them for 12 years. Tales of this time include a trip into the Watut Gorge country where a single engine Junkers had crashed on to a shoe-box airstrip. It was also the only available spot for the locals to play football matches and the pilot, coming in fast, had made a perfect landing between the goal posts, wiping off both wings. It took 21/2 days for the party to clamber out of the gorge carrying one of the broken wings for return to Lae.

Married in 1931, Mrs Batze left Australia to become a Territory housewife, and again things went well for a few years until the second big war came along, and Adolf found himself tangled up in the first bombing raid on Lae. Being right in the centre of the main target, that wasn't too difficult.

"They plastered the strip. First the fighters came over, cruised around and left. Then three flights of bombers appeared and pattern bombed the whole area. This was the first time we had experienced bombing. One dropped near our bunker and buried us in dirt and rubbish. Another blew our mess hut sky-high but nobody was hurt or killed," he recalled and didn't mention an injury to his back which still troubles him.

Later he was back in the goldfields, a member of the NGVR (New Guinea Volunteer Rifles) No 2477, and a sick man. Yet, in spite of poor health, he was one of a party evacuated from Wau who walked the whole Bulldog Track down to the Papuan Coast, staging at Yule Island and then walking on to Port Moresby. From there it was Concord Military Hospital in Sydney, where, after many months, he recovered to discover that, being an old New Guinea resident, and presumably tough enough, he had been selected as a guinea pig for malaria fever tests by the Medicos and did not return to Lae until 1946.

Then came a succession of jobs, with New Guinea Industries, Morobe Constructions and with Works and Housing until, in 1953, he joined up with the Department of Forests. This was his last job, for now, 64 years after arriving, he and his wife are retiring to Cairns and a newly-brought brick house.

And he is not coming back. "Individual security here has gone," he says "and there is nothing if I stay longer." a hard decision to make after so many years of service to a country whose toughness and disabilities he has accepted for so long.

It is difficult to picture this man adjusting himself to a quiet, sedentary life, enjoying benefits he has earned through long and strenuous labour, divorced from half a century's associations and knowing that he is an onlooker rather than a participant.

Adolf Batze has always been a hard worker, a man of the earth since he was a small child with an axe, battling along with his father and brothers to build an inheritance from the soil, an accomplishment which he finished and then lost.

Basically philosophic, he accepts the misfortunes that have come his way as ingredients of life and there is no trace of rancour as he recalls past years and past deeds, the hard, steady grind, the setbacks and the moments of bitterness.

"The Japs were our friends in the first war and our enemies in the second, but why worry about it? That's the way things go," and he shrugs away the complexities that frustrate the ordinary man whose aim in life is to survive and produce.

So another couple go out of the picture of past times that is rapidly fading as more of the pioneer workers in this country leave. Their record is part of a generation that few today could understand, of those who came in when the odds were invariably against them and who accepted the situation as a challenge.

From 1906 to 1970 is a fair distance for one man to battle along. Adolf Batze has served under a variety of Administrations since he first stepped ashore in the Baining.

The German Government was in command of New Guinea; a military administration took over from 1914 to 1921; another military administration lasted during the Second World War; while over the border there was British New Guinea with the Territory of Papua proclaimed just eight months after he arrived, and, since 1949, there has been the Administration of Papua and New Guinea. In between times there has been Japanese and American military influences.

All these, in some way, have affected this man's life and as you sit and listen to his remembrances of those years the understanding of his philosophy "That's the way things go" becomes very clear.



Photos of Nadzab aircraft dump 1949/50  
Courtesy Roy Edward



On May 21, 1945, Colonel Bird, Commandant of Belsen Camp, gave the order for the last hut at Belsen Concentration Camp to be burned. A rifle salute was fired in honour of the dead, the British flag was run up at the same moment as a flame-thrower set fire to the last hut. A German flag and portrait of Hitler went up in flames inside the hut in June of 1945.

*Tower: "TWA 2341, for noise abatement turn right 45 Degrees."*  
*TWA 2341: "Center, we are at 35,000 feet.. How much noise can we make up here?"*  
*Tower: "Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"*

### Travolta's - QANTAS 707 donated to HARS

Movie megastar John Travolta today announced that he will donate his private, QANTAS liveried Boeing 707 to the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society – HARS – at Albion Park, NSW.

HARS is situated about 140km south of Sydney, 17km south of Wollongong.

Mr Travolta said today in a press release that it gave him great pleasure to make this exciting, historical announcement. "As many of you will know, flying is a passion of mine and I am just so grateful to be fortunate enough to count many hours flying such a beautiful aircraft," he said.

"The aircraft was originally delivered to Qantas Airways in 1964 and was converted for private use after it finished its life with 'The Flying Kangaroo'.

"I was honoured to have the 707 repainted in the original Qantas colours when I became the ambassador for the airline, and it's so fitting that many of the volunteers at HARS are retired Qantas employees.

"The aircraft currently requires a lot of work to be restored to a safe flying state and having seen first hand the dedication and passion of people at HARS, I have no doubt this beautiful and historical aircraft will be flying again."

The aircraft, currently registered N707JT is a former QANTAS Boeing 707-138B registered in QANTAS service as VH-EBM and named 'City of Launceston'. It was built for QANTAS in Seattle by Boeing in 1964 and delivered to Sydney on 12 September that year. QANTAS flew about 300 B707 round-trip flights Sydney-Saigon-Sydney during the Vietnam War, from 1965 to 1972, ferrying fresh troops over and excited troops home – though we have no evidence that VH-EBM flew the route.

VH-EBM 'City of Launceston' flew its first commercial flight from Sydney to Tokyo on 2 October 1964 and flew its last commercial flight for QANTAS from London to Sydney on 1 April 1968 with 11,995 flight hours to its record.

It had several owners, several periods in storage and several new liveries before John Travolta bought it in May 1998.

HARS president Bob De La Hunty told local newspaper The Illawarra Mercury that the aviation museum would send its engineering team to the United States to help prepare the plane for the historic flight.

"The aeroplane's in pretty good shape – it flew last in December – but aeroplanes do need maintenance," Mr De La Hunty said. "We have to send our engineering team over there, work out the timing and see what needs to be done to get it back in the air."

Mr De La Hunty also said they would have to work around Mr Travolta's filming schedule because he has expressed

his desire to be on the ferry flight to Albion Park when the aircraft is delivered to its new home.

The Boeing 707 will join former Qantas 747-400 VH-OJA 'City of Canberra', which was delivered to Albion Park with much fanfare in 2015.

Mr Travolta said HARS had an impressive track record of restoring historical aircraft and I had flown 'Connie', the museums iconic Super Constellation, which they restored to flying condition from almost nothing.

"In making this announcement, I would like to mention the significant support given by the Bendigo Bank Oak Flats and Shellharbour Community Bank Branches who, as a local organisation, have been very supportive of HARS' efforts in aircraft restoration.

"Thanks must also go to QBE Insurance (Australia) Limited Services for their significant support as well."

Mr Travolta said he was truly excited by this project and was so pleased that this beautiful aircraft, for which he obviously had very fond memories, will continue to fly well into the future.

"I am hoping to be part of the crew to fly the aircraft to Australia – supported by well-qualified and experienced pilots and engineers."

Source: Land, Sea & Air Magazine

### Beautiful English

*I called an old school friend and asked what was he doing.  
 He replied that he is working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminium and steel under a constrained environment".  
 I was impressed.....  
 On further enquiring I learnt that he was  
 washing dishes with hot water ..... Under his wife's supervision.*



### ADF buys Wasp UAS

The Australian Defence Force has just acquired a new unmanned aerial surveillance and reconnaissance capability that will give our soldiers extra sting on the battlefield.

Minister for Defence Marise Payne and Minister for Defence Industry Christopher Pyne today announced a \$101 million supply, maintenance and support contract with Australian company XTEK for the Wasp UAS by US manufacturer AeroVironment.

The WASP AE will be utilised by infantry battalions, armoured cavalry regiments and Special Operations units and will be operated by soldiers as an addition to their current skillsets.

LAND 129 Phase 4 will begin to provide Army units with the WASP AE from the third quarter of 2018.

Pricing and quantities are subject to commercial-in-confidence contract negotiations and are not releasable.

Additional details regarding any contract to be signed will be released through AusTender in accordance with Commonwealth reporting guidelines.

Minister Payne said the contract would directly create up to 10 new jobs in Canberra.

She said the new systems were small enough to be carried, assembled and used by one person\*\*, and allowed the soldier to 'see over the hill, around the corner and down the road'.

"Similar systems, including the Skylark, have been used by our soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq with tremendous success," Minister Payne said.

"They provide our military with a faster and better understanding of the battlefield than our adversaries."

Minister Payne said the capability would be acquired in two tranches, with the WASP AE chosen as the preferred option for the first tranche to meet an immediate need.

This funding is for the first tranche of the capability.

Minister Pyne said WASP AE would be modified with Australian content using other companies such as Sentient in Melbourne and Mediaware in Canberra and acquired through Canberra-based company, XTEK.

"It's a proven capability used by militaries around the world, including with the US Marine Corps," Minister Pyne said.

"Importantly, a significant proportion of this investment will remain in Australia, with local industry content valued at approximately \$11 million for acquisition, plus up to \$4 million each year for sustainment.

"The majority of maintenance and support will be carried out in Australia by XTEK."

The second tranche will upgrade the WASP AE or acquire a replacement system within the next decade.

"This will also provide opportunities for Australian industry," Minister Pyne said.

"Upgrading or replacing the WASP AE will ensure our troops continue to have the latest technology available to keep them safe on the battlefield.

"Defence will work closely with Australian industry through the Centre for Defence Industry Capability to maximise opportunities for local companies to get involved in this important project," he said.

*Source: Land, Sea & Air Magazine*



### **Mt Ambra 1964—Slouch Hat and Beret**

The above photo shows Cpl Bob Collins, then acting PI Sgt, 7PI C Coy, giving Pte Unaro additional instruction whilst a lesson is being given to 7 PI on "Fix & Unfix Bayonets".

It shows the difference in headwear during Annual Camp 1964, the first camp in which Indigenous soldiers of PNG attended. The European soldiers are wearing slouch hats and the indigenous soldiers berets.

Between August 1964 and the second annual camp at Mt Ambra in August 1965 the slouch hat had been abolished and all PNGVR ORs wore berets.'



### **Porgera airstrip, Enga Province**

Porgera Airstrip, Enga Province, PNG, 2,383m (7,800 ft) with 10% slope. No go-around for aircraft in the 1950/70s as the RAAF proved.

The photo below shows the remains of a Caribou which crashed on landing. These remains have been described as "the most expensive boi-house in PNG"



### **Ex-HMAS Sydney towed from Sydney Harbour to be scrapped**

Ex-HMAS Sydney leaves Sydney Harbour today to be towed to Western Australia for recycling.

Sydney had been offered to States and territories for use as a dive wreck but there was no interest in the ship, so the government decided to recycle her by scrapping instead.

Minister for Defence Personnel Dan Tehan said Ex-HMAS Sydney had an illustrious career during her 32 years in service with the Royal Australian Navy.

"The Adelaide-class frigate was involved in operations spanning the Middle East, East Timor, Fiji and the Solomon Islands and earned a Meritorious Unit Citation during the First Gulf War in 1991," Mr Tehan said.





"She was built at the Todd Pacific Shipyards in Seattle, Washington, USA, and commissioned there on 29 January 1983.

"The former HMAS Sydney was decommissioned from the Royal Australian Navy on 7 November 2015 to make way for the Hobart-class guided missile destroyers, which will provide Australia with an improved war fighting capability."

Ex-HMAS Sydney's journey from Sydney to the Common User Facility at Henderson, Western Australia, will take up to 22 days.

*Source: Land, Sea & Air Magazine*



#### Coastwatchers in PNG—WW2

My father, Rolf Charles Cambridge, stands in the back row fourth from the left. I am very proud of him at this late stage of my life. If he were alive now I would tell him so but he died when I was in my early thirties and I hardly knew him. Life has many regrets.

*Janet Palfreyman / née Cambridge*



#### RAAF Butterworth, Malaysia.

The RAAF base in Butterworth spawned a colourful community whose influences can still be felt today.

It was Australia's biggest single engagement with Asia.

At one point in the 1970s there were thousands of Australians in Penang, but few here now know why they came in the first

place, and what the handful of remaining Australians from the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) are still doing here.

There are currently around 130 Australian service personnel stationed at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base in Butterworth. This base was officially opened in October 1941 as a Royal (British) Air Force (RAF) base – part of a belated attempt to defend Malaya from the Japanese during World War II.

The base then played an important role during the post-war Emergency period. RAF aircraft flew the jungle fort route from



Butterworth to Kroh and Grik to help quell communist insurgents, and broadcast surrender terms to them. From the 1950s onwards, RAAF forces and forces from New Zealand became actively involved, and even as the Emergency waned, the perceived threat of a Communist resurgence elsewhere in South-East Asia prompted the British government to hand over the base at Butterworth to the RAAF on free loan in 1955.

From then onwards the work of patrolling and guarding the New Villages (designed to isolate rural residents from being influenced by the guerrillas), was largely undertaken by Australian troops. In addition, an Australian Airfield Construction Squadron was deployed that year to refurbish the facilities and prepare the base for jet operations. By May 1958 the runway, taxiways and fighter and bomber hardstands were all ready for operational use.

When the RAAF formally took control of the base at Butterworth on June 30, 1958 it became their first permanent major air base outside Australia. It also cemented a period of prosperity and vibrancy for Butterworth, as the RAAF personnel would come out to shop and spend at local businesses on their payday every fortnight.

#### Life in Paradise

There were in fact two Australian communities in Penang: the one in Butterworth and another on the island in Tanjung Bungah; Australian-style houses were built for families here, and the service personnel commuted to Butterworth by ferry every day. It was in Tanjung Bungah that the first dedicated school for 600 children of RAAF personnel was opened in 1962 at Jalan Azyze at Hillside, on what had been a rubber plantation. Previously, children had been educated at leased buildings on Jalan Residensi, but with the burgeoning growth of the community, a purpose-built building had become essential.

The standard of living was remarkably luxurious compared to

back home. As one serviceman remarked of his stay in the 1960s: "I was 25 and a Flying Officer and we were put up in the Eastern and Oriental Hotel waiting for a married quarter, and then we were given a married quarter on the island, a huge two-storey place with about five or six bedrooms. Then of course we went out and hired a cook and an amah." Whether it was the exotic foreign location, the climate, the people, the different cultures or the shared sense of experience, everyone posted in Penang went home with great memories.

### Call of Duty

After the end of the Confrontation, the British government announced plans for the withdrawal of its forces from the east of Suez. In line with an earlier Anglo-Malayan agreement, ownership of the Butterworth base was transferred to the Malaysian government in 1970, but the RAAF was immediately given joint control over the base as part of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA), in which Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia agreed that in the event of any form of external armed attack or threat against Malaysia or Singapore they would consult each other about the response.

In 1971 the Headquarters of the Integrated Air Defence System (IADS) was formed at Butterworth with Australia providing its Commander. IADS assumed operational responsibility for the air defence of Malaysia and Singapore. It was intended to be a transitional arrangement, but was re-designated in 2001 as Headquarters Integrated "Area" Defence System. It now has personnel from all three branches of the armed services, and still co-ordinates the annual five-power naval and air exercises. The FPDA is the longest standing multilateral security arrangement in South-East Asia today.

[www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/overnights/theforgotten-history-of-raaf-butterworth-basemala/ysia/7725114](http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/overnights/theforgotten-history-of-raaf-butterworth-basemala/ysia/7725114)

### Canadian sniper shatters world record for the longest confirmed kill in history

A Canadian soldier in Iraq has killed an Islamic State militant from more than three kilometres away, shattering the world record for a confirmed sniper kill in military history.

The 3450-metre shot, which took about 10 seconds to reach its target, was independently verified by a video camera and other data, the source said.

Due to the distance of the shot, some voices in the military community expressed scepticism at the Canadian government's report. The reported shot from 3,540 meters, or about 2.2 miles, would eclipse the previous sniper world record of 2,474 meters or 1.54 miles set by the United Kingdom's Craig Harrison when he killed two Taliban insurgents in November 2009.



A Canadian sniper uses a C3A1 sniper rifle. Photo: Canadian Army

The Globe and Mail first reported the shot's success and said it disrupted an ISIS attack on Iraqi forces, citing unnamed sources.

"The elite sniper was using a McMillan TAC-50 sniper rifle while firing from a high-rise during an operation that took place within the last month in Iraq. It took under 10 seconds to hit the target," the paper said.

The Canadian military unit confirmed the distance of shot shortly after the Globe and Mail story was published, but the shot has yet to be formally confirmed by a third party agency.



MacMillan TAC-50 Sniper Rifle

Sources - Sydney Morning Herald / The News Station.

### The secret tunnels of the University of Papua New Guinea

Now this might sound like some James Bond thriller, but I assure you it is true. I have seen and experienced it.



There are secret tunnels beneath the University of Papua New Guinea. And death, murder, conspiracy and violence have taken place beneath its hallowed foundations.

You may care to type "WW2 ammunition dumps in Port Moresby" into your search engine before you continue reading\*.

But all I need say here is that in World War II there was an extensive ammunition dump on the site where the University of PNG now sits.

It's not a happy thought. After all, they can't have removed them all post-war. Some are most likely still there. Rusting away.

In 2003 I had been blooded by the first UPNG student riots (with a brilliant left-handed mark Mike Moir-Bussy saved me from being hit on the head by a flying water bottle). A few days later it got even more serious as the police intervened.

The students were storming the library - my domain! We locked and bolted the doors and hid in a corner. Then the mobile squad arrived. Unfortunately their response was to start firing their M16s. I told my staff to lie on the floor as bullets squealed around us.

I had a last resort. I knew there was a staircase to the basement leading to an underground passage. So I led my staff there.

It was a strange underground world with rooms off a central corridor dripping with mould and filled with forgotten archive boxes.

We followed the passage to the main lecture theatre only to find our way blocked by a steel door. No one knew who had the key, and no one knew exactly where we were except somewhere under the main lecture theatre.

Off to the left was another passage leading in the direction



of the Administration wing. Also blocked by a steel door. We were stumped and cautiously went back the way we'd come, and found that the riot had subsided and made our escape through the back door. We stumbled across a paddock and made our way home.

But that secret tunnel that gave us temporary refuge is worth explanation. Is it a left-over from World War II? A special escape route for frightened expatriate university staff? Or merely a disused service tunnel?

You decide.

\* I believe an area designated Wallaby Dump in World War II was the future site of UPNG. I've found a map of the ammunition dumps and military installations around Port Moresby. There were many dozens. In fact the whole place was riddled with them. The old drive-in cinema site was one, Horse Camp at 2 Mile another.

*An article by Peter Kranz from  
Keith Jackson & Friends PNG Attitude*

I can back up Peter's story about the secret tunnels and rooms underneath the University of PNG.

They were built in John Gunther's time when he established the university.

I was a second-Year (mature-age) student when these buildings were built. The rooms were used as tutorial rooms.

Over many years they deteriorated and were being used for all sorts of nefarious activities. Later, as Chief of Security, I successfully had them enclosed.

For some years they became "secret", until I found that a couple of students used another informal entrance and gained access to the Library (at night) partly by crawling through a network of pipes belonging to the old generator.

I followed it through once and found another corridor, as Peter described. It is perhaps possible that some of the new rooms were built adjacent to some wartime underground pit.

Even today there are wartime objects to be found in and around Port Moresby.

Once I found a Ready Dump for the anti-aircraft site on the hill guarding the southern approaches to the city, across the valley from Taurama Barracks. It still had the chalk-marks on the walls from the last stock take of its inventory.

*Mike Moir-Bussy*

Employee: Sir, You are like a lion in the office!  
What about at home?  
Boss: I am a lion at home too -  
but there we have a lion tamer!



The 2016 Assn AGM. Note the amount of shine the overhead lights were able to pick up.



Anzac Day 2017 Salisbury, Brisbane, RSL, Brisbane. Sub Branch President, Tony Stevenson and Association Patron Maj Gen John Pearn, AO RFD. Tony and wife Bev were active supporters of our Field Dining Nights. *Photo courtesy Qld RSL News*



L. Ian accepts his trophy.

Below. The group that competed. Ian at R in front. Jess behind his left shoulder. Mal and Mike behind Jes' left shoulder



**Annual Fassifern Light Horse Marksman Competition**  
PNGVR attendees were Jes Hansford, Mal and Mike Zimmerman and myself. It was a beautiful day, light breezed no cloud.

16 shooters participated, the result being a win to the Light Horse's perennial champion Barry Hall with a score of 155. I was second with 152. Jes received a special encouragement cup as



he fired a credible score after travelling over 600km to get there. Mal was also much improved over previous shoots, and went home happy with his performance. Mike suffered from a mal-functioning rifle. The Zimmermans had driven from Silent Grove in northern NSW, and went all the way back again in the same day. What an effort!

Sadly only one lady competed in the 22 section, this being LH's Bernadette who shot a phenomenal 186.

*Thank you Ian Thompson. Ian omitted to mention that he also travelled from Stradbroke Island.*

### **A Remarkable Goodwill Gesture from Bunnings**

The Association had been given the opportunity to conduct a Sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Oxley, on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Unfortunately on the way to Oxley, Paul Brown, now one of our Museum curators with Tony Boulter in his car suffered major problems in a tunnel near Mayne and could not complete his journey. He was advised by the RACQ that it would be possibly 2 hours before they could attend.

Paul had a key to the Gate and also the Museum itself in which all the provisions for the sausage sizzle were stored—soft drinks, sausages, bread, eskies, various sauces, napkins, cooking utensils etc. These had all been purchased beforehand and stored so that set up on the day would go smoothly.

As it happened Secretary Colin Gould had been struck down with a particularly bad flu and was home in bed. John Holland had recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was also in bed recovering from a chemotherapy dose. They had the only other two keys and the time taken to try and recover one would have resulted the commencement of the sausage sizzle being unacceptably late. Regrettably there was no 'Plan B' in place.

It was decided, after lengthy phone conversations, which included the 3 waiting at Wacol but unable to gain admittance to the museum swiftly shopping around for substitute provisions and equipment etc, that the best option, given the limited time available, to advise Bunnings that the sausage sizzle would need to be cancelled.

This was done and Bunnings accepted the decision given the circumstances.

On Monday morning John Holland received a call from Bunnings to advise that they had conducted the sausage sizzle themselves and were donating the profits of \$1,029.45 to the Association.

This magnificent gesture shows the esteem in which your Association is held by other groups and businesses in the museum vicinity, as well as elsewhere, - thanks to the untiring efforts over the years by John Holland, Colin Gould, Paul Brown and your Association Committee and other willing volunteers.

### ***What a magnificent gesture from Bunnings Oxley***

### **The Battle of Milne Bay Commemorative Service, Chermide, Sat August 26<sup>th</sup> 2017**

I attended the service as a member of the public which was held at the Chermide Historical Centre (opp Chermide Shopping Complex) and was well attended. It commenced at 10.00 hrs.



The large marquee contained approx. 100 seats 95% occupied with many standing at the back and sides. Approx another 10-15 were on the veranda on the Old Chermide School. I estimated approx. 115-125 attendees not including the local army cadets

and the air force band. The ARA supplied the Catafalque party.

Some of those attending included:-

Senior officers from Enoggera Army Base, 2 Qld Govt. cabinet minister and the BCC Councillor for the Chermide Ward

Brig Anthony Rawlings gave the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Address.

Keynote speaker was Sergeant Frank McCosker a 94 year old veteran of this campaign who gave a very good speech recalling his service at Milne Bay. He was only 19 when the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion was sent to Milne Bay.

He described the conditions the troops were subjected to, it rained most of the time they were there, poor food, lack of supplies malaria was rife etc. He made mention of the support received from the RAAF & the Small Ships crews. He stood the whole time and spoke for approx. 20-25 minutes.

About a dozen wreaths were laid by the dignitaries and family members who lost relatives during this campaign.

At the completion of the service a substantial refreshment was on offer to all.

*Tony Boulter Committee Member*

### **VALE John WEIR 15.11.1958 - 5.7.2017**

John was the RSM and Drill Instructor for the Jimboomba and District Cadets.

Over the past few years the Jimboomba Cadets have been very supportive of our Museum events and have provided



uniformed groups as required to enhance Museum functions. John spent a lot of time ascertaining the museum requirements and drilling the Cadet group.

The last Association function he attended was the "Montivideo Mauru" service at Anzac Square in Brisbane a few days prior to his suffering a heart attack.

**R.I.P. John**



### Address re Coastwatchers in WW2 in PNG at Everyman's Hut at Wacol Precinct.

Approx 130 people attended an address by Philip Selth OAM at the Everyman's hut at the Wacol Precinct on Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Sep re 3 Coastwatchers who operated in New Guinea during WW2. The event was sponsored by our Assn, PNGAA and NSAA.



The 3 were Capt John Murphy, NGVR and M Special Force, who was captured by the Japanese on New Britain, later Court Martialled but cleared of treason.

The other two, Lt Comd Paul

Mason and Lt Jack Read, both RANVR, operated on Bougainville and sent vital signals regarding approaching Japanese aircraft attacks on the US newly established base at Guadalcanal which enabled the US navy to have aircraft ready and disperse its ships before the Japanese arrived. Both were awarded the DSC by the US Navy.

Admiral Halsey, Commander of US forces in the South Pacific, said that Read and Mason "had saved Guadalcanal and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific".

## FUNCTION DATES

Sat 21st October  
Annual General Meeting  
At the museum; which will open from 9.30am to 3pm.  
AGM commences 10.30am;  
Complimentary BBQ after.  
Attendance to Secretary Colin Gould  
Sat 18th Nov. Committee Meeting

## MUSEUM EVENTS

Sat/Sun 7/8 October  
Brisbane Heritage Open House.  
9.30am to 3.30pm each day  
**Volunteers required to assist.**

## JR Medals

John & Vanessa Roxburgh  
Ph: 0466 633 273  
Loc: 71 Pontiac Circuit, Warner, QLD  
Web: [www.jrmedals.com.au](http://www.jrmedals.com.au)  
email: [info@jrmedals.com.au](mailto:info@jrmedals.com.au)  
**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](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au), phone 0424 562 030 (The Secretary, P O Box 885, Park Ridge, Qld, 4125)

**For Military Museum enquires contact** Colin Gould email [pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au), phone 0424 562 030 or

Paul Brown email [paulbrown475@gmail.com](mailto:paulbrown475@gmail.com), Phone 0402 644 181

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

**Membership fee payments to Treasurer,** Doug Ng, email [douglasng@inet.net.au](mailto:douglasng@inet.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](mailto:trevor.connell@internode.on.net), phone 0409 690 590

[www.pngvr.weebly.com](http://www.pngvr.weebly.com) (all back copies of HTT may be obtained from our website)

**Facebook Master:** Kieran Nelson, email [kieran.nelson@bigpond.com](mailto:kieran.nelson@bigpond.com), phone 0412 236 013

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

**Harim Tok Tok Editor:** Bob Collins, email [bob-collins@bigpond.com](mailto:bob-collins@bigpond.com), phone 0413 831 397

**President:** Email [p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au](mailto: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)

NGVR/PNGVR service recollections are copyright.

Our Museum at Wacol will again be participating in the Brisbane Open House weekend Living Museums activity weekend 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> October allowing visitors to view historical buildings and exhibitions of significance in the Brisbane area. This is the second year the Museum has been selected. Our Museum will be opened both days to host the event for the public so if you are available to assist showing the visitors the museum, please contact Colin Gould. The NSAAQ is also holding its annual get-together and AGM the same weekend, so it will be a busy time on this Military Heritage Site. All members and friends are invited to visit over this weekend. Please broadcast this event as we would like the world to know about our wonderful resource facility of the Pacific War.

Our AGM will be held in the Wacol Museum at 10am Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October followed by a BBQ luncheon and get together, see you there. Your RSVP would be welcome for catering purposes.

Our Curator John Holland remains on the sick list and we trust we see him soon at coming museum events. In the meantime, Colin Gould and Paul Brown are working marvellously maintaining the Museum to the meticulous standards set by John over his 12 years of stewardship. The Association is indebted to Colin and Paul for assuming this arduous task.

**Phil Ainsworth, October 2017**