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HARIM TOK TOK



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

VOLUME 21

FEBRUARY 2002

PRESIDENT'S

UP-DATE

Greetings!

Due to many factors this issue of 'Harim Tok Tok' which was due out before Christmas has been delayed until now. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I apologise for this delay.

I know how necessary it is to keep all our members, especially those in outlying areas and other states informed of Association developments—we all pay our fees and expect regular communication.

Our Association since its inception in 1989 has achieved much for its very supportive members. We are extremely well regarded for exposure and the manner in which we do things on behalf of our members. Regrettably a number of bureaucrats continue to question some of our officially and legally presented PNG awards—awards given in recognition for 35 years of voluntary continuous overseas service.

Such disbeliefs are of course bought about by ignorance of PNG and the role played by our Regiment in pre-independent PNG.

Gentlemen, your Executive Committee has taken well considered action to see that misinformed public servants are given full access to our NGVR / PNGVR historical

records. Our focus will be to ensure that those Federal Ministers recently elected and appointed to their new related portfolios are made aware that we were an AUSTRALIAN Regiment and that our Colours are laid up in the Australian War Memorial.

We are in a reasonable state financially, but a number of members still have outstanding fees. Statements will be sent out shortly to all members as fees for 2002/3 become due on the 30th June 2002. Members may of course pay their fees on Anzac Day when attending the Brisbane march.

How time passes. Over a beer last week I spoke to a dear friend saying "do you realise that 46 years ago you were a Sergeant in my Company" to which he replied "and we are still looking after the same blokes" - is relevant in that you have a strong loyal hard working Committee, and a strong Association.

Anzac Day and our annual Regimental Dinner is fast approaching. I am looking forward to these occasions to meet once again, many of our Members, partners & Associates. I hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend these functions and help keep our Association a strong one.

H N Green - President

Executive Committee—2001/2002

President:- Lt Colonel H N Green, MBE,ED. (Retd) **Senior Vice President:- Tom Lega**
Junior Vice President:- Tony Milan **Secretary:- Col Gould** **Treasurer:- Bob Collins**
Welfare Officer:- Bill Bickerton **Historic Officer:- John Holland**
Assist/ Historic Officer:- Tom Dowling **Hon. Solicitor:- Bruce Crawford**
Members Representatives:- Joe Fisk Norm Mundy **Project Officer:- Barry Wright**



WARNING ORDERS

ANZAC DAY—BRISBANE MARCH

Thursday 25th April 2002 - March commences at 1030 Hours

Further information will be available after the Anzac Day Parade Committee's Meeting in February.

Following a Motion at the 2001 Annual General Meeting, the cost per head for the Anzac Day reception at the Old Stock Exchange Hotel will be \$20-00. The Association has held the old cost of \$15 for 8 years but due to GST and other costs such as Hotel wages and supplies, your Association had no alternative but to increase the reception fee to \$20-00 per person.



ANZAC DAY REGIMENTAL DINNER Saturday 27th April United Services Club, Brisbane

Dress:- Mess Dress / Anzac Day Dress / Suit
With Miniatures

Time:- 1830 Hours—Pre-dinner Sherry
1900 Hours—Dinner

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL—LIMITED SEATING

Cost:- To be advised—approx \$60 pp including Sherry, Dinner & Port
For bookings & information, contact:- Bob Collins

"Capricornia" 45 / 121 Surf Parade, Broadbeach Q 4218 Ph: (ah) 07 5526 8396

DON'T WAIT—PHONE IN YOUR BOOKING NOW.

MONDAY 1st July 'Montevideo Maru' NGVR Memorial Service—Anzac Square
SUNDAY 7th July Proposed Reserve Forces Day Brisbane March.

EDWARD THOMAS HARDY

BORN 14.06.1938

PASSED INTO SILENCE 25.03.2001

AGED 62 YEARS

Ed was the loving HUSBAND of Murielle (Dec'd)
SON of Alfred and Anastasia
Leving BROTHER of William and Leila
Cherished FATHER of Rex, Vicki and Ross
GRANDPA of Harvey, Storm, Tyler, Chantel, Jason, Jacob.
GREAT GRANDPA of Michael.

Ed was educated at St Josephs Primary School, Rockdale, Sydney.
Completed Secondary School at Marist Brothers College, Kogarah.

Ed's first job was as a Telegram boy with the Post Master Generals Department. He later applied for an apprenticeship with the Department of Civil Aviation at Arncliffe, New South Wales and it was here that he became a specialist in electronics and radar. His employment took Ed to Port Moresby as a Grade 1 Radio Technician where he was stationed for many years and returned to Australia with the Department until retirement in 1993. Following this Ed drove Black and White taxi cabs until he decided that it was time to enjoy a better quality of life.

MILITARY HISTORY

Ed was conscripted into compulsory National Service in 1955 his number being 2/770666 and with the rank of Recruit served with the 13 National Service Bn at Ingleburn, Sydney. On completion of full time duty Ed was transferred to 17/18 Light A.A. with the rank of Private, transferred to Rabaul, Papua New Guinea and joined 'B' Company P.N.G.V.R. in 1960 when he was allocated No. 859982 at the completion of his National Service commitment with the rank of Rifleman.

also saw service with 'A' Coy P.N.G.V.R. Lae and
'D' Coy P.N.G.V.R. Port Moresby
was discharged from the P.N.G.V.R. as Professional Rifleman.

Ed caught up with his Army mates in 1989 as a foundation member of the N.G.V.R./P.N.G.V.R. Ex Members Association as a foundation Member.

SERVICE AWARDS

A.S.M. 1945-75
PNG INDEPENDENCE MEDAL 1975
PNG 10 yr ANNIVERSARY MEDAL 1985
NATIONAL SERVICE COMMENORATIVE MEDAL by the National Servicemens Association.

As a foundation Member of the N.G.V.R./P.N.G.V.R. ExMembers Association, Ed has been very active, always putting his hand up to be involved in one or more activities.
Hobbies include Fishing, Playing trains, Camping, especially at the R&R Centre at Jimboomba.



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

It is with regret that I have to inform the Association of the death of,
Private Wilkie Desmond Collins (Bill) NX57343

Bill was a driver with the 2/10 Field Ambulance stationed at Rabaul in 1942, when Rabaul fell to the Japanese, Bill along with members of the 2/22 N.G.V.R. and civilians escaped down the south coast of New Britain, where they were captured near Tol Plantation, and his story follows. Myself and 40 other prisoners were taken to Tol plantation and were tied in a line, each mans hands being bound. When the Japanese took away our pay books, identity discs and photos we knew the game was up! We were split in to parties of 10 and marched in to the jungle where we all expected to be shot. Parties marched of in different directions and what was most unnerving of all was the meticulous courtesy the Japs maintained towards us, even as they planned our butchery! Earlier the Japs had given us cigarettes and biscuits. The Jap soldiers had been given orders to fix bayonets, the officer then ordered us to sit down, even then we were waiting for death. Then the officer cut a man loose with his sword. The helpless victim was detached from the line of prisoners and led into the jungle by a Jap armed with fixed bayonet. Suddenly, from the jungle came screams followed by low moans, we all started cursing and some prayed. Being bound myself, it was dreadful to be helpless, unable to do anything to help him. Other prisoners were butchered the same way, the Jap killer returned wiping the blood from his bayonet, eventually I was the only one left, the Japs moved into the jungle to finish off the men who were still groaning with rifle fire. The Jap officer told me to stand up, and took his rifle, he motioned me away and as I took a few steps he let fly from behind me, the bullet pierced my shoulder and I fell. I felt a great shock at realising I was still alive and stayed still. The Jap fired two more shots, one went into my left arm and the other went into my back through my right hand, it travelled toward my spine and would have killed me. But my hand slowed it up. It stopped about one inch from my spine. The bullet that went through my hand, cut the ropes that tied me. After the Japs left I hid for seven days without food or water. When at last I crawled down to the beach, I found another two survivors who had been bayoneted and were still alive, neither of them could walk and one had his kidney pierced, but before we could get help for them, a Jap destroyer came in to the bay and we went bush, later we saw the hut they were in go up in flames, and presumably, the Japs had come back to clear up traces of the atrocity they had carried out. Some time later I was picked up by Frank Holland who had walked across the island looking for people who had escaped and had been instructed by J.K. McCarthy to bring them to Talasea for evacuation to Australia, I and 24 others were taken across the mountains to the north coast and then down to Ibok where we and others boarded the M.V. LAKATOI and escaped to Australia. Bill had put his age up to join the army and was only 20 at the time of the Tol massacre. He spent almost two years in hospital recovering from his wounds. Bill was the last survivor of the Tol massacre. He passed away on the 8th October 2001 on the south coast of N.S.W. and is survived by five children from his first marriage Desna, Eric, Michael, Sandra and Bruce, two step children from his second marriage, and Grand children. Bill was not a member of our Association but had strong links to us through the 2/22 and N.G.V.R. I feel it is important that his story be told as it is a little known event that was perpetrated on our soldiers in 1942 we must never forget.

LEST WE FORGET

This sad story has been printed with the consent of the Collins family, information was taken from Frank Holland's diary, Medical Soldiers and UnoVoca. On behalf of the Association I would like to express our deepest sympathy to the Collins family.

John Holland Historical Officer

Mrs Jean Letitia McCarthy passed away 7th October 2001 aged 87, in Mt Eliza Victoria, she was the wife of J.K. McCarthy, District Officer, Coast Watcher, Director of District Administration, was with ANGAU & brewer force on Los Negros Island who were awarded the United States Unit Citation, Keith was also the Honorary Colonel of the P.N.G.V.R. Jean had no family, we pass our condolences to Jeans Nephew, Rod Blackburn.

ASSOCIATION RAFFLE DRAW



With the closure of Flight West Airlines last year, your Association had to source a new prize for its Raffle. AIR NIUGINI has kindly offered their assistance.

RAFFLE TO BE DRAWN:- Sunday 17th March 2002

PRIZE:- Return ticket for 2 Brisbane to Madang OR Rabaul OR Singapore (Air fare only)
(Accommodation/meals/transfers and other travel costs to be met by the winner)

There is still time to return your SOLD and unsold tickets—contact Bob Collins (ah) 5526 8396
YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT

ROCKY CREEK WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATION

(See photo in this issue)

On the 12th August 2001, several hundred people witnessed the unveiling of eight World War 11 Unit plaques at the Rocky Creek War Memorial near Tolga in north Queensland.

The ceremony included a plaque dedicated to an Australian territorial military unit, the NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES, bringing to 41 the total number of Unit plaques already on display. Each plaque is securely bolted to a large boulder in the park.

Present for the dedication, were PNGVR Members, **Stan Carswell, Barry Wright, Hal Herriott, Tom Dowling, John Mudge, MBE., Noel Smith, Clyde Cook, John Batze, Kev Cheatham, Denis Samin and battalion piper Don Lawie.**

Our sincere thanks to our north Queensland members for their combined efforts which resulted in a magnificent plaque being dedicated to the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles.

From all NGVR and PNGVR members
THANK YOU and WELL DONE

LEST WE FORGET

Coming Issues

- * Joe Fisk continues his recollections on the US Visit:
- ** NGVR Recollections by Tom Lega continues
- *** NGVR Recollections of Neville Swanson continues
- **** The Maginot Line Revisited by Jes Hansford
- ***** Enlistment of Non-Europeans in PNGVR by Bob Harvey-Hall
- ***** News from PNG and more

From the Editor

My sincere apologies to all members and Associates for the delay in publishing this issue of Harim Tok Tok due to family, personal illness and pressing work commitments.

The next Issue is already underway and will include up dated information for this years Anzac Day march and function and our successful Regimental Dinner to be held on the 27th April 2002.

Your Executive Committee places great importance on keeping its members informed, and every effort will be made to ensure that our Newsletter is published on time. Col.



ANZAC DAY 2001

With some reflections of Yesteryear

By Bob Harvey-Hall



For some time now I have been thinking about putting pen to paper, as some of us used to say, to describe my feelings about why I travel to Brisbane from Melbourne periodically to march on Anzac Day with the PNGVR and to recall some of my thoughts, before and during that day, related to my service as a CMF soldier.

Perhaps you know what I mean, maybe not, anyway,....per Angusta ad Augusta – Through Trials to Triumph sort of thing.

Dawn and I booked in at the United Services Club on the Friday 20th April 2001, especially for the Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion to be held that night. I was sitting enjoying a pale ale in the Club when Colonel Bryan Todd, once the battalion Regimental Medical Officer, amongst more than a few notable jobs he has held, greeted me and sat down for what turned out to be a bit of a chin wag, mostly about our families. Bryan, who delivered our three children in Lae, suddenly said, "Bob, I can see a lot of your Mum and Dad in your face". What a thing to say given I am seventy plus. Still yarning and observing are a great part of the spice of Life.

I've been a member of the USC for several years, before that I was with the Imperial Service Club in Sydney which I joined when I was commissioned. Unfortunately it amalgamated with the Royal Automobile Club which meant quite a few members looked further a field as I did.

I really enjoy the United Service Club in Brisbane. The interior and exterior are of a traditional beauty which is often hard to come by these days. Loads of tradition from the front steps through to the lovely dining and club rooms. The mostly Queensland architecture overlooking the modern, and in some places, the not so aesthetic centre of Brisbane

Dawn and I were on our way downstairs when we spotted Jack Goad (NGVR) coming in from

the car park. We greeted him rather enthusiastically as a friend, special to us both. For my part, because of his NGVR connection, and to Dawn as he was her boss when she worked in Customs at Lae. Jack is a fountain of knowledge when it comes to NGVR matters. He has a marvelous collection of photographs and tales of his times in Papua New Guinea and it was pleasing that he was at the Regimental Dinner to toast his battalion.

Along with many men from all walks of life, such as Tom Lega, Jimmy Birrell, Lea Ashton, George Whittaker, Bill Money and Johnny Cook, to name but a few familiar to me, Jack Goad epitomises what NGVR stood for.

What a wonderful setting we had for the formal Regimental Dinner, where 57 guests including formally "Mess Dress" attired fellows, with their elegantly attired partners, sat down to a well organised, tasty and beautifully presented dinner. The Club chef and staff did us well with good food and service. We provided the fellowship and appropriate toasts.

It was certainly a privilege to serve our time that evening. It was another bit of those were the days my friend, we thought they'd never end. Remember that song? That is how it seemed to be during those heady days, living, working and being part of PNGVR.

One significant thing missing from the top table was the 'Flame of the Forest' which always seemed to be present on formal dining nights in PNG. There is also a piece of Pipers music called 'Flame of the Forest' and perhaps that could be played at a future dinner.

Did you know that during the negotiations for the design of our Regimental Colours, PNGVR had a battle, perhaps not so royal, with the military hierarchy to get the OK to have Flame of the Forest instead of Wattle as the Unit's emblem.

Brief Recollections—1st Cavalry Division Reunion

By Joe Fisk:-

Wow! Where do I start? What an experience, I must give it to the Yanks they are certainly great hosts and they certainly know how to treat their visitors—their hospitality was second to none. At Fort Hood, Killeen, and wherever we went across the United States, I can assure you that the Americans have a great warm feeling towards Australians. So those who can see their way clear before you get too long in the tooth, should go see for yourself and experience what I so recently witnessed.

The decision to go to the United States came by chance. John Holland, our Historic Officer, was comparing notes with one of his many clients, who gave him the web site for 1st Cav which includes the 5th Cav. John gave this information to Bob Collins who made contact with Gordon Jennings in the US who happens to be on the Board of Governors for the 1st Cav Division at Fort Hood.

The idea to visit the United States was expanded during a social camping trip back home. Once our credentials were found to be valid by their historic section and Board of Governors, an invitation was forwarded to us to attend their reunion in June 2001.

Tom Lega's son, Neil, who works at Traveland, Wynnum, was a great assistance with our travel arrangements. We decided to put an amount of money into a common kitty to cover, accommodation, meals, car hire and anything else other than personal expenses.

It worked out that kitty expenses for the four of us was approx A \$4,000—sounds a lot but this translated to just over US \$2000. This system and cost could help those planning to make a similar trip as an invitation has been extended to attend future reunions in the US.

We flew Brisbane-Sydney-Los Angeles-Dallas and Fort Worth in Texas. We hired a car and tried to find the main drag to Fort Hood.

Now with one officer on board, you would think this exercise would be easy. We found the American road signage a lot different to ours, which, whilst in full view of the airport we

proceeded to take the scenic route for 50 miles or so before we found the correct exit to south to Killeen. This was the start of a 4000 mile road trek during which time we all took turns at driving on the right side of the road. We all know now how to drive in the US.

The reunion of the 1st Cav Division is held at their HQ at Fort Hood every second year. On the alternate year the reunion is held at other Forts.

After meeting Gordon Jennings our host, he introduced us to a real Texas steak with all the goodies, and when I say steak, I mean STEAK!

After completing registration formalities on Wednesday 13th June, we decided to do a recce of the local shopping centre, and of course, in keeping with the Texas theme, it was very large indeed. Some prices were comparable to back home but food was very dear, but you get huge helpings for the price, plus glasses and glasses of iced tea and bottomless cups of coffee where milk was conspicuous by its absence.

We ended our day back at our accommodation (The Lodge) and the usual water hole where Barry drank the supplies of Gin—they don't drink much gin there. This somehow got back to the ears of the Commanding General of the 1st Cav Div. He said in jest at the Divisional Banquet, "you lot know how to enjoy yourselves. I heard over the grape vine that you have drunk the Lodge Bar out of Gin". Our host assured us that Barry will be well catered for, should he return.

We certainly had our eyes open whilst at Fort Hood. What more can I say other than IT'S ENORMOUS!

In our next newsletter I will report on the activities of our visit, in particular the display of the Division's history, from a demonstration of cavalry horsemanship, chuck wagons and canon through to armoured vehicles and helicopters.

Watch for more of Joe's recollections in the next Harim Tok Tok.

Japanese movements to HQ in Port Moresby.

Their coast watching activities must not be discounted either, as Admiral Chester Nimitz once commented, "Guadalcanal saved the Pacific and the Coast watchers saved Guadalcanal". I might add at this stage that it was due to the actions on an Australian coastwatcher that your former President, John F Kennedy and the crew of his MTE were saved.

When the invasion of the Admiralties was planned the US 1st Cavalry Division was the main unit and its commander was also commander of 'Brewer Force' - the nominated invasion force.

The force had a contingent of NGVR/ANGAU attached under the control of ANGAU commander Lt. Colonel Keith McCarthy. In the initial landing there were 4 NGVR/ANGAU men and 4 New Guinea Constabulary attached to 2nd Sqn, 5th Cav Regiment., and, with supporting units they landed on Los Negros Island.

As a result of the Los Negros campaign, the 2nd Sqn, 5th Cav Regt, 1st Cavalry Division and attached units (NGVR/ANGAU) were awarded a Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation (Army).

The Citation to NGVR/ANGAU was presented in 1952 and, because both NGVR and ANGAU had been disbanded, the Citation was presented to PNGVR in Rabaul with the addendum to PNGVR to "fill the responsibility of carrying on the fine record of inspired service set by Brewer Force."

Because of the addendum to the Citation we wear the decoration on special occasions only, such as Anzac Day, when we represent the Association on official

business.

Sir, on behalf of our Association, the NGVR / PNGVR Ex Members Association, I would like you to accept this plaque on behalf of the 2nd Sqn, 5th Cavalry Regiment as a memorial to those of our forebears who are no longer with us, but whose example will forever live in our memories.

Our thanks to Bob, Joe, Norm and Barry for their efforts in planning and making such a successful representation visit to the US 1st Cavalry Division 2001 Reunion at entirely their own expense.

Following the September 2001 attack on the World Trade Centre in New York, that following email was sent to the 1st Cav Division, 5th Cavalry Regiment Association on 12 September 2001 at 1324 hours Brisbane time.

' On behalf of the members of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Voluntary Rifles Ex Members Association we would like to extend to your President, George W Bush and the American people our deepest condolences at the tragic loss of life as the result of the recent despicable and disgusting act of terrorism inflicted on your nation. We pray and hope that it did not involve any members of your Association or their families. Our thoughts and prayers are with you'

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

NB Our email was acknowledged, with thanks and confirmation that no one from the 1st Cavalry Division or the 5th Cavalry Association was involved in the tragic event.

The Club's ante-room reception allowed plenty of time for greetings and to meet some long forgotten faces. I was greeted by a chap who said "Remember me?". I said sorry I don't remember you to which he replied "I was one of your platoon commanders, what can you say to that"? I was flabbergasted and thought of myself what a dick you are Robert. I am sorry that I just did not recognise Ron Strand.

Just then, Brig. Ian Hunter says "hello, I believe it's young Harvey-Hall, I reckoned it was you, wonderful to see you again." He recalled how he presented me with my first CMF gong and the Army photographer took a great shot of the occasion which largely featured the prominent company haus cook adjacent to the parade ground at Lae. No matter, I still treasure that photo.

A couple of days later I phoned Bill Guest, ex 39 Battalion, ex Warrant Officer instructor with A Coy during those salad days in Lae, when Emery House was A Coy training depot and my office and also married quarters for Pat and Bill Guest. We agreed to meet on Anzac Day just before the march.

Staying at Hamilton in Brisbane and about two blocks from Brett's Wharf makes it very easy to get into the city. On board the City Cat, the attendant reminded me that Anzac Day marchers travel for free on this day. Instead of looking at the sights, I did a bit of day dreaming about my first Anzac Day march in Lae in 1952 with some of the blokes who were there - Major Harry Thompson, MC, ex Signals Corp and P&T and OC 'A' Coy PNGVR - John McKean, Lae's chemist, ex parachute battalion, and Bevan Murphy who went to war in the merchant Navy at 14 and a bit. He was brother of the somewhat famous Captain John Murphy, taken prisoner by the Japanese at Rabaul.

There was a time in 1952 when 'A' Coy had an ARA Corporal Storeman attached who was also a qualified bomb disposal chap and I remind myself of the times this bloke took me along to assist him in dealing with UXB's which included artillery shells. There was plenty of live ordinance in and around Lae.

The only available information I had on bomb disposal was a British War Office pamphlet. I think it was called 'Protection Against Unexploded Bombs' and again if my elderly memory hasn't let me down, was somewhat lacking in specific details.

Anyway I read this document at the request of our Corporal Storeman and bomb disposal expert before each sortie, and let me tell you that what we did to destroy UXB's bore absolutely no resemblance to the pamphlet.


The Corporal loved Rhum Nigrita and poker and just about every night in Bagtown, where he lived in a small donga, he consumed copious amounts of the Bermuda booze while trying to defeat established card sharps in games that went into the early hours of the morning. Although his hands perpetually shook, he always got the job done. Before lighting the fuse and moving back to cover he would always say "let us walk back, don't run". He was recalled to the mainland before his term of duty was completed.

I also reflected on an Easter bivouac at Salamaua where 'A' Coy, under the instruction of WO2 Bill Shillaker, fired a 3 inch mortar from the narrow isthmus where the pre-war township used to be, aiming towards Kela Heights. At this time there were three Harvey-Hall's present who went "fishing" with the blokes after the firing session, which incidentally often resulted in several misfires. These keen fisherman never used lines, bait etc but always came back with a load of fish.

I can recall John Bretag not so well dressed in only a pair of boots AB, diving into the harbour water after fish. He got back on board very quickly when someone made casual mention of sharks in these waters.

I also recall how pleased the local villagers were with the results of this not so new way of fishing. Of course there is no prize for guessing what we used for bait or how we disposed of the misfires.

Ross Wormald came later as WO Instructor, imparting his well rounded knowledge to the


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BATTLE HONOURS
RABUL WAU SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC 1942-43

members. I next saw Ross in '67 in Vietnam in the Long Hai hills during a search, fix and destroy mission whilst he was acting RSM of 5 RAR. He was collecting shell dressings from anyone because of the carnage a well sited and improvised land mine, set up by a local VC company, had caused amongst a platoon acting as vanguard during Operation 'Renmark'.

Still a regular soldier, Ross came back to Nui Guinea in '68 or '69 in civilian dress and served in the border areas. I don't know where Ross went to after that stint.

The Brisbane City-cat docks at North Quay, and after a hearty breakfast in the city I make my way to the Anzac Day march FUP for NGVR/PNGVR—looks like I'm first there—no Bill Guest. I move along to the 39th banner, and he is not there either. About twenty minutes later Norm Mundy says that there is someone looking for me but he is not one of ours.

Bill Guest arrives and says, as if it is only 'yesterday' in Lae, "G'day Bob, there's been a change of plan, we are going to have our get together after the march at Emery House". Bill Guest was certainly one of us; he was a great help to me and the Battalion during his service with PNGVR.

Our numbers in George Street are starting to get more respectable. Brother Gill arrives and then Kel Williams and Don Hook. I wander up the street and meet Tom Lega and Peter Harbeck. By this time PNGVR chaps are arriving from all directions; hand shakes all round then we start to sweat in our smart looking Anzac Day Dress. Hey! There is Graeme Blanch and Joe Hall; Joe and I once worked for a major airline, come to think of it so did Tony Boulter. Along comes Bruce Johnson and Mike Larkin.

With over 90 members on parade, the march commences. A number of NGVR members joined the Regiment in the jeep transport provided courtesy of the Military Jeep Club of Brisbane.

The Anzac Day March 2001 was a splendid affair, by that I mean I felt that we marched well in spite of the fact that we did not have a dedicated band with us. We certainly looked smart in our berets, jackets and gray slacks and were in step most of the way despite the stops and starts.

There were big crowds in Adelaide Street and the number of children and young people watching the parade was impressive. We get many cheers including "Aussie Aussie Aussie" and "well done, PNGVR" from the saluting stand. The Australian Flag supporter who is usually near Anzac Square, was there again this year, proudly holding a large Australian Flag and shouting congratulations to the Regiment as we too take pride in carrying the Australian Flag alongside our Battalion Flag and the PNG Flag. Such support goes a long way to keeping our feet pounding along the roadway.

The Adelaide Street crowd, would have to be the largest I have seen on Anzac Day in Brisbane. We came to a tired and slightly raggedy halt and were dismissed. "Well done NGVR / PNGVR" for indeed we had done well, especially with help from Carl Aschhoff and Mal Zimmermann calling the step now and then. Well done.

We moved across to the Shrine of Memories for a short memorial service for NGVR members who made the supreme sacrifice during the Pacific War and to those who were lost on the Montevideo Maru—always a touching ceremony.

At the request of one of the Legatees of the Yarra Valley Legacy Group, of which I am a member, I remembered NX191485, Bdr F J Herriot of the 2/22nd Battalion. Viv Humphrey's says 'Hello!' and introduces his grandsons—3 or 4 I think—all looked smart in their Association caps. I shook hands with each one which left me with a good feeling. onto the old Stock Exchange Hotel and just in time for the big dollars across the bar by

America is the strongest country in the world today. Their army is the best equipped and the soldiers know this and are proud of it. They are extremely well trained and motivated.

There were 1300 people at the reunion which was well organised and held over a period of 5 days. The hospitality shown to us was out of this world, and everyone made us feel extremely welcome. There has been some advance publicity of our visit so quite a few knew we were coming.

We took with us a NGVR/PNGVR Association plaque to present to 2/5 Cav., and this was presented at a luncheon held for the 5th Cavalry Regiment. However to our surprise we received some presentations in return.

During the reunion the 1st Cav Div paraded their colours on a number of occasions and, with their service history, they had quite a number of Battle Streamers on their Colours. Each Streamer denotes a battle in which a Unit of the Division was awarded a Citation of some sort. We were presented with a Battle Streamer which denotes the US Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation for the battle of Los Negros.

The Battle Streamer was presented to our Association by retired (4 star) US General Meyer, formally from the Chief of Staff of the US Army. There is only one higher post in the US Army and that is a posting to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As our Colours are laid up in the War Memorial in Canberra, we will carry this Battle Streamer on our PNGVR flag.

The next presentation we received was a 'Giedon'. Giedons are very old and were used by the horse cavalry to denote the location of commanders of units in battle.

The tradition continues to this day and commanders carry a Giedon on their armoured vehicles for the same purpose as the horse commanders did. This Giedon was presented to us by the CO of 2/5 Cav., and was carried on his command Bradley APC

during the Battalion's stint in Kuwait.

I made comment at the beginning that the purpose of going to the United States was to renew acquaintances that were forged during WW 11 at Los Negros, where the US Citation was awarded to NGVR/ANGAU as part of 'Brewer Force'.

The original citation which was presented to B Coy PNGVR in 1952 and displayed in the Company Drill Hall was destroyed during one of the volcanic eruptions. The Association has been discussing for some time how to obtain a duplicate copy of the original citation.

I am pleased to advise that General Meyer (Retd) promised us during the 5th Cav luncheon, that he would ensure that we received a copy of the original Citation. I understand that a Brigadier-General in the Pentagon has been given the task of getting a duplicate Citation for the Association.

In the meantime we have been given a copy of the 5th Cavalry Regiment Citation. It is appropriate that tonight we present it to our Historic Officer, John Holland, as it was his father who was presented with the original Citation at Rabaul in June 1952.

Extract from the address by Bob Collins to guests at the US Reunion at Fort Hood, Texas.

It is my pleasure tonight, together with my three colleagues here, to represent our Association from Australia, the NGVR/PNGVR Ex Members Association, and to present to 2nd Sqn 5th Cav Regt, a plaque from our members to represent bonds forged during WW 11.

(Brief history of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles was provided.)

During the dark days of 1942 and early 1943 NGVR has the distinction of being the only army force in the New Guinea campaign who actively fought the Japanese. They carried out patrolling, small scale raids and ambushes and coastwatching activities, reporting

VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES



In July last year four members of the Association—Bob Collins, Joe Fisk, Norm Mundy and Barry Wright—made a self-funded trip to the United States to attend the reunion of the US 1st Cavalry Division.



Extract from the address by Bob Collins to members and guests at the Field Dining Night on the 14th July 2001.

As you are aware four of us from the Association, Joe Fisk, Norm Mundy, Barry Wright and myself have just been to America for a reunion of the 1st US Cavalry Division, which was held at Killeen, a small town next to Fort Hood in Texas.

The background to our trip came on a camping trip back home in Queensland, when after a beer during the afternoon, a sherry before dinner, a wine during dinner and a Port after dinner, the idea came up that we should renew acquaintances with the 1st Cavalry Division.

The background to this is that in 1944, after NGVR had been disbanded and personnel mainly posted to ANGAI, (to provide local advice, scouting and liaison with the native people etc) General McArthur decided to establish a base in the Admiralty Islands (Manus is the largest Island) to isolate the Japanese forces at Rabaul and the Solomons. The new base would also serve as a jumping off point for the invasion of Hollandia, the Philippines and Japan.

The 1st Cavalry Division was the basis of "Brewer Force" which was given the task of taking the Admiralties. The 5th Cavalry Regiment was given the task of launching the initial attack, and they gave the task to their 2nd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, who had NGVR/ANGAI personnel attached.

After fierce fighting from the 28th February to the 4th March 1944, the 5th Cavalry and attached units including NGVR/ANGAI, were successful in carrying out their assigned mission. As a result, 'Brewer Force' was awarded a US Presidential

Distinguished Unit Citation.

There have been only 3 such Citations awarded to Australian Units:-

1. NGVR/ANGAI in 1944
2. 3 RAR at Kapyong, Korea in 1952
3. D Coy 6 RAR, Long Tan, Vietnam, 1966

The Citation to NGVR/ANGAI is the only one ever awarded to a militia unit.

That is the background so now onto the American trip.

It is quite awesome to go to a base like Fort Hood. Fort Hood is the home of the 3rd Corps which consists of the 1st Cavalry Division, the 4th Infantry Division and other attached units. There are more soldiers at Fort Hood than in all of the Australian Regular Army.

Their vehicle park is 4 miles long by approx 3/4 mile deep and is full of tanks, Bradley APC's and all types of vehicles required for a Cavalry Division and an Infantry Division.

The 1st Cavalry Division has a battalion in Kuwait and one in Bosnia. One Battalion is on 2 hours notice to move, fully equipped, in anywhere in the world. All soldiers on rostered standby have a beeper, and cannot move more than one hours travel from base. It is also a court martial offence to have an alcoholic drink during this standby period which could last up to 6 months.

One Brigade is on 48 hours notice to move out. There are several railway lines running into the Fort and all the equipment, including heavy vehicles etc for a Cavalry Brigade is held at battle readiness on numerous flat cars with army locomotives attached, just waiting to move.

our Secretary and the "freebies" are available. The nibbles are quick to go but never mind, hang onto your drink, circulate and say g'day to old mates. Some are first time marchers and there are more than a couple you haven't seen for ages. Meet up with a couple from the top end—Terry Farmer and Trevor Webb, then onto our remarkable Honour Board where you see the names of close comrades—it's time for a brief reflection. Ed Hardy's name is there—it only seems like yesterday when he marched with us on Anzac Day 2000. He has now gone into the great silence.

Mal Bishop is holding court not far from the bar. Mal doesn't have to get up for a refill as he has enough acolytes in attendance.

I yarn with Bill Kelly and Col Gould stays for a couple of minutes, away from his ever going secretarial duties. I still miss his Dad, Stan, at our gatherings. Stan and I were good mates.

Jesse Chee comes over and we recall how it was for him before PNGVR became multiracial. Jesse used to haunt A Coy training depot and myself, wanting and insisting that he be allowed to join PNGVR, which, at the time he couldn't. We talked about the telephone calls to Canberra and the calls from Canberra to me from a senior bureaucrat in the Prime Minister's Department wanting to know why I hadn't enlisted Jesse. Would you believe not one call, but several over a couple of months.

I recall that I invited Jesse and another chap to attend an A Coy bivouac to observe our training and to give them an idea of what they would be in for. Well at that time, a Major Worley from HQ was doing an inspection of A Coy working in the field and he insisted that two recruits of Chinese origin could not observe our military activities. Bill Guest was instructed by the Major to take Jesse and the other chap away to teach them how to 'slope arms' while we got on with our military training.

Then one magic evening a call from Canberra saying that Jesse could be enlisted. It was a breeze as we had already prepared the enlistment papers many moons before. Final

approval came from Murray Barracks which not only affected Jesse Chee but became the watershed which helped make PNGVR the great unit it was. I also remember Sgt Michael Galore who was one of the first Nui Guinea nationals to join A Coy and who developed into a fine NCO. Michael wrote to me in some time back advising that some ex PNGVR nationals were in the process of forming an Association in Lae.

Over to Bill Bickerton to say g'day and to tell him I don't have the Presidential Citation. I only saw it once at B Coy Rabaul in the early fifties. I went to Rabaul with my great mate the late Noel Scott. Noel and I joined 25 Battalion, Darling Downs Regt in the late 40's. Noel was a Lt with B Coy PNGVR when he showed me the Citation in the OC's Office. I never saw it again.

Toasts are now made and some of our Ladies are presented with well earned kudos by the President—more announcements and more nibbles are circulated which disappear quickly, so much so that I recall Colonel Bill Harrington once saying to me during a dinner, "Bob get on with it, if you pause to say Grace the remainder will be starting on their sweet kai".

I drift over to the chaps from Darwin to listen to the somewhat disjointed conversation, after all, we have all been here for some time. Still circulating I get an audience with Colonel Mal, yarn to Alan Wadsworth, Carl Aschhoff, Mal and Mike Zimmermann and say cheerio to Jack Goad.

With all the goings on around me, it is easy to understand clearly what brings me back to Brisbane to march on Anzac Day—the room is full of them.

Well it's time to leave and once again the handshakes and some messages for Dawn. I ask for directions to North Quay and the City Cat to return to Hamilton. What did you say? Oh yes, I plan to be back again next year. What about you?



Dedication of a Plaque to NGVR at Rocky Creek—August 2002
(L) Stan Carswell, Barry Wright, Hal Herriott, Tom Dowling, John Mudge, MBE, Noel Smith, Clyde Cook, John Batze, Kev Cheatham, Denis Samin and Battalion piper Don Lawie.



The 'Gledon' presented to the Association by the Commanding Officer of the 2/5 Cavalry Regiment during the Texas reunion

Presentation of an Association Plaque to Papua New Guinea Consul-General to Queensland, Mr Henry P Koiaie by Lt Colonel Harry N Green, MBE,ED. (Far right) - September 2001 with Joe Fisk and Bob Collins.



Norm Mundy, Bob Collins, Barry Wright & Joe Fisk with one of their US Hosts at the 5th Cav 2001 reunion in Texas.



Barry Wright with the Los Negros Battle Streamer presented to the Association



John Hoiland with a copy of the 5th Cavalry Citation presented to the Association