





HARIM TOK TOK





NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED.

VOLUME 13
JANUARY 1999

*Tom
you may be
interested
in this
issue
3/3*

PRESIDENT'S UP-DATE

HISTORIC MILESTONES NGVR and PNGVR	
19 Sept 1939	NGVR formed
21 Jan 1942	NGVR Mobilised
22 Jan 1942	Rabaul Invaded
08 Mar 1942	Salamana and Lae invaded.
29 June 1942	NGVR & Ind. Coy attack Salamana.
01 Jul 1942	Montevideo Maru sunk
29 Feb 1944	Start of the Admiralty Islands Campaign
12 Mar 1951	First CO PNGVR arrives in PNG.
17 Mar 1951	Recruiting commences in Port Moresby
14 Jun 1952	US Distinguished Unit Citation presented to Brewer Force & passed onto B Coy PNGVR Rabaul
17 May 1969	Colours presented to Regiment in Lae.
01 Dec 1973	Regiment Disbanded
25 Apr 1974	Colours laid up in the War Museum Canberra

Another year has passed with solid achievement in all areas. 1999 will prove to be one of formal endeavour because of our submissions for the Australian Active Service Medal and PNG Community Service Medal. The R.S.L also carried a motion for an "Australian Defence Force Medal" (ADFM) to be considered by the Federal Government.

With the proposed closing of Wacol Army Barracks, we are now faced with the task of finding a home base for our future A.G.M's and memorabilia. Our major function, the Anzac Day reception is firmly in place at the Old Stock Exchange Hotel in Brisbane, with confirmed bookings for 1999 and 2000. I am pleased to report that a new system of food distribution adopted in 1998 appears to have overcome past problems on Anzac Day.

Funds are required for the two main areas of our operation:-
 1- Administration (Postage/faxes/newsletters/fee notices etc) and 2- The growing Welfare support area (funeral services/phone calls/home visits) Membership fees are the main source of our operation income, but with some 26% of our members currently in arrears up to three years, our funds are in need of a boost.

In 1998 the AGM increased membership fees to \$20pa the effect of which will not be felt until later in 1999. We have almost 300 members but arrears now amount to \$1865. How does this state of affairs come about, you may well ask? Don't we have in place a reminder system? Yes, we do! A very polite one, but your Association can no longer service or carry unfinancial members. I am making a personal request to all unfinancial members to forward their outstanding fees before the 5/2/99. As with any Association, unfinancial members may be struck off the membership roll. Members with overdue fees will be advised accordingly.

Our Patron Sir Dennis Buchanan, Kt.B. MBE. has again generously made available FOC travel for four members of the Association to travel to Townsville for the annual Military Excellence Award presentation to 31 RQR. A report from the delegation leader, Major Juergen Raasch is included in this newsletter. Our sincere thanks to Sir Dennis and Flight West Airlines for their ongoing support.

Your Committee accompanied by various members has attended and given our formal farewell to those members who have passed into the Silence. Our NGVR/PNGVR funeral service is made available only at the request of the family concerned.

Our dedicated Welfare people do need early information on any member who may be sick or in need of comradeship. Although we cannot offer financial support, we can offer help and assistance to the member and family. Mr Bruce Crawford, the Committee's Solicitor and member Utz Wellner, also a Solicitor, will render legal assistance on terms suitably accept-

able to members if needed.

Some critical comments have been received by some Committee Members regarding the history of the NGVR and PNGVR. Over the years there has been a number of history writings on the regiment so perhaps the time is right to forward to all members a brief history of the Regiment so that we all have the same information. Such information may be useful with your local media for Anzac Day etc.

In closing, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Executive Committee for their dedication and support and to the Secretary for keeping the administrative wheels rolling and loyalty to this Executive.

Happy New Year and good health and success in your endeavours in 1999

H N Green
PRESIDENT

PATRON:	Sir Dennis BUCHANAN, Kt.B., MBE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1998/9	
President:	Colonel Harry N GREEN, MBE, ED, EM (Rtd)
Senior Vice President:	Tom LEGA, MM. (NGVR Representative)
Junior Vice-President:	Major Tony MILAN, RFD, ED
Secretary:	Colin GOULD, Assoc Dip Bus(Mngt), AFAIM, JP(Qual).
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Assistant Treasurer:	Major George BAGAJLUK
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Welfare Officer:	Bill BICKERTON
Members Representatives:	WO1 Joe FISK, RFM, EM WO1 Norm MUNDY, RFM
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Assistant Historic Officer:	Tom DOWLING

Assistant Welfare Officer:	Frank COLEMAN (Sydney Representative)

FLIGHT WEST AIRLINES
Proudly supports the NGVR /PNGVR Assoc.

NGVR RECOLLECTIONS

Some N.G.V.R. memories 1942-1943

by

Dr Edwin Tscharke, AO. MBE. (NG2480 W.O.2)

I have often felt that I should record details of what took place at Finschafen when all ordained and lay missionaries and Dr Agnes Hoeger, the last white woman here, had to suddenly leave Lutheran Mission Finschafen at the time of the imminent invasion by the Japanese into Papua New Guinea.

The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR), was formed of European residents living in New Guinea who were planters, gold miners, school teachers, government officials, missionaries and other personnel living in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. They were made aware of the seriousness of the war situation when on 15th February 1942, 70 Japanese bombers and fighters, most probably from Gasmata, New Britain, flew directly over us at Finschafen at mid-day heading for Lae, bombing Lae and Salamaua to the ground.

All European women and children had been evacuated from this entire area just before Christmas 1941. On the 16th February 1942 representatives of the NGVR came to Finschafen where I lived as well as other missionary staff, as doctors, teachers and lay missionaries and we were suddenly called to Finschafen Lutheran Mission headquarters bulk store. This was

the shipping port where the mission ship MV BAVARIA was anchored. Here the military officials waited till it was getting dark and then commanded us, including Dr Hoeger to get aboard and the ship left for an unknown destination which later turned out to be Lae.

We arrived shortly before day break. The reason why we travelled by night was that the Japanese planes were over us all the time and no lights or lamps were to be lit at any time. During the following days at Lae we were under close military supervision where sorting out of personnel took place. A group of us were eventually sent overland by the military to the gold mining valley and the township of Bulwat which was part of the towns in the Wau Bulolo Valley where over 12 huge goldmining dredges were stationed.

At Bulwat the officer in charge of the NGVR unit called me into his office and handed me an enlisting paper. After I had read it he asked me if I would sign the document, to which I said, "Yes". Following this he said "here is your rifle and bayonet and bullets now get on your way to Lae with the other soldiers". This took several days, until we arrived at Nabzab air strip near the Gamatzung mission station where our difficult military patrols began. (cont over page)



Dr Ed Tscharke, AO.MBE. (right) presents Colonel Harry N Green, MBE. ED.EM and Tom Lega, MM (left) with two books "God's Maverick" and "A Quarter Century of Healing"

The war situation was now real. No fires could be even lit to boil water for a cup of tea.

"I say it's only by the grace of God I survived."

It was a very frightening time. After approximately six months food ran out. No natives with gardens were to be found anywhere. When our health was deteriorating fast with malaria and dysentery and of course malnutrition, the order came, "Get out if you can to Port Moresby over the Bulldog Track - there's no more food here".

The Japanese were over us all the time by planes and in the jungle. I say it's only by the grace of God I survived.

One story may interest readers. Five of us soldiers picked up our rifles etc and rucksack and walked towards the Bulolo Valley. Because we couldn't boil water as smoke would give our position away to the Japanese for a bomb to be dropped almost immediately, we drank water from the Markham River, knowing full well the river was used as a toilet by the New Guineans. As a result I got acute dysentery.

"Maski mi bai dai hia"

The five of us were each given a young native to help us on our way. My help was named WASHEMI. Our trek seemed indeed almost impossible as we were all suffering from malnutrition. After a days walk or so we came to a flooding river with no bridge over it. There was however a fairly long tree still with limbs reaching across the chain wide river which was a raging torrent in flood.

When I saw this river I collapsed to the ground and said to Washemi, "Maski me bai dai hia" (Let me die here). Because of my ill health I could not keep up with the others. After a while I became aware that Washemi had left me. Some time later he touched me and said, "give me your rucksack". I asked "Why?". He said he was going to take it across to the other side of the river going over by the tree trunk bridge, and left me a second time. I was almost too weak to talk because of my severe dysentery and malnutrition. After a while Washemi stirred me up again and said, "give me your rifle, bayonet and bandolier (this had 25 bullets) and once more he was gone as I was too weak to look and see what he was really doing.

After a while he was back again and said, "Masta, I want to carry you on my back across the river over the tree trunk bridge". Washemi was no taller than 5'

3", if that. I struggled up from where I was lying. I doubt if I weighed more than 100 lbs. I was only skin and bones. He finally got me on his back and held my two legs and slowly walked across that tree bridge with me. What a miracle. This fuzzy wuzzy man was to me truly an angel, and I cannot thank and praise the Lord enough for this unforgettable experience. I have never in all the years after the war been able to meet my angel Washemi, a short Sepik native.

I finally caught up with the other four soldiers who were in a reasonable close village and where there was a small army medical outpost. Here I received treatment for my dysentery condition and after a later fairly decent New Guinea meal, I was able to gain strength. Once we got into the gold mining town of Bulwat we could have reasonable meals and my legs began to get stronger. But the threat of war was far from over and once more we were given orders to burn all houses and trade stores and get out onto the Bulldog track and over the mountains on our way to Port Moresby. Our group of men was about now twenty-five. We went on trucks along a bush track when suddenly the order came, "Abandon your trucks"! Then came the next order. "Go and push all the four or so vehicles over the cliff into the river and start walking"!

I might just say that after the war when our children were in Katherine Lehman School at Wau, I took my wife Tabitha and our children Margaret and Michael in a vehicle out along that road and finally to the spot where the road ended and low behold - deep down in the river's rocky ledge lay the rusted remnants of these vehicles - to me especially in bought back memories of those difficult days which unless you have gone through this, it cannot be understood.

From there we walked and walked until the high mountains of the Bulldog track taxed our strength to the utmost, so much so that I could not carry my rifle anymore., which I told the officer. He replied, "A soldier never gets rid of his rifle". Some distance on I finally was on the verge of collapse when this time he said to me, "I will look the other way, do what you want to do with it." I took the bolt out of my rifle and threw the bolt and rifle in different directions into the mountain jungle growth. All I had now was my rucksack with a few clothes and then my Bible which my parents gave me at the time of my commissioning in 1940, and my baptismal and confirmation certificates and two pictures which I had ripped out of their picture frames when I had to hastily abandon my little room at Salankaua Finschafen home when I was given

to take what I could out of my possessions and then was led by a soldier away to our MV Bavaria mission ship where all the remaining missionaries were. Finally we were taken to Lae.

“I can only remember that when the sun came up and when the sun went down another day had gone and that is as far as our brains could think”

Now back to the Bulldog Track where we were in such mountains that a person could shout or talk to a person on the opposite mountain top and be understood, still it would take a full day to walk there by foot, climbing up and down to reach there. Quite unexpectedly we came upon a group of natives known as the Kukakukas. There were no women about and this was a sign that if we wandered from our group we may never be seen again. They were friendly and bought us sugar cane to eat but we did not trust them. When people ask me how many days did it take you to walk to Port Moresby, the answer is I can't remember. I can only remember that when the sun came up and when the sun went down another day had gone and that is as far as our brains could think.

Eventually we came to a small military camp which was on the banks of the Lakikama River. Here we relaxed and ate a normal meal again although our appetite had changed and often we didn't feel like eating much. There were no boats around. When one of our group produced a tomahawk we cut down suitable trees and made a large raft and floated our way several days down to the river mouth where we were finally met and were offered a launch by the Catholic Mission to go to Yule Island on the south coast of Papua. Here the Catholic Mission were still working as though there was no war in PNG. Here our group were looked after well and we slept in the student's dormitory. After four days a boat bound for Port Moresby was ready to go. It took at least a whole day or maybe two days to reach Port Moresby, but I cannot remember exactly.

You have been written off our records and are no longer on our list of NGVR soldiers.....we haven't heard of you for weeks and now regard you as members of the LOST LEGION.

When we arrived at Port Moresby there were the dangers of the mine fields, little did we know that we

had crossed over a mine field with our shallow boat as we sailed into Port Moresby harbour. I actually saw one mine just below our boat as we sailed over it and all of us were absolutely frightened of what may happen next. The sky lit up with searchlights and bombers and fighters were everywhere. We made it ashore and were taken by army vehicles to more army officers where we were told *“you have been written off our records, and are no longer on our list of NGVR soldiers. You have no rifles or bayonets and we regard you as lost in action as we haven't heard of you for weeks and are now regarded as members of the LOST LEGION. We will have to re-enter you onto our record files with all your personal details including your army number NG 2480.”*

We were then checked out medically by doctors where I was found to have malaria and a 5 plus spleen, stretching across the midline below the liver (normally the spleen cannot be felt). Those who were still well enough (of which there were only 2 out of our 25) had to go into the Kokoda Track battles. The remaining men had to prepare to be transferred to Australian hospitals.

We landed at Cairns and after several days were directed into train cattle trucks where we lay on the floor all the way to Brisbane. At Brisbane military HQ we were checked out one by one. Here I discovered I had lost my South Australian identity and was now listed as a Queenslander. A few days later I had a very severe malaria attack and was taken by ambulance to Redbank Military Hospital where I was for six months between hospital and convalescent camp.

The story isn't finished here but this is a short resume of the first nine months in 1942 of some of my hazardous experiences in the war, being saved by God's grace. In 1943, although I was classified by the Army as “B” grade in health, unfit to return to PNG, I volunteered to go back and was accepted on the basis that I could speak the New Guinea language “Pidgin”, as they urgently needed men who could, and so I was back in New Guinea within two weeks.

Ed Tschärke was the “Albert Schweitzer” of PNG. Working with leftover war equipment he bought basic but effective medicine to an island community (KarKar), even performing major surgery and was a world pioneer in primary health care spanning 41 years.

Ian Frazer - Author of “God's Maverick”

AROUND THE TRAPS

ANZAC DAY 1998 VILLERS-BRETONNEUX FRANCE by Capt. Jes Hansford in the UK.

The town of Villers-Bretonneux is twinned with Robinvale in Victoria. After the war, in 1923, the city of Melbourne adopted the town and the primary school which had been destroyed in the fighting was rebuilt with money raised by Victorian school children. Victoria units were prominent in the Villers-Bretonneux battles. Both towns have approximately the same number of inhabitants (3500) and the Robinvale area supplied a large contingent to the first AIF.

The German Offensive-March 1918. Only 16 km east of Amiens, Villers-Bretonneux was the key to the defence of the city as it was on higher ground, had many thick woods around it and sat astride the railway line. The Germans were determined to capture the town after which nothing would stand in their way to the coast, divide the allied armies and proceed to Paris and victory.

On March 28th the British First Cavalry Division halted the British withdrawal in front of the village of Hamel, between the Somme river and Villers-Bretonneux and the town itself. The German high command bought up sixty railway construction companies to restore the battered railway lines and thus flow in men and guns and ammunition and supplies.

Fifteen German divisions attacked on 4th April 1918 after a heavy artillery bombardment. Their northern thrust was stopped by the British First Cavalry and the AIF 33rd Battalion. The 33rd battalion CO was Lt.Col. L J Morshead.

In Villers-Bretonneux, Lt.Col. R A Goddard, in charge of 9th Brigade troops ordered the CO 36 battalion, Lt.Col. J A Milne to counter-attack. The dramatic and heroic bayonet charge blocked the German advance from Monument Wood, the enemy withdrawing more than a kilometer and the front was stabilized. At this time the front between Albert and South of Villers-Bretonneux, about 25 km was held by the Australians. German artillery on the 17-18 April 1918, in preparation for a second attempt to capture Villers-Bretonneux, drenched the woods and valleys, in around and behind the town with mustard gas causing 1000 Australian casualties. Gas was again used on the 23rd April and at dawn on the 24 April the German attack broke the British line and captured the town.

The AIF 13, 14, & 15 brigades were hurried into battle. The 51st and 52nd battalions were ordered to Monument Wood and to let nothing stop them. During the fight for the wood Lt. Clifford Sadlier of 52nd battalion won the VC and Sgt. Charlie Stokes the DCM. Brig. General Elliott's 15 brigade was in action north of the town. Part of the 59th Battalion supported by 57th and 60th Battalion made a ferocious bayonet charge in bright moonlight to rout the German positions in orchards. At the same time on the southern edge of Villers-Bretonneux, the 50th and 51st battalions drove the Germans out of Abby Wood. The diggers spent Anzac Day (although not known as Anzac Day until 1923) in street and house fighting in the town, completing the clearing on the 27 April 1918.

During the second Villers-Bretonneux action, the 8th Brigade suffered 188 casualties, the 14th Brigade 346, the 15th Brigade 455. The 51st Battalion alone lost 365 officers and men. British and French commanders were generous in their praise for the Australian effort, especially the bayonet charges.

Villers-Bretonneux holds a special appeal as it was from the commonwealth war graves cemetery, Adelaide Cemetery, that the unknown soldier was exhumed for reintervening in the Australian War Memorial Canberra on the 5th November 1993. This cemetery is one mile west of Villers-Bretonneux.

Of course having decided to visit the Somme area, my wife Kaye and my families provided information, Kaye's Grandfather Cpl. Sylvester BOLAND (22nd Battalion)(Vic.) was gassed and I had 3 uncles in 33rd Battalion, Privates A, A. & W ROACH.

We drove from Scotland and crossed the English Channel by car ferry on 24th April 1998. These ferries carry 1200 passengers, 600 cars, 200 trucks & trailers and 125 Coaches, and take 90 minutes per crossing - a two day visit costs A\$195 return. Anzac Day 1998 dawned cold and wet. A long line of cars was parked both side of the road and both sides of the memorial for 500 m. The Memorial is situated a little over a km north of Villers-Bretonneux. The Memorial and Cemetery is most impressive, the entry with twin granite porticos and steps, the headstones lining both sides of the avenue leading up to the Great Cross then a

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wide plain area in front of a tower connected to two side porticos with granite walls, on which are inscribed over 10,797 names in corps order, in rank and alphabetically.

The cemetery is a concentrated area, Australian losses in the battle number over 1,200 buried in this and surrounding cemeteries. 1,089 soldiers lie here of which 779 are Australian. Most were suffered by 15 (Vic) infantry brigade, which was in the forefront of the battles for the town.

The tower shows bullet and shell damage from WW2. A short sharp action in 1940 when the French Senegalese troops placed a machine gun in the tower. The bullet marks are the result of a tank and ME 109 attack by the Germans.

The memorial is the Australian National Memorial to those members of the AIF lost on the Somme and surrounding area who have no known grave and no known memorial. At 0930 hours on Anzac Day 1998, a platoon of French infantry debussed and ceremonially (Desert March) marched their Colours accompanied by the local brass band to the twin flag masts adorned with Australian and French flags at half mast. The Australian party consisted of the Ambassador and entourage, Mr David Jull, MP from Queensland, four party members from the war graves London, staff college Canberra students (20). The French party included the local Mayor and dignitaries, Members of the French/Australian Association, school teachers and local authorities. Locals numbers some 300 and visiting Australian some 100, including serving servicemen and women who had paid their own way.

Forming into a hollow curve around the front of the memorial masts the band played both Anthems and Last Posts, wreaths were laid in a simple but moving ceremony, taking a short 90 minutes.

Marching off the Colours, the soldiers and band then

preceded the group to the town memorial and a similar ceremony took place, after which everybody walked to the school. A large sign in English is painted permanently across the front of the school weather shed 'NEVER FORGET AUSTRALIA' and two inscribed stone tablet are in place at the main entry. A museum is well shown and documented inside the school, we were asked by French school children did we have any Australian money for souvenirs, of course after living in the U.K. for the past year we were unable to oblige.

The school weather shed was set up with tables of food and champagne (French of course) locals outnumbered the visitors but a most memorable fete was enjoyed, the locals joining in conversations.

Again the main parties, less the Army, assembled and moved off to Bullecourt, some 25km north of Villers-Bretonneux, arriving at 1400 hours. A similar ceremony took place, commemorating the 4 Australian Divisions, 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th AIF which took part in the two battles of Bullecourt in which over 10,000 diggers were lost.

No cemeteries are in this area around the village, many casualties have no known grave being buried by the Germans. Others died in hospitals in the rear areas and are buried there. The Bullecourt digger was cast in bronze in Australia and erected over a smaller memorial in 1993. After the ceremony most Australians retired to the local three pubs, one of which is named 'Le Canberra' a small museum complete with five guns, German, British, Italian and French.

Our accommodation was in the former Australian billet of Bavelincourt, a former French mansion now a 3 star chamber D'Hote (Bed & Breakfast) and a Gestapo HQ in WW2. And so Anzac Day 1998 celebrated by Villers-Bretonneux for the Australian relief of their town and the huge sacrifice of lies came to a memorable end.

RSL NEWS OCTOBER 1998 courtesy of Ken MacGowan

Recommendation:- 'SERVICE MEDAL - That the Australian Government institutes a new award for service in the Australian Defence Force, to be called the Australian Defence Force Medal (ADFM). Conditions:-

- * Service in the Australian Defence Force in any category after WW2, and * Completion of a minimum qualifying period of three (3) years Full Time service or Part Time equivalent efficient service, or
- * Completion of any lesser period for which he or she was engaged to serve, and * Being discharged medically unfit for further service prior to the above qualifying periods due to injury, disease or death which occurred as a result of service or whilst on duty, and * having gained an Honourable Discharge.

WE WERE THE FIRST

Last year members Don Hook and Ian Sayers attended a book launch in Canberra when the temp was minus 7 degrees. Don writes.....

A book of considerable interest to NGVR/PNGVR members, 'We were the First' is the story of Australia's first commando unit, the 1st Independent Company, raised at Wilson's Promontory in Victoria in 1941.

The Independent Companies were modelled on Britain's commando forces and trained by British experts, including Captain "Freddie" Spencer Chapman, a prodigy of Lord Lovat of *Lovat's Scouts*, who was in charge of field craft, and Captain Mike Calvert, who was in charge of explosives and demolitions (a man said to be as dangerous in the field as he was in the Mess).

The popular thinking was that the First Independent Company would be deployed in North Africa or possibly Europe. To their surprise the 270 members were sent to Kavieng with sections later despatched to Manus Island, Namatanai, Buka Passage, Tulagi and Port Vila.

In early 1942 most of the unit were either killed or captured by the invading Japanese. Some 143 died when the *Montevideo Maru* was sunk on 1 July 1942. But for the 25 members of No.3 Section on Bougainville, the war was just beginning. They stayed there until April 1943, working behind Japanese lines with the coast-watchers.

Sandy McNab, the author of "*We were the First*", was one of those on Bougainville. His diaries have provided an incredible insight into the hardships suffered and the results achieved.

"We wouldn't have lasted any time if it hadn't been for the Bougainville people," Mr McNab recalled at the launch of his book.

"We withdrew to the high mountains and we made a base. From there we would send patrols out in all directions all the time". He said that they sent out small fighting patrols which encountered parties of Japanese soldiers several hundred strong. "The Japs wouldn't come into the hills after us. They knew we were there but didn't make a concerted effort to get at us," he said.

From January to August no one supplied us at all. The hardest thing was the loneliness. For the first 7 months

we had very poor rations.

The situation improved once the Americans landed on Guadalcanal in August 1942. It was also the time the coast-watchers performed some of their most valuable work, radioing reports of Japanese ship and aircraft movements.

By April 1943, it was decided that their work on Bougainville was done and they should be withdrawn. They evacuated by submarine and returned to Australia. The 1st Independent Company was never reformed.

Four members including Section Leader Lt John Mackie, were awarded the American Silver Star Decoration for gallantry in action.

The book launch was carried out by Major General Adrian Clunies-Ross, AO, MBE. (Ret) Maj-Gen. Clunies-Ross was a young Lt in the post war PIR. His first company commander was Major John Mackie.

Maj-Gen Clunies-Ross mentioned that his wife, Julienne, has sailed from Rabaul with her mother on Boxing Day 1941, just before the Japanese invasion in January 1942. Her father, C V "Tony" Anthony, stayed behind. He was a member of NGVR and later served with ANGAU.

The book is a great read and well illustrated with photographs of pre-war Kavieng, including Tsang Tsang's pub which was the unit's favourite "watering hole".

The book is available from:-

Australian Military History Publications, 13 Veronica Place, Loftus, NSW 2232 Tel/Fax (02) 9521 6515
Price in 1998 was \$45 which includes postage.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW????

Mail returned unclaimed??? Members seeking to make contact??? CAN YOU HELP ?

Lt.Col Michael Dennis, MBE: John Carol (Madang)
Nev Frazer (Hgn) Allan Uhlmann (Hgn) Mick Kilkerry (Rab) George Lee (Rab) Tim Holt (Pom) Bernie Arnold (Madang) Percy Neville (Madang) Bob Gerkie (Hgn)

Did you know.....

THE RISING SUN

The origin and development of the Australian 'rising sun' badge is one of the most interesting aspects of Australian military history.

Appropriately enough, it began with a collector, a major in the South Australian forces, who thought of the design to mount on his collection of bayonets. He asked a captain in the South Australian navy to help him build a trophy-shield, using timber and brass.

This shield seems to have come into the possession of Gen. Sir Edward Hutton, who was appointed to command the military forces of the new Commonwealth of Australia. The trophy of arms, fixed above his office door, comprised a semi-circular red-painted board, on which the bayonets and sword-bayonets were arranged alternately, surrounding a crown cut from sheet brass. Specifically the weapons were the Martinihenry rifle triangular socket bayonet and the cut-and-thrust sword-bayonet.

In 1902 when the 1st Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse was being raised for service in the South African war the GOC apparently decided on a general service badge and suggested 'something like' the trophy of arms. The contingent was due to leave five days later and a first badge was hurriedly struck. It consisted of seven triangular points above 'Australia' and the crown on a form of wreath base.

The design was amended for later contingents, with six intermediate points between the larger ones. The metal around 'Australia' was pierced, probably to sew a piece of coloured cloth beneath. Still later that year another variation was struck with the 'Commonwealth Horse' forming the badge's base; it was worn by Australian troops who went to London for the coronation of King Edward V11.

It is possible that the badge designers were symbolically including the six-pointed Commonwealth Star, which is the major part of the crest of Australia. The origin of the 'rising sun' title given to the badge is connected neither with the sun, nor heraldry, nor history, but with a brand of jam. Until about 1906 the only building near Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, was Hoadley's jam factory, which produced a widely advertised 'Rising Sun' brand; large quantities were shipped to the Australian in South Africa and the jam's trademark was striking. In Melbourne returning soldiers were sometimes called 'Hoadley's Horse'.

In 1903 the badgemakers J R Gaunt & Son of Birmingham designed a badge whose basis did not change until the 1970's. The inscription on the scroll was 'Australian Commonwealth Military Forces' until 1949 when it became 'Australian Military Forces'. In the 1970's it was shortened simply to 'Australia' and minor changes were made in design.

Courtesy Army Newspaper Feb 1991- (submitted by Joe Fisk)

POST COURIER 13/1/99-

Two Australian airmen killed in a WW2 plane crash in PNG will be laid to rest in Lae with full military honours today, more than 50 years after they died. RAAF Ft-Lt Denis Unkles and army observer Lt John Fetherstonhaugh, took off in a Wirraway from Gusap airstrip, Morobe Province on April 15, 1944, for a recce flight over the wantoat area. They never returned.

The wreckage of the Wirraway and the remains of the two airmen were discovered late last year in the rugged Finisterre Ranges, 80 Km north-west of Lae.....The Australian Defence Force flew 30 relatives of the airmen to PNG for the funeral. The granddaughter of the Pilot played the last post for her grandfather's funeral at the Lae War Cemetery

PNGVR ROUTINE ORDERS PT 2 -

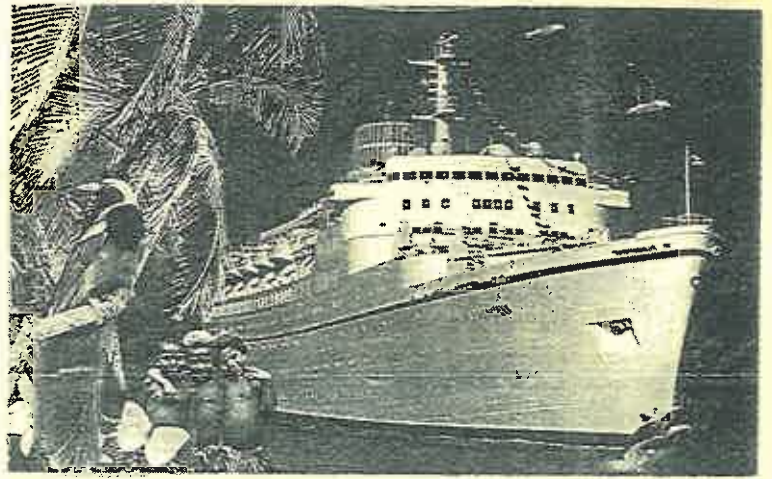
If any member has a copy or copies of any PNGVR RO's Pt 2 in particular beyond April 1965, your Association would greatly appreciate a copy. We have RO's 2 from 23/3/1951 to 6/4/65 courtesy of Bill McGrath but are anxious to secure copies from April 1965 onwards. **CAN YOU HELP??**

NEW GUINEA ADVENTURE

P & O "FAIR PRINCESS"

DEPARTS CAIRNS 26/8/99
AND VISITS
RABAU : TALASEA : MADANG
LAE : SAMARAI : CAIRNS

FARES FROM: \$2088
INCL RETURN AIRFARES, SHIP
TRANSFERS, 10 NIGHT CRUISE,
ALL MEALS, ALL ENTERTAIN-
MENT, TAXES, TRAVEL BAG



Traveland - Wynnum

The Secretary
NGVR/PNGVR Assn.

Dear Colin

You are no doubt aware that P & O has programmed a cruise ex Cairns departing 26 August 1999 visiting PNG and namely Rabaul, Talesea, Madang, Lae and Samarai.

What a great opportunity for members and friends of your Association to visit a country that means so much to them and catch up on some wantoks of theirs.

Traveland Wynnum has confirmed group rates on this sailing on a Brisbane to Brisbane or Cairns to Cairns basis.....

Please contact:-

Mr Neil S LEGA
Senior Consultant
Ph: 07 3396 7211

for further information,
brochure etc.

Footnote:- Any member interested in forming or joining an NGVR/PNGVR group tour are requested to contact NEIL LEGA direct or Secretary Col Gould.

ANZAC DAY

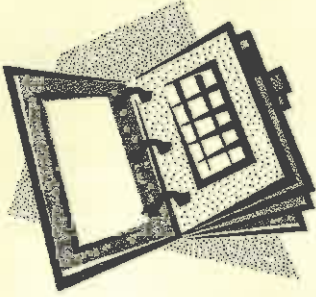
25 APRIL 1999

In Rememberence of all Australians, regardless of race of decent, colour, religion or creed, who gave their lives in war, whether as battle casualties or through illness, and of those who gave their service, both military and civilian.

- * New Zealand (Marori) War 1860 - 1866
- * Soudan War 1885
- * Boer War 1899 - 1902
- * Boxer Uprising 1900
- * Natal Rebellion 1906
- * The Great War 1914 - 1919
- * Kurdistan 1919
- * Afghanistan 1919
- * World War 11 1939 - 1945
- * Korea 1950 - 1953
- * Malayan Emergency 1954 - 1961
- * Vietnam 1962 - 1972
- * Borneo and Malaysian Peninsular 1965 - 1966
- * United Nations Peacekeeping Forces

"LEST WE FORGET"

For your Diary.....



**1999
REGIMENTAL MIXED
DINNER REUNION**

DATE: Friday 23 April 1999

VENUE: Officers Mess - Victoria Barracks Brisbane

TIME: 1900 Hours for 1930 Hours

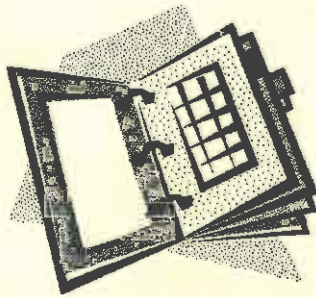
DRESS: Mess Dress / Anzac Day Dress with miniatures / Dinner Suit

COST: Proposed \$45* pp incl 3 course dinner/wine/Port

(*Cost is an estimate due to Mess catering transferring to civilian management Jan'99)

Bookings: ESSENTIAL \$10 pp deposit must be paid by 1 March 1999 with final balance paid by 1 April. Seats strictly limited to 70. Bookings taken in order of receipt of deposit by the Secretary

For your Diary.....



**1999
ANZAC DAY
MARCH & RECEPTION
BRISBANE**

DATE: Sunday 25 April

ASSEMBLE: Left side George Street heading Elizabeth Street

TIME: From 1000 hours for 1030 hours March

ORDER OF MARCH: Airforce /Army/Navy

Proposed position: NGVR/PNGVR is No: 49
behind PNG Infantry Bns Assn.

DRESS: Anzac Day Dress preferred.

RECEPTION: Old Stock Exchange Hotel - Edward Street

Fee: \$15 pp payable at the door. incl limited beer/wine/lolly water and refreshments.

Historic Display

Reserved Table for N.G.V.R. personnel

VALE: Guy BLACK, MC (NGVR)

Born: 24 October 1914 Died at home: 25 December 1998

As was his wish Guy had a simple, private funeral attended by immediate family and close friends living nearby. We are left with the memory of a quiet, courageous, happy man whose byword was integrity. **LEST WE FORGET**

NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
AND
PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED.

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