



Harim Tok Tok

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Our Association recently received a kind, generous and unsolicited donation from the Veterans Support and Advocacy Service Australia (VSASA). VSASA members, Errol Rasmussen and Robert Cross who had visited our Museum recommended us for a donation. VSASA Secretary, John Tilly, confirmed the donation to us was one of forty donations made to distribute all its funds because it was being wound up. In VSASA's case, its elderly membership was unable to find office bearers and workers to maintain its assets and activities. No conditions apply to the donation. On behalf of our members, I thanked VSASA in writing for its generous donation and I assured the Secretary that it would be put to good use in maintaining our Museum. VSASA was located in an old Girl Guide Hut in Misikin Street, Toowong, Brisbane.

The publication and distribution of six issues per annum of Harim Tok Tok (Editor is Bob Collins) is our main means of communicating with our members and friends. We also use face book (the administrator is our Treasurer Kieran Nelson), our website www.pngvr.weebly.com (administrator is Trevor Connell based in Canberra), mail (Secretary Colin Gould) and emails (Phil Ainsworth). Please advise any of the above mentioned if your contact details change so our connection with you is maintained.

Since October 2009, Bob Collins has edited 72 issues (number 58 to 130) of Harim Tok Tok, each issue being of 16 pages and all issues in the familiar format used here. We were fortunate to have King & Co Property Consultants sponsoring your HTT, from when Bob became editor, by providing, free of charge, final copy and printing. Secretary Colin Gould labelled and posted the hard copies. We owe Bob, Colin and King & Co a big thank you for this tremendous service to our members over the past 12 years.

The usual annual Kokoda Day Commemorative Services at Broadbeach and the Indooroopilly/Sherwood RSL were cancelled this year due to Covid restrictions. However, Tony Boulter and Paul Brown representing our Association attended the Covid restricted annual Battle for Australia Service at Chermiside on Wednesday 1st September and laid a wreath (a report is on page 15).

We will be manning Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at Oxley on Saturday 18th September. The sausage sizzles is presently one of our main fund raising measures. Please contact Secretary Colin Gould if you are able to assist on the day.

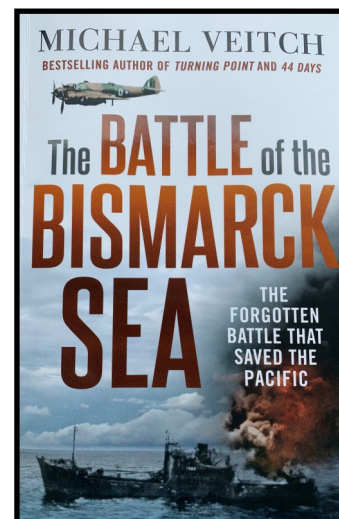
2021 is the second year that Brisbane Open Day has been cancelled due to Covid. However, the Museum is open from 10am to 1pm on the first Saturday of each month for the public, otherwise by appointment. Page 14 of this HTT has an article with photographs of recent group visits to the Museum.

For those interested, the Reserve Forces Association is holding a Garden Party at Victoria Barracks Mess, Brisbane from 4pm to 6.30pm Saturday 16th October. Please contact me if you require further details.

Our big event for this year is PNGVR's 70th Anniversary Luncheon to be held from 10 am Saturday 23rd October at Everyman's Hut, Wacol. Please see the attached flyer for particulars and booking information. This is an important occasion for our Regiment and our Association and I would like to see as many present as possible. Dress is Anzac Day dress with full medals. The Association's AGM will be held prior to the luncheon so turn up early and have your vote and say.

A reminder that our next committee meetings will be held at 10am Saturday 9th October and 20th November respectively. All members are welcome to attend and we finish each meeting with a BYO luncheon.

I recently read the latest book about the remarkable Battle of the Bismarck Sea. Whilst Lex McCauley's excellent book covered the battle in detail and explained the change in air tactics which assured this US/Australian victory, Michael Veitch's book explores the changes and how they came about in fascinating detail. This started with the chance change of the Command of the Allied Air Force of the South West Pacific Area. The tactical changes included: fore-warning of enemy action through breaking of the Japanese code, improved reconnaissance, arming medium bombers for use as low level attack aircraft to devastate the enemy bridge and ship superstructure by machine gun fire prior to bombing, the



use of bombs attached with parachutes and delay action fuses to allow time for aircraft to pass over the target prior to exploding, coordinating the attack through formation flying of different types of aircraft at different times, heights and directions for specific purposes, rehearsal of the plan prior to the action and importantly fine flying weather on the day. I commend the book for an exciting read.

Phil Ainsworth, September 2021

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Z Special Unit

An Australian army unit called Z SPECIAL UNIT was established to administer Australian Army personnel and civilians assigned to ISD, and later to SRD, and as such Z Special Unit appears on the service records of every Australian soldier who was assigned to either of those organisations.

An administrative entity with no combat or special operations role, Z Special Unit was also used to requisition stores and transport through Australian Army channels and at this it excelled, having been given carte blanche permission to draw any stores required. There are cases where Colonels were removed from transport aircraft to make room for SRD Corporals. Such was the administrative power of Z Special Unit.

However, "Z Special Unit" or "Z Force" became common terms for the organisation in the post-war years, even among SRD Veterans. Although it is historically inaccurate to refer to the special operations organisation as Z Special Unit, it does seem to help some folks wrap their head around the whole thing.

The above comes from the website Z Special Unit—a Secret War. The following article will refer to Z Special Unit and not ISD or SRD which would be technically correct.

Z Special Unit was a joint Allied special forces unit formed during the Second World War to operate behind Japanese lines in South East Asia. Predominantly Australian, Z Special Unit was a specialist reconnaissance and sabotage unit that included British, Dutch, New Zealand, Timorese and Indonesian members, predominantly operating on Borneo and the islands of the former Netherlands East Indies.

The unit carried out a total of 81 covert operations in the South West Pacific theatre, with parties inserted by parachute or submarine to provide intelligence and conduct guerrilla warfare. The best known of these missions were Operation *Jaywick* and Operation *Rimau*, both of which involved raids on Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour; the latter of which resulted in the deaths of 23 commandos either in action or by execution after capture.

Although the unit was disbanded after the war, many of the training techniques and operational procedures employed were later used during the formation of other Australian Army special forces units and they remain a model for guerrilla operations to this day.

Formation and training



The Inter-Allied Services Department (IASD), was an Allied military intelligence unit, established in March 1942. The unit was created at the suggestion of the commander of Allied land forces in the South West Pa-

cific area, General Thomas Blamey, and was modelled on the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) in London. It was renamed Special Operations Australia (SOA) and in 1943 became known as the Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD).

It contained several British SOE officers who had escaped from Singapore, and they formed the nucleus of the Inter-Allied Services Department (ISD) which was based in Melbourne. In June 1942, an ISD raiding/commando unit was organised—designated Z Special Unit.

Several training schools were established in various loca-



tions across Australia, the most notable being Camp Z in Refuge Bay, an offshoot of Broken Bay to the north of Sydney, Z Experimental Station (also known as the "House on the Hill" or ZES.) near Cairns, Queensland, Fraser Commando School (or FCS) on Fraser Island, Queensland where a commemorative monument stands on the mainland overlooking the island. As a training exercise, one group led by Samuel Warren Carey paddled folboats between Fraser Island and Cairns. Another training school was the Special Boat Section at Careening Bay Camp, on Garden Island, Western Australia. Another, in Darwin on the site of the Quarantine Station, was named the Lugger Maintenance Section to disguise its true purpose.

Plans for an attack on Singapore

In 1943, a 28-year-old British officer, Captain Ivan Lyon of the Allied Intelligence Bureau and Gordon Highlanders, and a 61-year-old Australian civilian, Bill Reynolds, devised a plan to attack Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour. Z Special Unit would travel to the harbour in a disguised fishing boat. They would then use folding kayaks to attach limpet mines to Japanese ships. General Archibald Wavell approved the plan, and Lyon was sent to Australia to organise the operation.

Bill Reynolds was in possession of a 21.3 metre-long Japanese coastal fishing boat, the *Kofuku Maru*, which he had used to evacuate refugees out of Singapore. Lyon ordered that the boat be shipped from India to Australia. Upon its arrival, he renamed the vessel *MV Krait*, after the small but deadly Asian snake. Lieutenant-Colonel G. Egerton Mott, the chief of the Services Reconnaissance Department, suggested that they should test the effectiveness of the plan by making a mock raid on a tightly guarded Allied port. Townsville, Queensland was chosen for the location of the attack.

Operation Scorpion

In January 1943, Lieutenant Samuel Warren Carey, a Z Special Unit officer based at Z Experimental Station, Cairns, Queensland, approached General Thomas Blamey with a proposition for a raid on the Japanese-occupied port at Rabaul, New Guinea. One submarine, with a small group of commandos on board, would be involved. The commandos would be dropped 16 kilometres (9.9 mi) off Rabaul.

They would then use their Hoehn military folboats (collapsible kayaks) to travel into the harbour and attach limpet mines to as many enemy ships as possible. They would then retreat to a volcano section roughly 6 kilometres (3.7 mi) south of Rabaul, where they would hide out until they could safely rendezvous with the submarine. Blamey was sure that the unit would be captured and shot, but he authorised the operation, and issued Carey carte blanche authority to perform whatever actions he deemed necessary during the planning of the proposed operation, which was codenamed Operation Scorpion.

By the end of March 1943, Carey had assembled a team of nine men on their base at Magnetic Island. Lyon and Mott arranged to have Carey's unit perform a mock attack on Townsville, although they were careful not to commit anything to paper. Townsville was a busy harbour full of troop transports, merchantmen and naval escort vessels, and tight security was maintained due to the constant threat of Japanese air and submarine attack.

At midnight on 22 June 1943, the unit left Magnetic Island and paddled by folboat through the heavily mined mouth of Townsville Harbour. Dummy limpet mines were attached to ten ships, including two destroyers. The men rowed into Ross Creek, dis-

mantled and hid their folboats, then travelled into Townsville to find a place to sleep. Around 10:00 am, the limpets were discovered, and panic ensued.

Carey was arrested, and despite producing Blamey's letter and earnest assurances that the mines were dummies, they refused to allow him to leave or to allow the removal of the mines, which the RAN feared were real and might accidentally detonate. Mott was able to arrange Carey's release, but only on the condition that he left Z Special Unit. Operation Scorpion was scrapped due to a lack of submarine transport, but Mott and Lyon had learned many valuable lessons from the raid.

Operation Jaywick



Crew of the MV *Krait* during Operation Jaywick, 1943



Group portrait after the completion of Op Jaywick

Operation Jaywick was an Inter-Allied Services Department operation to infiltrate the Japanese-occupied Singapore Harbour and destroy shipping. On 2 September 1943, the *Krait*, with a crew of eleven Australian and four British personnel, left Exmouth Gulf, Western Australia. The group, commanded by Ivan Lyon, dyed their skin brown and hair black (the skin dye later caused many skin problems for the members of the team, including irritation and reactions in adverse amounts of sunlight). They also wore sa-

rons, so that they resembled Indonesian fisherman.

They arrived off Singapore on 24 September and that night six men left the boat. They paddled 50 kilometres (31 mi) to a small island near the harbour where a forward base was established in a cave. On the night of 26 September, using folboats the party paddled into the harbour and placed limpet mines on several Japanese ships. The mines sank or seriously damaged four Japanese ships, amounting to over 39,000 tons. The raiders waited until the commotion had died down before returning to the *Krait*. On 19 October the *Krait* arrived back at Exmouth Gulf having achieved a great success.

Operation Rimau

Operation Rimau was a follow-up to the successful Operation Jaywick, which had taken place in 1943, being a further attack on Japanese shipping at Singapore Harbour. Rimau (Malay for "tiger") was again led by Lieutenant Colonel Ivan Lyon, a British officer on secondment from the Gordon Highlanders. Originally named Operation Hornbill, the goal of "Rimau" was to sink Japanese shipping by placing limpet mines on ships. It was intended that motorised semi-submersible canoes, known as Sleeping Beauties, would be used to gain access to the harbour.

Lyon led a Services Reconnaissance Department party of twenty-two men. They left their base in Australia aboard the British submarine *HMS Porpoise* (N14) on 11 September 1944. When they

reached the island of Merapas, which was to be their forward base, it was discovered to be inhabited. To ensure that their stores would remain undiscovered by the natives one of the officers from the *Porpoise*, Lieutenant Walter Carey, remained on Merapas as a guard. The party then commandeered a Malay junk named *Mustika*, taking the Malay crew aboard the submarine. The SRD men transferred their equipment to the junk and the *Porpoise* departed. Lyon decided to drop off four more men with Carey: Corporal Colin Craft, Warrant Officer Alf Warren and Sergeant Colin Cameron.

Meanwhile, the *Mustika* neared its target. On the day of the planned attack, 10 October 1944, disaster struck. A Japanese patrol boat from the Malay '*Heiho*' challenged the *Mustika* and someone on board opened fire, killing three Malays. Their cover blown, Lyon had no option but to abort the mission. After scuttling the junk and the *Sleeping Beauties* with explosives, he ordered his men back to Merapas. Unbeknown to Lyon two Malays had escaped overboard during the firing and had made their way ashore to report the incident.

The Hoehn Mk III folboats stored in the *Mustika* were deployed to make the party's way to Merapas. Using these folboats, Lyon led a small force of six other men—Lieutenant Commander Donald Davidson, Lieutenant Bobby Ross, Able Seaman Andrew Huston, Corporal Clair Stewart, Corporal Archie Campbell and Private Douglas Warne—into Singapore Harbour, where they are believed to have sunk three ships. Lyon and twelve others were killed in action soon afterwards, and the remaining ten men were captured and later executed by beheading in July 1945.

Operation Copper



Four of the crew members of Motor Launch (ML) 1321 and NX73110 Sapper (Spr) Edgar Thomas 'Mick' Dennis, Z Special Unit, the only survivor of the ill-fated raid on Muschu Island (off the coast of New Guinea), at Brisbane dockyard. May 1945

Operation Copper was one of the last Z Special operations in New Guinea. On the night of 11 April 1945, eight operatives were landed near Muschu Island by HDML patrol boat. Their mission was to paddle ashore and reconnoitre the island

land to determine the status of Japanese defences and validate reports that two 140 mm long-range naval guns were still in position. Intelligence suggested that these weapons were back in service and could prove dangerous during the forthcoming invasion of Wewak, as they had sufficient range to fire into the proposed landing areas and, while they would not stop the Australian invasion, they could cause significant casualties.

Caught by unexpected currents the four folboats were pushed south of their landing area and came ashore amid a surf break. All boats were swamped and some items of equipment lost, but they made it ashore and harboured up until morning. At daybreak they commenced their reconnaissance of the island, soon encountering Japanese who, unbeknownst to them, had found equipment that was washed ashore further along the island. Thus alerted, the island became a hunting ground, with almost 1,000 Japanese searching for the patrol. Attempts to communicate by radio with the HDML patrol boat failed, as their radios had been swamped and the batteries ruined.

Of the eight men, only one survived. Sapper Mick Dennis, an experienced commando who had previously fought the Japanese in New Guinea in several significant engagements, escaped after fighting his way through Japanese patrols. He swam the channel to Wewak while being pursued by the Japanese and made his way through enemy territory to eventually meet up with an Australian patrol on 20 April. The information he returned with proved vital to keeping the guns out of action and in preventing the Japanese from using the island as a launching point for attacks against the Australian forces during the Wewak landings a month later.

In 2010 and 2013, expeditions to Muschu Island were conducted by MIA Australia, leading to the discovery of the remains of four of the Z Special Commandos lost on the Muschu raid. In late February 2014 it was announced that the remains of former St George first grade rugby league player, Lance Corporal Spencer Henry Walklate, and Private Ronald Eagleton, would be laid to rest in May 2014 with full military honours at the Lae War Cemetery, where the other five men from Operation Copper are buried.

Borneo

During 1943–45, Z Special Unit conducted surveillance,



CO Z Special Toby Carter with Borneo local.

harassing attacks and sabotage behind Japanese lines in Borneo, as well as the training of natives in resistance activities. The first of these operations was Operation Python. Few details of these operations have been officially released, although details have emerged from the personal accounts of some Z Special Unit personnel. On 25 March 1945, Tom Harrison was parachuted with seven Z Special operatives from a Consolidated Liberator onto a high plateau occupied by the Kelabit. An autobiographical account of this operation (SEMUT I, one

of four SEMUT operations in the area) is given in *World Within* (Cresset Press, 1959); there are also reports—*not always flattering*—from some of his comrades. His efforts to rescue stranded American airmen shot down over Borneo are a central part of "The Airmen and the Headhunters," an episode of the PBS television series *Secrets of the Dead*.

Throughout June and July 1945, several operations under the aegis of Operation Platypus were launched in the Balikpapan area of Borneo.

New Zealand recruits

During the southern winter of 1944, twenty-two New Zealand soldiers, based at Trentham Military Camp, 30 kilometres (19 mi) north of Wellington, New Zealand were sent to train with Z Special Unit in Melbourne, Australia. They were then sent to Fraser Commando School, on Fraser Island, Queensland, to be trained in using parachutes, unarmed combat, explosives and the Malay language. Four New Zealanders were killed during operations in Borneo.

Major Donald Stott and Captain McMillan were both presumed drowned in heavy seas while going ashore in a rubber boat from the submarine *USS Perch* (SS-313) in Balikpapan Bay on 20 March 1945. Their bodies were never found. Warrant Officer Houghton made it to shore in a second boat but was captured ten days later and

languished in Balikpapan Prison where he died of beriberi about 20 April 1945.

Signalman Ernie Myers, a trained Z Special Unit operative in Platypus VII, parachuted into enemy-held territory near Semoi on 30 June 1945, but landed with two other operatives inside a Japanese camp area. They resisted strongly, but the Australian in the party was killed and Myers was captured along with the Malay interpreter of the group. Both men were tortured for three days, before being beheaded. Their bodies were recovered soon after the Japanese surrender when Lieutenant Bob Tapper, another New Zealander who was working with the War Graves Commission, discovered their remains. Evidence given to the commission by native witnesses ensured that the Japanese involved paid the penalty for this atrocity.

Vessels allocated to Z Special Unit

Snake-class boats



HMAS *Tiger Snake* in April 1945

The SRD used a number of vessels for its operations in South East Asia. Over the course of 1944–45 SRD took control of four 66 feet (20 m) trawlers that were constructed at the naval dockyard in Williamstown, Victoria. These vessels were modified with more powerful engines and alterations were

made to their superstructures in order to disguise them and make them look more like the types of vessels that were operating in the waters around South East Asia. They were designated "Snake-class" boats. Later, two more were built but they were not completed in time to see service during the war.

On operations the Snake-class vessels operated in tandem with a mother-ship. SRD operated two such vessels—*HMAS Anaconda* and *HMAS Mother Snake*—both of which were 125 feet (38 m) long wooden motor vessels. There was a third vessel laid down—AV 1358 (*Greenogh*)—but it did not see service with SRD during the war. With a crew of 14, these vessels were mainly crewed by a mixture of Royal Australian Navy and Australian Army personnel with a naval lieutenant in command and an army captain as chief officer. The boats were officially commissioned ships and were outfitted with two 300–320-horsepower diesel engines and armed with one 20mm Oerlikon as well as a number of assorted smaller machine guns.

Of the Snake-class boats that saw service, at least three were used to deploy Z operatives with Hoehn military folboats in enemy occupied areas for reconnaissance or small scale raids. *HMAS Riversnake* went to Portuguese Timor, to deploy



Commemorative plaque to the Z Special Unit at Rockingham, WA

SUNCHARLIE operatives. *HMAS Blacksnake* deployed GIRAFFE and SWIFT operatives in the Celebes and *HMAS Tigersnake* sailed out of Sarawak to set down operatives of SEMUT IVB.

After the war, the *Anaconda* remained in service until November 1946 when she was sold and converted into a fishing boat. The fate of the *Mother Snake* is unknown, although it is believed that she remained in Borneo after the war. The six Snake-class boats, however, along with the *Krait* were sold to the British Civil Administration in Borneo. The *MV Krait* was originally restored in 1964 and used for training and recreation purposes by the Royal Vol-

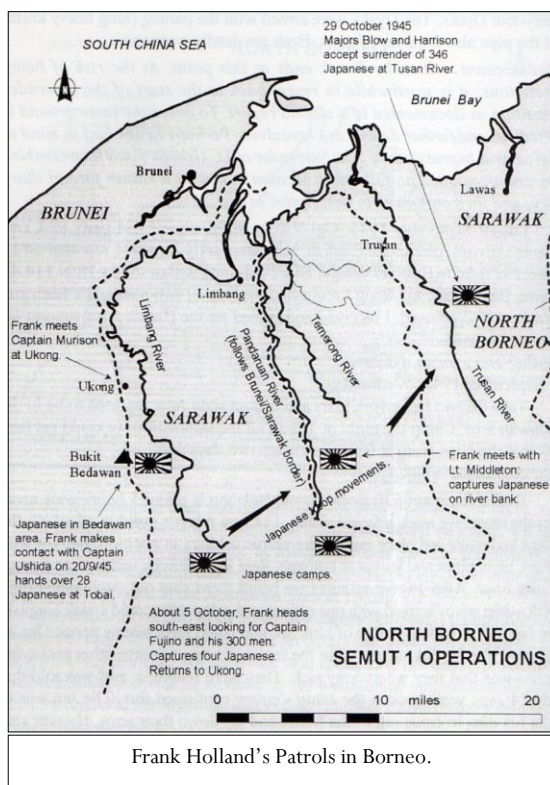
unter Coastal Patrol. The vessel is part of the Australian War Memorial's collection, on loan to the Australian National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Legacy

There is now a public memorial to the Z Special Unit on the esplanade in Cairns. It was moved from the naval base *HMAS Cairns* and rededicated on 26 October 2007. Those present at the ceremony were original unit members George Buckingham, John Mackay and the then commander of Special Operations of the Australian Defence Force, Major General Mike Hindmarsh. The RSL plans to erect a permanent display of military equipment nearby.

The Z Special Unit Association (NSW Branch) was disbanded in March 2010 due to a decline in members and the Association's last Sydney ANZAC Day march was held in 2010. Commemorative plaques to Z Special Unit have been placed on each lamp post on the new jetty at Rockingham, Western Australia, and the activities of Z Special Unit have been depicted in several Australian films, TV series, and documentaries including *Attack Force Z*, *The Highest Honour*, *The Heroes*, *Heroes II: The Return*, and *Australia's Secret Heroes*.

Wikipedia



Operation *Lizard*. He was evacuated on US Submarine *Gudgeon* on 10th Feb 1943 with the Japanese in close pursuit. In Australia he helped train Timorese at Berri Springs, outside Darwin for some considerable time before completing a parachute course and further training at

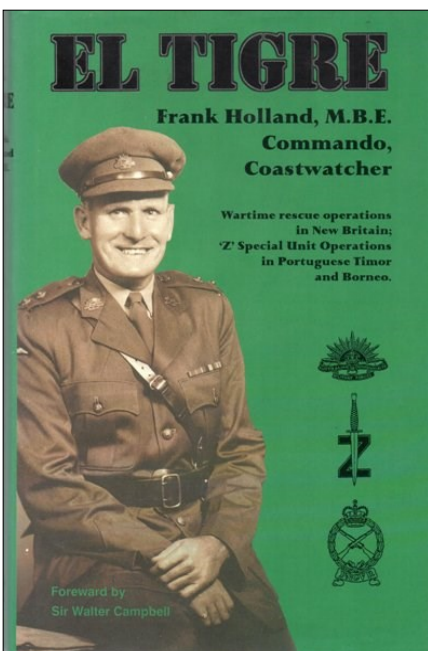
Fraser Island.

He arrived in Moratai, Northern Borneo, on 29th Aug 1945, after the War was over with the task of carrying out patrols into areas where it was believed the Japanese were unaware of the fact that hostilities had ceased. During his time there hundreds of Japanese were rounded up for surrender and a number of engagements were had with those who refused to surrender—one a group of 346 who did not surrender until 21 Sep 1945.

On 21 Sept he accepted the surrender of Lt Ushida and his men. The sword Lt Ushida offered was accepted and is now in the Association Museum.

Frank left Borneo on the Hospital Ship *Wanganella* arriving in Sydney 28 Dec 1945.

When PNGVR was formed in 1951 Frank enlisted as a Lt and served with PNGVR for a number of years in Rabaul.



One other book not mentioned above is "El Tigre" written by Frank Holland MBE, Commando and Coastwatcher. Frank was in New Guinea when the Japanese invaded in 1942 and was awarded the MBE for his actions in crossing New Britain to rescue 21 men who were fleeing from the debacle at Rabaul (one a survivor of the Toll massacre).

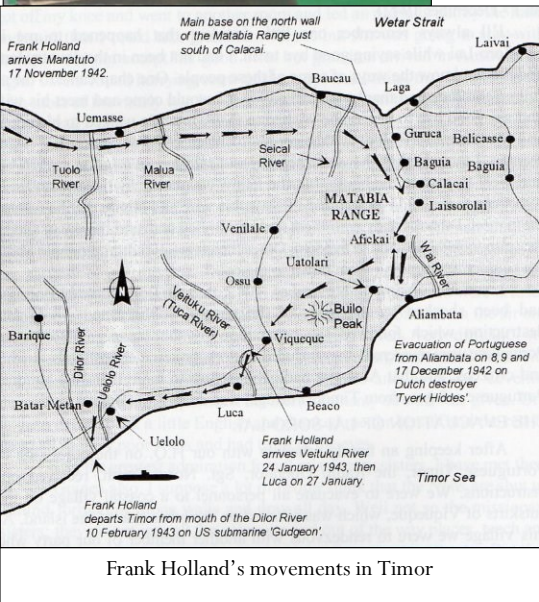
When he reached Australia on the 'Lakatoi' he had a short holiday and then joined Z Special Unit. He completed his training at Wilsons Promontory, was appointed Lt and completed further training at Flinders Naval base on all facets of navigation.

He was then inserted into Timor via the *HMAS Kalgoorlie* on 17 Nov 1942 as part of



Ambunti Airstrip PNG 1966. The unseen end of the strip fronts the Sepik River.

Being a little older, it is comforting to have someone call and check on me every day. He is from India and is very concerned about my internet connection.



Frank Holland's movements in Timor

The significance of Silence

Silence for one or two minutes is included in ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies as a sign of respect and a time for reflection.

The idea for the two minute silence is said to have originated with Edward George Honey, a Melbourne journalist and First World War veteran who was living in London in 1919. He wrote a letter to the London Evening News in which he appealed for five minutes silence, to honour the sacrifice of those who had died during the war.

In October 1919, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, a South African, suggested a period of silence on Armistice Day (now commonly known as Remembrance Day) in all the countries of the empire. Throughout the war, whenever South African troops suffered heavy losses on the Western Front, a period of silence had been observed at noon in Cape Town.

Fitzpatrick's suggestion was presented to King George V, who readily agreed to the proposal. But after a trial with the Grenadier guards at Buckingham Palace, at which both Honey and Fitzpatrick were present, the period of silence was shortened to two minutes. It is unclear whether Honey and Fitzpatrick ever met or discussed ideas about the silence.

On 6 November 1919, the King sent a special message to the people of the Commonwealth:

"I believe that my people in every part of the Empire fervently wish to perpetuate the memory of that Great Deliverance, and of those who laid down their lives to achieve it."

The King requested that "a complete suspension of all our normal activities" be observed for two minutes at "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" so that "in perfect stillness the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the Glorious Dead".

Two minutes silence was first observed in Australia on the first anniversary of the Armistice and continues to be observed on Remembrance Day, 11 November. Over the years, the two minute silence has also been incorporated into ANZAC Day and other commemorative ceremonies.

At league clubs around Australia, the remembrance silence has become part of the now nightly six o'clock (previously nine o'clock) ritual, when any light other than a memorial flame is dimmed, members stand in silence and then recite the Ode.

In recent times, one minute of silence has been observed at Australian commemorative events, such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies. The reason behind this change is largely unknown.

Army website—Traditions.



The new bar at the Senior Centre

Bernard Sidney Gordon VC. MM.

On 27/28 August, 1918, Lance Corporal Bernard Sidney Gordon MM, 41st Battalion, of Launceston, Tasmania, performed acts of conspicuous gallantry near Bray, France, for which he

was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Earlier in the month on the first day of the Battle of Amiens, Gordon had been awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field when he single-handedly attacked a machine gun crew, killed the crew and captured the gun, then stalked an enemy sniper and killed him.



On 26/27 August, he led his section through heavy enemy shelling to the objective which he consolidated. He then single-handedly attacked an enemy machine gun which was enfilading the company on the right, killing the man on the gun and capturing the post which contained an officer and ten men.

Gordon handed them over to his company headquarters then returned alone to the old system of trenches, in which were many machine guns, entered a communication trench and "mopped it up", returning with fifteen prisoners in one group, and fourteen in another, along with two machine guns.

Again he returned to the trench system, this time with a trench mortar and crew, and proceeded to "mop up" a further portion of the trench, bringing in 22 prisoners including one officer and three machine guns. His actions allowed the British infantry on the Australian left to advance, which they had not been able to due to the fire from the German machine guns.

In total, Gordon captured two officers and 61 soldiers, together with six machine guns, and with the exception of the trench mortar team it was absolutely an individual effort and done entirely on his own fearless initiative.

A series of incredible feats of individual gallantry by a true Australian hero.

Gordon was wounded a few days later, and did not return to his battalion before the Armistice. He was not awarded the Victoria Cross until 20 December 1918. He died in Queensland in 1963.

Ian Smith, Chair, Anzac Day Committee

First keepers of peace

Australians can lay claim to being the first UN peacekeepers.

In late 1945 fighting broke out in Surabaya. Local Indonesians, now free of the Japanese occupation, had proclaimed independence.

However, the Dutch were unwilling to let their colony go, and a 'police action' ensued. The locals responded by destroying foreign property, and the Dutch began blockading ports.

Attempts to broker a peace failed. But in the new post-war world, these conflicts now had an international place of appeal, the United Nations, and in 1947 the matter was before the UN Security Council.

The Australian government was in a tricky position. While the Dutch had been wartime allies, it supported the rights of the Indonesian republicans to independence.

As Australia was on the Security Council, it was part of the commission that would decide the future of the Netherlands East Indies. Australia was also chosen by the republicans to negotiate on their behalf.

In short order the commission came up with a response: they

would send in the UN's first peacekeepers.

On September 14, 1947, four Australians arrived in Indonesia. A mixed group from the Army, Navy and Air Force, they were under the command of Brigadier L.G.H. Dyke, then Director of Artillery, who had been commanding the Timor Force when the Japanese surrendered.

They were joined in the following weeks by observers from the UK and the US. Their remit was to observe, collect information and provide a report on the complex military situation.

The Australians divided their efforts across Indonesian and Dutch territories interviewing officials and, where they could, locals.

They reported the ceasefire was unworkable and that there was no peace to keep.

In response, more observers were sent. Over the next five years, at least 70 Australian officers comprised the majority of the peacekeepers who observed, reported and negotiated between the two parties.

They would usher in the new Republic of Indonesia, and observe the final withdrawal of the Dutch in 1951.

More than 80,000 Australians have followed in their footsteps on more than 62 missions across the globe.

Each year, the UN observes the International Day of UN Peacekeepers on May 29, the date in 1948 the UN Truce Supervision Organisation was officially named the first UN peacekeeping mission.

It honours the more than 1 million men and women who have served as military, police or civilians on UN peacekeeping missions, drawn from around the world.

Australia has its own national day of commemoration, September 14, marking the day in 1947 four Australians became the UN's first peacekeepers.

Army News 17 Sep 2020.



Three of the first four Australian peacekeepers stand in front of an aircraft with Charles Eaton, the then Acting Australian Consul-General in Batavia (now Jakarta), Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia). Pictured left to right, Cmdr H. S. Chesterman, Mr Eaton, Brig L. G. H. Dyke and Maj D. L. Campbell. Not pictured is the fourth observer, Sqn-Ldr L T Spence, who was later killed in Korea.

Bomb to go

New Guinea Times Courier. 20 April, 1961.

The 1000 lb. bomb which is lying on the main New Britain North Coast Road near Kurakakaul will be removed this week — probably tomorrow — according to young Army Bomb Dis-

posal expert Alan Brown, who arrived in Rabaul on Friday.

Following a preliminary examination. Corporal Brown identified the bomb as an American thousand-pounder General Purpose type bomb with a mechanical fuse, which latter has probably jammed.

In view of the bomb's type and age it would be risky to attempt to remove it, and it will be detonated where it lies, a few feet in from the roadside.

A Rabaul grader driver first unearthed the bomb which had been lying in the roadway since the day it was first dropped during the war. About three months ago, a barricade was



erected around it to keep vehicles and passers by away, and its disposal has had to await the arrival of Cpl. Brown, the Territory's bomb-disposal expert, from Port Moresby.

Cpl. Brown, who said that this type of bomb was in common use by the U.S. air force, admits to having dealt with many of them in the 2½ years in

which he has held down his present dangerous job.

"I suppose I've got rid of between twenty and thirty of these" he said.

Bomb Gone

New Guinea Times Courier. 24 April, 1961

On Friday morning the Kurakakaul "monster" detonated in a flurry of dirt and debris, following the deft ministrations of Army bomb-buster Cpl. Alan Brown.

And as the dust and small stones subsided and echoes of the explosion died away the relief of North Coast residents was something that you could reach out and almost feel.

At 10.30 am. sharp, with all residents cleared from the area for a full mile in both directions and with traffic halted on the road, Cpl. Brown crouched huddled in a ditch with his forefinger on the button of his exploder.

Half a mile further up the road. In a curving cutting. the 1000lb "monster" lay gloomily, surrounded by its "touch-off" plugs of TNT. From a tiny copper detonator a strong. thin cable reached out along the road, following its curves and contours, to Cpl. Brown's position of relative security.

Back at the barriers dozens of people waited by cars and two fire-engines, fully crewed, stood by in event of necessity.

A Works Department grader waited at a rattling idle. and white-gloved police kept the crowd back within the zone of safety.

Quietly and deliberately Brown jabbed the button.

There came an ear splitting explosion — then silence; broken only by the whirring of a Landrover starter as Brown together with Rabaul's Fire-chief prepared to move off towards the scene.

For a disturbing moment it was thought that the "monster" had not detonated after all - the noise had seemed rather too small.

But as we rounded a bend a yawning crater told a story of destruction, as did decapitated trees and palms which fringed

the road for a full hundred yards.

The manner in which rock and pumice had been pulverised into powder testified to shocking power which had been contained within the "monster's" ageing case — a case which had been driven over by countless cars during the years it had laid undetected in the roadway since the war.

Within moments the Works Department was busy filling the gaping crater and traffic was able to drive normally along the road only 10 minutes after the detonation.

Looking much happier Cpl Brown was on his way back to Rabaul following a "job well done".

Alan Brown was our Museum Curator Paul Brown's father.

Ed note. Not difficult to understand why Alan got the nickname of "Shakey"

A woman was taking an afternoon nap. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight," he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it to find a book titled "The Meaning of Dreams."



Due to a shortage of passenger cars cattle wagons covered with canvas were used to transport troops on the North Australia Railway from Birdum to Darwin. Rooftop travel was often preferred to avoid the stifling heat inside. Photo 'Our War'

Strengthening our armour

Tankies can look forward to greater protection and lethality as Army upgrades from the M1A1 Abrams to the M1A2 main battle tank, as part of LAND 907 Phase 2.

SO1 Armour Lt-Col David Cowan said to be future ready it was important to upgrade Army's armour package to defeat possible threats.

"We can't just integrate the new capabilities into the M1A1," Lt-Col Cowan said.

"We will have to upgrade through replacement to an M1A2 standard in order to increase lethality, protection and mobility. This approach aligns to the current US M1A1 upgrade that is delivering the latest M1A2 to our allies.

"The project is looking at two variants of the M1A2 Abrams tank. Regardless of which option is chosen, Army will get a much more advanced and lethal tank than it currently has."

A composite of ceramic, metal and other materials will form a bespoke armour fitted to either the M1A2 System Enhancement Package (SEP) V3 or an M1A2 Australian-specific custom variant.

"The custom variant can be equipped with different sub-systems to suit our needs," Lt-Col Cowan said.

"If we select the SEP V3, we can upgrade to the V4 later down the track and it will allow us to maintain commonality with the US and follow its upgrade path."

Rather than the four ammunition types currently used, the new tanks will carry two main tank rounds, both using the

Ammunition Data Link, which enables the crew to select the effect they want.

Army will acquire an anti-tank round and an anti-personnel round with airburst and point detonation capability.

"They're programmable, which means you can tell the round how far the target is so it will have the best effect," Lt-Col Cowan said.

Already boasting better reliability, reduced running costs and lower maintenance requirements, the tanks will be complemented by a suite of simulators.

"The new simulators we're looking to acquire will be immersive. They replicate the inside of a tank so you can train the whole crew at once," Lt-Col Cowan said.

"They'll also be able to link with other trainers to train at combat-team level, reducing engine hours on the tank.

"This, in turn, reduces the maintenance burden and cost, while still training to high levels."

Initial operational capability is expected in 2025, with rollout to brigades expecting to be complete by 2026.

"The tank remains the cornerstone of the combined-arms team and will operate alongside the Boxer, the new infantry fighting vehicles and combat engineering vehicles," Lt-Col Cowan said.

Army News 17 Sep. 2020



The M1A2 Abrams System Enhancement Package V3 is one of two upgrade options Army is considering to replace the M1A1 main battle tank

RAAF Roundel

Originally the RAAF's roundel design was based on the British Royal Air Force's, itself a derivative of the French air arm's roundel, featuring red white and blue.

The red centre worked well enough, until the start of the Pacific war at the end of 1941, when a US Navy fighter pilot in a Grumman Wildcat saw an Australian operated, American made Consolidated Catalina:

"though the shape of the Catalina was no doubt disturbingly familiar, the red in the upper wing roundels seemed to him so distinct—as he later said—that he mistook them for Japanese markings and immediately attacked. Bullets passed through the Catalina's main crew compartment, fuel tanks, and ailerons, but fortunately no one was hurt and the aircraft was able to land safely."



"From a distance, red can be seen more easily than other colours—often, in fact, before other details of a marking can be made out. Cases of mistaken identity led, in March 1942, to the red disc inside the US national star being deleted."

The RAAF took action to have the red paint-

ed out in the upper-wing roundels on all its operational and second-line aircraft, with the centre of the blue circle filled in with white.

While the RAAF reverted to the red centre after the war, on July 2, 1956, the roundel underwent a major change, with the red kangaroo 'in motion' chosen as the most popular centre-piece from a range of options, including the Southern Cross, a boomerang and a sprig of wattle.

Regardless of where the roundel might be displayed, the kangaroo within the Air Force roundel always faces the left except when used on aircraft or vehicles, when the kangaroo should always face the front.

Heraldry—July 2019



**Mt Ambra camp near Mt Hagen
by Association Member Bill Bickerton**

I well remember the day of arrival. The Mt Hagen airport was probably busier than it had ever been with planes loaded with PNGVR troops and their equipment arriving from all corners of the country. We flew in from Pt Moresby in a couple of DC3's.

The difference in climate was almost extreme and there were times when it was very cold and wet with constant drizzly rain. Getting out of bed at 0600hrs or earlier in the morning was pretty hard, particularly as we did not have any warm clothing.

We arrived at the camp and I was impressed with the amount of work that had been done in advance of our arrival. There were several kunai long houses for accommodation of the troops plus admin and HQ buildings and messes.

I recall that we had been assigned a hygiene Sergeant from a unit somewhere in Australia. He issued a cake of soap to each of the local men that had been employed for various labour tasks in the camp and instructed them to clean their bodies as they smelt rather badly. Nobody had told him that the smelly pig fat and soot that they applied to their skin was an essential means of keeping warm. A couple of them did duck under a little waterfall at the back of the camp kitchen but it was a real lick and promise as they were definitely not going to "let the cold in". We even found one brave warrior attempting to eat the cake of soap. He had no idea what it was for.

L/Cpl Don Lawie had taken his bagpipes to the camp and



some bright spark had the idea that Don would wander around the camp at 0600 playing the pipes for reveille. I remember poor old Don in his underpants and big hobnail boots in the



1965. Bill on secondment to 16 RWAR Cameron Highlanders while on secondment with Comworks to Perth Office.

freezing rain, complaining bitterly in between gasps and blows on his bagpipes. Into the bargain he was being soundly abused by all and sundry and told in no uncertain manner to pee off. Poor bloke but he had a good sense of humour and laughed it off once he had warmed up and had breakfast (Don and his wife Pauline live in Babinda in far north Queensland and I still communicate with them)

Another night Don was invited, kilted and with his pipes to attend the Sergeants mess to keep us entertained. I recall Don hanging upside down with his legs crooked over a timber rafter with his kilt over his head and attempting to play the pipes in between gasps of laughter and frustration.

It was the damndest thing going anywhere on patrol in that place because everyone always knew we

were coming (or going) simply because every kid and most of the village men would stalk along the roads and through the kunai with us. Sometimes we would have 40 or 50 people following us around. If we told them to leave they would all sit down in a group, light up their fearsome smelly cigarettes and moan and groan until we got moving again and then up and after us – oh boy!!!!

We were firing on the firing range close to the camp. We had been at it for most of the morning when suddenly someone yelled out in a loud voice "Stop firing". A group of locals had suddenly appeared and made them selves comfortable on top of the target mound.

I had my platoon on patrol quite some way from the camp and we had finally lost our "local supporters". The Anglican Padre had asked me if he could go on patrol with us to which I had agreed. In that area there are a lot of depressions that are in fact deep pools of glutinous mud with a thick crust of dried mud on the top. To walk over them is very dangerous as we found out. I was sending people across to the other side through a grassed "safe" passage, between the pools, one at a time. It was about 50 to 60 metres across to the other side. The poor old Padre did not understand my hand signals and suddenly raced off across the top of the mud pool and sure enough he broke through. So much for security, tactics and silence. He was up to his chest in it and we spent the next hour amidst shouts, cries for assistance, moans and groans, getting the well blackened Padre out of the bog. Incidentally within a few minutes we had half the village back with us all sitting on the high ground, jabbering away, smoking their foul cigarettes, scratching their pigs and being well and truly entertained.

A number of our local soldiers who came from the coastal areas began complaining of "sore skin." Turns out that because of the altitude and harsher suns rays many of them were sunburnt and their skin started peeling. That caused some concern and a bit of a ruckus as they certainly could not understand that their black skin would burn.

Thanks Bill

Battle of Shaggy Ridge

The Battle of the Shaggy Ridge was part of the Markham and Ramu Valley – Finisterre Range campaign, consisting of a number of actions fought by Australian and Japanese troops in Papua New Guinea in World War II. Following the Allied capture of Lae and Nadzab, the Australian 9th Division had been committed to a quick follow up action on the Huon Peninsula in an effort to cut off the withdrawing Japanese. Once the situa-

tion on the Huon Peninsula stabilised in late 1943, the 7th Division had pushed into the Markham and Ramu Valleys towards the Finisterre Range with a view to pushing north towards the coast around Bogadjim, where they would meet up with Allied forces advancing around the coast from the Huon Peninsula, before advancing towards Madang.

A series of minor engagements followed in the foothills of the Finisterre Range before the Australians came up against strong resistance centred around the Kankiry Saddle and Shaggy Ridge, which consisted of several steep features, dotted with heavily defended rocky outcrops. After a preliminary assault on a forward position dubbed The Pimple in late December 1943, the Australians renewed their assault in mid-January 1944 and over the course of a fortnight eventually captured the Japanese positions on Shaggy Ridge and the Kankiry Saddle, after launching a brigade-sized attack up three avenues of advance. In the aftermath, the Australians pursued the Japanese to the coast and subsequently took Madang, linking up with US and Australian forces.

Strategic situation

By late 1943 and early 1944, Australian and US forces had begun offensive actions in New Guinea, having stemmed the tide of the Japanese advance during the fighting in 1942. In September 1943, the Allies had secured Lae and Nadzab with simultaneous advances from the 7th and 9th Divisions. Shortly afterwards, the 9th Division had landed on the Huon Peninsula and had subsequently secured Finschhafen and began clearing inland. By October 1943, the next objective for the Australians was Shaggy Ridge, a series of high positions on the inland route from Dumpu to Madang, which was held by Japanese infantry, supported by artillery and engineers. As part of this advance the 7th Division set out through the Ramu Valley into the Finisterre Range, during which a series of minor engagements were fought, including those around John's Knoll and Trevor's Knoll, as the Japanese withdrew to their main defensive line, which was centred around the Kankiry Saddle and Shaggy Ridge.

Shaggy Ridge was a 6.5-kilometre (4.0 mi) long spur dotted by several rocky outcrops, which the Australians dubbed "Green Pinnacle", "The Pimple", "Green Sniper's Pimple" and "McCaughey's Knoll" To the north and north-west of Shaggy Ridge, two high features were identified as "Prothero 1" and "Prothero 11", while the Kankiry Saddle to the north-east joined Faria Ridge and divided the Faria River from the Mindjim River. The Japanese had established numerous strong posts and positions along the ridge, blocking the Australian advance towards the coast, where they were aiming to secure Bogadjim and Madang. The ridge dominated the area around it, standing at 1,700 metres (5,600 ft), and in clear weather offered observation as far north as Madang, although largely the area was covered in thick fog which greatly reduced visibility. The sheer nature of the terrain meant that



Members of the 2/9th Infantry Battalion digging in on "Green Sniper's Pimple"

there was only a single track along the ridge line which was, and according to author Lachlan Grant, "in places...only wide enough for one man to pass with sheer drops on either side".

Battle

In early January 1944, the Australian effort to gain the position was renewed as two fresh brigades – the 15th and 18th – arrived to relieve the 21st and 25th Brigades. They subsequently launched Operation Cutthroat, aimed at securing the Kankiry Saddle at the northern end of Shaggy Ridge, joining Faria Ridge, Shaggy Ridge, and the two Prothero features. Brigadier Frederick Chilton's 18th Brigade was chosen for the attack; Chilton's force consisted of three infantry battalions – the 2/9th, 2/10th and 2/12th – and was supported by the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion. Supplies were subsequently brought forward by jeep to a position dubbed "Guy's Post", in order to shorten the lines of communication, and artillery was also brought forward from the 2/4th Field Regiment.

A series of actions then followed as the Australians assaulted the position from three points, carrying out the operation in four phases. On the right of the assault, early on 20 January, the 2/10th began its advance up Sprogg's Spur, to the east of Shaggy Ridge, in the first phase, pushing towards Cam's Saddle, which ran south-west towards Faria Ridge; they were supported by air strikes along the ridges from the Protheros to Shaggy



Members of 'C' Coy, 2/9th Battalion, digging in at a newly occupied part of Shaggy Ridge ,

Ridge. A brief engagement occurred around mid morning, which was defeated by a short artillery barrage and then an infantry assault. The 2/10th was subsequently able to gain Cam's Saddle and by nightfall had dug-in and was postured towards the west, ready for a further effort along the Faria Ridge. Elsewhere, around Gey-

ton's Hill, as, on the left of the assault, a patrol from the 2/2nd Pioneers crossed over the Mene River on 19 January and reconnoitred ahead of the 2/12th through Prothero 1 to Kankiry. Finding only light resistance there, they nearly secured the position themselves.

The 2/12th struggled over the river amidst heavy rain, and then established themselves on Canning's Saddle, the following day they attacked Prothero 1. Advancing silently up the steep slopes, they were able to surprise the Japanese defenders, creeping to within 100 yards (91 m) of the objective before they were noticed by the Japanese defenders, at which point the Australians charged the position. Heavy fighting followed with units to the flanks; however, by night fall on 21 January, the 2/12th had secured Prothero 1, silencing a Japanese mountain gun which had fired at them at point blank range from the back door of a bunker, causing 50 casualties, including the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Bourne. Later, they repelled a Japanese attempt to retake the position during the night. The plan then called for the 2/12th to push south-east along Shaggy Ridge to the Kankiry Saddle. Elsewhere, the 2/9th took the central position, attacking north-west up Shaggy Ridge securing positions at Green Sniper's Pimple on the southern part of McCaughey's Knoll, with a frontal attack, as part of the first phase in their advance through to the Kankiry Saddle.

On 22 January, Japanese artillery began firing on the 2/12th's position, but it was unable to prevent them from taking Prothero 11. Meanwhile, a small patrol from the 2/2nd Pioneers began exploiting the area to the north-east of Prothero 11 and subsequently managed to install itself in a position on the eastern ex-

tremity of Kankiry Saddle. To the south, the 2/9th carried out reconnaissance around the area in front of their position around Green Sniper's Pimple, and located several Japanese bunkers. Deciding on an indirect approach, an Australian patrol



The Pimple. Troops from the 2/16th Infantry Battalion after the battle

was sent to the flanks and under the cover of heavy artillery, they scaled the steep sides of McCaughey's Knoll to take the position with the element of surprise. Earlier, the 2/10th had taken several attempts to secure Cam's Hill, including an unsuccessful assault on the Japanese rear with a flanking move through the Faria

River. Throughout the night, the Japanese launched several unsuccessful counter-attack attempts, but these were repelled and on 24 January, the 2/9th and 2/12th Infantry Battalions continued to converge, squeezing the Japanese defenders between them. As a result, the Japanese were forced to abandon positions around the top of the Faria River and the Kankiry Saddle and they began to withdraw to Crater Hill. The following day, patrols from the 2/10th and 2/12th Infantry Battalions determined that the Japanese were digging in on that position, and throughout the day the 2/9th attempted to outflank the position, attacking from behind while the 2/10th and 2/12th assaulted frontally from the south. These proved unsuccessful and during 26 January, the 2/9th sent two companies across Kankiry Saddle, securing the 4100 feature before coming under heavy fire from the Japanese on Crater Hill, where they had dug-in strong defences along several sharp ridge.

Aftermath

Following the capture of the Kankiry Saddle on 26 January, the remnants of the Japanese defenders withdrew to Crater Hill, to the north-east of the previously abandoned position. The 4100 feature was taken without opposition that day by the 2/9th, but Crater Hill remained in Japanese possession, its forbidding approaches, hampering efforts to clear it. Instead of risking heavy casualties in a hurried follow-up attack, Chilton chose to slowly attrite the Japanese position with indirect fire and aerial attacks over the course of four days. On 29 January, the 2/9th and 2/10th commenced their attack, having surrounded the position from three sides. Due to inaccurate maps, several artillery salvos fell on the advancing Australians, wounding several officers, including a couple of British Army officers that had been attached to the Australian battalions on exchange. Over the course of the next couple of days the Australians kept up the pressure on the Japanese defenders with fighting patrols, and small scale assaults to reduce Japanese positions around the feature.

Finally, on 1 February 1944, the 2/9th made it to the crest of the hill, and subsequently found that the Japanese had disinvested themselves from the position, having fallen back to Paipa. Following its occupation, Crater Hill was surveyed by the Australians and they found that there were over 40 foxholes or pillboxes inside the position across a frontage of 500 yards (460 m) to a depth of 60 yards (55 m); in addition there were 110 strong points on the ridges leading to it.

Wikipedia

A man rushed into a busy doctor's surgery and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking". The doctor calmly replied "Now settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient".

Replacement for the M113

To the untrained eye, they resemble giant space tanks, their modern lines and intimidating turrets dominating the M113 armoured personnel carrier they will replace.

Hanwha Defence Australia's Redback and Rheinmetall Defence Australia's Lynx were on display in Canberra on March 12. Both are candidates for Army's future infantry fighting vehicle, with Defence looking to acquire up to 450 under Land 400 Phase 3.

From an earlier selection of four vehicles. Lynx and Redback were assessed as best to meet Defence's requirements with growth potential to address future and evolving threats.

Three of each vehicle have arrived in Australia to undergo a risk-mitigation activity that will include mobility, reliability and blast testing.

Contracts, supply chains and maintenance associated with the vehicles will also be examined, with a recommendation on the preferred tenderer going to government for decision next year.

CASG's Head of Armoured Vehicles Maj-Gen David Coghlan said both were fifth-generation infantry fighting vehicles that would far surpass their predecessor, which had been in service in various forms since 1965. "The world has changed, the M113 has been in service almost as long as I've been alive," Maj-Gen Coghlan said. "The operational environment today is totally different, far more demanding and far more threatening."

Vehicle crews working with the evaluation program are due to commence conversion training in the coming weeks, before putting the vehicles through their paces.

"The trial soldiers will be on a steep learning curve going into a fully digitised vehicle and turret, but they are up to it and are looking forward to putting the vehicles through their paces," Maj-Gen Coghlan said. "Once a fleet of these is in our hands, they'll operate in ways we haven't contemplated yet."

Aside from the three-man crew, the vehicles can carry six dismounted soldiers protected by armour and firepower generations ahead of the M113.

"The role of the dismount in many ways won't change, but they'll be better protected and have much better communication and connectivity," Maj-Gen Coghlan said. "How dismounts are used will be reflected in the ability of the vehicles to dominate the battlefield."

The evaluation team would also keep in mind potential for future digital, mechanical and weapon upgrades.

Despite the striking size difference, Maj-Gen Coghlan said this reflected the realities and dangers of contemporary battlefields.



Rheinmetall's KF41 Lynx, left, and Hanwha's Redback, dwarf the M113 APC

"Big equals protection and that in the modern environment equals weight, but increased weight does not mean decreased mobility," he said.

Army Newspaper 1485.

The Australian Army at a glance

A friend once told me he didn't understand the military system. Dumb civilian, I said to myself, but openly I said, "The system is really quite simple."

You see, all people in the Army are soldiers, all privates are soldiers, but not all soldiers are privates. Some are officers who are commissioned, but some are officers who are not commissioned. Obviously if every private was called private it would be confusing, so some privates are called things like trooper, driver, gunner, craftsman, sapper or signaller. Not all of the drivers actually drive because some of them cook, but we don't call them cooks, for that matter, not all drivers are called drivers – some of them are privates or gunners. Gunners as I'm sure you know are the blokes that fire guns, unless of course they are drivers or signalers in which case we call them gunners rather than drivers or signalers just to make it clearer. All gunners belong to the artillery, except that in the infantry we have gunners who are called privates because they fire a different sort of gun, for the same reason we call our drivers and signalers private as well.

A Lance Corporal is called Corporal, unless he is a Lance Bombardier then we call him Bombardier to distinguish him from a full Bombardier, who is just like a Corporal. All other ranks are called by their rank for the sake of simplicity except that Staff Sergeants are called Staff, but they are not on the staff. Some Warrant Officers, who are not officers, are called Sergeant Major although they are not Sergeants or Majors. Some Warrant Officers are called Mister which is the same thing that we call some Officers but they are not Warrant Officers. A Lieutenant is also called Mister because they are subalterns, but we always write their rank as Lieutenant or Second Lieutenant, and second comes before first.

When we talk about groups of soldiers there obviously has to be clear distinction. We call them Officers and Soldiers although we know that officers are soldiers too, sometimes we talk about officers and other ranks which is the same as calling them soldiers. I guess it is easiest when we talk about rank and file which is all the troops on parade except the officers and some of the NCOs - - and a few of the privates – and the term is used whether everyone is on parade or not.

A large unit is called a battalion, unless it is a regiment but sometimes a regiment is much bigger than a battalion and then it has nothing to do with the other sort of regiment. Sub units are called companies unless they are squadrons or troops or batteries for that matter. That is not radio batteries and don't confuse this type of troop with the type who are soldiers but not officers.

Mostly the Army is divided into Corps as well as units, not the sort of Corps which is a couple of divisions but the sort which tells you straight away what trade each man performs, whether he is a tradesman or not. The Infantry Corps has all the infantrymen for example and the Artillery Corps has all the gunners. Both these Corps also have signallers and drivers except those who are in the Signals or Transport Corps. In fact the Signals Corps is not a service at all because it is an Arm. Arms do all the fighting, although Signals don't have to fight too much, rather like the Engineers who are also an Arm but they don't fight too much either

So you see, it's really quite simple

New suppressor

Recon soldiers forced to open fire could be a lot harder to locate following rollout of EF88 suppressors from May.

Regular infantry battalions will be collectively issued more than 500 suppressor kits to help Army develop doctrine and procedures for their use. Weighing 270g and measuring 160mm long, they are designed to reduce the EF88's audible signature, the thump, and the visible signature, the flash, making it harder for an enemy to identify where shots are coming from.

Maj William Morshead, of AHQ's Dismounted Combat Program, said he envisaged suppressors would be used by battalion recon platoons and patrol scouts. "A major advantage of the suppressor is the ability to not endanger a larger mission by forward elements getting compromised," Maj Morshead said. "In a company attack, they could be used by soldiers securing the FUP, reducing the chances of compromising the larger

company objective if they are required to engage."

Before EF88s can take a suppressor, an armourer must swap the existing flash hider for one that's suppressor-compatible. From there, operators can fit and remove the suppressor themselves.

There is also a custom bullet trap blank firing attachment for the alternate flash hider. "Because there is a special requirement for cleaning, it could be a mission-specific system rather than one to be used all the time," Maj Morshead said.

Suppressors do not affect range and it was assessed they would last the life of the weapon. They are certified for use with the new deployable M855A1 enhanced operational round along with the FI ball.

Before acquisition, Thales examined 13 suppressors, from which four were tested. A suppressor manufactured by Oceania Defence was chosen for acquisition after testing found it was best at reducing the thump and flash of the EF88 while also being the lightest.

Suppressors have already been delivered to the School of Infantry. AHQ will provide train-the-trainer programs when the suppressors arrive at battalions.

"This is a new capability for Forcomd units and there is currently limited doctrine for the employment of suppressed weapons. It's now over to infantry to develop their own TTPs," Maj Morshead said. "Whether it will completely change their tactics is something to be determined, but it is expected the feedback will shape requirements for the small arms replacement project."

Army Newspaper 1486



A new suppressor fitted to an EF88.

NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES

Men Who Served with Courage and Distinction In World War II

When World War II commenced, in 1939, the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles occupied an inconspicuous place in the British military organisation. Armies in Europe were preparing to take part in the greatest struggle in human history. In New Guinea, at the other end of the world, a few hundred men—mostly veterans of World War I, who had resolved to maintain their wartime knowledge and sense of discipline, in case of emergency—gripped their old rifles a little more firmly, and went on with their simple training.

But a little more than two years later, a major front of World War II had been opened in the Southwest Pacific, and the NGVR were now in the front line. The Japs had over-run Southeast Asia, and were striking savagely southwards, at Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

The NGVR never fought as a unit— they never got the chance. The Japs came smashing into New Guinea long before the Allies could organise any real resistance there. The NGVR became involved merely as a series of small sections, in Rabaul, Lae, Salamaua and Wau, mixed in with the few Australian forces who were there when the Japanese arrived. They played their part as well as they could, especially in Rabaul; but their story did not really commence until well on in 1942.

Then, as the Americans came across the Pacific from the

north-east, and the battle-seasoned Australian divisions arrived from the Middle East, resistance stiffened in the Southwest Pacific, and we began to fight back. There suddenly was a demand—more urgent every day—for men with military training, who knew the country and the natives. They were needed for a score of services—for scouting and guiding, controlling transport and directing labour, operating small boats and showing raw white men how to deal with tropical conditions. It was then that the men of the NGVR really came into their own. They were invaluable—and Americans and Australians made full use of them.

For some reason, the Australian Army authorities seemed never to look with favour upon the NGVR—no high officer ever gave to the little unit the high praise that was its due. Even the records of the NGVR were not kept faithfully—when we sought the full roll, in order to publish it, all sorts of obstacles were placed in our way by the Brass Hats, and when we pressed the matter, we were told that the records had been lost.

With great trouble, we have collected the following list. From one source—which we cannot disclose, otherwise an official would be punished by typical Australian bureaucrats—we obtained a “mainland” list that is complete; and to that list we have added Rabaul names supplied to us from time to time by readers. We do not vouch for its accuracy. Some names probably are missing, and some of the men named herein possibly were not members of the NGVR; but, in the absence of official help, it is as nearly complete as we can make it.

In these lists, the surname is given first, then the Christian names, then the address or next-of-kin, and then the man's military number and rank. The following contractions are used: Rfn, rifleman; pte, private; l/cpl, lance- corporal; and so on.

Then followed a list of several hundred men who served with the NGVR. It was not complete and the rest of the names were to be published in the November issue of PIM.

Taken from the Pacific Islands Monthly, October, 1947.



Members of the RAN Sea Training Group with the PNGDF Maritime Element ships company of 'Ted Diro'

Australia agrees to arm PNG patrol boats

At the request of Papua New Guinea, the Australian Defence Force has agreed to arm the Papua New Guinea Defence Force's four new Guardian-class patrol boats delivered through the Pacific Maritime Security Program

With PNG's Pacific-class patrol boats previously armed, this new agreement will ensure a continuity of Papua New Guinea's sovereign capabilities.

Australia will also provide a comprehensive support and training package.

Both countries are committed to signing a Memorandum of Understanding, which will ensure compliance with relevant domestic and international obligations.

Australia has a long-standing security partnership with Papua New Guinea through our Defence Cooperation Program and the Pacific Maritime Security Program.

Defence said this investment in Papua New Guinea's sovereign defence capabilities would boost Pacific regional maritime security and contribute to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The first Guardian-class patrol boat provided to Papua New Guinea, *HMPNGS Ted Diro*, was handed over in 2018.

The second, *HMPNGS Rochus Lokinap*, was delivered to Papua New Guinea earlier this year.

A further two patrol boats are under construction.

The 39.5 metre steel patrol boats are designed and built by Austal in Western Australia.

Contact Newsletter 148



C Coy
PNGVR
Mt Hagen
circa
1967.
WO2 Joe
Fisk and
Cpl Bill
Molony
after a
bivouac.
No doubt
the empty
bottle of
“Buka
Meri” was
used for
medicinal
purposes
during a
cold night.

The RAAF is much simpler

Pilot Officers are not all pilots. Flying Officers don't all fly aeroplanes. Flt Lts seldom command Flights and never command flights if they are aircrew. Squadron Leaders are Flight Commanders, Wing Commanders command Squadrons, Group Captains command Stations, not Groups Air Commodores do nothing much except hang around waiting for promotion. Air Vice Marshals Command Groups

And everyone above sits in an office in Canberra, drinking coffee and awaiting their OAM to be announced.

Spartan to enhance response and engagements

Defence is enhancing support for humanitarian disaster relief, crisis response and regional engagements by redefining the role of the C-27J Spartan aircraft.

The Spartan's new role will enhance Australia's humanitarian and emergency response to natural disasters in Australia and our near region, regional engagement across the Indo-Pacific including through Pacific Step-Up, and the Australian Defence Force's military logistics and air mobility capability.

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld said the Spartan's capabilities were aligned with Defence's strategic objectives to shape Australia's strategic environment, deter actions against our interests and when required, respond with credible military force.

“The Spartan demonstrated its specific capabilities during the 2019/20 Australian bushfire crisis by safely evacuating 2,400 fire-affected community members and resupplying remote communities that were inaccessible by larger aircraft, which included moving 300,000 kilograms of cargo,” Air Marshal Hupfeld said.

“The Spartan conducted these missions at a range that exceeded the ability of Defence helicopters because of its flexibility and the inherent operational characteristics of a light tactical fixed wing aircraft.”

Head of Air Force Capability Air Vice-Marshal Cath Roberts highlighted the Spartan’s contribution to ADF contingency response, and its value in providing assistance to regional neighbours.

“The use of the Spartan on exercises such as Arnhem Thunder and Talisman Sabre to deliver vital stores to expeditionary airbases, showcases its ability to reach remote and austere airbases.

“And it has also recently transported medical supplies and equipment to Port Moresby to assist PNG in the fight against COVID-19; as well as contributed to Australia’s support to regional maritime security and fisheries protection on the high seas through deployments on Operations Resolute and Solania,” Air Vice-Marshal Roberts said.

Redefining the role of the Spartan will ensure Defence delivers an airlift capability that meets Australia’s requirements, providing vital support to the nation and our near region.

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Visitors to the Museum

Thanks to the work of our Museum volunteers there have been a number of organised visits despite a number of other school visits being cancelled because of Covid-19 concerns.

ARVN Visitors

Our Museum Volunteers received a surprise in June when two ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) soldiers turned up in uniform for a visit together with their friend Fred Heywood.



Museum Curator Paul Brown with the two ARVN visitors.

They spent considerable time there looking over the precinct as well as our museum and were very complimentary in their praise of the items on display.

Even more of a surprise was when Curator Paul later received a “Thank you” card together with a CD with probably 150 photos of the Museum and Precinct.

The card read “To all at PNGVR Museum thank you all for the time you gave to us—for taking photos with us. I want to express my sincere thanks for the respect and gratitude you gave to my two brothers from the ARVN, Truly a great museum. Thank you all for the time and your patience with us.

Respects and Regards,

Lt Hoang Tung and F.J. Heywood.”



Goodna Scouts and Cubs

Another visit was by the Goodna Scouts and Cubs with parents and leaders. There were 54 in the group .

They were divided into 4 groups and commenced their study of the exhibits at 4 different exhibits in the Museum with each group guided through by one of our volunteers.

The above photo shows the group with Association Volunteers Colin Gould, Kieran Nelson and Tony Boulter. The photo was taken by Paul Brown, Museum Curator.



Sunnybank State High School

A group of 24 students and 2 teachers from Year 10 Sunnybank State High also made a visit. This Year 10 group is studying Australian History and again were divided into 3 groups and shown through the museum by our dedicated volunteer group.

Association members in the above photo are Colin Gould and

Paul Brown. Photographer was Kieran Nelson.

The feedback to Sunnybank High must have been positive as a further visit by another 40 Year 10 students was arranged, but cancelled at the last minute due to Covid-19 concerns. This group had arranged to bring their lunch and consume it in the grounds of the museum.

It is hoped they will be able to re-schedule their visit in the near future.



Museum volunteers Paul Brown, Kieran Nelson, Colin Gould.

Battle for Australia Ceremony, Brisbane

On 1 Sep. Tony Boulter and Paul Brown represented the Association at the 79th anniversary for the Battle of Australia ceremony with President Phil Ainsworth marooned in Sydney due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Official guests were representatives of the Queensland Governor and the Chief of the Air Force as it is the Air force's centenary year.

After the welcoming address by the Master of Ceremonies Major Pat O'Keefe OAM (Retd), the hymn "Amazing Grace" was sung followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Group Captain Iain Carty CSM gave the 79th Anniversary Address followed by the School Capt of Aspley State High, Manit Gopal, who made an excellent presentation highlighting the numerous battles fought against the Japanese.



Tony Boulter about to lay the Association wreath.

Wreaths were laid by representatives of over 40 plus organizations.

The Ode of Remembrance was read by the school captains of Wavell State High School. This was followed by the Last post, Reveille and the Pipers' lament. Craigslea State High provided

the trumpeters music.

The Australian & PNG National Anthems were sung in full followed by the benediction.

This was a very well conducted service & I estimate crowd numbers to be 70+.

Thank you Tony Boulter and Paul Brown.



Australian First World War casualties rest in Bita Paka War Cemetery

Commonwealth service men and women who died in military operations in New Britain and New Ireland, or who died in the area while Prisoners of War (POWs) are buried or commemorated in Bita Paka War Cemetery in East New Britain, Papua New Guinea.

Bita Paka War Cemetery was established in 1945 on the site of one of Australia's first military engagements in the First World War to allow fallen Commonwealth service men to be buried in a cemetery that would be properly maintained.

It contains 1,155 graves, 505 of which are of unidentified service men and women. A total of 442 Australians are buried here. This includes 30 casualties of the First World War.

The First World War military engagements by Australians here took place some seven months prior to the landings at Gallipoli. A memorial within the cemetery commemorates the losses of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary force during the initial months of the First World War

Bita Paka War Cemetery also contains commemorative plaques for three Australian service men who are buried in Old Rabaul Civil Cemetery, but whose graves have been lost.

There are 620 Indian service men buried at Bita Paka. just over half of whom have been identified. These service men were POWs captured in Singapore, Malaya and other South East Asian battlefields who were put to work during the Japanese occupation of Rabaul, digging miles of tunnels in the cliffs surrounding Rabaul Harbour.

Also buried in the war cemetery are 35 service men of the United Kingdom, 34 from Fiji, 20 from PNG, two from the Solomon Islands, one from the Netherlands and one from New Zealand.

The cemetery and its gardens are maintained by a crew of six locally engaged grounds staff.

Dept Veterans Affairs Website



**VALE. T/Cpl Peter Albert Langman
258700/216462 Died 15.6.2021.**

Peter died aged 86 at Paradise Point, Qld.

He served in the Royal Australian Navy and in 1954 was on board *HMAS Vengeance* which sailed to Japan to bring home men and equipment from No 77 Squadron RAAF after their service in Korea.

He then joined the NSW Police Service and was awarded the Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society NSW Bronze Medal 1958 (courageous conduct in rescuing two elderly women from a burning flat on 18.1.1958, and the N.S.W. Police awarded him the Peter Mitchell Trophy for the most courageous act by a member of the police force in 1958).



Peter served in New South Wales Police 28.10.1957-31.1.1960. s/nr 8824 and was appointed a member of the R.P.N.G.C. on 4.1.1960. He served as OIC Kila Barracks and Port Moresby resigning 22.1.1962.

His military career commenced with his National Service. He then served on *HMAS Vengeance* in Korea. He enlisted in PNGVR on 21.2.1961 and served in D Coy, Port Moresby. As temporary Corporal he transferred to Royal New South Wales Regiment on 19.7.1962.

He later joined the Australian Army Provost Corps and as a Captain with the Australian Force Vietnam Provost Unit he was awarded a Mention In Despatches on 17.12.1970.

He retired with the rank of Major.

LEST WE FORGET
Thank you Maxwell Hayes.

WANTED

There are a large number of photos etc on the Association web site www.pngvr.weebly.com. Many of these photos are from events and functions in the early / mid 1990's and are missing names of participants.

Many of the pages in sites such as "PNGVR Annual Camps" also need further information as to events, sites, etc. Photos are also welcome (with appropriate info. If you can assist in any way please email or telephone information to Trevor Connell, Website Master, (column opposite) or to Bob Collins whose details are also opposite.

It is important that the site be as detailed as possible.

The Association would like to thank King & Co Property consultants for its continuing support, including the printing of this edition, together with the past 72 issues of Harim Tok Tok. Its contribution is much appreciated.

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15% Discount for all PNGVR members

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

Includes former members of the PIR, PIB and NGIB.

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

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

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

Membership fee payments to Treasurer, Kieran Nelson email kierannelson@bigpond.com Phone 0412 236 013

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

Website Master: Trevor Connell email trevor.connell@internode.on.net, phone 0409 690 590

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

Facebook Master: Kieran Nelson, email kierannelson@bigpond.com, phone 0412 236 013

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

Harim Tok Tok Editor: Bob Collins, email bob-collins@bigpond.com, phone 0413 831 397

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

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

NGVR/PNGVR service recollections are copyright.

FUNCTION DATES

Sat 18 Sep. Bunnings BBQ

Sat 2 Oct. & Sat 6 Nov. 2021

Museum open 10am-1pm

Sat 9 Oct. & Sat 20 Nov. 2021

Executive Ctee Mtg - Museum 10a.m.

Members always welcome. BYO lunch

Sat 23 Oct 2021

10am Association AGM at Museum followed by

12.30 Mixed Luncheon in Everyman's Hut to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the PNGVR in 1951.

Dress Anzac Day Dress

Cost \$40p.p. for meal - Cash Bar

Contact Colin Gould or Paul Brown for

bookings

An Invitation to the 70th Anniversary of PNGVR's formation



You and your wife/partner are invited to join us at the 70th Anniversary commemorative luncheon to celebrate the formation of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (PNGVR).

This luncheon will be held in Everyman's Hut, Wacol Military Precinct, 97 Boundary Road, Wacol, Brisbane, 4076 on Saturday 23rd October, 2021.

The luncheon will be preceded by the Association's Annual General Meeting commencing 10am sharp which will be held in the NGVR Memorial Museum.



The AGM will last no longer than one hour and you are welcome to attend..

If you do not wish to attend the AGM come along about 11 am for a pre-luncheon drink and a chat.

The two course, sit down, buffet luncheon will be held in the adjacent

Everyman's Hut and will commence at 12.30 pm.

A brief informative discussion about PNGVR will accompany the luncheon. There will be plenty of time to chat with your friends before, during and after and still be home before dark.

There is easy parking on site and both the Museum and Everyman's

Hut and in between are wheelchair accessible.

There is a charge of \$40 per person for the luncheon: drinks will be available at a cash bar.

Please contact either:

Paul Brown at 0402 644181 or paulbrown475@gmail.com or

Colin Gould at 0424 562 030 or pngvr@optus.com.au

by 18 October 2021 if you are interested in attending,

Payment is by electronic transfer directly to NGVR & PNGVR Association

BSB: 064006

Account number: 10001126

ensuring an adequate reference is used so the transaction may be traced.

Please also send a confirmatory email to kierannelson@bigpond.com.

Dress for the occasion is Anzac Day Dress with full medals for members and smart casual for partners and friends.

PNGVR was a militia (Citizens Military Force) battalion formed in 1951 and disbanded in December 1973, prior to PNG Independence. PNGVR's parent unit was the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR), the militia battalion which faced the Japanese at Rabaul and did valuable front line work on the New Guinea mainland during the first six months of the Pacific War.



Everyman's Hut



NGVR Memorial Museum