



# Harim Tok Tok

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Here is your last issue of Harim Tok Tok for 2020, another interesting read with the usual variety of stories. This Christmas issue has a present for you, an additional 4 pages of reading.

The Lord Mayor of Brisbane Adrian Schinner, Councillor for Jamboree Ward Sarah Hutton and Councillor for Calamvale Ward and Patron of the NSAAQ Angela Owen visited the Wacol Military Heritage Precinct and inspected all facilities including our Museum on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. Councillor Hutton represents our Ward where the Museum is located. The visit was the result of representations to have tenure transferred to the stakeholders of the precinct including us as speedily as possible.

The Lord Mayor and Councillor Sarah Hutton had not previously visited the precinct. All were impressed with the facilities with an assurance that the leasing process would occur rapidly once the area is appropriately zoned to allow security fencing

around a public area. The Lord Mayor was particularly impressed with our Museum and said he would be returning one Saturday morning with his family to inspect the displays more thoroughly.

A successful AGM was held 24<sup>th</sup> October at the Museum with 16 members and friends in attendance. Attendance was affected by the Coronavirus restrictions. A delightful BBQ arranged by young Peter Rogers followed. The proceedings of the AGM are fully reported including the Presidents Annual Report on pages 15 to 17.

Sadly, I advise that Lt Ivan Edward Old 252834 died in October aged 92, his vale is on page 19.

Although not a member, I report the death of Norm Furness OAM VX23557 on 1 September aged 98. Norm was thought to be the last living 2/22 Battalion survivor of the Japanese invasion of Rabaul on 23 January 1942. Norm was well known for his continuing fight for recognition of those lost from Lark Force and for his support to the wives and sib-

lings of the men who died during the invasion and its aftermath.

Incidentally, another survivor from Lark Force, Mr Barry Cain VX30679, a former member of 17<sup>th</sup> Anti-tank which was deployed on the left flank of NGVR at the junction of Malaguna and Burma Roads, Rabaul when the Japanese invaded on the 23 January 1942, has surfaced. He celebrated his centenary earlier this year.

Maintaining a connection with our members is a primary task of the committee. Please advise the Secretary or any committee member if you change your contact details. There are times when we are unaware of a member's ill health or worse, please give your next of kin the association's contact details so we may be informed of your situation.

I extend to you and your families my best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

**Phil Ainsworth November 2020**



L to R; Councillor Angela Owen, Lord Mayor Adrian Schinner, President Phil Ainsworth and Councillor Sarah Hutton, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020



Your 2021 Committee from left to right: Chaplain Ray McDonald, Treasurer and Facebook master Kieran Nelson, Peter Rogers DFC, Secretary Colin Gould, Peter Rogers, Patron Major General John Pearn, Vice President and HTT Editor Bob Collins, President Phil Ainsworth and Museum Curator Paul Brown ( Absent include Mike Griffin, Tony Boulter and Honorary Solicitor Craig Ray) 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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## We just had a job to do, and we did it.

Claire Hunter 23 Jan 2019

When Jim Burrowes went to war in January 1942, he came from a family of seven. By the time he returned, his family of seven had been reduced to three. "It was very hard on poor old Mum," Jim said. "She was a true heroine. She had got through the Depression following World War I, struggled to bring up the family, and then all this happened ...



Jim Burrowes 1942

"My oldest brother was captured at Rabaul in 1942 and my twin brother was shot down on his first mission over Rabaul in 1943. "When I got home I found out ... my brothers had both been killed ... "My father had died [of a heart attack] during the war in 1942 ... and after I got home ... my sister died in childbirth ... I missed seeing her one final time by a few hours."

Jim, now 95, served as a Coastwatcher with the Allied Intelligence Bureau's M Special Unit during the Second World War.

The Coastwatchers were Allied military intelligence operatives stationed on remote Pacific islands to observe enemy movement and rescue stranded Allied personnel. The intelligence they gathered is often credited with turning the tide of the war in the Pacific, their radioed reports giving the Allies a decisive advantage in some of the most crucial battles, including the Battle of the Coral Sea, and acting as an early warning network.

"A lot of people say we were heroes, but I don't believe that," Jim said. "We just had a job to do and we did it ... and fortunately most of us came home."

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Jim was determined to join up. He and his twin brother Tom were born in Melbourne in 1923 and grew up during the Depression. His father Archibald had volunteered during the First World War, as had his uncles.

"My father was knocked back [for active service] because he failed a medical test," Jim said. "He had a suspect heart problem... but I had two uncles who fought in the war: one who came home, and one who was killed." His Uncle Les enlisted in October 1914 and served with the 10th Light Horse Regiment on Gallipoli and in Egypt, Palestine, and Syria. A sergeant by the end of the war, he was wounded on three separate occasions and never fully recovered, suffering from "shell shock" for the rest of his life.. His mother's brother, Thomas Farrell, served in the 16th Battalion and was killed in action at Pope's Hill on Gallipoli in May 1915. The family never knew exactly when or how he died, and when the Second World War broke out a few decades later, Jim and his siblings were determined to do their bit.

"When the war started in 1939 I was only 16, so I had to wait

until I was 18 before I could join the AIF," Jim said. "My brother Bob was in the army ... and my twin brother Tom was already in the air force because he was an air force cadet ... but my Mum and Dad wouldn't sign my papers because the two boys were already in,



Jim's brothers Robert and Tom

so I had to wait until I was 18, and when I turned 18, I promptly joined the AIF." Jim's oldest brother Robert tried to stop him. In his last letter home, he asked his mother to "get Jim out if you possibly can," but it was too late. Jim had already enlisted. He had joined the army just a week before Robert was captured.

The letter was delivered in a bag of mail that was air-dropped over Darwin by the Japanese. Not knowing his brother was dead, Jim later replied. "All well here and thinking of you constantly and praying for the day when it will all be over."

To Jim, Robert and his twin brother Tom were the heroes and he was determined to join them. "My two brothers had already gone up north, and I wanted to be in it," Jim said. "It was a case of doing my duty ... and it was a touch of adventure at that age. I was only 18 and when I fronted up at the army barracks to join, they asked, 'Who's worked in an office and who's a school teacher? Stand over there, the rest of you are infantry.'"

Having worked in a chartered accountant's office, Jim put up his hand, and his destiny as a Coastwatcher was set. He soon became a signaller and later volunteered for a secret mission with the Americans and the US 7th Fleet Amphibious Landing Force. "There's an old adage, when you are in the army, you don't volunteer for anything, but I couldn't put my hand up quick enough to get up and into it," he said.



A group of Coastwatchers. Arrow pointed at Jim.

"Up in the islands, we would land and go in in PT boats and go into enemy occupied territory to see what the situation was like ... and pass back the information ... When they folded for some unknown reason

– we never knew why – I transferred immediately to the Australian Coastwatchers..."

The Coastwatchers were code-named "Ferdinand" after the popular children's book character Ferdinand the bull, who sat among the flowers and refused to fight. It was chosen as a reminder to the Coastwatchers that their job was not to fight and draw attention to themselves, but to sit quietly and spy on the Japanese and gather information. "We were all under the strict mandate of the Coastwatchers to not confront the enemy, but to hide from them, observe and report enemy movements," Jim said.

"Our job ... was basically communication and not to get caught. We were to dodge the Japanese and to spy on them generally, and signal any movements... For example, we'd be able to signal, '60 Japanese Betty Bombers on the way to attack Guadalcanal, expect them to attack in two hours,' so that when the Japs arrived, the Americans were ready, their planes were up in the air, their ships were at general quarters, and their land army was ready with their anti-aircraft weaponry to attack and repulse the Japanese.

"Admiral Halsey, the general commander of the whole southwest Pacific area stated that the Coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal and Guadalcanal saved the Pacific War, and later on, General Macarthur also stated something similar."

It was an Australian Coastwatcher who saved the future American President, Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, after his boat PT-109 was "carved in two" by a Japanese destroyer on the night of 1 August 1943. After the sinking, the crew reached Kolombangara Island where they were found by Coastwatcher Sub-Lieutenant Reginald Evans who organised their rescue.

"They were pretty much gone," Jim said. "They had no food and





Coastwatchers at Tol.

Jim centre kneeling.

they couldn't even crack open a coconut ... and after the war he invited the Coastwatchers to have a cup of tea at the White House ... And, for me, that in a nutshell tells the example of the whole Coastwatchers."

Jim's own role as a Coastwatcher included 10 months in Japanese-held territory over

-looking Rabaul, where his two brothers had met their fate.

"I went up in a barge in the middle of the night," he said. "We trekked two or three days up to the Baining Mountains overlooking Rabaul where I joined the Captain and a Lieutenant and relieved the radio man, who was sick or no longer capable, and the three of us became the only white soldiers to see Rabaul under Japanese occupation."

It was a dangerous business, and the men knew they risked being tortured and killed if they were discovered. In March 1944, Jim narrowly escaped death when he was selected as the signaller for the ill-fated Hollandia mission and was replaced at the last minute by Signaller Jack Bunning. When the 11 Coastwatchers paddled ashore from a submarine off Hollandia in West Papua, their rubber crafts were wrecked by the surf and they lost most of their equipment, before being ambushed by the Japanese. Five Coastwatchers were killed, including Bunning. Those who survived somehow managed to escape and, after enduring incredible hardship, rejoined Allied forces.

"They don't leave you, those memories," Jim said. "And to this day, I still know my Morse Code backwards..."

He feared the worst when the radio failed one day in New Britain. "I was on a schedule and the damn radio wouldn't work and I thought, 'What on earth?'" he said. "The sun was shining, and I ... pulled it out of its frame, and turned it upside down and looked at all these things, and do you know ... we had spent six weeks learning Morse Code, but not a word ... about how to fix the bloody things. So there I was, and you wouldn't believe it, I had a brown paper lunch bag with some spare parts, so I looked at these orange and red condensers and resistors, and I sorted them out across what seemed to be a similar pattern, and all of a sudden I got a signal. From that day to this, I can't remember how: I certainly didn't have a soldering iron, and I didn't have any pliers or anything else, so I don't know how I got it going."

He is particularly grateful to the Papuan troops who helped them during the war. "What we would have done without the natives, I don't know," he said.

"The three basic components of a Coastwatchers' party were the expatriate leader, the radio operator and the natives, and without any one of those three, there wouldn't have been the Coastwatchers." Jim soon learnt Pidgin English and can still recite the Lord's Prayer. "It's a very descriptive language... and I still remember that," he said.



Jim supervising Papuan troops using a mortar.

He credits the Papuan troops with keeping them safe, and remained in contact with them after the war. "What a wonderful part they played," Jim said. "They carried our radio equipment and all of our other gear, climbed coconut trees to erect the

radio aerial, built our thatched accommodation, and retrieved our food and other supplies which were dropped in parachuted 'storepedos' by Liberator or Catalina... We'd camp on a ridge so the Japs couldn't jump us and we'd have two or three natives at each end of the ridge to warn us of any danger ..."

The conditions they endured, day in and day out, were difficult at best. "But I was never frightened... Once we heard a shot during the middle of the night and got a bit of a scare but ... I never saw a Jap. If I had, I probably wouldn't be here today. There were only about 400 Coastwatchers, and unfortunately 38 got caught, and were tortured and killed, and what have you, but I was lucky: I made it home to get married and to have four kids and have a happy life."



Food and other supplies were dropped in parachuted 'storepedos' by Liberator or Catalina.

He will never forget the day the war ended and it was finally over. "I was still up in the Baining Mountains and we got a message that the war was over," he said. "I sent a message down to headquarters asking if we could walk into Rabaul... You know how it is in fantasy land. I somehow

thought that I could question any natives who were escaping out of Rabaul, and find Robert or Tom. We didn't know about the *Montevideo Maru*, and I thought Tom might have survived being shot down, so I had the vague hope that one of them might be still alive as a prisoner... We could have walked there in about half a day or something, but permission was predictably refused because half the Japs didn't know the war was over..."

His oldest brother Robert, a sergeant with the 34th Fortress Engineers, had been captured by the Japanese during the fall of Rabaul on 23 January 1942 and was on board the unmarked prisoner of war ship *Montevideo Maru* when it was torpedoed by the submarine *USS Sturgeon* off Luzon on 1 July 1942. The ship sank within 11 minutes, and all 1,053 Australian prisoners of war were killed, including Jim's brother Robert, who was just 24 years old. The sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* and subsequent loss of Australian lives, including 208 civilians, became the largest maritime disaster in Australian history.

Jim's twin brother Tom had also been killed. A Flight Sergeant in the RAAF, he was a wireless air gunner in 100 Squadron when he was shot down on his first mission over Rabaul on 14 December 1943. His Beaufort bomber was one of five planes that did not return that day and he was reported as missing in action until after the war. He was just 20 and never got to celebrate his 21st birthday.

It was devastating news for their mother Alice, who was mourning the loss of her husband, who had died of a heart



Another group of Coastwatchers. Jim front row third from right.

attack at the age of 54 at home in Middle Park on 25 August 1942. Jim had learnt of his death on his way to Queensland for training.

Jim's sisters, Pat and Helen, had also helped with the war effort. Pat worked at the Allied Works Council in Melbourne, including as Secretary to the Chief Mechanical Engineer, from 1942 until 1946, and Helen was employed with the United States Army in Australia, working as secretary to Brigadier General Frank Clark who commanded a convoy that brought two brigades of anti-aircraft artillery to Australia in March 1942.

Tragically, Helen died in childbirth on 21 December 1945 and her child was also lost. She was just 30 years old and a railway strike prevented Jim from reaching her before her death. "I was on my way to see her in hospital in Bendigo after returning from the war," he said. "She was in childbirth, and I couldn't get there because the damn train people were on strike. Having treasured so many letters from her during my years away ... I missed seeing her one final time by a few hours ...

"My family of seven had been reduced to three: my mother, my sister Pat, and me."

Now, more than 70 years later, he has created a website, The Last Coastwatcher, to honour the men and women who served and ensure their role in the Pacific War is not forgotten. "There were three of us in my family at Rabaul and I'm the only one who returned," he said. "I became a chartered accountant and a licenced company auditor and got on with it and didn't really talk much about the war until recently.

"My last mission is to let people know to be proud of the part the Aussies played."

Since then, his articles have been printed in magazines and newspapers in Australia and England and he has received feedback from as far away as Portugal and Brazil. "It's spreading like wild fire all over the world," he said. "And I'm just so pleased ... It's about the Coastwatchers, not me, and I'm only too happy to spread the word of the feat that the Coastwatchers did."

Today, he still has the Morse Code key that he used to send messages during the war and his grandchildren call him 'Didah' after the Morse Code for the first letter of the alphabet, A, or Ace, which sounds like 'di dah' when spoken.



Jim and wife Beryl on their wedding day.

For Jim, it's a constant reminder of a time he will never forget. "I'm a firm believer that life's a lot of luck," Jim said. "Of course, there are two kinds of luck – 'good' and 'bad' – and fortunately, I had my fair share of the 'good'! "I was lucky to be selected to be a radio operator, instead of Infantry. I was lucky to be replaced as the radio operator in the disastrous Hollandia infiltration party when the original guy, Jack Bunning, was ambushed by the Japanese and killed. I was lucky not to be caught and killed by the Japanese, while hiding in the jungle...

"And I was lucky to come home."

*Claire Hunter is the Australian War Memorial's Features Writer*

### Passing the Port

Port originated in the Douro Valley in Portugal and is a fortified wine made from the varietal Touriga and is named after the once bustling Atlantic trading city of Oporto. The wine is

made into a still table wine and is then "fortified" with the addition of brandy during the fermentation process, which stops the yeast and sugar reaction prior to completion leading to a high level of residual sweetness and a higher level of alcohol which acts as a preservative.

Fortification was developed in the 17th century and, given fortified wine travelled well, the beverage became synonymous with the British Navy; from the mid-18th century, all Royal Navy ships stored an appropriate ration/number of pipes of port.

In the traditions of our Association, port is used to toast someone to which we accord honour; most often during a ceremony known as a "passing of the port". The term "toast" references a trick used since medieval times with poorer quality wine improving considerably by the addition of toasted, spiced bread to absorb bitter astringency thus, the practice became known as "drinking the toast".

Two key actions are associated with the tradition. Firstly, the glass is held in the right hand as this hand was believed to be the lucky hand – a toast with the left hand was perceived as an insult to the recipient of the blessing. In more provocative times, the friend to the right also has his sword-hand (right hand) free for protection of the person pouring the drink. Secondly, the arm is held aloft and straight out to show that there is no concealed weapon and thus, no risk of a treacherous plot with the friendly gesture as cover. The "passing of the port" is always conducted clockwise, which means it follows the sun. More importantly, the guest of honour traditionally sits to the right of the host, so if the wine moves to the left, then the guest can observe its effect on others (ie the poisoned chalice).

*Source. United Service Club Queensland, Magazine, June 2019.*

### Flight Deck Aircraft Carrier.

One of the most dangerous work places in the world is on the flight deck of an American Nuclear Aircraft carrier during landing/take off missions, in particular for combat situations.

The flight deck crew are all colour coded for ease of recognition and duties:-

<b>RED:-</b>	Bombs, ammunition, rockets, loading and unloading etc
<b>PURPLE:</b>	Fueling
<b>GREEN:</b>	Catapults & landing wires
<b>YELLOW:</b>	Controllers
<b>WHITE:</b>	Safety Ops / fire crew
<b>BLUE:</b>	Moves aircrafts
<b>BROWN:</b>	Maintenance & Inspections

*Thank you Colin Gould MBE.*

**My wife's female intuition is so finely developed, she normally knows I'm wrong even before I've opened my mouth.**

### Soldier Borne Sensors

To excel in tactical use, mini-drones are designed to be 'soldier proof', allowing for simple, intuitive operation even under pressure and stressful situations, where autonomy would be most valuable. This means quick boot up, calibration, position setting and communications pairing to bring the drone online as soon as possible.



The US Army plans to equip the individual warfighter with drone-based autonomous Soldier Based Sensors (SBS) by



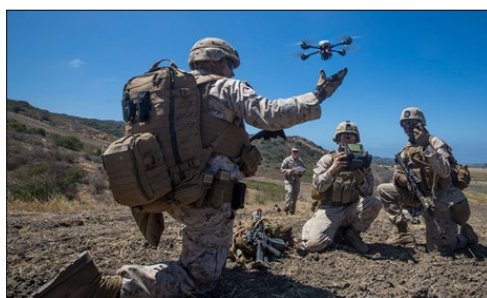


2018 and is evaluating different solutions for such applications. Requirements include weight of 150 grams (about 5 ounces), 15 minute flight time and

wind tolerance of up to 15 knots. The Army has used the PD100 'Black Hornet' from FLIR Systems, other new nano-drones also available include the Snipe from AeroVironment and a small, foldable version of PSI's InstantEye system.

The multirotor revolution emerged as a disruptive capability rooted in technology developed for hobbyists' toys in 2010. Today's commercial drone technology, merged with sensors, image processing, and communications capabilities outpace the investments and capabilities that defence industries can invest in technology, as they define the future of transportation world. Autonomy, that is a critical factor in all these commercial systems, is also important for military drones to perform longer missions, have better communications and perform smarter functions – all at affordable cost.

Aerovironment's miniature Snipe multirotor drone is one of the likely candidates for the US Army's next generation soldier Based Sensor. A folded InstantEye bot can be stowed in a pouch and is unfolded into a ready-to-fly drone in 10 seconds. The commercial Spark drone from DJI offers many of the advanced, semi-autonomous capabilities the military is seeking for its Soldier Borne Sensors.



Despite the big investments and high hopes, the most advanced autonomous flight modes are not available with military drones but with the microdrones designed for

recreational videography. For example, the latest drones made by DJI already include obstacle avoidance based on deep learning artificial intelligence autonomy, enabling drones to safely follow a target, object (or operator) while flying in cluttered environments such as woods, sea surf or urban terrain, while tracking a moving target on the ground. Such tracking can use tags, object or face recognition, offering powerful options for uses in military and security applications. Using the Spark nano drone, designers can program the vehicle and interact with the drone through intuitive flight control gestures, or view the mission straight from drone's camera using virtual reality goggles. These capabilities are far more advanced than those used in military and security operations.

The next wave of cameras that can better measure depth and motion are already here. The Spark 4K line of 940 nm Near IR cameras using QuantumFilm technology from InVisage is now available for use on smartphones and UAVs. Offering an alternative to standard CMOS sensors, QuantumFilm is optimally designed to do depth sensing, 3D mapping, and gesture tracking.

A critical advantage of the Spark is its processing speed. "In order to perform autonomously at a high flight speed of 20 meters per second, drones and other unmanned vehicles require at least half a second to recognize an upcoming obstacle and another half a second to change trajectory or decelerate in order to avoid it. This means accurate ranging at 20 meters is crucial," said Jess Lee, InVisage President, and

CEO. While ultrasonic sensors are effective at a range of five meters, Micro-LIDAR based on Spark are effective at 20 meters and, according to InVisage, with improved performance will soon function beyond 100 meters.

Cameras equipped with powerful image processors are becoming increasingly capable of performing depth perception using structured light, thus enabling to provide navigational cueing without dependence on GPS.

*Defence-Update.com. 2017.*



Before Workplace Health & Safety. Waiting for a blast in a tunnel on the Snowy Mountains Scheme

### The "Nachthexen" or "Night Witches" of WWII

They flew under the cover of darkness in bare-bones plywood biplanes. They braved bullets and frostbite in the air while battling scepticism and sexual harassment on the ground. They were feared and hated so much by the Nazis that any German airman who downed one was automatically awarded the prestigious Iron Cross medal.



All told, the pioneering all-female 588th Night Bomber Regiment dropped more than 23,000 tons of bombs on Nazi targets. And in doing so, they became a crucial Soviet asset in winning World War II.

Using female bombardiers wasn't the first choice. While women had been previously barred from combat, the pressure of an encroaching enemy gave Soviet leaders a reason to rethink the policy.





The women would not only fly missions and drop bombs, they would return fire—making the Soviet Union the first nation to officially allow women to engage in combat.

The military, unprepared for women pilots, offered them meager resources.

Flyers received hand-me-down uniforms (from male soldiers), including oversized boots. "They had to tear up their bedding and stuff them in their boots to get them to fit".

Their equipment wasn't much better. The military provided them with outdated Polikarpov Po-2 biplanes, 1920s crop-dusters that had been used as training vehicles. These light two-seater, open-cockpit planes were never meant for combat. "It was like a coffin with wings."

Instead of parachutes (which were too heavy to carry), radar, guns and radios, they were forced to use more rudimentary tools such as rulers, stopwatches, flashlights, pencils, maps and compasses.

There was some upside to the older aircraft. Their maximum speed was slower than the stall speed of the Nazi planes, which meant these wooden planes, ironically, could manoeuvre faster than the enemy, making them hard to target. They also could easily take off and land from most locations.

The Polikarpovs could only carry two bombs at a time, one under each wing. In order to make meaningful dents in the German front lines, the regiment sent out up to 40 two-person crews a night. Each would execute between eight and 18 missions a night, flying back to re-arm between runs.

Their last flight took place on May 4, 1945—when the Night Witches flew within 60 kilometres (approx. 37 miles) of Berlin. Three days later, Germany officially surrendered.

Altogether these daredevil heroines flew more than 30,000 missions in total or about 800 per pilot and navigator. They lost a total of 30 pilots, and 24 of the flyers were awarded the title "Hero of the Soviet Union".

Despite being the most highly decorated unit in the Soviet Air Force during the war, the Night Witches regiment was disbanded six months after the end of World War II.

And when it came to the big victory-day parade in Moscow, they weren't included—because, it was decided, their planes were too slow.

*Medium—History.*



### Australia's Federation Guard

Australia's Federation Guard (AFG) is a tri-service ceremonial unit made up of members from the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army, and Royal Australian Air Force. Formed in 2000 for the centenary celebrations of Australian federation, it is the first purely ceremonial unit in the history of the Australian armed forces, and has since represented Australia in various roles both at home and around the world, including providing the guard at Buckingham Palace in 2000.



U.S. President Barack Obama reviews Australia's Federation Guard in the forecourt of Parliament House during his visit to Australia in November 2011.

The posting strength of AFG varies, although the unit's authorised strength is around 170 personnel of all ranks. A Royal Guard consists of 32 members from each service, one left marker, one right marker, two flag bearers and one parade officer. The Navy contingent of the Guard always appears on the left hand side of a parade, with Army in the centre and RAAF on the right. This reflects the seniority of the services.

### Role

Although it is primarily a foot guards unit, equipped with the L1A1 SLR, the Guard also provides gun salutes. These salutes can be performed anywhere, although for practical reasons are usually only utilised in the Canberra district. Depending on the situation personnel from all three services, operate up to six guns, with four to six personnel servicing each gun under the command of personnel from the Royal Australian Artillery.



White Ribbon Day 2015

AFG also contains a Drum Corps. Made up from volunteers from all three services posted to the unit, Drum Corps members participate in additional training with the majority having no previous musical experience with percussion instruments. Drum Corps members perform their drumming duties in addition to their traditional Guard duties and will often support the Precision Drill Team in their training and performances.

In 2000, AFG provided the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace. In performing this duty, AFG was responsible not only for providing the first naval sentries (although the Royal Marines have in the past provided the guard, never had the Royal Navy), but also the first women to serve. The Guard alternated with the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, with each service providing a detachment on each day.

### Uniforms

Members of the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian



Air Force posted to the unit perform their ceremonial duties in the standard ceremonial uniforms of their service as the variance between trades is minimal. A notable addition to the uniform is the white "Airman's Belt" worn by all Other Ranks.

For members of the Australian Army uniforms vary significantly between Corps with embellishments differing between silver, gold and black. All Corps have unique hat badges with some Corps having individual unit hat badges, for example the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. The Guard is considered a "non-corps posting" by the Australian Army and wears "non-corps" generic army embellishments for the sake of uniformity. These generic embellishments consist of miniature Rising Sun badges worn in place of Corps badges on the hat and collars, complemented by gold jacket buttons and rank insignia. A generic tri-service colour patch is worn by all Army members of the AFG as the unit colour patch.

A number of submissions have been made in relation to approving an official unit badge that would be worn on the hats of serving members but at this stage, none have been approved. An unofficial badge has been adopted by the unit and features the ADF tri-service crest in silver against a gold federation star.

Wikipedia



**Messerschmitt Me 264**

The Messerschmitt Me 264 was a long-range strategic bomber developed during World War II for the German Luftwaffe as its main strategic bomber. The design was later selected as Messerschmitt's competitor in the *Reichsluftfahrtministerium's* (the German Air Ministry) *Amerikabomber* programme, for a strategic bomber capable of attacking New York City from bases in France or the Azores.

Three prototypes were built but production was abandoned to allow Messerschmitt to concentrate on fighter production and the Junkers Ju 390 was selected in its place as a maritime reconnaissance aircraft. The Me 264 was the first aircraft in the world with integrated wing fuel tanks, a standard for most modern aircraft.

Late in 1943, the second prototype, Me 264 V2, was destroyed in a bombing attack. On 18 July 1944, the first prototype, which had entered service with *Transportstaffel 5*, was damaged during an Allied bombing raid and was not repaired. The third prototype, which was unfinished, was destroyed during the same raid. In October 1943 further Me 264 development was stopped to concentrate on the devel-



opment and production of the Me 262 jet fighter-bomber.

opment and production of the Me 262 jet fighter-bomber.

On 23 September 1944, work on the Me 264 project was officially cancelled. Messerschmitt proposed a six-engine version of the Me 264, the Me 264/6m (or alternately Me 364), but it was never built.

Wikipedia.



Xmas Day 1943, Ramu Valley. Capt F.D. Smith dressed as Santa arrives at a ward of the Main Dressing Station to distribute presents.

### Augury-Philippines transitions to higher level

The Australian Defence Force has taken the next step in its enduring relationship with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Operation Augury-Philippines – the unusually secret anti-terror mission – transitioned to an Enhanced Defence Cooperation Program on 1 December, recognising the maturing connection between the militaries of both nations.

Chief of Joint Operations Lieutenant General Greg Bilton said the transition acknowledged the strong foundation built under the operational framework.

"Operation Augury-Philippines has been an extraordinarily successful operation, delivering tangible security benefits to Australia, the Philippines and the wider region," Lieutenant General Bilton said.

"Since 2017, we have trained more than 10,000 members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in urban combat and joint operations, air coordination in the urban environment, and maritime security.

"It has become a model for how we approach partnered activities and I congratulate everyone who has contributed to its success."

Lieutenant General Bilton said the capacity building training under the enhanced Defence Cooperation Program would commence in early 2020.



"This transition is a natural evolution of the current relationship, offering long-term mutual benefits at a level well above that prior to the siege of Marawi," Lieutenant General Bilton said.

"Most importantly, the arrangement will continue to enhance the capacity of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to mitigate and respond to threats of terrorism."

Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds and Philippine Secretary of National Defence, Delfin Lorenzana announced the transition in the margins of the ADMM-Plus in Bangkok, Thailand on 17 November 2019.

Contact Newsletter 108.

During a visit to the mental asylum I asked the Director "How do you determine whether or not a patient should be institutionalised?"

"Well" said the Director, "We fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a cup and a bucket to the patient and then ask him or her to empty the bathtub".

"Oh! I understand" I said "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the teaspoon or the cup".

"No!" said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed by the window?"

### Bridge of Courage

Amid the rainforests of far north Queensland the Jungle Training Wing at Tully is greeted with trepidation by even the most hardened warfighters.

Training may get even tougher with the opening of a new suspension bridge over Jarra Creek, doubling new training space.

Named after John 'Jack' Kirby the 134 metre long steel, wire and concrete footbridge was officially opened on 23 Nov, 2019.

WO11 Kirby served in Korea, Malaya and Borneo before being killed in Vietnam.

Comd CTC Col. Matthew Richardson said the bridge was a fitting tribute to a courageous soldier.

"He received the Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery during the Battle of Long Tan where he single-handedly silenced a Viet Cong machine gun post in addition to organising ammunition resupply and evacuating casualties within Delta Coy 6 RAR, so they could continue the fight."

"He was killed just six months later, aged 32, when a misdirected New Zealand artillery shell struck his position".

"A great man taken before his time, a great man and a true Australian hero".

WO11's widow Beverley Knight unveiled the bridge and the plaque. "Jack was a big tough man, but a very fair man, and without exception, the men he served would have given their lives for him, as he would have for them" Mrs Knight said. "I'm touched the soldiers of today find it important to remember him as a person and the legacy the men of his generation have left."

East and West sections of the training area were not linked after the original bridge was damaged by Cyclone Larry in 2006 and destroyed by Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

"The new bridge doubles the size of the training area we can use and allows us to safely evacuate a casualty from the Eastern side of the range", Col Richardson said.

"With almost half the jungle training area inaccessible for nearly 9 years we're preparing to cut new tracks, build new 'enemy' camps, and create new challenging training scenarios. It means we have the capacity to deliver more training

opportunities for larger units, thereby increasing the Australian Army's knowledge and expertise in close country operations".

The \$6.7 million bridge is designed to withstand a 2000 year flood and have a 100 year service life."

Planning began in 2013 and construction in late 2017 and was completed in Nov, 2019.

Lt Col Greg Hircum, of 1 Div, was involved in building the bridge on land leased from the Qld Government and regulated through the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

"The bridge will also allow scope for resting and regeneration of rainforest areas. It's a win-win for the environment and the Army", Lt Col Hircum said.

Army News 1457, Dec 2019..



### SM U-118

SM U-118 was a type UE II mine laying submarine of the Imperial German Navy and one of 329 submarines serving with that navy during World War I.

U-118 engaged in naval warfare and took part in the First Battle of the Atlantic.

SM U-118 was commissioned on 8 May 1918, following her construction at the AG Vulcan Stettin shipyard in Hamburg. She was commanded by Herbert Stohwasser and joined the I Flotilla operating in the eastern Atlantic. After four months without sinking any ships, on 16 September 1918, the SM U-118 scored her first hit. Some 175 miles (282 km) north-west of Cape Villano, the U-118 torpedoed and sank the British steamer *Wellington*. The following month, on 2 October 1918, she sank her second and last ship, the British tanker *Arca* at about 40 miles (64 km) north-west of Tory Island. The ending of hostilities on 11 November 1918 led to the subsequent surrender of the Imperial German Navy. The SM U-118 was transferred to France on 23 February 1919.

U-118 was to be broken up for scrap. In the early hours of 15 April 1919, however, while she was being towed through the English Channel towards Scapa Flow, the dragging hawser broke off in a storm. The submarine ran aground on the beach at Hastings in Sussex at approximately 00:45, directly in front of the Queens Hotel.

Initially, there were attempts to displace the stricken vessel. Three tractors tried to refloat the submarine, and a French destroyer attempted to break the ship apart using her guns. All were unsuccessful, and the closeness of the submarine to the public beach and the Queens Hotel prevented the use of explosives.



The stranded submarine became a popular tourist attraction, and thousands visited Hastings that Easter to see her. She was under the authority of the local coast guard station,



and the Admiralty allowed the Town Clerk of Hastings to charge a small fee for visitors to climb on the deck. This went on for two weeks, during which the town gained almost £300 (UK£ 14,400 in 2020) to help fund a welcome for the town's soldiers returning from the war.

Between October and December 1919, *U-118* was broken up and sold for scrap.

*Wikipedia*

It takes real skill to choke on air, fall up the stairs and trip on completely nothing.  
I have that skill.

## Building Bridges

**Sgt Max Bree**

Most motorists don't pay much attention to a bridge as they drive over it.

But a pair of Engineers from 5 SER have become familiar with dozens of bridge undersides in Southern NSW following bushfires that swept the region.

One is L/Cpl Rick Williams a Civil Engineer and Surveyor when not serving with the Army Reserve. "We're looking to see how deep the fire has burned into the hardwood to see if there's any structural issues" L/Cpl Williams said. "It's amazing to see how fire gets into a structure. A lot of ember attacks got into termite-eaten wood and just burned through it. With steel we're looking to see if the fire was hot enough to twist or warp the steel members".

For the most part, bridges in the region held up well, according to Cpl Ross Lorenz, a Civil Engineer whose resume includes bridge-building projects on the Pacific Highway and Hunter Expressway.

"One extreme example was charred remains at the bottom of a gully, but overall the bridges are looking good." Cpl Lorenz said. "A lot of the bridges look like they are 20-30plus years old. They handled the fires pretty well with some minor moderate maintenance required."

The pair report their findings to local councils, which prioritise repairs or further inspections..

Despite a background in concrete bridges Cpl Lorenz said there was some crossover with the wooden structures. "There are some idiosyncrasies with wooden bridges" he said. "But our work is about knowing what aspects of the bridge accomplish and how much load is going through them. Then we assess how much damage they can sustain while still being functional."

for overload damage. It held up quite well but did have some maintenance issues." Cpl Lorenz said. Although there is scope for 5ER to make temporary fixes for some bridges, major repairs will be done by local council specialist contractors.

*Army Newspaper 1458.*



## Moving supplies forward October 1942.

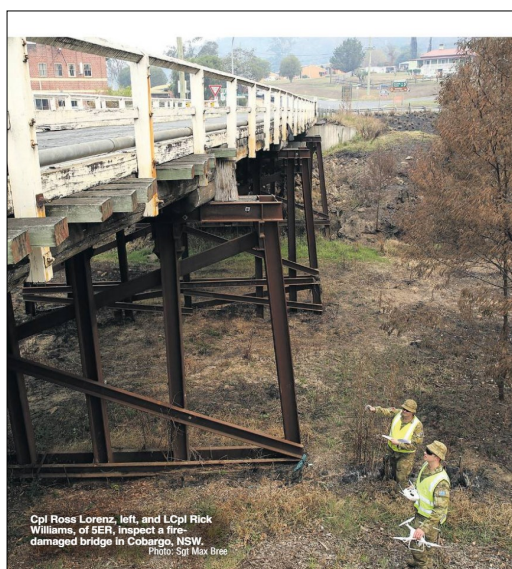
The following photos were taken during the visit of A.S. Drakesford, Minister for Air, to Papua in October 1942.



Pack-horses moving along what he called "The Kokoda Road"



Moving supplies to a Flying Fox at Owers Corner where the slope was too steep even for pack horses.



Cpl Ross Lorenz, left, and L/Cpl Rick Williams, of 5ER, inspect a fire-damaged bridge in Cobargo, NSW.  
Photo: Sgt Max Bree

Despite most of the region's bridges being made of wood and steel, the sappers did get to inspect one concrete structure, which was out of the fire zone but was slightly stressed due to a heavier route being closed

"We were inspecting it





A load goes down to the waiting pack horses and carriers.

### Norfolk Island's Contribution to the War Effort

Norfolk Island contributed greatly to the world war efforts with the highest per capita personnel involvement in the Commonwealth nations of the world for both WWI and WWII.

The island was a key contributor as a forward base for aircraft and the New Zealand Army, as one of the links in the supply chain to activities happening further north, and also as a hub for radio and radar transmissions to assist the allies with primary intelligence on ship locations, movements and strategies.

On 1 September 1939 Britain and France declared war on



Above. Australian soldiers

Below. N.Z Soldiers on the Island.



Germany who had invaded Poland, Australia and New Zealand immediately followed suit in support of Britain. Norfolk Island's population at the time was only 983 people – 513 males and 470 females. Some 280 men and women from Norfolk Island volunteered and joined Australian and New Zealand forces during WWII. Life was to change dramatically for the islanders with the arrival of servicemen from Australia, New Zealand and the US, eventually more than doubling the population.

The Norfolk Island Infantry Detachment (NIID) was created on 14 September 1939 and became a training facility for overseas service by islanders as well as home security, protecting the all-important cable station linking New Zealand and Australia.

Another huge change for the island brought about by WWII was the construction of an airfield which was completed and operational on 25 December 1942 when the first New Zealand Air Force plane landed on Norfolk Island's new runway. The island became a key airbase and refuelling depot between Australia and New Zealand, and New Zealand and the Solomon Islands. Prior to the construction of the airfield, transport of personnel and supplies to Norfolk Island was possible only by ship.

Due to the Japanese agreeing to surrender on the 14/15 August 1945, and the war in the Pacific officially ending on 2 September 1945, with the signing of the formal surrender onboard USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay Japan, it was agreed that the island's defences be maintained by the RNZAF until July 1946.

Pacific Peace 2020 Norfolk Island.

A vegan said to me that people who sell meat are disgusting.  
I said people who sell fruit and vegetables are grocer.

### Flying in the Shadows

*The skies above Oakey had a shadow of a different kind during Exercise Falcon's Flight 20, writes Sgt Janine Fabre.*

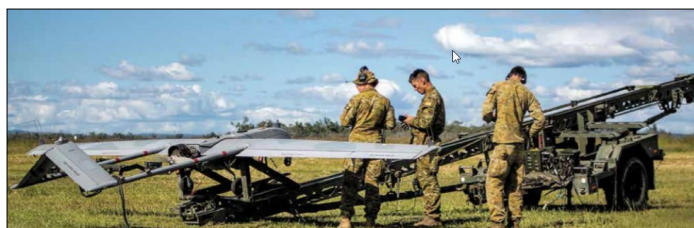
Previously restricted to flying only in military ranges and airspace, Exercise Falcon's Flight 20 enabled the Shadow 200, Army's tactical unmanned aerial system (UAS), to fly over non-Defence controlled land. Shadow 200, operated by 20 Regt RAA, is responsible for providing surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance support. The regiment's 132 Bty deployed to Oakey on March 16 to begin flying as part of the activity, after liaising with Air Operations Centre personnel and RAAF Air Traffic Controllers. UAS operators proved they were able to operate safely in the airspace alongside other aircraft, including MRH90 Taipans and ARH Tigers. Battery Commander 132 Bty Maj Daniel Evangelisti said it would broaden the regiment's employment options beyond flying around on training ranges.

"It will give 6 Bde an opportunity to provide Army with the option to use UAS elsewhere in Australia. An example of that might be in response to a natural disaster, such as floods or bushfires," Maj Evangelisti said. "It's a great feeling to think that in future we can contribute in so many more ways with this capability. "Showing everybody that we can do the right thing in airspace means opportunities will open up for us." The recent bushfires highlighted the capability of UAS with the use of the smaller Wasp AE, which patrolled in the early hours each day to provide up to date information to the ACT Emergency Services Agency. Battery Guide WO2 Ian Hodgkins said the Shadow 200 and its cameras would be ideal for assisting with bushfire surveillance. "In future we will be able to support ADF, government and inter-agency task forces through fire-spotting and coastal surveillance," WO2 Hodgkins said. "This is a stepping stone to those sorts of activities. It's a good thing for us to be able to use the Shadow domestically." WO2 Hodgkins said the exercise was used to move towards a future where Army UAS operators could fly over civil land and infrastructure and liaise with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority for appropriate approvals. "The operators are pumped because they are doing something new and are flying in much more complex airspace with a lot of rules," he said. "They have to understand those rules, they have to comply



with them. They are planning in a different way in order to do that and they are then executing it." Exercise Falcon's Flight involved 60 personnel with 30 UAS operators flying five Shadow 200 aircraft over a two week period.

*Army News 1463*



### Flying out the Prisoners

The below is a two page extract from a book by John Balfe written in 1985 "And Far from Home" describing his wartime and post war RAAF Dakota flying.

Two months of intensive flying for every aircraft in every transport squadron followed hard upon Japan's surrender. There were 14300 Australian prisoners of the Japanese to be brought home, an emaciated 6500 of them by the transports, from as far afield as Japan itself, Singapore and Malaya, Thailand, Borneo, Ambon, Java, Rabaul and outermost islands of South-East Asia. Nearly 7500 more had died, worked or battered to death, Sickened or starved. Every RAAF Liberator, Catalina and C47 available was called into the giant airlift demanded over the whole region to locate prison camps, take food, clothing and medical supplies to them, bring men, women and children out to Singapore for hospital treatment and then fly them home to Australia, plane load after plane load from their years of hell at Japanese hands.

A vision of this flying that is still sharp in my memory is of a few minutes when we neared Darwin from Morotai with 25 very sick soldiers from the Burma Railway. Their ulcerated legs and arms were like my wrists, their bodies and faces shrunk gaunt against the bones like the skin of a sea horse, but they would walk tall again because their spirits were high. They wanted only to get home and evacuation was moving a little slowly for some of them. 'No more bloody doctors, Skipper! Get us through to Brisbane.' Surely no man who had been free while they had been slaves and fed while they starved could have resisted their plea because of red tape. Certainly I could not. They had been several days in a Singapore field hospital being patched enough to help them travel and to ease the first-sight shock at their state to families meeting them in Australia. We had already broken the rules on this flight, taken them straight through Morotai where they were officially to have rested again. I intended to try the same at Darwin where another check was scheduled.

First glimpse of Australia came over the horizon when we first drew near Bathurst and Melville Islands off Darwin as the sun sank low. A buttermilk sunset reflected orange and gold across the sky into cumulus cloudbanks that shaded a leaden sea and bathed the darkening land in evening glow. We were at 2400 metres when I beckoned the homebound troops to come one at a time up front and see that at last they were back. Their reactions would have melted even the savage breast. Cec Herbert and I, flying the aircraft, watched each man look out at the homeland he had thought he might never see again. Eyes fixed, faces the mirrors of their hearts, they hooked scrawny arms around whatever they could reach to help them stand. The evening glow shone on them through the windshield as though God had reached out to greet them. Some breathed their emotion in a word, 'Australia'. It sounded beautiful. Some spoke just that single name that dwells in the deepest sensibilities of men, 'Jesus!' Some had no word and could only stare. I can still feel tears well. They filled our eyes and those of every soldier who came up, though not all did come. Just the thought of Australia was too much for some. Cajolery

got them through Darwin and after midnight we pushed on past Cloncurry toward the dawn. It came up as we were over central Queensland's sheep plains. I called Longreach Aeradio and told them we were pointed for Brisbane, had POWs aboard and would call in if the town would like to give them a welcome. No question about it. Normally Longreach was off-line to us but I had landed there several times and learned what wonderful people lived there. The whole town rushed to the airport and gave our very special charges the wild welcome and open armed embraces that it wasn't hard to sense they longed for. Cars took them into the Longreach hotels and there every man wolfed the Australian breakfast he had dreamed and talked of for four years. Only a white lie that military police were on the way lured them back to the airport.

Twenty five bright, laughing, crying, happy POWs reached Brisbane that afternoon and another welcome that took them through the city streets in a motorcade of joy. Their return had not been unusual among hundreds of flights that streamed back from Singapore bringing its prisoners home. It was more by chance that it was the most sentimental among those that happened to come my way. There were very many others, every one of which touched as deeply the hearts of the crews who flew them.

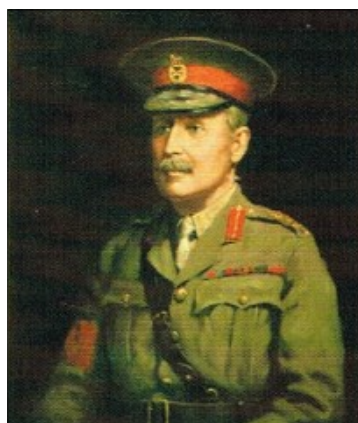
US President Trump is walking towards his limousine when a possible assassin steps forward and aims a gun. A secret service agent, new on the job shouts "Mickey Mouse!". This startles the would be assassin and he is captured. Later the secret service agent's supervisor takes him aside and asks "What on earth made you shout out 'Mickey Mouse?'". Blushing, the agent replies "I got nervous, I meant to shout out.....Donald, Duck".

### Australia's Urgent Imperial Force, AN&MEF

Australia did not enter the First World War with the landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. When war broke out in August 1914, Australians faced an immediate military threat in their region — a situation they had long feared. German possessions and warships in the Pacific posed a threat to Australian shipping and ports. With a shared-land border between British Papua and Kaiser Wilhelm's Land (German New Guinea), an enemy was suddenly at Australia's northern frontier.

On 6 August, Australia agreed to undertake a "great and urgent imperial service": to seize German wireless stations in the south-west Pacific, specifically German New Guinea. Australia was also required to occupy the territory under the British flag and establish a military administration. For the first time, Britain called on Australia to train, supply and command her own forces in defence of the empire.

The man selected to raise what would become known as the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) was Boer War veteran Colonel William Holmes, who came to the position with a reputation for "personal bravery, ability and capacity for command". He did not disappoint his superiors. In less than 10 days, Holmes recruited, equipped and embarked a 1,000-strong infantry battalion, 500 naval reservists and ex-seamen, and a 500-strong citizen-battalion from north Queensland. The majority of the force were untrained men who had rushed to enlist at the outbreak of war. Holmes noted the abundant enthusiasm of his men, but also their inexperience.



ence, with many having "never been put to sea".

The expedition was delayed when the commander-in-chief of the Australian fleet, Rear Admiral Sir George Patey RN, was unexpectedly called away on escort duties in Samoa. Most of the AN&MEF, now aboard *HMAT Berrima*, had to wait at Palm Island, off Townsville in Queensland. Here they went ashore each day for jungle training and drill. After two long weeks, *Berrima* sailed for Port Moresby to meet the Queensland battalion waiting on board the hospital ship *HMAT Kanowna*. Upon inspection, Holmes decided regretfully that the youthful and unseasoned troops were "unfit for active service". Nevertheless, Patey decided that they should accompany the expeditionary force and perform garrison duties.

The naval force, comprising *Sydney*, *Encounter*, *Yarra*, *Warrego*, *Berrima* and the supply ship *Aorangi*, and the submarines AE1 and AE2, gathered at Port Moresby before rendezvousing with *HMAS Australia* on 9 September en route to Rabaul. Only then did Patey reveal the precise destination of the convoy. The *Kanowna*'s stokers, who had not volunteered for overseas service, called a snap strike as soon as they discovered they were heading into a war zone. Eager not to miss out, the soldiers offered to stoke the ship the rest of the way. For the battalion aboard *Kanowna*, that was the end of their adventure. Unimpressed by the stokers and the low military standard of the men, Holmes ordered the ship back to Australia.

The slightly depleted AN&MEF approached Blanche Bay, just south of Rabaul, at dawn on 11 September 1914. The military leaders had expected the occupation to be a simple exercise; nevertheless they had sent 1,500 men and almost the entire Australian fleet. Then, not having encountered any naval formations or coastal defence, the AN&MEF became complacent. Holmes, in particular, convinced himself that he could acquire new territory for the British empire "without a shot being fired".



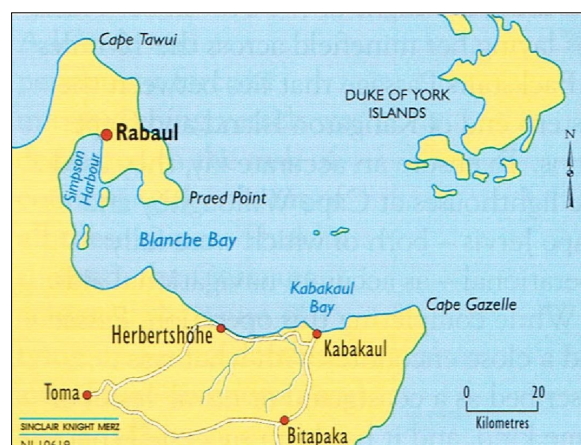
Charles Bryant, Landing at Kabakaul (1925, AWM ART08010) Twenty-five naval reservists land on a deserted beach at Kabakaul. In the background are HMAS *Sydney*, *Warrego* and *Yarra*

Two parties of 25 naval reservists went ashore at the settlements of Herbertshohe and Kabakaul, on the south-eastern shore of the bay. Their orders were to capture the radio station at Bita Paka, about seven kilometres inland. Lieutenant R. G. Bowen, RAN, led his men from Kabakaul and headed inland along a narrow road. They had travelled less than two kilometres when they encountered three Germans and about 20 New Guineans fighting for the Germans. "This is where the fighting began, shots being exchanged as fast as we could put them in our barrels," recalled Able Seaman Sidney Staines, a member of the lead party. "Bullets were buzzing all around us ... I was expecting to drop anytime at this stage, so we got together and started firing volleys."

The Australians soon captured the group after wounding one of the Germans. A map found on one of the prisoners revealed German plans to resist the Australian troops by means of a system of trenches, rifle pits and mines. Bowen sent for reinforcements and pushed on. Some New Guineans had climbed the tall trees and were firing from elevated positions. The Australians made slow progress and "were constantly subjected to

rifle fire by an unseen enemy", which forced them from the narrow road into dense jungle. As they approached the first trench, Able Seaman W. G. V. Williams was shot through the stomach. Captain Brian Pockley, the medical officer, immediately set out to find him. Under fire, Pockley removed his red-cross brassard and tied it around Leading Stoker Kember's hat, in the hope that the enemy would respect the symbol. Soon after, Pockley himself was wounded. Both men were taken aboard *Berrima*, where they died later that afternoon. Williams became the first Australian to die in action in the Great War.

For the young men in the AN&MEF, the excitement of joining Australia's first action of the war gave way to the realities of combat. Able Seaman "Gus" Shea was in the thick of the attack and helped carry the dead and wounded to the beach: "It is terrible to hear the wounded scream," he wrote in a letter home. "I don't want to hear any more".



Back on the Bitapaka Road, Bowen's men encountered a well-defended trench dug across the road. As reinforcements arrived, a sniper's bullet pierced Bowen's helmet, leaving a deep furrow along the side of his head. Lieutenant G. A. Hill, RNR, assumed command and sent a runner to *Berrima* calling for more support. A few hours later, Lieutenant Commander Charles Elwell, RN, arrived with 50 men. He launched a flanking attack and charged the enemy. Sword in hand, Elwell was shot through the heart. Outflanked on both sides, the Germans surrendered.

Tensions remained high. Shots rang out, possibly from snipers, when the forward party captured the second trench held by three Germans and 20 New Guineans. As Lieutenant W. D. Hunter wrote to his girlfriend, they "made a break ... and the officer and ten natives were shot while escaping". Able Seaman Henry Street was mortally wounded in the exchange.

Three Germans and about 30 New Guineans were killed in the fight for the Bitapaka wireless station. The claim that Australians bayoneted some of the New Guineans who fell into their hands during the fighting is probably true. Numerous personal letters and diaries reflect the mixture of racism, inexperience and anger at having lost men to the New Guinean fighters, and this would have contributed to the brutal treatment of the indigenous population.

At 7 pm the wireless station was captured and Admiral Patey demanded the German acting governor, Dr Edvard Haber, surrender the entire colony. Although Haber did not officially surrender, he told Patey that Rabaul and Herbertshohe were "unfortified" and "no opposition would be offered to the military occupation". The next day the naval reservists marched from Kabakaul to Herbertshohe, and *Berrima* landed a garrison at Rabaul.

On Sunday 13 September, AN&MEF forces raised the Union Jack in Rabaul. A translator told the New Guineans who looked on: "All boys belongina one place, you savvy big mas-

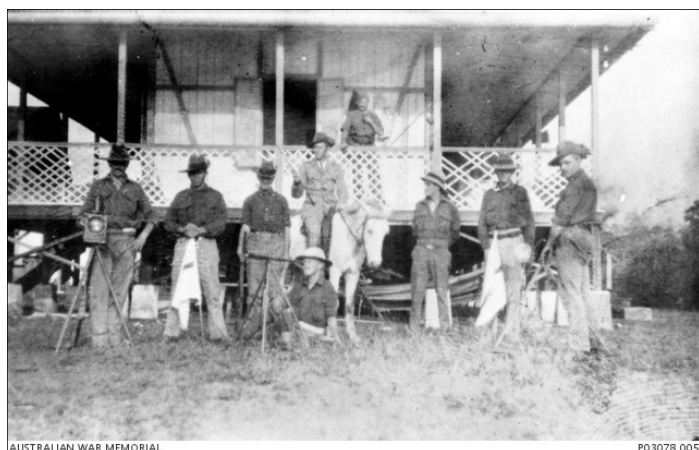


ter ... No more 'Um Kaiser, God Save 'Um King." With this sentence, the Australians asserted the authority of their military administration and custody of the indigenous population was transferred from one Imperial power to another.

By October, departments of Treasury, Works, Law and Lands and Surveys were in operation. But it was as administrators of the colony that the AN&MEF began to fall apart. Corruption and undisciplined behaviour marred the occupation. Most of the troops saw no action, and the boredom fuelled unruly and rampageous behaviour. Harsh discipline — 137 Australians were court-martialled in the four months to December 1914 — seemed no deterrent. Most were eager to join the war in Europe, and on their return to Australia in early 1915 many re-enlisted for service in the AIE

Australia's first action in the war certainly made headlines at the time. Naturally, the magnitude of Australian losses in Gallipoli and the Western Front quickly pushed these stories to the fringes of popular memory. But Australians in 1914 knew that the war had come to their part of the world.

*Issue 20 AWM Journal*



Rabaul, New Britain. Members of the Australian Navy and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) standing in front of a house used as a signal station.

The men have signallers flags, a telescope and a signallers lamp. Lieutenant Colonel R. M. Sadler is astride the white horse in the centre. Circa 1914

I met a magical fairy yesterday who said she would grant me one wish.

"I wish to live forever" I said.

"Sorry!" said the fairy, "I'm not allowed to grant that particular wish".

"OK" I said "Then I want to die the day our parliament is filled with honest, hard-working, bipartisan men and women who act only in the country's best interests."

"You crafty bastard" replied the fairy.

### **PNGDF to farewell HMPNGS Salamaua**

*HMPNGS Salamaua* will be finally put to rest in style this Friday after more than 45 years in service.

Still pipes humming special goodbye naval tunes with gun salutes are expected to mark Her Majesty's Ship *Salamaua* - Call Sign Lima 31 to be decommissioned from active service.

It is an afternoon session where the ship would be farewell along with the setting of the sun on Friday afternoon.

A special traditional singing group from Salamaua in the Morobe Province will be also there to take the name and the spirit of the ship back to where it belongs.

*HMPNGS Salamaua* was commissioned into PNG Defence

Force on 26th of November, 1974 after being decommissioned by Royal Australian Navy on the 14th of November, 1974.

She was named after a battle in Salamaua, Morobe Province in September of 1943.

Her final decommissioning will go down in history as one of PNGDF national asset that had contributed much to this country and assisted in the formation of the PNGDF Maritime Element.

The decommissioning was initially scheduled for April 17 but was delayed due to the COVID- 19 pandemic lockdown and state of Emergency.

She had devotedly served PNG Defence Force and the country, providing maritime platform and extending Government services to the people of PNG in various capacity ranging from aid to civil society, nation building and other operations both local and international.

The decommissioning will take place at Basilisk Naval Base in Port Moresby.

*National News 18 June, 2020.*



### **John William Alexander Jackson. VC. (1897–1959) Australia's youngest VC Winner.**

John William Alexander Jackson (1897-1959), soldier, hotelkeeper, farmer and clerk, was born on 13 September 1897 at Gunbar near Hay, New South Wales, son of John Jackson, labourer, and his wife Adelaide Ann, née McFarlane. He worked for William Gibson of Carlowrie before enlisting as a private in the 17th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, on 20 February 1915 and embarking in May.

### **Gallipoli**

After training in Egypt the battalion landed at Gallipoli on 20 August and immediately fought in the battle for Hill 60. On 3 October Jackson was evacuated with dysentery and rejoined his unit on 8 March 1916 in Egypt. Shortly afterwards the battalion left for the Western Front and relieved the Northumberland Fusiliers at Bois Grenier, near Armentières, France, on 10 April.

### **The Western Front**

An intensive training programme was arranged for a raid on enemy trenches; 18-year-old Jackson volunteered for the operation. On the night of 25-26 June the raiding party of 9 officers and 73 other ranks, under cover of artillery fire, assaulted the forward trenches of the 231st Prussian Reserve Infantry Regiment. Jackson was a member of the scout group which reconnoitred the approaches to the enemy positions. The raiding party moved out in the face of withering machine-gun fire. After the scout group had neutralized the enemy listening posts the raiders, supported by a box barrage, entered the enemy trenches, encountering only token resistance. Five minutes later the Australians withdrew under heavy shelling.



Jackson brought a prisoner back and returned to bring in a wounded man. Again he went out and with a Sergeant was carrying in another man when his right arm was shattered by a bursting shell and the Sergeant was rendered unconscious. He returned for help, disregarding his own condition, and went out again to help bring back the Sergeant and the wounded man; one was recovered. For this act of courage he was immediately awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. This was cancelled, however, and he was awarded the Victoria Cross for his 'splendid example of pluck and determination'. The citation stated: 'his work has always been marked by the greatest coolness and bravery'.

Jackson was evacuated and his arm was amputated. He embarked for Australia on 4 May 1917 and was discharged

on 15 September. Returning to Merriwa, he began dealing in horses and animal skins but in 1927 became licensee of the Figtree hotel in Wollongong. Jackson then moved to Sydney in 1929 for employment. He had several jobs, including clerical work with the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board. On 12 January 1932 he married a dressmaker, Ivy Muriel Alma Morris, at St Paul's Anglican Church, Kogarah; there was one daughter of the marriage which was dissolved in 1955.

## WW11

During World War II he served as an acting sergeant in Eastern Command Provost Company, 1941-42.

## Post War

In 1953 he moved to Melbourne and became commissionaire and inquiry attendant at the Melbourne Town Hall.

In 1956 Jackson visited England to attend Victoria Cross centenary celebrations. Survived by his daughter, he died of arteriosclerotic heart disease on 4 August 1959 at the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, Melbourne, and was cremated.

**Jackson was the youngest Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross in World War I and his was the first V.C. to be awarded to a member of the A.I.F. in France.**

by R. Sutton. This article was published in *Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 9, (MUP), 1983*



## Marsden Matting.

The photo in the preceding column was taken during the visit of A.S. Drakesford, Minister for Air, to Milne Bay in October 1942. "To enable fighter planes to operate in this area a landing strip of steel wire mesh was laid down". A fighter plane is here shown on the strip in a 'dispersal area'.

See HTT Vol 99 on our Web site —The Magic Carpet.

## New Guinea's War Is Not Yet Over

*Pacific Islands Monthly, March 1962.*

A man with one of the few 'live dangerously' jobs left in these comparatively civilised days of Papua-New Guinea is Corporal Alan Brown, 37, of the Royal Australian Engineers.

He's a full-time Australian Army expert in the bomb disposal business, and he can be seen just about anywhere in the coastal regions of PNG, hot on the trail of forgotten explosives.

He has plenty of work to do. Explosive dumps and odd bombs are being uncovered all the time, despite the fact that it's now 16 years since the war ended. A 1,000 lb bomb was uncovered recently by a bulldozer on a main road from Rabaul—and was found to be too dangerous to move. Alan Brown detonated it where it lay.

Alan Brown estimates he has disposed of about 460 tons of war-time explosives in PNG—his biggest single job being the detonation of 42 x1,000 lb bombs at Cape Gloucester. New Britain. He



Alan supervising the loading of mines for dumping at sea. These four mines were found close to a Rabaul street.

does not always explode bombs—often he dumps them.

As a man who knows better than most just how dangerous old explosives can be, he repeatedly warns people to be careful in burning off, particularly in the Gazelle Peninsula area of New Britain. And he can't understand the stupidity of people who remove explosive from bombs and use it to blast fish. He says it's a good way of losing a hand or two, and there are plenty of cases to prove it.

When recently I heard he was going to "blow" about 2,500 lb of bombs and projectiles that had been uncovered on a plantation about four miles from Rabaul, I joined the party to see the Corporal at work.

Normally if a bomb or projectile is safe to transport, Cpl. Brown prefers to dump it at sea, but on this occasion no vessel was available and the only other course was to detonate this lot on land adjacent to the Rabaul Amateur Turf Club's racecourse at the foothills of Vulcan volcano, a few miles from Rabaul.

## Observatory Warned

When the bombs—Japanese and American—were stacked, pyramid fashion, in a small crater from a previous blast. Alan Brown placed some slabs of TNT amongst them. He connected these—by a fuse-like detonating charge, which itself explodes at



2,000 metres per second— to an electrical cable. Native helpers ran this cable to the grandstand about 1,000 yards away, where we all took shelter against fragments and shrapnel.

The blast was set down for 11 a.m. The Rabaul volcanological observatory was advised of this so that any recording made on the seismographs would not be confused with earth movements. As the hour approached, Cpl. Brown blew a warning signal, and connected a generator to produce the current required to travel those 1,000 yards and explode the detonating charge.

Promptly at 11 a.m. he completed the circuit. Instantly there was a brilliant fiery flash, and a roar, as a dust cloud started to climb skywards. Almost immediately, a blast of air rushed around us, and pieces of shrapnel began to fall near the grandstand. Alan Brown tilted his hat back, wiped his sweating forehead, and for a moment appeared grateful that another blast had gone off well.

The blast had widened the crater- to 35 ft., and to a depth of about 15 ft., and had cut a swathe of kunai grass right around the crater. We found a stunned but very much alive toad in the bottom of the crater, hopping about. As clouds of sand flies swarmed around us in vengeance, we beat a retreat back to Rabaul to a cool beer.

Corporal Alan Brown, who went to Australia from England 11 years ago, looks what he is—a quiet family man. He likes his job. "It gives me a chance to see the Territory,"\* he explains.

*Alan was the father of our Museum Curator Paul Brown ex PNGV R*



An RAAF Boomerang aircraft lost in late 1943 in the Shaggy Ridge area. The pilots remains were recovered early in 1944. The wreck was one of a number of Boomerangs lost in the area in the period 1943-44.

### Your Museum

For anyone who hasn't been to the museum for some time it is well worth a return visit.

Museum Curator Paul Brown and Asst Curator Colin Gould normally spend Wednesdays there working to ensure that displays are maintained at the highest level. There are a number of new displays to view and a range of new photos etc.

If you know of any groups who would like to make a visit please contact Paul or Colin (details on P20 and arrangements can be made for a visit outside the normal opening hours of 10am 2pm on the first Saturday monthly. Large groups are a great source of income for the continued maintenance and updating of Museum artifacts.



Bunnings BBQ at Oxley, Brisbane, 5 Sep. to raise money for the museum. Back. Paul Brown, Peter Rogers. Seated. Colin Gould, Mike Griffin.

It is with great sadness that I have to mention the loss of a few local businesses as a result of Covid-19.

A local Bra Shop has gone bust.

A Mining Company has gone under.

A manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidation.

A Dog Kennels has had to call in the retrievers.

An origami book company has folded.

An Aerial Installation company has called in the receivers.

A Key Company has gone into lockdown.

A Watchsmith has wound down and called time.

An Iceland store has had its assets frozen.

A Shoe Factory has been soled and employees given the boot.

The Heinz factory has been canned as they couldn't ketchup with orders.

The bitumen company has reached the end of the road.

The bread company has run out of dough.

The laundrette has been taken to the cleaners.

And finally the RACQ Recovery Service are on their way to a breakdown.

### Late / non Payment Membership Fees.

The Association is reliant on the regular payment of membership fees. It has been to date the practice of a minority of members not to pay annually but to pay every few years.

This causes problems for our Treasurer as our commitments have to be met on time and the payment of membership fees is the major source of income to continue the production of Harim Tok Tok and the museum maintenance.

### Association 2020 Annual General Meeting.

An overcast and stormy day greeted the 16 members and friends of the Association who attended the Association's 31st AGM at the Wacol Military Museum on Sat 24th Oct.

Not surprising the incoming Committee is unaltered from that of last year with the only change being Kieran Nelson becoming Treasurer in lieu of Doug Ng:-

-President. Phil Ainsworth

Vice-President Bob Collins

Secretary Colin Gould MBE

Treasurer Kieran Nelson

Committee Members. Peter Rogers DFC, Mike Griffin, Paul Brown, Doug Ng, Tony Boulter, Peter Rogers (the younger).



A number of people also accepted their honorary positions again:-

Patron Maj Gen John Pearn AO. RFD.  
 Assn Welfare Officer Paul Brown  
 Museum Weapons and Curator Paul Brown  
 Chaplain Ron MacDonald (Salvation Army)  
 Auditor Guiseppe Sciacca. (SDP Accountants)  
 Asst Museum Curator Colin Gould MBE

The Treasurer's report showed Cash on hand at \$5,775.07 and pointed out that our income for the year was diminished due to the effects of Covid-19 which resulted in fewer visits to the Museum (closed for 6 months) and the loss of at least 1 and possibly 2 Bunnings BBQs.

The President's report follows the article.

Andrea Williams, past President and current Editor for the PNGAA (Papua New Guinea Assn of Australia) was awarded the Patron's Medal for 2020. Andrea has supported and assisted our Association in many ways over the past decade and a half. A prime example was the holding of Rabaul's 100th Anniversary Party -harnessing the resources of both associations made for an outstanding event and fund raiser. Unfortunately Andrea was unable to attend because of Covid-19 restrictions but a speaker phone call to her in Sydney enabled out Patron, Maj Gen Pearn, to make the presentation to President Phil on her behalf.

The meeting was followed by a free BBQ lunch thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

Towards the end of the lunch the heavens opened with a deluge of badly needed rain.



Maj Gen John Pearn AO. RFD. presenting the Patron's Medal to Andrea Williams by phone. President Phil Ainsworth accepting on behalf of Andrea.

## President's Report

Good morning and welcome to our 2020 AGM .

I thank those who travelled some distance to be here today, from the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and hinterland , your attendance is appreciated.

Many people have said much about the coronavirus. I believe many positives will derive from it. The pause in our hectic lives has given us time to reflect about the direction of our lives and the country. The few bad stories we have heard have been greatly outweighed by the good. We and Australia will see through this pandemic and come out better and stronger .

Our membership remains strong with new members occasionally coming out of the woodwork. Since the last AGM , to our knowledge, seven members have died, two less than last year. These losses included : Allan Tronson; Jack Lewis; Kenneth Connelly; John Thomson ; Russell Ames and Ivan Old - Lest we Forget.

Although restricted our Association has had an active year. Formed in 1989 , incorporated in 1991 the Association is 31 years old. Most of the present office holders have held their positions for 16 years, half the life of the Association, providing a continuity of service and dedication.

The following outlines the Association's activities since our 2019 AGM:

- 1 the Qld State Montevideo Maru memorial service at the Brisbane Cenotaph and this AGM were the major functions held ;
- 2 publication and distribution of 6 issues of Harim Tok Tok the association's 16 page newsletter was maintained;
- 3 our website was maintained and updated and our face book administered with regular postings;
- 4 whilst closed for some of the time, our military museum , when allowed , was open on the first Saturday of the month as well when group visits were organised;
- 5 six committee meetings were held;
- 6 one fund raising Bunnings sausage sizzle was held ;
- 7 attendance at and support to many kindred organisation's events and commemorations continued;
- 8 when allowed, regular welfare visits to aged and frail members were made;
- 9 attendance and when requested, arranging poppy parades at former members funerals organised;
- 10 attendance and presentation of medals of excellence at the 2019 9 RQR Steel Tuff exercise was a great success;
- 11 and several projects being undertaken by individuals continued .

Our 2019-20 association activities were reported in our Harim Tok Tok and social media.

These details are also posted in our Website [www.pngvr.weebly.com](http://www.pngvr.weebly.com) and our face book page. Please take the time and look up our Website and Face book, you may be surprised at the content!

There will be no 2020 9 RQR Steel Tuff Exercise and presentation of Medallions for Excellence this year due to the heavy work load of the Battalion during the year caused by call outs for the fires and virus quarantining and border duties.

Our final committee meeting and BYO luncheon for the year will be held in the Wacol Museum at 10am, Saturday 21 November to which all who are interested are welcome to attend.

Besides articles written for the HTT and other purposes by members , Michael White who works part-time at the AWM, has several on-going projects in which you may be interested:





After the meeting. Marie Zimmerman, Jessica Harrington, Kieran Nelson, Joyce McGrade.

1 he has prepared a list of the 1 400 military who served in the AN & AMEF during WW1 and so far has written biographies for over 400 from this list, up from 100 last year;

2 he has confirmed all NGVR soldiers killed during WW2, of whom we are aware, are on AWM's honour board;

3 has instigated an investigation towards AWM changing its criteria to recognise enlisted NGVR who were not called up for full time service, but were killed during the war as civilians, to be placed on AWM's Commemorative Roll. The new Director of the AWM confirmed that this will continue after employment restrictions are lifted.

John Winterbotham has for years and continues to research NAA documents relating to PNG, particularly to the military. An example is his complete list of NGVR, PIB and NGIBs men who served during the Pacific War.

If you are working on a project which may be of interest or use to the Association, please advise us and do not hesitate if you require information, contacts or assistance.

Through our many and varied activities, NGVR's and PNGVR's regimental histories are becoming better known and respected. Our Association has developed an enhanced network with kindred organisations with which we share activities, mostly commemorative in nature.

Our newsletter Harim Tok Tok remains our main means of communicating with our wide-flung membership and continues to grow in popularity amongst members and others. Editor Bob Collins has produced 66 issues over the past 11 years. We are most appreciative of this outstanding work, thank you Bob.

Our Face book, which is managed by Kieran Nelson, is also increasing its popularity, thank you Kieran.

I thank Trevor Connell, our web master, and his assistant Richard Muir, who have upgraded our website [www.pngvr.weebly.com](http://www.pngvr.weebly.com) over the past year – I commend our website to you as it holds our historical records, photographs and current information. Contact Trevor if you wish to add a pertinent story.

Our Sydney member Ross Johnson, who is also a prominent member of PNGAA, recently produced an unsolicited computer searchable list of all Harim Tok Tok articles. Instead of looking through all the issues to find what you want, Ross's work provides easy access by word or phrase. This will be incorporated into our website soon. Thank you Ross.

We are grateful to the NSAAQ for its ongoing co-operation and assistance between our respective Associations. Our relationship started in 2005 when we were asked to establish a Museum here. It is a good and healthy relationship and it will prosper as this military heritage precinct is developed to its full potential. I would like to personally thank President Alex Garlin, NSAAQ office bearers and its members for their friendship and assistance.

Our Military Museum officially opened in February 2006 under the tutelage of Curator, John Holland. Since John's death a couple of years ago, the Museum is managed by Curator Paul Brown and his assistant Colin Gould. Paul and Colin have restructured the displays to streamline the flow of guests through the Museum. The Museum also serves as our home base and meeting area. We are indebted to Paul and Colin for their ongoing work and time devoted to the Museum which has become a focus for all our activities. Our legacy to the community is our military museum which will ensure the histories of our two unique units and their part in contributing to the enduring relationship between Australia and PNG are not forgotten.

Our most pressing issues for the Museum are its tenure and succession - without tenure succession cannot be resolved. Although negotiations between the BCC and NSAAQ have been on the table for several years, progress has recently been made; the title of the land is in BCC'S name and presently the land category is being changed to appropriately meet the use of the site. Once this is completed long term leases will be finally negotiated. Our honorary solicitor Craig Ray has been asked to assist in finalising this for the association.

Despite limited fund raising opportunities this year, our financial position is sound with thanks to Treasurers Doug Ng and Kieran Nelson. Doug retired from the position after he had a severe fall and long hospitalisation earlier this year. We thank Doug Ng for his sterling work over many years safeguarding and nurturing our finances, without which we would not be in the position we are now. Thank you Doug and we all wish you a full recovery and early return to the Association's committee.

We were fortunate for Kieran Nelson offering his services to fill the gap created by Doug's mishap, thank you Kieran. A recent change is our move from a manual cheque transaction system of book-keeping to an electronics system which will help streamline our operation.

On behalf of our members, I thank the outgoing committee members, Vice President and Harim Tok Tok editor Bob Collins, Secretary and Assistant Museum Curator Colin Gould, Treasurers Doug Ng and Kieran Nelson, Museum Curator and Welfare Officer Paul Brown, Webmaster Trevor Connell, Grants Officer and Face book Administrator Kieran Nelson and committee members Peter Rogers DFC, Mike Griffin, Tony Boulter and Peter Rogers (the younger). We are appreciative for our Honorary Padre Ron McDonald and Honorary Solicitor Craig Ray who are always available when needed. Our Patron Major General John Pearn graciously continues to provide engaged support and encouragement to us through his high standing in the community, his many connections with kindred organisations and individuals and his presence at our events, for which we are extremely grateful.

As an association, we have met and exceeded the stated objectives of our constitution and the expectations of the community.  
Phil Ainsworth, 24 October 2020

#### Urine Test for Older Men

My urologist's office called the other day and explained that my scheduled appointment would now be done over the phone due to Corona Virus. I was instructed (via email) to administer my own urine test. This was to avoid those lab tests because many labs are shut down too.

#### Directions:

Simply go outside and pee on the lawn one hour before the scheduled teleconference.

- If ant's gather: DIABETES.
- If you pee on your feet: PROSTATE.
- If it smells like a barbecue: CHOLESTEROL.
- If your wrist hurts when you shake it: OSTEOARTHRITIS.
- If you return to your house with your penis outside your pants: ALZHEIMER'S.

### In the face of adversity

Courage means different things to different people, often based on life experiences.

Some define it as continuing on in the face of adversity. To others, it's about standing up for what's right, no matter the opposition.

Those presented with a Victoria Cross or Medal for Gallantry could be held as exemplars.

For RSM 9RQR, W01 Matt Lines MG, it's a blend of them all. "I don't think courage is given. It's earned through hard work, a willingness to act and a strong moral compass," W01 Lines said. "You have to earn it through hard decisions, pulling people up and making sure behaviour is correct."

Courage isn't built in to soldiers, or military training, but is nonetheless an important part of military service, according to W01 Lines.

"I don't think you're 'born with it'. I think you become courageous in the face of adversity," he said. "As individuals, we learn courage through hard, realistic training and it's easier to do when the people around you share the same mindset. We have an obligation to the Australian population to be courageous and act as an example of what right looks like."

While training may instil this value in soldiers, it's replicated



W01 (then Sgt) Matt Lines, left, and Maj (then Lt) Ben Gooley at a patrol base in Afghanistan in 2009.

in armies around the world.

In the 2009 contact that earned him his MG, W01 Lines said his actions were part of the courage displayed by both his Australian teammates and the ANA soldiers they were with.

While deployed as an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team member, then Sgt Lines was credited with "total disregard for his personal safety to neutralise assaulting elements and suppress flanking forces".

His actions were "an inspiration to all soldiers in his vicinity", something W01 Lines said was part of the responsibility of holding rank. "Demonstrating courage to look after our soldiers is instrumental in what we do," he said. "Physical courage on the battlefield inspires soldiers to complete the mission, but displaying moral and ethical courage contributes to the culture of both the unit and Army as well."

*Army News 1477*

A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official, who apologized profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."

### VALE. Capt. Russell Stanford AMES. OAM. 625001 31.1.1937—23.8.2020

Russell was one of nine children of Sydney Harry AMES (ex NX 80301) and Ruth Mary PICKERING whose father, a former 12 year veteran of the British Royal Marine Light Infantry, landed at Gallipoli with the 20th Battalion. At the age of 17 he enlisted in the RAN. During Naval service he was deployed, on three occasions, to South East Asia during the Malaya Emergency period. On Naval service he visited HMAS Lorengau on Manus Island and Rabaul. Later, aboard the Troop Carrier HMAS Sydney, cruised from Brisbane via Samarai to Wewak where soldiers of the 7th Battalion were embarked after a pre-Vietnam deployment exercise. By 1964 he had married and had re-located to Hobart and was appointed a Constable in the Tasmania Police Force. They had five children.



After 4 years with the RANER he enlisted in the Army Reserve Officer Cadet Training Unit at Hobart as an Officer Cadet and was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant Royal Australian Infantry in 1971 and was posted to B Company 1st Battalion, The Royal Tasmania Regiment.

In 1972 he was seconded to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary holding the rank of Inspector 2nd class. Between 1972 and 1974 he conducted an NCO level course at the Bomana Police Barracks and travelled to Lae, Madang, Mt Hagen, Minj, Goroka, Wewak, Maprik, Manus Island, New Ireland and Rabaul.



He joined PNGVR where he was posted to the University Platoon and remained in this position until the unit disbanded in 1973. He returned to Tasmania in 1974 and was posted to HQ 6MD. He joined the Association in 1995 after hearing about on the grapevine and have made contact with other Association members in Hobart.

He joined the PNG Development Project on a 2 year contract. Where he often went (armed with an AR15) searching villages for drugs. He returned to Tasmania in 1993 and was appointed as Senior Adviser to two successive Police Ministers.

Medals Awarded: 1 ASM 2. Naval General Service Medal (Malaya) 3. Australian Service Medal (PNG and FESR) 4. Reserve Forces Medal 5. National Medal and 2 clasps 6. Tasmania Police Service Medal 7. PNG Independence Medal (1975) 8. RPNGC 100th Anniversary Medal 9. Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal (Defence of Malaya medal)

### LEST WE FORGET

### VALE NORM FURNESS OAM. VX23557 15 Jan 1922—1 Sep 2020

At 1:00 am on 23 Jan 1942, 5,000 Japanese troops came ashore at Blanche Bay, vastly outnumbering the 1,396 soldiers of Lark Force awaiting them. Resistance lasted only a few hours before the 'Every man for himself' withdrawal. No contingency plans were in place for retreat, chaos ensued and Lark Force disintegrated. It was comprised of the 2/22nd Inf Bn, members of the NGVR, an Australian coastal defence battery, an anti-aircraft battery, an anti-tank battery and a detachment of the 2/10th Field Ambulance, which included six nurses.



Only about 400 made it back to Australia, having escaped overland and by sea in the most desperate of circumstances. Norm managed to survive the horrific conditions that befell the members of Lark Force from the invading Japanese. He was one of the lucky ones to escape East New Britain by boat and return to Australia to tell the story. 'We spent a month working our way through the jungle away from Rabaul and ended up at Witu on the North coast of New Britain. We had no equipment or food. We had no knowledge of the place and we had been given no instructions. If we hadn't been picked up by the Coast-watcher Keith McCarthy and put on the Lakatoi, we wouldn't have known what to do.'

Norm has been committed for over seventy years to looking after the widows and families of the 2/22nd Battalion/Lark Force Association. He was also committed to the few survivors of the battalion, despite them being spread all over Australia.

In the 1960s and 1970s he was involved in raising funds to build three units at RSL Care, Frankston, for widows of the 2/22nd Battalion.



Norm was a Welfare Officer for the East Malvern RSL which earned him a Life Membership of the RSL. In 2012 he was awarded the Shrine of Remembrance Medal for outstanding contributions to the veterans community. In 2016 Norm was honoured with an Order of Australia Medal again for his commitment to the veteran community and for keeping the story of Lark Force alive.



In the post-war years Norm was instrumental in commemorations for Lark Force and the Montevideo Maru. Including raising money for and dedicating memorials in PNG, Australia and the Philippines.

#### LEST WE FORGET

**VALE. Lt. Ivan Edward Old.**

**252834 15.9.1928—Oct 2020**

Ivan was born near Goulburn, went to school there and completed a carpentry apprenticeship there.

Ivan worked in Rabaul, PNG, as a construction foreman with PWD from 1954 –1961. He returned home briefly to marry Therese in 1957 and they had 5 children. Whilst in Rabaul he built a speedboat with a 350hp Chev engine to water ski in the harbour.



Ivan and the Duke of Edinburgh in Rabaul, 1956.

In 1975 he purchased Stuart Homes and with partner Frank Ward they build over 300 homes in the Southern Highlands of NSW.

In 1977 he purchased a 500 acre property at Ingleburn and formed the Macarthur Polocrosse Club which went on to become the Sydney Polocrosse Club. The 5 children played polocrosse and two went on to repre-



B Coy O group Kokopo Rifle Range. L-R. WO2 Jones, Lts N Beardsell, Ivan Old, Sgt Ray Doust, Lt Max Shadlow.

sent NSW. In 1989 he purchased a newsagency at Dunedoo and, whilst there, oversaw the building of a Retirement Village.

At the age of 70 in 1998 Ivan retired and he and Therese

moved back to Camden where they lived until his death. He and Therese spent a lot of time travelling the world

Ivan commenced his military service with 3 Inf Bn, The Werriwa Regt, in July 1948 at Goulburn, NSW. In Jan 1953 he attended a PI Comd Weapons Course at Seymour where he met Lt Frank Hoeter from PNGVR, little realising they would meet again in Rabaul in July 1954 when he transferred to B Coy, PNGVR, as a Sgt.

He was commissioned in April 1956 and commanded the Guard of Honour at Rabaul for the Duke of Edinburgh who was on his way to the Olympic Games in Melbourne.

He transferred to the Reserve of Officers in Jan 1957.

#### LEST WE FORGET

##### Chaplain's Message

The Old Testament prophecy concerning the coming of a Saviour of the world is recorded: **Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

The New Testament then records the fulfilment of this prophecy in Luke 2:1-20 telling us the story of God's love personified; how even though He was born in a lowly stable, and had an animal feeding trough for His bed, He was visited by royalty from other countries who acknowledged Jesus as the promised Messiah. What an amazing love story beginning with His birth at Christmas, and His sacrificial death and resurrection at Calvary (Easter).

May the love of God expressed in the coming of Jesus, be your experience this Christmas time.

We pray that God will reveal Himself to you in a special way this Christmas, and that you will discover something new about the Christmas story.

We also pray that you and your family will be safe this Christmas season and find time to rest and refresh yourselves following a busy year.

Heavenly Father we thank you that you are always there for us. You are our Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. We know you love us so much. Teach us how to love you more, In Jesus name we pray, AMEN.

**Numbers 6: 24-26**

**"May the Lord bless you and keep you;**

**May the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;**

**May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."**

Ron MacDonald (Chaplain)



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
A HAPPY AND HEALTHY YEAR IN 2020  
FROM PATRON MAJ GEN JOHN PEARNS AO.  
RFD., PRESIDENT PHIL AINSWORTH  
AND YOUR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**



Five Victoria Cross recipients standing behind of the grave of Corporal Edmondson VC on the 25th of April, 1953, in the Tobruk War Cemetery, Libya.  
They were there while on their way to England to attend the coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.  
They are left to right.  
Private F.J. Partridge VC, (Australia).  
Private E. Kenna VC, (Australia).  
Sergeant J. D. Hinton VC, (New Zealand).  
Private R. Kelliher VC, (Australia).  
Sergeant R. Rattey VC, (Australia).



#### REPLICA MEDALS OR MOUNTING OF MEDALS

A reliable source for medal work is National Medals, [natmedals@bigpond.com](mailto:natmedals@bigpond.com), Ph 07 3871 0600 Ask for Greg Faux, mobile 0419 196 172. Located at 13/200 Moggill Road, Taringa, Brisbane, 4066

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

Includes former members of the PIR, PIB and NGIB.

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

**For Military Museum enquires contact** Colin Gould email [pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au), phone 0424 562 030 or Paul Brown email [paulbrown475@gmail.com](mailto:paulbrown475@gmail.com), Phone 0402 644 181

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

**Membership fee payments to Treasurer**, Kieran Nelson email [kierannelson@bigpond.com](mailto:kierannelson@bigpond.com), Phone 0412 236 013

(NGVR & PNGVR Ex-members Association : BSB: 064006 - A/C: 10001126)

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

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

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**President:** Email [p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au](mailto:p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au) to get on members electronic distribution including Harim Tok Tok (you will receive it in colour, earlier and can adjust the print size to suit)

**Padre.** Rev Ron MacDonald. Phone 0407 008 624 email [ron.macdonald@aue.salvationarmy.org](mailto:ron.macdonald@aue.salvationarmy.org)

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The Association would like to thank King & Co Property Consultants for its continuing support, including the printing of this edition, together with the past 67 issues of Harim Tok Tok.

Its contribution is much appreciated.

#### FUNCTION DATES

**Sat 21 Nov Sat 13 Feb 2021**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Museum 10am.

Members always welcome. BYO lunch Come along, bring your friends, and view the new exhibits

**Sat 5 Dec**

Museum open 10am—1pm Book sales.

Please note. Museum will not be open on Sat 2 Jan. Experience has shown that the public do not come along during School Holidays.