



Harim Tok Tok

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

This is your Christmas 2021 Harim Tok Tok issue containing 20 pages of interesting and varied reading, the extra 4 pages being your Christmas present, enjoy!

A successful AGM was held on 23rd October at the Wacol Museum when 35 members attended and your 2020 committee was re-appointed without change, details are on page 15.

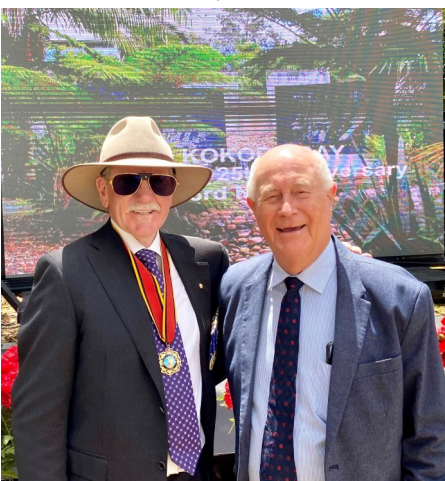
The AGM was followed by our most important event of the year, the 70th Anniversary luncheon celebrating the formation of PNGVR. Over 50 members and friends attended this delightful event in the adjacent Everyman's Hut, details and photographs start on page 15.

Regrettably, I was absent from both events, marooned in Sydney. Vice - president Bob Collins ably chaired the AGM and presided over the luncheon, thank you Bob for two jobs well done! My President's report for the year 2020-21 was read by Bob Collins at the AGM and a copy of it is contained in this issue at page 16. I have been stranded in Sydney for over five months. Hopefully, I will return to Brisbane in time to have Christmas with my family.

I have recently attended two Sydney functions mainly as a committee member of PNGAA but also representing PNGVR whenever it suited the occasion. The first was the belated celebration of Kokoda Day which was held Wednesday 3rd November at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk way located on Sydney Harbour near the Concord Hospital. Coincidentally, this day was the 25th Anniversary of the opening and dedication of the Memorial Walkway www.kokodawalkway.com.au which was celebrated with a service and tribute for those who sacrificed their lives and served in the Kokoda campaign. A tribute was also made to those who initiated, financed and constructed the Walk-way The event was well organised and attended with good speakers, including a short pertinent video talk from the Governor General, General David Hurley AC, DSC, FTSE. The 250 attendees included many government and community representatives. All were accommodated in a large marquee. The service was followed by light refreshments.

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway was

installed by and its maintenance supported by many sponsors. Chief sponsors are the City of Canada Bay Council, Concord Hospital, DVA and a number of local RSLs. I met the Lord Mayor of the City of Canada Bay Council Mr Angelo Tsirekas, Former Deputy Commissioner of DVA Ms Jennifer Collins, the Secretary of the Kokoda Track Walkway Ms Alice Kang and former NSW Minister of Veteran Affairs and of Kokoda Track trekkers fame, Major Charlie Lynn OAM, OL. If you are in Sydney, I do recommend a visit to the Walk-way and Memorial.



Charlie Lynn and Phil Ainsworth, 3 Nov 21.

The second event was a fund raiser for the Oceanic Art Society, an annual art fair where Pacific art memorabilia, artefacts, books, paintings etc are presented by associations and individuals for sale. It is held at the National Art School based in the former Darlinghurst Jail, Sydney. This year's event was held from 9am to 5pm Saturday 6th November. PNGAA arranged a table to sell Association



Left to right: Phil Ainsworth, Andrea Williams, Sarah Turner and Steven Gagau in jail at the fair, 6/11/21.

members items for a commission being paid to the Association. It was a very pleasant day. Many professional dealers participated selling and buying. Many remarkable, Interesting and valuable items were presented. This kind of activity may be useful for our Association's fund raising either as a separate event of in conjunction with other functions conducted by our Association or kindred organisations.

2022 will see our Association resume its full schedule of events, which schedule will be approved at the 20th November Committee meeting. None the less, please diary the 1st January for our first Bunnings Sausage Sizzle and 2nd February for our first Committee meeting of 2022. Assistance is required for the Sizzle and all interested members are invited to the Committee Meeting.

I extend my best wishes to you and your family for Christmas and the New Year. **Phil Ainsworth, November 2021**

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The Japanese Invasion of New Ireland—60 years on

Jim Ridges, Box 86, Kavieng. January 2002.

23 January 1942 is well known as the day the Japanese forces captured Rabaul at the beginning of the Pacific War and established a major base there, only seven weeks after the sneak air attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941 which brought America into the war.

Ignored by most historians, in fact almost never mentioned at all, is that Kavieng, the main port and commercial centre of New Ireland, was invaded and captured on the same day. The consequences were dire for the small number of Australian Commandos stationed there, the missionaries who remained and those European public servants, planters and employees who had not already gone to Australia to join up in the Australian military forces, usually because of their age or ill health.

The wives of Europeans had been evacuated to Australia just before Christmas 1941 but no arrangement was made for the Chinese and Mixed Race women to go, and the men were expected to stay in New Ireland. They suffered many hardships and death, either at the hands of the Japanese or as a consequence of the Allied bombing or ill treatment, as did many hundreds of New Irelanders and other New Guineans working contracts on the plantations who were unable to go to their home districts.

After aircraft from six Japanese carriers had attacked Pearl Harbour Hawaii, they disappeared into the Pacific supporting the Japanese rapid advances in Asia. By the 21 January 1942 four of those carriers were close enough to New Ireland that in the early morning about 60 bombers and fighter planes from the 'Kagi' and 'Akagi' attacked Kavieng, concentrating on the wharf area, Chinatown, and the recently built Kavieng airstrip, but strafing everything else.

At least one Chinese, Tung Sing, died that day and was hastily buried and others were injured, some seriously, including five of the Commandos from the 1st Independent Company who were taken to the Catholic mission hospital at Lemakot, after treatment at Kavieng hospital.

It was obvious to everyone that Japanese ships were nearby and invasion was imminent. The decision was made by District Officer MacDonald to evacuate all civilians from Kavieng, and Major Wilson withdrew most of his small force to near Kaut on the west coast, where separate camps for civilians and military had been prepared.

The small Australian Commando force, the 1st Independent Company had arrived in Kavieng in July 1941. Comprising only about 250 men it had its HQ's in Kavieng but was required to have small units also stationed at Manus, Namatanai, Buka, Tulagi, an island near Honiara in the Solomon Islands, and Vila in the New Hebrides. Its effectiveness was minimal, spread as it was over thousands of kilometres, and it was in effect sacrificed, being unable to resist any determined Japanese force of any size, and in fact not one of the men stationed in Kavieng survived the war, only the officers who had been sent to Japan.

By late afternoon of 21 January 1942 Kavieng was almost deserted, the population en route to where ever they felt they would be far enough away from Kavieng and the impending invasion. Only a small group of Commandos remained to destroy installations useful to the enemy and a group of 16-17 Europeans preparing to escape on five schooners the largest, the 'Navanora' and 'Shamrock', owned by Frank Saunders and others owned by Bill Box and Col Mackellar. Phil Levy manager of Burns Philp store also remained.

By the time they had loaded up with provisions from the abandoned stores in Kavieng in anticipation of a voyage, perhaps to Australia, it was late. The most credible of the

several stories told after the war, about what happened to them, is that one of the smaller boats broke down and all stayed in the narrow Albatross Passage separating New Ireland from Bau-dissin island, attempting to repair the engine of the one boat, instead of abandoning it.

The advancing Japanese invasion force found them late on the evening of 22 January. They were returned to Kavieng and were seen imprisoned in the Kavieng jail until a number of weeks later most were sent to Rabaul. They did not survive 1942.

On 22 January 1942 only Levy and the small group of Commandos under Major Wilson were in Kavieng. They planned to defend or demolish the wharf and airstrip. During the day however five Europeans returned to the town. Harry Murray and 'Dusty' Miller plantation owners and businessmen, Murray Edwards the Assistant District Officer, Bill Livingstone the Police Master and 'Peter' Griffen a B.P.'s auditor temporarily on Lemus Island who arrived during the day to sell eggs and unexpectedly found the town deserted.

Later Edwards and Miller left separately in their boats, Edwards to return to the civilian camp near Kaut but he did not arrive. There are conflicting and unreliable reports of what may have happened, but he did not survive 1942. Murray and Levy were literally surprised by the landing of the 'R Invasion Detachment' about midnight on the Kavieng waterfront and ran for their lives towards the airstrip and the few Australian Commandos. Griffen at some point drove a car down the East Coast road and several weeks later met a surprised Murray escaping on foot from Kavieng.

The Japanese War History says the invading forces, arriving from the Japanese administered island of Truk, north of Kavieng, had captured the airfield by 3.35am on 23 January 1942 encountering no hostile infantry or inhabitants and that the 13 holes blasted in the airstrip were filled in five days allowing fighter planes to operate from it.

This conflicts with Australian reports that there was a fierce fire-light as the commandos retired from the airstrip leaving an estimated 300 Japanese dead.

There was so little opposition that only two days later, on 25 January, the Mai No. 2 Special Infantry which had participated in the landing went to Rabaul and destroyers with infantry and air support visited places on New Hanover, Mussau and Emira on 25 and 26 January looking for hostile military facilities, but found none.

It was discovered from captives that about 150 troops had fled from Kavieng after 21 January air raid. On 28 January Japanese troops on the 'Goya Maru' landed, at Namatanai and searched the station and Namatanai village but found no Australian troops and re-embarked. Namatanai was not permanently occupied by the Japanese civilian administration until 5 June 1943 and ten days later Leong Cheung was publicly shot there.

In the meantime units of Japanese Naval forces occupied Kavieng, and the airstrip was used as a base, together with Rabaul, for the prolonged Japanese air attacks on the critical American landing at Guadalcanal after 7 August 1942.

Harry Murray, Levy and the Commando unit blowing holes in the Kavieng airstrip retreated through the mangrove swamps at the back of the airstrip towards the camps near Kaut. A track through the swamps, which was purposely cut for this eventuality, could not be found in the darkness and confusion and it took two days to wade through the crocodile infested mangroves. Harry Murray so narrowly escaped the advancing Japanese that he had to cross the swamps in his pyjamas, barefoot and without his false teeth. They could not use the East Coast highway, assuming correctly that the Japanese would also land in the Ma-iom (now Utu) school and Panapei plantation area cutting the road and isolating Kavieng.

Arriving at the camps near Kaut the military and civilians joined their companions who had left Kavieng on 21 January and went



their separate ways, although it was the civilians who had the only workable radio transmitter.

Corporal Birtwistle died at Kaut when he triggered one of the booby traps protecting the perimeter from intruders. A couple of

days later the civilians were surprised to find the 1st Independent Company had departed on the *MV Induna Star*, requisitioned for their use when they first arrived in Kavieng, and on which most of the injured Commandos had been wounded in the air raid on 21 January. After the raid it had been sent to Kaut.

Of the five seriously wounded who went to Lemakot, two recovered, Privates Tole and Carter, and were sent by the Japanese to Rabaul in March 1942 with Sister Dorothy Maye, the Government nurse who had stayed on in Kavieng after other women were evacuated. Two others, Privates R B Smith and R J Munro were taken back to Kavieng hospital by the Japanese for operations but died soon after, and the fifth, Private George Anderson died at Lemakot on 6th February and was buried there. Sister Maye was sent to Japan from Rabaul in July 1942 on the ship with the officers and survived the war.

The *MV Induna Star*, without her skipper Julius Lundin, but with John Morell a Djaul island planter who was familiar with New Ireland waters, slipped away down the west coast in darkness on 30 January. It hid from the planes during the day, and successfully evaded warships in the St. George's Channel until spotted on 2 February by a Japanese seaplane and bombed, killing four Commandos. Privates Eddy, Curtis, Lamont and Lowther. The ship was escorted back to Rabaul and all were imprisoned.

Meanwhile the civilians near Kaut, led by Harry Murray and Jerry MacDonald, decided to attempt to escape by walking down the West Coast. At that time the road only went as far as Lamernewai plantation and one, Caulfield Kelly, decided not to go. Others dropped off at plantations on their route when they met managers still working undisturbed on their plantations, while others joined the escaping party which was desperately looking for some kind of boat to allow them to leave New Ireland.

After long delays the group crossed from Ulaputur to the East Coast with the help of Father Neuhaus the Namatanai parish priest and stayed for a while at Muliama where they met nine Australians escaping from Rabaul. Eventually an escape was made possible by going to Tanga Island and forcefully requisitioning a small boat the '*Quang Wha*' belonging to Chin Pak, and returning to Muliama. On 30th April, over three months after the Japanese invasion, and overcoming many difficulties, they left New Ireland and on the afternoon of the 5th May made a landfall at Mi-Mi on the North coast of Papua and on the 6th were at Buna.

At the time of the Japanese landing in Kavieng two other attempts to escape were made. When radio messages from Kavieng stopped, the six Commandos of the 1st Independent Company stationed at Namatanai, together with A.D.O. Bill Kyle and Patrol Officer Greg Benham, hotel and Halis plantation owner Joe Kenney, Methodist missionaries Gil Platten, Mageh, Samo and Metlik plantation owners Bert Brereton, Alf Priebe, and Axel Eylitz and Hilalon plantation manager Pasley wanted the small and old Matankuk plantation boat called the '*Gnair*' belonging to Tong Ko, a Chinese businessman and plantation owner. It had been hidden, as well as the fuel supply and engine parts.

Physical violence had to be used to obtain these and at 7pm on 2 February 1942 the '*Gnair*' sailed for Tulagi in the Solomon Islands, arriving on 8 February, under the 'command' of Helmuth 'Bubi' Schultze, a German using a small map out of the National Geographic magazine. Also requisitioned with the boat was the engi-

neer, a Namatanai native Raymon, who was left at Tulagi when the civilian escapers just caught the last boat to Australia before the Japanese landed. He joined Mackenzie the coastwatcher and was at Guadalcanal during the battle and later joined the Australian Infantry and served with the coastwatchers in New Guinea.

The other less successful attempt to escape was from Mussau island when S.D.A Pastor Arthur Atkins, Trevor Collett a sawmiller working for the mission and Charles Cook a plantation manager on Emira island successfully passed through St. George's Channel but when sailing down the east coast of New Britain were forced ashore. Cook finally escaped but as Pastor Atkins felt unable to continue, Collett stayed with him and both gave themselves up to the Japanese and went to Rabaul. Neither survived 1942.

When the '*Gnair*' finally departed with the Namatanai escapees Bill Kyle and Greg Benham were not with them. They had agreed to stay behind enemy lines as coastwatchers reporting enemy movements by radio. They had a second chance to leave with Murray on 30 April but stayed. Others had also remained as Coastwatchers including Cecil Jervis on Nissan, C J Mason on Tanga, J L Woodruffe on Anir and Con Page on Tabar islands. None of them survived 1942.

After the war 13 bodies were found on Nago Island near Kavieng where they had been executed. Seven bodies were identified: Kyle, Benham, Page and Jack Talmage, a German 'Sailor' Herterich and Father Michael Murphy from Tabar and Father Karl Martin from Ulaputur who were all executed in 1942. The other six bodies were not identified.

In fact, of the 12 priests, 2 brothers and eleven sisters in New Ireland at the time of the Japanese invasion, most of whom were German and therefore allies of the Japanese, only 2 priests, and 9 sisters survived the war. Of those Father Stamm, a Brother and 4 Sisters were evacuated from the leper colony on Anelaua island near New Hanover in June 1944 by an American patrol boat based at Emira island which had been made into an American base when it was occupied on 20 March 1944. It was bombing by the Americans which forced their departure from Anelaua, as up until then they had been undisturbed by the Japanese.

Two old time residents of New Ireland 'Skipper' Charlson and Harry Spanner had sought refuge on Anelaua. Charlson died there and Spanner was evacuated to Australia with the missionaries.

The two Sisters from Namatanai who died were Climaka and Ambrosia, but they died at the predominantly Chinese and Mixed race internment camp at Lakuramau where they had been sent in 1944 with everyone else from Lemakot mission. Others to die at Lakuramau were Fatt Hong, Leu Keu and Ah Young the leading Chinese merchant in Kavieng who died on 14 February 1945. Only one week earlier his nephew Leslie Foon Kong had died at the HQ's of the Japanese Kempetai police at Luburua as did many other Chinese, Mixed race and New Ireland men.

The two Methodist ministers remaining in New Ireland Daniel Oakes at Pinikidu and Thomas Simpson at Rannmek were both dead before the end of 1942.

At another internment camp at Bo Pire near the present Namatanai High School on 28 May 1944 Phebe Parkinson, the sister of 'Queen' Emma and wife of the scientist Richard Parkinson, died. She was an old lady but had been forced to leave Komalu plantation where she had been living with her grandson Rudolf Diercke who survived the war. Her niece Caroline Schultze, owner of Lamangan plantation outside of Kavieng, also died at that camp just before the Japanese surrender. It was her son Helmuth who was in command of the escaping '*Gnair*' with the

group from Namatanai.

A lucky survivor was Richard Hermann, manager of Numanne Island plantation. He was caught smuggling goods to the prisoners in Kavieng, but a friendly Japanese he knew prewar had him sent to Kokopo in September 1942 where he planted vegetables for the Japanese to the end of the war.

Apart from individual deaths like that of Leigh Lightbody, the Burns Philp manager at Kalili who died of natural causes at the camp for Europeans at Panapai planation and was buried on 30 March 1943 at Lemakot Catholic mission after a funeral at which the Japanese allowed the other white planters to attend, and the executions on Nago Island, the two major causes of death was the sinking of the *MV Montevideo Maru* off the Philippines on 1 July by the American submarine '*Sturgeon*' and the executions on Kavieng wharf on 17 March 1944.

The torpedoing of the *Montevideo Maru* from Rabaul with the loss of 1053 mainly Australian servicemen prisoners of the Japanese, including about 200 civilians, was one of the worst disasters of the war. Little is known of this outside New Guinea. The 133 survivors of the 1st Independent Company of Commandos from Kavieng captured on the *Induna Star* and sent to Rabaul were drowned. Perhaps 26 of the civilians who had been sent from Kavieng to Rabaul, including most of those who had attempted to escape in the five small schooners the day after the first Japanese air raid on Kavieng, were also drowned. The officers of the 1st Independent Company were sent on another ship to Japan and survived the war.

17 March 1944 is the date stated in appeal petitions at the War Crime Trial in Hong Kong in 1947 as the date 23 unnamed Australian civilians were murdered on the Kavieng wharf. At dusk they were led, blindfold, one at a time, from the road to the edge of the wharf and garrotted with wire, including 14 year old David Topal. The bodies were put in two small barges, with concrete blocks tied to their feet, and thrown overboard between Nago and Edmago islands.

The order to kill all the European prisoners in Kavieng if an imminent invasion by Allied forces was expected, was given by Rear Admiral Ryukichi Tamura, commander at Kavieng, and he was on trial with 5 of his subordinates.

Allied forces had landed in the west of New Britain by Christmas and air attacks had increased on Japanese positions. Kavieng suffered heavy air raids from American Mitchell bombers in the third week of February 1944 and the large Japanese base at Truk, North of Kavieng, was destroyed about the same time. The small Japanese base on Manus fell at the end of that month and an invasion of New Ireland was expected, and in fact, unbeknown to the Japanese, was planned for 20 March 1944 but cancelled.

A subordinate decided the time had come to execute the prisoners and this was done in great secrecy, but in fact it was 32 or 33 who died. The law for War Crimes permitted only British deaths to be prosecuted and the others, some German priests and other non-British civilians were not mentioned.

While many of the names can be guessed at, it is not known exactly who died on the day. The Register of Civilian Deaths in New Guinea for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission even uses a different date, 18 February 1944. Several statements given after the War said the Europeans disappeared immediately after a heavy naval bombardment which occurred on 20 March 1944 in support of the American landing on Emira island. Kavieng and the airstrips were shelled by fifteen destroyers, two escort carriers and four old American battleships, the '*New Mexico*', '*Mississippi*', '*Tennessee*' and '*Idaho*'...1079 14 inch and 12,281 five inch shells were fired.

Japan surrendered on 15 August 1945 but it was 19 September when the Australian warship *H.M.A.S. Swan* arrived first at Namatanai and then at Fangalawa Bay to accept the surrender of Japanese forces in New Ireland and pick up the survivors of the estimated 87 European civilians still on New Ireland. Rudolf Diercke was picked up at Namatanai and Father Gerard Peekel and five Catholic sisters at Fangalawa Bay. Of the remaining eighty, with a few exceptions, there was no trace, and to this day there is no memorial in New Ireland to the civilians of all races who died, although there are hopes that this may happen in July 2002, 60 years on.

The catastrophic events and upheavals for everyone in New Ireland in those 43 months of occupation are largely unknown and not recorded save for a few oral histories told and retold.

Raymon from Bakan village, the reluctant ship's engineer of the '*Gnair*' and later soldier and coastwatcher, returned on the *H.M.A.S. Swan* as a Warrant Officer and official observer to the surrender of the Japanese on New Ireland.. He died in 1970 and is buried in the Namatanai town cemetery. The Returned Serviceman's League produced a bronze plaque for his grave.

Lest we forget.



Oksapmin Patrol Post and Airstrip 1960's—since upgraded to 6,709 Ft, 2044m Photo UQ Anthropology Museum

The Parade Ground

"Within the Australian Army, the Parade Ground holds a special symbolic representation of a unit's fallen soldiers and in line with this symbolism it is deemed "hallowed ground" and is respected as such.

There are many stories and myths associated with the significance and development of Parade Grounds, the truth can often be the simpler.

In Britain, the military practice in 17th and 18th Century has it that when a regiment marched into a town or any location where they were going to be quartered, a place of assembly was decided upon which may have been a market square, the street outside the senior officer's lodgings or any convenient open patch of ground. If the unit was on active operations and camping in the field, the regiment would form up in front of their tents. This area would be used to draw everyone together in a "parade", but it would not necessarily be used as a Drill Square. Once barracks became common in the United Kingdom, which was not until the very late 18th to early 19th Century, the buildings were normally arranged around a square. This open space, which was conveniently situated in the middle of the dwellings, would be used for parades of all sorts, for instance, fatigues, drill, pay, punishment, and the assembly of the guards.

Within the Australian Army, the Parade Ground holds a symbolic representation of a unit's fallen soldiers and in line with this symbolism it is deemed "hallowed ground" and is respected as such.

A term used in line with the Parade Ground is "holding ground"

and by definition is “troops keeping the ground” On selected unit ceremonial occasions troops are positioned at the corners of a parade ground to “hold ground”; these troops are equipped with weapons which range from lances to mortars through to guns. This symbolism is to afford protection to the unit parading in order to permit it to carry out its ceremonial duties safely.

Holding ground should not be confused with the placement of old Artillery pieces at the corners of a parade ground. These pieces are placed in these positions more as a decoration than as some historic symbol; therefore their position has no meaning either historically or by tradition.

Army web site—Traditions.

The CO was about to start the morning briefing to his staff. While waiting for the coffee machine to finish brewing, the CO decided to pose a question to all assembled.

He explained that his wife had been a bit frisky the night before and he failed to get his usual amount of sound sleep. He posed the question of just how much of sex was considered 'work' and how much of it was 'fun?'

A Company commander chimed in with 75%-25% in favour of work.

The Operations Officer said it was 50%-50%.

The Intelligence Officer responded with 25%-75% in favour of fun, depending upon his state of inebriation at the time.

There being no consensus, the CO turned to the Private who was in charge of making the coffee and asked for his opinion.

Without any hesitation, the young digger responded, “Sir, it has to be 100% fun.”

The CO was surprised and as you might guess, asked why?

“Well, sir, if there was any work involved, the officers would have me doing it for them.”

The room fell silent.

Who Needs Enemies with Friends Like This?

Air-to-air gunnery practice is normally firing at a drogue - a fabric cone towed behind an aircraft. Being pilot of a drogue-towing aircraft was never a highly sought after job since novice air gunners were known to occasionally spray their fire too far ahead of the drogue, with the result that the towing aircraft sometimes landed with a few holes in its tail; a bit of a worry.

But these risks were nothing compared with the experience described by Tom Offord, a WAG, from Bull Creek, WA. The navy had two new warships in Trincomalee Harbour, Ceylon, (as Sri Lanka was then called) and requested that our flight provide a drogue-towing aircraft for firing practice and calibration work. This meant fitting a Vultee Vengeance Dive Bomber with towing equipment at breakneck speed and giving my pilot and myself a supershort course on the peculiarities of drogues and most important of all, on the delicate art of dealing with the Navy. It was impressed on us that the utmost secrecy must prevail as the Navy was trying out new equipment. The great day arrived.

We took off full of high hopes - flew over the target area dead on time and then wham! The warships opened up with more than pea shooters and - horror of horrors - shell bursts were deadly accurate as to height, but were exploding just ahead of our aircraft, instead of about one hundred yards astern where the drogue was. My pilot, Len Pennock, quickly handed me a scribbled message with the instructions ‘Send Urgently’.

We didn't have direct R/T communication for the pilot; the WAG had to transmit any messages. So I promptly transmitted Len's message in plain language (P/L) Morse code. It read: ‘We are pulling this bloody drogue, not pushing it’.

When we got back to base the fit had hit the shan. ‘Transmitting P/L is not on’, the CO fumed, ‘except in cases of extreme emergency’. Len replied, ‘It was an absobloodylutely extreme emergency; anyway it was my decision’. Len didn't

mince words. The CO relented and we later learned that the Navy had framed our message. (After the war someone sent the story to Readers Digest, where it appeared in ‘Humour in Uniform’. No, we didn't get paid for it, nor did we get the credit; ‘c'est la vie’, or maybe, ‘C'est la guerre’.)

SKYLARKS - THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE IN THE RAAF IN WORLD WAR II, edited by Eric Brown, Air Power Studies A



Australian soldiers are standing to attention in their snow covered camp during the Korean War on December 31st, 1951. The Australian flag is being hoisted by W.J. Harrison.

Sappers complete unique airfield survey work

Three surveyors from 6th Brigade's 6th Engineer Support Regiment completed topographic surveys at Davis Station in Antarctica earlier in 2020.

It was an unusual, enjoyable and rewarding assignment for Lance Corporal Michael Raymont, Lance Corporal Stewart Cox and Sapper Luke Carey 6,500km south of their home base in Brisbane.

In May 2018, the Australian government announced its intention to construct a paved runway near the research station, and with the project now in a planning phase, the surveyors spent their 2019/20 deployment focused on refining the terrain model developed over previous years.

“We refined the model to ensure a higher degree of accuracy so the project team could determine what earthworks, equipment and labour they would need to complete the project,” Lance Corporal Raymont said.

“We used a terrestrial laser scanner to survey the landscape and built a 3D-terrain model with a degree of accuracy of plus or minus 20mm.”

While it's the kind of work all three soldiers are experienced at undertaking – except usually in the warmer climates of the Sunshine State – Lance Corporal Cox said it was actually a bit easier in Antarctica.

“There aren't any trees, buildings or people to get in the way,” he said. “You can just set the scanner and scan what you need



to.”

“It’s also satisfying work because you can see how you’re contributing to a real project.”

Lance Corporal Cox said he enjoyed his second deployment on Operation Southern Discovery. “I can easily say it’s the best thing I’ve done in my military career.”

For Sapper Carey, this was his first Antarctic experience. “It was kind of surreal,” he said. “The Adelie penguins walk straight through the station and right up to you, wondering what and who you are.”

Arriving in Antarctica on board the Australian icebreaker, *Aurora Australis*, in October 2019, Lance Corporal Raymont was later joined by Lance Corporal Cox and Sapper Carey in mid-December after they flew down to Casey Station via a RAAF C-17A Globemaster III and transited across to Davis Station on a Basler DC-3 ski plane.

Together with Royal Australian Navy Reserve Lieutenant Colin Davidson, a hydrographic surveyor, they worked six days a week through to early March 2020.

“We lost about 10 days because of poor weather conditions,” Lance Corporal Raymont said. “Some days we had to stay inside – it was too bad to go out.”

But that wasn’t the case on Australia Day, however. “On Australia Day, we went for a swim,” Lance Corporal Raymont said. “I think the water was just above freezing. Everyone jumped in for about 30 seconds before running back up the beach.”

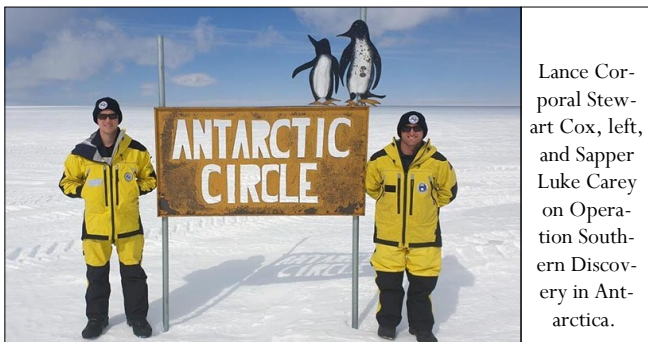
They also rolled out a cricket pitch on the beach to play a game.

Director of the Australian Antarctic Division Kim Ellis, a former Army lieutenant colonel, said the work of the ADF surveyors gave him a great sense of pride.

“Thanks to the skills and expertise of the 6th Engineer Support Regiment, and Littoral and Riverine Survey Squadron, the division now has a full-feature survey of the proposed runway footprint as well as surveyed access road alignments and areas of additional infrastructure,” Mr Ellis said.

“The Davis Aerodrome Project remains subject to environmental assessment and other government decisions, however, if approved, the aerodrome will provide year-round access to east Antarctica, represent a significant capability boost, revolutionise our scientific activities and enhance Australia’s leadership and long-term interests in the region.”

Contact Newsletter 128



Lance Corporal Stewart Cox, left, and Sapper Luke Carey on Operation Southern Discovery in Antarctica.

Maurice Buckley VC. DCM.

Buckley was born at Upper Hawthorn, Melbourne, to Timothy Buckley, brickmaker, and his wife Agnes, née Sexton. His father was a native of Cork, Ireland; his mother was Victorian-born. Maurice Buckley was educated at the Christian Brothers' School in Abbotsford. He joined the 13th Light Horse Regiment on 18 December 1914 shortly after the outbreak of the First World War at Warrnambool, Victoria. In July 1915, he arrived in

Egypt with reinforcements for his regiment, but in Cairo contracted the venereal disease chancroid. The following month he was sent back to Australia with 274 other VD-infected men on the Australian troopship *HMAT A18 Wiltshire*, and in late September 1915 was admitted to an Australian army medical isolation-detention barracks at Langwarrin, near Melbourne, that had been established earlier in 1915 to receive and treat VD-infected soldiers from Egypt. In January 1916 he escaped from Langwarrin, and was declared a deserter on 20 March.

On 6 May 1916 he enlisted again, this time in Sydney, using the name 'Gerald Sexton' – comprising his recently deceased younger brother's first name and his mother's maiden surname. He was sent to France in early 1917, where he fought on the Western Front. Following the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal he was promoted to sergeant in August 1918 and involved in the advance on the Hindenburg Line.

He was awarded the Victoria Cross in the name 'Gerald Sexton' for his actions on 18 September 1918, at Le Verguier near St. Quentin. His unit was advancing under cover of a creeping barrage but was held up by German machine gun posts. Buckley attacked them with his Lewis gun section and captured 30 German prisoners of war. When the advance was again held up by machine-gun fire, Sergeant Buckley, supported by another platoon, put the enemy guns out of action. Later, he again showed conspicuous initiative in capturing hostile posts and machine-guns. According to the citation,



he was "to the fore dealing with enemy machine-guns, rushing enemy posts, and performing great feats of bravery and endurance without faltering or for a moment taking cover".

The award of the VC was originally gazetted under the name 'Gerald Sexton', but he had disclosed his real identity by the time that it was presented to him by King George V at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on 29 May 1919. and was discharged in December 1919.

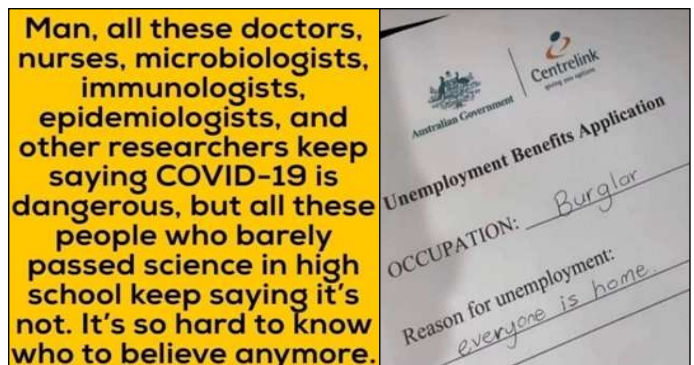
Death

He was severely injured in a riding accident at Boolarra, Gippsland on 15 January 1921, and died on 27 January, aged 29. Ten Victoria Cross recipients were pallbearers at his funeral. He is buried at Brighton Cemetery in Melbourne. He was unmarried.

Medals

His medals are displayed at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Medals: Victoria Cross, Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal.

Wikipedia



"Z" SPECIAL UNIT COMMANDOS INVADE TOWNSVILLE OPERATION "SCORPION"

In 1943 some ambitious officers of the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB) wanted to strike the Japanese in their secure strongholds. 28 year old Captain Ivan Lyon of the Gordon Highlanders teamed up with 61 year old Australian Bill Reynolds and hatched a plan to attack the Japanese in Singapore harbour where they would launch collapsible canoes carrying commandos who would attach limpet mines to the Japanese shipping. The Plan was approved by General Wavell.

It was considered too difficult to sneak into Singapore Harbour from the west, hence SOE decided to send Lyon to Australia to develop a plan to come from the south east.

Bill Reynolds owned a battered Japanese coastal vessel (21.3 m x 3.3 m) called the *Kofuku Maru*, in which he used to take scores of refugees out of Sumatra. It had previously been used as a fish carrier. The *Kofuku Maru* was shipped to Australia as deck cargo from India. Reynolds later renamed the vessel the *Krait*.

Lyon's idea to attack Singapore was eventually taken up and it was decided by Lieutenant Colonel G.S. Mott, Chief of the Reconnaissance Department, to test the effectiveness of the plan by raiding a tightly guarded allied port. He mentioned the idea to Lieutenant Sam Carey, of the AIF, who chose Townsville for the attack.

The attack on Townsville was actually part of the training for *Operation Scorpion*, a proposed attack on shipping in Rabaul Harbour, New Britain. The following is a transcript from "The Official History of the Operations and Administration of Special Operations Australia (SOA), ... Volume 2 - Operations":

SCORPION

Prior to leaving New Guinea on 18 Dec 42, Capt. S.W. Carey had discussed with the C-in-C AMF a projected raid on Rabaul Harbour, New Britain, where it was proposed to sink fifteen vessels. At that time the Harbour was accommodating up to ninety large vessels. The C-in-C had approved the project and Capt Carey was given instructions to proceed with planning and preliminary training. Personnel for the project were gathered without delay.

The code name allotted to the project was *Scorpion*. Members of the party were:

Capt S.W. Carey (Leader), Capt A.L. Gluth, Capt R.D.C. Cardew, Capt D.M. McNamara, Lt. R.C. Page, Lt. W. Ferguson, Lt. J. Grimson, Lt. J.A. Downie, WO II Barnes T.J., Cpl Mackenzie G.K., Cpl Ford R.B.

After consideration by the ISD planning staff, in collaboration with naval experts, it became obvious that the only suitable method of introducing the party was by submarine. This meant that transport from US sources would be required, and it was obvious that difficulties would be encountered, as US submarines were few in the SWPA at that time.

During Mar and Apr 43 the party trained intensely at Z Experimental Station, Cairns. During the training period a successful training attack was carried out on Townsville Harbour, 15 vessels being technically sunk.

Scorpion, however, was cancelled by GHQ in May 43 because of the lack of submarine transport.

Details of this little known attack, part of "Operation Scorpion" is detailed in the book "Special and Secret" as follows:-

SPECIAL AND SECRET

by John Laffin
Pages 124-126

While Lyon fretted to get at the Japanese, a group of disciplined daredevils had come together as Z Special Unit at Z

Experimental Station, Cairns in Queensland. Major A.E.B. Trappes-Lomax, one of the unit's founders, was in command. Among his officers was Lieutenant Sam Carey of the AIF, another advocate of raiding the Japanese in the places where they felt most secure.

Carey was peddling the idea of an attack on enemy shipping in Rabaul Harbour as the beginning of a series of operations. As liaison officer between Z Special, which came under the control of the Commander-in-Chief of the New Guinea Force, Lieutenant General Sir Edmund Herring, and the Commander-in-Chief, Land Forces, General Sir Thomas Blamey, Carey was in a good position to put his scheme before the top decision-makers.

In January 1943 he proposed a plan, Operation "*Scorpion*", to Blamey. It would involve one submarine and a small group of highly trained operatives. The sub would drop them 16 kilometres off Rabaul and they would paddle their canoes into the harbour. After attaching limpet mines to enemy ships, the Australians would hide on Vulcan Island, which Carey knew well, until the Japanese uproar had subsided. Then the Australians would rendezvous with the submarine. Blamey forecast that the party would be caught and shot but gave the project his backing in a letter giving Carey carte blanche authority to do whatever he considered necessary during his planning.

By the end of March Carey had assembled, at Z Experimental Station, nine AIF men, Captains R.H.C. Cardew, A.L. Gluth, D. Macnamara, Lieutenants R. Page, J. Grimson and R. Downey, Company Sergeant Major G. Barnes, Sergeant H. Ford and Corporal G. Mackenzie. After nearly three months of rigorous training, *Operation Scorpion* was ready for action.

Meanwhile, Ivan Lyon had discussed with Colonel Mott his plan for an attack on Singapore. It was Mott's idea to test the effectiveness of well-trained commandos by mounting an attack, using sterile limpet mines, on some tightly guarded Allied port. He was careful to commit nothing to paper, but he mentioned his idea to Sam Carey.

Carey chose Townsville, a major garrison town with a busy harbour full of troop transports, merchantmen and naval escort vessels. The place was vulnerable to Japanese air and submarine attack, so security was tight. The narrow entrance and approaches were mined and a mine control-point was located at the extreme end of a long breakwater. If the observers stationed there saw Carey's canoes they would assume them to be enemy intruders and electrically detonate the mines.

In five canoes, each crewed by two men, the Scorpion raiders left their base on Magnetic Island and paddled slowly into the target harbour at midnight on June 20, 1943. Carey and Mackenzie attached limpets to two American Liberty ships and a Dutch ship while Cardew and Barnes fixed their mines to two destroyers and another ship. Gluth and Page went for a ship named *Akaba* but as it had a barge moored alongside they were forced to fix their mines above the waterline. Downey and Grimson limpeted two ships and were in the process of treating a third when a sailor, smoking as he leaned over the side, asked, mildly, "What are you doing there?"

"Just paddling around," Grimson said casually.

The sailor casually flicked his cigarette butt into the water. "Good night, mate," he said and disappeared.

Their limpeting complete, Carey's men met at Ross Creek, dismantled and hid their boats, had breakfast and headed for Townsville to sleep.

The first alarm came at 10 am, when the skipper of the *Akaba* reported "something strange" under the ship. Other ships notified local HQ of "suspicious objects," which were soon identified as limpet mines. Top-secret priority messages were flashed to Canberra and Melbourne, including one to Colonel

Mott's office. Mott was diplomatically unavailable. MacArthur's Intelligence Chief, Colonel Alison Ird, knew where the blame lay: "Find Lieutenant Sam Carey," he said.

Awakened from sleep at 3pm, Carey was placed under arrest and escorted before senior naval officers. The AIF officer explained his mission but even when he produced General Blarney's "letter of authority" the Navy was not mollified. Carey offered to remove the mines but the angry captains of the ships affected would not contemplate the idea. They did not believe that these mines were inert and feared that Carey might accidentally set them off.

Finally run to ground, Colonel Mott was curiously vague about authorisation for the exercise but forthright and emphatic about the efficiency of Carey's team. The Navy released the army Lieutenant, but only on AIB's assurance that he would be transferred to New Guinea. Thus, Carey was deprived of an opportunity to lead a similar raid in deadly earnest against the enemy.

GHQ commented that the Carey exercise had been irregular but the senior planning officers were by then convinced that a raid against genuine enemy targets was worth attempting. Ivan Lyon and his team had been in training for some time and made use of all the lessons learned from Carey's "destruction of Townsville harbour."

Peter Dunn Australia @ War

Driver. What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?
Policeman. "Keep it. When you collect four of them you get a bicycle"

Readers will recall the series of books put out during WW11 by the AWM and the Armed forces.

The series consisted of books generally under the headings "The First AIF, Second AIF, Australian Military Forces, Royal Australian Navy, Royal Australian Air Force. Some of those under AMF were "Soldiering On", "Khaki and Green", "Stand Easy", "As you Were" Etc.

Byron Sullivan, an Association Member residing in Canberra, bought the following story to my attention.

It is from the book VDC (Volunteer Defence Corps) which is titled "On Guard. With the Volunteer Defence Corps"

"PART-TIME SOLDIERS" HELPED HOLD JAPS IN NEW GUINEA

Although most of the operations of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles were necessarily cloaked by military secrecy, the scope and importance of operations conducted by this unit provided a perfect example of the way in which any Home Guard or V.D.C. organization would function under the actual conditions of war.

The N.G.V.R. was essentially a "spare-time training organization" made up of civilians employed in New Guinea on various private or Government jobs. They carried out elementary training in marksmanship, demolition work, guerrilla fighting, and mapping, and it was their object to become the nucleus of a trained jungle force in the event of an emergency. Many of its members had seen service in the Great War, some had not been born when the Great War began. Their ranks included traders, planters, mining engineers, native labour overseers, aircraft mechanics, executives of various tropical trading concerns. Government health officials, patrol officers. In addition to this tiny fighting force in embryo there was a trained nucleus of native constabulary working with the administrations in both British New Guinea and Papua.

This was the set-up when the Japanese, already advancing down the Malayan Peninsula, opened a second prong of potential Pacific conquest by driving south from the Mandated Islands of the Carolines toward the Bismarck Archipelago, the Solomons and New Guinea. Action began with a suddenness that might have paralysed a less conscientious

defence force. When the Japanese first bombed Rabaul on the 3rd January, 1942, this main outlying base was defended by two coast defence guns, two anti-aircraft guns, a garrison of 1400 troops, some of them non-combatants, and a puny air force consisting of a few Catalinas, Hudsons, and Wirraways. Port Moresby itself was the vital bastion between the Japanese advance and the continent of Australia, but at that time it was defended virtually by a token garrison. Within a fortnight of the first attack on Rabaul the Japanese



had converted what had appeared to be a "tropic sideshow" into a large-scale air saturation operation, obviously a preliminary to invasion. Using a carrier-borne force of light bombers, dive bombers, and fighters, in conjunction with land-based heavy bombers, they struck over a vast area of the islands in an attempt to confuse our defences as to which of the attacks were diversionary and which were necessary preparations for outright invasion. Although attacks were generally heavy over the whole island perimeter, the heaviest raids were made on Rabaul,

Bulolo, and Lae. On the 23rd January Rabaul was invaded by a Japanese task force estimated to consist of more than twenty warships and transports carrying 17,000 picked soldiers and marines, and a covering air force probably aggregating 250 modern aircraft. Against the fury of the pre-invasion "blitz" Rabaul gave gallant but vain resistance; and within four hours of the Japanese attack the main base in New Britain was under the Japanese flag and the Australian garrison was either killed, captured, or attempting to struggle to safety through the tangled jungles of The Baininges.

Civilian Evacuation

With the fall of Rabaul heavy raids continued on the New Guinea mainland, which was obviously next on the roster of the Japanese military plans; and the first important task of the N.G.V.R. was to see to the evacuation of women, children, and all civilian men either too old or unfit for military service. The N.G.V.R. performed a magnificent task in assembling refugees at stated points, caring for the sick and wounded, in finding routes by which they could cross the mountains to safety, and in arranging for air transportation to get them away. In what was probably the craziest rescue fleet the world has ever seen—battered old mining transport planes, two-seater Moths, and ancient fabric-covered biplanes—more than 2000 men, women, and children were brought from isolated tropical outposts, from mining towns and trading ports, and taken to the safety of the Australian mainland. The job was done with the loss of only one suitcase.

The N.G.V.R. at Lae then swung into military action in exactly the same way that an equivalent V.D.C. organization would have gone into action had similar attacks or similar threats been delivered against the Australian mainland. Lae itself, which, although capital of British New Guinea, had been virtually undefended, had been tremendously battered by a low-altitude attack carried out by sixty Japanese bombers and fighters the day before the invasion of Rabaul. In less than an hour, property worth 250,000 pounds was ravaged by bombs or destroyed by flames. Behind Lae, in the mountains, half of Bulolo was in ruins. The N.G.V.R. brought order to the ruined town and in blinding tropical rainstorms escorted the civilian population through terrible swamps and jungles to safety.

One 62-year-old trader who insisted on remaining with the N.G.V.R. to defend Lae if the Japanese came had to be forcibly sent from the area, and he finished up by setting the pace for a party of aged men and women and also children who walked



and went in native canoes all the way from Salamaua and Lae to Buna and up the track to Kokoda. Other refugees went by mountain trail to Wau.

With all non-essential civilians out of the area N.G.V.R. Officers, in co-operation with the Port Moresby garrison, set about establishing a main jungle force in the Markham Valley, to be instructed, supplied, and fed by the Moresby garrison, and if possible, to be reinforced as rapidly as men and materials were available.

Scorched Earth at Lae

A patrol was sent in to Lae to ensure that a scorched earth policy had been carried out. The Japanese planes themselves had done an efficient job, but it was discovered that the untouched Lands Office was abandoned in perfect order. It even contained a full stock of printed maps of various New Guinea districts which would have been a prize of the utmost value to the enemy. The office and its contents were destroyed, together with fuel dumps, abandoned motor cars and liquor stores. When the tiny column of N.G.V.R. men moved back into the jungle through blinding rain and along a native track which was a slowly moving stream of treacly black mud. Lae was a silent and shattered capital containing nothing of value to the enemy. Even a supply of bullion brought down from the Bulolo Valley mines was discovered in the safe of a bank. One of the N.G.V.R. men offered to act as an amateur cracksmen, blew the safe, and the gold was taken to an airfield from which it was flown by bomber to Port Moresby.

The N.G.V.R. had six weeks in which to establish itself as a valuable force assisting the main fighting force now being built up in Port Moresby with all the speed possible. At the end of that brief period, on the night of the 8th March, the Japanese invaded and captured Lae and Salamaua after the cautious preliminary of heavy air and naval bombardment against two completely abandoned towns. The N.G.V.R. were able to organise native patrols, to enlist natives for the carriage of supplies, to keep a close watch on Japanese movements and to report to Port Moresby enemy establishments and defence positions. In addition, it was their task to harass the enemy in any way possible by demolition, night raids, and other methods. They also kept the Japanese pinned down over the critical period to the coastal fringe by sniping and ambushing along the few jungle-choked tracks that led into the mountains behind Lae. At other points in a vast area, always as close as possible to the Japanese positions, they did invaluable work as spotters and outposts, feeding vital information into intelligence headquarters at Moresby, and even in selecting desirable targets for the attention of our bombers operating over the enemy positions.

Absorbed into Army

As strength increased in Port Moresby, and as sufficient material aid arrived to make it possible to reinforce the jungle outposts, the N.G.V.R. became absorbed gradually into orthodox Army units on the same basis as troops enlisted on the mainland and sent to New Guinea as regular members of the Army. The men were given regulation uniform, ample and modern equipment, better rations, and more efficient medical services. Within a few months some of them, down for a brief spell of leave, could be seen in mainland cities wearing the distinctive green and yellow colour patch and the shoulder insignia of the N.G.V.R. Much of the work they had carried out, during the critical period when we had to keep the Jap guessing, was subsequently done on a larger scale by trained personnel of the A.I.F. Independent Companies, but the N.G.V.R. had laid the basic groundwork, had established jungle camps and supply points, had carried out valuable patrols which had opened new supply routes, and had done much to fill in the gaps in maps which for a long time had been one of the big problems of utilizing a fighting force in areas of New Guinea almost completely unexplored.

The work of the N.G.V.R. continues. Many of its members are

working with the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit as interpreters, administrators and overseers of native workmen. Some are attached to all native infantry units, and to scouting patrols. Some are still co-operating with Independent Company Units. Because of their knowledge of local conditions and customs, and because of their familiarity with the tough terrain of New Guinea, many of the former N.G.V.R. fighters have proved invaluable in selecting potential sites for the airstrips which have enabled the 5th Air Force to drive the Japanese out of their island holdings, and in supervising the actual construction of fields.

It is impossible to more than skim the surface of this story, for so much of it cannot be told until hostilities cease. The very basis of the unit's first active service was one of the utmost secrecy, and much of its later life was still to be secret. The Japanese learned to fear the stealthy figures that haunted the tangled tracks of the Markham and Huon Gulf and the Waria. N.G.V.R. men fought valiantly and bravely, without much recognition. They operated up in the sago swamps of the terrible Sepik country, where headhunting and cannibalism are matters of everyday occurrence, in scores of remote jungle outposts. Details of the adventures of the men in many of these areas cannot yet be given. When they can they will form a thrilling story, almost unparalleled in this war for drama, suspense, and colour.

The significance of the story of the N.G.V.R. in this outline of the history of the V.D.C is that it proved conclusively that a civilian organization, created for home defence, could perform vitally important military service during a period of active military operations when it was impossible to bring any weight of orthodox defence to bear against the enemy. In the vital period of a few months before and after the Japanese landing on the actual island of New Guinea, much depended on the spirit, training, and efficiency of the tiny force of "part-time soldiers" enlisted in the N.G.V.R. They did what they were asked to do. Those of them still capable of performing military service are carrying on with the job.

As would be expected in an AWM publication in 1944 there are quite a number of inaccuracies and exaggerations in this story but it is essentially correct and a great tribute to what was virtually an unknown unit of the Australian Army in WW11.

Thank you Byron Sullivan.

Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.



Former Australian PoWs and local civilians watch Japanese surrendered personnel filling in trenches in the grounds of the Municipal Building in Singapore. 14th September 1945. (IWM)

**The loyal Wingman
Boeing Airpower Teaming System**

The Boeing Airpower Teaming System (ATS), also known as the Loyal Wingman project, is a stealth, multirole, unmanned aerial vehicle in development by Boeing Australia for the Royal Australian Air Force designed as a force multiplier aircraft capable of flying alongside manned aircraft for support and performing autonomous missions independently using artificial intelligence.

Development



The Loyal Wingman is an unmanned aircraft which incorporates artificial intelligence and utilises a modular mission package system in the nose where the entire nose of the aircraft can be removed and quickly swapped for another nose with a different set of equipment or armaments for various missions including combat, force reconnaissance and electronic warfare. One role will be to support manned Royal Australian Air Force aircraft, such as the F-35A, F/A-18F, and E-7A with the purpose of defence and surveillance. The UAV will be designed to act as a "loyal wingman" that is controlled by a parent aircraft to accomplish tasks such as scouting or absorbing enemy fire if attacked as well as operating independently.

The aircraft will be the first combat aircraft designed and developed in Australia in over half a century. Boeing has said that it will "depend on the market" whether the aircraft is manufactured in Queensland or the United States. Boeing has confirmed that Queensland will house the final assembly facility.



Concept of 4 Loyal Wingman drones flying alongside an FA-18F Super Hornet of the RAAF.

The Royal Australian Air Force plans to initially buy three Airpower Teaming System (ATS) systems, as part of the Loyal Wingman Advanced Development Program (LWADP). The three drones were built at an automated production line in Brisbane, Queensland. The production line is a proof of concept for full scale production.

Unveiling

After a full-scale mock-up was revealed at the 2019 Avalon Airshow, the first real aircraft achieved a power-on of its systems in March 2020, and was rolled out in May 2020 by Boeing Australia with the release of images showing a detailed prototype of the aircraft and a video to illustrate the drone's operational abilities. Australian Prime Minister Scott



Loyal Wingman during its high-speed taxi test

Morrison said, "This is a truly historic moment for our country and for Australian defence innovation. The Loyal Wingman will be pivotal to exploring the critical capabilities our Air Force needs to protect our nation and its allies into the future."

Testing

Boeing announced it powered up the engine of its first Air-

power Teaming System (ATS) unmanned aircraft for the first time in September 2020. The engine test is part of ground testing to prepare for first flight before the end of the year.

The Boeing Airpower Teaming System (ATS) prototype moved under its own power for the first time in October 2020, conducting low-speed taxi tests at RAAF Base Amberley.. The Boeing Airpower Teaming System later performed a high-speed taxi test at an unnamed remote location in December 2020.

The first test flight of the prototype occurred at RAAF Base Woomera on 27 February 2021.

It has now been announced that future Loyal Wingman drones will be built in a Boeing Plant to be established at Wellcamp, Toowoomba, Qld, the first ever Boeing plant outside the USA.

Wikipedia

One day 2020 will be the one-word catch phrase for everything messed up.
"A total 2020". "How's your day?"
"Say no more".

Maioгарu (Gimuleia) Taulebona

This portrait of Maioгарu (Gimuleia) Taulebona (1900 – 1986) was taken on 14th of April 1943 at Aihoma when she was awarded the Loyal Service Medal for bravery.



Before the war reached Milne Bay Province Maioгарu had been living and working as a nurse at Kwato Mission. In 1941, when the European population was evacuated for safety, locals were not. By 1942 Maioгарu was working to support a small Aid Post at Divani. During the battle of Milne Bay a local man rescued Leading Aircraftman John Donegan, an Allied airman, who he brought to Maioгарu. Behind the Japanese lines she used her skill and limited medical supplies to nurse him until she decided to move him, hidden in a canoe, to the closest military hospital at Gwavili.

Donegan eventually returned safely to his Unit.

Originally from Rabe, following the war Maioгарu continued to live and work in Milne Bay Province .

AWM Website



Support Coy PNGVR. Annual Camp circa 1971. WO2 Graeme Blanch, Capt Bill Molony, Maj Bill Kelly. Patrol boxes indicate ready for a field exercise.

Fiji's only VC winner buried at Bita Paka

Sefanaia Sukanaivalu VC (1 January 1918 – 23 June 1944) was



a Fijian soldier and a posthumous recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to Commonwealth forces. He is the only Fijian to be awarded the VC.

Sukanaivalu was born on Yacata, Fiji on 1 January

1918 and joined the Fiji Infantry Regiment during World War II. By mid-1944, he was a corporal in the 3rd Battalion, which was taking part in the Bougainville campaign. He died under Japanese fire on 23 June 1944, at Mawaraka, during an attempt to rescue comrades, in circumstances which led to his being awarded the Victoria Cross.

The citation reads:

"The King has been graciously pleased to approve the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to:—

No. 4469 Corporal Sefanaia Sukanaivalu, Fiji Military Forces.

On 23rd June 1944, at Mawaraka, Bougainville, in the Solomon Islands, Corporal Sefanaia Sukanaivalu crawled forward to rescue some men who had been wounded when their platoon was ambushed and some of the leading elements had become casualties.

After two wounded men had been successfully recovered this N.C.O., who was in command of the rear section, volunteered to go on farther alone to try and rescue another one, in spite of machine gun and mortar fire, but on the way back he himself was seriously wounded in the groin and thighs and fell to the ground, unable to move any farther.



Several attempts were then made to rescue Corporal Sukanaivalu but without success owing to heavy fire being encountered on each occasion and further casualties caused.

This gallant N.C.O. then called to his men not to try to get to him as he

was in a very exposed position, but they replied that they would never leave him to fall alive into the hands of the enemy.

Realising that his men would not withdraw as long as they could see that he was still alive and knowing that they were themselves all in danger of being killed or captured as long as they remained where they were, Corporal Sukanaivalu, well aware of the consequences, raised himself up in front of the Japanese machine gun and was riddled with bullets.

This brave Fiji soldier, after rescuing two wounded men with the greatest heroism and being gravely wounded himself, deliberately sacrificed his own life because he knew that it was the only way in which the remainder of his platoon could be induced to retire from a situation in which they must have been annihilated had they not withdrawn."

His body was eventually recovered by Australian forces assisted by members of the Fijian 1st Docks Company. Sukanaivalu was buried at Rabaul (Bita Paka) War Cemetery, New Britain, Papua New Guinea. In 2005, it was announced that there were plans to repatriate Sukanaivalu's remains to Fiji.

Wikipedia. Thank you Maxwell Hayes for bringing this to our attention.

The other day someone was telling me they make ice cubes
out of leftover wine.
I was confused. What's leftover wine?

Australia's Involvement in WWII and little-known operations 1939-1945

Several thousand Australians served in locations remote from the main areas of Australian operations during World War II. They served in places like China, Russia, the Faroe Islands, Madagascar, Burma, the West Indies, Iraq, Kenya, the Azores and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) personnel were the more likely to serve in far-flung locations. For instance, the crew of *HMAS Perth* spent the first six months of the war escorting tankers between Trinidad in the West Indies and Venezuela in South America as well as duties in the western Atlantic. HMA *Ships Napier, Nizam and Norman* participated in the invasion of Madagascar in 1942. Other RAN personnel served in British and Allied ships including convoy escorts from the South Atlantic to the Arctic and even a mini-submarine raid in Indo-China (Vietnam).

Aircrews trained under the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) could be sent literally anywhere with Royal Air Force (RAF) units. Most served in Europe and the Mediterranean but others, such as Flying Officer John Richard Hutchins, served in diverse locations. Hutchins became the only Australian serviceman lost off the coast of Brazil after his RAF Transport Command aircraft crashed. Several thousand Australians served with squadrons in India and Burma.

Members of some Australian Army units also spent time elsewhere. The 7th Division Cavalry Regiment was in Cyprus in 1941 and the 16th and 17th Infantry Brigades served in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) during 1942. Others were posted to special duties in even smaller groups, such as the officers and men from the 8th Australian Division sent to China with 'Tulip Force' during 1941-1942.

Mission 204 - 'Tulip Force'

A small group of Australians from the 8th Australian Division was posted to the Bush Warfare School in Burma in 1941. The men were trained in demolition, ambush and engineering reconnaissance during October and November. The two officers and 43 men became part of 'Tulip Force', a top-secret mission to train Chinese guerrillas to fight the Japanese. The British provided equipment, supplies and the remainder of the men. In February 1942, the men travelled in trucks up the Burma Road towards China for 18 days, covering more than 3000 kilometres. From there they travelled another 800 kilometres by train into China before trekking into the mountainous border region to join the Chinese 5th Battalion commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Chen Ling Sun. They travelled with eight tonnes of equipment and their explosives were packed into small square coolie baskets and carried with them.

The Australian Minister in Chungking, Sir Frederick Eggleston, visited the men in their camp at Kiyang at the end of May. After his visit to Kiyang, the Australian Minister sent another cable to Australia recommending that the men remain there.

The Australians remained in the mountains with the Chinese guerrillas until September 1942, when the project was abandoned. The impression was growing among the Australians that the Chinese did not want foreign troops but only foreign equipment; and that Mission 204 was an embarrassment to the Chinese. They were becoming aware of the jealousies and mistrust that existed between one Chinese commander and another, and that treachery was not infrequent. The men's quarters were filthy and the men began to fall sick in increasing numbers. In the second week of July two men died, presumably of typhus. Others now had malaria and dysentery. At one stage the troops had received no mail for six months. In August there was more exhausting marching in the area west of the Nanchang-Kiukiang railway and illnesses increased, but there was still no indication that the force would be allowed near the Japanese.



In October and November the contingents moved back to Kunming where General Bruce met them and spoke to them sympathetically. Thence on 29th October the Australians were flown to Assam and taken by train to Calcutta. From India the Australian contingent sailed for home.

Gareth McCray OAM. Anzac Military Memories.

It's been a great blessing to be in lockdown at home with my wife during the last few months.
We've caught up on everything I've done wrong during the last 20 years.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - LAND OF THE GIANT BANANA

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Musa species*

Can you imagine a banana plant 18 m (over 59 feet) tall? A banana type this big occurs in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. The country certainly lives up to its title of "Land of the Unexpected"



I encountered the awesome *Musa ingens* while visiting Papua New Guinea in November, 1989. My visit was funded by the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources which supports the collection of rare and endangered varieties of plants so that valuable genetic material is not lost.



Musa ingens is a wild relative of the cultivated bananas but is twice as large as any other banana type known. Mature bunches of fruit weight from 30 to 60 kg but it is not good to eat because the fruit are full of hard black seeds, as is the

case with many other wild species of bananas.

Musa ingens can be found in various parts of the Eastern and Western Highlands including Kassam Pass, Aiyura, Bundi Kara, Mt Piora, the Kybor range, Kamang, Minj Valley and above the Tsau River north of Banz. It grows in the cool misty rainforests at these locations at altitudes of 1000 to 2100 metres above sea level. It will not survive at much lower altitudes because it is completely intolerant of the continuous high temperatures experienced in the lowlands.

The size of this banana plant is impressive, but of great value is this plant's adaptation to cool weather. Planting material was collected on the trip. Perhaps in the future sometime, it will be possible to genetically engineer bananas to better suit cooler growing conditions using genes from *Musa ingens*.

Threats to the commercial banana industry in Queensland by black Sigatoka leaf disease present in Papua New Guinea means that strict quarantine must be enforced when banana varieties are being introduced to ensure diseases do not enter and jeopardise our industry.

Jeff Daniells. The Archives of the Rare Fruit Council of Australia

SLR due to return to the British Army.

After 35 years out of circulation, the famous Self Loading Rifle is due to return to service for British Army Troops.

The SLR-A2, a 7.62mm weapon, will feature a modernised rail

system and extended 30-round magazine.

This change comes after years of continuous failings of the Army's current weapon system, the SA80, which was found to be much less powerful.

"We had a major issue with stopping power with the SA80" said Lt Gen Ian Wallace, Deputy Director of Defense Armaments, "The weapons system was simply not powerful enough to put down the enemy. With the new SLR-A2, you can guarantee that it will not fail with that task."

While there is no current date announced for its integration, the news of the SLR's return has been met with approval by both serving soldiers and veterans alike.

"It's good to have a real man's weapon back in the army" said Gary Lavelle, 64, formerly of the Light Infantry.

Some questions have been raised by critics if the weapon system, with claims that the current generation of soldiers may struggle with the recoil from a larger calibre.

Veterans News UK



Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

On Sat 18 Sep the Association conducted another fund raising sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Oxley (Brisbane suburb).

On the day a net profit of \$461 resulted. Because of the approach to Covid-19 Bunnings have moved the sausage sizzle location from the front entrance of the store further away past the Garden entrance. Consequently it is almost out of sight to those using the main entrance and this has resulted in a lowering of profit for the day.

Our thanks to the organisers for the day Paul Brown, Colin Gould and Kieran Nelson, and thanks also to those who assisted on the day, Peter Rogers (the younger), Mike Griffin and Bob Collins.

It is days such as this which raise funds for the ongoing maintenance of the Museum.



Paul Brown, Peter Rogers, Colin Gould, Kieran Nelson, Mike Griffin, Bob Collins.



Above. Japanese Barge in one of the tunnels on the Rabaul-Kokopo Road. 1964. The Japanese used cranes to lift out of the water and hide small ships and barges during bombing raids. Below. Editor and Land Rover in another tunnel further along the road. Many of these tunnels had railway lines and flatbeds for easy movement.



Historic Airlift

Over nine sweltering days in August, ADF personnel took part in the largest humanitarian airlift operation in recent history.

As the Taliban swept across Afghanistan, Australia deployed five aircraft and the Army's Ready Combat Team to evacuate Australian nationals and approved foreign nationals from Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul.

In coordination with DFAT and Home Affairs, about 4,100 people were evacuated on more than 30 RAAF flights from August 18 to 26.

C-130J Hercules combat systems officer Flg-Off Jono said the experience had been challenging but rewarding. "The mountainous terrain around Kabul can be difficult to navigate at night," he said. "We were wearing night-vision goggles to maintain clearance, but the sheer volume of traffic also presented a problem. It's safe to say Kabul airspace was one of the busiest in the world at that time."

Once on the ground, C-130J Hercules and C-17A Globemaster III aircrews were required to manage the loading of exhausted and frightened civilians in a semi-permissible environment.

"We had to do all of our own security and screening of personnel coming aboard to make sure they didn't pose a threat to the aircraft and crew," Flg-Off Jono said.

Each aircraft travelled with a minimum of two pilots, a combat systems operator, two load masters, eight security officers and two medics.



On landing, the aircraft security officers exited the airframe to provide a secure perimeter while also helping with processing and screening. Medics provided a quick health assessment of personnel as they boarded, then continued to look after those who were injured or dehydrated on the flight to a temporary safe haven established at Australia's main operating base in the Middle East.

Loadmasters were responsible for the weight and balance of each aircraft, including accommodating about 350 evacuees on one flight by a C-17A.

Meanwhile, an Australian KC-30A air-to-air refuelling aircraft flew eight sorties providing about 375,000lbs of fuel to coalition fast jets such as F-16s and F-18s, ensuring the security of the airspace around the airfield.

"I'd say that if you asked me three months ago that I'd be a part of this, I'd struggle to believe you," Flg-Off Jono said. "Seeing the countless number of people that we've been able to get out of Afghanistan, and the look of appreciation on their faces, and to be part of a professional team of Australians working hard to make a difference in these people's lives it's been a real highlight."

Of the total number of evacuees, 3,637 flew to Australia or New Zealand through Australia's main operating base in the Middle East.

The remainder were from the UK, US, Singapore and Fiji. The youngest was eight days, the oldest 81.

Commander Joint Task Force 633 Air-Cdre David Paddison said throughout the operation, ADF personnel had witnessed, in various forms, the strength of human character.

"While there are stories of tragedy, Australian Defence personnel should be proud of their contribution to either return people home or give others a new start," he said.

Army Edition 1497.



Maj Tim Glover, of 1 RAR's Ready Combat Team, helps patrol the fence and locate Australian visa holders at the congested Abbey Gate at Hamid Karzai International Airport.

Centenary Suburbs Veterans Family Day, Brisbane

On Saturday 25 Sept. a Veterans Family Day Picnic was held by the Centenary Suburbs RSL Sub Branch at Centenary Suburbs War Memorial Gardens, Brisbane.

In order to promote the Museum, Curator Paul Brown, Asst Curator Colin Gould MBE, assisted by Kieran Nelson and Bob Collins attended with a number of small exhibits and Museum brochures.

This was the first such event and the number of visitors was not great but a number of group visits to the museum resulted which made it all worthwhile.



Paul Brown, Bob Collins, Local Councillor Sarah Hutton, Kieran Nelson, Colin Gould at the Family Day.

**Sgt William Donald Stewart BEM
513456 19.1.1926— 23.2.1996**

Recently advised that Bill died at Fremantle, W.A. of natural causes. He enlisted in the WW2 Volunteer Defence Corps and later enlisted in the A.I.F. Served in British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan from 29.3.1946 to 18.10.1947 when he returned to Australia and was discharged from the Australian Army a fortnight later.

He then served in the W.A. Fire Service before being appointed to the R.P.&N.G.C. as Sub Inspector (Fire) on 24.8.1957 in the early days when firemen were appointed to RP&NGC as Sub Inspector (Fire). When the PNG Fire Brigade was established on 7.7.1960 he was appointed as Station Officer, Boroko. He served mainly at Boroko but was seconded to help extinguish the huge Coconut Products Ltd fire at Rabaul in late 50's early 60's.

He also served in the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles as a Sgt. from 1957-1965 being awarded the British Empire Medal for his actions during the flooding of the Laloki River on 25.2.1961 (see "PNGVR: A History" pages 144,145.)

He returned to W.A. in 1965 and died leaving a widow Gloria and 3 children.

M.R. Hayes and Jamie Loveday A.F.P

Although Covid-19 spreads mostly via the mouth and nose, scientists now conclude that the greatest risk comes from assholes.

New Gear on Show

Soldiers from 7 Bde have been trialling the ADF'S new chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) protective equipment.

With training serials conducted in the Townsville Field Train-

ing Area, participants experienced the challenges of operating while wearing extra protective equipment and simultaneously dealing with nonconventional chemical threats.

Sgt Mark Burgess, of 2CER, outlined the updates to the new equipment and how it better protected soldiers on the battlefield. "There have been some great improvements with the new Low Burden Mask, including a better field-of-view for soldiers while conducting engineering tasks, driving our fleet of vehicles, or conducting general soldier duties," Sgt Burgess said.

"The fit is achieved a lot easier, and the straps around the mask achieve a better and faster seal around the soldier's face. "The new masks come with an enhanced voice amplifier, too, making it easier for soldiers to communicate with each other."

Sgt Burgess described the training soldiers had been undergoing in the new kit. "They familiarised themselves with the gear first and progressed to using it while under fire from an enemy. The trial team has been training in the full protective dress state 4, which includes wearing the over-boots, trousers, jacket with hood, both sets of gloves, the Low Burden Mask, and the haversack," Sgt Burgess said.

"We've been driving vehicles, doing patrols, search tasks, as well as chemical threat surveys, which will eventually be rolled out across Army as an All-Corps responsibility."

Sgt Burgess said the threat of CBRN attack continued to evolve, making the equipment update essential for all members of the ADF. "Wherever there is a chemical, biological, or radiological threat, this kit will be issued to protect soldiers from a surprise attack," he said.

"It will allow them to survive in a chemical-affected area while they withdraw, regather and go through decontamination."

Army Newspaper 1499.



The Owen Gun

If there were a contest for the weirdest and wackiest looking submachine gun of World War II, Australia's Owen would win hands-down.



Private Evelyn Owen, circa 1941

It looks as if the designer cobbled it together from mismatched pieces of plumbing. Rather than a parkerized (*) finish, the factory painted the Owen gun with a lurid green and yellow camouflage pattern that resembles Shrek's puke. What's more, there's nothing "down under" about the weapon's magazine. The magazine loads into the top of the Owen — and spent cartridges eject from the bottom of its receiver. But there's just one thing wrong with this picture. Despite all its oddball features, the Owen worked really, really well. It was one of the most reliable submachine guns of



Two soldiers armed with Owen guns in New Britain, April 1945

the war, with a track record that includes conflict in the Pacific, Korea and Vietnam.

The innovative gun is the namesake brainchild of Lt. Evelyn Owen, a member of the Australian Imperial Force who loved to tinker with firearms. But his alcoholism and poor business decisions overshadowed his inventiveness.

In 1938, Owen designed and built a homemade .22-caliber automatic carbine that had a large revolver-style cylinder —instead of a magazine —and a thumb-operated trigger.

Unfortunately, the military wasn't interested in the contraption. Owen literally set the gun aside, storing it in a large sugar sack and went about his business as an Army private. The Australian military brass distrusted submachine guns, putting their faith in the tried and true Lee-Enfield rifle. Besides, the Generals were waiting for the Sten gun —a weapon still in development and touted by its designers to be more than adequate in battle.

But in 1940, Allied forces collapsed under the weight of the German invasion of France. As British troops fled the continent, they destroyed or simply abandoned thousands of small arms. This led to a serious shortage of weapons for the whole Allied war effort. For the Australians, bolt-action rifles left over from World War I and hunting guns were often the only weapons available for some units. Terrified generals in Australia knew they didn't have enough weapons to repel a Japanese invasion force — and the Sten gun wouldn't be production until 1941.

However, Owen had a neighbour, Vincent Wardell, who managed a large Australian steel-products factory and discovered the prototype gun in the sugar sack. Owen's father, embarrassed by his son's sloppiness, explained to Wardell how the younger Owen tinkered with weapons. Wardell didn't care whether the son picked up after himself— the simplicity of the firearm convinced Wardell that Owen was wasting his skills as a mere foot soldier. Wardell convinced the Australian military to transfer Owen from the infantry to the Army Inventions Board, which directed the development of new weapons. The newly-promoted Lt Owen started to develop additional prototypes in various calibres. Slowly, the Australian government became interested in his ideas.



In 1942, the John Lysaght metalworks factory made three versions of the Owen gun in nine-millimetre Luger, .38-200 calibre and .45 ACP. The factory subjected

each version to stress tests, along with a Thompson submachine gun and the Sten gun as benchmark weapons. The tests included immersing the guns in mud and water, then blowing sand at the weapons. The only gun that didn't jam ... was the Owen. The top-mount magazine even proved beneficial. Gravity helps feed bullets into the gun, and the ejection port at the bottom of the receiver means that water and gunk easily drains out of the chamber. In short, the Owen Machine Carbine — as it's officially named — is perfect for jungle warfare.

The government wanted the nine-millimetre version, and Lysaght produced 45,000 of the weapons for the military. Australian soldiers loved them and nicknamed the weapons 'Digger's Delights*.

The Owen weighs only 10 pounds, fires around 700 rounds per



Cpl Buddy Lea of Delta Company, 6 RAR, armed with an Owen gun in South Vietnam during 1966

minute from an open bolt —and it's easy to handle from the prone position. About the only disadvantage is its offset sights. The top-mounted magazine blocks a normal sight picture, so the shooter must look around the magazine. But that method only works for a right-handed shooter.

The Owen routinely outperformed the Sten gun, and soldiers liked it so much that Gen. Douglas MacArthur even considered it for American jungle forces in the Pacific.

During the Korean War, the Owen remained in the Australian arsenal. At the Battle of Kapyong in 1951, any Australian soldier who could get his hands on an Owen used one. 'All Hell broke loose as Diggers cut down the surge of attackers, directing into them as much rapid fire as their weapons could produce, the Owen submachine gun being the most effective weapon for this and the dear old single-shot Lee-Enfield the worst," Maj. Ben O'Dowd of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment said in an oral history for the Australian War Memorial.

Helicopter search-and-rescue crews also carried Owens, using them to fend off Chinese communist and North Korean troops attempting to capture downed airmen. In addition, Australian infantry scouts and commando units carried Owens during the Vietnam War.

The Australians retired the Owen from mainline service in 1971. However, it still occasionally appears in the hands of special operators when they train fellow soldiers undergoing a weapons familiarization course. Regrettably, Evelyn Owen's life was far shorter than his odd-ball but long-lasting weapon. Owen received £10,000 in royalties — about the equivalent of \$728,000 today — but sold the patent rights for the gun to the Australian Government. Owen built a saw mill with the money he received. He continued to tinker with firearms, particularly sports rifles, but he never achieved the same success he had with the Owen gun. In addition, heavy drinking took a toll on his health. He died of heart failure in 1949 at the age of 33.

(*) A method of protecting a steel surface from corrosion and increasing its resistance to wear.

Sources -National Interest.org. Meet the Owen—The weirdest sub-machine gun to fire a shot. Some photos from Wikipedia



2021 Association AGM

35 people attended the AGM at the Museum on Sat 23rd Oct., the largest attendance for a number of years, and this was due to the luncheon to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the formation of PNGVR which was held after the AGM.

Regrettably President Phil Ainsworth was unable to attend, being stranded in Sydney and the meeting was conducted by



Before the AGM. Gerry McGrade, Kieran Nelson, Susan McGrade, Maj Gen John Pearn AO. RFD. Patron. Below. Tony Boulter, Peter Rogers (the younger), Colin Gould MBE.

Vice President, Bob Collins. As is usual these days, with our ageing membership, a number of other apologies were tabled as well. Reports were tabled by the President (written report read by Bob Collins on Phil's behalf), Treasurer Kieran Nelson, Museum Curator Paul Brown and Welfare Officer Paul Brown.

The Treasurer's Report showed Income of \$13,382 (membership fees \$4,205) and Expenses of \$9,072 giving a surplus income of \$4,309 for the year. Functions showed a profit of \$1,221, Museum income \$1,302 and Qstore sales of \$574. Our major expense item of \$2,317 covers Postage and Stationery, mainly in the posting of "Harim Tok Tok".

The election of Officers resulted in the current Committee, Patron, Welfare Officer, Auditor, Solicitor all remaining unchanged and these are mentioned in the President's Report.

The meeting elected Evelyn Cockram, widow of NGVR/ANGAU member George Cockram (dec'd) as Life Member. Evelyn is aged 102 and is the last surviving spouse of an NGVR soldier. A Certificate of Life Membership will be presented to Evelyn at her Nursing Home in Melbourne.

Two Patron's Awards were presented. One to Sylvia McNeilly who works at the Museum each Wednesday with Jessica Harrington recording on our computer all items held in the Museum. The other was to our Chaplain, Ron MacDonald, who has been a great asset to the Association since he commenced his duties. This year Ron and wife Cheryl carried our Banner in the ANZAC day march.

The comprehensive President's report follows, and details the Association activities for the past year.

PNGVR President's report for 2021 AGM

The Association has been well managed and members and



Your Committee. L-R. Peter Rogers DFC, Mike Griffin, Douglas Ng, Paul Brown, Colin Gould MBE. Chaplain Ron MacDonald, Bob Collins, Tony Boulter, Councillor Sarah Hutton, Peter Rogers (the younger), Kieran Nelson, Maj Gen John Pearn AO. RFD.

friends well served during the past year, because you have long serving, able Office Bearers and Committee members.

Our membership remains stable, losing a few to death or debilitating illness and adding the odd new ex-PNGVR soldier as member. Since our 2020 AGM, to our knowledge, five members have died, two fewer than reported last AGM - perhaps we got healthier during our home quarantines?

Those deceased were: Robert Robinson (November 20), Bob Harvey-Hall (March 21), Brian Jones (May 21), Peter Langman (June 21) and Rick Giddings (October 21) - **Lest we Forget.**

The Association's activities were limited in the past year due to corona virus restrictions, hopefully, these restrictions will soon be lifted so the Association may resume normal business.

The following outlines the Association's activities since our 2020 AGM:

Two major functions, being ANZAC Day march and reunion and today's 70th Anniversary of the formation of PNGVR luncheon.

Publication and distributions of 6 issues of Harim Tok, our 16 page newsletter.

Administration and maintenance of our website www.pngvr.weebly.com.

Administration of our Facebook page.

The Museum had limited openings; for the public the first Saturday of each month was continued but group tours were fewer.

Six committee meetings held.

Two fund raising Bunnings sausage sizzles conducted.

Attendance of kindred organisation's events and commemorations occurred, as allowed.

Contact with aged and frail members was maintained, though restricted.

All activities were reported in Harim Tok Tok, face book and web site - please keep informed by regularly looking at these media.

Our last committee meeting and BYO luncheon for the year will be held in the Museum at 10am Saturday, 22th November - all members who are interested are welcome to attend.

Our newsletter Harim Tok Tok remains the main means of communicating with our wide-flung membership, and it contin-



Maj Gen Pearn presenting the Patron's Medal to Sylvia McNeilly and Ron MacDonald



ues to grow in popularity amongst members and others. Editor Bob Collins has produced 72 issues over the past 12 years , thank you Bob.

Kieran Nelson administers our face book with timely postings of information and notifications, thank you Kieran.

Canberra based member, Trevor Connell, efficiently maintains our website, thank you Trevor.

Our Military Museum Curators Paul Brown and Colin Gould continue to maintain the Museum to a high standard. We are indebted to Paul and Colin for their ongoing work and much time devoted to the Museum – the Museum has become a focus for many of our activities.

The Association's legacy to the community is our military museum which will ensure the histories of our two unique units and the enduring relationship between Australia and PNG are not forgotten.

The pressing issues for the Museum remain its tenure and succession, without tenure succession cannot be resolved. It is understood we will be granted a long term lease soon, which will allow us to move forward with our succession plans.

Despite limited fund raising opportunities , our financial position is sound with thanks to Treasurer and Grants Officer Kieran Nelson. I also thank those who have helped at the Museum and Sausage sizzles.

We were fortunate to receive a substantial , unsolicited donation from the Veterans Support and Advocacy Service Australia (VSASA) last month . VSASA was being voluntarily wound up as its members were unable to carry on. The Museum received the donation because VSASA was impressed with our Museum and the work of the Association , assisted by the rapport developed by Paul Brown with VSASA members during their visit to our Museum – well done Paul.

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; Treasurer, Grants Officer and Face book Administrator Kieran Nelson ; Museum Curator and Welfare Officer Paul Brown, Webmaster Trevor Connell and committee members Peter Rogers DFC, Mike Griffin, Tony Boulter, Doug Ng and Peter Rogers (the younger). We are appreciative of our Honorary Chaplain 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, thank you Sir.

As an Association , I feel sure we continue to meet and exceed the stated objectives of our constitution and the expectations of the community.

I wish our incoming office bearers and committee members every success in 2021-2022.

Phil Ainsworth, 23 October 2021



Treasurers Report 30 June 2021

Our association entered this financial year on 1 July 2020 in the midst of the Covid 19 Pandemic with little understanding that twelve months later we would still be dealing with its implications. Queensland has not escaped the uncertainty and resultant sharp lock downs, one of which forced us to cancel our Annual Montevideo Maru Service on 1 July 2021 on short notice.

Our main source of income remains our Annual Membership Fees which need to be paid when due to cover the cost of our insurance public liability and museum contents policies (\$1,481.28) and post, printing and stationary (\$2,317.95) which includes the mailing of our Harim Tok Tok journal which is a very important communication tool for our association. We appreciate the support of King and Co Property Consultants for printing in this regard. It was also necessary to devalue our stock on hand by \$702 due to a miscalculation last year.

In June of 2021 our association was very fortunate to be considered for a donation by Veterans Support and Advocacy Service Australia Inc. which was in the process of disbanding and cancelling their registration as an incorporated association. We benefited from a partial donation of \$5,000 last financial year with an additional \$10,000 donated this financial year bringing the total benefit received from them to \$15,000.

We have been fortunate to have a good relationship with Buntings Oxley who offer us an occasional fundraising opportunity which is very welcome and provides us with a modest income each occasion. There was an expectation by many that Eftpos payments would be available, so we found that it was necessary to offer cashless payment options to our customers through purchasing a Square payment terminal for card payments which has been very successful.

Also introduced during this period was an online payment system with CommBiz to expedite payments to our Creditors which is also working very well.

Kieran Nelson, Treasurer

The cost of postage for Harim Tok Tok to be forwarded to members is a large part of the Association expenditure. This issue cost \$2.20 to post. To assist in reducing Association costs it is requested that anyone who can receive Harim Tok Tok by email do so.

The benefits are:-

1. You receive Harim Tok Tok in colour.
2. It is easy to enlarge the font size of the print for reading on the computer and give you a clearer read.
3. If you wish a permanent copy you can run a colour copy off.
4. The funds saved can be utilised for the funding of the Museum which is one of our major assets.

If you wish to do this please contact Phil Ainsworth or Colin Gould—details on page 20.

70th Anniversary of Formation of PNGVR

On Sat 23 Oct, following the Association AGM and an hour or so to visit the museum and view the latest displays on show there, some 54 people attended a lunch to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the PNGVR at the Everymans Hut at our Wacol Museum precinct.

Association Patron Maj. Gen. John Pearn AO. RFD. welcomed all and gave a short address on the significance of PNGVR during its existence.

Councillor Hutton then spoke on the values of the service in



Maj. Gen. Pearn, Cr Sarah Hanson, Bob Collins.



Margo & Kieran Neilson, Paul Brown.



John McGrath, Kerry Glover.



Peter & Sue Rogers, Joyce McGrade.



John Batze with daughters Keran & Rowena.

close relationship between Council and the Association, particularly the Museum, and offered any practical assistance Council could provide in the ongoing maintenance and continuation of the Museum.

Following sweets and coffee Bob Collins then gave an address covering in detail the formation, history and post history of the PNGVR and the Association.

As always it was great to see the numbers present and congratulations to those who had travelled quite a distance to be present on the day. Unfortunately Covid-19 restrictions prevented a number of interstate members and partners from joining us on the day.

The caterers did an excellent job in the presentation of the meal and an enjoyable get-together was had by all.

Congratulations to Paul Brown, Colin Gould, Kieran Nelson and other Committee members for their efforts in organising the event and the effort put in to ensure an enjoyable day.

Thanks also to the National Servicemen's Association for the use of the Everyman's Hut on the day and their assistance with the food and drink.



Above. The setting at the lunch.

Below. L-R. Terri Ng, Ainslie Ng, Wendi Ng, Sarah Weight, Fran and Douglas Ng.



PNGVR by those ex-members present and generally on the



Tony Boulter, Ron and Cheryl MacDonald.



Sylvia McNeilly & Jessica Harrington



Vivienne Rogers and sons Peter & Andrew. Vivienne's father 'Horrie' Harris was NGVR.



Leigh Eastwood, Glen O'Brien, Tracee Trammell

VALE: Lt Richard (Rick) James GIDDINGS MBE. OAM 392667 6 Aug 1937—6 Oct 2021

Rick was born in Maffra, Victoria, on 6 Aug 1937. Two years later his father joined the air force and was posted to Papua New Guinea and Borneo.

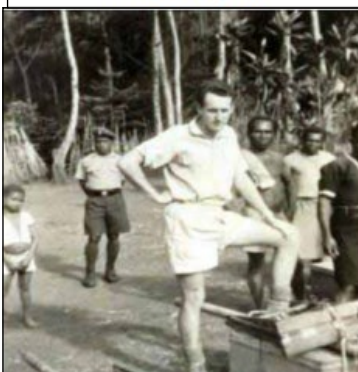
Rick began his life-long love for Papua New Guinea in 1956, leaving his family home at the age of 18 to start his career as a cadet patrol officer, a kiap.

After the first three years in Bougainville, he was sent to Sydney for further training at the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA), where upon he met Lynn, in the canteen. thus beginning a relationship that would see them through almost 62 years of marriage. On their return Rick served at Henganofi, Kainantu, Goroka and Kundiawa.

Rick spent 36 years in PNG, from 1956 to 1992 and was highly respected for the thoroughness of his work, best reflected in his leadership of the Administration's team that purchased the land for the Yonki Electricity project from local landowners in the Kainantu Sub-District. He set up a Town Authority for Goroka while he was the Senior Provincial Magistrate for the Simbu and Eastern Highlands Provinces.



3/92677 Recruit Rick Giddings, 38 Inf Bn, Northern Victoria Regt., Dec 1955, Aged 18



Kiap Rick on Patrol



1972 Rick at Igam Barracks Camp.



Richard James Giddings MBE. OAM.

He was also honorary curator for the JK McCarthy Museum in Goroka in his spare time: For many years while living in Simbu Rick would drive down to Goroka on weekends.

As Chief Magistrate, he ended up on the front page of the Post-Courier newspaper with a rifle pointed at his stomach, capturing the moment he tried to pull it off a rascal who had stolen it from a police officer during a riot.

Rick Joined C Coy PNGVR in 1966 at Goroka having had previous service with 38 Bn Northern Victorian Regiment 1955/6. Commissioned in 1968 he served with PNGVR until its disbandment and transferred to the Reserve of Officers ACMF on 31.12.1973.

During his service he was an active participant in all PNGVR activities his civilian duties allowed him to attend. He was a member of No 3 Guard at the PNGVR presentation of Colours.

On return to Australia Rick and Lynn and their 2 daughters, Sonya and Lara settled in Pontville (Tasmania) where Rick continued to serve his community in the local historical society.

Rick was respected wherever he went in PNG and when daughter Sonya returned to Goroka in 1999 she felt safe as she felt the people of Goroka were protecting her.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1993 Rick was awarded a MBE by the PNG Government for services to PNG as a magistrate.

On Australia Day 2013 he was awarded an OAM by the Australian Government for services to his Tasmanian community of Brighton.

Rick and Lynn's daughter Lara was premier of Tasmania from 2011 to 2014.

He is survived by wife Lynn, daughters Sonya and Lara and grandchildren Nicholas, Eleanor and Natasha, and great grandson Max.

LEST WE FORGET.

First professional soccer player vaccinated



From Monday postmen will be working from home. They will read all your letters and ring you if it's anything important.

As the year comes to an end, I urge you to take care of yourself and avoid accidents because spare parts for old models like you are no longer in stock.

I need to re-home a dog. It's a small terrier, and tends to bark a lot. If you're interested, let me know and I'll jump over my neighbor's fence and get it for you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY AND HEALTHY YEAR IN 2022
FROM PATRON MAJ GEN JOHN PEARN AO.
RFD., PRESIDENT PHIL AINSWORTH
AND YOUR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

COULD BE A LONG XMAS EVE...



The Association would like to thank James Birrell for his generous donation on behalf of his late father J.A. Birrell MC (NGVR/ANGAU), to be utilised for Museum purposes. The Jim Birrell MC story can be read in HTT Vols 100, 101.

The Association would like to thank King & Co Property consultants for its continuing support, including the printing of this edition, together with the past 73 issues of Harim Tok Tok. Its contribution is much appreciated.

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Patron: Major General John Pearn AO. RFD

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/ngvrandpngvrilitarymuseum/>

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 Cheryl.ron@gmail.com

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FUNCTION DATES

Sat 20 Nov 2021 Sat 12 Feb 2022

Executive C'tee Mtg - Museum 10 a.m.
Members always welcome. BYO lunch.
Come along and see new exhibits.

Sat 1 Jan 2022.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. Bunnings, Oxley.
Assistance required.
AM or PM shift available.
Contact Paul Brown or Colin Gould—
details above.

Sat 1 Jan 2022.

Museum closed. New Year's Day.