



Harim Tok Tok

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION Inc.

VOLUME 107

DATE DECEMBER, 2017.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Our 2017 AGM was held in the Museum on 21 October with about 60 in attendance. The meeting was followed by a BBQ luncheon. All office bearers for the previous year were re-elected unopposed and our Patron and Honorary Solicitor were re-appointed by resolution.

Three presentations of the Patron's Award were made, the recipients being: John Batze for his long and practical help, particularly at the Museum; to Fran Ng for her extended background service to the administration of the Association; and Maurie Pears who has given ongoing, stalwart support through promotion and association. No life memberships were awarded for 2017.

Our Association was formed in 1989 and incorporated in 1990. The founding president was Colonel Harry Green who remained President until his death in February 2005. I was appointed President in the same year, so the 2017 AGM concluded my twelfth year in the position. Amazingly membership has remained in the range of 180 to 200 over this period: as longer term members passed on new members of former PNGVR soldiers have joined. However, it is inevitable that our finite potential membership will soon decrease. For an Australasian wide, small, closed membership, association we can be justly proud of our many achievements over the years.

Since our incorporation our activities have increased as the association became better known. We have developed an increasing network of kindred organisations with which we share

activities, mainly commemorative in nature. Our prestigious newsletter Harim Tok Tok, which remains our main communication with our wide flung membership, continues to grow its popularity amongst members and others; and our respected military museum is becoming more widely known throughout the community. The social media through our website and Facebook is increasingly contributing to our activities. As an association and on all accounts, we have met the stated objectives of our constitution and we will continue to do so.

The growth of our Association is not accidental, it has come about by the continued interest of members to retain their association and being actively supported by a strong, long serving, competent committee based in southeast Queensland. Over the years the committee has comprised of probably no more than 10% of our membership. Some have served for many years, Colin Gould our Secretary has held that position for 25 years while John Holland our historical officer and museum curator has been in the saddle for nearly as long as Colin. Douglas Ng our Treasurer, Bob Collins our editor, Paul Brown our welfare officer and weapons specialist are similarly long tenured committee members. This continuity in organisation gives the association its strength and also creates confidence between committee members that whatever and whenever jobs are undertaken they will be done and done well. Our Association is blessed by the dedication of all our committee members, thank you one and all.

Despite the relatively large expenditures made by the Association over the past couple of years et al, building the museum extension and self publishing two books, our finances are sound and will enable the Association to continue with its intended level of activities into 2018 and beyond. Our income sources are relatively stable and we have the capacity for arranging grant monies should they be required for larger projects.

The legacy of our Association will be our military museum to ensure the history of our units and their part in contributing to the enduring relationship between Australia and PNG are not forgotten, through the maintenance of the exhibits, memorabilia, artefacts, photographs, documents, maps and books held in the Museum for future generations of Australians. To ensure this occurs, the tenure for the Museum premises and succession for the ongoing maintenance of the facility remains a high priority to us, particularly for the committee.

On behalf of all members, I thank our committee members for their unswerving work and support throughout 2017. As this is the last issue of our newsletter for 2017, I will also take this opportunity to extend to you and your families my very best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

Phil Ainsworth, November 2017

| INSIDE THIS ISSUE: | |
|---------------------------|----|
| BARRY WRIGHT 2/58410 | 2 |
| POINT OF WAR | 7 |
| THE BATTLE OF BRISBANE | 7 |
| EX. WITH CHINESE NAVY | 9 |
| PROJECT RECOVERY | 10 |
| 1919 DECISION IMPLICATION | 11 |
| WWI CONSCIENCES OBJECTOR | 12 |
| EX STEELE TUFF | 13 |
| RE-DEDICATION MEMORIAL | 13 |
| BATHURST ISLAND MUSEUM | 14 |
| BRISBANE OPEN HOUSE | 14 |
| BATTLE FOR MILNE BAY | 14 |



2017 has been a very busy year. It's activities have been well recorded in our Harim Tok Tok, website and Facebook.

At Brisbane Open House Weekend: Museum volunteers. Mike Griffin, John Batze, Kieran Nelson, Paul Brown, Graeme Blanch, Bob Collins, Peter Rogers, Colin Gould and Phil Ainsworth. Peter Rogers, grandson of NGVR veteran "Horrie" Harris, and Barry Wright also assisted but missed the photo.

**RICHARD BARRY WRIGHT
2/58410**

I was born on 22/10/32 and am now endeavouring to write a little about my military history.

Newcastle

My earliest recollection of war was living in Newcastle, NSW, during WW11 and hearing shells whistling over the top of the house. They were real shells, explosive, and headed towards the Newcastle Steel Works. My parents assured me that there was nothing to worry about, but we did go and inspect the damage, although minor, the next morning. It was subsequently found that the shells were fired by the mother ship which launched the Japanese submarines which attacked Sydney Harbour. This was obviously its parting contribution to Australia. To my knowledge the mother ship was not intercepted or damaged on this voyage.

My next recollections of WWII were the odd things that happened. An enterprising gentlemen turned up in Islington Park opposite our house showing everybody how he could turn old sump oil into useable fuel that could be used in a car because, at the time, there was petrol rationing in Australia. It was a distilling process which I could still carry out today if I was game enough to try it, as it is quite a dangerous process.

Then my uncle turned up with his new wife, a WAC (Women's Army Corps). He was in the Army himself but I cannot remember his rank. He had been in the war against the Japanese and his wife had also seen active service.

I also recall thousands, at least hundreds, of pushbikes, and thousands yelling and cheering as they rode past our place. They were all workers from the Newcastle Steelworks and had all knocked off early that day because WWII had ended. Another time we went to a friend's place. He had a fantastic yacht, which was covered in his garage. I never wondered why it was in the garage and covered – at the time, I just thought "What a fantastic yacht!"

I was told most severely that I was not to mention this to anybody, not even the other children at school. I found out later that all such vessels should have been disclosed and handed to the Army for use, if required, as transport to the Islands. Rather than lose his boat this friend of the family had decided to lock it away and not tell anybody. It was about this time I joined the boy scouts.

Sydney

Shortly after the end of WWII we moved to Sydney and I stayed with my grandmother, and went to school at Botany Road, Waterloo. I finished my schooling there and thought it was a great school.

It may not have been a great education by today's standards, but I could use my hands well, however I did not have the same success with a pencil or pen.

In Sydney I continued with the boy scouts.

After I left school I spent a few years working with my father who was a motor upholsterer. I was apprenticed to him and spent some 12 years working on what were, even then, vintage motor cars. The oldest of them was a 1904 Austin.

This period in my life taught me to look at problems in a practical way as it was common for both the metal and the timber in an old vehicle to need replacement. Obviously with cars of this value the owners wanted refurbishment to be as close to original as possible.

I joined St John's Ambulance Association and became a St John's Ambulance Officer. I served in St John's Ambulance for

some years when the position of Training Officer became vacant. This position carried Officer rank (equivalent to that in the Army of a First Lieutenant, not Second Lieutenant).

Joining the CMF (Citizen Military Forces)

There was some advertising for the CMF going on at the time, not a great deal, and I became interested. One day I was passing a Drill Hall at Glebe (can't remember now just where it was) and this was the home of C Coy, 30th Infantry Battalion.

I enlisted and was sent to a private doctor for a medical. It was not a very thorough medical and I think the doctor did most of it by sight, although he did ask a few questions. If you looked alright – you passed. He did take my blood pressure etc. Anyway I must have passed as he issued me with a slip and I was told I had to go to Carlow Street, North Sydney, that evening. This was where Battalion Headquarters for the 30th Battalion was.

Not all was straightforward, as when I first turned up. I was informed that, while they were looking for recruits, there was about a 3 month waiting list and I would have to wait until someone left before I could be enlisted.

This was about 1951 and the 30th had a full Battalion. I was then not yet 19 years old.

30th Infantry Battalion, Royal New South Wales Scottish Regiment

In due course I was called in and issued with some baggy gear and brown boots which would not turn black no matter how I tried. At the time the CMF was being issued with gear left over from WWII.

I was given a rifle and some blanco for my webbing, and told where I could buy some more blanco. I needed a lot of blanco, brasso, cleaning rags etc. so I could look smart on parade.

Recruit Course

Recruit Courses were carried out on weekends in those days – not for 6 weeks continuous training as is the custom today.

Training was, by today's standards, very basic, and consisted mainly of drill, weapon training and Infantry minor tactics training (open warfare).

We attended weekends at Holdsworthy, Long Bay rifle range, and Camps at Singleton, as Annual Camps were included as part of the recruit training.

I could not understand why I had to clean the insteps of my boots, but, like most things, it made sense eventually, as it assisted to make the boots supple.

One of the tips I was given was to put on two pairs of socks, lace up my boots tightly and place my feet in a bucket of water until they were soaked. Then I was to walk around until the boots were dry. This moulded the boots to the shape of your feet, and, later on, when I was in the medical side of the Army I could see the good sense in this.

As it happens I have never had a blister on my feet whilst in the Army. I was given a .303 rifle and bayonet to take home with me, much to my surprise. It was, at times, quite interesting travelling to and from parade in full dress uniform, with rifle and bayonet and it gave one a great sense of pride.

It was also expected to polish your boots to a shine where you could literally see your reflection in them. I never minded the spit and polish side as it assisted to make one look smart.

Recruit training was very basic and it was interesting on my first parade with a rifle and bayonet. All started off OK but after the first shoulder arms I was minus one bayonet – it was sticking in the floor behind me, just as well I was in the rear rank. A few caustic comments were passed and the lesson well learnt.

Normal Training in 30th Battalion

After I had finished my recruit course I had to pay a 20 pound (\$40) bond for my kilt. This being the 30th Battalion they work the Black Watch Kilt, dice hose (tartan socks), white spats, haired sporran (walking out dress), leather sporran (used whilst training with a khaki apron), white buff belt. The kilt was not given out until you had finished recruit training, just in case you did not complete it.

I must say that, when dressed in ceremonial dress, the soldiers of the 30th Battalion looked very smart.

Not long after I finished my recruit course the Battalion went to Annual Camp at Singleton.

Annual Camp

The ground in certain parts of Singleton Training Area, is a mixture of clay and dirt which sets like granite. We were on exercise digging, I was the rear Bren gunner in the Company and had a fantastic view of the rolling Singleton hills. Then I was informed I had to dig a weapon pit. Two sticks were placed in the ground to indicate my arc of fire.

The idea was that, when you were in the middle of the weapon pit, your fire would not extend wider than the two sticks. Personally I felt that if I had fired I would have shot up half the Battalion. I had taken about 3 hours and was down about 2 ft 6 ins (75cm) when I looked out over the hills and saw the lines of trees gradually disappearing as the rain came. I thought that I would save the trouble of getting myself wet and got out my groundsheet (much like a WWI gas cape), and made myself comfortable on the edge of the pit with my feet dangling in the pit.

When the rain came I was dry and comfortable and all was well until I realised my feet were getting wet – the pit was filling with water. I decided to vacate the area and made myself comfortable and dry against a nearby log.



*Underground
RAP
complete
with
camouflage*

The next thing I received a tap on the shoulder and a deep voice said "Where's your Bren Gun?" I pointed sideways and the voice said "I can't see it". I flashed my head around and there was the Bren Gun's flash eliminator sticking up out of the weapon pit, with the rest of the gun submerged. That caused quite a fuss and I quickly learned how to clean all the Bren Guns in the Platoon, with a number of Owen guns thrown in to make sure I got the message.

The cleaning of the weapons is, in itself, an interesting story. I think I am a fairly resourceful sort of person, and if there is a better way of doing things, I usually end up doing them that way. I arrived in camp with 3 Brens and 3 Owens to clean and be handed in before I was able to shower. Fortunately, I was not far from the kitchen area and saw a Wiles Cooker with its steam sticks. I stripped all the weapons, laid the parts out on the cement near the Wiles Cooker, got the steam stick off the Wiles and cleaned the weapons in no time at all.

In fact the parts were too hot to handle for a while but dried out nicely. I then ran an oily rag over the parts, oiled the barrels and handed the weapons in. Both the CSM and the Q staff were amazed that the weapons were so clean and that I had managed to clean them in such a short time. The next thing I was in trouble from the Sgt Cook for using up all his steam. I guess you learn lessons the hard way sometimes.

All in all I did about 8 Camps at Singleton and on either the first or

second I went on leave in town one night and ended up at the Railway Hotel. It was always popular with army personnel. They had a drink there called Flovene which was served in a standard glass. Flovene is apparently a vintage wine which is served straight from the keg. Singleton is in the Hunter Valley which is well known for its wines.

It is amazing how wine can have a funny effect on one sometimes. The Hotel had one of those bars with a lift up section at the end to allow the barman in and out. When the section is closed it gives a heavy thud so, when you hear it, you know the section is closed. I was sitting on a bar stool with my back to the section and heard a click followed by a scraping sound which to me must have been a midget with a baseball bat pulling another bar stool up and hitting me on the head, as the last thing I remember that night was the click of the section closing.

We had a big soldier nicknamed "Speed" in the Company. Speed was exceptionally strong and could carry both his gear and that of others up and down hills never losing a pace. Well Speed had a bit too much Flovene one night and the next morning when I came out for Reveille here was Speed sitting on the ground with his head soaking in a fire bucket. He was not at all well and the Platoon Sgt was not at all pleased so that morning did not start well for the Platoon.

I was already a St John's Ambulance Officer before I joined the CMF so I did not stay an Infantry soldier for long. I was definitely interested in the Medical side of the Army and, not too long after I joined, a position became vacant for a Medical Sergeant. I had not too long before been promoted to Corporal, but applied for the position and quickly found myself promoted to Sgt and was posted as RAP (Regimental Aid Post) Sergeant, 30th Infantry Battalion, NSW Scottish.

The Army paper trail - was that I was Corps posted as Medical Corps, and posted back to 30th Bn as RAP Sgt.

The next Camp I was the Medical Sgt and slept in the Medical Section which had its own shower, rooms instead of tents and beds instead of stretchers, so I had no difficulty adapting to this unaccustomed comfort.

As the Medical Sgt I went on the advance party, often with the Medical Sgt from the 17/18 Battalion, as we were in the same Brigade, and organised the Medical side of things long before the main party marched in.

On the technical side we had an old wicker basket pannier which I took to the Q store, tipped its contents out on the floor and pointed out to the Q staff that, whilst this may have been satisfactory for the Boer War, things had changed somewhat since, and some of the medical equipment in the bottom of the pannier was totally unsatisfactory.

The Regular Army Sgt in charge of the Q store advised he would obtain updated equipment for us. My next query was "What about this flat black tin here which has about six different types of Dangerous Drugs in it?" (A Dangerous Drug is an accountable item, such as morphia, pethidine etc). His reply was "Don't worry! I will look after that". At this stage no paperwork had been done. I was comforted by his reply as I was most unhappy with current procedure and had unpleasant visions of my having to account for any missing dangerous drugs.

Then the Doctor eventually turned up. He was greener than I was, and, instead of saluting, he put out his hand to say hello. It was the custom to get a new Regimental Medical Officer straight out of University for each Camp. I only saw one Doctor at more than one Camp and he attended three.

Up to then it had been the practice to fill the Medical Platoon



L/Cpl Barry Wright instructing on the Vickers Machine Gun

with those soldiers not wanted elsewhere. A young soldier Jim Kibble became my Second in Command. Jim was a University student studying pharmacy and naturally knew a great deal about drugs etc. He also brought with him a number of excellent Medical Books which came in handy. With the Doctor, Pharmacist and myself St John's Ambulance trained, there was not much we could not handle.

On one exercise the Battalion was going bush for four days. Their move out was after dark one evening so that they had to set up totally in the dark. I did not approve of this as I felt that it was much more sensible for them to go out in daylight when they could see what was around and dig in without coming across three roots etc. However I was not the Commanding Officer or the Training Officer.

The first morning out the Doctor walked into the RAP with a rather strange look on his face. I saluted and he returned the salute (at least he didn't offer to shake hands this time). He opened the conversation with "Sgt! Half the Battalion is out there on sick parade. We'll never get them finished before breakfast". I had a look out and replied "I think I can fix that problem Sir". I walked out with two books in my hand. One was the A46 which was the sick report book which was filled out with six copies and the other was an A4 book which was a charge sheet.

I then said to all the assembled troops "If you are sick you go in this book", and held up the A46, "If you are not sick you go in this book" and held up the A4. Then I walked back inside and said "I think we can get going now Sir".

Needless to say we got through the parade in reasonable time, everybody was finished before breakfast, and the Medical Officer was happy.

At the commencement of all Camps there was a compulsory "Short Arm" parade for all troops, and these caused many an amusing moment.

During one Camp I had to go out on exercise as the Medical Sgt. I did not have any ambulance, nor did I have the RMO with me. He was a great buffer, the RMO – with the younger soldiers you could get away with just about anything. I would say to the RMO "It would be a good idea if we did this Sir" and, just being out of University and in most cases not knowing any difference, he would agree with me. It didn't work like this all the time but sometimes it did.

On this exercise there was to be a Company attack. One Company would attack another, drive them off their position and, on the completion of the attack the Company, driven off their position would mount a counter attack.

We formed up in the FUP (Forming up Place), a dried out creek bed with a line of trees along the creek bed. Just outside the line of trees was the Start Line. As we left the FUP the various Platoon Sgts and Section Leaders were shouting at soldiers to "Get up there! Don't fall back! Keep the Line! Etc". As we reached the bottom of the hill to be attacked some bright spark

who obviously thought we were in better physical condition than we were shouted out "Run!"

Well the sun was shining when we commenced the attacking run up the hill, but the next thing I remember was waking up on the other side of the hill lying in a small depression with the moon out. I had totally lost track of time and can only put this down to physical exhaustion.

The Unfortunate side of Military Training

Unfortunately, in those days, we tended to lose at least one soldier per camp. I am inclined to put this down to the fact that we had full Brigades going into camp, and, the more soldiers on exercise, the greater the chance of a loss.

On one occasion the soldiers of another Battalion were carrying out a beach landing. The soldiers were trucked down from Singleton to Stockton Beach. Army DUKWS were then used for the beach landing. On this particular occasion one of the DUKWS turned broadside in the white water and this resulted in it turning over and two soldiers drowning.

On another occasion there was a Battalion exercise up to Mount Royal, in one of the National Parks towards the North Eastern Coast. An Army GMC was crossing a causeway after minor flooding. There was about a metre of water across the causeway, which would normally not be a problem for a GMC. The truck was full of troops fully laden with webbing and greatcoats.

For some reason the GMC was washed off the causeway and one soldier was drowned. When he went into the water he was fully laden with battle order and was wearing a greatcoat. He was found about three days later some distance downstream and all he was wearing then was his web belt. The other webbing had been disconnected and had washed off him in the process.

During another camp an explosion occurred late one afternoon in another block after the soldiers had returned from field training. A runner came to the RAP with the news that there had been an explosion (we had already heard that) and that all medical people were wanted in that particular block. For some reason someone had brought back with them an unexploded shell (UXB). I believe that this was a tank round. It had been rolling around in the back of a Bren Gun Carrier all the way back from the training area and had exploded in a tent just about meal time. Fortunately most of the occupants of the tent had gone to evening meal leaving a few lying on bunks in the tent.

The tent ended up looking like a colander, one soldier was killed, another blinded, and the third crippled with his knee blown away.

The result of this incident was that, next morning, the whole Brigade was subjected to a snap kit inspection. Every soldier had to bring everything he had brought to camp with him out on to the individual Battalion parade grounds.

It is amazing what turned up – one full Vickers Machine Gun belt, individual live rounds, blank rounds, flares of all description and even a fully primed M36 hand grenade.



Naturally this resulted in much time being spent on safety lectures and responsibilities of Officers and NCOs.

These instances just go to show that training is not always safe and that

L/Cpl Barry Wright firing the 2 inch Mortar

there are dangers involved at all times.

The Flood Camp, 1955

During February & March, 1955, the Hunter Valley area suffered major flooding. The normal wet season was followed by a major downpour which lasted continuously for about three days.

As usual I went to Singleton with the advance party. We arrived on a Wednesday, with the main body of troops to arrive on the following Saturday. All troop trains pulled into Whittingham Station, the station just before Singleton Station.

It was normal for the troops to march from the Station to the main camp – up a long gently sloping hill to start with. I used to follow them in the Ambulance in case of any accidents or emergencies.

As it happened the troop train never arrived. The three day downpour from Wednesday to Friday meant that, by Saturday, Whittingham station was 6 feet under water with only parts of the roof of the platform sheds showing above the flood water.

The main town of Singleton, about 6 miles away, had houses with floating trees lodged in their second story windows, and houses were washed off their foundations, several to end up half on the foundations of the block next door. One cow was rescued as it was being carried out through Newcastle Heads still tangled up in flood debris. The cow was eventually returned to its owner at Maitland.

The camp was held three months later when the country had dried out but the advance party, of which I was one, stayed on to provide assistance.

The flood waters came up and surrounded Singleton Army Camp with some of the outlying and lower buildings being flooded. A recovery vehicle tried to get through from the Camp to Singleton. The driver tied a walkie-talkie to the top of the jib of the crane and it too went under water. The incredible thing is that the walkie-talkie still worked after the flood waters went down.

The flood waters were so strong that the bitumen road to town had several metres of water running over it at about 30 knots and the bitumen ended up some hundreds of metres away in a farmer's paddock.

The town water supply that supplied the camp also went under water. Somebody had forgotten to turn off the valves and the tanks all drained back into the flood waters.

Fortunately the BOD (Base Ordinance Depot) was still above water.

The advance parties of a full Brigade (some 3/400 soldiers) were in Singleton Army Camp by now and had to draw Trailer Water Tankers for their fresh water supply.

The Medical Sections had to carry out water tests and chlorinate all water prior to use. I supplied all troops in my block and also some other areas with treated water.

We weren't without water of course – it was just that we had too much of the wrong water and not enough of the good water.

One night the electricity failed when the Singleton Power Station blew up as it went under water. We became aware of this when:-

- a) A blinding flash occurred which we could see quite clearly 6 miles away
- b) This was followed by a complete blackout.

The results of this were not just a lack of lighting at night but:-

- a) Food storage fridges required emergency power.
- b) Generators were required for the Hospital for sterilisation.
- c) Sewerage pumps were not working.

Cattle from around the area started to wander into camp as it was on one of the high spots and had the only dry ground around. Some had not been milked so to keep the farmers happy (and of course to relieve the cows) we got some of our country boy soldiers to milk those that needed it. Obviously some of us knew little about cows but there were always a number of country boys in the Army who knew just what had to be done.

There was quite an amusing drill exercise with the Senior Warrant Officer ordering the cows into the bails and the cows just looking at him with their big eyes and completely ignoring him. Obviously they didn't understand the drill instructions as we explained to the WO later.

All sewerage in the camp had ceased to function as the treatment plant and exit pipes flooded causing some of them to burst. This caused raw sewerage to flow directly into the flood waters. The few private soldiers in camp were put to work cleaning up the mess caused by these pipe bursts.

The only means of supply of fresh food was by aircraft. DC3's carried out air drops. As the waters started to recede civilians started to turn up at the camp. These were brought in by Army DUKWS which were the only things that could negotiate the flood waters.

Naturally all normal vehicle traffic was out of the question.

The advance party from 30th Bn was located in A block, 17/18 Bn in B Block and the CMF Field Ambulance was located with the Camp Hospital which was still operating.

However there was only one RMO (Doctor).

There were over 1,000 civilians, mainly women and children, in camp, spread over 3 blocks.

We had 350 women and children in A Block and for 48 hours I never had a chance to get any sleep as, being the Medical Sgt, I was kept busy treating minor cuts and infected sores etc. There were a variety of illnesses and it was here that my St Johns Ambulance training came to the fore. Unfortunately there was a shortage of trained medical people in camp and I was given a choice of picking my own assistants. I chose a few University students who were 1st and 2nd year Medical students, but unfortunately, they could only tell me what was on page so-and-so of the medical textbooks and were next to useless on the practical side. Most of them ended up cutting wood for the burners.

All the able bodied men had been taken to Singleton where, when the flood waters went down, they were to work and assist to clear flood damage.

The first lot to arrive were from the nearby Catholic female orphanage. The orphanage had to be evacuated at short notice and most of the children were about 7 or 8 years old but a few up to 17 years old. They turned up in just what they were wearing when they were taken out from the top windows of the orphanage during the night.

Many of them were just in their nightshirts. Obviously they needed clothing and were issued with Army working dress. Well, anybody who knows Army working dress of old knows that:-

- a) it is made not to fit
- b) it is issued deliberately large sizes to small people and small sizes to large people.
- c) it has only about three buttons to any one article of clothing.

The shortage of buttons meant that all safety pins from the medical stores were given out to hold the clothing together and, all in all, it was the most oddly dressed and shaped Army platoon I have ever witnessed.

As with any group of people, some of the civilians were great and

assisted where possible, but some really deserved to be left under the flood waters. The latter stole everything they could lay their hands on, wanted everything done for them and would not help at all.

One woman was very far gone in pregnancy and she was one of the last to be taken out of the camp after the floods had receded. She was taken directly from the camp to Singleton Hospital where she had her child delivered.

On several occasions we thought we would be delivering the child in camp but, fortunately, this did not happen. Prior to evacuation to the camp she had stood for days in water up to here waist or sat on the top of her kitchen table which was under water.

When the flood had subsided a group of Army Warrant Officers and Sgts was sent into Singleton with equipment ranging from graders and tractors to buckets and shovels.

There was only one Corporal in camp at the time so he was put in charge of the group. Their role was to assist in the clean up of Singleton. They commenced at the Railway Hotel, pumped out and cleaned out the cellars.



*30th Bn
Sgts Mess
Dining
night. Barry
Wright at
left.*



*Army Ball at the
Torcadero,
Sydney Barry
Wright centre.*

The publican then brought up a keg from the cellar with the comment "I suppose I had better tap this to make sure there is no water in it". Fortunately no water had seeped in and the keg at least started out full of beer – it didn't end up that way.

Some of the less pleasant work we

had to perform in Singleton was to bring out bedding and lounge suites etc that had been ruined by flood water and pile them out in the street to be taken away.

The lady who was pregnant in camp lost one glass out of a decanter set. We found out about 3 months later that it was found in the middle of Singleton oval and returned to her. It had floated out of the house as far as the oval and found by a person who recognised the glass and returned it.

One of the unfortunate results of this flood camp was the death of two soldiers. One was a Brigade signaller with a back pack signal set. He was riding in a DUKW when his aerial came into contact with a high tension wire, resulting in him being blown over the side of the vehicle. One of his mates dived in after him and



*Anzac Day.
Brisbane, 2005.
Barry Wright, Joe
Fisk, Norm Mundy.
This was Joe's last
Anzac Day.*

unfortunately, both soldiers disappeared in the flood waters and their bodies were recovered some days later.

All in all we were in Singleton camp for 6 weeks before returning home to Sydney. Some months later the Brigade

returned to Singleton to complete the interrupted camp.

At the commencement of camp the Mayor of Singleton arrived at the camp and suggested to the Brigade Commander that that only those troops who had been at the flood camp be allowed leave into Singleton on the first Saturday of camp. When we got into town it was proven that the people of Singleton did remember our efforts. We could not buy a beer anywhere and, if we went into a restaurant for a meal, the meals were also free. Needless to say it was a very happy and contented group of soldiers who were picked up in town for return to camp later that evening.

Training

I commenced my training in open warfare, but later on carried out lots of different training as in jungle warfare, counter insurgency warfare, guerilla warfare etc. I virtually covered every type of training covered by the Army. I started off with 10 men in a Section but later, because of reduced numbers, there were often only 6 or 7. The Battalion at the time had its own 17 pound Anti Tank weapons used by the Anti-tank Section, a Machine Gun Section with Bren Gun carriers, Mortar Platoon, Assault Pioneer Platoon and the Rifle Companies, in all a full Battalion.

When we went to Annual Camp we went as a full Brigade, not something that is seen now. The Brigade consisted of the 30th Battalion, 17/18 Battalion and the Sydney University Regiment. In the early years the 45th Battalion, The St George Regiment, was part of our Brigade, but, after a reorganisation, they were transferred to another Brigade and Sydney University became part of our Brigade.

To be continued.

This is Barry's story as told to Bob Collins.

An older couple were lying in bed one night. The husband was falling asleep but the wife was in a romantic mood and wanted to talk.

She said "You used to hold my hand when we were courting..."

Wearily he reached across, held her hand for a second and tried to get back to sleep. A few minutes later she said: "Then you used to kiss me..."

Mildly irritated, he reached across, gave her a peck on the cheek and settled down again to sleep.

Thirty seconds later she said: "Then you used to bite my neck..."

Angrily he threw back the bed clothes and got out of bed.

"Where are you going?" she asked...

"To get my teeth!"

Point of War

The Colours of a unit were usually positioned in the place from which the battle was controlled, normally the centre, whatever the formation might be. This was the nerve centre — what would be, today, battalion or company headquarters.

If an enemy could attack the nerve centre successfully, the battle would be largely won and it was often the enemy's intention to strike at and seize the colours in order to destroy the unit's symbol that all was well and their command intact and thereby to cause alarm and the loss of confidence.

Every unit took into battle its drummers, buglers (although these were not introduced until late in the 18th century), fifers (who, in the 16th century, were known by the expressive word whiffers, which is the old form of the word whistlers) and any other musician who might make up the band.

Upon an attack developing, the commanding officer would order the various instruments to be beaten or blown as their players could manage. Thus the attention of the unit was drawn to the fact that danger threatened the nerve centre and countermeasures could be employed.

This tradition was carried on after the practice of carrying colours in battle ceased, and is used today as a salute to the colours when they are in position on a parade after having marched on or before they are marched off.

WOI C.J. Jobson, Former RSM Ceremonial and Protocol, ADHQ

The Battle of Brisbane

The Battle of Brisbane was two nights of rioting between United States military personnel on one side and Australian servicemen and civilians on the other, in Brisbane, Queensland's capital city, on 26–27 November 1942, during which time the two nations were allies. By the time the violence had been quelled, one Australian soldier was dead and hundreds of Australians and U.S. servicemen had been injured. News reports of these incidents were suppressed overseas, with the causes of the riot not made evident in the few newspaper reports of the event that were published within Australia.

Background

From 1942 until 1945 during the Pacific War, up to one million U.S. military personnel, which included around 100,000 African-Americans, were stationed at various locations throughout eastern Australia. These forces included personnel awaiting deployment to combat operations elsewhere in the Pacific, troops resting, convalescing, and/or refitting from previous combat operations, or military personnel manning Allied military bases and installations in Australia. Many U.S. personnel were stationed in and around Brisbane, which was the headquarters for General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Allied Commander, South West Pacific Area. Many buildings and facilities around Brisbane were given over to the U.S. military's use. Brisbane found it difficult to cope as their population of 300,000 doubled to 600,000 almost overnight. The city was fortified, schools were closed, brownouts enforced, crime increased, and many families sold up and moved inland.

Access to goods and services

Although the military personnel from Australia and the United States usually enjoyed a cooperative and convivial relationship, there were tensions between the two forces that sometimes resulted in violence. Many factors reportedly contributed to these tensions, including the fact that U.S. forces received better rations than Australian soldiers, shops and hotels regularly gave preferential treatment to Americans, and the American custom of "caressing girls in public" was seen as offensive to the Australian morals of the day. Lack of amenities for the Australians in the city

also played a part. The Americans had PXs offering merchandise, food, alcohol, cigarettes, hams, turkeys, ice cream, chocolates, and nylon stockings at low prices, all items that were either forbidden, heavily rationed, or highly priced to Australians. Australian servicemen were not allowed into these establishments, while Australian canteens on the other hand provided meals, soft drinks, tea, and sandwiches but not alcohol, cigarettes, and other luxuries. Hotels were only allowed to serve alcohol twice a day for one hour at a time of their choosing, leading to large numbers of Australian servicemen on the streets rushing from one hotel to the next and then drinking as quickly as possible before it closed.



Salvaged planes of the US Air Force at Salvage Depot, Dum Base D Port Moresby. June 1945

Differences in pay

Of major concern was the fact that U.S. military pay was considerably higher than that of the Australian military and U.S. military uniforms were seen as more appealing than those of the Australians. This resulted in U.S. servicemen not only enjoying greater success in their pursuit of the few available women but also led to many Americans marrying Australian women, facts greatly resented by the Australians. In mid-1942, a reporter walking along Queen Street counted 152 local women in company with 112 uniformed Americans, while only 31 women accompanied 60 Australian soldiers. That it was thought necessary for the media to report this situation indicates the effect of the American presence. (About 12,000 Australian women married American soldiers by the end of the war).

"They're overpaid, oversexed, and over here" was a common phrase used by Australians around this time and is still an anecdote recognised by some in modern generations.

"The Americans had the chocolates, the ice-cream, the silk stockings and the dollars. They were able to show the girls a good time, and the Australians became very resentful about the fact that they'd lost control of their own city." Sergeant Bill Bentson, U.S. Army.

Opinions of each other's soldiers

Another concern was the way the Australian military was viewed by America's high command. Douglas MacArthur had already expressed a low opinion of Australian troops, who were then fighting along the Kokoda Track. Though Australia was bearing the brunt of the land war in New Guinea by itself, MacArthur would report back to the United States on "American victories", while Australian victories were communicated to the United States as "American and Allied victories". Americans' general ignorance of Australia, and American perceptions that Australians lacked a certain "get-up-and-go", also soured relations.

Likewise Australians also looked down upon the fighting qualities of Americans; most considered the Americans an inferior fighting force who seemed all glitz and brashness.

This feeling towards the Americans would be furthered during the Battle of Buna, where Australian troops bore the brunt of the fighting due to American "inactivity", and Sanananda, the final victory. Buna, the fourth major Allied victory in New Guinea, was

presented not only as the first major victory but an American one. Sanananda, an Australian victory, was presented as merely a mopping-up operation. The Americans would not acknowledge that Australians won the critical battles of Milne Bay, Kokoda and Gona, were largely responsible for the victory at Buna, and were "overwhelmingly" responsible for victory at Sanananda. Australians often regarded the U.S. soldiers as boasting how they, and they alone, saved Australia.

Plans to abandon Australian territory

The American stance on the Brisbane Line, whereby it was allegedly planned that Australia would leave a large portion of its territory undefended, caused ill feelings between Australians and Americans.

Differing views on race

To a lesser degree there was also tension over the treatment and segregation of the African-American soldiers by the U.S. military. Although white Australians had traditionally treated Aborigines in largely the same way as white Americans treated blacks, this changed markedly from 1940 when indigenous servicemen (Australian units were not segregated) were given equal pay and conditions and could expect promotion on merit; the Australians welcomed African-American servicemen in a way that shocked American sensibilities. Due to white American resentment towards African-American access to dance halls and for associating with "white girls on the streets of Brisbane", troops of the U.S. 208th Coast Artillery rioted for 10 nights in March 1942, fighting against African-Americans from the 394th Quartermaster Battalion. As a result, U.S. military authorities segregated African-Americans, restricting them to the south side of the Brisbane River.

However, trouble continued with a major race riot at Wacol, knife fights in South Brisbane and American military police assaulting or killing black troops simply for crossing the Brisbane River.

Events immediately prior

According to authorities, up to 20 brawls a night were occurring between Australian and American servicemen. In the weeks leading up to the Battle of Brisbane there were several major incidents, including a gun battle between an American soldier and Australian troops near Inkerman which left one Australian and the American dead, an Australian soldier was shot by an American MP in Townsville, an American serviceman and three Australian soldiers in Brisbane's Centenary Park were involved in a knife fight which left one Australian dead, an American soldier was arrested for stabbing three servicemen and a Brisbane woman near the Central railway station, and twenty Australians fought American submariners and members of the USN Shore Patrol, mauling them badly. On the morning of the battle, an Australian soldier was batoned by an American MP in Albert Street.

The Battle

According to Australian historian Barry Ralph, on 26 November an intoxicated Private James R. Stein of the U.S. 404th Signal Company left the hotel where he had been drinking when it closed at 6:50 p.m. and began walking to the Post Exchange (PX) on the corner of Creek and Adelaide Street some 50m further down the road. He had stopped to talk with three Australians when Private Anthony E. O'Sullivan of the U.S. 814th Military Police Company (MP) approached and asked Stein for his leave pass. While Stein was looking for it, the MP became impatient and asked him to hurry up before grabbing his pass and arresting him. At this the Australians began swearing at the MP and telling him to leave Stein alone. American MPs were not well regarded by Australians because the Australians thought they were arrogant and used batons at the least provocation. When O'Sullivan raised his baton as if to strike one of the Australians, they attacked him. More MPs arrived, blowing whistles, while nearby Australian servicemen and several civilians rushed to help their countrymen.

Outnumbered, the MPs retreated to the PX, carrying the injured O'Sullivan. Stein went with them. In the meantime, a crowd of up to 100 Australian servicemen and civilians had gathered and began to besiege the PX, throwing bottles and rocks and breaking windows. Police Inspector Charles Price arrived but could do nothing as the crowd continued to grow, with the American Red Cross Club diagonally opposite the PX also coming under siege.

Sporadic fights broke out throughout the city. The Tivoli Theatre was closed, with servicemen ordered back to their barracks and ships, while soldiers with fixed bayonets escorted women in the city from the area. By 8 p.m. up to 5,000 people were involved in the disturbance. Several Australian MPs removed their armbands and joined in. Corporal Duncan Caporn commandeered a small truck driven by an Australian officer and three soldiers. The truck contained four Owen sub-machine guns, several boxes of ammunition and some hand grenades. The local Brisbane Fire Brigade arrived, but simply looked on and did not use their hoses. The American authorities were later to criticise them for not doing so.

The 738th MP Battalion in the PX started to arm the MPs with shotguns in order to protect the building and they moved to the front. People in the crowd took umbrage at this demonstration of force and attempted to relieve Private Norbert Grant of C Company of his weapon. He jabbed one Australian with his gun before Gunner Edward S. Webster of the Australian 2/2nd Anti-Tank Regiment grabbed the barrel, while another soldier grabbed him around the neck. During the scuffle, the gun was discharged three times. The first shot hit Webster in the chest, killing him instantly. The following two shots hit Private Kenneth Henkel in the cheek and forearm, Private Ian Tieman in the chest, Private Frank Corrie in the thigh, Sapper De Vosso in the thigh, and Lance Corporal Richard Ledson was wounded in the left thigh and left hand and also received a compound fracture of the left ankle. Ledson was later discharged due to his injuries. Two civilians were also hit, Joseph Hanlon was wounded in the leg, and 18-year-old Walter Maidment was also wounded.

In the confusion, Grant managed to run back towards the PX, hitting an Australian over the head with his shotgun, breaking the butt of his weapon while doing so. An American soldier, Private Joseph Hoffman, received a fractured skull in the scuffle. By 10 p.m. the crowd had dispersed, leaving the ground floor of the American PX destroyed. A war correspondent, John Hinde, was on a hotel balcony overlooking the scene and later stated "The most furious battle I ever saw during the war was that night in Brisbane. It was like a civil war."

On the following night, a crowd of 500 to 600 Australian servicemen gathered outside the Red Cross building. The PX building was under heavy security and heavily armed American MPs were located on the first floor of the Red Cross. NCOs went through the crowd and confiscated several hand grenades. In Queen Street, a group of soldiers armed with MP batons ran into 20 U.S. MPs who formed a line and drew their handguns. An Australian officer intervened and



persuaded the American commander to take his men away from the area. The crowd then moved to the corner of Queen and Edward Streets outside of MacArthur's headquarters in the AMP Building and began shouting abuse towards the building. The intersection was filled with rings of Australians beating up GIs, and more than 20 were injured. U.S. Army Sergeant Bill Benton, who was present on both nights, recalled how he was amazed to see "Americans flying up in the air."

But after that, it sort of settled down and you go into a pub and an Aussie would come and up and slap me on the back. "Oh, wasn't that a good ruckus we had the other night? And have a beer on me."

Australian writer Margaret Scott who, along with her American husband, had been assaulted in Edward Street during the riot, has stated that several U.S. servicemen were beaten to death and one shot in the fighting, but there are no official records supporting this claim.

The Aftermath

On the first night one Australian serviceman was killed, eight people suffered gunshot wounds and several hundred people were injured. The second night, eight U.S. MPs, one serviceman and four American officers were hospitalised with countless others injured.

The units involved in the riots were relocated out of Brisbane, the MPs' strength was increased, the Australian canteen was closed and the American PX was relocated.

Pte Grant was later court-martialled by the U.S. military authorities for manslaughter in relation to the death of Webster, but was acquitted on the grounds of self-defence. Five Australians were convicted of assault as a result of the events described above, and one was jailed for six months.

The Chief Censor's Office in Brisbane ordered that "No cabling or broadcasting of details of tonight's Brisbane servicemen's riot. Background for censors only: one Australian killed, six wounded." The Brisbane Courier Mail did publish a heavily censored article the next day about the incident. Although the article mentioned the death and injuries it did not give any idea of nationalities involved or any specific details. It is believed that the incident was never reported by U.S. media and American servicemen in Brisbane had their mail censored to remove any mention. As a result of the secrecy many rumours and exaggerated stories circulated in Brisbane over the following weeks including one saying that 15 Australian servicemen had been shot by Americans with machine guns with the bodies being piled on the Post Office steps.

Following the Battle of Brisbane, resentment towards American troops led to several smaller riots in Townsville, Rockhampton and Mount Isa. Similar riots in other states also followed: Melbourne on 1 December 1942, Bondi on 6 February 1943, Perth in January 1944 and Fremantle in April 1944.

Source Wikipedia.

RAAF Poseidon in real-life rescue drama

The Royal Australian Air Force's latest maritime surveillance and response capability – the P-8A Poseidon – assisted with the co-ordination of a search and rescue response approximately 50km south of Mount Gambier, Victoria.

While on a training mission from its home at RAAF Base Edinburgh in South Australia, the P-8A Poseidon, call sign Blackcat 20, intercepted a mayday call from a distressed vessel, the MV Port Princes, around 1 pm on Tuesday, 16 May 2017.

MV Port Princess was located and observed to be taking on water.

There were four crew on board.

Blackcat 20 provided communications assistance to aid the stricken vessel and relayed live images of the rescue event to the Rescue Coordination Centre in Canberra.



A local tuna fishing boat came to the rescue, with a large bulk carrier standing by, and the crew were eventually taken to safety.

The MV Port Princess was left floundering to eventually sink.

Wing Commander Brett Williams, Executive Officer No. 92 Wing, said the successful search and rescue response by the Poseidon's crew was a great demonstration of this remarkable aircraft.

"P-8A Poseidon takes RAAF maritime surveillance and response capability to a new level of interoperability and performance," Wing Commander Williams said.

"This is the first search and rescue response completed by the P-8A Poseidon since the aircraft's arrival into Australia last November.

"The Poseidon is still undergoing test and evaluation activities before a formal introduction into service.

"Search and rescue forms an important part of the operational test and evaluation program which we've laid out to bring the Air Force's P-8A Poseidon into service," he said.

HMAS Ballarat on live-fire exercise with China's navy

The Royal Australian Navy's HMAS Ballarat participated in a range of maritime exercises with Chinese Navy vessel Huangshan following a successful visit to the People's Republic of China.

The Passage Exercise (PASSEX), which was conducted after Ballarat departed the Zhanjiang port, included surface target firing, a search and rescue exercise, communication exercises and a formation activity with aerial photography.

The Chinese Navy and the Royal Australian Navy conduct regular exercises in an effort to enhance mutual understanding, facilitate transparency and build trust.

Australia's Chief of Joint Operations Vice-Admiral David Johnston said the frigate's activities showed the valued working relationship between the two navies.

"This exercise and other Australian Defence Force activities with China continue to enhance our mutual understanding and build trust between our two nations," Vice-Admiral Johnston said.

"We will continue to seek out further opportunities for maritime



HMAS Ballarat and Chinese People's Liberation Army-Navy Huangshan in formation near Zhanjiang, China

engagement with the PLA-N in supporting our shared objectives for regional stability."

Ballarat is currently on a South East Asian deployment with further bilateral exercises planned with regional nations and the multilateral Exercise Bersama Shield, a Five Powers Defence Arrangement activity between Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Navy's newest ship completes sea trials

Damen Shipyards Group of Holland yesterday announced the successful completion of sea trials for Australia's new Multi-role Aviation Training Vessel (MATV) *MV Sycamore*.

In addition to the more traditional elements of sea trials such as manoeuvring and speed tests, the *MV Sycamore* was put through her paces with an extensive testing programme of all on-board military systems.

This included testing of the air traffic radar, flight deck lighting and fire fighting, flight deck communication systems and helicopter traverse installation procedures. The results of the sea trials were successful. All systems and processes of the vessel were accepted by representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Damen Sales Director Asia Pacific Roland Briene said the company was proud to hear that the *MV Sycamore* passed her first tests with flying colours.

"Based on Damen's successful and proven OPV series, the MATV is a very versatile ship," Mr Briene said.

In Australian service, the chief role of the vessel will be as a training platform for helicopter operations, such as helicopter deck landings and take off, helicopter (in-flight) refuelling operations and air-traffic control.



However, Damen's versatile MATV design will enable the Royal Australian Navy to accomplish numerous other secondary tasks also.

To this end, the *MV Sycamore* will be

able to undertake torpedo and mine recovery operations, navigation training, dive support, officer sea familiarisation, target towing and related duties as well as unmanned aerial vehicle support.

Furthermore, the 94-metre long vessel has a large storage capacity, which gives her the potential to be mobilised in humanitarian-relief operations.

In coming weeks, *MV Sycamore* will be prepared for her maiden voyage to her home port of Sydney, Australia, where she is expected to arrive at the end of May.

The above three articles courtesy Land, Sea and Air Magazine

Project Recover finds missing WW2 B-25 bombers off PNG

Two B-25 bombers associated with American servicemen missing in action from World War II were recently documented in the waters off Papua New Guinea by Project Recover.

The project is a collaborative team of marine scientists, archaeologists and volunteers who have combined efforts to locate aircraft and associated MIAs from World War II.

The B-25 bomber is one of the most iconic aircraft of World War II, with nearly 10,000 of the famous warbirds conducting a variety of missions—from bombing to photo reconnaissance, to submarine patrols, and the historic raid over Tokyo.

PNG was the site of military action in the Pacific from January 1942 to the end of the war in August 1945, with significant losses of aircraft and servicemen, some of whom have never been found.

Project Recover is comprised of scientists from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego and the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment at the University of Delaware and members of the non-profit organization BentProp Limited.

In February, a Project Recover team set out on a mission to map the seafloor in search of missing WWII aircraft, conducting an official archaeological survey of a known B-25 underwater wreck and interviewing village elders in the immediate area.



In its search of nearly 10 square kilometres, Project Recover located the debris field of a B-25 bomber that had been missing for over 70 years, associated with a crew of six missing airmen.

"People have this mental image of an airplane resting intact on the sea floor but the reality is that most planes were often damaged before crashing or broke up upon impact.

After soaking in the sea for decades they are often unrecognisable to the untrained eye, often covered in corals and other sea-life," said Katy O'Connell, Project Recover's Executive Director, who is based at the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment.

"Our use of advanced technologies, which led to the discovery of the B-25, enables us to accelerate and enhance the discovery and eventual recovery of our missing servicemen."

Project Recover blends historical and archival data from multiple sources to narrow underwater search regions, then surveys the areas with scanning sonars, high definition imagers, advanced diving, and unmanned aerial and underwater robotic technologies.

"The latest discovery is a result of the dedication and fervent efforts of everyone associated with Project Recover," said Dan Friedkin, chairman and CEO of The Friedkin Group and a member of the Project Recover team who provides private funding for the organization.

"We are encouraged at the progress that is being made as our search efforts expand and remain committed to locating the resting places of all U.S. servicemen missing since World War II."

In addition to searching for missing aircraft, Project Recover also conducts archaeological surveys of sites that are known, but not yet

documented, like the site of a B-25 bomber that was discovered in Madang Harbour.

"While well known to locals and scuba enthusiasts for over 30 years, this particular B-25 had never been officially surveyed," said Andrew Pietruszka, a Scripps Oceanography scientist and Project Recover's underwater archaeologist.

Of the six crew associated with the aircraft, five survived the crash but were taken prisoner by the Japanese. The remaining crewmember went down with the plane and is still listed as missing.

"Our team of divers and scientists conducts site surveys to fully document the wreckage. That documentation can then be used by the US government to correlate soldiers still missing in action with the aircraft site we discovered, and to evaluate that site for the possible recovery of remains," said Pietruszka.

While speaking to village elders about the two B-25 cases, Project Recover team members were told about local terrestrial burial sites and an additional aircraft that had crashed on land.

"Any find in the field is treated with the utmost care, respect and solemnity," said O'Connell. "There are still over 73,000 US service members unaccounted for from World War II, leaving families with unanswered questions about their loved ones. We hope that our global efforts can help to bring closure and honour the service of the fallen."

The mission to Papua New Guinea kicked off Project Recover's second year of formal operations and was made possible by a substantial financial commitment from Friedkin in 2016. Friedkin's continued support is helping sustain ongoing missions, while enabling the organization to innovate its technology and broaden its search and discovery efforts to focus areas around the world.

Among other missions around the world, Project Recover plans to return to Papua New Guinea later this year to focus on other cases of interest and further explore leads that developed from the February 2017 mission.

Article by Robert Monroe
From Keith Jackson & Friends: PNG Attitude

Old people have problems that you haven't even considered yet!

A 79-year-old man was requested by his Doctor for a sperm count as part of his physical exam.

The doctor gave the man a sample jar and said, 'Take this jar home and bring back a semen sample tomorrow.'

The next day the 79-year-old man reappeared at the doctor's office and gave him the jar, which was as clean and empty as on the previous day.

The doctor asked what happened and the man explained,

Well, doc, it's like this - first I tried with my right hand, but nothing. Then I tried with my left hand, but still nothing.

'Then I asked my wife for help. She tried with her right hand, then with her left, still nothing.

She tried with her mouth, first with the teeth in, then with her teeth out, still nothing. We even called up Arleen, the lady next door and she tried too, first with both hands, then an armpit, and she even tried squeezing it between her knees, but still nothing ...'

The doctor was shocked. 'You asked your neighbour?' The old man replied,

'Yep, none of us could get the jar open.'

The decision of 1919 that has significant implications for today

The battles along the Kokoda Track 75 years ago are regarded as some of the most important battles fought by Australians in World War II.

Few Australians realise, however, but for some boring treaty negotiations 23 years earlier, the Kokoda campaign and all of World War II could have played out very differently for Australia.

Following World War I, people expected Germany's Pacific possessions to be allocated to a British ally - Japan.



As a loyal ally, Japan had declared war on Germany in 1914 and, as part of its alliance agreements, its responsibilities included pursuing and destroying the German East Asiatic Squadron and protection of the shipping lanes for Allied commerce in the Pacific.

In 1914, most of Germany's Pacific colonies were administered by German New Guinea – the northern half of the country now called Papua New Guinea. The southern half - Papua - was an Australian colony.

During the Versailles Treaty negotiations in 1919, Japan expected to take over German New Guinea. However, Australia's Prime Minister Billy Hughes worked with United States President Woodrow Wilson to deny Japan gaining all German colonies in the Pacific.

Japan was successful in gaining former German Pacific colonies north of the equator (including in China) but German New Guinea became a League of Nations mandate to Australia. German Samoa was given to New Zealand.

While there were significant financial and other obligations on Australia from taking on special responsibilities for German New Guinea, Billy Hughes argued these were justified by broader security interests - a prescient vision which should not be forgotten.

The implications of a Japanese New Guinea from 1919 are now impossible to ascertain but Australian history would almost certainly read differently.

The islands Japan gained in the Pacific after World War I were important for its advance throughout Asia in World War II. For example, Kwajalein Atoll supported the attack on Pearl Harbour, Palau the invasion of the Philippines, Saipan the Battle of Guam, Truk assisted Japan take Rabaul and the Gilbert Islands – now Kiribati and Jaluit Atoll - were helpful in seizing Nauru.

If Japan had gained German New Guinea it would have, over the next 20 years, established supply lines and fortifications right up to the Australian New Guinea (Papuan) border.

The outcomes along the Kokoda track, despite the extraordinary courage shown by Australian soldiers, would have been much more uncertain and a loss more likely.

A land-based invasion of Port Moresby – possibly much earlier in the war - could have quickly established a base for extensive bombing and other attacks across northern Queensland.

A naval base in Rabaul, fortified by Japan during the 1920s and 1930s, could also have changed the outcome of important engagements like the Battle of the Coral Sea.

And with an ally of Germany and Italy having a colony so close to Australia, probably fewer of our troops would have been sent to Europe and the Middle East in 1939.

Australia's current approach to Papua New Guinea, perhaps we can call it "benign neglect" but possibly something worse, is of strategic concern as China extends its influence in the region.

Since PNG gained independence from Australia in 1975, we have cut back our assistance to only one-quarter of previous levels in per capita terms (based on 2016 prices). These cutbacks are a primary cause of the reduction in health and educational services that see PNG's human development ranking continue to fall.

For most Papua New Guineans, there has been little development over the last 41 years. An estimated three million people live in absolute poverty.

An election is underway in PNG with writs issued on 20 April, but the forthcoming ballot is affected by the steady erosion of democratic rights by the increasingly autocratic government of Peter O'Neill.

While there is international concern about new Chinese bases in the South China Sea, an even greater concern would be for another foreign power to gain effective control of a major base in PNG. The consequences of not securing our region could be catastrophic.

The Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels assisting our wounded troops remains a symbol of Australia's indebtedness to the people of Papua New Guinea. There are many lessons from the courage displayed along the Kokoda Track in 1942.

But possibly the key lesson is the importance of having another Australian prime minister, like Billy Hughes, who is willing to take the risk and commit the resources to help secure our strategic interests in the region.

Australia's current approach towards our very near neighbour PNG, circumscribed by the shame of the Manus Island detention centre, does not display such a wise vision.

Written by Paul Flanagan, Director of Indo-Pacific Public Policy and Economics, Article from Keith Jackson & Friends: PNG Attitude

Britain's WW1 Conscientious Objector

William Harold "Bill" Coltman, VC, DCM & Bar, MM & Bar was an English recipient of the VC, the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy. He was the most decorated other rank of the First World War.

Deemed by some to be a conscientious objector, he held Christian beliefs precluding him from taking up arms, but as a stretcher bearer he won all his medals without firing a shot.

He was born at Rangemore, a village in Staffordshire on 17 Nov 1891. He was a deeply religious and committed Christian, a member of the Plymouth Brethren Assemblies of the Burton and Derby area.

Since the beliefs of the Brethren were wholly opposed to War and the taking of life, it is by no means clear why in January 1915,

during the First World War he chose to volunteer for the British Army, The North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), a combat regiment of the line. He was placed in the 1/6th Bn as a rifleman and later accepting the rank of L/Cpl.

It is said that the horrors of the battle of Gommecourt in July 1916 impelled him to ask to be a stretcher bearer.

His decision actually placed him in far greater danger than that faced by his comrades. Slightly built and just 5 feet 4 inches tall, he lugged the dead weight of casualties (sometimes on his own, carrying them on his back) across the quagmire of no-man's-land without the means to defend himself.

His courage and his unwillingness to give up until all the wounded had been rescued, often long after his battalion had been relieved, began to earn recognition when he was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French Army.

In February 1917 he was awarded the Military Medal (MM), a level 3 gallantry award, for rescuing a wounded officer from no-man's-land.

He was awarded a bar to his MM for his conduct behind the front line in June 1917, when he removed stocks of hand grenades from a store which had been set alight by mortar fire, as well as rescuing men trapped in a collapsed tunnel.

He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), a level 2 gallantry award, for his actions over a period of days in July 1917. He saved many lives at great personal risk by evacuating wounded from the front line under shell fire. He continued to search for wounded throughout the night under shell and machine gun fire.

He was awarded a bar to his DCM for his conduct in late September 1918 when he treated and carried many wounded men under heavy artillery fire. He continued his work through the following day without rest or sleep, indifferent to shell and machine-gun fire, and refused to stop until he was positive that his sector was clear of wounded.



*L/Cpl William Coltman's medals.
VC, DCM & Bar, MM & Bar, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal (1914-20), Victory Medal (1914-19) + MID Oakleaf, Defence Medal (1939-45), King George Coronation Medal (1937), Queen Elizabeth 11 Coronation Medal (1953), Special Constabulary Long Service Medal, Croix de Guerre (France),*

A week later his actions earned him the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. During the allies' advance in the last stages of the war, Coltman tended to the wounded without a break for 48 hours. When he heard that more wounded men had been left behind during a retirement, he went



forward alone in the face of fierce enfilade fire, found the casualties, treated them, and on three successive occasions carried his comrades on his back to safety, saving their lives.

All of his awards spoke highly of his exposing himself to enemy fire both from artillery and machine guns whilst going forward to rescue and treat wounded.

He was invested with his Victoria cross by King George VI at Buckingham Palace on 22 May 1919.

After the First World War ended Coltman returned to Burton on Trent and took a job as a groundskeeper with the town's Parks Department. During the Second World War he commanded the Burton on Trent Army Cadet Force with the rank of Captain. He retired from his job in 1963 and died at Outwoods Hospital, Burton on Trent, in 1974 at the age of 82. He lies buried with his wife Eleanor in the churchyard of St Mark's parish church in Winshill. His grave is maintained by the Victoria Cross Trust.

The above is compiled from various sources on the Internet under the heading William Harold Coltman, VC.

Exercise "Steele Tuff" 2017

Over the weekend 8/9/10 Sept 9RQR conducted their annual Exercise "Steel Tuff", a competition to identify the best Section in 9 RQR. This year it was won by a Section, consisting of Cpl D.T. Robinson, L/Cpl E.S.T. Redmond and Ptes N.D, De Marchi, C.A. Nosoff, S.E.J. Backhouse, S.C. Meyer and D. Creswell.

Following a reorganization several years ago 9RQR is now located north of the Brisbane River with 5 Depots spread between Bundaberg and Brisbane. The exercises undertaken included Offensive operations, Defensive operations. Shooting (WTTS), Above pool OBS course, Urban Assault activity, General military skills, Navigation, Grenade throwing activity, Bayonet assault course, Endurance activity, and the RSM WO1 Scott Warby did an excellent job in organizing the weekend.

At the completion of the activities a presentation and a commemorative service was conducted for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay.

Four members of the Association, Phil Ainsworth, Colin Gould, Paul Brown and Bob Collins attended on the Sunday and presented the medallions to the winning section, as shown in the photo.

What disease did cured ham actually have?



Re-Dedication of Chinese Heritage War Memorial

Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch recently conducted a service to re-dedicate the Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial. The service was attended by members of the sub branch and the wider community and was followed by a 200 people fundraising dinner at a local Chinese restaurant. In addition to maintaining the Memorial Gardens, proceeds from the dinner will fund the seven \$1,000 bursaries presented annually to students of various High Schools throughout the region, ensuring the ANZAC spirit lives on in the Community.



3rd from L. Ralph Seeto.
2nd from R. Douglas Ng

John McGrath visits Great Uncle's Coastwatcher Island



Last Thursday I travelled with my wife Carmel, my sister Anne & friends to Bathurst Island to visit the mission where my Great Uncle Fr John McGrath was resident from 1927 to April



1948. Fr John was a volunteer Coast Watcher & he notified Darwin around 0935 on 19th Feb 1942 that a large formation of planes travelling very high heading towards Darwin. The operator acknowledged & asked him to standby however the message appears to have been intercepted by the Japanese as a Jap aircraft screamed low over the mission strafing the radio shack and an aircraft on the local strip.

Fr John's message was ignored for a number of reasons and the first bombs fell on a totally unprepared Darwin around 0958. The aircraft that bombed Darwin were the same force that bombed Pearl Harbour. More bombs were dropped on Darwin than Pearl Harbour.



Pictures show the transport to the Island, radio shack where Fr John sent his message and the transceiver used to transmit the message. We were welcomed on the island and the Tiwi people greeted us as we wandered around the island.

Fr John is buried on the island.

Thanks John.

History Teachers of Australia National Conference

Ten visitors from the History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference being held in Brisbane attended the Museum on Thursday 27 Sep to gain a better understanding of



Australia's long relationship with Papua New Guinea, particularly the influences of the two world war on this relationship. The visitors represented most states and involved in teaching from primary school to university level. Comments about the Museum were most complementary. The visitors were guided by association members Phil Ainsworth, Colin Gould, Paul Brown and Bob Collins, and were accompanied by the ex President of the PNGAA, Andrea Williams. The above photo is of the group at the Museum.

Brisbane Open House Weekend

The weekend 7/8 Oct was Brisbane's annual Open House weekend during which over 90 Historic buildings, museums etc were open to the public. Your museum participated in this weekend for the first time last year and again this year.

During the weekend some 20,000 people from Brisbane and surrounds visit one or more of those participating—many receive in advance what is open and make multiple visits.

We had 91 visitors on Saturday and 47 on Sunday. Many visitors had not yet been to the museum with some making arrangements to return in future with groups with which they are associated. Comments were very complimentary and the

museum has been promised a number of items which will only enhance the displays. The same occurred last year and a number of items were received.



Museum volunteers. Mike Griffin, John Batze, Kieran Nelson, Paul Brown, Graeme Blanch, Bob Collins, Peter Rogers, Colin Gould and Phil Ainsworth. Peter Rogers, grandson of NGVR veteran "Horrie" Harris, and Barry Wright also assisted but missed the photo.

The museum will be open for the Brisbane Open House weekend in 2018 which will be held in early October.

It can be exhausting showing people around for two full days running so any members who can assist in 2018 will be welcome.

The Battle for Milne Bay

In 1948 I joined the Citizen Military Forces, becoming a member of Delta Company, of the 25th Infantry Battalion, Darling Downs Regiment; at the time I was eighteen years of age and working and living in Dalby, on the Darling Downs in Queensland. I had been in D Company about 6 months, when I had my first military history lesson about the 25th Battalion, by Major Percival Shipley, the company commander. Perc Shipley (a veteran of the Middle East, New Guinea and Morotai /Balikpapan campaigns), said we were part of the reformed 7th Infantry Brigade and that the battalion had fought in New Guinea at Milne Bay and on Bougainville during WW2 as part of the 7th Militia Brigade. He also said that the battalion's Regimental Colour, which was kept at Battalion Headquarters in Toowoomba, showed the battle honours won by the unit during WW1 and during the New Guinea campaign. Prior to transferring to the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles from the 25th Battalion as a Warrant Officer Class 2, I was involved in that rank with a trooping of the Regimental Colour during an annual camp at Wacol and I was able to see those battle honours close up: other battle honours on the Regimental Colour were those of the 2nd 25th battalion of the 2nd Australian Imperial Forces in WW2. Much later, whilst serving with the PNGVR, I was attached to the 9th Infantry Battalion, Moreton Regiment, based at Kelvin Grove Barracks, Brisbane, for several months as a platoon commander; the 9th Battalion was the second of the three units which made up the infantry component of the 7th Militia Brigade at Milne Bay in 1942. As well as battle



honours for WW1, New Guinea and Bougainville, the Moreton Regiment also held the battle honours for the 2nd 9th Battalion of the 2nd AIF in WW2.

In August of this year I watched the ABC 'remembering the 75th anniversary of the Battle

of Milne Bay', when some of our remaining veterans, in their nineties, were being interviewed about their involvement in that battle and the event reminded me that the 25th and 9th Battalions, both Citizen Military Force units with which I had served, were part of the force which turned back a Japanese sea borne landing at Milne Bay in the Territory of Papua as it was then known: as a result, I decided to research the matter for a brief description of the battle for the magazine Harim Tok Tok.

Milne Bay is a sheltered bay at the eastern tip of Papua New Guinea, 35 km long and 16 km wide; at the time of the battle, significant locations were No. 1 Airstrip, Ahioma, Gili Gili, Waga



Waga, Goroni, Rabi, KB Plantation and Kilarbo. Brigadier John Field, a citizen soldier, and commander of the 7th Militia Brigade, arrived on 11 July 1942 with the advance force; prior to the battle, he was to command the small but compact 'Milne Force' which comprised the 9th, 25th and 61st Infantry Battalions of the 7th Militia Brigade, 4th Battery 101 Anti-Tank Regiment, 6th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery and 9th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, 2nd 5th Field Company of Engineers, US 46th Engineering Battalion, US 101st Coastal Artillery Battery and some service units, including an Australian New Guinea Administration Unit Native labour detachment under Major Sydney Elliot-Smith: the Americans were given the responsibility for the maintenance of the overall force. On 25 July, 75 and 76 Squadron P40 Kittyhawks of the RAAF arrived on the completed No. 1 airstrip (Gurney). Brigadier Field, with 16 years as a commissioned officer, including as commander of the 2/12 Infantry Battalion in the Middle East and a mechanical engineer, realised he faced big engineering and construction projects under unfavourable conditions and with the aid of the American engineers and the 2nd 5th Field Company, he set about the construction of a further two airstrips, roads, bridges and wharves: there were no maps of the area.

With the arrival of the 55th Infantry Battalion of the 14th Militia Brigade and the experienced 18th Brigade of the 2nd AIF, (Brigadier George Wootton commanding; a citizen soldier and

lawyer, and described as an able and resolute leader), comprising the 2nd 9th, 2nd 10th and 2nd 12th battalions and recently from the Middle East, Major General Clowes was appointed to command the enlarged Allied force, reporting to Lieutenant General Sidney Rowell, commander of New Guinea Force at Port Moresby: Cyril Clowes was born in Warwick, Queensland, was a graduate of the Royal Military College Duntroon and had won a Military Cross and a Distinguished Service Order in WW1; his nickname was 'Silent Cyril'. Acting on information from a Coastwatcher prior to the first Japanese landing, the RAAF Kittyhawks destroyed enemy landing barges on Goodenough Island which were on their way to Milne Bay. A Japanese force, of about 1200 men, elements of the 5 Special Naval Landing Force (SNLF) at Rabaul, with two small Type 95 tanks, led by Commander Shojiro Hayashi, landed at Ahioma on the morning of 25 August and encountered Delta Company of the 61st Battalion, which withdrew to KB Plantation; the enemy force then attacked the main body of the 61st Battalion and were repulsed with the aid of the 2nd 10th Battalion. The two tanks became bogged and took no part in the fighting. The Japanese were reinforced with about 1000 SNLF marines under Commander Minoru Yanis who took command of the fighting. On 31 August the enemy struck the Australian lines near Airstrip No. 3



(Turnbull), making three banzai charges which were turned back by the 25th and 61st Battalions: General Clowes then went on the offensive using the 2nd 12th Battalion to counterattack. Savage fighting occurred when the 9th Battalion repulsed about 300 Japanese; during this fighting Corporal Andrew Charles Irwin won a Military Medal. On September 3, the 2nd 9th joined the 2nd 12th to drive the Japanese back: the enemy began evacuating their remaining forces on September 4, although isolated skirmishes occurred until 7 September. Corporal John French of the 2nd 9th Battalion was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his involvement during the campaign. The main fighting took place along a 'road' that followed a narrow strip of level ground on the northern shores of Milne Bay, running east from No.3 Airstrip to Kilarbo, Rabi, Moteau, KB plantation, Goroni and Waga Waga.

General Douglas Mac Arthur was forewarned by Allied Intelligence (Ultra) that the Japanese intended to land at Milne Bay as part of their campaign to capture Port Moresby. During the occupation of the site of the Milne Bay area, malaria proved to be a scourge, with one sixth of the Allied Force going down with the disease, including General Clowes. After the battle, which the Japanese referred to as the Battle of Rabi, it was confirmed the Japanese committed war crimes by killing captured Australian soldiers and that their intelligence proved to be faulty in that they believed only a small Allied Force existed at Milne Bay. The Americans were the first US troops to engage the Japanese in the New Guinea campaign.

The Allied force comprised about 8800 Australians (4600 infantry and 600 RAAF) and about 1940 Americans. Australian casualties were estimated to be 167 KIA and MIA, with 206 wounded; the Americans lost 14 KIA. Japanese casualties were about 700-800 KIA. The battle of Milne Bay was fought over 25 August-7 September 1942 and is referred to as a major turning point in WW2; a strategic setback for the Japanese, who were defeated, albeit by a superior force, on land for the first time in their advance towards Australia: the battle proved to be a morale booster. A downside to the defence of Milne Bay was that, like a number of Australian senior officers in the Papuan campaign, Major General Clowes was sidelined by General Blamey.

Bob Harvey-Hall August 2017
Ack: Author's diaries Wikipedia



**The secret of enjoying
a good wine:**

1. Open the bottle to allow it to breathe.



2. If it does not look like it's breathing,
give it mouth-to-mouth.

*You know you're
over the hill when
the only whistles
you get are from
the tea kettle*

Edward George Honey

A monument commemorates Edward George Honey who is attributed as being the person who suggested the ritual of observing the two minutes silence to fallen soldiers.

The concept of a remembrance silence appears to have originated with an Australian journalist, Edward George Honey. Honey was born in St Kilda, Melbourne, in 1885 and died of consumption in England in 1922. In 1962, a group of Melbourne citizens formed a committee to obtain recognition for Honey as the man 'who taught the world how to remember'.

For many years, a South African politician, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, had been credited with the idea. The Melbourne committee succeeded in establishing that 'the solemn ceremony of silence now observed in all British countries in remembrance of those who died in war' was first published by Edward Honey.

Honey published a letter in the London Evening News on 8 May 1919 under the pen name of Warren Foster, in which he appealed for five-minute silence of national remembrance. Sir Percy Fitzpatrick called for a period of silence on Armistice Day, 11 November, in all countries of the British Empire which was approved by King George V. Five minutes silence was deemed too long and two minutes was decided upon.

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

FUNCTION DATES

Sat 18 Nov. Final 2017 Committee
Meeting commencing 10am.

Followed by BYO Luncheon

All Welcome

MUSEUM EVENTS

Tues 21 Nov. 6pm. Karana Scouts

Tues 6th Mar 2018 11am Gold Coast
PNG Club. 25 persons.

Assistance would be appreciated.
Contact Colin Gould.



NATIONAL MEDALS
Pty Ltd



REPLICA MEDALS OR MOUNTING OF MEDALS

A reliable source for medal work is National Medals,
natmedals@bigpond.com , Ph 07 3871 0600 Ask for Greg

**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 Colin Gould
email pngvr@optusnet.com.au , phone 0424 562 030
or

Paul Brown email 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 , 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/ngvrnpngvrarmyarmymuseum/>

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)

NGVR/PNGVR service recollections are copyright.



King & Co
PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

Industrial property specialists

**Leasing
Sales**

Property Management

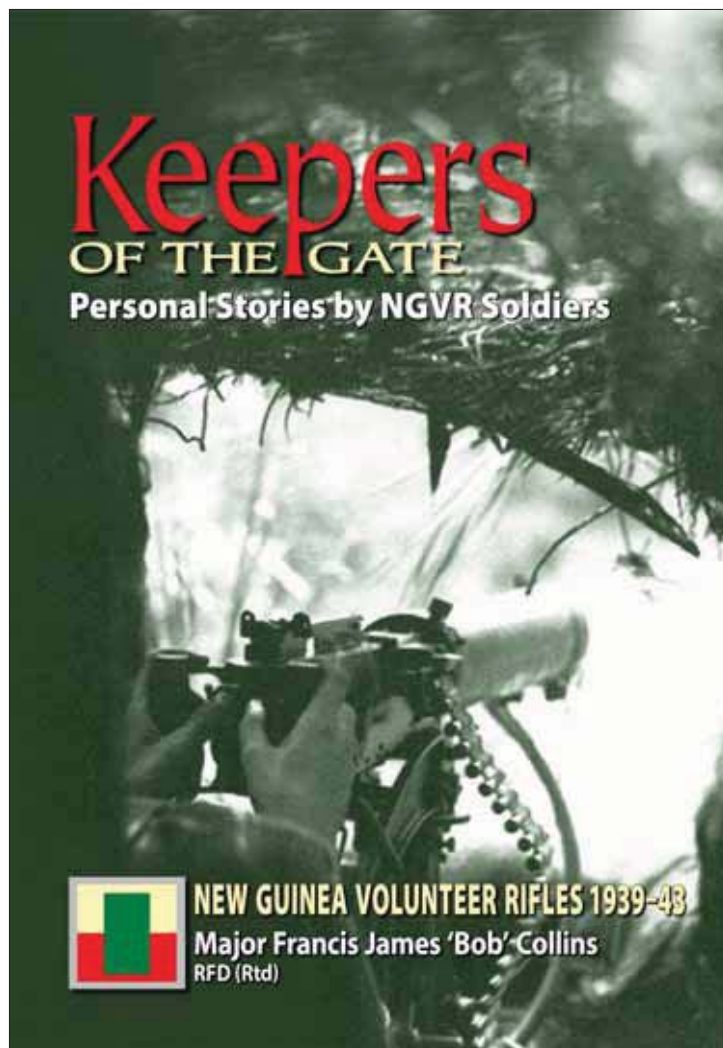
Contact Phil Ainsworth

07 3844 3222

Email: p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au

99 Annerley Road, Woolloongabba QLD 4102

www.kingco.com.au



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.:

Delivery

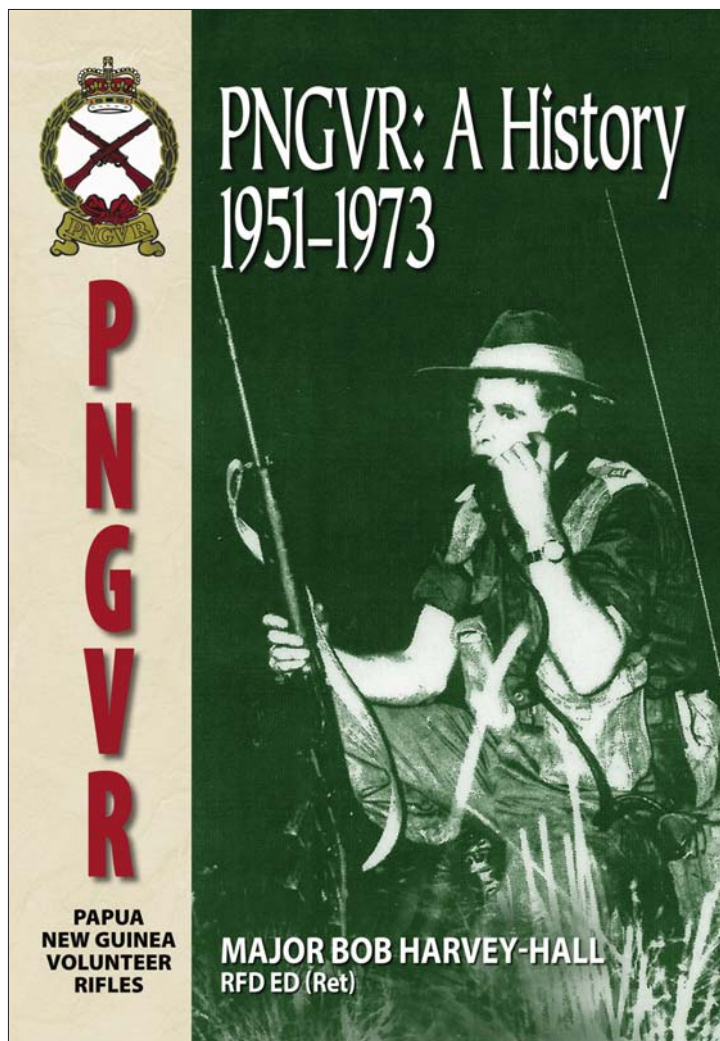
Address:

P/Code

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)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PURCHASE ORDER:

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

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

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

☐ 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.:

Delivery Address:

..... P/Code

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 (email)—0412 236 013 (mob.)