

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

VOLUME 15

NOVEMBER 1999

NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES 60th Anniversary

1989 - 1999

Rabaul

Wein

BATTLE HONOURS
South-West Pacific

1942-43

PRESIDENT'S UP-DATE

Greetings. Over the past few months your Association has been involved in a number of events and projects, and I am pleased to see that we continue to present an efficient and cohesive approach to everything we do. This is made possible only by the support and efforts given to the Association by its Members, Associates and supporters.

First and foremost, I would like to gratefully acknowledge the generous sponsorship donation of A\$5,000 received from the Port Moresby Branch of the RSL. This special donation will be utilised in accordance with our agreement with the RSL, namely, the upgrading of the Association's computer and printing capabilities and the manufacture of a Roll of Honour Board. The funds will also be used for special project support. Our thanks to the Port Moresby RSL President, John Mudge, MBE and his Committee for their generous support.

My earlier request to members for donations for the Association resulted in almost \$1,000 being received by our Treasurer, Bob Collins. Our operational finances are now at a satisfactory level, and will allow the Association to embark on new projects, especially in the welfare area. My personal thanks to all members who kindly donated. The most outstanding and successful events this year so far have been:-

*Historic Military Display—Opened by His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Maj-General Peter Arnison, AO the Association's record of its military NGVR and PNGVR history was put on public display at the Papua New Guinea Consulate-General's Brisbane office in the week leading up to Anzac Day 1999.

The display consisted of numerous historic photos and memorabilia with a mock bush camp, machine gun bunker and field first aid camp. Included in the display was a range of allied and Japanese weapons and field equipment.

Over \$300 was collected in our donation box at the door. These funds were directed entirely to our welfare fund.

A great deal of planning and work went into the display, and I would like to particularly like to thank John Holland, Col Gould, Joe Fisk and Barry Wright for their efforts and dedication in putting together such a proud display of our military history. If you ever need any sand bags filled, or bamboo cut, see Joe and Barry who are now experts in this field craft. This has been by far our most successful PR project. My thanks to PNG Consul-General Mr Henry

P Koiaie and his staff for making the venue available and for their valuable support.

the display on Friday afternoon 23 April, we held our second Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion at the Victoria Barracks Officers Mess in Brisbane. Among the 57 members and guests present was Patron Sir Dennis Buchanan, Kt.B. MBE. Miss C Buchanan, PNG Consul-General Mr Henry P Koiaie and Mrs Koiaie and Consul Education Mr Patiliai Pitil.

All due ceremony and traditions were observedpipeing in of the flags and official party, passing of the port etc. Joe Fisk and Barry Wright presented Dinning President Colonel Green with a beautifully made "Mess Bell" complete with stand and striker. Dennis Samin, OBE. formally presented the Association with his personal officer's sword for use by the Association at all formal occasions.

sented with all due ceremony, a special award. The "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" medal complete with ribbon, was the size of a plastic picnic plate (and made from the same) and decorated with gold glitter and other "bilas" was in recognition of John's dedication in putting together our various displays and maintaining our collection of historic material. Congratulations John. (At a later occasion John was presented with a miniature of his award for formal functions.)

Guest speaker Sir Dennis spoke on his airline background in PNG from the Bobby Gibbs days up to the AGM venue. After extensive research, we were success that is Flight West Airlines today.

My thanks to Bob Collins, Joe Fisk, Barry Wright and Col Gould who organised the evening. To those members who have not yet had the opportunity to attend one of our Regimental Dinners, I encourage you to book quickly for our next dinner. Details later in the newsletter.

*ANZAC DAY- With Saturday 24 April dedicated to recovering from the week long display and Regimental dinner the night before, this year's Anzac parade saw one of the largest turn outs of NGVR and PNGVR members-98 on parade. Unfortunately our supporting band from 9 RQR was unavailable, nevertheless we again paraded a very professional and well presented unit. The public applause was most stirring and as the unit passed the saluting stand, the Governor was heard to say "well done PNGVR well done,"

Some 150 members and guests attended the reception at the old Stock Exchange Hotel. My thanks to Bruce Crawford, Bob Collins and Pattie Gould for manning *REGIMENTAL DINNER- Following the end of the door and to Bill Bickerton for setting up shop to collect annual fees and sell Q Store items. Bill seems to like this job, as it appears he can sit down all day and is well catered for by members who come bearing food and drink in return for his services. Now you know. Bill has already reserved this job for 2000.

> As always good comradeship and good stories abound, and a great time was had by all. If any member would like to submit ideas and suggestions on how we can improve our reception or volunteer to be on the planning and work committee, please let us

*MONTEVIDEO MARU SERVICE- On the 1 July, the Association hosted its annual memorial service in the Shrine of Memories, Brisbane. 45 mem bers and guests attend the service led by Rev Allan Our Historic Officer, John Holland was officially pre- MacFarland. Jack Goad (NGVR) read out the names of civilians and Joe Fisk (PNGVR) the names of NGVR personnel who lost their lives as prisoners of war during the sinking of the ship.

> Later in the day members attended another service in the Shrine of Memories to honour fallen and absent comrades on what has become (1 July) Reserve Forces Day. The Regiment was well and truly represented at this function.

> *1999 AGM-With the closure of Wacol Army Barracks we were suddenly faced with the loss of our kindly hosted by 9 RQR to access 6 RAR's Long Tan Sergeants Mess in Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. This proved to be a most suitable venue.

> 55 Members attended the AGM. Brig Ian Hunter, CVO.AM.MBE.ED was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his association with PNGVR and valuable advice and support over the years. Our sincere congratulations to Brig. Hunter.

> I would like to thank those members who attended the AGM in particular those who traveled some distance to be present.

> *PNG INDEPENDENCE—On the 15 September the Executive Committee attended a formal reception at the PNG Consulate-General in Brisbane for the 24th Year of Independence. Consul-General Mr Henry P Koiaie spoke on the welcomed support

extended to his office and country by Australia, in particular Queensland, and acknowledged the ongoing assistance our Association has given the Consulate over the years.

n Sunday 19 September, some 300 guests attended a picnic in the park under the Story Bridge in Brisbane. Hosted by the PNG Consulate with the assistance of our Association, the Australia-PNG Business & Cultural Society Inc., the QUT PNG Students Association, and the Bank of Queensland, many PNG and ex PNG organisations were represented. Ex Kiap Vin Smith bought a bus load of ex PNG residents up from the Gold Coast. The feature of the day was traditional dancing by two PNG dance groups. Called "BUNG WANTAIM" it is Mr Koiaie's aim to bring together all PNG groups for another function in the park for their 25th Anniversary in September 2000.

At present your Committee is working on three projects. (1) the awarding of the ASM with clasp PNG to former PNG national members of the PNGVR, on the basis that these members served in an Australian Army unit prior to independence. (2) The inclusion of PNG medals into the Australian service records of NGVR and PNGVR members. (3) the awarding of the AASM to eligible members for the Indonesian confrontation. A great deal of paper work, phone calls and faxes has passed between us and Canberra and Melbourne of the issue. I would like to acknowledge the assistance given by member Lt. Colonel Peter Grimshaw, MBE in Canberra, with these projects.

1

Members are no doubt aware of the existence of Fedjal Certificates of Appreciation for military service

in World War 2, Malaysia, Korea, Indonesian Crisis and Viet-Nam to name a few. Application forms can be obtained from your local Federal Member. If you use the names of Brig I M Hunter, CVO.AM.MBE. ED or Colonel H N Green, MBE.ED.EM as a reference to your service, please let the Association know so that those names can be informed accordingly.

Your Committee members have rendered service to the Association more than can be expected in any voluntary organisation. Your support of at attendance at various functions, and the inclusion of your family and friends or business associates is greatly welcomed by the committee members as a reward of their efforts for all Association members. A tremendous amount of work is done behind the scenes by Committee members, in particular by our Secretary, Colin Gould. Col's dedication to extended support to the PNG Consulate and similar organisations was recognised at the recent PNG Ball in Brisbane, when PNG Consul General Mr Henry P Koiaie presented Col with a framed Certificate of Appreciate on behalf of the Consulate and the Australia-PNG Business & Cultural Society Inc. Congratulations Col for helping to develop and maintain a close relationship of cooperation between our three organisations.

In closing should any member wish to view correspondence or discuss any Association matters, please do not hesitate to contact Members Representatives, Joe Fisk (Ph: 3208 5298) of Norm Mundy (Ph 0754 24492) or the Secretary (Ph 3252 9631 after 1830 hrs) Your comments and views will always be welcome. Tenku Yu Tru

HN Green

PATRON

Sir Dennis BUCHANAN, Kt. B. MBE.

OFFICE BEARERS 1999/2000

PRESIDENT: Colonel Harry N GREEN, MBE.ED.EM SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT: Tom LEGA, MM (N.G.V.R.) VICE-PRESIDENT: Tony MILAN, RFD.ED (P.N.G.V.R.)

SECRETARY: Colin L GOULD, JP (Qual). AF.A.I.M. (Ph: 07 3355 3382)

Bob COLLINS TREASURER: ASSIST. TREASURER: George BAGAJLUK HON. SOLICITOR: Bruce CRAWFORD

MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES: Joe FISK, RFM.EM (Ph: 3208 5298) Norm MUNDY, RFM (Ph: 075424 1492)

WELFARE OFFICER: **Bill BICKERTON** HISTORIC OFFICER: John HOLLAND

ASSIST. HISTORIC OFFICER: Tom DOWLING **Barry WRIGHT** PROJECTS:

Noel SERAFINI WELFARE REP SYDNEY: (Ph: 0293983264)

MINE TO N.G.V.R.

With the recent publication of the book THE NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES 1939-1943 A HISTORY by Ian Downs, a valuable part of the history of the NGVR has been preserved. (Books available from Pacific Press Phone Bill McGrath 07 5539 0446) There is also another valuable part of that proud history, and that is the often unrecorded personal service recollections of NGVR members.

John Holland has published the war service of his father, Lt Frank Holland, MBE (Book

available from Mrs. M T Holland Ph: 07 3379 7109)

With the assistance of our Treasurer, Bob Collins, Tom LEGA, MM has now put on paper, 21 pages to be precise, his NGVR recollections. Following is the first part of Tom's story.

N.G.V.R. SNIPPETS By Lt Tom LEGA, MM.

at the time but all

Japanese visitors to

New Guinea carried

Cameras'

PRE WAR: Pre war I was in Sydney working in TRAINING- Our training consisted of infantry train-Grimes Parking Station on a wage of three pounds ten shillings per week, on permanent night shift with no chance of a rise until I turned 21.

War was declared on 3rd September, 1939, and I tried to enlist. I was told to come back when I turned 21, so the options for me were to join the Police Cadets or go to New Guinea. I wrote to my brother and asked him what the chances were about getting a job. A return letter took 6 weeks in those day. "Come on up" he wrote back, "the Company is looking for men".

The main problem was getting a release from the Man Power Authority. They gave me a release on the condition that I join the forces as soon as I got to New Guinea, and this I agreed to.

I departed Sydney on the 2nd March, 1940, on the MV NEPTUNA, commanded by Wild Bill WILDING. The fare was 25 pounds, and I had three pounds in my pocket when I finally arrived in Bulolo.

I started work on the gold dredges on 6 pounds a PRE-MOBILISATION PATROLS—As light week at Bulwa, 10 miles from Bulolo.

N.G.V.R. I joined the Unit in 1940 (I don't remembers the exact date) as a Rifleman and was issued with:- * a rifle * bayonet *bandolier *hat *and a token for the Chinese tailor to have 2 uniforms made up (shirt and shorts).

We paraded by the golf clubhouse at Bulwa each Thursday night for 2 hours and every fourth Sunday for 4 hours. Sunday training often consisted of 5 mile marches.

ing. Small arms drill such at attention, fix bayonets, present arms, port arms etc was a big part of the train-

On a march the Platoon Commander would shout "aircraft left" and we would immediately face in the direction of the supposed aircraft, raise our rifles, manipulate the bolt (but no ammo in the magazine) and be ready to fire. The next shout would be "Aircraft right" at which we would immediately jump about like kangaroos and face right. There was no diving for cover-we were supposed to stand our ground. A lot of the fellows took their training fairly seriously at the time. Nearly all of us were under the impression that the war would be over in 12 months. No one

gave Japan a thought as only a few 'Not noticed by anyone months previously the Japanese were coming down to Rabaul to buy copra. Not noticed by anyone at the time, but all Japanese visitors to New Guinea carried cameras.

I found it difficult to get too serious about training.

sightings had been reported, twelve of us were ordered to carry out a four day patrol from Salamaua to Morobe Patrol Post on board the Guinea Airways work boat "GNAIR", under the command of John COOKE. . Sgt Chris JOCUMSON was in charge and some of the others I remember were Bill TAYLOR, Laurie BARKER and Alan KIRKLAND.

We departed Salamaua at midnight, New Year's Eve, 1941, and, in the midst of a very heavy rainstorm. Proceeded towards Morobe via Lababia Island, hiding up during the hours of daylight.

Some of the bays on the way had very deep water right up to the foot of the hills. When we stopped we covered the boat with coconut fronds to hide it from Japanese photographic planes that were often overhead. In total our weapons consisted of 12 x .303 riles and 1 x Vickers gun mounted on the bow of the GNAIR.

I would not have fancied our chances against an enemv submarine.

After four days we returned to Lae and were put up at the Hotel Cecil overnight. Also staying at the hotel that night were some Wirraway crews, flying onto Rabaul the following day. Unfortunately I don't remember any of their names, but few of them survived.

MOBILISATION— There was really no objection o mobilisation when it came. All those under 18 and over 45 years were ordered out of the NGVR and quite a few new people came in. As I recollect, things began to happen prior to Pearl Harbour.

Four engine float planes began flying over all towns in New Guinea taking aerial photos. They were flying highlittle white dots in the sky-and we couldn't do a thing about it.

22nd January Then when Pearl Harbour was 1942' bombed things really became serious. This was quickly followed by the fall of Singapore and the sinking of the two British Battleships 'Prince of Wales' and 'Repulse'. The situation was becoming grim.

In January, 1942, five Zeros followed a Junkers aircraft in from Lae and shot up three Junkers on the Bulolo strip. The war was on our door step.

We were called up for full time duty on 22 nd January 1942. I was ordered from Bulwa to Wau attached to B Coy. On arrival in Wau I was driven out to Anderson's sawmill where B Coy was being assembled. We were formed into Sections and Platoons. My section consisted of Cpl Tom Lega, Jack Shay, Clem Grose, Frosty Pollard, Ian Kerr, Abe Sheath, Syd Burns and Dudly Blyton. Other members of B Coy I recall were Cpl Arch Graham, Cpl Tiger Lyons, Don McDonald, Ian Munro, Fred Philips, Blue Budden, Ted Hawnt and Norm Bird. Our Platoon Commander was Lt. Coleman O"Loughlan and Platoon Sergeant was Sgt Lea Ashton.

B Coy Commander was Capt Douglas Umphelby

and other Headquarters staff were Lt. Bert Symmonds, Sgt Maj. Lyn Noakes with Cpl Jock Campbell being the PT Instructor.

TRAINING—Our first days march was to be from Anderson's sawmill to Ballams Camp above old Kaisenik village. The previous night I walked outside the house where we were billeted to be under the stars and wondered what my future would be. It was also so peaceful there with the smell of pines so strong. The first night at Ballams I was awakened by rats nibbling my toes.

The next day each Section was issued with a Thompson .45 sub machine gun with 200 rounds of ammunition. O'Loughlan, Noakes & Ashton marched us over into a gully and allowed us to fire 10 rounds each. That was our introduction to the Tommy Gun.

The next days march was from Ballams to Skin Dewai Camp. On the way we crossed the summit at approximately 6,000 ft-nice clean mountain air. Skin Dewai Camp was damp, cold and miserable, built in

'We were called

up to full time

duty on the

under the timber. All the bunks were made of kunda vine stretched over wooden benches. When one person moved or rolled over, the whole platoon moved. The groans and snores were enormous that night.

Day four we proceeded to Mubo on the Bitoi River. We settled in, estab-

lished guard posts, dug slit trenches and set up a base camp for B Coy. We then settled down to some long range patrols.

It was here that we were issued with our first grenades. They had arrived by carrier from Wau still packed in their original packing cases covered with a protective grease coating. They had to be cleaned, primed and made ready for use. We almost had a fatal accident doing this. Fred Philip was sitting on his bunk and had just finished priming a grenade and was about to screw in the base plug when it dropped from his hands. We all dived off the verandah but luckily the grenade did not explode. As he had not engaged the thread of the base plug, this allowed the fuse and detonator to be knocked out of the grenade by the force of the spring on the plunger pin.

Another exercise we carried out was to approach an object by crawling across to it through short grass. My highly polished boots reflected the sun like mirrors. From that day on I started using dubbin.

SALAMAUA—Pre war Salamaua was a pretty little town situated on an Isthmus 20 miles across the Huon Gulf from Lae. It had a hospital, hotel, a couple of stores, and a small airfield. All cargo for Wau was unloaded from ships at Salamaua and flown to Wau—25 minutes flight time away.

We carried out numerous patrols using Mubo as a base, with usually 5 or 6 men to a patrol—never more than 9 or 10. The later number was not necessary, but it kept the men fit, alert and vigilant. We were to avoid contact at all times. The patrols went, Mubu-Lababia Ridge, Mubo—Komiatum, Mubu—Komiatum to Lokanu and return via the Bitoi River.

On one patrol Bill Forrester, and NGVR Scout, came round a bend in the track and bumped into a patrol of Japanese resting on the track. He immediately turned and retreated with the Japanese giving chase. Bill hurdled a bamboo garden fence and immediately lay down beside the fence and pulled some taro leaves down to cover himself. A Japanese came as far as the fence, looked around but did not look down. What he didn't know was that a .455 Webly Scott was pointing directly under his chin.

Jim Cavanaugh, another NGVR Scout, was prowling round behind Salamaua along a track when he saw a Japanese moving rice and ammunition. As the Japanese placed one item on the ground, Jim would move it to another location, until about the third stint when they came face to face. They both dropped what they had in their hands and headed off in opposite direc-

tions. Jim still doesn't know who got the bigger fright.

A typical patrol would be from Mubo down to the Bitoi River, up Kitchen Creek to Komiatum, then down to the Frisco River, along the Frisco to the coast and around the coast to Dot Island, then back up to Mubo. This would take 2 or 3 days. The only weapons we carried were a rifle and bayonet, and one Tommy gun to a patrol. Our job was to scout, obtain information, and not be seen. Patrol orders were firm—observe and not be observed, as we were strictly scouting patrols.

On these patrols we studied the country, the ranges, rivers and creeks. Thus we had a fair knowledge of all the features and tracks around Salamaua. Much valuable information was marked on our Company and HQ maps. This information was of immense value in the following months when used by Independent Coys and the 17th Aust Brigade.

On the retreat out of Salamaua our fellows destroyed a fuel dump, tried to blow up the airstrip which was mined, but the electric plunger failed to work (it was damp), and, as they crossed the Francisco River, Fred Leather chopped the ropes of the suspension bridge with an axe, dropping it into the river. They then fell back to Komiatum. The charges set under the surface of the airstrip were subsequently destroyed by aerial bombing. (At a later date Salamaua was really plastered from the air.)

TO BE CONTINUED

Former members of the NGVR and PNGVR are asked to consider recording their military history, so that they may be preserved for future generations. Personal recollections will only be reproduced with the author's expressed permission, otherwise they will remain in our archives. Assistance may be available to help record and type up personal records.

Editor.

The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles
NGVR
1939-1943
A History
By Ian Downs
Now available from Pagific Press

Now available from Pacific Press Ph: 07 5539 0446 Fax: 07 5538 4114 17 Park Ave Broadbeach Waters Q 4218

Seasons Greetings To all our Members & their Families

EL TIGRE

'El Tigre' is a factual account, a saga of human endurance and bravery by an Australian who spent much of his war time years behind enemy lines in circumstances of great personal risk. As a result of his outstanding contributions to the successful outcome of the Pacific War, Frank Holland was awarded the MBE. (Extracts from the foreword by Sir Walter Campbell, AO. QC. Former Governor of Qld).

Now available from Mrs M T Holland direct. Special members price—\$35-00 plus postage Ph: 07 3379 7109

HISTORY OF THE N.G.V.R.

Members will be interested to learn that extracts of an N.G.V.R. WAR DIARY were recently found in the Australian archives. They will be re-produced exactly as they were written in future newsletters. Ed.

N.G.V.R. WAR DAIRY

21/1/42 BULOLO—1200 hrs—Air raid alarm sounded as a result of advice from Lae that approx 60 enemy planes had passed over Finschhafen in the direction of Lae and Salamaua.

1225 hrs—Five enemy fighter planes believed to be Mitsubishi type "0" machine-gunned the three Junkers G.31 aircraft on the Bulolo drome, totally destroying same. L.M.G. A/A gun mounted in pit on side of drome engaged the enemy aircraft. No bombs dropped. Aerodrome only attacked. Attack ended 1240 hrs. Damage:- Three triple-engine Junkers G.31 freight planes destroyed on the drome. Casualties:- Nil

21/1/42 SALAMAUA—1155 hrs—Salamaua attacked by 24 Japanese fighters and bombers. No warning of attack was given. Township area on isthmus first raked by M.G. and cannon fire, after which Logui aerodrome and area bombed and machine gunned. Stores and buildings at Kila also subjected to M.G. and cannon fire. No action by NGVR during attack. Attack ended 1235 hours. Aircraft destroyed were 2 D.H. Dragons wined by K. Parer; 1 D.H. Dragon owned by M.A.L.; 1 Lockheed Hudson bomber owned by RAAF; 1 Avrowned by M.A.L. and 2 small moth type. Casualties:-1 killed on drome—Kevin Parer and 2 slightly injured. Pilot L. Ross flying Junkers G.31 freight plane about to land at Salamaua when notices bombs dropping. Pilot did not land but escaped to Wau under cover of clouds. Guinea Airways and M.A.L. hangers destroyed.

21/1/42 LAE—1150 hrs—A.W.A. radio station Lae advised by Petty Officer Pursehouse at Finschhafen that approx 60 enemy planes proceeding along coast in direction of Lae. Air raid immediately sounded. At 1210 hrs enemy fighters came in from the sea and attacked Lae area and particularly Guinea Airways hangers and stores, with M.G. and cannon fire. A few minutes later large formation of bombers approached from S.E. direction. Approx 7 bombing attacks made. After each wave of bombers, fighters returned to attack township with M.G. and cannon fire. Enemy force estimated 26 fighters and bombers, No action by NGVR. 1255 hrs aid ended. Damage:- 3 engine Ford 4—AT; 2 single engine Junkers W.34; 1 Stinson land plane; 1 Stinson seaplane; 1 Fox moth. Guinea Airways hangers, workshops and stores completely destroyed. Bomb blast damage to Hotel, Government offices, Burns Philp and numerous homes. Casualties: nil

Capt E W Jenyns, 2 I/C NGVR conferred with Administrator immediately after the raid, and it was decided that Government and civilian population should immediately be evacuated from township to a hidden position the bush, and that NGVR would stand by in Lae until this had been completed. A guard was placed on aerodrome to watch for enemy activity.

NGVR having assembled for duty, with the exception if certain men assisting the admin party, all motor transport available assembled, and transport of foodstuffs etc. from Burns Philp's store and stores at the drome out along the Markham Road, was commenced early in the afternoon. This work was continued throughout the night. Stores distributed along the Markham Road temporarily in various houses and in the bush.

Work homograd by heavy rain, which rendered Markham Road almost impassable after first 5 miles, also own.

Work hampered by heavy rain, which rendered Markham Road almost impassable after first 5 miles, also owing to the desertion of native labour, necessitating all handling of stores etc being done by NGVR personnel.

BULOLO- 8 M.D. Port Moresby asked per radio to supply additional 200,000 rnds Mark V11 ammo., hand grenades and supply of rifle grenades. Unable to contact Lae afternoon of 21/1/42. No doctors there. Dr McKenna proceeded to Lae in Fox Moth aircraft, found no casualties and proceeded onto Salamaua and Wau.

22/1/42 0600 Hrs- Junkers G.31 and Ford transport aircraft proceeded to Lae from Wau to evacuate civilians to Port Moresby. Only 4 civilians located at Lae. Planes returned to Wau and thence to Port Moresby.

HQ Bulolo advised to be prepared to clear runway Salamaua for Hudson bombers at short notice. Instructions received to prepare Lae, Salamaua, and Madang aerodromes for demolition forthwith. A miner to be sent to each location to prepare charges..

TO BE CONTINUED

HISTORIC MILITARY DISPLAY

19 – 23 April 1999

P.N.G. Consulate General

Brisbane.

Opened by His Excellency

Major-General Peter Arnison, AO

Governor of Queensland.





Mike Zimmermann, Les McAndrew, Ralph Seeto, Jesse Chee (above) and Ian Sayers and Roy Edward (below) at the opening of the Association's historic display at the PNG Consulate – General in Brisbane 1999







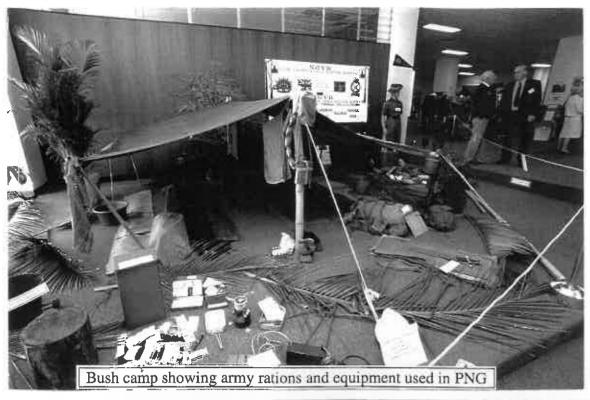




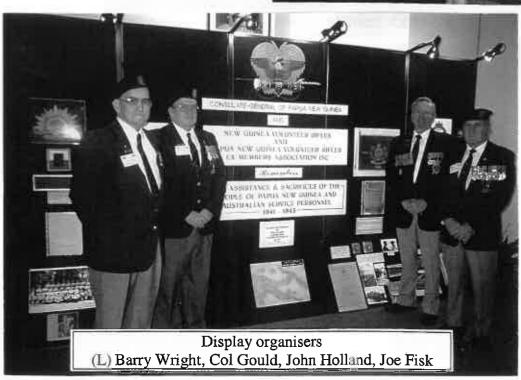




Tom Lega, MM tries out the Thompson SMG









REGIMENTAL MIXED DINNER **REUNION** Victoria Barracks Officers Mess 23 April 1999

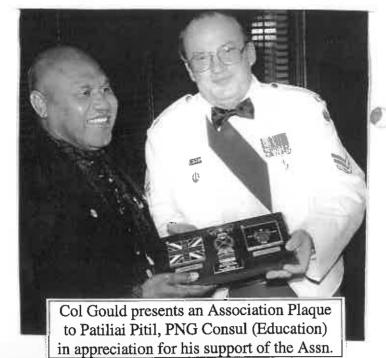
Patron Sir Dennis Buchanan, Kt.B.MBE. & Col. Harry N Green, MBE.ED.EM











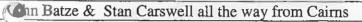






(from Left) John Holland, Barry Wright, WO1 Joe Fisk, RFM.EM and Joe Hall following the presentation of John's special award for "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty"







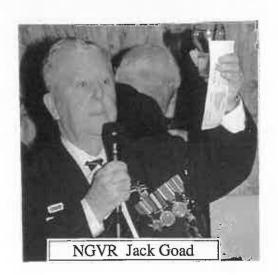
Alwyn Smith, Kev Cheatham, Martin O'Sullivan

ANZAC DAY FACES - 1999



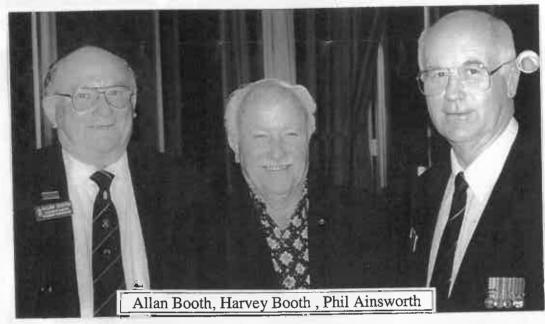








A.G.M. August 1999 A Long Tan Sergeants Mess Gallipoli Barracks Brisbane







PNG Consul General Mr Henry P Koiaie and Mrs Koiaie arrive at the function through an entrance of bamboo and camouflage netting erected by the NGVR/PNGVR Association.

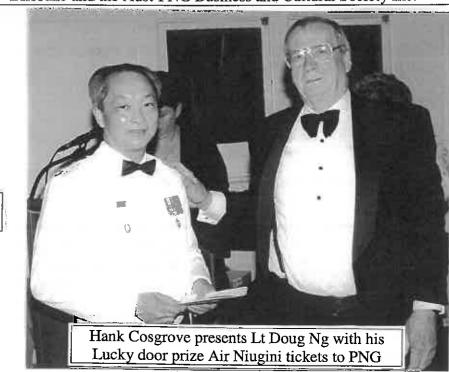


Papuan Dancers at the 1999 'Bung Wantaim' Picnic in the park, Brisbane



Brisbane

PNG Consul-General Mr Henry P Koiaie presents Col Gould with a Certificate of Appreciation for support of the PNG Consulate in Brisbane and the Aust-PNG Business and Cultural Society Inc.



OPEN LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS RE: Australia and PNG Service Awards. From Association President Colonel H N Green, MBE.ED.EM

NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES and PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC.

PO Box 287 Everton Park, Q 4053

29 October 1999

Dear Member,

It has come to the attention of my Committee that some members of the Association have been approached and questioned on the wearing of Australian and Papua New Guinea medal Awards.

I advise that all members of the Association who meet the service requirements of the Commonwealth of Australia are eligible to receive and wear the Australian Service Medal 1945-1975 with Clasp 'PNG" for military service with the Regiment in Papua New Guinea.

Further, the Governor General of Papua New Guinea in recognition of the long service of the P.N.G.V. R in Papua New Guinea, by and with the advice of His Papua New Guinea Government authorised the awarding of the Papua New Guinea Independence Medal 1975 to all eligible members.

Subsequently, the Governor General of Papua New Guinea again by and with the advice of his Government authorised the awarding of the 10th Anniversary Independence Medal, the PNGDF 1940-1990 50th Commemorative Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to eligible members of the Association.

The ribbons to the four Papua New Guinea Medals are distinctive and not readily recognised by Australian Service and Ex Service Personnel unfamiliar with the P.N.G.V.R. Further, all NGVR and PNGVR members are entitled to wear the blue US Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation on official occasions.

Please be assured that our members have every right to wear the above service medals that they have been personally and individually awarded.

Yours sincerely,

Colonel H N Green, MBE.,ED.,EM. (Rtd) PRESIDENT.

MEDAL MOUNTING SERVICE

Australian Medals & Frames

20 Zealand Street TAIGUM, Brisbane 4018 Ph: 07 3865 2615 Mobile: 0412 193945
Formally operated by Kevin Gillett, the business is now owned and operated by GLENN MASON, a former member of the British Army. Glenn offers members the same efficient service for all their medal and framing needs. Special mounting costs to members – \$9-00 per medal.

On behalf of Members and Associates of our Organisation, a letter was despatched to the Commanding Officer of INTERFET (International Force East Timor) wishing Australian troops success in their mission and for a safe return home to their families.

The Commanding Officer's reply appears below.

Major General P.J. Cosgrove, AM, MC Commander



Colonel H.N. Green, MBE, ED, EM (Ret'd) President

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles PO Box 287 EVERTON PARK QLD 4052

lear Colonel green

To you and all the members of the Association thank you very much for your letter and the kind words it contained. I hope all members are well and watching the events here in East Timor unfold with interest.

I will of course pass on your pride, thoughts and wishes to the soldiers of INTERFET as they continue to carry out the very difficult task of restoring peace and security to the people of East Timor. I too pray for a speedy and safe return to loves soon.

Pot of manage

P.J. Cosgrove Commander

3/ October 199

SHIELD OF MILITARY EXCELLENCE

31 Battalion – (Kennedy Regiment) The Royal Queensland Regiment Townsville 30 October 1999

By Juergen Raasch

As usual, the award presentation was conducted during Regimental birthday celebrations. Unfortunately the Regiment had to cancel several planned activities due to manpower problems associated with the current East Timor deployments. It was strange to hear that ARes members volunteering for overseas service are required to join the ARA.

An open day was held on the Saturday for families and visitors and I was impressed with the knowledge and professionalism shown by those manning the stands. Thanks to the patient guidance of one of their junior NCO's, I managed a crash course in how to handle the Stevr and Minimi guns, and was pleased with myself that I didn't kill anyone with our blank rounds. My pride however was dealt a I was satisfied however to invite them to read our major blow when I was upstaged by some chirpy 8 year old with a very healthy burst of 50 rounds of continuous fire. Give me the good old .303 any day!!

The evening function was held at the Hideaway Inn on our newly developed Strand. Although a great location, it was difficult to get everyone together. Originally the Regiment catered for 80 odd people, but this blew out to twice that number. Everyone was therefore scattered indoors and outdoors and where ever there was some space. Conversation was made very difficult through the very loud Disco music, which seemed to suit the All in all, it was a memorable occasion once again younger guests, as they were not there to talk any-

Martin, Gary Boulter and myself. Denis and Lisa Samin were unfortunately unable to attend. Equally unfortunate was that it was not possible for our usual delegation of four from Brisbane to travel to Townsville this year. Although the hot and humid conditions made the wearing of Anzac Day dress a bit uncomfortable, we managed to compensate through regular fluid replacement.

The function also catered for presentations of

awards to deserving soldiers of various sub-units, as well as farewells to the CO. Lt.Col. Chris Hamilton and the RSM, WO1 Stephen Doyle. I duly passed on the apologies from our President and delegated members for being unable to attended as planned, and, of course the congratulations and best wishes of our Association to all members of the Regiment. Once again I planned to present a brief written outline of the NGVR history rather than a speech. Unfortunately the type of open air venue, the delays in presentations and the advance state of refreshments by most present, and the formalities and speeches associated with the CO's and RSM's farewell, put paid to that idea.

history and presented the CO with a Regimental copy of the NGVR book by Ian Downs. That appeared to be extremely appreciated by all.

Special congratulations went to LCpl Declan Kissane who was selected as the Unit's Champion soldier for 1999. After an initial fright when the RSM realised that LCpl Kissane was not present, he somehow appeared out of nowhere. He now joins an impressive group of previous Regimental champion soldiers, all of which are a great credit to the Kennedy Regiment.

highlighting the value of our involvement in the present type of liaison and sponsorship.

Our Association contingent consisted of Alistair Finally I would like to acknowledge the support and interest shown to our little group by Colonel Green, Norm Mundy and the other members of the Executive Committee. It was very much appreci-

> Our thanks to Juergen, Alistair and Gary for being such great ambassadors for the Association, and for their efforts to attend and make the annual presentation. -Ed.

NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC.

PER ANGUSTA AD AUGUSTA - THROUGH TRIALS TO TRIUMPH

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Schedule of Events

| Committee Meetings:- (Sunday) | Association Fig. 1. | unctions:- • | Aug | Association AGM |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|------|---------------------------|
| (Sunday) 16 January | 22/1 Associa | ation • | Aug | PNG Ball |
| • 5 March | Memori | ial Service. o | 10/9 | 'Bung Wantaim' |
| 9 April | Anzac Si | quare BNE | | Picnic in the park |
| • 14 May | • 25/4 Anzaci | Day | | PNG Independence function |
| 25 June | • 28/4 Regime | 0 | Nov | Christmas Function |
| • 6 August | | rideo Maru | 1404 | Ciristinas i dijettori |
| 10 September | | al Service | | |
| • | Anzac So | quare BNE | | |

Correspondence:-

The Secretary

P.O. Box 287

Everton Park, BRISBANE Q 4053

Phone: 07 3355 3382 (after 1830 Hrs)

Fax: 07 3355 3382

Email: pngvr@one.net.au

Membership:-

N.G.V.R. P.N.G.V.R.

Associate:

Nomination: \$25

Annual Fees: \$20

Nomination: \$25

No fees

Annual: \$10

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

(Blue)

The Distinguished Unit Citation was established as a result of Executive Order No. 9075, dated 26 February 1942. The Executive Order directed the Secretary of War to issue citations in the name of the President of the United States to Army units for outstanding performance of duty after 7 December 1941. The design submitted by the Office of the Quartermaster General was approved by the G1 on 30 May 1942.

The Distinguished Unit Citation was redesignated the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) 3 November 1966.

The Citation is worn by all members of a cited organisation, and may be worn whether or not they continue as members of the organisation. (Ex members of the NGVR/PNGVR are entitled to wear the citation, e.g. Anzac Day, memorial services etc.)

The NGVR, as part of 'Brewer' Force was awarded the Citation for outstanding performance of duty in the Los Negros Campaign, Admirality Islands in 1944. The Citation was presented to B Coy PNGVR Rabaul by the US Military Attaché, Colonel R Ramsay in 1952, for safekeeping and to carry on the traditions set by our parent Unit, the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. (N.G.V.R.)

The ANZAC DAY Commemoration Committee

(Qld) Inc, now has a web site dedicated to Anzac Day: The site is:-

www.anzacday@anzacday.org.au

The site contains a host of information of educational and historic information on ANZAC Day and the Spirit of ANZAC.

EMAIL

A number of members have informed the Association of their personal Email addresses. Members are invited to send their Email addresses to the Association. Details will be kept confidential and will only be used by the Association to make contact if and when necessary.

The Association's Email is: pngvr@one.net.au

CENTURY OF SERVICE

By Jonathan King - Courier-Mail

"This 1999 Remembrance Day honours 102,807 Australians who died during our Nation's first century of war. During our first 100 years, 1.5 million Australians served in 9 wars and 14 peace keeping missions.

- Boer War 1899-1902:- 16,463 served, 538 wounded and 606 killed.
- Chinese Boxer Rebellion 1900-01:- 560 served and 6 were killed in action
- World War 1 1914-1918:- 416,809 enlisted 324,000 served o/seas 155,000 wounded and 61,720 killed.
- ♦ World War 2 1939-1945:- 993,000 enlisted most served o/seas 66,553 wounded and 39,366 killed. Australian troops won 20 VC' in World War 2
- Korean War 1950-1953:- 17,164 served overseas 1261 wounded and 339 killed.
- ♦ Malaysian Emergency 1950-1960:- 7000 served overseas 20 wounded and 36 killed.
- Indonesian Confrontation 1963-1966: 3500 served overseas 15 killed.
- Vietnam 1962-1973:- 50,000 served o/seas 2398 wounded and 520 killed.
- Gulf War 1990-1991:- RAN ships no fatalities.
- Since 1945 10,000 Australians have served in peace keeping missions abroad, in which 7 Australians were killed. Peace keeping mission include Indonesia, Middle East, Cyprus, Zimbabwe, Iran, Iraq, Namibia, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Bougainville and East Timor.

LEST WE FORGET

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

PO Box 287, Everton Park, Brisbane Q 4053 Ph/Fax: 07 3355 3382

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