



REGIMENTAL DINING NIGHT 20TH APRIL 2001

The United Services Club, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane, was the venue for our third Regimental Dining Night. Fifty-seven members and their partners were present.

The venue was spectacular, the service superb, and the food and company excellent.

The evening commenced with pre-dinner drinks in the ante-room of the Club, allowing members and guests to mingle and catch up on the latest news and events. At 7.25 pm, members moved into the Dining Room which was decorated with candelabra, silver cutlery and wine glasses.

Guests on the head table were piped in, followed by the Regimental, Australian and Papua New Guinea Flags. Official guests included Brig. Ian Hunter, CVO.AM.MBE.ED and Mrs Hunter, Papua New Guinea Consul General Mr Henry Koiaie and Mrs Koiaie and NGVR member, Mr Jack Goad. Dining President was Colonel Harry N Green, MBE.ED.EM.

Other guests included Mrs. Rita Warren, who attended many Mess functions in Port Moresby in the early 1950's and Mrs. Barbara-Anne Laver, whose father served in the NGVR. Jack Goad later presented the Association with an original NGVR pennant.

The evening was highly success and for those who wish to engage in and maintain a little military pomp and ceremony, and enjoy a great evening with former comrades, please keep Saturday the 27th April 2002 free for our next Regimental Mixed Dining Night in Brisbane.

Bob Collins.

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS YET????

With Flight West Airlines being placed in receivership this week, your Executive Committee will have to examine the implications this will have on our raffle – first prize was a return trip for 2 to Norfolk Island compliments of Flight-West.

Please return your ticket butts and money to Bob Collins c/- Beach Haven Resort, 1 Albert Ave Broadbeach, Q 4218.

We will contact all members when we clarify the situation.

NB As this was a trial raffle with a prize departing from Brisbane. Tickets were sold in the SE Queensland region only within reasonable distance from the departure point.

NEW CONTACT DETAILS

With the demise of One.Tel, please note the NEW phone / fax contact for our Secretary – Colin Gould:-

Home Phone/Fax: 07 33 11 74 80 (after 6.30pm)
Mobile: 042 111 70 92

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Voluntary Rifles Ex Members Association Inc
PO Box 287 Everton Park, Brisbane QLD 4053.

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President: Colonel Harry N Green, MBE.ED.EM (Rtd)

Patron: Sir Denis Buchanan, Kt.B. MBE.



HARIM TOK TOK



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

VOLUME 20

JUNE 2001

PRESIDENT'S

UP-DATE

The year 2001 marks the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. ARA staff arrived in Port Moresby late in 1950 to start planning for the new Regiment, and took over a section of Murray Barracks on the 15th April 1951 for staff and training accommodation.

One of the early staff members was Capt S Bendall, MBE who served with me in the Middle East. In May 1940 whilst serving together I had 'two stripes' up to his one. In June 1940, he had 'two pips' up on his shoulders, whilst your truly still had his 'two stripes'.

Recruiting commenced in Port Moresby on the 17th March 1951, Lae on the 7th April 1951 and Rabaul on the 4th May 1951. On the afternoon of the 17th March—the first day of recruiting—PNGVR had signed up its first 35 recruits.

The PNGVR was unique in many ways. It was the only Australian Army Reserve Unit to have been formed, served and disbanded on foreign soil, without ever having set foot on Australian soil. (The Regiment, as an Association of former members, marched for the first time on Australian soil on Anzac Day in Brisbane in 1990, having received permission to march by the RSL.)

The Regiment was also on the 'Order of Battle' throughout its service.

On the 14th June 1952, Colonel Rufus Ramsey, senior United States Military Attache in Canberra, presented a Distinguished Unit Citation to Lt.Colonel J K McCarthy, MBE who commanded Brewer Force Detachment (NGVR and ANGAU members attached to US Forces) in the Los Negros campaign in 1944.

The Citation was presented to B Coy PNGVR in Rabaul in 1952 and the Unit was given the responsibility of carrying on the fine record of inspired service set by its parent unit, the NGVR, and Brewer Force in 1944.

Currently, four members of our Association—Bob Collins, Joe Fisk, Barry Wright and Norm Mundy— are in the United States at a reunion of the 5th US Cavalry Regt who took part in the Los Negros Campaign. Our representatives, who have personally funded all expenses for the trip, will present an Association plaque to the U.S. Unit. No doubt, they will have some great stories to tell when they return late in June, especially when their U.S. hosts were planning to show them the latest in U.S. Army equipment.

PNGVR's Queen's and Regimental Colours were laid up in 1974 in the Australian War Memorial by myself and other members of the Regiment.

Member Bruce Inch recently visited Canberra and personally inspected our Colours and reports that they are in good condition and well cared for. Thanks Bruce .

In this issue.....

Presidents Report : : Tom Lega's recollections (cont):

Neville Swanson's recollections (cont) : Hon. Solicitor—Wills : Contact list : April Regimental Dinner

Attachments:- Field Dining Night Information : What's on in July :

Fifty years on, the comradeship and spirit of the NGVR and PNGVR continues through our Association's 300 former members. I am very proud that we have been honoured each Anzac Day and at other functions by the presence of our NGVR members who continue to make the effort each year to be with us.

Our Hon. Solicitor, Bruce Crawford was recognised for his community work in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours—an OAM.' The Citation reads *'For service to the community, particularly through Rotary International and Nathanael House, and to Law'*.

Welfare Officer, Bill Bickerton was recently awarded the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal with clasp 'East Timor' for his work in re-building the country. Bill was also a nominee for the Gold Coast's Citizen of the Year.

Norm Mundy was also nominated for Citizen of the Year in his region of Esk.

Our long time supporter, Peter Grimshaw was also recently awarded an OBE and OAM.

Congratulations to these members for their community efforts and awards.

Our Far North Queensland members on the Atherton Tableland are organising the installation of a NGVR/PNGVR bronze plaque in the Rocky Creek War Memorial Park near Atherton in preparation for VP Day. There are already 20 plaques embedded in granite by Units who served in the Pacific.

On Sunday 1st July, at 9.00 am, your Association will host its annual Memorial Service for those who lost their lives as prisoners of war during the sinking of the

'Montevideo Maru' in 1942. Our plaque to this tragedy, located in the Shrine of Memories, Anzac Square, Brisbane, is, we believe, the only Memorial plaque on Australian soil.

Later the same morning, some 5000 serving and former Army, Navy and Air Force reservists will march through Brisbane marking "Reserve Forces Day". The march commences at 10.00 am. Details are contained in the newsletter, and I encourage our members to ensure that our Regiment is well represented.

Vale:- Maxwell CORLIS, aged 73, ex PNGVR and ex RPNGC, passed away 25th October 2000 after a short illness. Max arrived in PNG on the 5th November 1949 and joined the RPNGC. He returned to Australia shortly after Independence.

Ed HARDY—ex PNGVR and ex DCA passed away suddenly earlier this year. Ed was a dedicated supporter of the Association and attended many of its functions. He will long be remembered as one of our genial members who was a friend to all. Ed received a PNGVR funeral service farewell attended by many former comrades and family.

I sadly report that our Patron and supporter, Sir Dennis Buchanan, MBE is experiencing a period of poor health, and is undergoing medical treatment. We extend to Sir Dennis our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

I thank all our members whose efforts resulted in one of our largest turnouts for the Anzac Day march in Brisbane—95 on parade. Well done.

Harry N Green
PRESIDENT

Next Issue

In our next issue, we will feature an interesting article by Bob Harvey-Hall on his thoughts and impressions on Anzac Day 2001 in Brisbane, as well as his associated recollections of the Regiment in Papua New Guinea.

Bob, Joe, Norm and Barry will also report back on their trip to the U.S.

Permission is being sought to re-print selected news summaries from the PNG Post Courier's web site that may be of interest to members. Editor

black people swimming nude in the river. Naturally I got stuck into them about swimming nude where the nurses could see them. When they replied I realised that they were African Americans.

We used to get bombed regularly by the Japanese bombers from Rabaul coming over at night. Their bombing wasn't very accurate as there was not a lot of damage done.

From Finschafen I was flown to Cape Gloucester where I was attached to the 1st Regt, 1st Marine Div, US Marine Corps. These were the men who had taken Guadalcanal. Their CO was Maj-Gen. Rapp Brush. As I said before our CO was Dal Chambers and, on arrival, he told me to get ready as I was to go out with a Marine patrol in the morning. I got my gear together but was a bit concerned about keeping up with these Marines as they had a great reputation after Guadalcanal.

We set off in 5 or 6 Landing Barges under the command of Capt Moriaty who was also the 2IC of the Marines. Major Brasch was their CO. They were going to pitch camp on the coast, but I said "how about camping on one of the islands, it would be much safer?" - they agreed. At that time I was a Corporal but was wearing epaulettes and the Americans referred to me as Mr. Swanson.

From this island we then proceeded to operate up and down the coast using the landing barges and camping for a night or two before returning to the island. Our task at the time was mopping up and stopping bands of Japanese soldiers from returning to Rabaul.

While we were in the barges I wore my slouch hat. The Americans were in their marine caps and they said to me 'why don't you wear a cap that hat stands out and the Japs will fire at you first.'. I declined because I was proud of my slouch hat, but after the first few rounds fired at us—and they always came dangerously close to me—I changed my mind and thereafter wore a marine cap.

On our first patrol Capt Moriaty said to me "do you think we should sweep the shores first with fire before we land?", I said that with the noise the barges made, every Japanese within miles will know exactly where we are. The marines proceeded to sweep the shore with fire before

each landing. I was in the front of the barge and the noise the .50 cal., weapons made was deafening. The machine guns were located at the rear of the barge. I had never been in a position like that before and the natives with me were shaking like leaves in a storm. Actually, so was I. This was demonstrated when we went over the front of the barge into the water and one of the natives with me said "Masta—mi laik pek pek". We landed but the Japanese who fired on us had disappeared.

I was very nervous at the start working with the marines. I was always on point duty with the natives and the marines were behind me, all with their weapons cocked and pointed in the general direction of my back. I complained to the marine Officers and they agreed that I travel in the main body of the patrol. If the marines on point duty needed any information they would stop and ask me to go forward. On one occasion the marine on point said "There's a fallen tree and the track splits and goes around each side. Which track should we follow?". I replied "The two tracks will meet on the other side of the tree so it doesn't matter which track you take." Some were not too good at bush patrols, so later when I took control of all the patrols, I am sure that they were relieved.

We scouted the area and the natives with me came up with a good idea. They knew the area, and, being locals suggested they go ahead whenever we came across a village and they would do their best to neutralise any Japanese. The way they did it was to say to the Japanese, "The Americans are in the area—you Japanese hide in the huts under sleeping mates and put all your guns over there in one pile and we will hide them with the mats and tell the Americans that there are no Japanese here."

Would you believe that time and time again the enemy fell for the same trick.

When we came into the village the Marines would stay around the edges and I would go forward with my Owen gun to the door. The natives would then race in and grab all the Japanese weapons and I would call on the Japanese to come out. Over time, we rounded up many groups of 6, 8 and 10 Japs using this method. In the first few weeks we captured 30 or so of the enemy.

To be continued next Edition.

I looked around and here was the Warrior. He said one word "matches!". I gave him my only box and he almost vanished before my eyes. I wasted no time on that track I can tell you.

Food was dropped by plane at Bulldog and a party of us set out for the Lakekamu River, where a two masted Schooner took us to Port Moresby. We kept a good look out on the Schooner as, on the trip before us, a similar vessel had been sunk by a Japanese Submarine.

My brother had previously taken the same route out from Wau when the civilians were evacuated, and I had given him 5 oz. of gold for sale in Australia. However he went down the Lakekamu by raft which capsized. Naturally the gold was lost as there were a lot of puk puks (croc's) in the river. They just righted the raft, climbed back on and took off. My brother joined the Army in Australia and was stationed at Cowra when the Japanese prisoners of war breakout took place.

After arrival in Port Moresby a number of NGVR were posted to Australian Units to operate on the Kokoda Track. We were supposed to be posted to an NGVR platoon but, when we were medically inspected we were pulled out for evacuation to Australia. At that stage we were suffering from almost everything—tropical ulcers, malaria, malnutrition, dysentery, dermatitis and a host of other illnesses. I was down to 8 stone 11 pounds at that stage. Having spent so much of my time in New Guinea prior to the war, I suffered badly from malaria—had it on and off for some 30 years in fact. The greatest cure for me occurred later when I was with the US Marines and they supplied me with Atebrine.

From Port Moresby I was evacuated to Brisbane by hospital ship where I was admitted straight to hospital. When the time came for leave from the hospital I was the only soldier not allowed on leave. I was on restricted duties at this time and was given a bottle of stout a night to help me put on weight. Various hospitals and convalescent camps followed, including Toowoomba and Sydney. All in all I spent some twelve months convalescing, and was classified never to return to New Guinea.

I was finally discharged from hospital by seeing one of the older doctors about my dermatitis which was on my RIGHT ankle and leg. I rubbed my LEFT ankle and leg with some rough canvas and rag, and showed him the marks on my LEFT leg. He agreed that my dermatitis had really improved and I was sent

back to the Islands.

The trip to Port Moresby was by troop train to Townsville, and then by Dutch ship the "Schwartenhort" to Port Moresby. NGVR Carlo Cavilleri was on the ship with me.

While in those hospitals, I took up leather work and, even though I had not tried such things before, made lots of wallets and other leather and timber work, and still have some of them in my possession today. One leather bag depicts the cookhouse at Mubo and other various scenes from my NGVR days. At one stage I made the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald with a photo of a bag that I made and presented to Sgt Leigh Ashton.

For someone who never made anything in his life before joining the Army, I ended up making badges, metal souvenirs, leatherwork etc and had a nice little business going selling them mainly to US soldiers. The going rate for flags I made was 25 pounds to the Americans and 5 pounds to an Aussie.

At the time there was virtually no knowledge of NGVR in Australian military circles. At one time I was picked up by the Military Police who did not recognise the NGVR shoulder patch and they just did not believe I was from New Guinea.

I returned to New Guinea as a member of NGVR, but the Unit was disbanded so I was transferred to the AIF and was posted to ANGAU. Dal Chambers was our ANGAU Commanding Officer.

I had been posted to supervise labour lines but ran foul of the CO early in the piece. Frank Axentiff, NGX18—took me to a large cave with an underground pool of fresh water. Only the local girls were allowed to swim in the pool—it was tambu to men. Frank had a deck chair set up where he could see the girls swimming. He took me down to the pool but then must have thought better of it as I was posted after one week or so there.

I spent time at Finschafen with the 7th Division carrying out "clean-up" work for them. We had a team of natives with duties such as collecting and dumping Japanese ammunition out at sea, all supervised by ANGAU.

It was here that I made a bit of a fool of myself. There were a lot of American nurses here and I was crossing a bridge in a jeep one day when I saw a lot of

From our Honorary Solicitor Bruce Crawford.....

I am looking at making submissions to the Honours & Awards Committee on behalf of certain members for the issue of the AASM.

Accordingly I am seeking the names, addresses and phone numbers of any members who were involved in Border patrols between 1959 and 1966 with the PIR or Royal PNG Constabulary, or any members who were involved in organising patrols in which PNGVR personnel participated.

If any member was involved or has any information or documents such as written orders, photographs etc could you please contact me at home on Phone 07 3397 5532 or write to me at – 14 Bullard Street GREENSLOPES Q 4120.

Bruce Crawford.

WILLS – by Bruce Crawford.

(Ph: 07 3397 5532 - a.h.)

A Will is a legal document which ensures your assets are distributed according to your wishes after you die. Your Will can cover all of your assets such as your house, land, car, shares, bank accounts, service medals and insurance policies. Any person 18 years of age or older and of sound mind can make a Will.

You have no legal obligation to make a Will, but it is a wise choice. If you die without a Will, you will not have had a say in how your assets will be distributed, and who distributes them.

What happens if I don't make a Will?

"Intestacy" means dying without a Will. If you die without a Will, your assets will be distributed according to rigid formulae set down by the laws of intestacy. These laws may:-

- Force the sale of the family home or car so other beneficiaries can claim their share of the assets
- Not provide future financial protection for your children or grandchildren
- Leave incapacitated members of your family without adequate support
- Give your assets to the Government, if you have no relatives

Furthermore, you will have no say in who administers your estate and who is appointed guardian of your children if they are under the age of 18 years.

Preparing your Will

A Will is a complex legal document which should be prepared by your Solicitor. Before visiting your Solicitor, consider:-

- Who to appoint as Executor
 - Who to appoint as guardian to your children
 - What are your current assets and liabilities
 - Who should receive your assets
- Your Solicitor will not only ensure your Will is properly drawn up and correctly signed and witnessed, but may also advise you on:-
- The appointment of an executor, their powers and remuneration
 - The appointment of your children's guardian
 - Your legal obligation to provide for your family to avoid challengers to your Will
 - If necessary, the adequacy of your life insurance
 - Minimising capital gains tax liability
 - Funeral arrangements.

Changes to your Will

You are free to alter your Will at any time and as often as you wish. On marriage, your current Will is automatically invalid unless it specifically states it is made in contemplation of marriage. If you divorce, your divorced spouse is not entitled to any assets under your Will unless you specify otherwise. If you wish to alter your Will or your marital circumstances change, see your Solicitor.

Can I prepare my own Will?

You can prepare your own Will but you do so at the risk of causing emotional and costly legal battles amongst relatives.

When drawing up a Will, a number of legal requirements must be followed. Failure to follow these requirements will invalidate the Will. If this occurs, the law may consider that you have 'no Will' and the laws of intestacy will apply unless the invalidity is challenged.

If your Will is considered valid but your words fail to accurately express your wishes, your Will may need to be interpreted by the Court.

Is there such a thing as a free Will?

There is no such thing as a free Will despite the offers of the Public Trustee and Trustee companies to draw up your Will free of charge. These trustees appoint themselves as executor and after your death, charge a commission which is calculated as a percentage of the value of the estate.

Where should I keep my Will?

A Will should be kept in a safe place, such as a safety deposit box, or in the safe custody of your Solicitor. This ensures that the document will be easy for your executor to find, and will be kept safe and free from any markings which may effect its validity.

WHO TO CONTACT WHEN....

⇒ You want to know if you are financial or not or how much in membership fees you owe:-

Bob Collins
Treasurer

Phone (Business hours) 07 5570 3888

⇒ You know of a sick comrade at home or in the hospital or in need:-

Bill Bickerton
Welfare Officer

Phone: 07 5574 6427

⇒ You need to discuss membership or Association matters:-

Joe Fisk

Members Representative Phone: 07 3208 5298

Norm Mundy

Members Representative Phone: 07 5424 1492

⇒ New items for Harim Tok Tok or general Association information:-

Col Gould
Secretary

Phone: (w) 07 3262 3400 (h) 07 3311 7480

⇒ You have Regimental or PNG historic material, photographs etc for the Association:-

John Holland
Historic Officer

Phone: 0417 628 930

⇒ Photos of past Association functions and events:-

Tom "Snappy Tom" Dowling

Assist. Historic Officer Phone: 07 3288 8140

Soon after this we took part in a 2 Battalion landing at Andy Smith's Plantation at Kulau, 45 miles along the coast from Saidor. The landing was unopposed. The Yanks had set up a tight perimeter and the only water they had was in jerry cans. I had 12 Police Boys and they needed water to cook their rice. I asked the Colonel for permission to go outside the perimeter and set up camp approx 3 miles away on the bank of a river. "Hell" he said, "I can't spare you any guards". I said "I don't need any as I have 12 police".

I set up camp that night on the river bank, and was breaking camp the next morning when the first Yank patrol came along. The next thing I knew I was sitting on my behind, the Master Sergeant let fly with his Garand and hit a rock about three feet away from me, the bullet ricocheting into my left knee, knocking me to the ground. It was only a return burst of language from me that saved me from any further shots. The Yank didn't know we were outside the perimeter.

The Japanese were going around Saidor and coming back down the coast and proceeding to Madang, so we were sent further west to cut them off. From Kulau I went up the coast by L.C.M. to Bogadjim where we met the first Australian patrol down from the Ramu Rover. Were they surprised to find us there! We had just pulled off the beach when a B25 came screaming down out of the clouds and looked us over, in the meantime doing a circle to line

us up just in case. The Coxswain was down out of the wheel house into the engine room and back up again waving the American flag in a matter of seconds. The B25 waggled his wings and flew off.

From Kulau I was posted to Madang where I met up with Capt Hamilton, Dick Kyngdon and Reg Boyan. We carried out a census patrol behind Madang and got some natives settled back into their village. It was behind Madang when I first came in contact with 'Cargo Cult.'

A gang of armed natives (with Japanese rifles) threatened that they would ambush my patrol. I sent word of this to Capt Hamilton and he sent me out an experienced Sergeant of Police, telling me not to use force, as force would be met with force. The old Police Sergeant talked them down and convinced them to hand in their weapons.

After this patrol I carried out another in the Bogadjim sub District and patrolled up the mountains from Bongu to Bangri. At Bangri I had a shower, a meal and then went to bed.

A distinct cough woke me up—it was the Luluai together with my Police Sergeant. They informed me that there was a party of Japanese just over the way. *To be continued.*

Next Issue—Tom Lega is awarded the Military Medal.

NGVR Neville Swanson continues his service recollections...

In common with a lot of other NGVR I was evacuated from Wau ill, and due for leave in Australia. At one stage in Wau I almost died from an unknown fever. It was only the fact that Capt Uphumpleby gave me some injections which did work, that I survived.

From Wau I walked over the mountains to Bulldog, down the Lakekamu River by canoe and the by coastal schooner to Port Moresby.

For what ever reason when I left Wau, I was on my own and had my rifle taken away from me in a Camp about two days out of Wau, right on top of the mountains. I don't know where Geoff White went at that time but we

were supposed to go together. It was not very comforting to have your rifle taken from you and told to head off on your own.

It was not a great trip over the mountains to Bulldog, and at one stage I passed through a village, Kuku—Kuku country, where there had been some tribal fighting. I was not feeling to brave at this time when I approached the Luluai and wondered whether my head was about to decorate a post. He looked at me severely, got a woman to fetch me some kau-kau, gave it to me and pointed to the track. I quickly took the hint and scooted. Shortly after I saw another armed Kuku-Kuku near the track. By the time I looked again he had disappeared.. Just then I felt a tap on my shoulder.

I was up on the Sattleberg Road when three things happened:-

1. The Matilda tanks went in
2. A Boomerang artillery spotting plane was shot down by an American P38
3. Tom Derrick won his V.C.

To get the tanks up to Sattleberg the road had to be improved. To do this a bulldozer was used, and as this was working, the tanks crawled up the road. The noise of the bulldozer covered the noise of the tanks. The appearance of the tanks was a complete surprise to the Japanese.

The day the Boomerang was shot down, Anstie Ireland and I were sitting on the side of the road when we heard this P38 come screaming down. He had just dropped his belly tank and Anstie thought it was a dive bomber and made a dive into a stinking green slimy pig wallow at the side of the road—told him to go change his under pants.

The P38 made only one pass at the Boomerang and fired a short burst from his guns. The pilot has mistaken the Boomerang for a Zero. The Boomerang crashed on the emergency strip but the pilot was OK. The machine gun burst had chopped straight across the engine cowlings.

Tom Derrick won his V.C. late in the afternoon, when the attack he was participating in petered out. He requested one more try from his CO and went in gun blazing and hurling grenades. He knocked out a few machine gun posts thus making it possible for his Company to capture Sattleberg.

In December 1943, I was attached to 'C' Company PIB (Pacific Islands Battalion) for a short period in the Hube Sub-District behind Finschafen. We did some strenuous patrolling there to clean out any Japanese that had escaped from Lae and Finschafen.

One PIB patrol was ambushed in the Cornwell Ranges by a party of Japanese who eventually escaped to Sio on the coast. One member of the PIB patrol ran over the edge of a cliff face, crashing into some rocks below and fracturing his skull. He was found the following day, still alive, and carried back to camp where he was

patched up by Mick Byrnes, PIB Medical Sergeant. (Mick was the author of "Green Shadows")

While at Kulungtufu in the Hube, we made an airstrip supposedly for a Piper Cub to bring in our "Christmas Cheer". We made it 450 yards by 25 yards. Instead of a Piper Cub, a Stinson arrived and flew up and down our strip 2 or 4 times before eventually landing with our much awaited Christmas fare. We offered the pilot some fresh veges to take back but he chose to take off empty. A wise decision as he was still on the ground when he went over the end of the strip under full power and came out further down the Mongi River. Stinsons were known for their long take-off run. Needless to say the next plane that came in was a Piper Cub.

In January 1944, I was recalled to Finschafen and advised I was going to the Americans at Saidor to be with George Greathead, and was to leave the next day by PT Boat. When I reported to the crew of the Torpedo Boat I received a somewhat cool reception. They thought I was just another Aussie bumming a ride. When they found out I was to be attached to the Americans it was altogether a different story. I was offered cigarettes, ham, turkey, chicken and fresh milk, things I hadn't seen for a long time.

Arriving at Saidor, the PT Boat nosed right into the sand and I jumped down from the bow onto the beach. I was jeeped to the ANGAU camp where I met George Greathead and Jack Burnett and settled in.

It was at Saidor that an incident occurred that we called 'Black Sunday'. A flight of Fighters had been on a raid to Wewak, and, when they returned, they were running short of fuel. One came in to land from the wrong end of the strip colliding with another plane in the middle of the strip. The other planes also short of fuel kept coming in and pranged everywhere. I think the Yanks wrote off twelve Fighter aircraft that day.

Again at Saidor I saw John Wayne, the film star. We were at the G2's office and I was waiting for George Greathead, who was with G2, when this big bloke wearing an Australian hat came walking across the bridge. I recognised him as John Wayne when he nodded to me as he walked past.

NGVR HISTORY

Tom Lega, MM. continues his NGVR service recollections:- 1943

After 30 days leave I reported back to Sydney Show grounds and was immediately put on draft for Brisbane. My father begged me to get a job in Sydney but I said "No way! I'm going back to New Guinea."

All troops were sent north as soon as they had a train full. I traveled by troop train to South Brisbane Station, by truck convoy to Redbank Plains, to Recruit Reception Depot, where we went through our initial induction to Army life. Here the Army caught up with me with all the needles and vaccinations soldiers had to have—I felt like a pin cushion—and all this after 14 months of active service.

Then came a truck convoy to Kleinton Camp situated just north of Toowoomba where the 1st Aust Advanced Reinforcement Depot was located. Here we underwent Infantry Training and I learned how to dig latrines. We spent approx 5 months here. The winter of 1943 was so cold that an inch of ice formed on any water left outside overnight.

It was while I was at Kleinton Camp that I found out we were all wanted by ANGAU. How I came to be in ANGAU I don't really know, but apparently they had found out my New Guinea background. In August 1943, I was posted to ANGAU.

I proceeded back to New Guinea by Troop Ship, the 'Van Heutz' a Dutch ship under American charter, a filthy cargo ship converted to a troop carrier. It had been used for shipping copra and was infested with cockroaches. We first went to Milne Bay then by air to Port Moresby where, after being fitted out, flew to Dobodura, then by jeep to Buna.

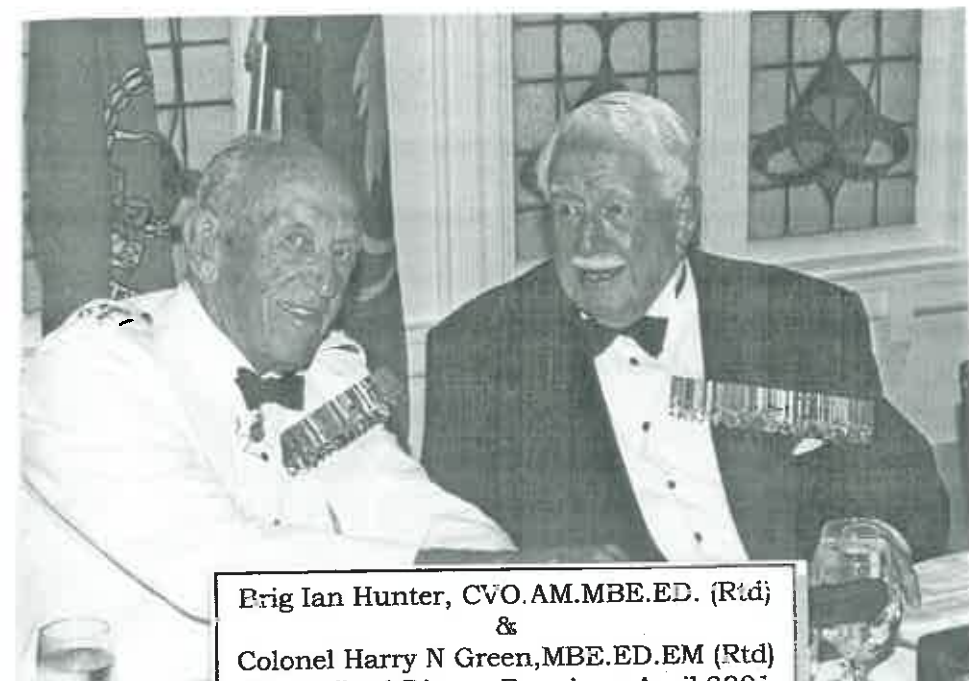
At Buna I boarded the MV 'Deutcan', a 300 ton ship loaded with Avgas for the airstrip at Lae. I landed in Lae 10 days after its capture by the 7th and 9th Divisions.

My first ANGAU District Officer was Horrie Niall, and one of my first jobs was with Fred Philip. We had to drive a group of Chinese in 2 jeeps from Lae to the banks of the Buso River. They had come in from their time as POW's on the other side of the River where they had to grow food for the Japanese. Two names I remember are Wan Jin Wah and Kam Hong.

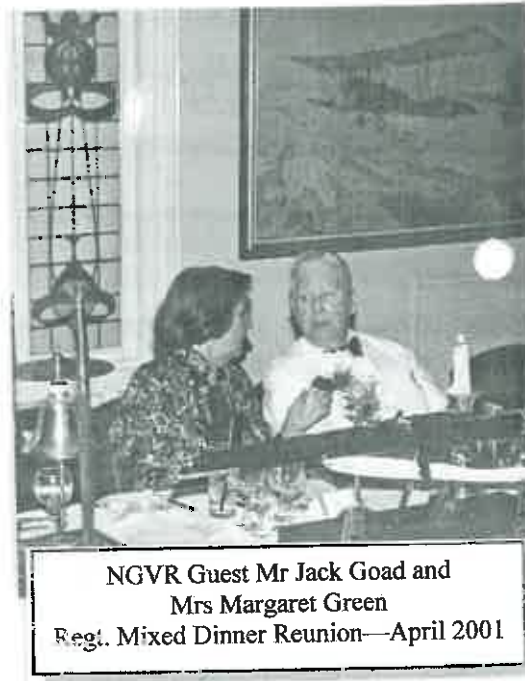
We started out from Lae at 4.30pm and got out to the Buso, unloaded them and started back for Lae. By this time it was getting dark and, running along under blackout conditions, Fred drove into a bomb crater. We spent an hour getting the jeep back onto the road.

Horrie Niall told me I would be going to Finschafen in a few days, and if I came across a bloke named Hoffstetter, to shoot him—he would see that I got a decoration. Pre-war this Hoffstetter was a farmer between Bulwa and Bulolo growing sweet potato (Kau Kau). We all new him but thought he was Swiss. When we were called up for full time duty in January, 1942, he disappeared and sometime later was heard of in Lae and Finschafen with the Japanese. It appears he was German, and could have been responsible for handing to the Japanese a map showing an old German surveyed track used by the Japanese during their unsuccessful attempt to capture Wau in January 1943. I never found out what happened to him.

I arrived in Finschafen after an overnight trip on a small barge and reported to Bill Dishon. I did a couple of patrols out of Finschafen nothing much to report on those except someone had buried 5 or 6 .303 bullets in the ashes of the fire place, and when the Police Boys lit a fire to cook their rice, the bullets started exploding. Frightened hell out of everyone for a few moments. At another place I had sat down on the verandah of a rest house when a pigeon flew straight past my ear. I thought a grenade had been thrown in. A bit of a fright I can tell you.



Brig Ian Hunter, CVO.AM.MBE.ED. (Rtd)
&
Colonel Harry N Green, MBE.ED.EM (Rtd)
Regt. Mixed Dinner Reunion—April 2001



NGVR Guest Mr Jack Goad and
Mrs Margaret Green
Regt. Mixed Dinner Reunion—April 2001



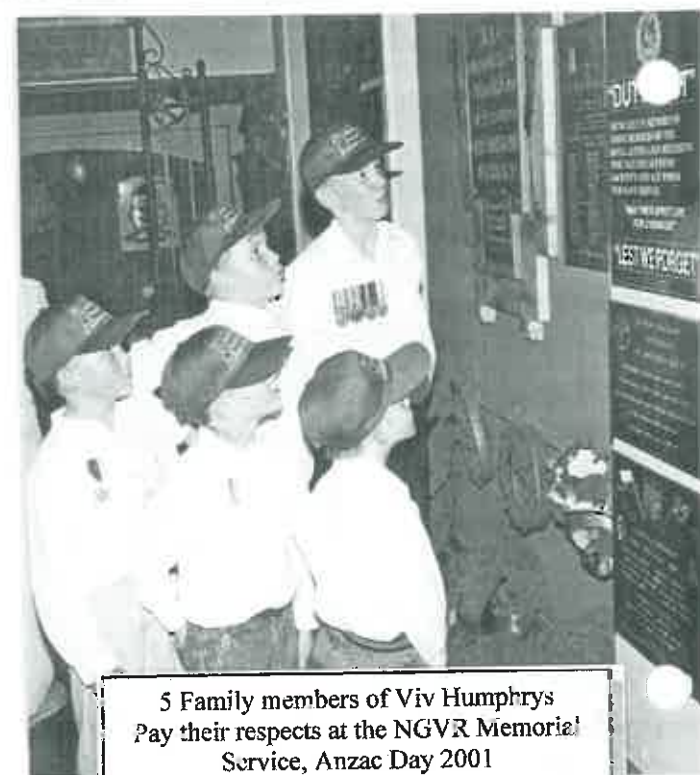
NGVR Stan Burton
Anzac Day 2001



ABOVE
(L) Graeme Blanch, Trevor Webb,
Terry Farmer & Mike Larkin
Anzac Day 2001
Trevor and Terry came down from the
Northern Territory to attend this year's
Anzac Day.



Col Hall & Col Scown—Anzac Day 2001



5 Family members of Viv Humphrys
Pay their respects at the NGVR Memorial
Service, Anzac Day 2001



(L) Rudy Buckley, Doug Ng, Ralph Seeto & Simon Hui
Anzac Day 2001

Serpy Bruce old Mate!
It's YOUR shout.



Jesse Chee, Les McAndrew, Gil Harvey-Hall, Mike Ahmat
Anzac Day 2001



Karl Aschhoff
Anzac Day 2001



Alan Wadsworth & Colonel Mai Bishop, MM
Anzac Day 2001



(L) Neil Brewer & Bruce Inch