

With ANZAC DAY just a few short weeks away, it is probably most appropriate to re-produce an article written by Mr C F Coady (Australian War Memorial) recording some of the history of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles.

TRUE TO THEIR TRADITIONS

Anyone glancing at the nominal roll of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (N.G.V.R.) would be excused for thinking that Australia had maintained a Foreign Legion at its northern outposts in January 1942. Such names as Lars Waldemar Bergstrang, Carlo Lugarno Cavalieri, Bruno Chou Lai, Allistair Stuart Fraser-Fraser, Francisco Trojaolo and Hubert Behrendorff appear and are an indication of the cosmopolitan nature of this volunteer movement.

When Army Headquarters, on 4 September 1939, issued the necessary order for the raising of this unit, men from Europe, the British Isles, New Zealand, Australia, and Asia, men who had their homes and livelihood in the Territories and were aware of the menace of Japan, hastened to join. Chan Kim Thai was a rifleman; Shui Hong, a Lieutenant.

Prior to the beginning of the war, Australia had scrupulously observed its undertakings to the League of Nations and had refrained from making any defence preparations in the Mandated Territories. In spite of the limitations imposed by the mandate, the Returned Soldiers' League Sub-Branched took a vigorous lead in demanding that at least some effort should be made to arm and train those residents who wished to be better prepared to defend themselves and their homes. Colonel J Walstab, the Police Superintendent at Rabaul, visited Melbourne in August 1939, and discussed the matter fully with Army HQ. Largely because of his efforts, it was decided to form a militia-type battalion in New Guinea.

Originally, the strength of the battalion was limited to 20 officers and 400 other ranks but the establishment was increased in June 1940 to 23 officers and 482 other ranks. The enthusiasm in the early days stemmed mainly from returned soldiers of the 1914-18 War, but by mid-1941 the unit had lost much of its zest, many of the youngest and most ardent members having gone away to join the A.I.F. and the other services. The remoteness of many areas was a disadvantage inherent in the unit's organisation. But the latter half of 1941, a growing realisation of the danger of war in the Pacific and of the increasing peril of the Territory led to a revival of interest.



Headquarters of the N.G.V.R. was originally at Rabaul and companies and sections were located at Wau, Salamaua, Lae and Madang. Fit men between the ages of 18 and 50 were accepted. Enlistment was for a two-year period and there was no pay except for an allowance of one pound per

year, made for each efficient member - an efficient member being one who put in 20 full days of training and who qualified in handling small arms. The standard of rifle shooting was very high. The first Commanding Officer was Lieut-Colonel C Ross Field, the Public Works Director Rabaul and the Adjutant was Lieut. J J Mullaly.

The Uniform consisted of khaki shirts and trousers, made up locally from material sent from Australia. The Army supplied felt hats, bandoliers and leather belts, boots and puttees. Brass 'N.G.V.R.' shoulder badges were worn. Arms available for training consisted of rifles and some Vickers and Lewis machine guns. In mid-1940, two Army Instructional Corps Instructors, Warrant Officer (later Major) D H Umphelby and Warrant Officer Barnard, were sent up and bought the training into line with current A.M.F. practice.

With the arrival at Rabaul in April 1941 of 'Lark Force' (2/22nd Bn., A.I.F. plus components) N.G.V.R.'s role became subsidiary and in August its Head Quarters was transferred to Bulolo on the mainland. Colonel Field relinquished command and Major (Later Colonel) W M Edwards was promoted to command. One of the most enthusiastic of the early volunteers, Edwards revitalised the Unit on the goldfields and many new recruits came in. War with Japan was imminent and the strength of N.G.V.R. on the eve of the outbreak of war was 12 officers and 284 other ranks.

(To be continued next issue)



Lewis .303 Inch LMG with Magazine Fitted



Some characteristics of the Lewis LMG are:

- Calibre: .303 inch.
- Operation: Gas-piston.
- Cyclic Rate of Fire: Approximately 550 rounds per minute
- Feed System: 47 round drum magazine.
- Cooling: Air draught.
- Mounting: Bipod (may be Tripod for Home Defence).
- Overall Length: 50.5 inches (1.283 metres).
- Barrel Length: 26.3 inches (670 mm).
- Barrel Rifling & Twist: 4 groove, right hand twist.
- Sight Graduations: Tangent leaf to 1,900 yards.
- Weight: 26 pounds (11.36 kg approximately).

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New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc.
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HARIM TOK TOK



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED.

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ANZAC DAY

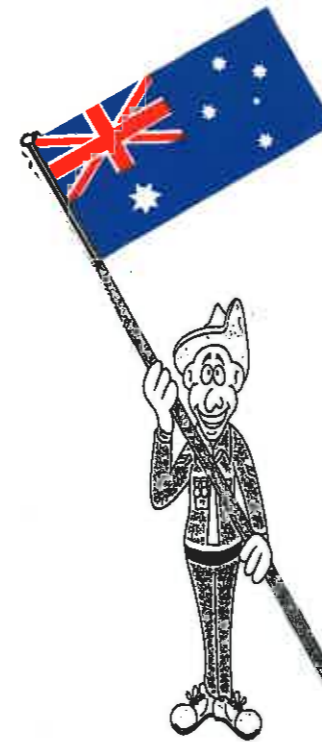
EDITION

ANZAC DAY
Saturday 25 April 1998

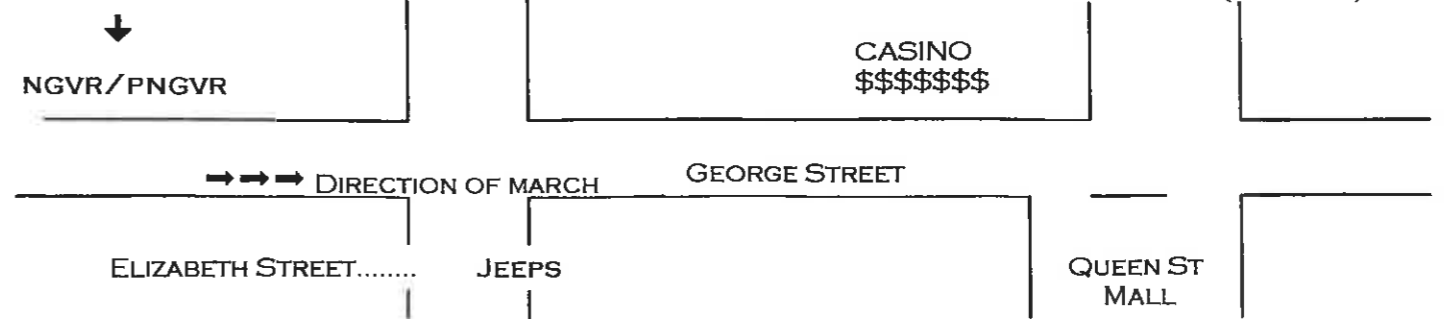
BRISBANE MARCH

- ASSEMBLE FROM: 1000 Hours
- ASSEMBLE POINT: Left side of George St heading Elizabeth St Look for the banner.
- MARCH COMMENCES: 1030 Hours
- ORDER OF MARCH: Navy/Army/Airforce
- POSITION: 46..PNG Inf Bns Assoc
47..NGVR/PNGVR
- DRESS: Association Anzac Day Dress with full medals or Sports Jacket or suit
- NGVR MEMORIAL SERVICE: Shrine of Memories Anzac Square, following end of march.

RECEPTION: Old Stock Exchange Hotel, 131 Edward St. from 1:30 Hours
\$15 pp payable at door Incl limited beer/wine/soft drinks & lunch voucher (self serve)



JEEPS: Jeep Transport has been reserved for members requiring same. Look for Tom Lega near Myers in Elizabeth Street.



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At the 1998 Anzac Day Parade Committee meeting held in February, organisers were predicting one of the largest Brisbane Anzac Day marches for 1998 with a total of 194 groups listed for the march with an expected 12,000 people to make parade. In the Order of march, the Army contingent will be led by the "DUNGAREES" in position number 34. For the information of members and specators, the preliminary Order of march is as follows:-

- 34 Dungarees
- 35 Leader Army LtCol M Stuart (RL)
- 36 HQ 1 Aust Corps
- 37 1 Aust Corps Signals
- 38 1 Aust Corps Troops Supply Column
- 39 2/11 Fd Regt
- 40 101 Tank Attk Regt
- 41 2/16 Aust Lt Fd Ambulance
- 42 Qld Commando Assoc
- 43 Z Force Special Unit
- 44 Aust Paratroopers & Airborne Assoc
- 45 deleted
- 46 PNG Infantry Bns Assn
- 47 NGVR/PNGVR Assn
- 48 NG Air Warning Group
- 49 Aust Special Wireless Gp

In position 4 will be the WW1 Veterans plus the "Historical" Troop 2/14 Light House Mounted Troop.

Refreshments, toilets and an information booth will be located in Queens Park outside the Treasury Casino.

Thanks to our Treasurer, George Bagajluk, the 9RQR Pipe & Drum Band will again march in front of our Unit. Members will agree that this certainly adds to the overall presentation of the NGVR/PNGVR Unit on Parade, not to mention it makes the actual marching in step much easier. As in previous years there will be TWO "Eyes Left" during the march, (1) at the Governor's stand and (2) at the Anzac Square Memorial - so be alert.

SPECIAL INVITATION

Adrian Leyden, President of the Sydney based NGVR-ANGAU Assn has advised.....

Although most of your members will be in Qld there are sure to be some in Sydney or NSW who are unable to attend your Brisbane ANZAC DAY march & reunion.

We would be very pleased to have them join us for the (Sydney) march and later Reunion at the Kensington War Memorial Club..... If any of your members wish to join us could they please contact Hon Secretary Peter Russell Ph 02 9869 7531 Fax 02 9868 4869 by the first week of April for march/reunion details.

Have a good ANZAC DAY 1998.

Our thanks to Adrian for the kind invitation.

NB: There will be tables & chairs RESERVED for NGVR members at the Anzac Day Function.

AUSTRALIAN ACTIVE SERVICE MEDAL 1945-1975

Following advice received from Canberra, members of the Association who hold the Vietnam Logistic Medal may be eligible for the above new service medal. Members involved are requested to contact Secretary Col Gould for a Departmental application form. Our thanks to Lt.Col Peter Grimshaw, MBE and Andy Deville for their valuable assistance.

WELFARE OFFICER

Association Welfare Officer, Bill Bickerton, has been very active in visiting and assisting members who have been in hospital or in poor health. Your Association is very keen to help any of its members and their family who may need a friendly and understanding comrade when the going gets tough. If you hear of a fellow NGVR or PNGVR member who may need assistance, please contact Bill Bickerton direct on (ah) 0755 306170 You are assured of total confidentiality.

*Changed your address??
Phone number??
Please don't forget to let your
Association know.*

MURPHY'S MILITARY LAW

(Courtesy of Norm Mundy)

- 1 Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are
- 2 No battle plan ever survives contact with the enemy.
- 3 Friendly fire, ain't.
- 4 The most dangerous thing in the combat zone is an officer with a map and compass.
- 5 The problem with taking the easy way out is that the enemy has already mined it.
- 6 The buddy system is essential to your survival. It gives the enemy somebody else to shoot at.
- 7 The further you are in advance of your own position, the more likely your artillery will shoot short.
- 8 Incoming fire has the right of way.
- 9 If your advance is going well, you are walking into an ambush.
- 10 The Quarter Master has only two sizes - too small and too large.
- 11 If you really need an officer in a hurry, take a nap.
- 12 The only time suppressive fire works is when it is used on abandoned positions.
- 13 The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire, is incoming friendly fire.
- 14 Don't be conspicuous in the combat zone, it draws fire. Out of the combat zone it draws sergeants.
- 15 If your sergeant can see you, so can the enemy.

ANZAC DAY BADGES

Qld made	1998 Anzac Day
Bronze Slouch Hat	Lapel Pin
Lapel Pin	\$1-00
\$5-00	(Actual Size)



ALL proceeds to Anzac Day Commemoration Committee Inc. Brisbane & Veteran Welfare. Pre-paid badges will be available by mail or for collection on Anzac Day BEFORE the march.

-PLUS-

Orders will be taken for Association CAPS (\$15) and POLO SHIRTS (\$25- S/M/L/XL/XXL/XXXL) no later than 5 April. Orders will be ready on Anzac Day for collection. Payment in advance please.

ANNIVERSARY DATES

- * 19 September 1939 - NGVR Activated
- * 22/3 January 1942 - Invasion of Rabaul
- * 01 July 1942 - "Montevideo Maru" sunk.
- * 17 March 1951 - PNGVR Activated
- * 17 May 1969 - Colours presented
- * 01 December 1973 - Regiment disbanded
- * 25 April 1974 - Colours laid up
- * 25 April 1990 - Unit marched for the first time on Australian soil.

(Dates courtesy of Bruce Inch)

1998
REGIMENTAL MIXED DINNER REUNION

In response to members suggestions your Committee proposes to host a mixed REGIMENTAL DINNER REUNION to enable as many members and their guests as possible to come together for an enjoyable evening of comradeship and renewal of service friendships.

DATE: FRIDAY NIGHT 10 JULY 1998 (PROPOSED)
VENUE: OFFICERS MESS - VICTORIA BARRACKS, BRISBANE (PROPOSED)
TIME: FROM 1900 HOURS
DRESS: MESS DRESS/ANZAC DAY DRESS/SUIT WITH MINIATURES
FORMAT: REGIMENTAL DINING-IN NIGHT PROGRAM WITH 3 COURSE DINNER/WINE
COST: APPROX: \$25 - \$27 PP (PARTNERS/GUESTS ARE MOST WELCOME)
GUEST OF HONOUR: TO BE ADVISED.

NB: ALL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL INVITATION ONCE DETAILS HAVE BEEN FINALISED. RESERVATIONS ESSENTIAL.

FORMALITIES INCLUDE GUEST SPEAKER, REGIMENTAL HISTORIC DISPLAY, PIPEING IN OF THE COLOURS/FLAGS, PASSING OF THE PORT ETC.