



Harim Tok Tok

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION Inc.

VOLUME

120

DATE

FEBRUARY, 2020

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Welcome to our first edition of your newsletter for 2020, another busy year.

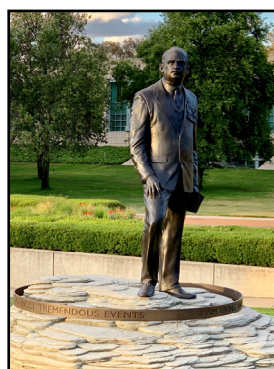
2020 activities will include 6 management committee meetings to which everyone is invited, monthly openings at the Museum on the first Saturday of each month, the Anzac Day march and reunion, the 78th Anniversary Memorial Service for those lost in Rabaul and the Montevideo Maru on Wednesday 1 July, the Battle for Australia Service on 2 September, the Brisbane Open House Day of our Museum and our AGM in October. There is a fund raising Bunnings sausage sizzle in April, museum working bees and attendance at various memorial services around Australia to which we invite our members who live closest to attend and provide a report for our newsletter. These events will be advertised in our newsletter, Facebook and website.

Our management committee is few in number and needs more members. General assistance is required to maintain our activities. Museum Curators Paul Brown and Colin Gould need helpers to maintain the physical appearance of the Museum and to show visitors around the Museum. Further assistance is required to keep Museum's documents and records – these need constant maintenance and help is required from members or friends who have some computer literacy for this important continuing task. Replacement equipment is being arranged and updates of software is being assessed. We also need backup people to assist and maintain our website and Facebook. We need help to run our Bunnings Sausage Sizzles as well as our Anzac Day Reunion. If you are able to help or know a friend, not necessarily a member of the association, who is interested please contact me on 0418730348 or by email p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au or any other committee member who is listed on page 16.

Late last year I received a copy of Michael Claringbould's and Peter Ingram's book South Pacific Air War, Volume 3, Coral Sea and Aftermath, May-June 1942. The three volumes span the first 6 months of the Pacific War and culminates in the Battle of the Coral Sea. The third volume examines the critical months of May and

June 1942. In May 1942 the Japanese planned to seize Tulagi and Port Moresby which resulted in the Battle of the Coral Sea when opposing fleet carriers were drawn into conflict for the first time in history. The general view is that the Allied victory forced the Japanese to abandon their sea going capture of Port Moresby. The book argues the Japanese capacity to continue the invasion was largely intact and it was, fortunately, a serious error by the Japanese rigid command structure to postpone the invasion. Following the Coral Sea Battle the aerial war between land based air forces resembled a slugfest. This part of the campaign is written in detail with Allied accounts matched against Japanese records and provides insights to the significance of air control in the Pacific War. The Japanese beach head in the Buna area and land push to Port Moresby did not commence until late July. I found the trilogy very interesting and worth reading. The insights it provides about the air war and its significance on the New Guinea Campaigns make it a must read. The authors at this point are uncertain whether a fourth volume will be produced.

On a recent visit to the AWM, I saw the new commemorative statue of General Sir John Monash (1865-1931) by Charles Robb and Sarah Holland-Batt 2018. In part, the plaque read "General Sir John Monash was a great Australian. Regarded as one of Australia's most outstanding military and civilian leaders, he is remembered for many things, but it is as a soldier that he excelled. Leaving Australia as a colonel, he returned as a lieutenant general. He was an Anzac, and led a division in battles in Flanders



and on the Somme. His corps played a heroic role in the defeat of Germany in 1918. Many consider Monash one of the greatest commanders of the First World War".

This photo shows the President of NSAAQ, Alex Garlan with Phil Ainsworth enjoying themselves at the NSAAQ Christmas luncheon held in Everyman's hut, Wacol on Sunday 15 December 2019. There is more information on page 15.



We deeply regret and apologise to the families and friends of Denis Samin and Bill McGrath for a photograph which was published in HTT 119. The photograph was of a young Bill McGrath in his RPNGC uniform mistakenly placed in Denis Samin's vale.

Phil Ainsworth, January 2020

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OPERATION CARTWHEEL THE REDUCTION OF RABAUL (Cont)

The Markham Valley and Huon Peninsula

While South Pacific troops were heavily engaged in New Georgia, MacArthur's Southwest Pacific Forces were executing the seizure of the Markham Valley and Huon Peninsula of New Guinea. General Blamey arrived in Port Moresby to assume command of New Guinea Force on 20 Aug 1943.

The Southwest Pacific lacked enough ships for a completely amphibious assault, and had too few aircraft for a completely airborne assault. There were enough ground troops but the New Guinea terrain precluded large scale overland operations. Therefore, a combined amphibious and airborne assault was ordered. Markham Valley operations were to be based in Port Moresby and North Coast operations on Buna and Milne Bay. The combination of airlifted and air transported troops in coordination with amphibious assault has not been used by the Allies in the Pacific.

On Gen Kenney's advice MacArthur then ordered the development of two grass strips, one in the Watut Valley west of Salamaua and the other in the grassy plateau in the Highlands where the Markham and Ramu Rivers rise. These strips could then serve as staging bases that would enable fighters from Port Moresby and Dobodura to reach the expanding enemy base at Wewak or over the western part of New Britain, and to give fighter cover to Allied bombers in the vicinity of Lae.

D Day was moved from 1 Aug to 4 Sep to permit the assembly of enough C - 47's and more training for the Aust 7th Division—over 300 planes were to be used for the parachute drop, and these would then turn around and be used for the 7th Division troop movement. The amphibious movement to Lae would involve over forty ships, 7,800 soldiers and 3,260 sailors. By the end of August Southwest Pacific Area had on hand 197 heavy bombers and 598 fighters as well as the transports and other miscellaneous aircraft.

The sites selected for the two airfields were Tsili Tsili near the Watut River and Bena Bena, between Goroka and Kainantu. These were developed in June and July. C - 47s flew in bulldozers, earth moving equipment and trucks. Some of these had to be sawn in half and welded together on delivery.

When Tsili Tsili was completed fighters were based to carry out raids on Lae, Salamaua and Wewak which, by then, had been built into a major Japanese airbase. On 17 Aug two heavy bomber groups of 64 planes and two medium bomber groups of 58 B25s escorted by fighters from Tsili Tsili struck at 199 Japanese aircraft on the 4 strips at Wewak—most of them on the ground. Another raid was carried out the next day and then on a regular basis. After the War Japanese records show over 100 aircraft destroyed in these raids.

The Japanese had about 10,000 men in the area with somewhat more than half defending Salamaua— thanks to the deception provided by the Aust 3rd Division, relieved during the advance by the Aust 5th Division and MacKechnie Force advances towards Salamaua. The Japanese defended the approaches to Salamaua strongly until early Sep when the survivors commenced an overland withdrawal to Lae.

Seaborne Invasion

Elements of the Aust 9th Division landed East of Lae near the Busu River on 4th Sep. There was no resistance on the ground but Japanese aircraft attempted to break up the invasion. 80 planes had been dispatched from Rabaul but fog delayed them and by the time they arrived at the invasion

beach Allied aircraft cover broke up the assaults. However, there were minor Australian casualties and an ammunition dump was blown up that night.

The Australians then advanced west towards Lae but were delayed by flooded rivers and minor Japanese resistance. On 16th Sep advance elements of the 9th Div entered Lae after capturing Malahang on the previous day.

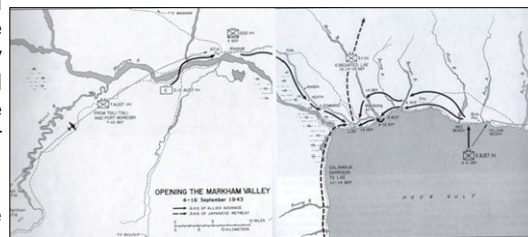
Airborne Invasion

Nadzab airstrip had been captured by a spectacular air assault on 5th Sep. 81 C - 47s were emptied in 41/2 minutes. Men from the 2/4th Aust Field Regiment had also jumped with their 25 pounder guns. US Engineers together with Aust 2/2nd Pioneer Bn and 2/6th Field Coy worked through the night preparing the airstrip and the Aust 7th Div commenced flying in. By 10th Sep the Aust 7th Div had commenced their advance on Lae.

Japanese resistance was minor and on 16th Sep the 7th Div also entered Lae and joined up with the 9th Div.

Japanese defence of Lae

Throughout Jul and Aug Japanese defences at Salamaua were reinforced from Lae, but were continually being forced back by the Aust 3rd (later 5th) Div.



The Japanese commander

Gen Nakamo realised that, with the fall of Salamaua and the landings of the 9th and 7th Divs that he could not hold Lae, so on 11 Sep commenced withdrawing troops. However, the Japanese were determined to hold the Finisterre Range, the Ramu valley and Finschhafen. The Japanese withdrew generally north - north easterly, avoiding the Australian advancing troops, but were harried along the way. It was a difficult overland withdrawal over the rugged Rawlinson Range and Cromwell Mountains and when their 10 day supply of food they had started out with was exhausted they lived by looting native villages and eating roots and grasses. Dysentery and Malaria were also a problem.

Over 6,000 troops had left Lae and nearly 5,000 reached Kiari on the north - east coast of the Huon Peninsula.

Allied Decisions

MacArthur had planned to capture Finschhafen 6 weeks after the fall of Lae. Two factors however impelled a speed - up in the timetable. First was the quick fall of Lae and the second was the movement of the Japanese 20th Division towards Finschhafen.

Before this could happen it had to be decided what was to happen to Madang, considered necessary to be occupied to protect the left flank during the occupation of Cape Gloucester. There were some 55,000 Japanese soldiers between Lae and Wewak and MacArthur's amphibious forces could not support two simultaneous operations at Finschhafen and Cape Gloucester.

On 15 Sep MacArthur ordered Blamey's New Guinea Force to seize Kaiapit at the head of the Markham Valley and Dumpu about 30 miles south of Bogadjim. Two days later he ordered New Guinea Force to take Finschhafen which would serve as an Allied Naval Base and advanced Air Base.

Advance through the Ramu Valley

Logistics would prove to be one of the greatest difficulties here. No overland line of communication existed and all supplies for the operation would need to be flown in. This limited the advancing force to just 2 Brigades of the Aust 7th Division. The advance

commenced with the 2/6th Independent Company taking Kaiapit and holding it against repeated counter attacks until the arrival of the 21st and 25th Brigades.

By the end of December Allied Air Forces had three first class air bases in the Markham and Ramu Valleys, one at Nadzab, one at Lae and the third at the juncture of the Gusap and Ramu Rivers. Kaiapit had proved too swampy and malarious. Dumpu served as a staging field for fighter planes.

The Aust 7th Div continued its advance north - east from Dumpu. After almost 3 months of the most arduous fighting in the defiles of the Finisterres it broke out to the coast east of Madang.

Finschhafen



The Aust 9th Division had already been alerted that they might be used to take Finschhafen after Lae and on 22 Sep its assault forces landed. Lt Frank Wilson, formerly NGVR, now a PI Comd with 9th Div, landed with the assault troops on Scarlet Beach. Most of the Japanese 4,000 man force were on the south coast of the peninsula and on Satelberg, a 3,240 ft mountain dominating the entire coastal region. On 26 Sep the Japanese launched a series of unsuccessful attacks. Fierce fighting and numerous air attacks slowed the Australian advance towards Sio. On 15 Oct the Japanese launched a 2 Regiment attack from Satelberg combined with an amphibious assault, but these were beaten off. In the Satelberg fighting alone the Australians lost 49 dead but killed 679 Japanese. Satelberg and the Wareo Spur fell on 8 Dec. The Japanese 20th Division numbered 12,526 men on 10 Sep and only 6,949 by Dec.

On 15 Jan 1944 the 9th Division entered Sio. The strategic objectives—the airfield sites and the coast of Vitiaz Strait were now in Allied hands.

The Decision to bypass Rabaul

Fierce arguments between MacArthur and Halsey as to the best approaches to the Philippines and eventually Japan as to the allocation of resources had to be settled by the Joint Chiefs of Staff who also had to adjudicate on their various plans. They agreed that MacArthur would continue his advance to take New Guinea and the Vogelkop Peninsula, the westerly tip of then Dutch New Guinea, simultaneously with advances on Islands in the South Pacific and Pacific areas. On their orders the US 2nd Marine Division was transferred from the South Pacific to the Pacific area and Rabaul was to be 'neutralised' not invaded.

The Invasion of Bougainville

With the difficulties that bogged down New Georgia in assaulting heavily defended Japanese bases the planning for the invasion of Bougainville had two aims in mind: -

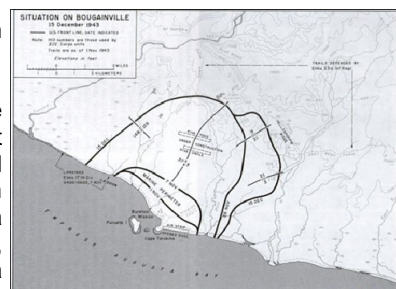
- i) Deny the use of airfields and anchorages to the Japanese and secure airfields and anchorages for the Allies;
- ii) Because terrain, strategic position, and Japanese dispositions indicated that Southern Bougainville was extremely important to the Japanese, the operation would be a major one.

Empress Augusta Bay on the central west coast of Bougainville which was relatively undefended was chosen over Kieta on the east coast which was heavily defended. A party dropped by submarine found that Cape Torokina was suitable for an airfield.

Heavy bombing of Rabaul was carried out and on 1 Nov Empress Augusta Bay was invaded. By then all Japanese Bougainville airfields had been knocked out of commission and continuous air

attacks kept them that way.

Allied intelligence estimated that about 37,500 soldiers and 20,000 sailors were in Bougainville, Buka and the Shortlands, but Empress Augusta Bay had light forces.



Allied naval forces consisted of 2 carriers, 2 antiaircraft cruisers, 4 light cruisers and 18 destroyers. Ground forces were a US Marine Division, US Army Division, NZ Division several ancillary battalions and support troops. A Division + was in support.

The landing was relatively unopposed but the Japanese realised the importance of this operation and fierce air attacks immediately commenced and were to continue. Large numbers of Japanese troops were also dispatched from Kieta, Buin, Buka and other positions on the island and continued their attacks through November.

By 15 Dec the Allies held their final defensive lines, a perimeter defence that extended for about 22,500 yards. Over 44,000 men were present and the defences had been shored up with Engineer support. An airstrip had been constructed from which heavy bombers commenced their attacks on Rabaul on 17 Dec.

The 1st Marine Amphibious Corps casualties to 25 Dec for Empress Augusta Bay, the Treasuries and Choiseul were 323 KIA, 1,389 WIA, 30 missing and 1,161 sick and evacuated.

By 1st March Allied forces had built up to 62,000.

The Japanese however were not prepared to allow Bougainville to be taken and amassed the majority of their forces on the Island, some 15,000—19,000 men with artillery support to attack the Allied perimeter. Between 8—16 Mar they attacked continuously on 3 separate points and made minor gains. During this period attack and counter attack was continuous, but no major incursions were achieved. Allied forces made some gains against strongly defended Japanese positions between 16—27 Mar when the Japanese began to withdraw. Japanese casualties during this period were over 5,000 KIA and 3,000 WIA.

Under partial cover of the invasion of Bougainville and the increased air attacks on Rabaul, MacArthur's forces had crossed Vitiaz and Dampier Straits to invade New Britain.

Crossing the Straits

By Nov 1943 Operation Cartwheel was rolling along rapidly and smoothly. In just over 5 months Nassau Bay, Woodlark, Kiriwina, New Georgia, Vella Lavella, Salamaua, Lae, the Markham Valley, Finschhafen, the Treasuries and Empress Augusta Bay had fallen. At the newly won bases airfields were either in operation or under construction. Allied planes dominated the skies all the way to Rabaul and Allied ships sailed the Solomon Sea and the Huon Gulf in comparative safety.

The next step was to seize Cape Gloucester and to neutralise the Japanese bases at Gasmata in New Britain and capture Witu and Long Islands. This would enable better air cover for convoys moving through Vitiaz Strait against the Admiralties, and provide better security for Kavieng attacks.

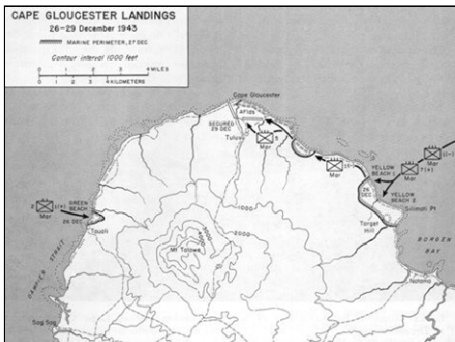
Southwest Pacific invasions usually took place during the dark of the moon to help hide ships from raiding planes. Therefore, if Cape Gloucester could not be invaded before 4 Dec it would have to be delayed until 19 Dec. The latter was the period of the northwest monsoon so the longer the wait the rougher would be the surf at Cape Gloucester.

Again, for these operations the concept of landing where the Japanese were weakest was adopted and, in lieu of landing at Gasmata, a force landed at Arawe on 15 Dec. Arawe had an excellent harbour and a disused airstrip. Ironically neither was ever used to any great extent but the landings were successful against minimum opposition and by the afternoon 1,600 men were ashore. This force steadily built up to over 4,750 and withstood the attacks against them until the Japanese withdrew on 16 Jan.

Cape Gloucester

The landing took place on 26 Dec with heavy naval and air support. The US 1st Marine Div landed at Silimati Point with a Battalion simultaneously landing at Tauali and another on Long Island where a radar station would be erected. Lt Carlo Cavalieri, formerly NGVR but now with ANGAU landed with the 1st Marine Div.

A swamp behind the landing beach held up the move inland as troops had to move through up to their waist and, at times, their shoulders. In the swamps giant trees, rotted by water and weakened by the bombardment toppled over easily. The first marine fatality here was killed by a falling tree. By 28 Dec the airstrip at Cape Gloucester had been taken against stiff resistance and the major objective of the landing had been achieved. Sporadic but at times fierce fighting continued until 23 Feb when the Japanese were ordered back to Rabaul by their higher command.



By end Dec 4,200 ft of the airstrip had been covered with Marsden Matting but it was not until 1 Mar that another strip had been completed and both were fully operational. The 1st Marine Div lost 310 KIA and 1,083 WIA in this operation.

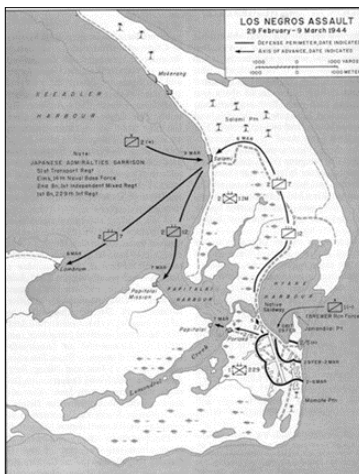
Expanding into the Bismarck Archipelago

The original plans called for the invasion of Hansa Bay on 1 Feb, Kavieng on 1 Mar, and the Admiralties on 1 Mar with Wewak to follow. MacArthur was less than enthusiastic about Wewak which was a major Japanese base. In late 1943 Halsey and MacArthur decided to bypass Kavieng, another heavily defenced Japanese base, in favour of Emirau, in the Saint Matthias Islands, about 90 miles northwest of Kavieng, and the occupation of Green Island 37 miles northwest of Buka and establish an airfield and Patrol Boat base. The latter would put Kavieng in range of fighter planes, extend the range of PT boat patrols as far as New Ireland and cut Japanese seaborne supply to Buka. The Admiralties and Hansa Bay were also to be taken.

Barahun on Green Island was occupied on 15 Feb by 5,800 predominately New Zealand troops and by 17 Mar 16,488 men and 43,088 tons of supplies had been sent to the Green Islands. Within 2 days of the landing a PT boat base opened and by 4 Mar a 6,000 ft bomber field was opened.

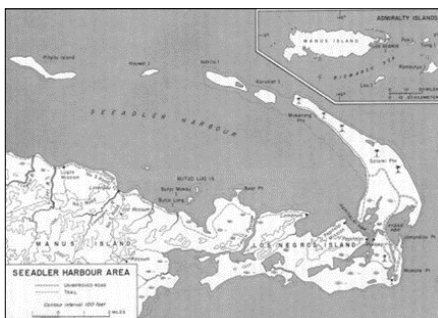
The Admiralties

The Admiralties were ideally suited to assist in isolating Rabaul and in supporting the approach to the Philippines. They contained a superb harbour as well as two airfields. The force allocated to this task totalled 45,110 of which 9,545 were construction units, 7,105 service units and 2,488 air units. Japanese forces were estimated at slightly over 4,500.



A Reconnaissance in Force of about 1,000 men was initially to take Los Negros Island followed by the main forces landing on Manus Island itself. Hayne Harbour was selected as it was considered to be an unlikely landing place. D Day was 29 Feb. Troops for the Reconnaissance in Force were provided by 2/5th Cavalry Regt, 1st Cavalry Div. Attached to

2/5th were several ex NGVR men now with ANGAU, including then WO2 Alf Robinson who was commissioned on Los Negros and awarded a DCM for his actions there. The landing was lightly opposed but over the next several weeks the Japanese reacted strongly and attempted to destroy the landing force. Initially they infiltrated at night but after several nightly attacks altered their tactics to evening attacks. 147 Japanese were killed in the first two night attacks. Fortunately, the Japanese did not ever use their full numerical superiority on Los Negros against the Allied landing but launched unco-ordinated attacks.

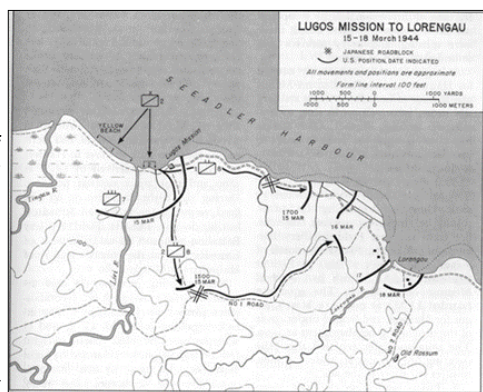


On 7th, 8th and 9th March other elements of 1st Cav Div landed on Papitalai Mission, Lombrum, and Salami in Seeadler Harbour. By the evening of 9th Mar Los Negros Island with its airfield was in Allied hands.

On 15 Mar the 2/7th and 2/8th Cav Regiments landed at Lugos, west of Lorengau, and commenced their march to Lorengau where the other airfield was situated. The Japanese resisted stubbornly and it was not until 18 Mar that Lorengau fell.

Fighting in the Admiralties was not over until 18 May as the Japanese resisted stubbornly in their retreat to the centre of the Island. The 1st Cav Div lost 326 KIA and 1,189 wounded during the operation and reported burying 3,280 and capturing 75 Japanese with an estimate that they Japanese had disposed of another 1,100 bodies. Japanese figures and the reasons behind their tactics were never known as no Japanese made it back to Rabaul.

Several battalions of Seabees and Army Engineer units built airfields and a naval base on Manus and Los Negros. Momote airstrip was 7,000 ft long by 18 May and 2 airstrips were built near



Loirengau. Two runaways were established on the outlying islands for carrier aircraft and Seeadler Harbour was developed into one of the largest naval bases in the Pacific, with repair facilities for all types of warships and transports. As planned the naval base served the US Third, Fifth and Seventh Fleets in later operations, and the airfields supported the drives along the New Guinea coast and through the Central Pacific.

Finale - Emirau

While the Admiralties invasion was in progress the Joint Chiefs again reviewed future plans in the Pacific. They decided at this stage to bypass Kavieng in favour of occupying Emirau Island, 100 miles northwest of Kavieng. Again, they chose not to directly invade a strongly held position, but to bypass and neutralise it.

On 20 Mar, while 4 old battleships fired 1,079 14 inch and 12,281 5 inch shells at Kavieng 4,000 Marines went ashore. The Island was not occupied by the Japanese. Within a month 18,000 men and 44,000 tons of supplies had been landed. When the first airstrip was opened Allied planes patrolled New Ireland. When a second bomber strip was opened long range bombers could reach Truk.

In less than a year MacArthur and Halsey's forces had fought their way from Buna and Guadalcanal through Woodlark, Kiriwina, Nassau Bay, New Georgia, Lae, Salamaua, Nadzab, Finschhafen, the Markham and Ramu Valleys, Empress Augusta bay, Aware, Cape Gloucester, Saidor, Green Island, the Admiralties and Emirau. By now they had control of both sea and air over Japanese Southeast Area. They had destroyed hundreds of Japanese aircraft, chewed up 3 Japanese Divisions and several Brigades, and safely bypassed over 100,000 Japanese who, for practical purposes, were now out of the war.

The way was now clear for MacArthur's forces to commence the drive along the New Guinea Coast to the Philippines.

Every invasion shared a dominant feature: in each case the range of the fighter plane was the vital factor in determining the objective.

Advances continued, again by bypassing heavily defended bases, to Aitape, Hollandia, Wadke, Biak, Noemfoor, Sansapoor and then on to Borneo and the Philippines.

If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER from diarrhoea..... does that mean that one out of five enjoys it?

THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY'S BIRTHDAY

With the coming of Federation on 1st January, 1901, the armies of the various Australian Colonies became one. However, the Commonwealth did not officially assume control of these forces until 1st March, hence the birth date of the Army some two months after Federation. The Australian Army was proclaimed as such under Section 69 of the Constitution. The new Army was made up of three different types of soldiers. There were 1,500 permanent soldiers, 18,000 militia and 9,000 volunteers, a total Army of 28,500. The actual term for the regular soldiers, the Australian Regular Army, was approved by the then Minister for the Army on 30th September, 1947.

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

Monument marking former site of Australian Military Cemetery at Aitape, PNG

A team of Australian Army personnel completed the exhuming of unrecovered war casualties at Vokau village in Aitape with



Major Hampson and Father Watae after the blessing ceremony.

the unveiling of a memorial in commemoration of those who had fallen on Friday 3rd August, 2018. The team led by case officer Major Barry Hampson have been working on this particular site since 2013 and they are departing with the remains of the final thirteen diggers. A total of 2,240 Australian war casualties from WWII are yet to be found across Papua New Guinea. This effort was supported by the PNG National Museum and the PNGDF personnel.

The following are words from the inscription on the monument "This place endures as an historic and sacred site of remembrance for those who lost their lives during WWII. The Australian Military Cemetery at Aitape was operational from November 1944 to October 1945. The cemetery held 118 burials of whom three were unidentified Australian soldiers. Some Australians buried here were exhumed from the American cemetery nearby. The normal Australian practice of reburial was for the remains to be wrapped in a shroud (blanket or cloth) bound in cord or cable and then buried in a marked and recorded grave. At each stage of exhumation and reinterment, the remains would have been completely packaged. The men buried here died in a variety of circumstances including the nearby battle of Matapau, the battle of But West (airfield) the battle of Torricelli Mountains, accidents, disease and injuries. The burials included 110 from the Australian Army, five from the Royal Australian Air Force and three unidentified Australian Servicemen. When the cemetery at Aitape was closed the remains were again exhumed and transported to be interned at Wewak. The Australian Wewak War Cemetery was closed in November 1946 and the remains



Gen Blamey, Lt Gen Berryman and Maj Gen Stevens at Aitape War Cemetery, 2nd March 1945.

were then moved to Lae War Cemetery for their final interment. This sign commemorates and recognizes the local people of the area for their efforts in maintaining this site." Mr. John Ainep CEO of Aitape Lumi District Authority sincerely thanked the families of the fallen soldiers for the ultimate sacrifice of their loved ones.

Journalist Judith Sirias story courtesy of Aust Dept of Defence.

You know you're old if they have discontinued your blood type.

CROWN SHYNESS

"Crown shyness" is a naturally occurring phenomenon in some tree species where the uppermost branches in a forest canopy avoid touching one another. The visual effect is striking as it creates clearly defined borders.



Duntroon Museum



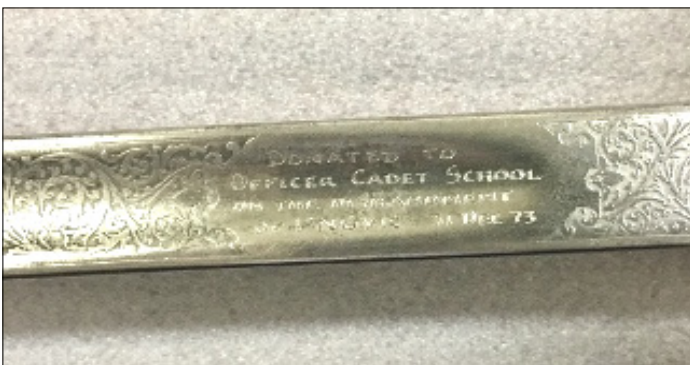
Phil and Paul

Paul Matrovich is employed by the Australian Army History Unit. The museum is to be established by December 2018. It received a grant of \$180,000 for state of art cabinets, purchase of memorabilia and interactive programmes. The photo atop of next column is the sword which was presented to the PNGVR University platoon, with inscriptions both sides for its history.

I presented on behalf of our Assn copies of PNGVR history, Keepers of the Gate and PNGAA's When War Came. In return for our museum, Paul presented a copy of Guarding the Periphery by Tristan Moss an AAH series book.

Interestingly, I was told Juniper Green uniforms are scarce.

Phil Ainsworth Oct 2018.



Dutch F - 16 flies into its own bullets, scores self - inflicted hits

The Netherlands' Defense Safety Inspection Agency (Inspectie Veiligheid Defensie) is investigating an incident during a January

military exercise in which a Dutch Air Force F - 16 was damaged by live fire from a 20 - millimeter cannon—its own 20 - millimeter cannon. At least one round fired from the aircraft's M61A1 Vulcan Gatling gun struck the aircraft as it fired at targets on the Dutch military's Vliehors range on the island of Vlieland, according to a report from the Netherlands' NOS news service.

Two F - 16s were conducting firing exercises on January 21. It appears that the damaged aircraft actually caught up with the 20mm rounds it fired as it pulled out of its firing run. At least one of them struck the side of the F - 16's fuselage, and parts of a round were ingested by the aircraft's engine. The F - 16's pilot managed to land the aircraft safely at Leeuwarden Air Base.

The incident reflects why guns on a high - performance jet are perhaps a less than ideal weapon. The Vulcan is capable of firing over 6,000 shots per minute, but its magazine carries only 511 rounds—just enough for five seconds of fury. The rounds have a muzzle velocity of 3,450 feet per second (1050 meters per second). That is speed boosted initially by the aircraft itself, but atmospheric drag slows the shells down eventually. And if a pilot accelerates and maneuvers in the wrong way after firing the cannon, the aircraft could be unexpectedly reunited with its recently departed rounds.

As Popular Mechanics' Kyle Mizokami reported in 2017, this is not the first time this sort of thing has happened. During flight testing in 1956, a Grumman F - 11 Tiger flying from Grumman's test facility in Riverhead, New York fired a burst from four 20mm cannon toward the Atlantic Ocean. The pilot then entered a steeper dive, kicked in the jet's afterburners, and went supersonic - when suddenly the windshield blew in and the engine failed. The pilot had caught up with the shells and in the process shot himself down.

Inspectie Veiligheid Defensie Inspector General Wim Bargerbos told NOS that this latest F - 16 incident is "a serious case...we therefore want to find out what happened and how we can prevent this in the future."



Meanwhile, the Dutch Air Force is in the process of replacing the F - 16 with the Lockheed F - 35A; eight are scheduled to be delivered in 2019. The F - 35A carries the four - barrel

General Dynamics GAU - 22 Equalizer, a 25mm cannon that carries a mere 182 rounds in its magazine—so about two seconds worth of shells. That might make for fewer opportunities for a self - kill.

Ars technica 10/4/2019.

I picked up a hitch hiker last night. He seemed surprised that I'd pick up a stranger and asked "Thanks! But why would you pick me up. How do you know I'm not a serial killer?" I told him that the odds of two serial killers being in the same car were astronomical.

Fr Urban (Danny) Reid OFM,DFC 1920 - 1993

At outbreak of World War II Daniel Reid applied for the Air Force & was sent to Canada for training & was then shipped to UK with his plane mid 1942 & began operations as a Spitfire pilot

with 453 Squadron. He flew in North West Africa, Algeria & Tunisia.

On 2 Mar 1945 Aircraft took off from forward airfields of the 2nd Tactical Air Force, RAF, for patrols over the front line, their task being to repel any raid by jet bombers. In the ensuing air combat both sides scored victories and suffered losses. Overall, the Allies fared better. 2 jet bombers were shot down by F/Lt Dennis J. 'Danny' Reid of 41 Sqn and F/Lt George W. Varley of 222 Sqn RAF. It was for the action on 2 March 1945 that Danny Reid was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).



Battle of Madang

The Battle of Madang, fought between early Feb and late April 1944, was the break - out and pursuit phase of the Markham and Ramu Valley – Finisterre Range and Huon Peninsula campaigns, which were part of the wider New Guinea campaign of World War II. After overcoming the Japanese defences around Shaggy Ridge, the Australian forces descended the steep slopes of the Finisterre Range and pursued the withdrawing Japanese towards Bogadjim and then Madang on the north coast of New Guinea. There they linked up with US and Australian forces that had advanced along the coast from the Huon Peninsula, while the remnants of three Japanese divisions withdrew towards Wewak, where further fighting would take place throughout late 1944 and into 1945.

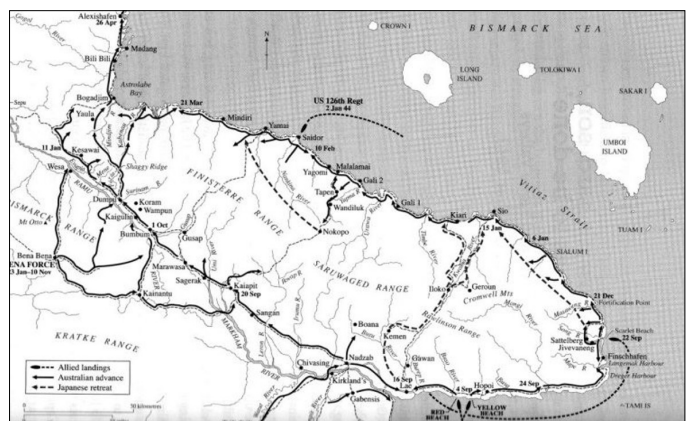
Geography

Madang offers a protected deep - water port open to communication through the Vitiav Strait and the Bismarck Sea. Pre-war population of the area was estimated at around 25,000 to 30,000 natives within the greater Madang area, with under 100 Asians and around 200 Europeans. The European population was largely evacuated from the town in late 1941 and early 1942.

The harbour is landlocked and is protected by Kranket Island. Bounded by the Adelbert Range to the east and Cape Barschtsch to the north, the town sits on a flat coastal strip that consists of some swampy areas, plantations and grassed areas. Further inland, the vegetation grows denser, although at the time of the battle it was passable, particularly on foot. The terrain is less rugged than the Finisterre Range to the south and there are no especially high features, although it is more difficult north of the Gogol River, which flows into Astrolabe Bay about halfway along the coast between Bogadjim and Madang.

Strategic situation

Madang was captured by the Japanese in early March 1942, along with Lae and Salamaua as part of operations to establish a key base at Rabaul. After this, the Japanese had worked to improve various means of communication around the area including roads, port facilities and airfields to utilise Madang's deep - water harbour as part of a forward base, which was established around Madang and Alexishafen, 8.25 miles (13.28



Arado 234 Jet Bomber

The Arado 234 was the world's first operational jet - powered bomber, built by the German Arado company in the closing stages of World War II.

Produced in limited numbers, it was used almost entirely in the reconnaissance role,

but in its few uses as a bomber it proved to be nearly impossible to intercept. It was the last Luftwaffe aircraft to fly over Britain during the war, in April 1945.

The original design was for a maximum speed of 780 km/h (480 mph) at 6,000 m (20,000 ft), an operating altitude of 11,000 m (36,000 ft) and a range of 1,995 km (1,240 mi). The normal bombload consisted of two 500 kg (1,100 lb) bombs suspended from the engines or one large 1,000 kg (2,200 lb) bomb semi - recessed in the underside of the fuselage with maximum bombload being 1,500 kg (3,310 lb). Overall from mid - 1944 until the end of the war a total of 210 aircraft were built. Most simply sat on the airfields awaiting fuel that never arrived. The AR234 became the Luftwaffe's second Jet Aircraft after the ME262 and it was the



Fr Urban 3rd from R ready to fly fellow Missionaries over the Torricelli Mountains to their Stations. Photo R. Parer

fastest plane on the planet, about 100mph (160km) faster than the Mustang P - 51 fighter. However, the Arado 234 (Lightning) came too late to be a "Wonder Weapon" in World War II.

After his RAF days during the war he became a lawyer in Melbourne then studied for the priesthood and went to Aitape in 1962 as a Franciscan Missionary to an isolated bush station Kafle near Nuku, inland from Aitape where he stayed for 6 years before going to Sissano. After nine years there the Bishop asked him to start flying again as he intended purchasing a 172 Cessna. So he did and Fr Urban was able to land on the small mission strips supplying the Mission Stations. He was never very happy flying the gutless 172 after flying Spitfires.

When basic roads eventually connected some of the Mission Stations Fr Urban' flying skills were no longer required & he went back to his Missionary work, He died of cancer in Melbourne's Repatriation Hospital in 1993 after being admitted to hospital whilst on leave from Aitape.

Sources Wikipedia, 12 O'Clock Hig

km) north, to support forces in the Salamaua–Lae area. In 1943–1944, Australian and US forces began offensive actions in New Guinea, having stemmed the tide of the Japanese advance during the fighting in 1942. In September 1943, the Allies had secured Lae and Nadzab. Shortly afterwards, the 9th Division had landed on the Huon Peninsula and had subsequently secured Finschhafen and began clearing inland. By Oct 1943, the next objective for the Australians was Shaggy Ridge, a series of high positions on the inland route from Dumpu to Madang, which was held by Japanese infantry, supported by artillery and engineers.

After the defeat of the Japanese in the Battle of Shaggy Ridge in late January 1944, the remnants of the Japanese 78th Infantry Regt, began a withdrawal from the Finisterre Range and was tasked with reorganising itself around Madang and carrying out delaying actions. Around the same time, Hidemitsu Nakano's 51st Div, began withdrawing west along the coast from the Finschhafen area, undertaking a difficult march to bypass Saidor following the landing there by US troops. These moves were part of a general withdrawal that would see the Japanese move beyond the Sepik River towards Aitape and Wewak, with one division ultimately being sent to Hollandia.

The withdrawal of Japanese troops towards Madang enabled the Australian Army forces to break through the Japanese positions in the Finisterre Mountains, which had been holding up their drive north. After a brief pause to bring up supplies, and to rotate troops as the Australian 11th Div under Major General Allan Boase replaced George Vasey's 7th Div, the Australians slowly advanced down the rugged, densely forested slopes of the Finisterres, pursuing the withdrawing Japanese towards Bogadjim on the northern coast, about 20 miles (32 km) away.

For the advance, two infantry battalions from the Australian 15th Infantry Brde – the 57th/60th and 58th/59th – were given the task of pushing forward from Kankiryo towards Madang via the Mindjim River, Astrolabe Bay and Bogadjim. The brigade's third infantry battalion, the 24th, was held back in reserve maintaining a defensive posture around Shaggy Ridge, while also pushing forward on the Australians' western flank along the Ramu River towards Kesawai and Koropa. In the final stages of the battle, Australian troops from the 8th Infantry Bde would be moved up the coast by sea from Saidor.

Battle

In the early stages of the pursuit, the Australians sent long - range patrols forward from the Finisterres, while two battalions from the US 32nd Infantry Div landed around the Yalau Plantation as US forces advanced east from Saidor. Throughout February and March, the Japanese 20th Div withdrew towards Madang, fighting a series of rearguard actions against the Australians that were advancing from Kankiryo. The going was tough for the troops of the Australian 15th Infantry Bde who advanced slowly towards Bogadjim.



Madang harbour, October 1945

The Japanese b e g a n strengthening their defences around Bogadjim at this time, constructing a series of outposts in a 5 - mile (8.0 km) radius to the south of the town; nevertheless, Australian patrols were able to bypass these and



Troops from the Australian 8th Infantry Brigade land at Madang, 24 April 1944

penetrate towards Erima Plantation where intelligence received from locals indicated large concentrations of Japanese forces.

After taking over the western drive up the Ramu River from the 24th Infantry Bn, the 2/2nd Commando Sqn advanced from Kesawai and then to Orgoruna, linking up

with the 57th/60th Infantry Bn around Yaula on 4 April. Advancing along a motor road that had been laid by the Japanese, the Australians moved along an axis bounded by the Nuru River and Kabenau River. The withdrawing Japanese offered stiff resistance, but continued to withdraw, allowing the Australians to link up with US forces around Rimba. Bogadjim was eventually reached on 13 April. The 57th/60th and 58th/59th Infantry Bns continued to patrol heavily across a wide area around the Bogadjim Road, and they subsequently joined up with US troops around Sungum. The Japanese had re - orientated themselves into positions at various locations including Alibu, Rereo, Wenga, Redu and Kaliko. During this time, a number of small unit actions were undertaken as the Japanese attempted to ambush the Australians while the Australians in turn sought to infiltrate the Japanese positions. On 22 April, large amounts of Japanese supplies were found abandoned by a patrol from the 57th/60th as it became clear that the Japanese were withdrawing from the area in a hasty fashion.

At this point, the Australian command determined the need for a rotation of forces. When the commander of the 15th Infantry Bde, Brigadier Heathcote Hammer learnt that his brigade was to be relieved by Brigadier Claude Cameron's 8th Infantry Bde, he endeavoured to push towards Madang with all haste, in an effort to secure it before the prize went to Maj Gen Alan Ramsay's 5th Div. On 24 April, the 57th/60th Infantry Bn was ordered to cross the treacherous Gogol River, a fast - flowing torrent of water teeming with crocodiles. The 57th/60th attempted to outflank the Gogol River, sending a patrol to link up with two US Navy patrol boats. However, they were thwarted in their attempt to reach Madang first when troops from the 8th Infantry Bde, operating from US landing craft, came ashore around Ort, about 6.5 kilometres (4.0 mi) south of Madang, effecting a linkup between the 11th and 5th Divs.

Madang was subsequently taken on 24–25 April by troops from the 8th and 15th Infantry Bdes, with the 30th Infantry Bn leading the way towards the airfield, advancing along the northern part of Astrolabe Bay to secure Madang, which offered the Allies the use



630,000 Aircraft 1939-1945. One every 5 minutes for 6 years. War History Online.

of a deep - water harbour, while a platoon from the 57th/60th entered the town. Resistance in the town was almost non - existent. Shortly afterwards, the 8th Infantry Bde's headquarters

entered Madang Harbour aboard several landing craft, escorted by the destroyer *Vendetta* and the corvette *Bundaberg*.

The following day was Anzac Day, which saw the Australians consolidate their position around Madang. A follow up landing was made by the 37th/52nd Infantry Bn on Karkar Island. Meanwhile, the 35th Infantry Bn secured a large quantity of abandoned Japanese stores at Hansa Bay, and pushed patrols towards the Sepik River. The 30th pushed on to the deep - water port of Alexishafen the following day, suffering several casualties from improvised explosive devices that were planted along the road by the withdrawing Japanese. In addition, large quantities of Japanese supplies were also discovered.

Aftermath

With the capture of Madang, the Allies finally effectively secured the Huon Peninsula, bringing both the Huon Peninsula and Markham Valley campaigns to a close. For the Australians, the advance through the Markham, Ramu and Faria Valleys proved to be a hard slog. Casualties for the 7th Div between 18 Sept 1943 and 8 April 1944 amounted to 204 killed and 464 wounded. Disease took an even greater toll with 13,576 personnel being evacuated. Despite these losses, the campaign was, in the words of historian Eustace Keogh, "an impressive performance, characterised by energy, determination and sound planning". Fought with limited resources, it nevertheless demonstrated the advances that the Australian Army had made tactically and operationally since the fighting around Kokoda and Buna-Gona in 1942 and early 1943. Japanese estimates of their own casualties indicate losses of 800 killed, 400 wounded and 800 dead from disease.

In the aftermath of the campaign the Australian 5th Div was tasked with providing a garrison force for the north - east coast of New Guinea, patrolling the area around Madang, which would be built up as a base with the intention of being able to supply 35,000 troops for subsequent operations. Meanwhile, the bulk of the Australian first line combat troops were withdrawn to

to secure the airfield and then clear the Japanese from the inland areas, patrolling through the Torricelli and Prince Alexander mountain ranges until the end of the war in Aug 1945. Meanwhile, troops from the 8th Infantry Brigade remained in the Madang area until the end of the war.

After the war, the Australian Army issued a battle honour for "Madang" to the 30th Infantry Battalion for its advance along the northern part of Astrolabe Bay and its subsequent capture of Madang. It was the only unit to receive that honour.

Source. Wikipedia. Battle of Madang.

It had been snowing all night - So

8:00 am I made a snowman.

8:10 A feminist passed by and asked me why I didn't make a snow woman.

8:15 So, I made a snow woman.

8:17 My feminist neighbour complained about the snow woman's voluptuous chest saying it objectified snow women everywhere.

8:20 The gay couple living nearby threw a hissy fit and moaned it could have been two snow men instead.

8:22 The transgender ma..wom...person asked why I didn't just make one snow person with detachable parts.

8:25 The vegans at the end of the lane complained about the carrot nose, as veggies are food and not to decorate snow figures with.

8:28 I am being called a racist because the snow couple is white.

8:31 The Muslim gent across the road demands the snow woman wear a burqa.

8:40 The Police arrive saying someone has been offended

8:42 The feminist neighbour complained again that the broomstick of the snow woman needs to be removed because it depicted women in a domestic role.

8:43 The council equality officer arrived and threatened me with eviction.

8:45 TV news crew from the ABC shows up. I am asked if I know the difference between snowmen and snow-women? I reply, "Snowballs" and am now called a sexist.

9:00 I'm on the News as a suspected terrorist, racist, homophobe sensibility offender, bent on stirring up trouble during difficult weather.

9:10 I am asked if I have any accomplices. My children are taken by social services.

9:29 Far left protesters offended by everything are marching down the street demanding for me to be beheaded.

Moral: There is no moral to this story — It's just the world in which we live today and it is going to get worse.

Aussie soldiers on jungle training in Malaysia

A Joint Task Force consisting of four ships, maritime patrol aircraft and more than 1,200 personnel from the Australian Defence Force are currently deployed on Indo - Pacific Endeavour 2019, a series of key engagement activities with Australia's regional neighbours.

Running from March to May, IDE19 is geared towards enhancing interoperability with Australia's key regional partners, including Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and Indonesia.

In the third iteration of the activity, Indo - Pacific Endeavour 2019 is a key part of Australia's ongoing efforts to re - affirm positive relationships with other militaries through joint practical activities.



The memorial to the 30th Bn, 8th and 15th Infantry Brigades, Anzac Day, Madang, 1960.

Photo Bob Collins

Australia for rest and re - organisation. The commitment of US troops from the 32nd Div to the fighting around Saidor – coupled with the dispatch of the US 41st Div to the Salamaua campaign earlier in 1943 – represented a shift in the Allied strategy of giving the Australians autonomy of operations in New Guinea and from early 1944 until the end of the war, the US Army would assume primary responsibility for offensive operations in the Pacific.

The Japanese 18th Army was subsequently ordered to withdraw to Wewak in late March; as the 51st Div withdrew to the Wewak area, the 20th Div held Hansa Bay, and the 41st Div carried out rearguard operations around Madang throughout April. Severely depleted, in all, the three divisions only fielded about 20,000 troops. In late 1944, US troops carried out a landing at Aitape and began operations to isolate the Japanese garrison there as part of the Western New Guinea campaign, later clashing around the Driniumor River. They were subsequently relieved in late 1944 by Australian troops from the 6th Div, which launched the Aitape–Wewak campaign, fighting



HMAS *Canberra*, a Canberra - class Landing Helicopter Dock ship, is the flagship of the joint taskforce, able to project embarked personnel, vehicles and helicopters ashore, while providing an effective hub for

control of a variety of military tasks.

HMAS *Canberra* is accompanied in the Joint Task Force by HMA Ships *Success*, *Newcastle* and *Parramatta*, and embarked MH - 60R maritime combat helicopters and MRH - 90 maritime support helicopters.

A Royal Australian Air Force P8 - A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft also joined the Joint Task Force during several key visits.

Indo - Pacific Endeavour 2019 also involves personnel from the Australian Army's 2RAR and 3RAR, the Australian Army Band, the Royal Australian Air Force and Defence civilians.

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Australian Matilda Tank and Japanese gun near Tenkoriko, Bougainville, 1985. Photo Steve Cottingham.

NGVR Navy (also known as the Harris Navy)

There is no record of the War Cabinet or Chief of Staff formulating a plan or making any effort to rescue the soldiers whom they deployed and the civilians they abandoned in Rabaul and New Guinea Islands. The soldiers and civilians who escaped owed their lives to civilians and serving men in NGVR, ANGAU and the RAN who took the initiative, accepted the risks and went to the aid of friends in need.

Nothing had been heard from Rabaul or NG islands since the Japanese invasion. Without obtaining approval from higher authority and relying on his friendship, Eric Feldt, the Commander of the Coastwatchers contacted District Officer Talasea, Keith McCarthy on the Coastwatchers frequency and asked him to find out what was happening in Rabaul. McCarthy with the support of his loyal police went to the Gazelle Peninsula and within a week he knew he was the only effective person with the power and authority of doing what had to be done. McCarthy told Feldt he needed coastal vessels and authority over soldiers regardless of rank.

ANGAU had been formed and former District Officer GWL

Townsend was its CO in the New Guinea mainland. Townsend and H Niall and KC McMullan, ex - NGVR men, and who held authority in Wau and Bulolo called for volunteers from NGVR, the only Australian armed force north of the Owen Stanley Range, to man the small coastal vessels. The response was immediate, and crews were formed. The main problem was to assemble the small boats. The OC NGVR Lae instructed Jack Goad NGVR to accompany Patrol Officer Harris to Finschhafen to obtain Lutheran Missionary boats and enlist their expatriate crews into NGVR, which they did.

On 18 February, 3 weeks after the Japanese invasion of Rabaul, six boats had been assembled - the three from Lae headed for the north coast of New Britain, the others were held in reserve. On board were 22 soldiers from NGVR of which 9 were on the forward rescue boats. Additionally, each of the boats carried their usual New Guinean boat crew who had volunteered for this hazardous journey,

The rescue operation ended on 20 March with 214 soldiers and civilians embarked on the MV *Lakatoi*, destination Cairns, Australia. By this time the Japanese had occupied Lae, Salamaua and Finschhafen so it was Pt Moresby or Cairns. The *Lakatoi* reached Cairns on 20 March. The rescue from the southern coast of New Britain is another story. Overall, over 400 soldiers and civilians were rescued in these operations, 400 of about 1,800 Australian men, men who had been called "Hostages of Fortune" by the Australian Government.

Phillip Ainsworth



PEOPLE OF NEW GUINEA Government Announcement

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

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

Nameless Warriors: The Ben Moide Story

Lahui Ako

University of Papua New Guinea Press, Port Moresby, 2012
Hard cover, 246 pp, index, photos in colour and B & W
ISBN 9789980869579

The stated purpose of this book, according to Lahui Ako, was to record publicly, for the people of Papua New Guinea, the "quality,

sacrifice, suffering and courage” displayed by their countrymen during the Second World War. The author aimed to retell the War experiences of Benjamin Steven Moide and some of his Papuan Infantry Battalion mates - as the soldiers saw them. The book offers a rare collection of War experiences in PNG from the indigenous soldier perspective. The bulk of the text came from interviews of Ben Moide recorded during 2008 - 2011 in Motu. Later, the interview transcripts were translated into English by the author’s father, a retired PNGDF Chaplain.

In his foreword to the book, former PNGDF Commander, Peter Ilau, notes that Ben Moide “tells the story as he saw it and remembered”. Given that 65 years had passed since Moide’s War experiences, some readers may doubt the accuracy of his memory, particularly those second - hand experiences conveyed to Moide by his PIB mates. On the other hand, readers who have been to war, or have read considerable military history, will understand that key war experiences are retained in the long - term memory and can usually be readily recalled. Some details recalled, however, may be faulty and, therefore, some details of some War incidents in this book may also be inaccurate or simply inconsistent with European records. European records proved inadequate in listing the names of six PIB soldiers killed during the Kokoda Campaign – those indigenous soldiers were also “nameless”.

The author has consulted a number of sources on the battles in which the PIB participated, as listed in the book’s bibliography. I was surprised that the official Australian history by Dudley McCarthy was not shown there and that more use was not made of the reputable works by Hank Nelson, a highly - experienced historian on PNG. The reader is provided with the wider context in which the PIB fought, even if that context interrupts the flow of the narrative. Readers learn directly about the Japanese commanders (chiefly from Paul Ham’s book) and, to a lesser extent, about the Japanese soldiers (chiefly from Moide’s recall). They also learn indirectly about the Australian officers and instructors. This latter aspect is important for readers, as Peter Ilau mentions in his foreword. Ilau notes that the text offers a “different observation” on the “unique” relationship which developed between indigenous soldiers and their Australian leaders, creating “probably the glue which keeps the two nations and their people together.”

Ben Moide was the chief source for the book which begins one year prior to Moide enlisting in the PIB – despite being under - age and despite his mother’s wishes. Early chapters describe Moide’s Australian Army training and duties around Port Moresby, his promotions in spite of his low status in Papuan eyes, and his preparation to fight an unknown “enemy”. The middle chapters detail the early Kokoda Campaign begun by the PIB on 23 July 1942; the fighting by Maroubra Force at Kokoda, Deniki and Isurava; and the PIB’s additional Army role of supervising the evacuation of wounded soldiers from Isurava. Later chapters cover Moide and PIB patrols in the then Northern District in early 1943, Moide on leave in his father’s village for his tribal initiation, and Moide on PIB operations at Finschhafen, Sattelberg and Scarlet Beach. Moide continued on PIB patrols in early 1944 around the Song River before the PIB was rested at

their Bisiatabu headquarters and Moide’s role changed to training the new recruits needed to build up Battalion numbers.

The book’s final chapter deals with Moide’s discharge, dislocation and the disgruntlement felt by discharged PIB soldiers. Readers will empathise with the disillusion and dissatisfaction experienced by these former Australian Army soldiers who were abruptly discharged without sufficient Government support. Moide had to use his extended family and his military skills to survive in the new Hanuabada village, to select a wife against tribal resistance, and to gradually find paid work. Over time, Moide exercised his leadership skills in the developing Rugby League organisation and in the PNG RSL. The government of PNG later awarded Moide several honours including the C.B.E. and the Distinguished Military Service Medal.

As Lahui Ako was completing his text for publication, his grandfather Ben Moide was already 86 years old, an advanced age for a PNG Veteran in a tough society. (Moide only lived about 18 months after this book’s publication.) The need to publish without delay probably caused a few technical issues within the text. The publisher did not pay sufficient attention to copy editing so there are some grammar and spelling problems. These, and several minor Kokoda Campaign errors, could easily be addressed if a second edition were published. Readers, other than the intended audience in PNG, would also have benefited from the inclusion of a map of the War - time Northern District where Moide patrolled. However, credit needs to be given to the publisher for including colour photos of Moide taken in 2012 with his family and friends; these complement the book’s War - time PIB photos in black and white.

This is a landmark tribute to brave, if generally unknown, warriors especially Ben Moide who earned the respect of fellow Servicemen, of his family and of his society. While Ben’s name was not used or deemed irrelevant to some of his War - time commanders, it became very well known in the PNG capital during his later years leading finally to a State Funeral. (The book has sold out but may be available from public libraries.)

Gregory J. Ivey

Ben also later served as a Private in PNGVR, although apparently over age at the time of his enlistment.



New Mortar

M777A2 howitzers won’t be the only indirect - fire option on artillery control systems with the coming introduction of new mortar computers, putting 81mm bombs into the joint - fires network. Old M32 handheld mortar computers will be replaced with a new A1 variant that can receive calls - for - fire from gunners’ Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems and the Digital Terminal Control System used by joint fires observers (JFO) and joint terminal attack controllers (JTAC).

Lt - Col Michael Chapman, Acting Program Director – Indirect Fire Support, said the M32 had nearly become obsolete. “We



Before
Workplac
e Health &
Safety.
Painting a
US
Warship
1930’s

didn't have many spares left and they were in need of an overall replacement," he said. "M32A1 possess all of the same functions, but it also allows receipt of digital messages. "A battalion can still conduct independent operations with its organic mortar support and mobile fire controllers, but in a brigade setting, the mortar platoon can be networked with the rest of the fire support. "A JTAC, MFC or JFO will be able to use whatever indirect weapons are within range of a target – whether the mortars or 155s – and the system will pick the right unit for the fire mission."



New mortars are also on the way with the acquisition of the American made M252A1. The new tube is 2.1kg lighter, but fires the same 81mm bomb as the old F1 mortar. "There was nothing wrong with the F1, they're still working just fine, but there's a focus on reducing the weight burden," Lt - Col Chapman said. "Army was looking at all the options to reduce weight for dismounted combatants. "The tube is very similar; the main difference is the design of the bipod, gone from a K - frame to an A - frame, saving 2.6kg. "The base plate also looks similar, but it's about 1.2kg lighter, all up saving just under 6kg." It features similar procedures as the current mortar, making conversion training relatively straightforward, according to Lt - Col Chapman.



Courses for unit instructors were completed in March at the School of Artillery, allowing recipient units to begin training soldiers on the new mortars when they arrive. The new system was acquired under Land 136 Phase 1 and will be delivered to infantry, special forces and reserve artillery units. The new computers have arrived in Australia with rollout expected to begin from July. The first batch of mortars have also arrived and are expected to be delivered to designated units in the second half of 2019, enabling initial operational capability to be declared by the end of the year. Final operational capability is expected to be achieved by the end of 2020. The project has also delivered three mortar simulation systems integrated into WTSS facilities at Irwin, Robertson and Holsworthy Barracks, allowing soldiers to practise drills in observing fires and operating the mortars.

Army News 1445

Every woman's dream is that a man will take her in his arms,
throw her into bed...
And clean the whole house while she sleeps.

PNGDF Pipe Band in Scotland

Piper and Drummers of Papua New Guinea Defence Force pass off the square at Piping School. At a recent parade at the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming (ASBM&HD) drum majors, pipers, and drummers passed off the square at adjacent Redford Infantry Barracks, Edinburgh, in front of family and friends. The soldiers have been at the Piping School to study either level 2 or level 3 stages of the piping and drumming courses.

In a break from the usual British Army musicians on parade three members of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force also went through their exam stages, and piper Private Megaiya Keyaga was also voted best piper on the course – a very distinct honour.

Private Mayaga said: "I have had a great time at the Piping School, and it was a very great honour to be awarded the best piper trophy, particularly as the voting was done by the piping instructors here at the school." Drum Major (WO2) Billy Vele



gained certificates in drumming and drum majoring, with Private Tom Epo also gaining his drumming certificate.

The trio were cheered on by Mr Nasser Tamei, First Secretary at the Papua New Guinea High Commission, who made the journey from London to attend the event.

ASBM&HD offers courses in piping and drumming at all levels for members of any Regular Regiment in the Army that has pipes and drums. Additionally, the school provide support to community engagement and recruiting events, as well as monitoring the standards of each unit's pipes and drums.

Co - ordination of all joint events involving pipes and drums, such as The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, is also undertaken by ASBM&HD.

Army tests autonomous legged robot

The Australian Army is spending millions to develop and test a range of unmanned ground vehicles – some of which walk on four legs instead of getting about on wheels or tracks.

During a demonstration of autonomous ground systems at the Majura Training Area, ACT, on Thursday 31 October 2019, senior military and government leaders and VIPs witnessed a range of vehicles and robots in action.

Two autonomous Australian Army M113 AS4 armoured personnel carriers conducted fire - and - manoeuvre demonstrations alongside a range of drones and ground robots, as well as manned vehicles.



The demonstration was designed to showcase the potential for robotic and autonomous systems to enhance Army's capabilities on operations.

Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price said autonomous capability was a key priority for Defence because of its important safety and efficiency benefits.

"Autonomous vehicles help keep troops a safe distance from harm and present solutions to a range of problems faced by our military personnel in the field," Minister Price said.

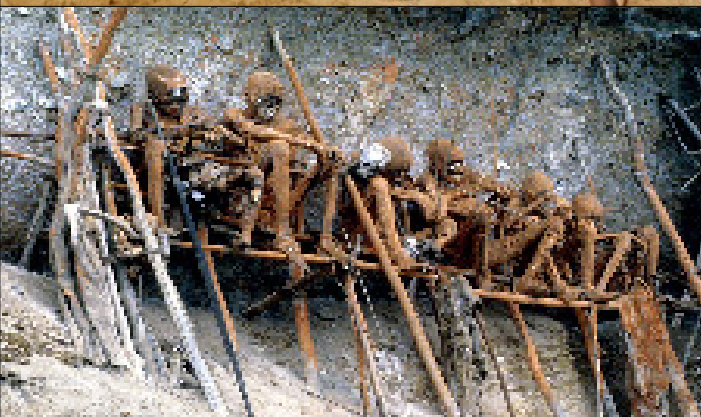
A Ghost Robotics unmanned ground 'vehicle' was among those seen supporting Australian Army soldiers clearing an 'enemy' position during the field demonstration.

With perhaps ungainly yet surprisingly capable animal - like manoeuvrability, the four - legged robot is currently un - armed – but it doesn't take much to imagine later iterations brandishing a suite of sensors, tools or even weapons.

Contact Newsletter 98



Anthony McGrath (R), son of Assn member John McGrath, just before the last flight of an F111. Anthony was the 2nd last to land and last to shut down. His CO was the last to land. Anthony is now at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, USA, instructing on the "Growler", the latest version of the Super Hornet.



For hundreds of years, the Anga tribe in the remote, mountainous region of Papua New Guinea's Morobe province has been practicing the ritual preservation of their dead with fire and clay. The first step in the mummification process, which the Anga call "smoked body," is to cut open the body to drain the fluids, which is used to coat the hair and skin of relatives, as well as for cooking oil. The corpse's orifices are then sewn shut, a process which helps preserve the internal organs and, in turn, prevent decomposition beginning in the stomach. The tongue, heels and palms are cut off for the surviving spouse. The clay-coated body is then smoke cured in a hut for over a month, slowly coaxing out bodily fluids to dry the remains and kill bacteria that causes decay. The bodies are displayed on a cliffside overlooking their people in the village of koke. The Anga believe if they can still see the face of the deceased, then their spirits are still with them. When the remains begin to deteriorate, family members will bring them back down to the village for restoration.

National Geographic June 2014.

Exercise "Steele Tuff 2019"

9 RQR held Exercise "Steele Tuff 2019" at Greenbank training area on 22/23 Nov in extremely hot and dry conditions. Our Patron Maj Gen John Pearn AO RFD, Peter Rogers DFC, Paul Brown and Bob Collins attended and Peter and Bob were accommodated overnight at BHQ training area.

There were 6 Sections competing and the exercises consisted of Section Tactics, live firing on a number of different ranges, a tactical load carrying exercise and a first aid and evacuation exercise based on an IED explosion. It was interesting to see the new live firing ranges which are fully automated and now



Treating the victims of the IED blast.



Paul Brown, Bob Collins, Maj Gen Pearn and Peter Rogers with the winning section after the presentation



Congratulations Ken Connolly Aged 92 24 Jun 2019.

contain moving targets as well as the usual standing targets. It is possible for targets to be simultaneously on the 100, 200, 300 metre ranges at the same time.

The winning Section was from A Coy, Caboolture and the presentation was made by Maj Gen Pearn. The venue for the presentation was in a bush clearing dining night venue with 9RQR Colours on a stand behind the Head Table, a raised stand for presentations between the Head Table and 4 long tables set out for the assembled gathering.

A generator set well back from the clearing provided lighting, although there were a couple of dim times. Porta-loos had been set up and the overall scenario was extremely pleasant.

9 RQR catering staff provided a three course meal with a choice of Steak or Chicken for the main course.

In addition to the "Steele Tuff" presentation, which was the first one, there were other end of year presentations made by 9RQR for best soldier, best NCO, best CSM, best shot etc, as well as a number of farewells and promotions, and the usual toasts.

Overall it was an outstanding contest for the medallions for "Steele Tuff" as well as a magnificent field dinner which had taken a lot of thought and effort to set up.

More photos on the Web site.

Programmed for the future

While it is not unusual to see two M113AS4 APCs firing and manoeuvring, it might warrant a second look when you notice the vehicles are uncrewed – as was the case at the optionally crewed combat vehicles (OCCVs) demonstration at the Majura Training Area, ACT.



In partnership with BAE Systems Australia, two APCs were converted to OCCVs, while UAS and quadruped robots demonstrated a potential future to the CA's Senior Advisory Committee on October 31.

SO1 Robotic and Autonomous Systems (RAS) Lt - Col Robin Smith said optional crewing meant a driver could be in the vehicle for normal operations but could be removed for dangerous or exploratory tasks.

"It seeks to lighten the load on the soldier from a physical and cognitive perspective, provide us with a more efficient supply chain, in medical care and the maintenance of equipment, offer the opportunity to generate mass, provide greater force protection and improve our decision - making," Lt - Col Smith said. "We are using M113s because we have them in service and we understand them really well. "They are a great candidate platform for experimenting with and informing our future requirements."

Director - General Future Land Warfare Col Simeon Ward said the demonstration showed the innovative methods through which current technology could be enhanced with new technology.

"Army is an agile force," Col Ward said. "We are looking to the potential for disruptive technology such as RAS, artificial intelligence and robotics to play an increasingly important role into the future and offer an opportunity to be more effective on the battlefield.

Army and BAE will continue trials of the OCCV APCs with a number of units, training soldiers in their operating systems. The OCCV is also available for trials under the Trusted Autonomous Systems Defence Cooperative Research Centre in Brisbane.

Army Newspaper 1454

Australian Operational Service Medal

The Australian Operational Service Medal is a campaign medal established on 22 May 2012 to recognise service by Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel on designated hazardous operations. It may also be awarded to civilians who

serve alongside the ADF on designated operations under specific conditions.

It replaces the Australian Active Service Medal and Australian Service Medal for future ADF operations. The medal is issued to military personnel with a different ribbon for each designated operation. When issued to civilians, a standard ribbon is issued with clasps issued for each designated operation.

Military version

The ADF version of the medal has a standard medal design, but the ribbons vary by operation. An accumulated service device will be awarded for subsequent qualifying service by ADF members where they undertake further service on an operation for which they have already been awarded the Australian Operational Service Medal.

Ribbons

To date, two ribbons for ADF service have been announced:

The Border Protection ribbon has three equal stripes of dark blue, ochre and dark green which denote the seas and sky, the deserts, and the forests and grasslands.



The Greater Middle East Operation ribbon has three equal stripes of mid green, black and light blue, edged by two slim stripes of light sand. Sand represents the desert sands, green represents Australia and hope, black represents anti - piracy, and blue represents the maritime and air aspects.



The Special Operations ribbon is 32 mm wide in black with a central stripe of red. Additional accumulated service is denoted by an 8 mm high Arabic numeral with an antique silver finish.

Civilian version

Civilians who serve alongside the ADF and are subject to the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982 may be awarded a civilian variant of the medal. The civilian version will use the same medal design as the ADF version, but is awarded with a standard civilian ribbon and a clasp denoting the declared operation. Subsequent



qualifying service for civilians is denoted by clasps.

The Civilian ribbon is green with central stripes of gold and purple. The purple represents Defence, and the green and gold are Australia's national colours.

Source Wikipedia.



1st Bn 1PIR (Pacific Islands Regiment)

Over the weekend on Saturday 7th of December 2019, the Initial Employment Training (IET) for the 80 new soldiers who joined the Unit ended with a pack march from Goldie River Training Depot to Taurama Barracks. The 10 - 12 weeks training ended with the completion of the Stability, Defensive, Offensive training and the Range practice at Goldie River Training Area.

The training was facilitated by the unit which qualified the new soldiers to be employed as riflemen in the Infantry Battalion. It enhanced their basic skills of soldiering to the unit's standard and operational requirements.

The Soldiers set off at Goldie around 12:00 midnight and reached Taurama Barracks at 05:45 am. They were welcomed by the Unit's Pipes and Drums Band at the Taurama Barracks gate.

NAASQ Xmas Function

Colin Gould, Paul Brown and I attended, with about another 50 ex - national servicemen and their partners, the delightful NSAAQ Christmas luncheon held in Everyman's hut, Wacol on Sunday 15 December.

After a talk by the NSAAQ National President Earl Jennings, Queensland President Alex Garlin asked me to talk, which I did, briefly about NGVR, its wartime activities, PNGVR and the success of our partnership with NSAAQ concerning the Wacol Military Precinct and mutual support.

I believe this was well received.

Phil Ainsworth.



Colin Gould and Paul Brown at the NAASQ Xmas function.

**VALE. Allan David TRONSON.
Pte 151752 - 159808. 24/3/1926—26/8/2019**

Allan grew up in Ipswich, Qld, and was given an academic scholarship to Ipswich Grammar School. His ancestry was Norwegian and French.



Allan in Madang, 1972

In 1944 at the age of 18 Allan joined the Royal Australian Air Force and was stationed in Manus Island in PNG, his primary role being a radar operator. After the war he worked with the Commonwealth Government in Melbourne and in 1955 he moved back to PNG and worked as an inspector for the PNG Local Government.

He joined PNGVR in May 1955, was allocated to HQ Coy, and discharged in May 1959.

Allan moved to Goroka and it was while he was there that he met his future wife Hiroko through an introduction from a friend who had a Japanese wife. They were married in January 1973 in a Japanese traditional ceremony at a Shrine in Toyonaka, Japan.

After independence they moved to Ipswich where their son Tomoya was born. Allan worked in Brisbane. Hiroko started working as a Japanese's tour guide and interpreter for a Japanese's tour company and eventually started working at Quilpie Opals due to the influx of Japanese's tourists.

Allan was 93 years old on his death.

LEST WE FORGET.



Allan, Hiroko, Tomoya, 2017



Pte John Lewis NX140616
Aged 18, 1942

**VALE. Jack (John) Israel LEWIS.
Sgt. N218724 NX 140616
2/122024**

John died on 3 Nov 2019 aged 95.

He Served in the Militia 16 Oct 1941 to 18 Dec 1942 then, after he turned 18, in the AIF 19 Dec 1942 to 31 Jan 1946.

He served in 13 Coy AASC 1 Aust Div, 28 Inf Bde Tpt Co and in 1943 was attached to 18 Aust Bde Tpt Coy. In Nov 1943 he embarked on the



Duntroon for Buna, New Guinea, and transferred to AAMC on 5 Jan 1944.

After leave in Australia he was transferred to 2/1 AMCU (Anti Malaria Unit) and sent to Bougainville.

After the war he returned to PNG in 1952 and worked as Manager for Kriewaldt's store then in the District Commissioner's Office and then moved into the RPNGC. At the time of PNG Independence John was Chief Clerk, Papua Division, stationed at Boroko Police Station.

During his time in the training of the RPNGC Reserve he was given Service Number 1. The first 46 Reserve Constables marched out on 26 Oct 1968 at Ela Beach in front of Administrator D.O. Hay and Parade Commander Sub Inspector Ild Evans.

He joined HQ Coy PNGVR and at one of the annual Goldie River Camps was Hygiene Sgt and lectured on avoiding scrub typhus from the local mites. This was done by smearing the anti - mite lotion on the seams, waist bands and cuffs of trousers and shirts. John demonstrated this to each of the Platoons in the Battalion over the course of a couple of days. He used his own greens as demo garments and ended up being hospitalised with severe chemical dermatitis.

John retired to Hervey Bay in the early 1970's and was heavily involved with the local RSL, TPI and Probus. John had a varied and interesting life.

His awards are: 1939/45 Star, Pacific Star, War Medal, Aust Service Medal 1939 - 45, Aust Service Medal 1945 - 75 (PNG Clasp), Aust Defence Medal and Police Overseas Service Medal (PNG Clasp).

LEST WE FORGET.



Told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.



Thanks to the efforts of Website Master, Trevor Connell, our website is averaging over 40 visits weekly, with an average viewing of 5 pages each visit. Trevor is still looking for someone to learn how to operate the website. It would not take up much time but the need to have someone as a backup is very important. If interested contact Trevor—details above right. If you have photos etc for the Website please forward to Bob Collins.

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 15% Discount for all PNGVR members

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

Includes former members of the PIR, PIB and NGIB.

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

For Military Museum enquires contact Paul Brown, Curator, email paulbrown475@gmail.com . Phone 0402 644 181 **or** Colin Gould, Assistant Curator, email pngvr@optusnet.com.au , phone 0424 562 030

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

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

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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)

Chaplain. Rev Ron MacDonald. Phone 0407 008 624 email ron.macdonald@aue.salvationarmy.org

FUNCTION DATES

Sat 1 Feb. Sat 7 Mar. Sat 4 Apr.

Museum open 10am—1pm.
 Members and visitors welcome.
 Come along and have a cuppa.

Sat 15 Feb

First Committee Meeting of the year. Members always welcome.

Sat 18 April

Committee Meeting

Sat 25 April

Anzac Day.
 Those requiring Jeep transport advise Secretary Colin Gould early or you may miss out.