



AROUND THE TRAPS

DAWN SERVICE—SALISBURY R.S.L.

President of the Salisbury RSL Cal Williams has written to the Association...."I take great pleasure to invite all members of the NGVR/PNGVR Association to join the Salisbury RSL Club. You are very welcome to make this Club your home base, as has the National Servicemen's Association."

Accordingly members are invited to attend the Club's Dawn Service on Anzac Day at 0600 hours. After the service there will be a free gunfire breakfast with the usual bacon, eggs and rum. The main service will commence at 0800 with Major Bill Kelly, MBE.ED (Rtd) taking the salute. The march past will be led by Major Bob Collins RFM (Rtd).

The service will conclude at approximately 0900 and there will be a bus available to take members into the city for the main parade which commences at 1030 hours.

Further details from:- Ken Hendren (RSL Club Senior Vice-President) or Joe Fisk (RSL Club Junior Vice-President.) Club address: Corner of Industries & Chrome Streets Salisbury (just off Evans Road)

AUSMEDALS

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NGVR—ANGAU ASSOCIATION ANZAC DAY SYDNEY

Members in Sydney are invited to march with the NGVR—ANGAU Association on Anzac Day.
Assemble 70 Hunter Street Sydney
Near Castlereagh Street, approx 0845 hours.
(Look for the banner) or join their luncheon.
Details Adrian Leyden:- Ph 02 9477 3795

MORE FROM DENIS SAMIN Murphy's Law

- Radios will fail as soon as you need them
- The Cavalry doesn't always come to the rescue
- Mines are equal opportunity weapons.
- When in doubt, empty your magazine.
- Combat always occurs on the ground area between two adjoining maps.
- If the Platoon Sergeant can see you, so can the enemy.
- The worse the weather, the more likely you will be out in it.
- The complexity of a weapon is inversely proportional to the IQ of the weapon's operator.
- The bursting range of an accidentally dropped hand grenade is always 12" greater than your maximum jumping distance.
- Cluster bombing from B-52's is very very accurate—the bombs always hit the ground.
- As soon as you are served your first hot meal for days in the field—it always rains.
- Never tell your Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Member Lt.Colonel Maurie Pears, MC writes...

" I have just read Harim Tok Tok Vol 15 and I must say I am continually amazed at the dedication and professionalism displayed by the Association and Committee. What a wonderful group of Veterans and good Australians."

Thank you Sir on behalf of all NGVR & PNGVR members. Ed.

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Associate: \$10-00 p.a.
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HARIM TOK TOK



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

VOLUME 17

APRIL 2000

1975 - P.N.G. 25th Independence Anniversary - 2000

PRESIDENTS UP-DATE

In the last newsletter you will remember our desire not to become political, however ones resolve to sustain this status becomes negative when daily I am briefed on Australian and PNG politicians along with their bureaucratic ministerial advisors.

All members of this Association have contributed greatly not only in military service but in civilian life over many years in Papua New Guinea and Australia, and your Association is committed to resolving those service issues that remain outstanding for its members.

Your committee has now resolved, when considered appropriate, to directly approach Federal and State Ministers and Members of Parliament on these issues. Our members views and suggestions are warmly invited on this policy.

- I have written directly to the PNG Prime Minister Sir Mekere Morauta to resolve and expedite the PNG Governor-General's official release of the already approved 23 recipient names for the PNG Community Service Medal approved 2 1/2 years ago.
- I have written to Minister the Hon. Bruce Scott,MP Minister for Veterans' Affairs on the advice of our Hon. Solicitor regarding the recording of members PNG awards on their service records. It was 9 months before a simply acknowledgement was received.

Bearing in mind that in 1975, the PNG Independence medal was awarded to Australian bandsmen and sailors who were present for only one day of Independence celebrations and no doubt has been included in their service records. Members of PNGVR served from 1951-1973 and we cannot get a formal response from the Minister concerned to our request for our PNG awards to be entered into our service records. PNGVR was an Australian Army Reserve Unit, yet some members from time to time when seeking the ASM or their service history, are told by the nameless bureaucrats in Canberra or Melbourne to refer their request to the PNG Defence Force as the "PNGVR was not an Australian Army Unit".

- I have had extensive communications with Honours & Awards Canberra into service entitlements in respect of south east Asian service 1955-1975—reference PNGVR for the AASM.

Members should be made aware that all correspondence on these matters are vetted by the Committee and checked by our Hon. Solicitor.

The report on the review of service entitlements of south east Asian service 1955-75 was received by me courtesy of member Lt.Colonel Peter Grimshaw, MBE one of our most efficient and loyal Life Members. The Association needs to address two issues:-

1. Why was our formal Submission NOT presented to the Review Committee by the organisation processing submissions to go before the Committee?

In this issue.....

Presidents Report .. Anzac Day details .. Tom Dowling goes West .. Recording our History
Activity photographs .. NGVR Recollections by Tom Lega,MM. .. The Mess Dinner .. Around the Traps

2. Your Committee believes that our submission was in accordance with the terms of reference of the Review Committee and that by being withheld from the review Committee, was unjust and most improper. We believe that we have grounds to legally pursue the matter as we are entitled, like any other former Australian Defence Force Unit, to fair and reasonable judgment on service entitlements. The decision should rest with the review committee and not one man's personal interpretation of what may or may not apply to PNGVR, for example, a personal interpretation of "war like activities" or "exchange of fire" during the Indonesian confrontation. Without seeming pedantic my dictionary states "war like" as being (a) skilled in war (b) for use in war and most definite for our submission, threatening war.

I hope to be able to provide members with more information on Anzac Day. Members should note with pride that PNGVR was the only CMF/Reserve Unit to be awarded the ASM with PNG Clasp, however being full of skepticism re the bureaucrats in Canberra I personally wonder if these public servants say "that takes care of PNGVR—in full". Gentlemen, its only wishful thinking if that is their assumption.

Once again my sincere thanks to Lt Colonel Peter Grimshaw, MBE for his invaluable help from Canberra. Our fax and phones have been running hot. Also I would like to acknowledge the assistance in Port Moresby of Tony Milan and John Mudge, MBE.

Welfare Officer Bill Bickerton has a short term con-

tract in East Timor to help re-build the lives and property of the civilians. Bill is really roughing it but enjoying the challenge some 7 hours by 4 wheel drive from Dilli. We wish Bill well with his work, and a safe return home. He will certainly have some stories to tell.

Our Treasurer Bob Collins keeps a watchful eye on all things financial, and had his faith in "back up computer discs" pay off when his hard drive suddenly crashed. Our financial records were restored thanks to Bob's back up discs.

Joe Fisk, Barry Wright, John Holland and Secretary Col Gould continue to be active behind the scenes organising the Regimental Dinner, Anzac Day and so forth. Our Patron Sir Dennis Buchanan, MBE has fully recovered from recent surgery in Brisbane and is back at the helm of Flight-West. Sir Dennis takes a great personal interest in our Organisation, and we look forward to meeting up with him at a future function.

Our Association is in fine shape as membership nears the 300 mark. Our NGVR and World War 2 members are experiencing those problems that come with age, but how uplifting and proud we all are of our service history which should not be marred by the short comings of other men and nations not so fortunate.

Anzac Day, 25 April 2000, I sincerely trust will find you, your family friends and beliefs hearty and happy and enjoying the comradeship and resurgence of the Australian and New Zealand spirit of Anzac.

Harry N Green.

We hurled sticky tank grenades, reinforced with a kilo of gun cotton, in through the windows and doors of the trade stores. The blast was so severe in blew us over like nine pins. One can imagine the damage inside the buildings.

We charged through the doors shooting everything that moved. We picked up a Tommy Gun, rifle and ammunition and pulled out. One of our youngest members of the NGVR, Brian Frazer, 18 years old, saw a Japanese move after the explosion of the sticky tank grenade. Brian bayoneted the enemy soldier. Brian later transferred to the RAAF and was unfortunately killed on his first raid over Germany.

That afternoon we returned to Butu Camp and compared reports. The raid has been carried out with great skill and daring and was a huge success. 116 Japanese dead were counted, and we sustained 3 walking wounded, Mal Bishop of the 2/5 Ind. Coy received a ricochet bullet in the back. Jim Curry (NGVR) a bullet through the wrist, and Alex Garvie (NGVR) a nick across the shin.

We reckoned it was a good night's work. After the raid we quit the Salamaua area and returned to Mubo via Komiatum. - To be continued.



THE MESS DINNER

The general collection of customs and traditions observed at dining-in nights, in both officers and sergeants messes, go back several hundred years. However, over this time customs have been modified according to individual regiment's own traditions and traits. The Origin of the word mess (itself derived from the latin *missum*) goes back to France where it was used to describe serving of food, in a dish, for four people.

In time it was used to describe a group of people who continually sat together at a table, helping themselves to food from the same dish. Now it is a place where officers, or warrant officers and senior NCO's eat and live.

Nowadays at a dinner in the mess, when the meal has been served, the first person to eat is the dining president. This custom dates back to the days of Queen Victoria when, at dinners given by Her Majesty, no one at the table would start to eat until she, the hostess, did so.

In those days, however, it was also the customs that everyone would cease eating when she had finished her meal. This presented some problems to those who were served later rather than earlier. The story is told that at one such dinner a certain distinguished gentleman, who had been on the receiving end of this etiquette once too many times, removed himself from his seat, approached the Queen at the

top table and in no uncertain terms informed Her Majesty that he had not yet finished his meal, was hungry and intended to return to his seat and finish same.

That part of the custom was from then on discontinued.

The custom of drinking to the Sovereign's health (which at dinners is toasted after the meal is completed) originated during the exile of Charles the Second in France. His royal bodyguard toasted him with the words "Here's a health unto His Majesty, confusion to his enemies and a safe return to reign over the Kingdom of his forefathers".

Later, during the reign of the Hanoverian Georges and with the threat of a Stuart restoration, the Duke of Cumberland, who was the then Commander-in-Chief, ordered that the toast be always honoured.

The Navy, carrying on the traditions of the Royal Navy, toast the Sovereign seated. This custom dates to the days when there was little headroom in the men-of-war and standing up for the toast was difficult and impractical.

There are many variations of passing the port, varying from corps to corps, and from unit to unit. There is, however, no right or laid-down way of passing the port except that it is passed from right to left. In some units the port does not touch the table top as it is passed.

Written by WO1 C J Jobson, RSM & Supplied by J Fisk.

ANZAC DAY MARCH—BRISBANE

- Order of March:-** Position number 19 (Army Leading Parade).
Assemble:- New position—Left side of George Street corner Elizabeth Street.
March commences: 10.30 am.
Dress: Anzac Day Dress or Civilian with Jacket/Tie
Jeep Transport: Available outside Myers in top end of Elizabeth Street.
Memorial Service: Immediately after Unit finishes the march a brief memorial service will take place in the Shrine of Memories, Anzac Square. All members invited to attend.
- Function:** Old Stock Exchange Hotel 131 Edward Street (entry via ground floor Charlotte Street entrance)
Cost \$15-00 per person payable at the door—**EXACT CHANGE APPRECIATED.**
Time: From 11.15 am. Dry till will operate once most members have arrived—beer, wine and soft drink only. NB Lunch refreshments will be served at 12.15 pm.

Reserved table available for NGVR members.



HISTORY OF THE N.G.V.R.

NGVR RECOLLECTIONS— by Tom Lega, MM (Continued)

PATROLLING— Salamaua. The Japanese landing placed a great strain on our food supplies. For the number of men we had forward there was very little coming to us from Wau and we had lost Lae and Salamaua which has been sources of fresh supplies. As a result we were then on limited rations of fish for a long time. To alleviate this a lot of our guys were sent back to Wau when it was found the Japanese were not interested in pushing inland. Native gardens were more plentiful in Wau.

Whilst we were in Wau it was decided one Platoon should go to the Black Cat area on the Bitoi River for further patrolling. This was mountainous country with numerous stream crossings which played havoc with our boots. A pair of new boots lasted approximately 10 days.

I think that it was at Black Cat that Norm Bird made his famous stew. He had found a bottle of rum in Wau and carried it back to the Black Cat. That night he shared it with Blue Budden and, for every drink of rum they had, they put one extra spoon of curry in the stew—there were some red hot fundamentals the next day.

We were recalled from the Black Cat and sent forward to Mubo again. By this time the first lot of 2/5 Independent Company has begun to arrive in Wau and it fell to us to introduce them to the Salamaua area.

THE SALAMAUA RAID—Our scouts were Jim McAdam, Geoff Archer, Jim Cavanaugh, Jim Curry, Gordon Kinsey and two or three others whose names I can't recall. They had done an excellent job around Salamaua at the Japanese positions. Guard posts, tracks etc had been clearly marked and pin pointed.

It was about this time that a raid on Salamaua was planned. It consisted of fifty men from 2/5th Independent Coy and 21 NGVR soldiers. We left Mubo on the 25th June to proceed to Nuk Nuk via Komiatum. It rained like hell all afternoon. Our rations and supplies were saturated. We stayed a day and night to dry out our gear and pushed on to Butu evacuation camp on the 28th June. Here we studied some maps and attended lectures, then we split up into parties. Butu was approximately 4 miles behind Kila, our target across rough country.

The scouts mentioned above led the raiding parties.

On the 29th June, Lt Drysdale and his mortar crew moved out first and headed for Logui near the mouth of the "Frisco" River, where they set up their mortar. Lt. Kerr's party was to attack the airfield, Captain Umphelby and Capt Vinning with Bill O'Niell were to attack the wireless masts, with another party attacking the road junctions. Lt O'Loughlen's target was the trade stores at Kila Point with all the attacks to commence at 3.15am.

Our party was beside the road at 10.00am Suddenly the balloon went up at four minutes past 3.00am. A burst of automatic fire triggered it off. We jumped over the sea wall and raced across the road, shooting two of the enemy sentries who stood dumbfounded.



Lt. Tom Lega, MM. (Rtd)

TOM DOWLING GOES WEST.....



Planes



Trains



& Automobiles

In December 1999, Assistant Historic Officer and Association photographer, Tom "Snappy Tom" Dowling packed up his kit bag and headed off west—to Western Australia and other great places. This is Tom's story.....

I departed Brisbane December 20th for Adelaide courtesy of my daughter and her husband. Adelaide and environs are very compact and clean and shows the results of 170 years of care from our civic fathers.

On 30 December I visited Dick Inwood and received a most warm welcome even though it was a busy time for Dick. The Inwoods run a most delightful B & B - 7 acres of home, vineyard and horse paddocks.

Harry Jackman from Angaston rang me to say that he would be interstate during my visit, visiting his mother who was celebrating her 104th Birthday.

I also met John Jeffrey and Henry MacCauley. John had spent a great deal of time in PNG but being a surveyor, he traveled around quite a bit. They enjoyed looking through my Anzac Day photos from Brisbane marches. A lot of old faces were recognised.

Henry got talking a bit and supplied a lot of information of his experiences some of which was even new to his wife. I recorded our talks and hope to have it transcribed.

Brian and Fay Holloway visited me in Perth and at a reception for one of their daughters, I was delighted to meet and talk with some of the early PNGVR members. Brian and I talked about the good times we

had on the Gazelle. The gathering was certainly a happy time. Everybody just slotted into place as if the 30 years had NOT passed.

Dave McRae appointed himself my official tour director and showed me around in his car for four of the six days I was in Perth.

Ernie Moyle seemed a bit reserved at first but it was hard for him to get a word in as there was so much catching up going on. Ray Doust was in a similar situation. Geoff Atkinson added to the occasion with some photos from the past in PNG. Apart from some waistband fluctuations, the years seemed to have treated them well.

Darryl Sears & Pat Scarle enjoyed the afternoon and provided their fair share of the comradeship. The beautiful thing was that in spite of the spread of time and location 1954-1974 we were all one. Dave and his car provided a lot of photo opportunities for me. Dave had planned it that way from his surf club to Princes Park at night and out to Col Lee's nursery.

Col Lee does not enjoy the best of health at the moment but he nevertheless made us quite welcome with an invitation for a return visit.

Terry Farmer, in the preliminary planning of the trip had insisted I stay at his haus for which I was most grateful. Terry and his wife Kelli met me at the airport and treated me to the sights around town.

It was great to meet so many old comrades and I formally register my thanks to all those NGVR and PNGVR friends and their partners for their kind hospitality in the places I visited.

Tom Dowling.



RECORDING OUR HISTORY

In earlier issues, members were asked to consider recording their NGVR and/or PNGVR service history and perhaps consider sending the Association a recent photograph.

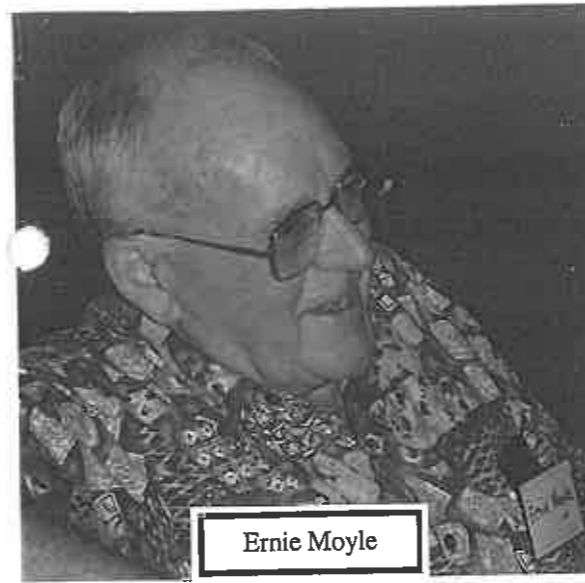
With the assistance of our Treasurer Bob Collins, we now have a hard copy of the NGVR service recollections of Neville C Swanson. Like the service history of Tom Lega, MM., Harim Tok Tok will reproduce Neville's story in future issues.

PNGVR member Gordon Wilks has also put considerable efforts into producing 10 pages of his service recollections and sent it to the Association along with several PNGVR photographs.

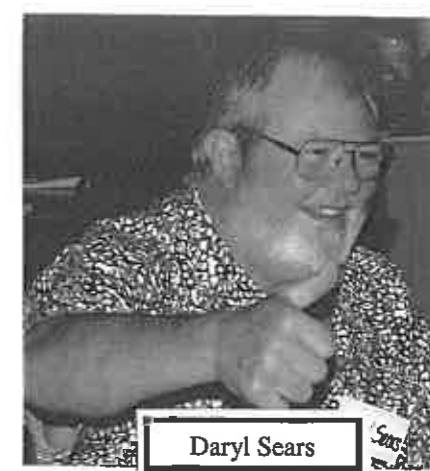
Our thanks to Tom, Neville, Gordon and Bob for all their efforts in this project.



NGVR Member Dr Ed Tscharke, AO,MBE.
With His Excellency Major-General Peter Arnison, AO.
Governor of Queensland. 1999



Ernie Moyle



Daryl Sears



Pat Scarle



NGVR Comrades
(L) Buster Mills, Jack Goad, Tom Lega, MM
Regimental Memorial Service 22 Jan 2000, Brisbane



NGVR Buster Mills - 1999



Dave McRae



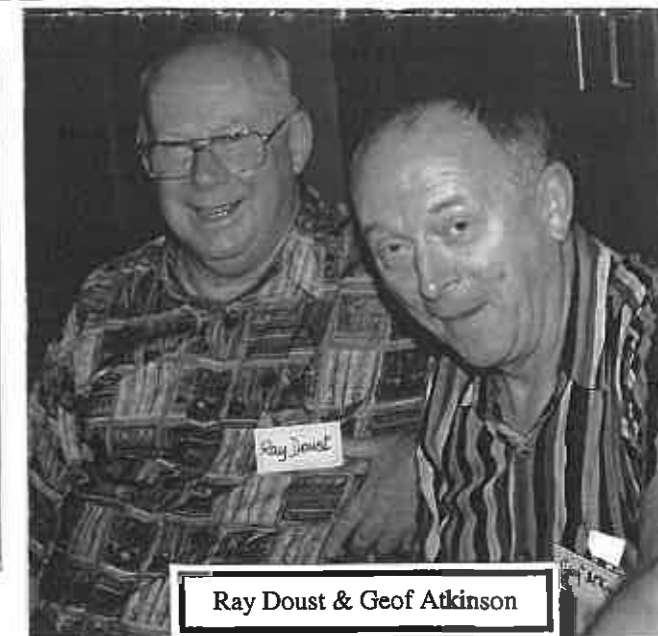
Joe Fisk, RFM,EM presents the Association's
Award for Military Excellence to the winning
Section Leader, 9 RQR - Steel Tuff
Exercise, Gallipoli Barracks Brisbane - 1999



NGVR and PNGVR Members
Regimental Memorial Service - Brisbane 22 January 2000



New Association Plaque.
Orders to Project Officer Barry Wright
Ph: 07 5546 9865



Ray Doust & Geof Atkinson