

SNIPPETS FROM THE PNG 'POST-COURIER'

11th June: The new organisation formed to replace the Copra Marketing Board was launched on Friday soon after its interim board members took and oath of office.

The Dept of Agriculture and Livestock received more than K1.7 million of the K \$4 million promised by the government to start the KOKONAS INDASTRI KOPORENSEN (KIK) which officially came into operation on the 4 June 2002

12 June: The Australian government has allocated A\$1.5 million for three new war memorials on the Kokoda Track, Milne Bay and Popondetta, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Papua New Guinea campaigns during World War 11.

6 June: TED DIRO proposed and Bill Skate said "Yes" to a political marriage between the two in a bid to form Papua New Guinea's new government next month. Central Province MP Mr Diro wants to be the next Prime Minister and National Capital District Bill Skate will give support for that bid. Mr Diro's People's Action Party and Mr Skate's People's National Congress became the first of the 43 registered political parties to publicly declare prospective government coalition partnership in the current election. "I want the top job absolutely, emphatically and badly this time" Mr Diro said.

22 May: Six airports in the country are to benefit from as AusAID funded maintenance project of A\$41 million. The airports where work is expected to start include Nabzab—A\$9.3 million, Chimbu-K 900,000, Momote—K2.9 million, Wewak-K 300,000, Vanimo-K150,000 and Port Moresby.

12th June: PNG faces the real threat of economic ruin if the PNG Gas Project did not go ahead, Sir Rabbie Namaliu has said.....The PNG economy was in a very sick state and the indicators for the future offered little hope for an early

14 June: Any aircraft that flies into the Koroba/Kopiago electorate during the polling period will be shot down, District Administrator Stanley Kotange warned. Mr Kotange sent the warning in a letter to various airline companies in the country, urging them not to allow their planes into his District. He said that he had reports that the 19 candidates from the area had stockpiled high powered weapons which they intended to use during the election. The weapons he described include AK47's, M16's, M202's, SLR and .303's will be used to keep a look out on individuals and supporters of other candidates. He said that people from the area have publicly stated they would shoot at any aircraft that flies in and around Koroba / Lake Kopiago.

12 June:- The Australian government will give about K900,000 for logistical support in flying police to the Highlands and other centres during the election. Australian had agreed to this after a request from the PNG government. Australian High Commissioner Mr Nick Warner said the funding would be used to transport police on commercial flights to the Highlands and other regional centres and assist in the hire of commercial helicopters to airlift requirements of the police as well as the PNG Electoral Commission.

14 June: Recovery of the sunken wartime wreck "Indian Maru" somewhere off Papua New Guinea's territorial waters will begin in earnest thanks to an agreement this week. The "Indian Maru" a Japanese vessel reputedly laden with GOLD bullion and traveling to an unknown destination in the Pacific, was sunk during WW11 in PNG waters. The PNG government and Australian based Keyson International Limited signed an agreement in Port Moresby for research and recovery of all sunken wartime and other historical wrecks. The company is planning to spend US\$1.2 billion over the next 5-6 years on research and recovery exercise. If gold was found, the PNG government would take 50% of the bounty as per the agreement. The other half would be shared between Keyson and 15 other overseas companies that invested in the project.

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc.
PO Box 287 Email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au
EVERTON PARK
Brisbane Q 4053 Ph/Fax: 07 3311 7480

Membership: \$20-00 p.a.
Associate: \$10-00 p.a.
No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the permission of the Association



HARIM TOK TOK



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

VOLUME 23

JUNE 2002

Montevideo Maru 60th Anniversary Memorial Service 1942- 2002

1 July 2002 marks the 60th Anniversary of the tragic sinking of the Japanese naval prisonship "Montevideo Maru". After having departed Rabaul in June 1942 with 1035 military and civilian prisoners of war on board, including members of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and 2/22nd Battalion, the ship was torpedoed and sunk off the Luzon Coast in the Philippines with the loss of all POW's on board.

Their final resting place is known only to God.

Date:- Monday 1st July 2002
Venue:- Shrine of Memories, ANZAC Square Brisbane. Service to be held in the adjoining large room within the Shrine.
Time:- 10.30 am
Dress:- ANZAC Day dress or civilian with full medals.

All welcome. Private and family wreaths may be laid at the Memorial during the service.



LEST WE FORGET



President's Update.....



Greetings! Another ANZAC Day has come and gone, and I would like to thank all those members who were able to make the Parade. The Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion at the United Services Club on the Saturday night and our ANZAC Day reception were well attended.

I would like to thank the Hon. Gary Hardgrave, MP, Member for Moreton and the PNG Consul-General Mr Henry Koiaie & Mrs Koiaie for attending the Dinner as our special guests.

Your Committee has taken up the challenge to obtain authority to re-locate our PNGVR Queen's and Regimental Colours to Brisbane. As you are aware, our Colours were laid up in the Australian War Memorial upon disbandment. Although they are well cared for in Canberra, they are currently out of sight in storage.

Our aim is to return the Colours to Brisbane and have them put on display in a secure and environmentally controlled location such as the new State RSL Head Quarters in Brisbane. This would allow our members and their families the opportunity to view our Colours, especially as the majority of our activities are based in Brisbane.

It is our understanding that once a Unit's Colours are laid up, they are no longer the property of the Australian Army. We are aware of at least two other

Regimental Associations who have been able to have their Colours returned to Queensland. We will keep you informed of progress. If however you are aware of a similar situation, please let the Committee know which Associations are involved.

We welcome back to Australia our Junior Vice-President, Tony Milan. Tony left PNG last month and is now residing in Victoria.

The Committee has invited John Mudge, MBE to take on the role of our "PNG Liaison Officer". It is important that the Association maintains a close contact with PNG, and with the departure from Port Moresby of Tony Milan, John has kindly offered to continue this important role. Thanks John.

This position will be put to Members at the AGM.

On the subject of our AGM, we are waiting for the Long Tan Sergeants Mess Committee to advise if we are able to access their Mess again this year for our AGM and buffet dinner. Details in the next Newsletter.

From personal donated funds raised by our Secretary, Col Gould some time back, the sum of \$450-00 has been donated to Rotary, via the Australia—Papua New Guinea Business & Cultural Society, for the purchase of a deep freezer to be sent from Brisbane to a small coastal fishing village in PNG. The village is heavily dependent on fishing, and the freezer will enable them to store their catch for market, thus improving their life style.

Rotary International will organise the matter, and a small plaque stating that the freezer was donated by

the members of the NGVR/PNGVR Ex Members Association will be attached to the freezer. Our thanks to Hank Cosgrove from the Aust-PNG Business and Cultural Society for organising the shipment.

I am pleased to report that our Senior Vice-President and NGVR Representative, Tom Lega, MM, is on the mend after a stint in hospital. Tom was unable to join us this ANZAC Day, but it is now good to see that he is recovering.

The past months saw our Welfare Officer, Bill Bickerton and Historic Officer, John Holland lose their much loved partners to Cancer. On behalf of all our Members, I extend to Bill and John and their families our deepest sympathies. If any member is aware of another member who is sick or in need, please contact our Welfare Officer, Bill Bickerton or your Committee.

In closing, my thanks to members of the Executive Committee for their dedication and efforts in their various roles.

My sincere best wishes to you all and your families, and I hope that 2002/3 finds you all fit, healthy and 'in training' for the ANZAC Day & Regimental Dinner long weekend in Brisbane in 2003.

Tenk Yu tru

Harry N Green.
President.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CONSULATE GENERAL AND VISA SECTION

Level 11 320 Adelaide Street Brisbane
GPO Box 220 Brisbane 4001
Ph: 3221 7915

(NEW) QUEENSLAND BRANCH RSL STATE HQ

Level 1 283 St Pauls Terrace, Brisbane
Ph: 07 3634 9444 Fax: 07 3634 9400



2002 PNG INDEPENDENCE BALL

Date:- Saturday 7th September 2002
Venue:- Queensland Irish Club
Dress:- Mess Dress / ANZAC Day Dress /
Jacket with miniatures.

Bookings essential. Make a table or join the PNGVR table for a great night out. Further details, costs etc available shortly.

Host:- Aust—PNG Business & Cultural Soc Inc



Make a note in your diary
Today!

Dress:- As this is a "Theme Night" Pam & Barry request that you wear "Smart Casual". It is requested that anyone who has a NGVR/PNGVR Association polo shirt and name tag, please wear same as this will add to the effect of the evening. It is especially requested that jeans are not worn, although slacks are acceptable.

Menu:- Sherry for pre-dinner drinks, and wine and water at the dining table and Port for some after dinner Toasts will be provided. Anyone who prefers beer of spirits prior to, and after the meal, please BYO. The meal will be prepared on site by caterers:-

* Nibbles * Choice of 3 meats with 4 vegetables & salads * Choice of 4 desserts and tea and coffee, dinner wines and Port.

In order to assist with the cost of the evening, anyone attending is requested to cover costs by paying \$30 per person. As this is a catered event, it is requested that you indicate your acceptance **BY FRIDAY 12th JULY.**

Once you have indicated your acceptance, you will be catered for, and consequently you will be expected to cover your costs even if you cannot make it at the last moment.

Joe Fisk and Bob Collins will be organising the catering and drinks for the "Theme Night" so please forward **your cheques payable to "Theme Night", direct to Bob Collins at:- Unit 45, 'Capricornia', 121 Surf Parade, BROADBEACH Q 4218 by 12 July.**

An excellent night is planned. For catering purposes, please ring either Barry Wright 5546 9865; Joe Fisk—3208 5298 ; Bob Collins—5526 8396 by 12th July. Emergency mobile contact on the night of the dinner will be 0413 831 397.

Remember:- Be early to book. Cheques to Bob Collins by Friday 12th July.

Pam and Barry look forward to your attendance, and a great evening is expected.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA—AIR NIUGINI COUNTRY

With over 25 years of flying this amazing land
Nobody knows Papua New Guinea like Air Niugini

Port Moresby : Alotau: Popondetta: Kerema: Tari: Mendi: Mt Hagen: Wapenamanda: Goroka: Kundiawa:
Madang: Lae: Wewak: Vanimo: Manus Is.: Kimbe: Hoskins: Rabaul: Kavieng: Lihir: Buka:

Thinking of re-visiting Papua New Guinea??
Then why not contact your nearest Air Niugini booking office.



Air Niugini
en PNG!

Australia Wide:- Local call 1300 361 380

Brisbane:- 07 3221 1544

Cairns:- 07 4031 1611

Sydney:- 02 9290 1544

Auckland:- (64 9) 379 3708

"We thank Air Niugini for their generous support of the NGVR / PNGVR Ex
Members Association Inc.

rice and bully beef but, unknown to anyone, a long bit of rope had been left tied to the bag.

When the pilot said "Now!", I threw the bag out but the rope was twisted around my arm, and I started to go out with it. I was struggling with the rope when the pilot, a Marine Corps Private, said, "What the hell are you doing?". I told he in no uncertain terms. On these trips we also flew low over villages and threw cigarettes to the natives. However if any Japanese were seen we threw out grenades.

It was from the large group of prisoners mentioned earlier that I obtained the rifles and swords that appear in the photograph given to the Association. The machine gun in the photo relates to a separate patrol. We did not even fire a shot on this patrol, but the natives bought the machine gun out of the bush still in its packing grease. It was in perfect condition. When we returned to camp a Captain Hamilton took it from me and said, "Leave this to our Intelligence people".

I happened to be a friend of the Commanding General, having given him a cockatoo that spoke

Pidgin (I had obtained this from some local natives). When the General learnt of this event, he demoted Captain Hamilton and I got the machine gun back. I eventually sold it to an American for 25 pounds.

This collection of souvenirs had its own difficulties. On one occasion I was coming back from my cache, which was buried under a tree, and, on passing a hut with two Base Marines in it I heard one of them say, "Let's hit him on the head with a hammer and we'll take everything". So I then got my two Police boys and told them that these two Marines had said, "Em I laik kilim mi." and told them to "rausim tupela long bayonet na sing out long en". Well these two Police boys charged the hut with their bayonets making one hell of a noise. Off ran the two Marines with the Police in hot pursuit. I had to call out, "Maski kilim tupela, praitin em tasol".

I never saw the two Marines again. I ended up with 5 swords—I raffled two, one was stolen and I returned to Australia with two.

(To be continued.....)

MIXED THEME DINING NIGHT

Saturday 20th July 2002

The Wright's Residence—176 Kurrajong Road—Jimboomba.

Pam and Barry Wright have pleasure in inviting you to a "Theme Night" at Jimboomba on Saturday evening the 20th July 2002. The theme will be 'Old Mates in NGVR/PNGVR' and the format will be a mixed Dining Night as they feel that those attending will enjoy such an atmosphere.

Venue:- If coming from Brisbane, follow the Mount Lindsay Highway (Beaudesert Road) through Jimboomba, turn left approx 1 km past Jimboomba into MILLSTREAM ROAD, and then after 150 M turn left again into Kurrajong Road. At the top of the crest approx 1 km along Kurrajong Road, between two 80 km speed signs (one of each side of the road) turn left into long driveway. The venue will be suitably marked. The site is some 600 m into the property. Look for the signs.

Facilities:- Pre-dinner drinks will take place in a suitable annexe. The dinner will take place in a Marquee capable of seating all present in a "U" type dining plan—tables, table cloths, chairs, crockery, cutlery, glasses etc will be provided. Shower facilities, with running hot and cold water will be available. Separate ladies and gents conveniences are available. Electric lighting is also available.

So that those dining can feel free to have a good time, Pam & Barry have made available their back paddock (where the theme night is being held) for camping. There are suitable cooking facilities, fire places, hot water and cooking utensils available. Those staying for Sunday breakfast please bring your own food, drink, cutlery etc, and don't forget a comfortable chair for your camp site.

Timings:- Pre Dinner drinks will commence at 1700 hours. **Dinner will commence at 1800 hours.** Anyone who intends to overnight may arrive at any time on the Saturday to set up their camp site.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

ANZAC DAY 2002

By Tom Dowling

As usual the preparations for ANZAC Day began early in the year. The management of the Stock Exchange Hotel advised without warning, that we would no longer have access to the main downstairs function room which we had used for the past 7 years.

The reason was simple—our numbers were insufficient to justify sole use of their main function room. I instantly recalled "Corporal Jones of 'Dad's Army' fame whose instant response to any crises was "DON'T PANIC!"

A recce of the CBD revealed that ANZAC Day licensed function space was at a premium. Eventually a deal was struck where we could use the smaller, but well presented upstairs function room. With ANZAC Day so close, your Committee accepted the last minute offer.

Our Historic Officer, John Holland, due to the recent ill health and subsequent passing away of his beloved, was understandably not able to stage his usual Regimental historic display. As things turned out, the change of venue made any thought of a display impossible.



STOCK EXCHANGE HOTEL
NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Since ANZAC Day, the Stock Exchange Hotel has been sold and the new owners have embarked on a total renovation of the premises. Our Secretary, Col Gould, has met with the new Sales and Marketing Manager to discuss our ANZAC Day needs. Hopefully the owners new plans for the complex will enable us to continue to have suitable space for our ANZAC Day function and display.

Your Committee will be keeping in close contact with the new Management of the Hotel with the view to firm up arrangements for 2003.

Renovations should be completed by August 2002.

A 0700 hours our Secretary and some of the Committee members started the usual setting up early in the morning. Flags, banners, Q Store supplies were bought in and the

function room set up as best as the available space allowed. I would like to thank all our members for their understanding and acceptance of the change conditions which were not of our making.

Amongst the 78 members who made parade and again ensured that we were one of the best presented units on the day, were some who traveled some distance—Ivan Old from Camden; Bob Harvey-Hall from Victoria; Henry McCauley from Adelaide; Stan Carswell from Cairns; Noel Serafini from Randwick; and Ian Thompson from Bolivia (the Bolivia in New South Wales that is). My apologies if I have overlooked anyone.

Several out of town members sent in their apologies—Peter Rogers; Karl Aschhoff; Glen O'Brien and Graham Norris. Tom Lega, MM was in hospital and Jack Goad was unable to make the journey. We hope that Tom and Jack will join us again next year.



Thanks to the efforts of Joe Fisk, we were most fortunate to have the National Servicemen's Memorial (Pipes and drums) Band march directly in front of us throughout the march.

The band looked quite resplendent in their kilts and khaki jackets and pith helmets, but more importantly their music was superb and the drummers and pipers gave it their all as we marched down Adelaide Street past Queensland Governor, Major-General Peter Arnison, AO and other VIP's at the saluting stand.

Supporters in the roadside crowd later reported that we were all in step. No doubt due mainly to the magnificent band in the lead. Thanks Joe, and our thanks to the band members.

This year we had Henry MacCauley and Harold Osborne both of the NGVR and Les Irvine of ANGAU march with us in front of our banner accompanied by Loren Eastwood carrying the wreath.

At the head of our Unit was President Lt Colonel Harry Green who was accompanied by Lt Colonel Laurie Kelly who had made the journey up from Newcastle for ANZAC Day. WO1 Joe Fisk again performed his annual

miracle, that is, he still fits into his PNGVR juniper green uniform of so many years ago.

I think it is time that Joe shared his 'secret' with us as we all seem to have suffered from shrinking uniforms and mess dress.

In the middle of the group Dave Harris marches with his comrades, all in step thanks to the band.

Missing this year was Karl Aschhoff's booming voice calling the step. Sorry Karl, our excellent band would have made you redundant and would have drowned out even your magnificent "RSM" type voice.

Bringing up the rear were two sets of grand children (to remind us how old we all are) . One lot of three, in their green and gold school uniforms marched alongside their grandfather Gil Harvey-Hall and a group of five, proudly wearing their Legacy sashes, marching with their grandfather, Viv Humphrys.

Immediately after the march, there was a memorial service for the NGVR at the Association's plaque in the Shrine of Memories where Loren Eastwood and Henry MacCauley together, placed the wreath.

The following reception was again a successful occasion for the renewing of old friendships. First time visitor was NGVR Nev Swanson. Welcome Nev! We hope to see you again in the years to come.

After the usual announcements, Margaret Green was presented with an Association plaque by President Harry in recognition of all her support.

The usual chatter followed and was interrupted only by the arrival of the three medics who also doubled as the nucleus of the Rabaul Mafia.



By 1600 hours, members started to slowly disperse and then one most unusual thing became evident—an event that would have been unheard of back in the 60's and 70's in any of our Regimental Messes—Yes! There was still complimentary ice cold beer available in the keg and some finger food on the tables.

Thank you to all our members, associate members and their guests who all contributed to another successful and enjoyable ANZAC Day march and reception.

In closing, I was impressed to see that the ANZAC Day parade and spectator numbers just seems to get bigger each year. How can you not be impressed by the thousands of young children lining the streets waving countless Aussie flags and cheering the marchers.

Tom Dowling.

I commanded "Everybody out!" and the Japanese started to come out—and out. I stood back as they kept coming out. By this time I was more than a little worried with the Marines still a fair way off and just myself and a couple of bois. In all there were 28 Japanese in that hut.

The Marines had us covered all the time but told me later "If one of the Jaanese had fired a shot we would have opened up on that building". Not a comforting thought with me standing there on the steps—I wouldn't have had a chance.

Later that day I was questioning one of the Japanese Officers—a Captain—trying to get information on other Japanese in the area. I was speaking to him in Pidgin when he replied "You don't have to speak to me in Pidgin—I am Oxford educated". You could have knocked me down with a feather. He then went on to say to me, "Look, my 'amily are big industrialists in Japan, we own ractories and everything. This little man behind me is my Batman but is also my brother. If you let us go, I don't care what you do with the rest of my people, you can shoot them or whatever. If you let me go I will give you my address and when the war is over I will look after you". I replied, "NO! We are not going to shoot anyone—you will all be marching back". The Marines did not like the thought of marching such a number back to camp, even though they were in poor shape. At this point the prisoners were not really first class soldiers.

I mentioned before that time after time the use of natives to get the Japanese to hide their weapons and hide themselves worked. On only one occasion did we encounter any potential resistance in capturing the enemy. One Japanese came out of a hut with a grenade between his legs. A Police Boi with me made a flying dive at him but the grenade did not explode as the Japanese was prevented from pulling the pin.

On another occasion we were sent to bring in two natives who had killed Missionaries and Sisters at a local Hospital. We eventually got the two and one said to me, "I know you are going to take me back and kill me so I would like now to see my brother and kill him." I asked him "Why would you want to do that?", and he replied, "We are very close and, as I am to be killed, I want to kill my brother and take him with me." - an example of the ways another Race may think.

Overall I took 61 Japanese prisoners alive by myself. Towards the end of my stay with the

Marines I was summons to see Capt Moriarty who said, "You have done a really good job with us, in our eyes you are a hero. We are not going to let this go but will do something about it". I replied, "If its anything to do with medals I don't like your fruit salad because you get medals for everything". You should have seen his face drop. I should never have said this because they were a great bunch of Marines and they were really good to me. I always regretted knocking back that decoration.

An example of how good they were was one day we were out on patrol. The Captain in charge came up to me and said "Swanny, you seem down in the dumps today, what's wrong?" I replied, "Well, I haven't had any mail from my girlfried lately. I've been out patrolling for a long time and haven't heard from her". He said, "We'll soon fix that." With that he ordered "Signaller, get a plane to pick up Swanson's mail.". The next thing my mail came up in a Boomerang. Must have been an RAAF detachment in the area.

When in camp, my hut was situated at one end of the Airstrip. This had its advantages as one day one of their transport planes came in with 20 Marines on board. Suddenly it burst into flames and you could hear the Marines screaming out, "Quickly somebody shoot me please" and so on. I saw a few planes overshoot the runway and end up in the sea, and several others returning from missions where they had been damaged, deliberately land in the ocean.

At one stage the Marines shipped a complete twin engined Japanese 'Dianne' reconnaissance plane back to the States. It had run out of fuel and landed on a small strip close by. The plane had been camouflaged but the natives told me about it and my mate Bert Saulby (original NGVR but now with ANGAU) bought it down with about 75 labour line and help from the Marines. It was in perfect condition—just out of fuel.

In due course the marines left for Leyte Island in the Philippines and were replaced by the 40th Division. I left Cape Gloucester in June 1944.

There were soldiers on Islands in the Cape Gloucester area and they were supplied by Piper Cub Aircraft. The aircraft were so small they could only carry one passenger and he had to have cargo on his lap. At the time of despatch the pilot opened the door, put the aircraft on its side and the passenger threw the packages out.

I volunteered to do this one day. We had a bag of

2002 REGIMENTAL MIXED DINNER REUNION

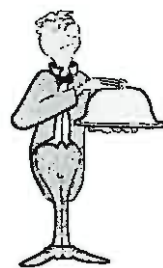
52 Members and guests enjoyed what has been one of our best Regimental dinners to date on Saturday 27th April at the United Services Club in Brisbane.

Our special guests included Federal Minister, the Hon. Gary Hardgrave, MP, and the PNG Consul-General to Queensland, Mr Henry P Koiaie and Mrs Koiaie.

Pre-dinner drinks were available in one of the Club's reception areas. At 1900 hours, Mr Dining Vice, S/Sgt Barry Wright summoned guests into the private anti-room for the traditional pre-dinner sherry. With military precision, members and guests moved into the dining room at 1930 hours and remained standing whilst the official party led by Lt Colonel Harry N Green, MBE.ED escorting his daughter, Nicola, moved to the top table. The Regimental Flag, Australian flag and PNG flag were piped into the room to start the evening formalities.

Guests included Major Gordon Newton, Mr Colin Newton, Major & Mrs Don Heap, Major Bob Harvey-Hall, Sgt & Mrs Jesse Chee, WO1 & Mrs Joe Fisk, Sgt Tom (Snappy Tom) Dowling.

Don't miss out on our 2003 Regimental Dinner—Saturday 26th April



We had a dingy fitted with a jeep engine and were out fishing at one stage—Gerry Monk, Jim Birrell and myself—when the Avro Anson we were to leave on buzzed us to let us know he was landing. The damn engine broke down and we got back to the beach with a handkerchief over the carby squirting in petrol from a tin. We left the boat on the beach, grabbed our gear and drove to the Airport. That night we were in Lae.

Some days later we were on the "Winchester Victory" headed for Brisbane. As it happens we were diverted to Sydney—the ship had developed a leak around the propeller shaft and it had to go to Sydney for docking. HQ were alerted to send a message to our next of kin. One poor chap didn't make it. We were all on deck when dinner time came round and he didn't move. His mates nudged him and he fell over. The autopsy revealed a fatal blood clot. Again what a sad way to go.

We berthed at Woolloomooloo and we were met by

NEVILLE SWANSON - Sgt—NGVR continues his service history. Continued from Newsletter volume 20. © Copyright.

For about six weeks we continued in the same area. There were a few fire fights and a number of Japanese were killed but a lot of others were captured. Eventually the US Marines allowed me to take charge of the actual rounding up process. Whatever I said they went along with and one of the things I was very firm on was that there was to be no killing of prisoners.

We operated at various times during the day and night and varied our activities. I recall vividly one afternoon we had to ford a creek. You could smell the bodies around from previous encounters with other patrols. The Marines did not bury the Japanese dead, but just left them there. It was stinking hot and the water was cool and sweet, so I had a good guzzle.

The next morning the boys said to me, "Masta yu come lukim!. We went to the creek and there were eight dead bodies, all bloated, and floating just where I had drunk. Up came everything.

Every time we bought prisoners back to the Island camp, the Marines would sing their Marine Anthem for me—"From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli etc". On one occasion I came back with only one prisoner to be told it was not worth singing the Marine Anthem for just one prisoner.

At one stage we came upon a couple of Koreans,

family. My wife had jokingly called Jimmy Birrell—Birrelli in the past. She swore to herself that she would never do it again—you guessed it—the first thing she said to Jim was "Hello Birrelli".

That was 1st April 1946. Fourteen days later I was discharged from the Army and was free to resume my life as a civilian once again.

However I still look back on my Military career as "A job well done".

After a suitable leave I returned to New Guinea and worked in the Gold Fields at Bulolo helping to rehabilitate the Gold Fields to their pre-war productivity.

© Copyright.

—END—

The Executive Committee would like to thank Tom for sharing his remarkable NGVR service history with us. Thank you Tom.

young lads, who had been wounded, and I insisted that the Marines carry them back to camp. They did not appreciate this but they carried out my orders.

I used to carry an Owen Gun on these patrols and one day I impressed the Marines no end. We were passing a lagoon and there were ducks swimming in the water. I swung the Owen and fired a couple of shots from the hip, hitting one of the ducks square in the eye. The Marines used to tell the story "You should have seen that man—firing from the hip and shot a duck through the eye. Swanno's a Dead Eye Dick".

Eventually the Marines drove me mad asking questions about the Owen—I couldn't stand it any longer—and eventually started using an American Carbine. I never had too much time for the Owen as the ammunition we got wasn't too reliable. Sometimes the rounds fired and sometimes they didn't.

We took no chances as there could be large Japanese forces in the area so all our patrols were about 100 strong. In one large village we came upon, there was a large 'haus kiap'. The natives had advised that there were a number of Japanese in the 'haus kiap' but when questioned as to exact numbers, commented, "he na plenti tu mas—plenti lik lik", so I could not get an idea of actual numbers.

Anyway up the stairs I go and stand at the door. As you are aware native huts did not have many windows so I could not see inside.

NGVR HISTORY

Tom Lega, MM continues his NGVR recollections:- (Cont from Newsletter Volume 20)
© Copyright

Next morning I sent a Police Boy disguised as a Kanaka over to the Japanese camp to find out where they were going and how many there were. Then I ordered my police to check and clean their rifles and issued a couple of grenades. The Police Boy returned with the news that there were 10 Japanese camped on the River.

I proceeded with 9 Police and we found two Japanese digging in the garden for kau kau and one washing in the stream. My orders to the Police were to take them without firing a shot as the noise would warn the others. We captured the Japanese in the garden first then a Police Boy jumped down from a high bank onto the Japanese below him. We secured the Japanese and proceeded towards their camp, surrounding it on three sides.

I then ordered a Police Boy to toss in a grenade to start with. He tossed it in and we all started shooting. At this stage the Police Boy tossed in another grenade. I didn't know about the second grenade and copped a piece of shrapnel on the right eye brow. We killed seven, captured three, and one got away wounded with a .303 hole through his right shoulder. One of the Police wanted to hunt him down, but I said "forget him". He might hide behind a tree and shoot you as you come up the track."

We terminated the patrol, and after dressing my wound, headed back down the mountains towards Madang.

I had hotfooted a Police Boy to Madang to say I was wounded. On arrival at the coast we found a

barge loading timber. I fired three shots from the rifle and the barge came to investigate and took us back to Madang where I handed over my prisoners and reported to hospital. When the Sister saw me she blew the tripe out of me and asked why I didn't report in before this. After I explained I had been walking for three days she was all apologies. After three weeks in hospital I went on leave from Madang. It was for this patrol that I was awarded the Military Medal.

(Tom Lega's citation reads:- "On 14th August, 1944 WO (now Lieut) Lega departed from Madang on a routine patrol of Bogadjim, sub-division of the Madang District, with 9 members of the Royal Papuan Constabulary. On the 23rd August, 1944, near Bangai Village two natives contacted the patrol and reported a party of 10 Japanese camped higher up the Boki River.

Lega immediately detailed two Police Boys to go back with the natives and ascertain numbers, location and arms of the enemy. Later he proceeded on after the reconnaissance party with the remainder of his Police. He met

the reconnaissance party who reported eleven armed Japanese. Proceeding on, the party encountered three Japanese and Lega ordered their capture without noise to avoid alarming others. The enemy were surprised, disarmed and secured in silence.

Lega then detailed a reconnaissance party which located the remaining enemy. He ordered the attack after position was taken up. Fire was opened with rifles and grenades.

Lega then led a hand to hand attack on the enemy completely regardless of personal danger and was so engaged with the enemy that he was actually wounded by a fragment of a grenade thrown by his own party. Eight Japanese were killed.

'It was for this Patrol I was awarded the Military Medal'

2003 DATE CLAIMER

- FRIDAY 25th APRIL 2003 ANZAC Day march & reception—Brisbane
- SATURDAY 26th APRIL 2003 Regimental Dinner Reunion—Brisbane
- SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2003 R & R (Recovery)

WHY NOT MAKE IT A SPECIAL LONG WEEKEND IN BRISBANE IN 2003

Although wounded, Lega led his party and his three prisoners down a mountain track to Yangalum Village and on to Madang, arriving three days later. During the attack Lega showed considerable resourcefulness and leadership, and his action in attacking and destroying the enemy party showed commendable devotion to duty and disregard of personal danger."

After leave I returned through Lae. It was at Lae that the medical people caught up with me and hit me with all the needles they could think of. A few days later I landed at Tadj, and, as we jeeped along the corrugated road to ANGAU I sat in the back seat holding onto a lump under my left arm the size of an egg—I wasn't feeling too well at all.

Whilst flying between Madang and Tadj the Co-Pilot has reason to use the toilet. The Pilot decide he would have a bit of fun and bounced the tail of the plane up and down. You can imagine the Co-Pilot with his pants around his needs trying to hold on.

As we approached Wewak we flew out to sea passing Wewak off our port wing tip to avoid "One Shot Charlie", a very accurate Japanese Ack-Ack gunner. No results for him this time.

At Tadj I met up with Gus O'Donnell, John Milligan, Jim Birrell, Jack Godwin and a few others. The camp was set up on the Raihu River and infested with mosquitos. Aitape had just been taken over by the Australians from the Americans. My first patrol was with the 2/5 Bn AIF under Major Davis Osborne Hay (later Administrator of PNG). We crossed the River about 16 times that day.

On arrival at Yapunda boots were dropped to us from the air. The 2/5 Bn proceeded to Yambis and Tong on their way to Maprik. It was here at Yapunda that Roy Barnett, brother of cricketer Ben Barnett, had his heel shot off. His patrol had just occupied Yapunda, previously occupied by the Japanese, when two American P38 Lockheed Lightnings came screaming in over the tree tops and started straffing (I didn't see the flag). As Roy raced down the stairs of the house his heel was hit by a .50 cal bullet—made quite a mess.

I was recalled to Aitape and ordered to be ready to go into Lumi in the Wapi Sub-District. Max Warrick was the Patrol Officer there and he had been told to arrest a murderer. He sent a message out by runner to the effect that he had failed physically and mentally. The morning I was due to set off, we received a message from the

2/11 Australian General Hospital that a body had just been bought in by Police Boys. Poor Max just couldn't cope with it.

I had approached the Yanks to fly me in by Piper Cub, but they had all been packed up for the Philippines landing. Had we been able to get Max out by Piper Cub things may have turned out differently.

I continued into Lumi and met up with Jack Marlow, a 6 Div signaller. I was at Lumi when an American plane crashed over the Dutch New Guinea Border with an American WAVE on board. Planes looking for her could be seen from Lumi. I asked HQ what was going on, thinking it was a Japanese activity, and was told about the crash. The plane was located and the passengers and crew picked up by a Glider.

It was on a patrol from Lumi that I met up with Gav Stanley, conducting an P.I.B. patrol further inland towards the Sepik River.

After about 5 months at Lumi I was recalled to Aitape and advised I was to proceed to Wewak to join up with John Milligan, Gerry Monk, Jim Birrell and Jack Godwin. These were experienced soldiers and it felt good to join them.

At Wewak I carried out a few small patrols around the area to make myself familiar with the area. After a week or so I was advised I was to join the 2/2nd Australian Infantry Bn on their advance along the big road. I was picked up in a jeep and driven to a Transport Pool to join a convoy of 6x6 GM trucks to take supplies and men to the 2/2nd. As the trucks climbed up the range to Mt Shiborangu the going was so steep, with many hairpin bends, that, at one stage, I thought we would have to get out and push, however the trucks made it.

On top of the range I looked back and had a grand view of the coast and Wewak.

The trucks reached the end of the road and unloaded, so we started walking. A jeep road did exist but the jeeps were needed for supplies and ammunition. I walked for a couple of hours and reported to 2/2nd Bn HQ where I met Colonel Cullen and Basil Silk.

I also met up with Jack Godwin and Father John Glover, and settled into our ANGAU billets—if they could be called that, being just a small tent and ground sheet shelter. I also met up with Major Danny Williams and Lt. Mick Broadfoot. Danny has a beautiful Welsh voice and gave a great rendition of "Danny Boy". I can still hear it to this day.

We carried out a few more short patrols around Passam, Rindojim and Neumoiken, and then I met up with Lt Col. Allen Cameron, a survivor from Rabaul. I had previously met him in the Salamaua area in 1942. He told me that he wanted me to carry out a bare foot patrol with him behind the Japanese Lines. Obviously I was a bit apprehensive about this, as the Japanese defence was pretty tight.

On another Platoon strength patrol with A Coy 2/2nd Bn, we came across a Japanese machine gun and decided to attack. Two flame throwers were called up into a good position, then things started to go wrong. When the operator fired the flame thrower, the flame only spurted out about three feet—the pressure tank had leaked and lost the pressure to propel the flaming liquid to the target.

The Japanese were quick to react and opened fire, and we had five wounded men on our hands in a matter of seconds. We called it off and got our wounded out of there.

It was soon after this that the cease fire came through. I had just received a back issue of grog—a few bottles of beer and a bottle of Gin. I had invited Danny Williams, Mick Broadfoot, Jack Godwin and Father Glover to share it with me when a hell of an artillery barrage went over. I said, "That's Passam copping it". Jack Godwin said, "No! It's Harragina". After I bet him a quid, he picked up the phone and rang Ross Eisdown, the Artillery Major, and the Signaller said "Have you heard the news Sir? Japan has agreed to accept the Potsdam Ultimatum". We all yelled "Whoppee", lit a hurricane lamp, and drank the three month's back issue of grog that night.

Danny Williams rang Col. Cullen and said "What do you know Sir! It's all over". Col. Cullen replied "Do not let your emotions run away with you Major". What a let down. Fortunately after that the bare foot patrol did not eventuate.

There was one more unfortunate incident before we got back to Wewak. We were still on Active Stand By and one of the chaps was going on guard duty one night. He had dressed and reached out for his Own Gun and the cocking handle caught on a projection of his bunk and discharged. The bullet hit him under the chin, killing him instantly. What a way to finish the War.

We all returned to Wewak and had to wait for Discharge Movement, which took quite a while. In the meantime Gerry Monk was sent into Angoram and I was sent to Burui.

While at Angoram a Japanese launch came down

the River with only Japanese on board. A Police Boy told Gerry Monk that, when they went up the River, they had some Indians with them. Gerry sent the launch back up the River with a couple of Japanese and a Police Boy with orders to bring the Indians back. They duly returned with 21 Indians, who were sent down to Wewak and then all but one were flown to Rabaul. One was kept in Wewak to lay war criminal charges against the Japanese.

Unfortunately, the twenty Indians never made it to Rabaul, the plane crashing at Jacquinot Bay, killing all on board. The Indian who had stayed behind at Wewak returned twenty-five years later for the return to Wewak commemoration.

I was flown into Hayfield and then walked down to Burui. Each day a Beaufort Bomber flew over my head with Japanese figures painted under the wings, obviously advising all Japanese that the War was over.

After arriving at Burui, I set up a Station and repaired the bomb craters on the airfield, and then carried out a patrol to Timbunke where I met Gerry Monk. I was able to advise him that there were no more Japanese up the River.

Pretty soon we were called to Wewak which gave us the opportunity to witness the surrender of General Adachi. Gerry Monk had located a very good Japanese radio which we had intended for our own use, however, as a Police Boy walked down the gang plank of our boat he dropped it into the drink.

I carried out one more job—over to Muschu Island accompanied by an Officer of the 6th Division to inform the Japanese of the surrender details. It was my task to arrange for evacuation of all natives on the Island. One Japanese had piercing black eyes, and he looked at us with such loathing that I thought at the time I would not have liked to have been captured by him.

Whilst at Wewak Gerry had a sailing boat which was washed away in a storm one night. Some troops reported it washed up on a beach further along the coast. We went to have a look at it, but it was a write off. The side was stove in and damaged beyond repair. All in all, a complete loss.

Just another short episode. All vehicles had to be collected and put in a pool. We were engaged doing this and had an old Japanese wrecker traveling along the road in a convoy of six vehicles, when the driver in front jammed on his brakes. We ran into the back of him and our windscreen flew out, breaking one of my ribs—a very agonising experience.



ANZAC DAY
BRISBANE 2002



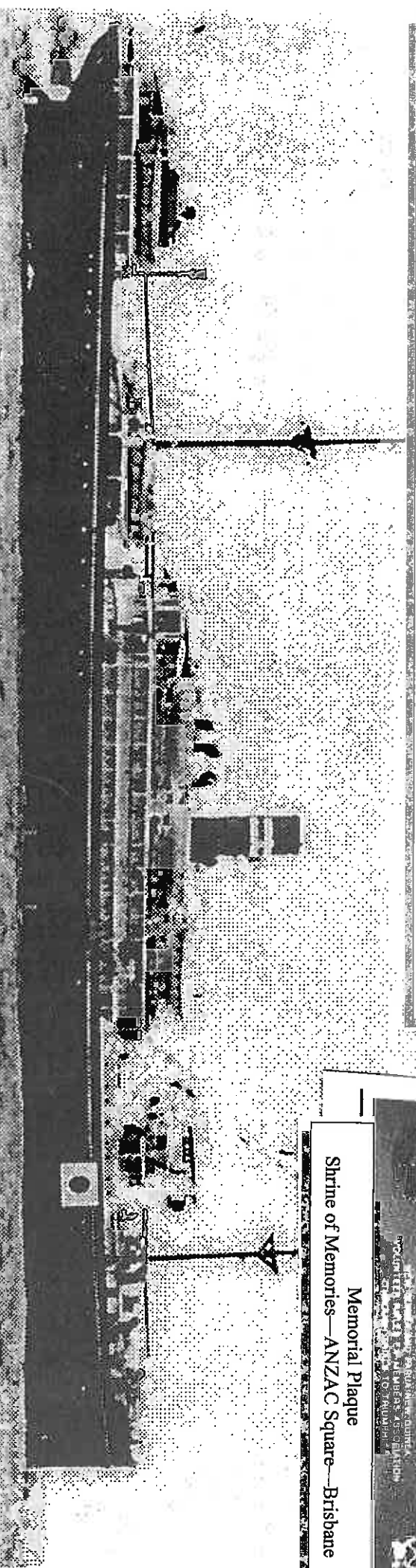
Motor Ship "MONTEVIDEO MARU"

Built and engineered at the Nagasaki Works for the
Osaka Kaisha Shipping Line's South American Service
Built approx: 1927 of 7,267 tons

Commandeered by the Japanese Navy, the ship departed Rabaul on the 22 June
1942 with 1035 prisoners of war which included 208 civilians captured at Rabaul
and outlying areas.
The ship was sunk by an allied submarine at 0230 hours
1st July 1942 approximately 60 miles north west of Cape Bojodoro on Luzon Island
in the Philippines
(Photos of the ship can be obtained from the Australian War Memorial Canberra
Negative numbers 042334 ; 303640 ; 106138—fees do apply.)



Memorial Plaque
Shrine of Memories—ANZAC Square—Brisbane





SIMON HUI, DR JOHN TEH,
PETER CHOW & RALPH SEETO
ANZAC DAY 2002



COLONEL MAL BISHOP, MM



WOI JOE FISK & VAL FISK
REGIMENTAL DINNER 2002



KEN MACGOWAN
TOM DOWLING
ANZAC DAY 2002



MAJ DON HEAP
REGIMENTAL DINNER
2002



HAROLD OSBORNE (NGVR)
LES IRVING (ANGAU)
ANZAC DAY 2002



SGT COL GOULD & STAFF
SGT BARRY WRIGHT
CARRY IN THE FLAGS
REGIMENTAL DINNER 2002



SPECIAL GUEST BRUCE INCH
REGIMENTAL DINNER 2002



BROTHERS COLIN NEWTON
AND MAJOR GORDON NEWTON
REGIMENTAL DINNER 2002



THE HON. GARY HARDGRAVE MP
LT. COL. HARRY GREEN, MBEED
NICOLA GREEN
REGIMENTAL DINNER 2002



HARVEY BOOTH
ANZAC DAY 2002