



PER ANGSTA AD AUGUSTA
Through Trials to Triumph

HARIM TOK TOK

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

Volume 1

March 1994

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This Association was invited to attend with banner, flags etc., to the FUNERAL SERVICE & ENTOMBMENT OF THE UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA A.C.T. 11TH NOVEMBER 1993. Standard bearers being W.O.I. Joe Fisk, R.F.M., E.M. and W.O.I. Norm Mundy R.F.M. through the excellent arrangements made by Major Peter Rogers DFC. with his former command, the School of Army Aviation, Oakey.

Six members including W.O.I's Joe and Norm, President Col. Harry Green, Vice President Lt. Tom Lega, Sgt. Tom Dowling, Sgt. Kel Williams were flown to and from Canberra by Nomad Aircraft ex Archerfield with refuelling at Tamworth N.S.W. each way.

Pilots from the School of Army Aviation were both from Papua New Guinea, Lt. Hans Bock of Dorogiri Village, Daru and student pilot Kit Collins from Air Transport Squadron, Hohola and whose parents are teachers at Misima High School, M.B.P. The flying and food was excellent both ways, and also on board there was the PNG flag from PNG Consul, Tom Polumae, Brisbane along with regimental banner, battalion flag and Australian flag. The contingent visited Old Parliament House where the catafalque was on view before the ceremony on the 11th.

The following day on the 11th, we assembled in our allotted space before the War Memorial, and were joined in that area by Major Tom Milan, W.O.II Bruce Inch, Capt. Mike Griffin, Capt. Jess Hansford. It was also good to see our much decorated ex-adjutant Barry Sullivan, Ken Bagot, and Charlie Schuster and of course Charles Nelson and his son, Neil who was in uniform, and on leave from University.

There were over 300 sets of banners and units lining the route, and although we were not permitted to march behind our standard bearers due to lack of space, we did unfurl our flags and after the coffin and escort passed, went in orderly fashion, as near as possible to the assembly of banners to witness and listen to the rest of the ceremony.

This historic occasion with all its banners, assembly of associations and the official parties was historic and wonderful. It is certain that such a sight will not be witnessed in Australia again. Due praise must go to the parties from Navy, Army and Air Force whose turnout was without criticism. The mounted parties depicting the Light Horse and 1914 AIF Navy etc., from W.W.I. were admirable.

In the evening the viewing of the actual Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was reverently examined in the War Memorial. The dignity of the whole proceeding will never be forgotten to anyone who has been in the military or associated with it. For those of us who were fortunate enough to attend I sincerely believe that nothing can surpass the honour of being there.

EDITORIAL

I must apologise for the lateness of this newsletter, with all the happenings late '93.

Firstly, the AGM held at the Sgt's mess, WACOL a good roll up of members. Great effort by the mess to wine & dine our members. THANKS!!

We lost the services of Bill (Kelly) Sec, and Doug (Ng) Tres. thanks fellows for a job well done.

Next was the "FUNERAL SERVICES & ENTOMBMENT OF THE UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER", in Canberra our members attended this service, and all were deeply moved by the solemnity of the event.

Then our big day. The DEDICATION OF THE PLAQUE TO FALLEN NGVR COMRADES AT THE SHRINES OF MEMORIES BRISBANE. This was a big effort by Joe and Norm plenty of hard work by both members. Thanks again!!

The newsletter is a hard item to write with limited resources. If you have any info that could be used in the newsletter please forward to the Secretary, come on fellows get off your -----, and give a hand, don't leave it all to those few bods whom are at the ready all the time.

DON'T FORGET ANNUAL SUB'S TIME, see "THE QUARTERMASTER'S STORE".

Ed

NEWS

Maj. Bill recently received a letter for Doc Parkinson telling of his son's first birthday in true SAMOAN tradition. As the Doc. said, "reminded him very much of younger days in P.N.G., plenty of food (roasted pig) with a good liquid flow to wash it all down.

ADDRESS:

DR. A.D.PARKINSON
WHO REPRESENTATIVE
P.O. BOX 77 APIA SAMOA

Good Luck Doc!!

THE ASSOCIATION WISHES TO THANK ALL MEMBERS FOR ALL THE DONATIONS FORWARD TO THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE AND DEDICATION CEREMONY AT THE "SHRINE OF MEMORIES" ANZAC SQUARE BRISBANE ON THE 6TH NOVEMBER 1993.

THERE ARE TOO NUMEROUS NAMES TO MENTION INDIVIDUALLY.

GREAT EFFORT THANKS!!

Again Tom Dowling was busy in Canberra with the camera. Photographs are now available.

After the visit to Canberra by members of the Association. Present Hardy penned the following letters of thanks to:

THE COMMANDING OFFICIER
SCHOOL OF ARMY AVIATION
OAKEY, QLD.

and to

PETER RODGERS
BURLEIGH WATERS, QLD.

The Commanding Officer
School of Army Aviation,
Army Airfield,
OAKEY QLD 4401

Dear Sir,

Please accept the very sincere thanks of this Association's Executive and Members for your making an Army School of Aviation aircraft and pilots to transport to and from Canberra A.C.T. a contingent from NGVR/PNGVR for participation in the Funeral and Entombment Ceremony of the Unknown Australian Soldier, Canberra, Australian War Memorial, 10th/12th Nov 93.

The flight was efficiently piloted by Lt. Hans Bock and student pilot Kit Collins, both from Papua New Guinea and was indicative of the close liaison and national good relations which your school has engendered between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Further the excellent food made available by your command was much appreciated as was the co-operation of the RAEME N.C.O. member of the Nomad aircraft's crew.

The arrangements made for us through Major Peter Rogers DFC and by your school of Army Aviation, and the trouble free flight, indeed made this historic occasion a memorable one for this Association. To ensure the widest possibly public relations concerning this event, as President of NGVR/PNGVR I have sent on the 15th November a facsimile to the Prime Minister's Department and N.E.C. Papua New Guinea, with copies to the Commander Papua new Guinea Defence Force, and Air Transport Squadron. Hohola.

The facsimile read as follows:-

"From NGVR/PNGVR Association. Please be advised that members of this association were present at the historic entombment of the Australian Unknown Soldier, War Memorial Canberra, 11th Nov'93. The Australian School of Army Aviation, Oakey kindly supplied an Australian Army Aircraft to transport our contingent with regimental banners and flags, also PNG flag from Papua New Guinea Consulate, Brisbane. Both pilots were from Papua New Guinea, Lt Hans Bock of Dorogori Village, Daru from the School of Army Aviation, Army Airfield, Oakey, and student pilot Kit Collins of Missima Island, Milne Bay Province, from the Air Transport Squadron, Hohola, N.C.D. I will elaborate further on the skill of the pilots and the co-operation of the Australian School of Army Aviation, Oakey when returning to Rabaul via Port Moresby early December.' Signed Harry Green Colonel.

The Secretary of this Association has also made arrangement for extracts of this letter to be sent to the Army Newspaper also national newspapers. Our appreciation and thanks also go to our Association member, formerly of your command Major Peter Rogers DFC, for without his assistance and advice this very successful flight and memorable occasion could not have occurred.

Should this Association be of any service in the future, to the School of Army Aviation Oakey, please advise and it will be our pleasure to reciprocate in some way for your wonderful courtesy and co-operation.

Major Peter Rogers DFC
1 Lorikeet Lane,
BURLEIGH WATERS. QLD. 4220

Dear Sir,

It is seldom that this Association Executive and Members can applaud and give sincere thanks to somebody for a truly excellent act.

I speak of your arranging the movement of our contingent to Canberra for the historic entombment of the Unknown Australian Soldier in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, by Nomad Aircraft from your former command.

The return flight went off without fault, the food was enjoyable and more than enough. Pilots Lt Hans Bock and student pilot Kit Collins, and the RAEME Engineer more than helpful.

We are most appreciative of their efforts and letters have gone to the PM's Department and N.E.C. PNG, also their respective commands here in Papua New Guinea. We have acknowledged to the C.O. School of Army Aviation Oakey, the excellent co-operation we received through you, for making such a special occasion possible. Copies of this letter have gone to the secretary so that he may arrange for extracts from same to go to the Army Newspaper, national newspaper etc.

Peter, thank you most sincerely for such a magnificent effort, and for making such a wonderful occasion possible for members of the NGVR/PNGVR Association.

Further thanks must go to Charles Nelson and his lovely wife Marie, and their son Neil for their courtesy and vehicle runs too numerous to mention, before and after the ceremony. Also most of the party was accommodated by Charles.

After 4 hours of ceremony many of our contingent were sunburnt, and at the end of the ceremony only a short distance away Charles Nelson and his family had arranged a mobile pub in his Toyota wagon with gas fridge, and cold, cold bottles of beer, food etc. Tenku Tumas Masta Sarlie!!

We all then went for lunch and for the rest of the afternoon, sleep was the main order of the day. Many thanks must go to Tom Dowling's inlaws outside of whose house Charles Nelson parked his vehicle with bar etc., and of course the toilet facilities in Damien's (Tom's brother-in-law) house deserve the highest praise.

I WAS THERE

As a member of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-Members Association I was invited to march with fellow members at the entombment of the Australian Unknown Soldier in Canberra.

A Nomad Aircraft on exercise duty became available to the Association. Led by our President, Colonel Harry Green, we were limited to six members as this is all the aircraft can carry, plus two pilots and service mechanic.

On my arrival at Archerfield Airport I enquired as to where I could Board the Nomad which was enroute from the School of Army Aviation based at Oakey. The person I asked seemed quite surprised and commented "Are they still flying those things, I thought they had all crashed."

There was no need for worry. Lieutenant Hans Bock from Daru and Trainee pilot Kip Collins from Milne Bay, members of the P.N.G. Defence Force, performed admirably. We were forced into a holding pattern over Canberra for at least half an hour because of the air traffic coming in from all over Australia. We made a perfect landing at Fairbairn Air Base under the scrutiny of some of the best pilots in Australia.

Arrival in Canberra was late in the afternoon because of the time difference and we just had time to pay our respects to the Australian Unknown Soldier lying in State at Old Parliament House.

Three of us were billeted with a fellow member at his home in Carran, a suburb of Canberra and quite unbeknown to me, this person, Charlie Nelson was born and bred at Mitchelton and seemed to know more about the Gaythorne R.S.L. than I did.

Thursday's weather was excellent and we assembled in Anzac Parade about opposite the Vietnam Memorial. There were twelve of us by now and with our banner and flags made an impressive sight.

The crowd was enormous and as I witnessed the ceremony I was deeply moved by the solemnity of the event. Close by me was an old lady in a wheel chair and when the request came to stand for the playing of the Last Post, she shrugged off all willing hands and stood almost upright on her own.

After the official parade we visited the Hall of Memory and every member placed a single flower on the tomb.

Canberra is a very friendly town and everywhere we went we were shown great hospitality. People were openly surprised we had made the effort to travel so far for the occasion and were openly curious as to who we were and what we represented. I made sure they knew I was a proud member of the Gaythorne R.S.L.

The trip home the next day was uneventful and I can assure you it was an honour to have been in Canberra for the ceremony and I will cherish the memories for the rest of my days.

KEL WILLIAMS.

Ken wrote this article for the "Gaythorne Bayonet" (Gaythorne R.S.L. Services Club). Thanks Ken!!

A YOUNG WOMAN PASSENGER WITH TWO SETS OF TWINS WAS HELPED ABOARD THE PLANE BY THE HOSTESS WHO FINALLY GOT HER AND HER BROOD SETTLED IN A ROW BY THEMSELVES. "GEE-YOU'RE LUCKY! YOU GOT TWINS EVERY TIME". THE WOMAN BLUSHED THEN SAID "OH, NO! HUNDREDS OF TIMES WE DIDN'T EVEN GET ONE!"

The Annual general meeting of the Association was held at ITRG GP SERGEANT'S MESS, WACOL on Saturday 11 September '93.

In the absence of the President Col. N Green, R. Harvey-Hall took the chair and declared the Annual General Meeting opened.

28 members attended, and a number of apologies received.

Bill Kelly stood down as Secretary and Doug NG stood down as Treasurer.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

<i>PRESIDENT</i>	COL. H GREEN	
<i>VICE-PRESIDENT</i>	TOM LEGA	PH: 893 1287
<i>MEMBERS REPS.</i>	NORM MUNDY	PH: 074 241 492
	JOE FISK	PH: 208 5298
<i>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</i> & <i>MEMORABILIA OFFICER</i>	ALLEN BELL	PH: 018 878 712 PH: 341 4519 (A/H)
<i>TREASURER</i>	GEORGE BAGAIJLUK	PH: 376 4405 (A/H)
<i>SECRETARY</i>	COL. GOULD	

Congratulations to those members elected for 1994. The Chairman acknowledges the work and time put in by the President Col. Harry Green, and Vice-president and NGVR member, Tom Lega.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Doug Ng tabled his annual report and Auditors Certificate for the 1992/93 financial year. The Bank account balance as at 30/6/93 was \$2925.15 and the balance as at 11/9/93 was \$3661.10.

As at the 11/9/93 there were 157 PNGVR members, 1 life member and 18 NGVR life members, a total of 176 members. As at 30/6/93 55 members were financial for 1993/94. As at 11/9/93 this had increased to 103 members financial for 1993/4. The practice of sending out subscription reminders/notices with newsletters proved worthwhile, and saved on postage.

Doug Ng said that taking into consideration outstanding fees and the value of stock on hand, the nett worth of the Association was in the region of \$5000.00.

The Treasurer thanked all members of the Executive Committee for their support throughout the year.

Doug Ng said that he held an extra 109 car stickers oversupplied by the manufacturers.

NGVR-PNGVR EX-MEMBERS ASSN. INC.
Statement of Receipts & Payments
For the Year Ended 30th June, 1993

RECEIPTS:

Joining Fees		275.00
Membership Subscriptions		905.00
Lapel Badge Sales		120.00
Pocket Badge Sales		75.00
Tie Sales		1,421.50
Car Sticker Sales		307.00
Plaque Sales		756.00
Photo Sales		59.00
Beret Badge Sales		79.50
PNG Defence Force Vol.II Book Sales		240.00
Donations:		
NGVR Memorial Plaque	68.00	
General	71.00	139.00
		<hr/>
Medal Levies:		
Independence Medals	1,105.00	
10th Anniversary Medals	790.00	
LSGC Medals	150.00	
50th Anniversary	40.00	2,085.00
		<hr/>
Miniature Medals:		
10th Anniversary	324.50	
PNG Independence	8.50	333.00
		<hr/>
Functions:		
AGM - 18/9/92	89.00	
Re-Union - 27/11/92 (Yeronga RSL)	390.00	
ANZAC Day - 25/4/93	700.00	1,179.00
		<hr/>
Bank Interest Received		89.06
Postage:		
Plaques	45.00	
Sundries	11.50	56.50
Name Tags Refund		8.05
Money held in trust for members		19.00
		<hr/>
		8,146.61

LESS PAYMENTS:

Stationery		356.21	
Functions -			
AGM - 18/9/92	280.00		
Re-union - 27/11/92 (Yeronga RSL)	400.00		
ANZAC Day - 25/4/9	<u>900.00</u>	1,580.00	
Plaques -			
Cost of Plaques	1,089.85		
Laminating of History Sheets	<u>20.00</u>	1,109.85	
Postages -			
Newsletters	436.70		
Sundries	222.40		
Medals	104.00		
Plaques	75.15		
Ties	59.55	897.80	
Telephone		285.21	
Bank Charges		13.05	
Independence Medal Expenses -			
Engravings	90.00		
Parchments	65.00	155.00	
10th Anniversary & LSGC Medal Expenses -			
Airmiles & other incidental expenses	1,000.00		
Airfreight & Delivery	133.00		
Engravings	<u>52.50</u>	1,185.50	
Medals -			
10th Year Anniversary Miniatures	387.55		
Independence Miniature	8.50	396.05	
Banner Alterations & Enhancements		460.00	
Ties (100)		1,500.00	
Car Stickers (250)		775.55	
Auditing Fees		210.00	
Members Management Committee returns - Paid			
to Justice Dept -			
1991	46.50		
1992	<u>19.00</u>	65.50	
PNG Defence Force Vol. II Books		90.00	
Name Tags (100)		23.00	
Refund to Members -			
Lapel Badges	30.00		
Medal Levy	20.00		
Tie	<u>18.00</u>	<u>68.00</u>	<u>9,170.72</u>
Excess Expenditure over Receipts for			
year ended 30/6/93			1,024.11
<u>PLUS</u> Opening balance of Cash Book 1/7/92			<u>3,949.26</u>
Cash Book Balance			<u>\$2,925.15</u>

An Air Hostess was praising her Chief Pilot/Lover to her best friend:

"He's astonishingly virile for fifty-five and he doesn't have a single grey hair."

Her friend nodded, Yes, it's lucky he's bald."

THE QUARTERMASTER'S STORE

"To assist our valued members and to ensure all are correctly kitted out for future functions your Association has a mini Q-STORE.

Items in stock include:-

Badges, lapel, brass, mini	\$2.75 ea
Badges, pocket, woven	\$15.00
Ties, polyester, NGVR/PNGVR (limited stock only)	\$18.00
* Badges, beret, brass	*
Stickers, car	\$2.50

(* Available from Christies, Sydney order direct)

The Q-STORE is currently looking into an attractive engraved name badge that will feature a members name, Association name, unit badge etc etc for next ANZAC Day and all future functions. Details available shortly. (Refer "Stop Press" Back Page)

Members who wish to have their medals mounted, or purchase miniatures may contact:-

Kevin Gillet
Armed Forces Medal Mounting
20 Zealand ST TAIGUM
Ph: (07) 865 0595
UBD Map 8 M-6

As this is a part time business run from home, the best time to contact Kevin or his wife is after 5.30/6.00pm

Members will find a loose page Order Form in this copy of "Harim Tok Tok" please use this form when ordering from the Q-STORE. You will also find a "Annual Sub" form, it would be desirable that you use this form, prior to ANZAC Day reunion, this will allow your HARD WORKING Secretary and Treasurer time to enjoy the day.

Orders (AND MONEY) may be sent to Col Gould - Secretary
PO Box 287 Everton Park Brisbane 4053 Ph: (07) 355 338

**DEDICATION OF PLAQUE TO FALLEN
NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
SHRINE OF MEMORIES, BRISBANE
6th NOVEMBER, 1993**

It was with pride and Remembrance that Ex Members of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles unveiled a historic Plaque in the hall of Memories at Anzac Square, Brisbane on Saturday, 6th November, 1993.

The day was bright and sunny and the Papua New Guinea Flag was flown along with our own Australian Flag above Anzac Square. This showed the close ties the two countries have had in the past and continue to have both during peace and war. As members arrived at Anzac Square, the usual process was evident, the searching of faces for mates of days gone by, many of whom had not seen each other for years and promised to reminisce after the ceremony. Members came from far and wide, overseas and interstate, some original Members even in failing health had made the journey. Relatives of the Fallen, children of Members unable to attend, family members and relatives of Ex members N.G.V.R. and P.N.G.V.R. were also evident in their numbers making approximately 220 persons in attendance.

The ceremony commenced at 11.00am and was televised in the A.B.C. news that night ,with good coverage going throughout Australia and the Pacific Islands.

Copies of the original program and photos will be available for sighting or purchase on Anzac Day.

The President's Welcome Address was by Colonel H. Green M.B.E., ED, EM, OAB (RL) - The ode was delivered by Lt. T Lega M.M. (Rtd).

The service and the Blessing was carried out by a Senior Salvation Army Officer and the Roll Call of the Fallen was carried out by myself. The unveiling was carried out by two Ex N.G.V.R. Members, Tom Lega M.M. and Jack Goad. A Remembrance wreath was laid at the base of the Plaque. The wreath selected was of a spear shaped head surrounded by large green leaves with the N.G.V.R. colours in a cluster of flowers at the base with Lest We Forget sash across the centre.

A special thanks goes to the many dignitaries including Brigadier Ian Hunter C.V.O., M.B.E., Colonel Mal Bishop M.M., Lieutenant Colonel Pears M.C. and the President of the Queensland R.S.L., S.W. Kay O.A.M., E.D., for their support in this project.

To commemorate the occasion Lieutenant Maurie Colonel Pears M.M. donated two sets of his book, To Find A Path, Volumes 1 and 2 to the Queensland R.S.L. library which is recording the history of the N.G.V.R. and P.N.G.V.R.. We give our thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Pears for this generous donation.

After the ceremony the guests were invited to the Irish Club for refreshments and the catching up of the past. The usual finger foods washed down with beverages, including Stout from the keg seemed to be enjoyed by all present.

A historic photograph of all ex N.G.V.R. Members present was taken by Tom Dowling, our official photographer, and the names were recorded. A copy of this photograph has since been sent to each of the Members in attendance.

An allocation of \$200.00 was made to the Brisbane Salvation Army for use in causes for the needy. Any excess money will be allocated to the construction of a memorial seat to be situated near the Eternal Flame in Anzac Square, Brisbane.

I wish to thank my wife, Val, for all the support she gave me in the research, typing and ideas for the program, Norm Mundy who was supportive in ideas and Allen Bell who organised the printing of the program with an excellent colour front cover. I would also like to thank ex Warrant Officers Bill Parry and Kevin Barry from the R.S.L. Staff for their assistance in the lead up to the Ceremony.

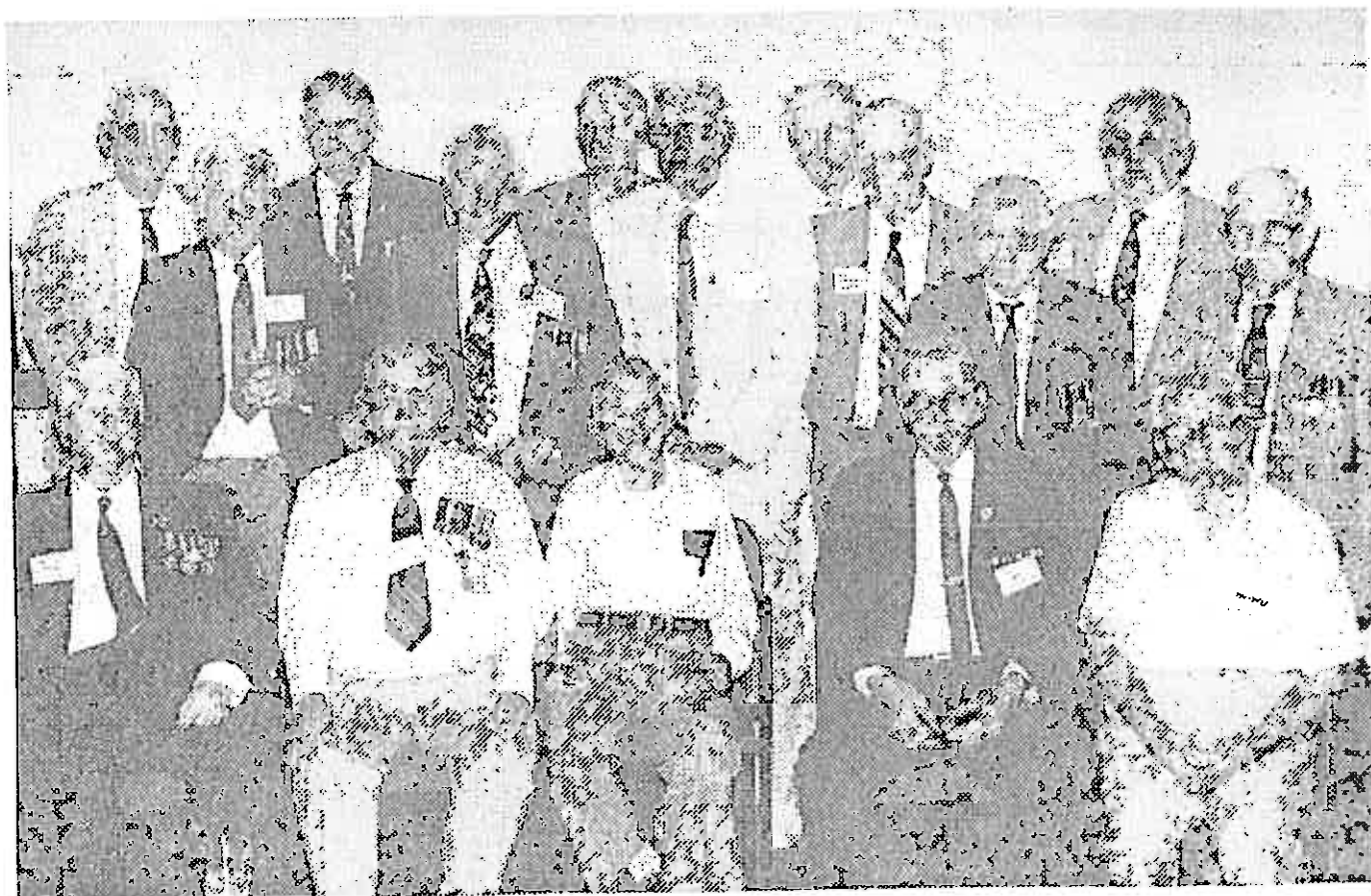
Although some time has lapsed since N.G.V.R. was an active Unit on the foreshores and backblocks of wartime New Guinea their heroic deeds and sacrifice have not been forgotten and it is only fitting that our Association Honour their Fallen on this special occasion. The surviving Members are a very special group of people which the younger generation of our Association take pride in knowing them. They are a great inspiration when they march side by side with us on Anzac Day, as they are the fathers of our Battalion which was formed in 1950.

Permission has been granted to permanently display N.G.V.R. and P.N.G.V.R. memorabilia at the Victoria Barracks, Brisbane, This will ensure that both these Units will never be forgotten and may serve as an inspiration to the younger and future generations.

In conclusion, whilst in Canberra for the Dedication of the Unknown Australian Soldier, it was noted that on the Panels of the World War 2 Fallen only a few names of the N.G.V.R. were recorded. It is intended to have this rectified and brought up to date. At Bitapaka War Cemetery, Rabaul, Panels 29 and 30, record the Fallen and there are also names recorded in the Lae War Cemetery, these we will suggest be added to the N.G.V.R. Panel in the Canberra War Memorial.

DEDICATION SUPPLEMENT BY JOE FISK

NGVR PLAQUE DEDICATION
SHRINE OF MEMORIES ANZAC SQUARE
BRISBANE 6 NOVEMBER 1993



Back Row L to R:

Tom Lega, Joe Gleeson, Charles Brush,
Frank Holland, Edward Tucharke

Centre Row L to R:

Buster Mills, Jim Huxley, Kevin Baker,
Bob Rasmussen, Kam On Leo, John Murphy

Front Row L to R:

Jack Goad, Jack McGrath, John Cooke,
Neil Greave, Alan Board

HISTORY OF NGVR

In May '66 Lt Col Bishop distributed to all companies through PNG, extracts from the AUSTRALIAN TERRITORIES magazine, depicting the background of the formation and early days of NGVR. With the raising of PNGVR in the post war period, the traditions and honours of the original NGVR were passed to us to maintain.

Lt Col Bishop considered the writing an ideal subject which all ranks should read so they are aware of the fine traditions which are their responsibility to uphold. It is fact that over the years many members may have forgotten the text of the writing and would like to re-read the article. For those members who have not read the article, this gives them a chance to go back into history and do so, good reading.

Ed.

True To Their Traditions

As Keeper of the Written Records at the Australian War Memorial, Mr. C.F. Coady is familiar with much of the lesser-known history of Australian Forces in wartime. Here he summarises the remarkable work of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles during the first years of the New Guinea campaign...

Anyone glancing at the nominal roll of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (N.G.V.R.) would be excused for thinking that Australia had maintained a Foreign Legion at its northern outposts in January 1942.

Such names as Lars Waldemar Bergstrand, Carlo Lugarno Cavaliere, Bruno Chou Lai, Allistair Stuart Fraser-Fraser, Francisco Trolaolo and Hubert Behrendorff appear and are an indication of the cosmopolitan nature of this volunteer movement.

When Army headquarters, on 4th September 1939, issued the necessary order for the raising of this unit, men from Europe, the British Isles, New Zealand, Australia and Asia, men who had their homes and livelihood in the Territories and were aware of the menace of Japan, hastened to join. Chan Kim Thai was a rifleman; Shui Hong, a lieutenant.

Prior to the beginning of the war, Australia had scrupulously observed its undertakings to the League of Nations and had refrained from making any defence preparations in the Mandated Territory.

In spite of the limitations imposed by the mandate, the Returned Soldiers' League Sub-Branches took a vigorous lead in demanding that at least some effort should be made to arm and train those residents who wished to be better prepared to defend themselves and their homes. Col. J. Walstab, the Police Superintendent at Rabaul, visited Melbourne in August 1939, and discussed the matter fully with Army HQ. Largely because of his efforts, it was decided to form a militia-type battalion in New Guinea.

Originally, the strength of the battalion was limited to 20 officers and 400 other ranks, but the establishment was increased in June 1940 to 23 officers and 482 other ranks.

The enthusiasm in the early days stemmed mainly from returned soldiers of the 1914-18 War, but by mid-1941 the unit lost much of its zest, many of the youngest and most ardent members having gone away to join the A.I.F. and the other services.

The remoteness of many areas was a disadvantage inherent in the unit's organisation. But, in the latter half of 1941, a growing realisation of the danger of war in the Pacific and of the increasing peril of the Territory led to a revival of interest.

Headquarters of the N.G.V.R. was originally at Rabaul and companies and sections were located at Wau, Salamaua, Lae and Madang. Fit men between the ages of 18 and 50 were accepted.

Enlistment was for a two-year period and there was no pay except for an allowance of 1 pound per year, made for each efficient member - an efficient member being one who put in 20 full days of training and who qualified in handling small arms. The standard of rifle shooting was very high.

The first Commanding Officer was Lieut.-Col. C. Ross Field, the Public Works Director at Rabaul and the Adjutant was Lieutenant J.J. Mullaly.

The uniform consisted of khaki shirts and trousers, made up locally from material sent from Australia. The Army supplied felt hats, bandoliers and leather belts, boots and puttees. Brass N.G.V.R. shoulder badges were worn.

Arms available for training consisted of rifles and some Vickers and Lewis machine guns. In mid-1940, two Army Instructional Corps instructors, Warrant Officer (later Major) D.H. Umphelby and Warrant Officer Barnard, were sent up and brought the training more into line with current A.M.F. practice.

With the arrival at Rabaul in April 1941 of "Lark Force" (2/22nd Bn., A.I.F., plus components) N.G.V.R.'s role became subsidiary and in August its headquarters was transferred to Bulolo on the mainland.

Col. Field relinquished command and Major (later Colonel) W.M. Edwards was promoted to command. One of the most enthusiastic of the early volunteers, Edwards revitalised the unit on the goldfields and many new recruits came in.

War with Japan was imminent and the strength of N.G.V.R. on the eve of the outbreak of war was 12 officers and 284 other ranks.

Immediately Japan attacked, Major-General B.M. Morris, commanding the 8th Military District, was authorised to place the battalion on full-time duty, but only a small group was then called up and it was not until 21st January 1942 that the battalion was actually mobilised.

The Japanese attacked Rabaul from the air on the 20th and in the early hours of the 22nd effected a landing.

When the Japanese came, 74 members of N.G.V.R. were in Rabaul under the command of Lt Col H.H. Carr, the CO of the 2/22nd Batt. They manned medium machine guns and mortars and fought until resistance was of no further avail, sharing the fate of other prisoners-of-war.

On the mainland, the N.G.V.R. was organised as a group of "independent companies" (not to be confused with A.I.F. companies of the same name, with whom the N.G.V.R. later operated) at Wau, Salamaua, Bulolo and Lae.

On 21st January, at about noon, Coastwatcher Pursehouse reported from Finschhafen that some 60 Japanese aircraft were headed towards Lae and Salamaua. These divided and struck simultaneously at the two towns. Systematically and efficiently the Japanese caused destruction and confusion at Lae. Seven Civil aircraft, which were on the ground when the Japanese arrived, were wrecked.

As the enemy planes flew away, two Australian Wirraways from Rabaul dropped down out of the clouds where they had remained concealed and landed on the airfield. Major E.W. Jenyns, second-in-command of N.G.V.R., went to see the Administrator, Sir Walter McNiccoll, who had been working from Lae for some time in anticipation of the final transfer of the capital from Rabaul. Sir Walter agreed that a state of emergency existed and told Jenyns to "take over".

Five Japanese fighters, diverted from the main force, destroyed three Junkers at Bulolo but, turning east again before they reached Wau, missed five aircraft on the field there.

At Salamaua, where Pursehouse's report had not been received, the raiders took the town completely by surprise. They destroyed one R.A.A.F. and 10 or 12 civil aircraft on the ground.

With the knowledge that a Japanese landing at Salamau was imminent, and with the N.G.V.R. on full time duty, there was a general agreement that all civilians should leave the town.

This occurred on 24th January when two parties, one led by District Officer N. Penglase and the other by the Director of district Services and Native Affairs, R. Melrose, departed

overland towards the Lakekamu River, and by sea, respectively.

After their departures, the only Europeans left in the town were six R.A.A.F. men, manning a signals station and six men of the N.G.V.R. Meanwhile, other scratch N.G.V.R. platoons prepared to defend vital points in the area, with their headquarters at Mubo.

A platoon which went to Salamaua found the small group there in difficulties, due to local disorders. Lae now had a company strength of men.

On the 7th March, 1942 five enemy aircraft raided Lae, which had been laid waste, and Captain H.M. Lyon O.C. of the group got word that a big convoy was headed in his direction.

He himself stayed in the town with four men to await events while the rest of his men made for Nadzab, destroying on the way the one remaining petrol dump at Jacobsen's Plantation.

At 4.45am, on the 8th, the Japanese came ashore and Lyon, his men and three New Guineans, turned their backs on the lost town and went up the main road towards Nadzab.

That same morning, the Japanese landed at Salamaua, and the bulk of the N.G.V.R. platoon fell back across the Francisco River, leaving behind a few men to demolish the aerodrome and fire the petrol dump.

As Captain A.G. Cameron and his runner Lance-Corporal Brannelly - two of a small party of 2/22nd Battalion survivors - were falling back, Brannelly shot an enemy soldier at point black range, probably the only Japanese casualty from land action in the landings at either Lae or Salamaua.

After the rear party had crossed the bridge over the Francisco, and when the Japanese appeared on its approaches from the Salamaua side, the N.G.V.R. men destroyed it. Most of them then took the track back to Mubo.

The Japanese display no hurry to move inland. On 18th March, a party of 60 marched to Komiatum, destroyed the N.G.V.R. stores dump there and returned to Salamaua.

On the Lae side, the invaders kept to the township area. This pause on the part of the enemy gave the New Guinea men time to meet new problems. These men of the N.G.V.R. were the only representatives of the law and order previously maintained by the administration.

With civil government gone, they assumed responsibility for several thousand indentured labourers recruited from many outlying districts by planters and others, and now unable to return to their homes.

The N.G.V.R. established depots and fed them and they became the first of the army of carriers and labourers so vital to the Allies during the fighting that followed.

Colonel Edwards was most interested to know what the Japanese were doing in Salamaua, so Corporal (later Major) J.B. McAdam, with a party of six men, edged so close to the

enemy that scarcely a Japanese movement escaped them - they scouted into the very fringes of the garrison and only their superb bushcraft, hardiness and courage ensured their survival.

The Japanese knew they were there, and on one occasion, a searching party actually passed beneath the telephone line, but failed to see it.

As the local people were being condemned for assisting the Australians, McAdam withdrew his men to avoid further trouble for them.

Other posts of the same nature were established along the Markham and Heath's Plantation to watch the Japanese. Little the enemy did escaped the notice of the watchers.

The men of the N.G.V.R. had filled a large gap in the period up to late May - they had kept touch with the invaders. On the 23rd of that month, the first troops to share their task arrived.

Flown from Port Moresby to the Bulolo Valley, the 2/5th Independent Company, A.I.F. arrived to cooperate with the N.G.V.R. These two units, plus some details from Port Moresby, a mortar platoon and a group of reinforcements for the widely dispersed No. 1 Independent Company, formed Kanga Force, with the role of a "limited offensive" and the object "to harass and destroy enemy personnel and equipment in the Markha District (including Salamaua in that area)".

Major N.L. Fleay, O.C. Kanga Force, considered there were 2000 Japanese at Lae and 250 at Salamaua, as against 700 men under his own command, of whom only 450 were fit for operations - a pitifully small number to meet any one of the possible Japanese threats.

To forestall these, Fleay proposed to engage the Japanese by raids designed to inflict casualties, destroy equipment and to hamper their use of Lae and Salamaua as air bases.

Accordingly, he issued orders for raids on Heath's Plantation and Salamaua and, as the need for action was urged, directed that the one of Heath's was to take place first.

As it transpired, however, the Salamaua raid was made first. It could be planned quickly and in great detail, as a result of the work of Corporal McAdam's scouts.

In the early hours of the morning of 29th June 1942, 71 members of 25th and the N.G.V.R. killed at least 100 Japanese at a cost of three men slightly wounded.

The raid was an outstanding success and thoroughly disturbed the Japanese, who sent fighting patrols up to 90 strong into the foothills. The raid also made them draw on their garrison at Lae to reinforce their perimeter at Salamaua.

The raid on Heath's Plantation at Lae, equally well-planned and carried out by 58 strongly armed men, was successful, but barking watchdogs warned the enemy of the raiders' presence and the operation was robbed of the element of surprise that had been so valuable at Salamaua. In this raid,

the leader, Major T.P. Keen was killed and two men wounded.

As a result of these guerilla raids, the men were in good spirits, although many of N.G.V.R. were sick with fever and the number of fit men dwindled steadily.

The most serious problem however, was one of supply. Food was not getting through and, in this regard, the guerillas were totally dependent on the local supplies. Japanese air raids, intimidation tactics and the difficulty of getting rations forward to feed carriers had a cumulative effect and threatened to stop any activity on the part of the Australians. The shortage of tobacco was a particularly irritating problem.

In the months that followed, attention was focused on the Battle of the Owen Stanleys, but the N.G.V.R. continued to man posts overlooking the Japanese although their numbers were shrinking.

They fought splendidly, true to the tradition they themselves had established. 1942 was their year. By the early months of 1943, too few were left to be effective. In view of their specialised knowledge of the country and its problems, the remaining members were distributed throughout ANGUA (Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit) and the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles lost its identity.

The members of the N.G.V.R. had come from many walks of life. Some were too old to join the A.I.F., some medically not fit or employed in restricted occupations.

But they fought well and still found time for important administration and for laying down an organisation of local labour that later grew to be a most important contributory feature of the success of the Allied campaign in New Guinea.

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- MID-
AFTERNOON
SNACK: Rest of the package of health food
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