



# Harim Tok Tok

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Since 1994, our Association has held an anniversary memorial service on 1 July each year at the Brisbane Cenotaph to honour the men lost when the Japanese unmarked prison ship the Montevideo Maru was sunk by friendly fire in 1942. This year we held our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service commemorating those lost on the Montevideo Maru. This service is reported with photographs on pages 4 to 6 of this newsletter.

The National 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Montevideo Maru Commemorative Ceremony was held at the Stone of Remembrance at the Australian War Memorial Canberra at the same time as our service. The national service attracted 130 attendees many from Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and NSW. The catafalque party was provided by the Australian Federation Guard with the band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Colonel James Kidd DSM CSM, representing the Chief of Army was the keynote speaker. His tribute to those affected by those early days of WWII in the Pacific and his understanding of the significance of this event to the families involved was warmly received.

Wreaths were laid by Acting Prime Minister Richard Marles, the PNG High Commissioner to Australia, the Ambassador of Norway to Australia, and representatives for the Chief of the Defence Force, PNGAA, RSL of Australia, NGVR & PNGVR Association, 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion /Lark Force Association, 1 Independent Company, Australian War Widows Australia, Salvation Army and Chairman of the Council of the Australian War Memorial. We are most appreciative for Member Michael White representing our Association to lay the wreath and read the Ode.



Representatives of NGVR, 2/22Bn Lark Force & 1 Ind. Coy at AWM 1 July 2022  
L to R: Michael White, Frazer Harry & Patrick Bourke

This was followed by Kylie Adams-Collier giving a special performance of her song 'Montevideo Maru 1942', the Ode read by NGVR & PNGVR Association member Michael White and thank you and farewell by Andrea Williams. The ABC and Sky News photographers attended the

service which was featured on ABC News in Canberra that evening. Photographs taken by the AWM photographer are able to be viewed at: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/australianwarmemorial/albums/72177720300229609?fbclid=IwAR3bfKr6uJZx\\_0ZXkWmCUXzd\\_ZZy6KiCjCGxX59DZLUWfDH8ys6tg-kfPzq](https://www.flickr.com/photos/australianwarmemorial/albums/72177720300229609?fbclid=IwAR3bfKr6uJZx_0ZXkWmCUXzd_ZZy6KiCjCGxX59DZLUWfDH8ys6tg-kfPzq)

The Last Post Service at the AWM on the evening of 1 July 2022 acknowledged the service of Corporal George William Spensley NG4031 of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and the sinking of Montevideo Maru. Wreaths were laid by his daughter, Gillian Nikakis, and his descendants, Ross Johnson, representing the NGVR/PNGVR Ex members Association, Andrea Williams, representing the PNGAA and John Reeves, representing the Rabaul Historical Society. It was special to have the NGVR highlighted and we thank Member Ross Johnson for representing us. This service may be watched online through the AWM website or at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zKxf7sIP14>

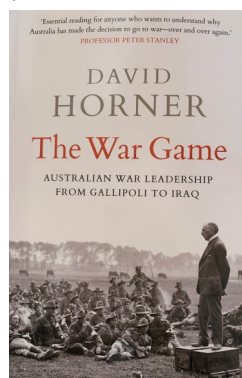


Member Ross Johnson at the Last Post Ceremony, AMW 1 July 2022

That evening a commemorative dinner was held at Rydges Canberra with an attendance of over a 100. The Commemorative Address by David Horner AM covered the broader worldwide situation in the early years of WWII and how it affected the New Guinea islands and Australia. His address was outstanding. The address will be available on the website at [www.montevideo-maru.org](http://www.montevideo-maru.org) under 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

David Horner AM, FASSA is an emeritus Professor in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, ANU. This year he published "The War Game, Australian War Leadership from Gallipoli to Iraq". This book examines why and how Australia went to war, and how it man-

aged the nation's nine conflicts between WW1 and Iraq War. It explores the relationships between the political leaders and their military commanders. Important questions are raised about the process of war leadership eg should politicians leave the conduct of war to their military commanders or should they interfere and many more including how Australia's future war leaders prepare for the tasks ahead. The War Game is



about the greatest challenges likely to face Australia's leaders. It is a fascinating read.

Our Association is indebted to PNGAA, particularly Andrea Williams, the Chair of the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group and organiser for highlighting NGVR throughout the Canberra events.

Phil Ainsworth, July 2022

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

JAPANESE FOURTH AIR ARMY	2
RAAC BLACK BELT/PACE STICK	3
MONTEVIDEO MARU SERVICES	4
MAJ GEN PEARN ADDRESS MVM	6
ALBERT EDWARD PAULEY NGVR	6
RABAU, IF ONLY?	6
YOUNGEST AUST SOLD'R DIE WW1	7
BRUCE KINGSBURY VC	8
WARTIME SCRAP	8
JAP PLANE OVER MELB. WW2	9
A LABOUR OF LOVE	10
BATTLE OF THE PIMPLE	11
REMAINS US WW11 SOLDIER HOME	13
ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE	13
CONSUL GENERAL LAE, ANZAC DAY	13
ADF SUPPORT ELECTION PNG	14
THOMAS HERKET WW1	14
F1 AUST SOLDIER PROOF GUN	15
RAN RESCUE SOLOMON I. POLICE	15
Z SPECIAL UNIT—PRATAS ISLAND	16
AN&MEF PLAQUE IN PLACES PRIDE	17
ASSEMBLING JUNKERS BULOLO	17
FIRST EVER VETERAN HEAD COUNT	17
QLD INDIGENOUS MEMORIAL	19
3rd FIELD AMBULANCE WW1	19
VALE SIR PETER BARTER	20

## JAPANESE FOURTH AIR ARMY

Air operations in Papua and the Solomons in 1942 were carried out by Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) air forces. The Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) was initially reluctant to deploy Army aircraft to the New Guinea area. However, faced with looming defeat on Guadalcanal and in Papua, the Army agreed to commit some of its air forces to this theatre of operations. This was seen as a temporary measure until Navy resources could regain air superiority in the Solomons.

In mid-December 1942 Japanese Army fighters reached Rabaul and bombers were ordered to deploy to New Guinea from Burma. These units came under command of the *6th Air Division*.

In early January 1943 an Army-Navy Central Agreement designated the areas of responsibility for the IJA and IJN air units. In general Army air forces were to support Japanese ground operations in New Guinea while the Navy air forces were responsible for operations in the Solomons and New Britain.

The Battle of the Bismarck Sea - 2-3 March 1943 - in which the Allied air force destroyed a Japanese reinforcement convoy sailing to Lae came as a rude shock to the Japanese high command. The Japanese had provided what they thought was an adequate fighter escort for the convoy. The Japanese now realized that they could no longer sail convoys of transports into areas where Allied aircraft could operate more or less freely. This posed major problems for the resupply of Japanese troops on New Guinea.

The defeat in the Bismarck Sea forced the Japanese Army High Command to rethink its strategy for the Pacific war. It was decided to make a further substantial reinforcement in both ground and air forces to the New Guinea theatre. Reflecting this revised strategy, new squadrons with improved aircraft started arriving in Rabaul in April-May 1943 and were duly deployed to New Guinea. As a further measure, it was decided in June 1943 to deploy to New Guinea a significant component of the *7th Air Division* which was currently assigned to the eastern Netherlands East Indies. One third of the *7th Air Division* remained in Ambon and other airfields in the vicinity.

In mid-June 1943 the Army High Command created the Headquarters *Fourth Air Army* in Rabaul to command the *6th and 7th Air Divisions* in New Guinea. In July 1943 Headquarters *Fourth Air Army* re-deployed to Wewak. At this time the *6th Air Division*, with five fighter and three bomber groups, contained 324 aircraft while *7th Air Division* units in New Guinea held 156 aircraft. The *6th Air Division* was based at Wewak, Boram and Dagua airfields while the *7th Air Division* was located at But. Air crew and ground staff of these air divisions totalled approximately 10,000 personnel.

Wewak airfield was built in 1937 to service the Sepik administrative district. It was occupied by the Japanese in December 1942. Work was then commenced to develop it into a major operational base with satellite airfields at Boram, Dagua and But. Boram airfield was located five kilometres to the south east of Wewak airfield. Dagua airfield was on the coast some 40 kilometres north west of Wewak and 10 kilometres east of But. But was the site of a small civil airfield built in 1937. Japan began to develop these three satellite airfields in March 1943. Development of the airfields was limited by the paucity of mechanical equipment held by the Japanese airfield construction units. Much of the work was done by hand labour. Development of revetments, taxiways and dispersed, protected dumps was slow.

Allied intelligence was forewarned by ULTRA intercepts of the Japanese build-up in the Wewak area. This was confirmed by reconnaissance aircraft. General Kenney, Commander of the Allied *Fifth Air Force*, ordered a major attack against the Japanese concentration. Subsequently, in the

early hours of 17 August 1943, 36 B-24 Liberator and 12 B-17 Flying Fortress aircraft attacked the four Wewak airfields. The attack caught the Japanese aircraft wing-tip to wing-tip on runways. At Boram 60 Japanese aircraft were being warmed up with crews in place when the attack began. These attacks were followed at 0900 hours by low level bombing and strafing by B-25 Mitchell medium bombers escorted by P-38 Lightning fighters.\*\* Only three Allied aircraft were lost while the raids destroyed or severely damaged approximately 100 Japanese aircraft. It was a decisive Allied victory. The balance of air power in New Guinea had now swung in the Allies' favour.

During the remainder of August 1943 additional attacks were carried out by *Fifth Air Force* aircraft on the Wewak area airfields. Subsequent USAAF intelligence estimates were that from 175 - 200 Japanese aircraft were destroyed in the air and on the ground during these attacks. For the remainder of 1943, 1944 and until May 1945 the Wewak airfields were subject to regular attacks by Allied aircraft.

Following the August 1943 Wewak debacle, the Japanese Army sought to replenish its aircraft losses; but for the remainder of 1943 the *Fourth Air Army* strength never exceeded 100 operational aircraft. At the same time the development of airfields at Hollandia was expedited to provide depth to the Wewak airfields. Air operations against the American landing at Saidor on the north coast of New Guinea 200 kilometres west of Finschhafen on 2 January 1944 further depleted the *Fourth Air Army's* strength with fewer than 50 aircraft remaining operational.

The American capture of the Admiralties in early March 1944 further isolated Rabaul. Madang was now within range of Allied fighters operating from Momote airfield on Los Negros Island off the east coast of Manus Island. The Japanese now assessed that the next amphibious landing on the New Guinea north coast would be in the Madang-Hansa Bay area as it had been the practice of the Allies to plan their next lodgement within range of fighter aircraft using existing bases. The Allies developed a comprehensive deception plan to feed the Japanese appreciation that the next Allied landing would be in the Madang-Hansa Bay area.

With the loss of the Admiralties the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters (IGHQ) assessed that the Eighth Area Army Headquarters in Rabaul could no longer effectively control operations on the New Guinea mainland. Consequently on 25 March 1944, Eighteenth Army and *Fourth Air Army* were re-assigned to General Anami's Second Area Army headquartered in Manado in the northern Celebes (Sulawesi).

The *Fourth Air Army* now concentrated its air strength on the Hollandia airfields believing their concentration there of some 300 aircraft was beyond the range of Allied air attack. Allied Air Intelligence was alerted to this concentration by interception of Japanese signals through ULTRA means. On 30 March 1944 Fifth Air Force sent 60 B-24 Liberator bombers escorted by new model P-38 Lightning fighters with extended range to strike the Hollandia airfields. This and follow-up raids over the next week destroyed over 150 Japanese aircraft on the ground at Hollandia. It was a repeat of the August 1943 raids against the Wewak airfields. Never again was the Japanese *Fourth Air Army* able to contest air superiority over New Guinea.

On 22 April 1944 US forces made surprise landings at Hollandia and Aitape. The personnel of the *6th Air Division* - both aircrew and ground staff - were forced to retreat on foot through unforaging terrain to Sarmi 300 kilometres to the west of Hollandia. Many air crew and skilled technicians perished during this march. The *6th Air Division* was never reconstituted and was disbanded in August 1944. A much-depleted *7th Air Division* continued to operate out of airfields in the eastern Netherlands East Indies. However, by July 1944 with the US capture of Biak the *7th Air Division* was a spent force. The air war in New Guinea had ended in a decisive Allied victory.

\*\* Marilinan airfield is reported in the Australian RAAF Official History as the staging airfield for escort fighters for the first Wewak raids but the US



Official History states that the Marilinan airfield site was deemed unsuitable after a survey by USAAF officers. Instead the nearby Tsili Tsili airfield was used to stage US P-38 fighters which would not have had sufficient range to reach Wewak.

### JAPANESE AIR RE-SUPPLY TO WEWAK

The following information is extracted from First Australian Army Intelligence Summary Number 143 dated 15 February 1945.

The last recorded activity by Japanese aircraft in the Wewak area was the crash landing of an aircraft on the emergency landing strip at Cape Worn in late January 1945. This aircraft was not visible on an air photograph taken on 27 January but was visible on a photograph taken on 31 January. It was conjectured that this aircraft took off from Toeal on the Kai Islands in the Arafura Sea and was carrying urgently required communications equipment and supplies and code books for *Headquarters Eighteenth Army*. This aircraft was identified as a TOPSY transport aircraft in contemporary intelligence reports; however, there is no TOPSY wreck recorded at Cape Worn in the *6th Division* audit. The Cape Worn wreck was recorded as a SALLY Mitsubishi Ki-21 heavy bomber.

On 1 February 1945 an aircraft - not further identified - was sighted in a kunai patch on the south west end of Muschu Island off the Wewak coast. This aircraft may also have been used for resupply of urgently required items.

An intelligence report of 10 February 1945 states that attempts were being made to repair the strip at Wewak airfield. An air photograph indicated that some craters had been filled in and a grader was seen in the centre of the strip. It was assessed that the Japanese would persist with air supply to deliver urgently needed items to the beleaguered *Eighteenth Army*. However, there is no record of any subsequent flights to Wewak.

### JAPANESE AIRCRAFT LOSSES AT WEWAK

After the *6th Australian Division* captured Wewak in May 1945 an audit of destroyed Japanese aircraft at the four Japanese airfields in the Wewak area resulted in a total of 480 wrecks as follows:

Source: Headquarters 6:1 Division Intelligence Summary 24 dated 19 June 1945 - AWM52 1/5/12764

But airfield was occupied by *6th Australian Division* troops on 17

Type	BUT	DAGUA	WEWAK	BORAM
ZEKE	-	-	5	-
OSCAR	1	55	56	39
TONY	-	18	2	80
NICK	-	-	1	30
SONIA	9	2	10	-
DINAH	6	6	36	3
LILY	22	24	9	4
SALLY	3	3	7*	16
HELEN	1	25	1	1
TOPSY	-	-	3	-
TYPE 99 #	-	-	1	-
TYPE 2 #	-	-	1	-
Total	42	133	132	173

March, Dagua airfield on 21 March, Wewak airfield on 11 May and Boram airfield on 16 May 1945.

### ALLIED CODE NAMES

ZEKE	Navy – Mitsubishi A6M – Type 0 Carrier Fighter
OSCAR	Army – Nakajima Ki-43 – Type 1 Fighter
TONY	Army – Kawasaki Ki-61 – Type 3 Fighter
NICK	Army – Kawasaki Ki-45 KAI – Type 2 Two-seat Fighter
SONIA	Army – Mitsubishi Ki-51 – Type 99 Assault Plane/Tactical Reconnaissance
DINAH	Army – Mitsubishi Ki-46 – Type 100 Command Reconnaissance
LILY	Army – Kawasaki Ki-48 – Type 99 Twin-engine Light Bomber
SALLY	Army – Mitsubishi Ki-21 – Type 97 Heavy Bomber
HELEN	Army – Nakajima Ki-49 – Type 100 Heavy Bomber
TOPSY	Army – Mitsubishi Ki-57 – Type 100 Transport

Jim Underwood—The Military Historical Society of Australia. ACT Branch

### The Origins of the Black Pace Stick and Sam Browne Belt in the RAAC

The old proverb All That Glitters is Not Gold means that not everything that is shiny and superficially attractive is valuable – in fact it could be silver! Such is the case with the accoutrements of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. The fittings on the black Sam Browne belt and black RSM's pace stick, the soldiers black web waist belt, the buttons and badges of rank on dress uniforms, all shine with a similar hue.

As the result of their attendance at a Royal Australian Infantry Corps RSM's course in early 1971; and their very shabby treatment thereon, Warrant Officers John Hawton and Ivan Maher decided to attempt to redress the situation. Their plan initially was to give our senior Warrant Officers an edge over their mainly infantry counterparts who naturally all wore the brown Sam Browne belt with brass fittings and the standard brown pace stick. Following consultation with his Commanding Officer at the time – Lieutenant Colonel Dimitri Richard 'Doc' Kepper; Ivan dyed his Sam Browne belt black and had the fittings chromed. He enlisted the aid of the Armoured Centre carpenter to disassemble his pace stick and paint it black whilst the fittings were also sent away to be chromed.

So was born a tradition in dress that has endured to this day, much to the chagrin of 'many' in the wider Army. In later years the black and chrome accoutrements were also adopted by the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps and Australian Army Aviation.

Ivan Paul Maher passed away on 19 September 2019 at the age of 91 years. However, his legacy will be ever enduring.

*Ironsides—Journal of the RAAC.*



Simbai Airstrip, Central Highlands PNG. 1800 m.  
Simbai only accessible by air.





**Montevideo Maru Service, Brisbane**

A wet day in Brisbane saw 33 Assn Members and Friends attend the 80th Anniversary Remembrance Service for the 1053 soldiers and civilians who perished on the “Montevideo Maru”. The loss of 845 Australian POWs and 208 civilian internees remains the worst Australian maritime disaster. 36 NGVR soldiers were among the POWs.

One of the tragedies about this was the fact that families of those lost were not notified until some months after WW11 finished—over 3 years after the event.

In 1994 our Association commenced holding a service to remember the sinking of the “Montevideo Maru” and this was the only organised service in Australia for many years.

Guests included:-

Maj Gen John Pearn AO. RFD.—Association Patron

Councillor for Forest Lakes, Charles Strunk

Mr Mike Harris, President, Aust American Assn , Qld.

Ms Teresa Pokja, Treasurer, Aust American Association, Qld.

Ms Jenny Gregory, President, Australian War Widows, Qld.

Ms Judy Smith, President elect, Aust War Widows, Qld.

Major Scott Allen, Salvation Army ( Minister and bugler)

Mr Lawrence Geldard from Tasmania (son of Garth Geldard, NGVR , NG4062, executed at Tol)

Ms Pam McCreadie, Jimboomba Cadets

Museum Curator Paul Brown as MC opened the proceedings and introduced Assn President Phil Ainsworth for his opening address and Patron Maj Gen John Pearn AO. RFD. For his moving address on the sacrifice and service of those who perished. His address is published after the photos of the Remembrance Services around Australia.

Then followed prayers, singing of the National Anthem led by Paul (who will definitely not qualify for “The Voice”).

A morning tea was then held in the room so that all could mingle and talk.

A wonderful ceremony and thanks to the organisers—our Museum volunteers for such a wonderful service.

PNGVR members present were Patron, President, Chaplain Ron MacDonald, Bob Collins, Colin Gould MBE, Paul Brown, Kieran Nelson, Kerry Glover, Kevin Shorthouse OL, Mike Griffin



President Phil Ainsworth giving address. Paul Brown seated.



Mike Griffin recites the Ode. Paul Brown in background.



Chaplain Ron MacDonald and Paul Brown during prayers.



Patron Maj Gen John Pearn AO. RFD. about to give address.



Some of the attendees before the Service commenced.





In Canberra Rebecca Mills and her grandad, Dr Les Drew. Les lost his brother, Ken, on the MvM. Les was also behind the addition of the Montevideo Maru Memorial at the Ballarat ex-POW Memorial



During the Memorial Service in Rabaul, PNG>

**The Address delivered at the Shrine of Remembrance, Anzac Square, Brisbane, On the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the sinking of the MV Montevideo Maru Hosted by the NGVR-PNGVR Ex-Members Association**

We meet today, in this quiet moment of tribute and reflection, to honour those 1053 Australians who perished at sea, victims of the sinking of the SS Montevideo Maru.

They have no individual headstones. Their memory is held in honour by us all, who follow on. In meeting on this day, 1 July 2022, 80 years on to that tragic day, we do not forget Australia's worst maritime disaster; and we do not let the memory fade of those whose unmarked grave is the unending sea.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, on 7 December 1941, the Imperial Nipponese Army surged south-east through Thailand and into Malaysia and took the surrender of the Allied Garrison of 26,000 troops in Singapore. The Japanese force conquered Indonesia and New Guinea.

To defend the Mandated to Territory of New Guinea, a com-



The Montevideo Memorial, The Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

posite military force, LARK FORCE, was raised and deployed to Rabaul, on the island of New Britain. The soldiers and civilian members of the Rabaul Garrison were captured together with more than 200 civilians, Australian planters, missionaries and government officers. Rescue attempts were undertaken from North Queensland, and some women and children and a group of Catholic nuns managed to escape. But hundreds of soldiers and civilians were killed in the jungles, many the victims of bayonet atrocities.

In June 1942, 1053 prisoners were loaded onto the former Japanese merchant ship, the MV Montevideo Maru, to be taken to the island of Hainandao, then called Hainan Island, to either work (it is believed) as slave labourers or to be used as potential exchange prisoners with Australia or the United States. The ship sailed north-west and in contravention to the Laws of War and the Geneva Convention, the Montevideo Maru was not marked as a Prisoner-of-War ship. On 1 July, 80 years ago today, the ship was torpedoed off the Island of Luzon. The USS submarine, USS Sturgeon, had identified the ship as a Japanese merchant vessel.



Bitapaka Wall of Remembrance Rabaul

All the prisoners of war were drowned.

Seventeen of the Japanese civilian crewmembers of the ship survived the sinking. They escaped in a cutter which was floated off the deck. They landed on Luzon but 11 were immediately killed by Filipino guerrillas fighting on the Allied side. It transpired that five crewmembers, the only survivors, made it back to Japan. In all, 1142 lives were lost in that tragedy. The Montevideo Maru is thus a war grave also for the 88 Japanese soldiers and civilian sailors who perished.

Details of the sinking remained unknown, or were suppressed by wartime censorship until after the War. The thousands of Australian families of the victims had held out hopes, for more than three years, that their missing fathers, husbands, sons, brothers and cousins were still alive in prisoner-of-war camps. They first learnt of their deaths in October 1945, by official notice from the Australian Government. But details remained unknown. The wreck of the sunken Montevideo Maru, and its entombed soldiers and civilians, has never been discovered.

In 2003, Mr Yosiaku Yamaji, then 83 years old and a former merchant seaman, was one of the initial 17 Japanese survivors. He gave some first-hand details of what happened. In 2012, the Japanese government gave to the Australian Government, the manifest of the Montevideo Maru, with the names of the Australian prisoners who had been embarked at Rabaul. From this manifest, it was possible to erect a block Memorial at the village of Bitapaka, near Rabaul where the Montevideo Maru left on this fateful journey.

The figure of 1053 dead is a simple statistic. It represents, however, 1053 individual men who died an appalling death, alone in their last minutes. Today, we would wish at least to identify

them by their military units:

- 2/22 Battalion; Gunners of the Anti-Aircraft Battery; 17 Anti-Tank Battery; Engineers and Signallers;

- Canteen operators; Dental unit; Medical Orderlies; and a Detachment of the 2/10 Field Ambulance.

- Twenty-two devout Salvationists, musicians of the Brunswick Citadel Band, a Salvation Army Band in Melbourne, signed up, en bloc, as a Regimental Band of the 2/22 Battalion, to act also as stretcher bearers.

Today we memorialise this disaster for two special reasons.

The first is that the family and relatives of those who died, grandchildren and relatives here today, would wish that the service of their relatives, now of a former generation, and their service unto death, should not be forgotten. We will remember them.

Secondly, there has been from the time of the first Geneva Convention in 1864, a belief held by civilised nations, that when all attempts to preserve peace have failed, and nations become locked in war, that there is still a basic code of behaviour beneath which honourable people will not descend.

Since 1957, the passage of the Australian Geneva Convention Act, every Australian – you and me – today as civilians or as service personnel, are enjoined by law to obey these four Geneva Conventions; and in times of conflict to offer protection to those rendered out of combat, by capture or by wounding, or from disease.

Today, both the Australian and Japanese Nations are enjoined in friendship, now with mutual respect. Both today are enjoined in this Geneva Code; and combatants, rendered helpless by captivity or from injury, are protected by our self-imposed policies and behaviour. This memorialisation today, looks back to that sacrifice of 80 years ago; and sees those tragic events as an acknowledgement of the unchangeable history of three Nations, but sees their aftermath as another step towards the creation of a better world.

*Major General Emeritus Professor John Pearn AO RFD  
Former Surgeon General, the Australian Defence Force,  
Patron, New Guinea Volunteer Rifles-Papua New Guinea Volunteer  
Rifles Ex-Members Associatio*

#### SINGLES AD

The following ad appeared in the Atlanta Journal.

**SINGLE BLACK FEMALE seeks male companionship.**  
Ethnicity not important. I'm a very good looking girl who **LOVES**  
to play.

I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cozy winter nights lying by the fire.

Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. When you get home from work I'll be at the front door wearing only what nature gave me.

Call (404) 555-1211 and ask for Daisy.

Over 1500 men found themselves talking to the Atlanta Humane Society about an 8-week old black Labrador retriever.

#### Albert Edward PAULEY NG2370 NGX 361

Lt. Albert Edward Pauley NG2370/NGX361. New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. 2nd New Guinea Infantry Battalion. Pacific Islands Infantry Depot Battalion. Born St Bathans, Central Otago NZ Oct 1914.

Albert was working in New Guinea when the Japanese invaded in 1942. He enlisted in the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and remained on active service until 1946.

In 1943 he transferred to the New Guinea Infantry Battalion with the rank of acting corporal and was promoted to acting



WO11.

He discharged from the N.G.I.B.. soon after to attend officer training at Dunroon. Lieutenant Pauley served with the Pacific Islands Infantry Defence Battalion. In 1945 he returned to the 2nd New Guinea Infantry Battalion until discharged in 1946.

During service he contracted malaria and jaundice, suffering other privations with the result that his health deteriorated and he died on the 23rd of September 1957 aged 44. He left behind his wife and three children who subsequently moved back to NZ.

*Special Australian Correspondent  
Sydney, June 8.*

#### NEW ZEALAND SCOUTS DARING WORK IN JUNGLE

New Zealanders who have enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force have done splendid work as scouts in the war in the New Guinea jungle. One of them, Corporal Albert Edward Pauley, has made many daring excursions into enemy-occupied territory. On

one occasion he watched Japanese troops cremate the body of one of their officers..

Before the war Corporal Pauley was the manager of a gold mine at Sandy Creek, near Wau. He says that deer-stalking experience in New Zealand in his youth has helped him in the New Guinea jungle.

"When I saw thin wreaths of smoke rising above the trees," he told a war correspondent, "I crawled through the undergrowth to investigate. I saw the body of a Japanese officer covered with a sheet lying on some logs. Soldiers were keeping the fire going by throwing benzine on to the logs. Officers with drawn swords stood at each end of the pyre. The ceremony lasted about two hours."

On another patrol into enemy lines Corporal Pauley watched the rising sun ceremony, which was religiously carried out every morning. The rising sun flag was hoisted and, at a given command, the assembled troops bowed so low toward the sun that their heads almost touched the ground.

*Barry Gamble—Anzac Military Memories.*

Whilst serving with the NGVR Albert spent a lot of time in the Mubo region, carrying out patrols and manning observation posts keeping Japanese activities under constant surveillance.

*Ian Downs. NGVR A History.*

My friend's wife left him last week. She said she was going out for milk and never came back.  
I asked him how he was coping and he replied "Not bad! I've been using some of that powdered stuff."

#### If only these proposals had been accepted

*Much has rightly been written about the unpreparedness of the Military Garrison at Rabaul for the Japanese invasion in 1942. As a consequence most of the 1400 military personnel at Rabaul did not survive WW11.*



*The following is an extract from The Australian National University, Development Studies Centre "The role of the Papua New Guinea defence force" by Paul Mench in 1976. The full paper is 231 pages long.*

*In September, 1939, Lt Col John Walstab, then Superintendent of the New Guinea Police Force, was given the task of raising the NGVR (New Guinea Volunteer Rifles) and was its first Commanding Officer until a Volunteer Officer could be appointed.*

Australian defence policy in regard to New Guinea was seen to be severely restricted by the provision of the C Class League of Nations Mandate which Australia had been granted in 1920. Under Article 4 of the Mandate : The military training of the natives , otherwise than for the purposes of internal police and the local defence of the Territory, shall be prohibited. Furthermore , no military or naval bases shall be established , or fortifications erected in the Territory .

Unlike the Territory of Papua , where Australia 's defence powers were absolute , her defence powers in New Guinea were thus limited to local defence only . Australian Government sensitivity even in regard to her legitimate powers of local defence in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea inhibited realistic and effective local defence preparations right up to the onset of World War II .

During the whole of the inter-war period Australia continued to interpret her rights in relation to local defence in an extremely restricted manner. Paradoxically , there was at the same time considerable awareness of the strategic importance of New Guinea in relation to Australia and the potential of New Guinea to provide an enemy with an offensive ' springboard ' . The 1924 Defence Council sub-committee's study of New Guinea defence had drawn attention , with considerable foresight , to the significance to New Guinea in enemy operations against Australia :

*In the case of an oversea operation by the enemy it is essential that steps be taken to obtain safe anchorages for the troopships and an advanced base But in whatever form of attack that is being examined it is certain that the seizure by the enemy of a safe harbour among the islands is an essential preliminary step . Our possible enemy must be aware of this , and it is likely that he will occupy suitable islands early in the war \*\*\* It is likely that he will take advantage of the opening phase of the war , before our defensive measures are fully developed.*

Although they were never to be realised , quite ambitious plans were in fact laid in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea during 1930 for local defensive measures . These plans involved the establishment in the war stage of a proposed defence scheme of a European rifle battalion, eight companies of conscripted New Guinea native infantry , and a native labour battalion . The 1930 scheme had been drawn up by the New Guinea Superintendent of Police and District Inspector , Lieutenant-Colonel John Walstab . Walstab 's plan was eventually forwarded to Canberra in January 1933 by the New Guinea Administrator , Brigadier General E . A. Wisdom.

Lt-Col . John Walstab , DSO (1885-1957 ) , was given the task of preparing the NG Defence Scheme because of both his military and New Guinea experience . A Gallipoli veteran and former AIF battalion commander , he evidently possessed an imaginative military mind. Walstab envisaged that it was necessary to plan beyond the passive defence measures originally called for in the Commonwealth War Book plans . Resistance to large-scale enemy attack should take the form of guerrilla operations with small mobile columns of native troops led and stiffened by European officers and machine gun teams . These columns would operate in the interior, live off the land and harass the invaders in control of the urban centres . They could only be defeated , he argued , 'when the enemy had so established himself in the country as to be able to enlist and use the armed natives against them'. Walstab's concept of military operations in PNG was influenced by two things:

i) his own extensive knowledge of the country 's terrain as a result of leading police patrols

ii) his appraisal of the successful guerrilla campaigns in East Africa of the German general , Von Lettow Verbeck , during World War I. Verbeck had very successfully employed native troops led by German officers.

*Lt. Col. Walstab's proposals were published in what was known as "The Blue Book" and Keith McCarthy, who was instrumental in the evacuation of soldiers and civilians on the "Lakatoi" had previously offered to teach soldiers from Lark Force on living in the field and tactics based on "The Blue Book".*

Leave application.

Dear sir,

My husband had a headache this morning and accidentally took Viagra instead of Paracetamol.

Since our maid is also here today I just cannot come to the office today.

Thank you.

**Jim Martin (Australian soldier)**

**The youngest Australian Soldier to die in WW1**

### Early life

James Martin was born to Amelia and Charles Martin on 3 Jan 1901 in Tocumwal, New South Wales. His father was born Charles Marks, in Auckland, New Zealand; however, after emigrating to Australia and settling in Tocumwal, he changed his name to Martin to avoid discrimination for being Jewish. Charles worked as a grocer, handyman and (horse-drawn) cab driver, while Amelia was born in Bendigo in 1876 to Thomas and Frances Park. Martin's family moved to many different suburbs in and around Melbourne before finally settling in Hawthorn in 1910. He was the third of six children, and the only son. He attended Manningtree Road State School from 1910 to 1915, during which time he also received basic military training as a junior cadet under the compulsory training scheme.



### World War 1

After the outbreak of World War I Martin enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 12 April 1915, against the wishes of his family. His parents finally agreed however when he made it clear that he would sign on under an assumed name and never write to them if they did not consent. He gave a false date of birth to the recruiting officer, claiming to be 18, when he was actually 14 years and three

months. His father had earlier tried to enlist but had been rejected as being too old. Martin joined the 1st Reinforcements of the 21st Battalion as a private and trained in Broadmeadows and Seymour (later Puckapunyal) camps in Victoria before boarding *HMAT Berrima* in June 1915 to deploy to Egypt, arriving there in late July.

In late August, following the failed August Offensive, he was sent to Gallipoli on the steamer *HMT Southland*, to take part in the fighting against the Turks, which had by that time developed into a bloody stalemate. En route, *Southland* was torpedoed by a German submarine off the island of Lemnos and

Martin was rescued after spending four hours in the water. After being picked up, he rejoined his battalion at Mudros Island where they were transferred to the transport ship *Abassieh* on 7 Sep to resume their voyage to Gallipoli. The following morning, just before 2:00 am, Martin's platoon, 4 Platoon, landed at Watson's Pier in Anzac Cove. He then served in trenches around Courtney's Post, which was positioned on the ridge overlooking Monash Valley. During this time he wrote to his family telling them that "the Turks are still about 70 yards (64 m) away from us" and asked them not to worry about him as "I am doing splendid over here". Throughout his time in Gallipoli, although his family were writing to him, Martin did not receive any letters from home due to a breakdown in the mail system.

As the campaign dragged on, winter approached and the weather on the Gallipoli Peninsula began to take its toll on the soldiers in the trenches. Following a period of cold temperatures and heavy rain Martin contracted enteric fever in the trenches. After suffering mild symptoms for about a fortnight during which time he refused treatment, he was subsequently evacuated to the hospital ship *Glenart Castle* on 25 October 1915 after he developed diarrhoea. He died of heart failure that night, at the age of 14 and nine months, and was buried at sea the next day. At the time of his death only Martin's parents and his best friend, Cec Hogan—who was himself only 16—knew Martin's real age. Nevertheless, on 18 December 1915, Melbourne's Herald newspaper reported Martin's death in an article titled "Youngest Soldier Dies". Although he was the youngest known AIF soldier killed during the war, Martin was likely not the youngest soldier to have enlisted. Albert Dunnington is believed to have enlisted a week before his 14th birthday, and served for 16 months, including a period on the Western Front, before being discharged.

### Honours and awards

Martin was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. His name is recorded on the Australian memorial at Lone Pine and on the Australian War Memorial roll of honour in Canberra.

*AWM Website / Wikipedia*

<p>Fuel \$2.09 per/L</p> <p>Full tank @ 128L = \$267.52</p> <p>Drive away without paying: Court date 6 weeks later and \$80 fine.</p> <p>Savings:\$187.52</p> <p>Follow me for more fuel savings tips!!</p>	<p>I FOUND A BOOK CALLED HOW TO SOLVE 50% OF YOUR PROBLEMS. SO, I BOUGHT TWO.</p>
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### Bruce Steel Kingsbury VC (1918–1942) by James C. McAllester

Bruce Steel Kingsbury (1918-1942), soldier and real-estate agent, was born on 8 January 1918 in Melbourne, second child of English-born parents Philip Blencowe Kingsbury, estate agent, and his wife Florence Annie, née Steel. Bruce was educated at Windsor State School and (on a scholarship) at Melbourne Technical College. At the outset of his career he preferred life in the bush and left the city for a job as caretaker on a farm at Boundary Bend by the Murray River. He and his boyhood friend Alan Avery later worked on sheep stations in New South Wales. Kingsbury returned to Melbourne, entered his father's real-estate business at Northcote and played in the Jika Cricket Association.

Enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force on 16 May 1940, Kingsbury was posted to the 2nd/2nd Pioneer Battalion before obtaining a transfer to Avery's unit, the 2nd/14th Battalion. The two young men were assigned to No.9 Platoon and formed a close friendship with Harry Saunders, brother of



that day as 'incomparable'.

The members of the 2nd/14th Battalion returned to Australia in March 1942. Five months later they were sent to Papua to halt the Japanese on the Kokoda Track. At Isurava on 27 and 28 August the Japanese, with superior numbers, repeatedly attacked the battalion's positions. On the 29th they broke through the right flank, threatening the Australians' headquarters. It was essential to regain lost ground immediately. No.9 Platoon had suffered heavy losses, but its survivors volunteered to join in a counter-attack. On his own initiative Kingsbury rushed forward with a Bren gun, shooting from the hip against terrific enemy machine-gun fire and inflicting many casualties. He waited for his comrades to catch up, but, before they did, he moved ahead again, still firing, until he was killed by a sniper's bullet.

For his coolness, determination, complete disregard for his own safety, and devotion to duty in the face of great odds, Kingsbury was awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion's second-in-command Major P. E. Rhoden recorded that Kingsbury's valour had demonstrated that the previously undefeated Japanese could be beaten, and that it also inspired the 2nd/14th's opposition to the enemy over the succeeding weeks. Kingsbury was buried in Bomana war cemetery, Port Moresby. A Melbourne suburb was named after him and a commemorative plaque was unveiled at his old primary school.

*This article was published in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 15, (MUP), 2000.*

**Ed. Bruce Kingsbury was the first Australian soldier to be awarded the Victoria Cross for actions in the South Pacific and the first on Australian territory**

Before you mock children who still believe in Santa.  
Remember there are adults who believe everything they read  
on Facebook.

### Wartime Scrap

This is a story about scrapping of some war-time aeroplanes.

In 1962 I was stationed at Talidig Continuation School about 30 miles north of Madang Township. Talidig was a boarding school for boys over the age of 11, and the nearest plantation to the school was owned by Mr & Mrs Tom Huxley and they grew cocoa. Tom Huxley had been a resident of PNG since the war years and would tell me tales of how as a contractor, he had helped with the rebuilding of Lae & Madang.

Easter that year I spent at the Huxley's plantation, when not on supervisory duties. Tom had received permission from the Catholic Mission at Alexishafen to remove some old war-time Japanese aircraft that were scattered throughout an area that they now wanted to replant with coconuts.

The Japanese had destroyed some of their plantations during





Outside Talidig School 1960. Note one of the schoolboys has a wooden leg. There were lots of sharks in the sea off Talidig. We sometimes used to fish with 'expanding bait' at Talidig where the locals then dived overboard to collect the fish, even if there were sharks in the vicinity. Photo Bob Collins

the war to build the air strip and they were only now slowly restoring the land to its former use. Tom was going to melt the planes down for the metal and sell it. Being mostly aluminium they would take a great deal of heat to get them to melt. He first dug a hole into the side of a small embankment and into this he placed an, old 3 m long oval shaped steel water tank with its wider side upwards. He then cut off the top section and built a tower next to it on which he mounted a 200 litre drum of dieseline with a tap and tube feeding into the tank under the lower end he dug a fire hole and across this he placed a large steel channel & cut a small hole in the bottom of the tank above the channel. The planes were then broken up into chunks and placed into

the tank a few pieces at a time.

A fire was then lit and we waited for the temperature to rise when he thought it was getting close to melting temperature the diesel tap was opened and the fire then erupted inside the tank as well. When the metal began to flow we pushed baker's bread tins along the channel under the hole and as each tin filled we replaced it with another. The hot tins were then cooled by hosing and the ingots emptied out and the tins went back for refilling this went on all over the 4 day weekend.

I helped by driving his tip truck around his plantation with his native workers picking up fire wood and by collecting the ingots. In the end we ended up with about 500 blocks weighing about 10kg each and worth about \$1650.00 a lot of money in 1962.

*Leonard Kelton Smith*



Editor on one of the Japanese aircraft near Alexishafen. 1960. This would be one of the aircraft mentioned in the article.

**Japanese Aircraft over Melbourne in 1942**

People who were out in the open on the morning of February 26, 1942, would have heard and seen a small black aircraft

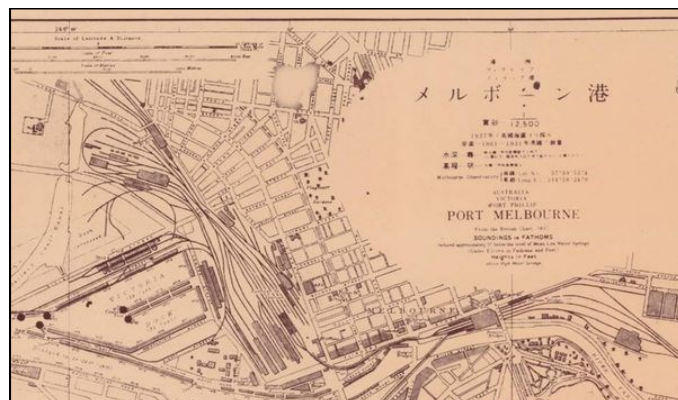


flying slowly over the Mornington Peninsula.

It would not have occurred to them that it might be an enemy plane. Everyone knew that Japanese aircraft could not possibly reach this part of Australia. It was just too far. Singapore had surrendered

almost two weeks before, but Singapore is a long way from Victoria. The raid on Pearl Harbour, however, had shown that the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) was capable of attacking targets over long distances. Few people in Victoria would have considered that the distance was greater from Japan to Pearl Harbour than from Melbourne to Rabaul, which had fallen at the end of January.

Though the surprise attack on Pearl Harbour had sunk or seriously damaged 16 warships, none of the US Navy's aircraft carriers were in the harbour that morning. The IJN needed to know where the carriers were and the location of any fleet which might be preparing to strike against it. The pilot and observer in the little black plane were here to check on Port Phillip.



This Chart of Hobsons Bay which the Japanese prepared in Tokyo in 1940, based on a 1937 British Chart, was a result of that flight. Another map with it contains critical information for assessing where to launch torpedoes from the air. The maps were found in the Headquarters of the Imperial Japanese Navy in Tokyo at the end of World War 2.

During WWII the IJN operated some of the largest submarines in the world, even a number which carried aircraft in a waterproof hangar. In the early hours of February 26 one of these, the I-25, had surfaced off the north-east tip of King Island. The small Yokosuka float-plane was removed from the hangar and, a couple of hours before dawn, launched from a catapult. It flew to Cape Otway, followed the coast to Point Lonsdale then turned towards Melbourne. Crossing the Bellarine Peninsula, it passed over Portarlington and flew into a cloud-bank.

To gain an idea of where he was the pilot descended to around 300m and broke out of the cloud right above the Laverton RAAF base. Because of the red roundel on the fuselage it was identified as Japanese by more than one at Laverton but it seems that no effort was made to pursue it. Continuing on his way, hiding in the clouds for a time, the pilot again dropped lower to determine his location and broke through the clouds above the anti-aircraft gun battery at Williamstown. As luck would have it, maintenance was being carried out on the guns and no shots were fired. The plane flew over Melbourne, observing the docks and ships in port, before turning to fly over St Kilda and Sandringham.

It then crossed the bay to Dromana and over the Peninsula to Cape Schanck where it turned towards King Island and landed

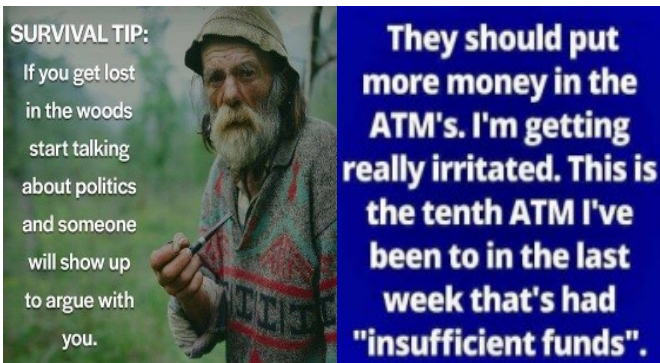


in the sea close to the submarine. It was quickly lifted aboard, stored in its hangar and I-25 submerged and continued its reconnaissance voyage. Flights were then made over Hobart, Wellington and Auckland before I-25 returned to its base (it had flown over Sydney before coming to Melbourne).

Because the flights from I-25 showed that none of these ports were sheltering a strong naval force, attacks were not made on any of them. In early April a powerful IJN force attacked Ceylon (Sri Lanka) seeking the Royal Navy's Eastern Fleet. The distance travelled was similar to a passage to Melbourne. Had the US carriers been in Port Phillip there is no doubt they would have been attacked.

In the days following the flight no mention was made in the Melbourne press. The Argus newspaper first reported it on August 20, 1945, (three years later) in an article copied from a New Zealand newspaper. Few Victorians then, or now, are aware of the day that WWII came so close.

*Maurie Hutchinson, Mornington Peninsula Magazine Feb. 2017.*



**It was a real labour of love**  
 Claire Hunter. 14 Sep 2020

Lisa Hilli, an Australian artist of Gunatuna (Tolai) heritage, discovered their little-known story while researching Australia and Papua New Guinea's shared war history as part of a creative commission for the Australian War Memorial, supported by the Anzac Centenary Arts and Culture Fund.

When the Japanese invaded Rabaul on New Britain in January 1942, a group of 45 F.M.I. Sisters refused to give up their faith. Instead, they risked their lives to help save hundreds of Australian and European missionaries and civilian detainees who were held captive by the Japanese for three and a half years, first at Vunapope and then in the dense jungle of Ramale.

When Japan invaded Rabaul in 1942, a lot of the Australians were evacuated, but the ones who stayed behind evacuated to Vunapope, and so Vunapope became this refuge, or safe haven, for a few months.

Vunapope was eventually taken by force by the Japanese, and in October 1942, the Japanese set up an internment camp to hold the Europeans, Australians and mixed-race



Ramale, 16 Sep 1945. View looking down on the mission, the home of 300 internees, mostly Catholic Missionaries.

children.

"It was only due to the courageous acts and efforts of Bishop Leo Scharmach that their lives were spared at all," Lisa said. "He was Polish, but he managed to convince the Japanese that he was German and they should spare the lives of the missionaries and the mixed-race children who were there at Vunapope." The Bishop is said to have told the Japanese he was the Adolf Hitler's representative in New Guinea and that they had to respect his status and those under his care.

At about this time, the Japanese declared that the Indigenous people of New Britain, including the F.M.I. Sisters based at Vunapope, were 'free'. "When the Japanese invaded the then Australian territory of Papua and New Guinea, they 'liberated' all the Papua New Guineans and held all the Australians and Europeans captive," Lisa said.

"The Japanese said, 'You're free; you don't have to worship your western masters' religion anymore' ... but the F.M.I. Sisters were completely loyal to their faith, and to their religion, and to their service to the Catholic missionaries.

"The F.M.I. Sisters basically risked their own lives and provided food for the Catholic missionaries and for the Australians and Europeans whilst they were held at Vunapope. They refused to give up their faith."

When Vunapope was destroyed during the Allied counter-offensive in June 1944, the Japanese marched 300 men, women and children six kilometres away into the dense jungle valley of Ramale.

The internees represented 17 different nationalities and came from countries such as Germany, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, France, Italy, Ireland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, America, Canada, Britain and Australia.



Ramale, New Britain, 14 September 1945. Daughters of Mary Immaculate, or F.M.I.

Despite Japanese efforts to stop the F.M.I Sisters from engaging and practising Christianity with the Australian and European Sisters, the women continued to devote themselves to God. They were determined to help keep the Australian and European missionaries alive by growing and harvesting fresh produce and delivering heavy baskets of it over gruelling distances, up and down a steep incline.

They started building gardens and growing food, and every day they would bring heavy bags of fresh produce, carrying them on their heads. The Japanese would stand guard at the top of the valley, and inspect the food to make sure they weren't smuggling anything else in.

They would then take the best of the food, and the Sisters would walk back down into the valley and give the rest of the food to the prisoners of war. And they did that every day.

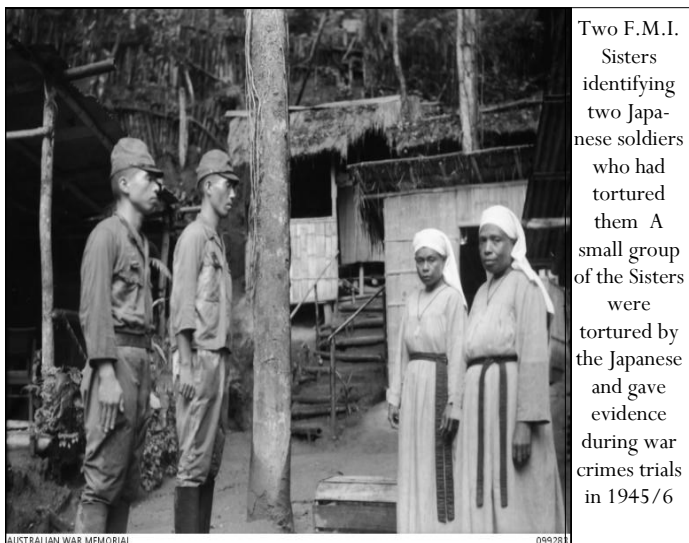
The Ramale camp was liberated by Australian troops on 14 Sep 1945 when troops of HQ 11 Division occupied the area following the surrender of the Japanese.

"It's an amazing story, and it's been sitting there for 75 years,



just waiting to be found," Lisa said. "The F.M.I. Sisters kept them alive essentially, but no one had really looked at them, and honoured them for it.

AWM Web Site.



Two F.M.I. Sisters identifying two Japanese soldiers who had tortured them. A small group of the Sisters were tortured by the Japanese and gave evidence during war crimes trials in 1945/6

### The Battle of the Pimple

The Battle of the Pimple was part of the Markham and Ramu Valley, Finisterre Range campaign, which consisted of a number of battles fought by Australian and Japanese troops in Papua New Guinea.

Fought on 27 and 28 December 1943, the battle took place as the Australians advanced towards the Japanese stronghold around Shaggy Ridge, and was a preliminary phase in their eventual capture of that position in January 1944.

Supported by artillery, mortars, machine guns and fighter-bomber aircraft, the assault was made across a narrow frontage, which was usually not much wider than a single section. Two companies of Australian infantry were committed to the attack, with one securing the initial crest, while the other exploited the position and secured several other smaller features throughout the two days of fighting. In the aftermath, Japanese artillery harassed the Australians holding the position, and subjected them to several counter-attacks, which were eventually defeated.

After the 9th Division had secured Finschhafen and Sattelberg, the next major objective in New Guinea was to capture Shaggy Ridge in the Finisterre Ranges, a series of high positions held by Japanese infantry, supported with some artillery.

This task was allocated to the Major General George Vasey's 7th Division, which had, after the capture of Lae, advanced to Dumpu before beginning an advance through the Markham and Ramu Valleys towards the Finisterre Ranges.

The 2/16th Infantry Battalion, was given the task of attacking the Pimple, and exploiting 400 yards (370 m) beyond it. The 2/16th had been reinforced with hundreds of new troops after earlier losses, with many coming from the disbanded 16th Motor Regiment.



The initial plan had been for the assault to begin on 21 December, but this was subsequently deferred so that the Australians could partake in Christmas celebrations.

An elaborate fire support plan was implemented, including artillery and mortar preparations and support by fire positions, which included Vickers medium machine guns. In addition, Kittyhawk fighter-bombers from the US Fifth Air Force also attacked the position, with aerial control being provided by Boomerangs from No. 4 Squadron RAAF.

Due to unpredictable weather, the final time of the assault was not set and in the early morning of 27 December 1943, as a thick haze of mist melted away from around The Pimple, the assault began with an air attack around 08:06 hours.

The 2/16th went in with two companies leading the assault: 'B' Company in the lead, with 'D' Company following it up. At the same time, the 2/27th Infantry Battalion carried out a feint attack along the Faria River. Overhead, Vasey viewed the battle in a Piper Cub light aircraft. 'B' Company attacked with a "one up, two back" formation for its platoons. Ladders fashioned out of bamboo were brought up to help the infantry scale the steep shale cliffs, but these proved too difficult to manoeuvre and were discarded in favour of climbing on hands and knees.

The preparatory fires had the desired effect and for the most part the defenders were dazed, reducing the effectiveness of their resistance. However, on the left of the assault, the advance was held up by a pillbox that had to be attacked from the flank by a section from the right. Exploiting the position, the section began to establish themselves near the summit by around 09:46, while the rest of the platoon pushed 100 yards (91 m) further towards another small outcrop, clearing Japanese from their entrenchments. Following the arrival of the Australian company commander with an artillery forward observer, another platoon pushed through the second outcrop in an effort to further exploit the position, but found itself held up around "Green Sniper's Pimple", as it came up against a strongly held Japanese bunker.



'D' Company subsequently arrived to consolidate the position and relieved 'B' Company, digging in throughout the night, and cutting a track up towards the bunker. Just before first light, Australian engineers

brought up makeshift chemical grenades which were thrown at the bunker to set it alight. Under the cover of an artillery smoke screen, one of the Australian platoons advanced up the eastern face of the ridge, in order to approach the flanks of the position. They took heavy fire, but secured the third outcrop by midday, and from there they were able to lay down covering fire for another assault on a fourth position along the ridge, which became known as "McCaughey's Knoll".

This gave the Australians full possession of the Pimple, and from there they had observation as far as the north coast where they could see Madang.

**Aftermath.** The attack was successful, driving the Japanese off the position on 28 December 1943; Australian losses during the main assault were low, with only three men killed and eight wounded. Japanese casualties reported by the Australians amounted to 28 killed.

Suzy Neve. *Australian Military History*

As I watched the dog chasing his tail I thought to myself how dogs are easily amused.  
Then I realised I had been watching the dog chasing his tail for the last five minutes.





**TOK BILOG GAVMAN**

Sipos yu painim sompela Japan i les long pait, yu gifim dispela pas. Sipos i savi wakabaut, i kan kam ontaim yupela nau painim soldia bilog yumi. Im i sik tumas, orait, yu brinim tok.

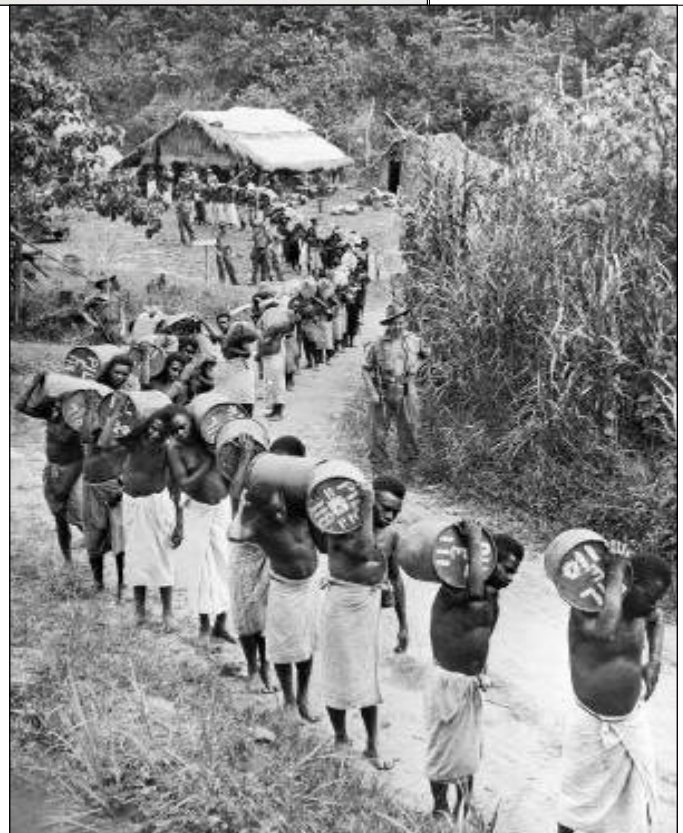
Tok im ol gut, mipela nokan kilim ol, kalabus dasol, nau salim ol iko long Astralia, na weitim pait i pinis.

**WOK BILOG GAVMAN.  
I GAT PEI.**

If you find Japanese who are not fighting, give them this pass. If they can walk they can come with you to our soldiers. If they are too sick, then you must tell us. Tell them we will not kill them, just take them prisoner and send them to Australia until fighting finishes. Work for the Government and you get pay.

**Suggestions For Ex-Navy People Who Miss "The Good Old Days"**

Sleep on the shelf in your wardrobe.  
 Replace the closed door with a curtain.  
 Six hours after you go to sleep, have your partner whip open the curtain, shine a torch in your eyes, and mumble "sorry, wrong rack" or "Your watch".  
 Renovate your bathroom, Build a wall across the middle of your bathtub and move the shower head down to chest height. When you take showers, make sure you shut the water off while soaping.  
 Every time there is a thunderstorm, go sit in a rickety, wobbly rocking chair and rock as hard as you can until you're nauseous. Don't watch TV, except movies in the middle of the night. Also, have your family vote on which movie to watch, then show a different one.  
 (Mandatory for as ex engineering types) leave a lawnmower running in your living room 2 hours a day for proper noise level. Have the postman give you a haircut.  
 Buy a garbage compactor and only use it once a week. Store up the garbage in the other side of your bathtub.  
 Wake up in the middle of the night and have a vegemite sandwich on stale bread.  
 Put on the headphones from your stereo (Don't plug them in). Go and stand in front of your microwave. Say (to no one in particular) "Microwave manned and ready". Stand there for at least 3 or 4 hours. Then say (again to no one in particular) "Microwave Secured". Roll up the headphones/cord and put them away. Set the alarm clock to go off at random times during the night. When it goes off, jump out of bed and get dressed as fast as you can, then run outside into your yard. Invite at least 85 people you don't really like to come and visit for a couple of months.  
 Have a fluorescent lamp installed on the bottom of your coffee table and lie under to read books.  
 Raise the thresholds and lower the top sills of your front and back doors so that you either trip over the threshold or hit your head on the sill every time you pass through one of them.



Papuan natives, known affectionately to the Australians as 'Fuzzy-Wuzzy angels', carry supplies during the fighting near Wau in New Guinea. The Australian forces owed much to native carriers who kept the forward troops supplied and helped to evacuate the wounded.



### Remains of U.S WWII soldier killed in PNG returned home for burial

The remains of a U.S soldier killed in Papua New Guinea during World War II have been returned to his Mississippi community for burial after nearly 80 years.

Pvt. Andrew Ladner was laid to rest Saturday at Wolf River Cemetery in Gulfport.



Ladner was assigned to the 126th infantry regiment in 1942. That November, his unit was part of the effort to cut off Japanese supply and communication lines coming from their beachhead at Sanananda Village, Territory of Papua, on the island of New Guinea, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

"They went through hell. The Japanese were prepared and a unit that started with 3,500 was decimated,"

casualties assistant officer Lt. David Leiva told WLOX.

The unit was successful on the mission, but 30-year-old Ladner and other soldiers died. For decades, his family mourned without being able to bury him.

"The battle was so hellish that they couldn't do what they do today, where we send them back. The unit had to continue fighting. They probably buried him at night," Leiva said.

After the war, the organization that searched for and recovered fallen American personnel, American Graves Registration Service, searched battle areas and crash sites in New Guinea. Investigators found no evidence of Ladner, and he was declared nonrecoverable Jan. 24, 1950.

In November 2016, remains of an unknown soldier were disinterred and sent to the DPAA Laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., for examination and analysis.

The agency said Ladner's remains were identified July 2021. Scientists used dental and anthropological analysis, and material and circumstantial evidence. Scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System also used mitochondrial DNA analysis.

Ladner's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been found.

*The Write Stuff, PNG.*

Two little boys were at a wedding when one of them leaned over and asked "How many wives can a man have?" His friend replied "Sixteen — four better, four worse, four richer and four poorer."

### Australia sends six 155mm howitzers and ammo to Ukraine

Australia has sent six M777 155mm lightweight towed howitzers and ammunition to Europe for on-forwarding to Ukraine.

In a joint statement today, Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Defence Minister Peter Dutton said the additional military assistance would further support Ukraine "in its response to Russia's brutal, unrelenting and illegal invasion"

"This \$26.7 million in new support for Ukraine takes Australia's total contribution to Ukraine to more than \$225 million," the statement said.

The statement did not say how much ammunition would be supplied.

The six guns were taken by truck from 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane last Friday and

departed earlier today on a C-17A Globemaster from RAAF Base Amberley.

The United States has pledged to provide 90 M777 155mm howitzers and 184,000 shells to Ukraine, from their total fleet of 1001.

Australia only had 54 guns to start with – now down to 48.



Four M777 155mm lightweight towed howitzer and other freight on board a RAAF C-17 Globemaster at RAAF Base Amberley awaiting departure for Ukraine

Earlier:

The last of 20 Australian Army Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles left RAAF Base Amberley last week, aboard a Ukraine-based Antonov AN-124.

Fourteen of the 20 Bushmasters supplied to Ukraine from Australia were equipped with remote weapon stations.

*Contact Newsletter 169*



Australian-donated Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles lined up ready to be loaded onto an Antonov AN-124 cargo aircraft at RAAF Base Amberley.

### Speech: Mark Foxe – Consul-General Lae, ANZAC Day, Lae War Cemetery, Monday 25 April 2022

Distinguished guests, veterans, ladies & gentlemen.

ANZAC Day is as much to honour and remember as it is to tell stories. So, as we await dawn, we turn our minds to Australia's baptism of fire, 107 years ago on a small cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

In the dark before dawn, the Australian 1st wave made their final approach to the beach. The boats, silhouetted against dawn's first light, grounded & men struggled ashore before pushing up the steep, scrubby climb under growing fire. As daylight increased, the 2nd wave, preparing to move ashore, could see what lay ahead.

During the last 200 yds, the 6th Bn rowed to the beach in the full light of dawn under shrapnel fire bursting overhead. After landing, heavy machine-gun & rifle fire took its toll. By 7am the 6th Bn were ashore, but many were casualties.

Among the 6th Bn was 22 y/o PTE Ernie Hitchcock. For his efforts in attending the wounded that first day he was MID'd. Then on the 8th May he would gain the DCM (2nd only to the VC) for conspicuous gallantry & devotion to duty in as-

sisting the wounded under constant heavy fire. His citation states "he exhibited a heroism beyond praise & regardless of danger attended to the wounded. By his coolness & courage he set a splendid example of devotion to duty to all ranks".

In July 1918, now an officer in the 6th Bn in France, 2LT Hitchcock led his infantry platoon in a frontal assault on a fortified German strong post. Despite being severely wounded, he succeeded in gaining his objective. For this action, his last in WW1, he would receive the MC.

After the war, Hitchcock, like many veterans, made his way to New Guinea. He ran a trade store in Lae before trying mining in Wau. When the next war came, he joined the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR). The volunteers were mainly long-time residents & included miners, planters, traders & government officials. Many were WW1 veterans, considered too old for enlistment in the 2nd AIF. But they were familiar with the terrain & importantly the local culture. LT Ernie Hitchcock, now almost 50, was allocated to the Salamaua detachment.

On the 8th March 1942 his detachment observed some 2000 Japanese troops land at Salamaua before he organised quick hit & runs, conducted demolitions & then disappeared into the jungle without casualties. Unable to be re-supplied & lacking modern weapons & equipment, Hitchcock led aggressive patrolling & close reconnaissance for 2 months until reinforcements arrived. By year's end, ill health & months of guerrilla fighting had taken its toll. When the NGVR disbanded in early 1943, Hitchcock transferred to the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB) with the rank of CAPT.

In his last WW2 actions, before being invalided due to his own ill health, Hitchcock's war service came full circle. In late June 1943 at Nassau Bay, south of Salamaua, Hitchcock was part of an amphibious landing again, this time with US forces & he was not under enemy fire or attending the wounded. He was leading A Coy PIB, who as scouts & guides were the tip of the spear for the Allied clearance operations through to Salamaua.

For his meritorious conduct, Hitchcock was awarded the US Legion of Merit. His citation, in part, reads "CAPT Hitchcock personally led a great number of patrols through enemy-occupied territory to secure vital information. By his exceptional bravery & technical skill, he contributed to the successful completion of our mission in the Salamaua area."

Ernest Hitchcock MC, DCM, MID, LOM, a hero of Gallipoli, France, & Salamaua, a resident of PNG for more than 35 long & colourful years, was killed in a road accident near Mittagong, NSW, on 9 September 1966. He was 74.

Lest We Forget those who have fought & died in the service of their nation. And Lest We Forget the NGVR, "the guardians of the gate."

*Thank you Consul General.*

**ADF supports election in PNG**

The main body of Australian Defence Force personnel deployed on Operation Kimba has touched down in Papua New Guinea to provide support for the country's upcoming national election, at the request of the PNG Government.

The joint task group members arrived at Jackson International Airport in Port Moresby on a RAAF C-17A Globemaster.

Commander of the joint task group responsible for Operation Kimba Wing Commander Michael Rouhan said 130 ADF personnel would work closely with the PNG Electoral Commission, the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, and Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary.

"Our personnel are providing specialist planning, logistics and air transport support to PNG authorities to assist with their national election," Wing Commander Rouhan said.

"This mission is enabled by the niche capabilities of the ADF, particularly the Royal Australian Air Force's C-27J Spartan and C-130J Hercules aircraft. These aircraft will support the transport of election material and personnel before, during and post the election period."

This is the second ADF deployment by Wing Commander Rouhan in support of PNG's national elections. He was part of the ADF's support to the PNG national election in 2012.

"I'm excited to be in PNG once again among the smiling faces of the locals and to support their country's democratic process," Wing Commander Rouhan said.

"I'm certain our people have the right training, capability and attitude to make a significant contribution over the coming weeks. The team are very excited to be here helping."

The ADF's support is part of the Department of Foreign Affairs-led whole-of-government assistance to the national elections, which is an extension of the ADF's long-standing partnership with the PNG Defence Force, through the ADF's Defence Cooperation Program.

*Contact Newsletter 173,*



**Thomas Henry Herket. 3309 WW1**

Studio portrait of an Australian prisoner of war (POW) 3309 Private Thomas Henry Herket, 53rd Battalion who was a 21 year old chauffeur from Sydney, NSW (born in New Zealand) when he enlisted and embarked for overseas with the 11th Reinforcements of the 2nd Battalion from Sydney on 2 November 1915 aboard HMAT Euripides.

He was wounded and captured at Fleurbaix, France on 20 July 1916 and held as a POW in various camps in Germany. After being transferred to Holland on 13 January 1918, he was admitted to the King George Hospital in London on 20 January 1918 and then returned to Australia on 5 January 1919.

Handwritten on the face of this photograph is: 'To Private Stephen Hall with best wishes from T. Herket 53rd Battalion AIF'.





Stephen Hall was a fellow POW.



AWM Website

Extracts from his medical records state. "Repatriated prisoner from Germany wounded in action. Shrapnel bullet in right ankle. States he had ten operation for abscesses. f.b. removed and necrosed bone 'Wounds now healed. Very little movement of ankle joint."

"foot much smaller. Joint ankylosed. Very little movement very little movement. Main movement at tarsal joint, foot inverted aducted an equine harus. (?) Scars healed now. Foot of little use.

Urine reaction:- Acid. Sp.Gr. - Albumin nil. Sugar Nil 15/4/20. Leg is slightly stronger now but condition stationery."

Thomas Henkel obviously made his way to Rabaul, New Guinea, and was taken prisoner when the Japanese invaded Rabaul in January 1942.

Thomas Henkel died as a civilian on the Japanese ship "Montevideo Maru" along with another 1052 POW's when that unmarked prison ship was torpedoed by a US submarine on 1 July 1942.

John Winterbotham, a friend of our Association, arranged for his name to be placed on the Wall of Remembrance, in the NSW Garden of Remembrance, at Rookwood .

Thank you for that John.

Men say women should come with instructions.... What's the point of that?  
Have you ever seen a man actually read the instructions?

### The F1: Australia's 'Soldier-Proof' Gun

Australia's F1 submachine gun is one of the most recognizable and yet least known of the weapons used in the Vietnam War. Selected to replace the popular World War 11-era Owen sub-machine gun after field testing in 1963, the F1 shared some of the Owen's characteristics: It had a simple blowback design and fired over an open bolt with a fixed firing pin. The F1 also employed its predecessor's curved, detachable top-loading 34-round magazine.

#### How was the F1 Soldier-Proof?

The magazine's location facilitated firing from the prone position, reduced jamming and ensured more rapid loading, but it also necessitated a slightly offset leaf sight that folded down into the receiver and an offset fixed foresight. The F1's ejection port is directly under the magazine, streamlining the firing and ejection process. But an unwary shooter could suffer a painful "bite" if his hand "wandered" back to the port while shooting.

Safety features included a bracket that prevented the shooter's



hand from moving into contact with the barrel while firing. The safety catch was above the trigger and could be operated easily

by the thumb. The weapon had a two-stage trigger pull—halfway back for semi-automatic and "pull and hold back" for full automatic. The F1 had a detachable wooden butt and pistol grip.

To reduce manufacturing costs, the F1 used the same butt plate and pistol grip as the Australian L1A1 self-loading rifle and could be adapted to mount the L1A1's bayonet. The F1's left-mounted cocking handle was in the same position as the rifle's. The F1 had a cover that prevented dirt and debris from entering the action, but if that occurred, the shooter could latch the cocking handle to the bolt and work it back and forth to clear away any fouling.

#### Who used the F1?

Carried by infantry squads, Australian artillerymen and armored personnel carrier crews, the F1 was powerful, easy to maintain and almost completely "soldier proof" in ruggedness and reliability. Even though the F1 weighed more than an M16 rifle, Australian troops found its compact size and reliability a virtue in the dense Vietnamese jungle, where most of their military operations took place.

The gun, which served with equal distinction in the 1991 Gulf War, was replaced by the Austrian-built F88C Austeyr rifle beginning in 1992.

Carl O. Schuster—Historynet.

I'm reading a book on Anti-Gravity—I can't put it down.

#### HMAS Ararat's crew rescues Solomon Islands police

The crew of *HMAS Ararat* rescued a Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) crew last Saturday after the police vessel was reported missing.

The Royal Australian Navy patrol boat's crew was responding to a search and rescue request from the RSIPF.

The crews of an Australian-contracted Forum Fisheries Agency King Air aircraft and an Australian Federal Police-contracted helicopter were able to locate the stricken vessel and contact those on board prior to *Ararat's* arrival.

Commanding Officer of *HMAS Ararat*, Lieutenant Commander David Martinussen, said the rescue was a collective effort between partners.

"I am very proud of how professionally the team in *HMAS Ararat* responded to assist our friends in need," Lieutenant Commander Martinussen said.

"The team was simply outstanding.

"We assessed the situation and quickly closed the search area from over 200 nautical miles (370km) away.

"The rescue was the result of excellent teamwork and a collective effort with our partners in Solomon Islands."

The rescued RSIPF personnel and other passengers on board were in good health when they were found.

They were transferred to *Ararat* where they were provided with fresh meals and water during the journey back to Korovou, Shortland Island.

The RSIPF vessel was put under tow and offloaded on return to the island.

Lieutenant Commander Martinussen said the crew of *Ararat* was privileged to be able to provide assistance.

"The crew of *HMAS Ararat* was pleased to be able to assist our friends and fellow mariners from the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force," he said.

"When we arrived on station, the vessel's crew and passengers were smoothly embarked in *Ararat* to ensure their health

and wellbeing.

"The stricken vessel was then taken under tow. After an overnight escort, the vessel and our guests were safely repatriated onto Southland Island the following morning.

"Today's events highlight the Australian Defence Force is ready and willing to respond when our Pacific family call on us for assistance."

*HMAS Ararat* is providing maritime surveillance support in the area at the request of the Solomon Islands Government.

Contact Newsletter 171,

Ed. Comment. "Wonder where the Chinese Navy was at the time?"



Passengers from the S.I. Police boat being transferred by RAN personnel to HMAS Ararat.

Not widely known is that, towards the end of WW11, Commandos from Z Special Unit often were assigned to US submarines for the purpose of carrying out reconnaissance or demolition duties at opportunity. The Commandos also carried a store of limpet mines if the opportunity arose to attack Japanese shipping whilst moored. The book "Australian Commandos" by A.B. Feuer details a number of these operations.

**Stars and Stripes over Pratas Island**

The US occupied the small island for a day towards the end of World War II

On Tuesday May 29, 1945, just a few minutes past zero-hundred hours, the *USS Bluegill*, a Gato-class American submarine, burst up through ghostly phosphorescent waves and into the glistening full-moonlit sea about three miles southwest of Pratas atoll in the South China Sea.

Within minutes, the topside hatches swung open. Emerging crewmen hoisted boxes of ammo, firearms, radio sets and life vests on deck. They assembled folding "fol-boats" and a large rubber equipment boat under the eye of two Australian commando officers assigned to the sub. When all was ready, the commandos boarded a folboat alongside in the sea froth, then loaded the gear, explosives and automatic weapons. With their oars, the commandos pushed off from the sub's steel hull, paddled easily and quietly toward the dimly visible white beaches on a 70-minute trip to low-lying Pratas Island, also known as Tungsha Island.

When the rubber boat swept with gentle breakers onto the nighttime sands, the two men leaped into the foam and dragged it into the beach's scrub fringe. They listened for any hint of a Japanese garrison. Nothing. Shouldering their weapons, they scouted up the underbrush margins to discover trenches, foxholes, remains of recent campfires — but no humans.

Another several hundred yards on, they confronted the nighttime shadows of two large wooden cannons guarded ostentatiously by two motionless figures in Japanese navy uniforms.

"We watched and waited for what seemed forever but was

probably no more than five minutes," one of the commandos later recalled; the guards were not fierce Japanese *kaigun rikusentai*, the Japanese Special Naval Landing Forces, but straw-stuffed scarecrows, armed with wooden sticks, immovable sentries for makeshift lumber howitzers.



In a methodical four-hour night reconnaissance, they crisscrossed the abandoned palm-forested island, its Japanese radio-weather station, the concrete jetty and barracks buildings, from end to end. On the north side of the encampment charcoal ash, fresh fruit and still-thriving flowers in a small Shinto shrine told the Australians that the island had been abandoned perhaps 10 days earlier. Confident that the island was safe, the Australians returned to the beach and radioed their mother-ship. The *Bluegill's* commander, with the all-clear from the shore party, signalled from the conning tower for the 10-man team on deck to load their landing boats and make for the beach.

Once on Pratas, the 12 invaders fanned out through the encampment and pier areas to document the island's topography, facilities and supply stockpiles.

The submarine log reads: "We assembled around the flag pole, and at 1022 on May 29, 1945, a handful of soldiers and sailors stood at solemn attention while the Stars and Stripes slowly ascended the flag pole and two captured Jap bugles blared forth. The land they now stood on was US territory! A plaque was then affixed to the base of the pole certifying the capture of the island by the crew of the *USS Bluegill*."

The Americans departed on May 29 as quickly as they arrived,



carting off canned Japanese vegetables, war souvenirs, neglected codebooks and any naval documents left unburnt. The Australian commandos set explosive charges to the rest of it. The Pratas was a dismal pall of smoke as the *Bluegill* set sail at 4:40pm that afternoon.

Taipeh Times. Nov 2018.



PNG rainforest. Central Bougainville. This natural growth forms a bridge between two huge trees.



### AWM's Places of Pride website is linked to the AN&MEF plaque at Circular Quay

Michael White's information about the AN&MEF is now on the AWM's Places of Pride website and is linked to the AN&MEF plaque at Circular Quay @

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/266470>

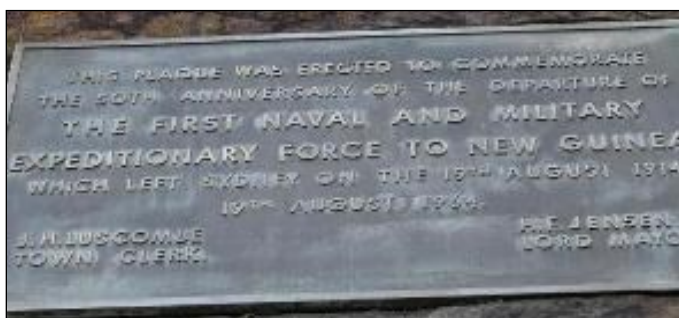
For those not able to access the site it reads:-

#### First Australian Military Engagement With Enemy Forces in WW1

On 18th August 1914, just two weeks after the Declaration of World War 1 and just seven days after enlisting, 1,100 Officers and men under the command of Colonel William Holmes formed into eight infantry companies, one machine gun section and a group from the Australian Medical Corps, marched from the Agricultural Showgrounds to Fort Macquarie from where they were ferried across to Cockatoo Island. There they were joined by some 500 Naval Reservists recruited from NSW, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, under the command of Commander Beresford, to become the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF).

The two groups had never met, and the naval and military officers were strangers to each other. The newly formed Force was loaded aboard the *Berrima*, a P and O liner that had been chartered by the Australian Government and had been undergoing an extensive refit to convert it to a 'merchant cruiser' carrying four 4.7-inch guns.

Around noon on 19th August the *Berrima* set sail, under sealed orders, making her way up Sydney Harbour to the Heads, where she turned left, confirming the widely held belief that she was off to the Islands.



After a period of training at Palm Island, off Townsville, she was joined by the Australian flagship, *HMAS Australia*, other Australian warships, the French cruiser *Montcalm* and submarines *AE1* and *AE2*, and arrived off Herbertshohe, German New Guinea, on 11th September 1914, where the Force had been tasked with knocking out the German wireless station at Bita Paka. The landing party met with some resistance from the German Military Reservists and local trainees and suffered casualties including AMC Captain Pockley and Lt Cmdr. Ewell. Having secured the wireless station some of the Force remained at Herbertshohe whilst the majority moved into Blanche Bay, landing at Rabaul where the German surrender was accepted, and the Australian Military Administration of German New Guinea commenced. The Australian Administration of German New Guinea which commenced in September 1914 continued until Papua New Guinea Independence in 1975.

The AN&MEF, as well as being the first military operation planned by the Australian Government, was also the first joint operation by the Australian Navy and Army, the first land operation of WW1, the first time Australian forces engaged with the enemy, the first to suffer casualties, the first to record a military victory, the first to occupy enemy territory, and the first to suffer the loss of a Naval ship, the submarine *HMAS AE1*. This was seven months before Gallipoli.

Having successfully completed their mission, the majority of the members of the AN&MEF returned to Australia in early 1915. Some 1110 subsequently joined the AIF and 153 were killed on Gallipoli and in France and Belgium. 7 were taken prisoner of war and 118 were awarded bravery medals including the MC, MM, MSM, DSO and DSC. A further 12 French and Belgium military honours were awarded, primarily in recognition of their service in New Guinea.

*Thank you Patrick Bourke*

A fine is a tax for doing wrong.  
A tax is a fine for doing well.

#### Assembling Junkers Bulolo early 1930's

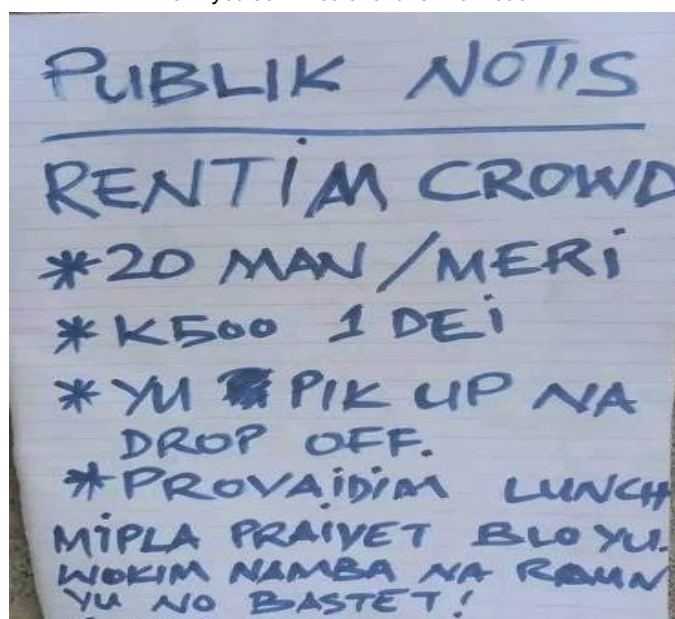
Last issue of HTT carried a photo of a Junkers being assembled at Bulolo in the early 1930's. Did anyone think about why a Junkers would be assembled at Bulolo and not Lae or Salamaua where they were shipped to, assembled and flown to Bulolo? Guinea Airways actually assembled them in Lae.

Adolph Batze, later with NGVR, was an aircraft mechanic and worked on this aircraft. Apparently it had crashed near the Watut River, near Bulolo. A team was flown up from Lae, went to the scene, dismantled the aircraft and had it carried in pieces back to Bulolo where it was re-assembled.

The most difficult portions of the aircraft to have carried back by local porters were the wings. Being long and straight they created a lot of difficulty getting back in one piece. I believe a large number of trees had to be felled to allow the wings to pass.

This was a single engine Junkers, being one of the early models.

*Thank you John Batze for this information.*



Election time in PNG.

Rent a crowd of 20 people for as little as K500/day. Lunch and pickup/drop offs must be provided. You are not a loner, we are here to beef up numbers in your rally. Together, let's get around in numbers".

Obviously people are becoming more resourceful in their quest for money. Once upon a time politicians just handed out cartons of South Pacific Beer to attract a crowd.

#### Census results – first-ever veteran head count

For the first time ever, it is now known that 581,139 Australi-

ans have reported they have served or are currently serving in the Australian Defence Force, as announced in the release of Census 2021 data 28 June, 2022.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh said there are 496,276 veterans and 84,865 current-serving ADF members, and that understanding these figures along with other demographic and lifestyle data was history-making.

"I am proud to announce that for the first time in Australian history, we know that there are more than half a million veterans in Australia, representing 2.8 per cent of the Australian population aged 15 years and over and equating to 1 in 20 households with at least one person who has served," Minister Keogh said.

"Currently around 247,000 veterans receive support from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), about half of the veteran population.

"This is a good sign that not all veterans have needed tailored support services, but I encourage those veterans who do need support and have not yet engaged with DVA or are not sure what help they can access, to reach out."

The Census 2021 data release also outlined key demographic information among current and former-serving ADF population.

"Knowing how many veterans there are and other key factors such as demographics, employment, education and health status is pivotal for the Australian government to target services and support to the right areas," Minister Keogh said.

"We now know that 13.4 per cent of our veteran population are female – the largest age group for veterans is 65-74 years, and 90 per cent of these veterans are male.

"With the largest Army base in the country, Townsville is home to the most veterans (8700) and current-serving ADF members (5500).

"Unsurprisingly, the Census 2021 results show that veterans are more likely to participate in volunteer work compared to the general population, attesting to the incredible contributions our veterans make to the community throughout their lives.

"Better understanding our veteran population through the Census 2021 will help guide the development and delivery of services and support for Australia's veterans, and will help inform the government's response to issues veterans are facing, such as health, housing and employment."

Contact News Flash 28 June 2022

<p><b>Are you involved in any dangerous sports?</b></p>	 <p>A Man asked a Fairy to make him desirable and irresistible to all Women.</p>
	<p>She turned him into a credit card.</p>

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my four-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds.

She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass.

As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"



The Japanese transport vessel *Myoko Maru* aground at Malahang. The damaged vessel, part of the resupply convoy from Rabaul, was run aground on 8 January 1943. This photograph was taken following the fall of Lae in September 1943. (AWM 015813)



This was the "Myoko Maru" in 1964 when I took this photo flying over Malahang from Lae to Pindiu. Bob Collins.



Pindiu Airstrip Morobe Province 1964. The bump in the centre was used where possible to take off. Sheer cliff at one end and steep hill at the other. One way in and one way out.



### Unveiling of Queensland State Indigenous Memorial

On 27 May a memorial to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women was unveiled by the Premier of Queensland Annastacia Palaszczuk in Brisbane's ANZAC Square.



The bronze memorial features four First Nations Army, Air Force, Navy, and Medical Services personnel and two dancers representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. The figures stand on a 'Journey Stone', which tells a story of leaving home then embarking on air, land and sea journeys, prior to returning.

The memorial is one of only a handful of memorials to Indigenous veterans in Australia. It honours, respects

and remembers Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have served and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The memorial represents past present and future Indigenous service men and women, given they are in service uniforms from various periods and the lone warrior at the front is in AM-CU [combat uniform] trousers, and is adorned with traditional scarring.

About 200 First Nations Elders, Australian Defence Force representatives, veterans, and philanthropists attended along with Lord Mayor of Brisbane Adrian Schrinner. RSL Queensland helped some remote Indigenous veterans come to the event.



Lorraine Hatton AM and Repatriation Commissioner, Don Spinks OAM.

Lorraine Hatton was one of those behind the memorial. She joined the Army in 1986 and spent the next 21 years taking part in peacekeeping, humanitarian, peace-monitoring and war operations. Though retired from the Army, she was appointed Indigenous Elder of the Australian Army in May 2020. Later

that year, she was appointed to the Indigenous Advisory Group at the Australian War Memorial.

Museum Curator Paul Brown was present at the ceremony as well as attending the First Nations Remembrance Day at the Shrine in ANZAC Square the following day. Paul's motive for attending was that in PNG he served with many indigenous PNGVR soldiers.

As well, when he worked for Brisbane City Council he worked alongside many indigenous ex-servicemen from Australia and Torres Strait, and it was a great opportunity, now that he has

been retired for a number of years, to renew old acquaintances.

It was announced at the time that this would be the last memorial in ANZAC Square as space is at a premium.



Museum Curator, Paul Brown, at the Memorial.

### 3rd Field Ambulance WW1

The 3rd Field Ambulance was the Field Ambulance Company that belonged to the Third Brigade of the First Division, comprised of 9th 10th 11th and 12th Battalions, all of which were drawn from the "outer States", namely Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania respectively.

The 3rd Brigade were the first to land at Gallipoli on the 25th April 1915 as the Covering Force and the Field Ambulances were soon in action being established near the beach.



The 3rd Field Ambulance at Helena Vale 1914 - the "man with the donkey" at Gallipoli, John Simpson Kirkpatrick is 2nd from the right in the third row. (source: SLWA 4343B/3)



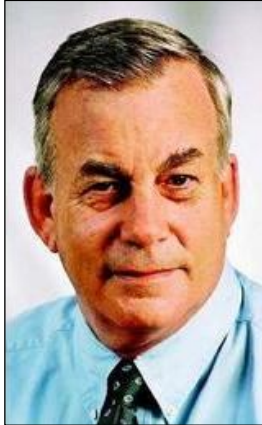
The 3rd Field Ambulance, in Egypt, after the Gallipoli campaign, in 1915. Each man is standing in the place he stood in for the above photograph taken in 1914 at Helena Vale in WA. (Source: SLWA 4343B-4).





**VALE: SIR PETER BARTER GCL OBE**

One of Madang's prominent icons, a former Regional MP for the province and a prominent businessman, Sir Peter Barter passed away this morning at the Cairns Hospital in Australia.



Sir Peter developed a rare terminal heart condition which he had for a long time, which couldn't be treated even at the Cairns Hospital where he passed away peacefully in his sleep.

At 82 years old, Sir Peter had a golden heart for Madang and early this year, in an interview with Post-Courier he had singled out that his family will carry on his legacy in business to continue as usual if anything happened to him.

Late Sir Peter Leslie Charles Barter, born 26 March 1940 was Minister for Health and Bougainville Affairs in the Papua New Guinea Government and had a major and upper hand in the peace process on the island of Bougainville.

Sir Peter was born in Sydney and attended Newington College (1952-1955) before training as a commercial fixed wing and helicopter pilot flying for Qantas.

He was a champion of the active reconciliation movement on Bougainville, and was there when the region signed its first peace agreement and travelled the breadth and length of the island preaching about peace to the leaders and the people of the island.

He established the Melanesian Foundation in 1980, a not-for-profit organisation that invested heavily on remote communities in Madang.

He was never a member of the PNGVR but in the early days of the Association provided support and information for the Association Medal applications. Whilst he was an Associate Member of the Association he paid full membership dues over the years.

He was knighted in the 2001 New Year Honours, on the recommendation of the Papua New Guinea government.

**LEST WE FORGET**

**Issue 133 of Harim Tok Tok advised that one of our most important Museum fund raising activities, the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Oxley, had been put on hold for 12 months due to flooding at Bunnings. We are pleased to advise that Bunnings Oxley have donated \$500 to our Association to assist us in overcoming this major hurdle in our fundraising. The Association thanks Bunnings Oxley for its most generous gesture, and we look forward to continuing our Sausage Sizzles next year.**

**The Association would like to thank KING & Co Property Consultants for its continuing support, including the printing of this edition, together with the past 76 issues of Harim Tok Tok. Its contribution is much appreciated.**

**JR Medals**  
 John & Vanessa Roxburgh  
 Ph: 0466 633 273  
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 15% Discount for all PNGVR members

**New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc,**  
**Includes former members of the PIR, PIB and NGIB.**

**For correspondence contact Secretary,** Colin Gould, email [pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:paulbrown475@gmail.com), Phone 0402 644 181 or Colin Gould email [pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au), phone 0424 562 030 (NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum, 1007 Boundary Road, Wacol, Qld, 4076)

**Membership fee payments to Treasurer,** Kieran Nelson email [kierannelson@bigpond.com](mailto:kierannelson@bigpond.com) Phone 0412 236 013 (NGVR & PNGVR Ex-members Association : BSB: 064006 - A/C: 10001126)

**Website Master:** Trevor Connell email [trevor.connell@internode.on.net](mailto:trevor.connell@internode.on.net), phone 0409 690 590 [www.pngvr.weebly.com](http://www.pngvr.weebly.com) (all back copies of HTT may be obtained from our website)

**Facebook Master:** Kieran Nelson, email [kierannelson@bigpond.com](mailto:kierannelson@bigpond.com), phone 0412 236 013 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ngvrandpngvrilitarymuseum/>

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**Chaplain.** Rev Ron MacDonald. Phone 0407 008 624 email [Cheryl.ron@gmail.com](mailto:Cheryl.ron@gmail.com)

NGVR/PNGVR service recollections are copyright.

**FUNCTION DATES**

**Sat 6 August Sat 3 September**  
 Museum open 10am—1pm.  
 The willing volunteers at the Museum spend a lot of time exhibiting new display items and refurbishing those that are already there. Even if you have been to the Museum before it is well worth another visit.

**Sat 13 August Sat 8 October**  
 Executive C'tee Mtg - Museum 10 a.m.  
 Members always welcome. BYO lunch, have a good look around the Museum at the new and re-arranged exhibits and catch up with old friends.