

LIK LIK TOK TOK

PNG Silver Jubilee 1975 – 2000To help raise funds for the Independence Celebrations at Kangaroo Point in Brisbane on Sat 16th September, (see enclosed flyer) the Aust-PNG Society on behalf of the PNG Consulate is conducting a raffle to be drawn on Sat 16th Sept. Tickets are \$2-00 each.

1st Prize:- Return flight for two Brisbane to Singapore via Port Moresby (donated by Air Niugini)

2nd Prize:- Return flight for two Brisbane to Madang (donated by Air Niugini)

3rd Prize:- Return flight for two Brisbane to Proserpine (donated by Flight West Airlines)

Tickets available from Col Gould (cheques payable to Aust-PNG Business & Cultural Soc. Inc.)

Letters.....

Dear Col,

On Saturday 1st April, I journeyed to Canberra with the Wagga Wagga Sub-branch of the National Servicemens' Assoc and participated in the Reserve Forces march at the Australian War Memorial.

The only other PNGVR member I met was Ian Sayers. We both turned out in our 'Anzac Day Dress'.

After the parade I spent some 4 hours wandering around the War Memorial. Unfortunately our Colours are not on display. The Hall of Valour is a must for everyone visiting the Memorial. There were several VC's, MM's and other awards on display plus a display of five brothers – all with DSO's and three MC's between them.

Near where our Colours are laid up on the western side is a brass plaque commemorating NGVR and ANGAU.

Yours in comradeship, Bruce Inch.

25th Anniversary of Independence Papua New Guinea 'BLACK & SILVER BALL'

Saturday 26th August 2000
7.30pm sharp.

Presented by the
Australia PNG Business & Cultural Society Inc
At the Irish Club of Queensland.

Tables of 10 or singles @ \$55-00 pp
Tickets now on sale and available from
Hank Cosgrove:- Ph 3397 4667.

Fax: 3397 9247

Mess Dress/ Anzac Day Dress / Jacket
MAKE YOUR BOOKING NOW

Letters.....

Dear Colin

The Memory of the splendid Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion of Friday 28th April, remains very fresh in one's mind. I send all best wishes at this time to members of our Association, for continued fulfilment and vigour in all the affairs and outreach of our Association in the years ahead.

Thank you again for your splendid hospitality.

With warmest personal regards,

J H Pearn

Major General

Surgeon General Australian Defence Force.

NB General Pearn has kindly provided copies of some of his various medical writings. Details in the next Newsletter. Editor

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

PO Box 287 EVERTON PARK QLD 4053 Ph/Fax: 07 3355 3382 (after 1930 hours) Email: pngvr@one.net.au

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President:- Colonel H N Green, MBE,ED,EM Secretary/Editor: Colin Gould, JP(Qual) AFAIM.



HARIM TOK TOK



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

VOLUME 18

AUGUST 2000

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



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

PRESIDENTS UPDATE

On Tuesday the 30th May this year, Secretary Colin Gould and I had the pleasure of formally meeting the Papua New Guinea High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Renagi Lohia, CBE, at a formal reception at the Brisbane Consulate General.

I had a detailed conversation with His Excellency and Consul General Mr Henry P Koiaie on several matters that our Association has been trying to bring to a conclusion over the past year or so, and presented the High Commissioner with a bound folder containing the following documents:-

- Copy of a letter, with attachments, sent to the Honourable Sir Mekere Morauta, Kt. MP., Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea regarding our 1997 formal nominations for the Community Service medal.
- Copy of a letter to the Hon. Bruce Scott, MP Minister for Veteran's Affairs dated 25/6/99 and a copy of the Minister's acknowledgement dated 15/2/00 regarding application for PNG service awards to be entered on our Members Australian Army service records. UNRESOLVED.
- Copy of a letter to the Australian Army Medals section dated 21/7/99 proposing the issue of the ASM 1945-1975 with clasp PNG to PNG National former members of the PNGVR who served under the Australian flag. UNRESOLVED
- Copy of our Membership list and recent Association Newsletters.

Copies of the above were also given to the Consul General in Brisbane, our Junior Vice President in Port Moresby Tony Milan, and member Lt Colonel Peter Grimshaw MBE. OAM., in Canberra. Lt Colonel Grimshaw has provided much valued assistance and advice as we attempt to resolve these issues.

In this issue.....

**Presidents Report : Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion : Tom Lega's story (cont) : Anzac Day 2000
Warning Order : Regimental Memorial Service : Montevideo Maru Memorial Service
Lik Lik Tok Tok**

With regards to our submission for PNG awards to be entered on our service records, it took the Minister for Veterans' Affairs almost **8 months** just to acknowledge our letter. On the 15 February 2000, the Minister wrote to the Association, "*The matter is still under consideration and I will write to you again when a decision has been made*". **5 months** on and we still await a decision from the Minister.

On our proposal for the ASM for PNG Nationals who served in the PNGVR, it seems to have disappeared into that bottomless pit called the "too hard basket".

The other major issue that we are seeking redress is our submission to the Australian Review Committee on south-east Asian service. Our formal submission was never presented to the Review Committee for consideration. It was withheld from the Committee by sources within the Committee's structure. There also exists, we believe, confusion within the Defence Department itself that PNGVR was a PNG Regiment and NOT an Australian Army Reserve Unit. One of our members was even refused the ASM 1945-1975 because '*PNGVR was not an Australian Army Unit*'.

In another incident, a member was advised by the Department to take his query up with the PNG Defence Force. It is shameful when public servants within our own Defence Department are not even aware of their Nation's Military history.

Your Association has written to the Commonwealth Ombudsman and Major General The Hon. Bob Mohr, RFD.ED., of the Review Committee seeking redress, as we have been denied natural justice with our submission.

September 16th marks the Silver Jubilee of Papua New Guinea's Independence. Consul General Mr Henry Koiaie extends to all our members and their families, an invitation to celebrate this occasion. On Saturday 16th September, all friends of PNG are invited to join in the celebrations

in the Park under the Story Bridge at Kangaroo Point. There will be a NGVR/PNGVR tent on site and members are invited to show the flag with a family BYO day in the park. There will be an official flag raising ceremony at 11.00am and several PNG groups giving displays of traditional dancing and music.

With Military Messes now operating with civilian caterers, your Association has been faced with increased costs to cater for its functions such as Regimental Dinners and our AGM. This year we have elected to trial a new format that will enable members to involve their family and friends by way of a bush BYO lunch and/or dinner Bar-B-Q.

Pam and Barry Wright have made available their country property at Jimboomba—the scene of two very successful field dining nights. The AGM will be at 2.00pm on Saturday 2nd September and members and guests can elect to camp overnight and enjoy a hot breakfast in the field on Sunday before heading home.

For a quarter of a century we have been civilians – yet in the background there has been a Bureau called the Defence Personnel Executive (sic) Soldier Career Management Agency, who, on every occasion, has vetoed or not answered our proposals. This is generally based on their abysmal lack of knowledge of PNGVR and recently quoted Australian Military Regulations in support of a personal decision made by D F Gibson, PSM, and SO1 in this Bureau to a personal friend which seriously affects our Association, and without reference to our Committee or to our Unit history.

This public servant has been addressed officially and we have informed the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

Further to the above, which was not an isolated matter, Committee member Tom Dowling brought to our attention a recent paper delivered to the Royal United Service Institution by Professor Clive Moore—

REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Saturday 22nd January, 2000 the Association held its first Annual Regimental Memorial Service at the Eternal Flame, Anzac Square Brisbane. Your Committee felt that this date is appropriate as it is the day the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles experienced their Baptism of Fire during the invasion of Rabaul.

At this Service the Roll is called of those members who lost their lives during World War 11 and members of the Association who have since passed into Silence, as they too served their Country and were prepared to lay down their life.

The format of the Service is similar to that which we hold on the 1st July, except that we had a bugler who played

"The Last Post" and "Reveille". At the end of the Service the Lament was played by a piper. Both the bugler and piper are members of the National Servicemen's Memorial Band, and on behalf of the Committee we give them our thanks for their participation.

We found that at the commencement time of 11.00am the weather was very warm and some of our senior members found the heat exhausting. To overcome this in future years we have changed the time to a cooler 9.30am.

Following the Service, refreshments were taken at a very popular watering hole just across the road. Joe Fisk. Members' Representative.

MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Saturday 1st July, some 62 Members and guests attended the Association's annual Memorial Service dedicated to those members of the NGVR, soldiers and civilians who lost their lives during the tragic sinking of the Japanese Naval prisonship, the 'Montevideo Maru' on the 1st July 1942.

Leading into the Service, our President gave the opening address followed by prayers by the Rev Allan MacFarland, our Association Chaplain who is from the Commandos Association, as the NGVR had a lot in common with that Unit. Hymns were sung by all present. During the Service, the Roll of NGVR and civilian names were read out

followed by the laying of wreaths, the Ode, Last Post, Silence and Reveille ending with the Australian National Anthem.

On behalf of the organisers it was very pleasing to see the attendance at this Service steadily increase as the years go by.

Next year this Association will invite, through the media, those friends and relatives who were connected with Lark Force, to join us at this Memorial Service, as they too lost comrades and loved ones when the ship went down.

Joe Fisk – Members Representative

The new system of stickers to help Bar staff identify guests and the lack of gate crashers resulted in the Bar tab lasting much longer. Food was better organised by being placed at fixed serving points. Anyone who missed out must have been too busy drinking too much of the Dr. Four-X medicine. Remember you must go to the food, as it wont come to you.

It is worth noting that we have kept the reception cost to \$15 for some years now. When you consider the price of a single stubbie in a hotel today, we don't do too badly for our \$15-00 pp. - sole use of an air conditioned venue; no clean up chores; approx 90 minutes of complimentary drinks; supply of hot and cold finger food; bar and catering staff at public holiday double pay rates; and 0630 hours access to set up the venue.

Members of the NGVR were once again allocated their own reserved table making things a lot more comfortable for our valued Life Members.

John Paynter, one of our members who attended last year sadly passed away shortly before Anzac Day this year. Bob Collins represented the Association at his final farewell. John served with the PNGVR in Goroka. Our thoughts go out to his wife Margaret and family.

In conclusion, it was good to see Simon Hui from Rabaul with us this year. Simon and his family lost almost everything in the Rabaul eruptions. I tried to make contact with Simon when I visited Rabaul last August but our paths did not cross. The Master of the ship I was on was anxious to leave Rabaul when the volcano blew its top to 5,000 ft whilst the ship was at anchor, so one can understand his concern for his passengers, not to mention one large white and expensive passenger liner.

Other members who made great effort to join us were John Mudge (Port Moresby), Gerry McGrade (Rabaul), Tony Milan, (Port Moresby), Ken MacGowan (Vanuatu), Jes Hansford (UK), Kev Shorthouse (Vanimo) to name a few. My apologies if I have missed any of our other jetsetters as my ting ting is not so good these days, but I guess they will catch up with me with a Port or two at the next Regimental Dinner.

JOE FISK
Members Representative.

1. *One of the Association's best kept secrets is how does Joe continue to fit into his Juniper Greens year after year?? Would anyone like to offer a suggestion?*
- Editor.

History Dept University of Queensland in which he stated:- **'The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles were also formed in 1951 and was absorbed into the PIR on Independence.'** This statement is totally and absolutely incorrect. Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

Sgt Tom Dowling was with me in 'B' Coy Rabaul for many years and as a Committee member has personally contacted Professor Moore, and myself as a Life Member of RUSI, have spoken to the Secretary.

Myself as President and Tom Lega, MM as Senior Vice President believe if the bureaucracy and the Defence Personnel Executive do the **'mi no savy'** just a little longer, we will not be here, having solved their worries passing into the last Silence. We are praised by those who know, yet overlooked and insulted by the ignorant minority, hence our motto **"Through Trials to Triumph"**, sounds rather good to me. We

have laid up our Colours but not our pride and perhaps, those in the Defence Personnel Executive should take note of the comments by the 'Canberra Times' on Anzac Day 1974 at the time our Queen's and Regimental Colours were laid up, **'This marks the end of one of the most famous battalions in Australia's military history'**.

In closing, I wish to thank all our members who, where ever they are located, contribute to the spirit, strength and comradeship of our Association. Whether you march in our Anzac Day Dress with your local RSL on Anzac Day, or attend the dawn service on Gallipoli or visit a sick comrade in hospital, your contribution is greatly appreciated. To our ladies of the Association, thank you for your support.

H N Green
PRESIDENT

MIXED REUNION DINNER

Another successful Regimental Mixed Reunion Dinner was held in July in the Victoria Barracks Officers Mess, Brisbane. Guests of Honour were Major General John Pearn, AM.RFD., Surgeon General Australian Defence Force (ex PNGVR Goroka) and the Papua New Guinea Consul General, Mr Henry P Koiaie and Mrs Koiaie.

Some 56 members and guests enjoyed pre-dinner sherry and comradeship in the foyer before moving into the Mess for a formal Regimental Dinner. Dining President Colonel Harry Green, MBE.ED.EM and the official party were piped in, followed by the Australian, Regimental and PNG Flags.

Stories, good cheer and Port were in plentiful supply. Dining Vice, Barry Wright took the Chair after the official party departed the Mess for Coffee, and achieved his revenge from previous dinners by instructing our Secretary Col Gould to 'slow march' the length of the Mess in order to collect donations for our Welfare Fund. Col later commented that the last time he had to slow march, was in 1971 at the Regiment's Annual Camp— 29 years ago. Barry gave him 8 put of 10 for a "reasonable" drill performance.

The entrée was nice, but the caterers made an error and were a couple short. You guessed it, Joe Fisk was one who looked like missing out. Whilst waiting for developments in the midst of "poor Joe" & "couldn't happen to a nicer RSM", Joe & Val scored a dish of hot prawns in lieu of the entrée. RSM's have all the luck.

WARNING ORDER

MIXED ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BUSH DINNER The Wright's property - Jimboomba.

SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2000

Dinner: Approx. \$30-00 pp First in - First Served
CAMP OUT FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO STAY OVERNIGHT
HOT SHOWERS, COOKING FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR BREAKFAST
CAMPERS BYO KAI KAI, DRINKS, FOLDING CHAIRS, MESS KIT

As this type of activity has proved to be very popular in the past we must impress on members that for catering purposes, ALL MONIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 1ST NOV 2000.

Contact: Bob 0755703888 Joe: 0732085298 Barry: 0755469865

N.G.V.R. HISTORY

Tom LEGA, MM continues his story:-

As a result of the raid on Salamaua the Japanese became more aggressive with their patrolling. One of their patrols found one of the Scout camps and destroyed everything. They pierced every tin of food with a bayonet and burned the bush house. They really vented their anger on those tins of meat.

When Gordon KINSEY went back to the camp, he was searching around for a good tin of meat when the burnt-out structure of the building collapsed, severing a muscle in his leg. He had to be carried back to Mubo and treated, then evacuated to Wau by stretcher. He was being carried along the track above Guadigasel Saddle when a Japanese float plane flew over and spotted him being carried. The Carriers dumped Gordon on the track and hid in the long grass beside it. The Japanese float plane then waggled its wings and flew off towards Salamaua. It was the only act of chivalry I witnessed from the enemy during the whole show.

Lt. Col FLEAY was awarded the D.S.O. for the Salamaua raid. To my knowledge he didn't leave Wau. That decoration should have been awarded to Capt. Norm WINNING and Capt. UMPHELBY.

We continued on in Mubo carrying out more patrols and keeping an eye out for Japanese activity. Things remained stable for a month or so, then during one evening meal parade, three shots rang out. This was the general alarm,

and we all raced to our prepared positions and from then it was on.

The Japanese were running out on to the air strip in threes and fours to draw our fire, thus giving away our positions. The purpose of this was to give their mortars a definite target. Unlucky for them the air strip was marked off with old biscuit tins every 100 yards, and we were able to cut into them with Vickers guns over open sights inflicting heavy casualties.

After this action three natives from Busama were found wounded, having been abandoned by the Japanese. They told us the bullets were coming down like rain.

'It was the only act of chivalry I witnessed from the enemy during the whole show.'

Our scouts kept tabs on the Japanese on their return to Salamaua, and reported that every able bodied Japanese was carrying a dead or wounded comrade. They left behind a lot of equipment, clothing, colour patches and badges of rank etc. These were forwarded to Port Moresby for identification.

I was in Mubo from Jan/Feb 1942 until August 1942, then I was sent down to the Markham River until January 1943. Soon after this raid - about July/Aug 1942 most of NGVR were pulled out of Mubo and sent back to Wau. Many were also sent to Port Moresby to recuperate. The only way to Port Moresby was to walk the Bulldog Track - 7 days or more Wau to Bulldog which was on the Lakikamu River.

(To be continued...)

ANZAC DAY 2000

The year 2000 has bought us together for the 10th year since we first marched as an Association on Australian soil. When we look back with pride to our first march on Anzac Day in 1990, we still have many of the familiar faces marching with us in 2000 even though we have a slight thinning of the ranks due to age creeping up on all of us.

It is good to see that we have not lost the high standards we were proud of in Papua New Guinea and which causes favourable comments on our dress and how well we present ourselves on this most important day of our Australian heritage. However with all the good that is said, we must not forget that a few of our members are not correctly dressed as stipulated by the Association, i.e. Anzac Day dress, and it would be great to see our Unit uniformly dress for 2001.

The day in Brisbane started somewhat overcast, but as in previous years, the weather for the parade was ideal. The Order of March was led by Colonel Harry N Green, MBE.ED. EM followed by Joe Fisk, RFM.EM in juniper greens and young Lauren Eastwood with the wreath. Next came our Colour Party with the Australian Flag (Col Gould -bearer), Regimental Flag (Bob Collins -bearer) and Papua New Guinea Flag (Simon Hui -bearer). Then followed our Banner and the main body of the Association. Following the Unit were the vehicles carrying our more senior members and those were not quite up to marching the distance of the parade, making a total of 105 members on parade. May I say our members have always been supportive and consistent each year which is greatly appreciated by the Committee, so we must be getting our act together better each year. For the record our largest attendance was 108 a few years ago.

It is a reflection of the Anzac spirit of our Regiment when we see members making parade each year from various parts of Australia and overseas, no doubt at great personal expense, to be with their mates on

Anzac Day.

This year we had a number of younger people join our ranks wearing the medals of their father or grand father who served in the NGVR or PNGVR. It is wonderful to see these young people take such an interest in their heritage and to see them also join it at the reception after the march. These young people are our future, and it was heart warming to see the senior generation making the youngsters feel welcome.

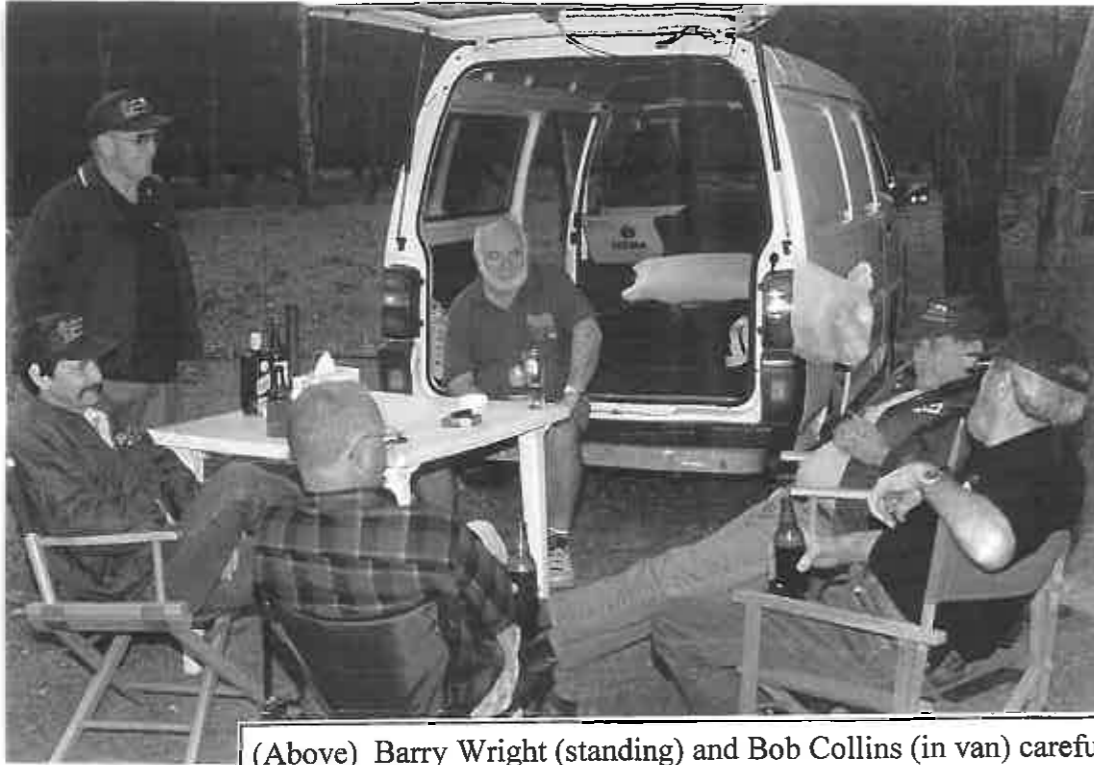
As is our practice, we paid homage to the Fallen in the Hall of Memories with many young people joining in after the march. Jack Goad, NGVR, and Lauren Eastwood aged 13 years - Lee Eastwood's daughter - jointly laid the Association's wreath.

After the service, everyone proceeded to the Stock Exchange Hotel where various speeches and toasts were made in the traditional manner. John Holland again organised a display of historic material for members and guests to view. Thanks John for your efforts again this year.

The reception went off well without a hitch and without the gate crashers of past years who seemed to blend easily into the crown once inside. They could not slip past our efficient "sentries" at the door, Our Secretary Col Gould and wife, Pattie and later assisted by the legal profession, our Solicitor Bruce Crawford. Between 25 and 30 gate crashers were denied entry. As always Colin and Pattie put their heart and soul into Anzac Day and I think I am qualified on our Members behalf to say "an excellent job done Colin and Pattie".

Our usual Q Store duty Officer, who collects membership fees and takes orders for plaques and stock items etc, Bill Bickerton was an apology this year. Bill is working in East Timor on the rebuilding program, but his place was taken by our hard working Treasurer, Bob Collins. Thanks Bob.

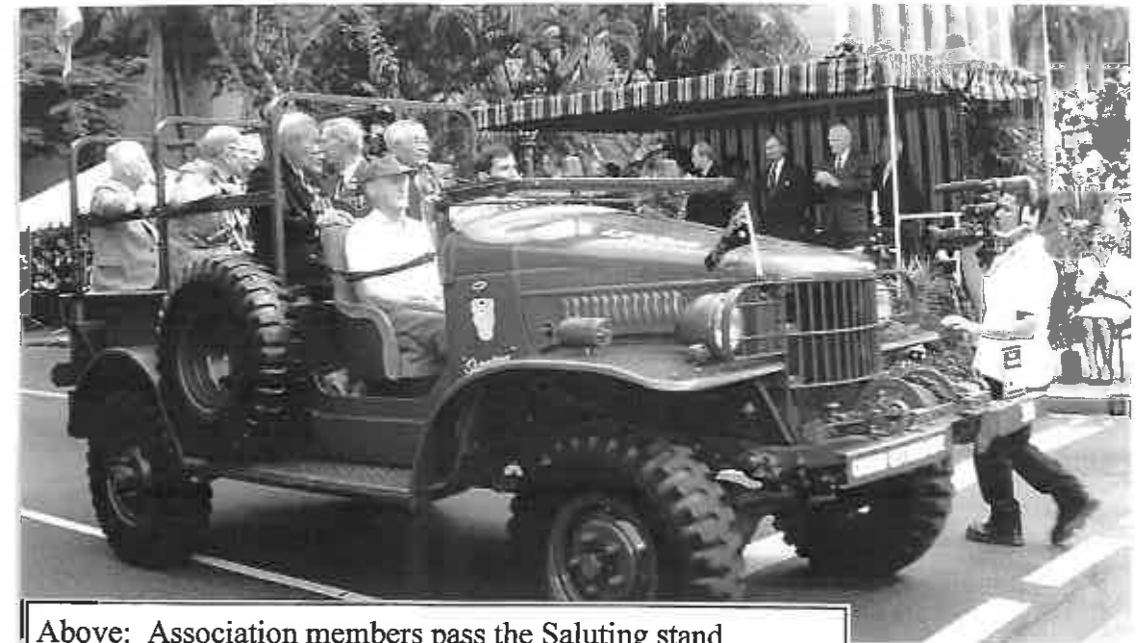
LEST WE FORGET



(Above) Barry Wright (standing) and Bob Collins (in van) carefully plan the formalities for the Field Dinning Night—July 2000 Jimboomba.
 (Below) The Field Mess tent all laid out with silverware, Mess Bell, Rifle and sword ready for the guests.



**ANZAC
 DAY
 2000
 Brisbane**



Above: Association members pass the Saluting stand.

Below: Tom Lega, MM and Jack Goad—Brisbane 25/4/00



Members (from left) Max Shadlow, Mike Griffin, Kevin Cheatham and Stan Carswell at the June State RSL Congress held in Cairns. Stan is Senior Vice President of the Cairns Sub-Branch and holds other positions with the RSL.
 (Photo courtesy Stan Carswell)





Association Treasurer—Bob Collins (L), and Karl Aschhoff



Peter Harbeck, ED—Anzac Day



Barry & Pam Wright—Regimental Dinner
Victoria Barracks Officers Mess 2000



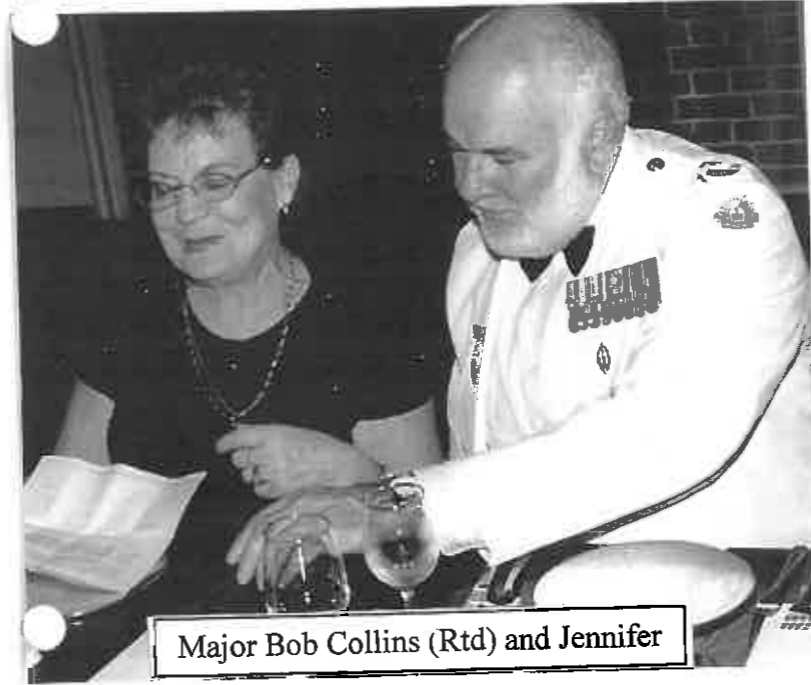
Major General John Pearn, AM,RFD.
Surgeon-General Australian Defence Force
and Association Member at the Regimental Dinner



Stewart Lewis and Bill Kelly, MBE at the Anzac Day reception



Australian Youth Remembers



Major Bob Collins (Rtd) and Jennifer



Ken Hendren



Family members—'Montevideo Maru' Memorial Service
Anzac Square Brisbane 1 July 2000



MIKE AHMAD



Colonel H N Green, MBE,ED,EM. Mr Henry Koiaie PNG Consul General
His Excellency Renagi Lohia, CBE., PNG High Commissioner and
Major General John Pearn, AM.RFD at the PNG Consulate General
in Brisbane— May 2000