

HARIM TOK TOK

PER ANGSTA AD AUGUSTA
Through Trials to Triumph



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



Volume 2

August 1994

President's Report

We all thought that 1993 was an outstanding year for the Association, however present indications are that 1994 will be a more rewarding year for NGVR/PNGVR. I must preface my remarks by giving my sincere thanks to all members of the Association and particularly the Executive Committee and Vice President, Lt. Tom Lega MM., for their thoughts and support before, during and after my surgery, up until Anzac Day 1994.

The Association's appreciation and thanks must also go to former members of the Executive, namely Maj. Bill Kelly MBE. ED., past Secretary and Lt. Doug Ng, past Treasurer. Their work over nearly two (2) years was outstanding.

The Secretary Colin Gould, and Treasurer George Bagajluk (George now qualified Major) have performed as ably as their predecessors, so much so that Association records are fine tuned and with the assistance of Member's Representatives Norm Mundy RFM, and Joe Fisk RFM. EM., a master list of all Members with addresses, telephone numbers etc., have been computerised and some twenty(20) new members placed on the roll.

Committee Meetings have been regularly held and minuted. Should any Member wish to be advised of any business or matters regarding the Association, and or matters under review, please do not hesitate to contact any member of your Committee.

Anzac Day

1994 was a memorable Anzac Day in that we had for the first time the 9 R.Q.R. Band organised by the Treasurer from his own Regiment. We could not enjoy the full benefits of the band, since a Parade Marshall interposed another set of marchers before us, not only increasing the distance but later on as all Members will have observed from the ABC Television broadcast, the unit before us completely obscured our NGVR/PNGVR turnout, and march past. Also the new commentator on the ABC gave us little coverage even though a full resume as to who and what we were had been given into his hands well before April 25.

Even so all who spoke to us congratulated NGVR/PNGVR on their turnout & presence at the March and voted it No. 1 on the day. Unfortunately the get-together at the Irish Club was not as successful as planned. The service and catering provided by the Irish Club was well below an acceptable standard and the Committee has agreed that we will seek a new venue for future occasions. A letter detailing our displeasure has been sent to the Club Manager.

General

Presently for the remainder of '94 we have under discussion the following matters of interest.

1. Affiliation with the Australia Papua New Guinea Society.
2. Presentation to the Army School of Aviation of a plaque commemorating their co-operation with an aircraft to and from Canberra for the Entombment of the Unknown Soldier in November 1993.
3. The possibility of a Pipe Band coming from Rabaul in time for Anzac Day 1995, this being organised by Gerry McGrade in Rabaul where he is training them at the Hamamas Hotel, and called the Hamamas Pipe Band.
4. Proposed Spring Picnic and PNG Ball
5. Being kept advised and updating progress on the NGVR book.
6. A funeral support service which may sound slightly depressing, but we believe essential.
7. The establishment with 31 RQR (Kennedy Reg) an award for military excellence. This award is open to any soldier below the rank of Sergeant in the battalion.
8. Some thirty (30) NGVR Members of the Association have been awarded life membership and at the A.G.M. nominations will be called for similar membership from PNGVR. A short list will be prepared and the Executive Committee will decide.
9. The Australian Service Medal with PNG clasp has been fully advised to all Members. I must point out that submissions were made by your Association and also by Brigadier Ian Hunter. Our sincere thanks to the Brigadier, one of our most supportive members whose services as chairman of Red Cross Qld was recognised recently by the award member of The Order of Australia to add to his Commander of the Victorian Order, and Member of the Most Excellent Order of The British Empire (MIL). Congratulations Brig., we think it should have been an 'AK.'

H.N. Green

Editorial

Old Army records never die -

The PNGVR's last RSM before disbandment, W01 Darcy Tilbrook had the emotional and difficult task of handing over the Regiments Colours, Pikes and Belts to Lt. General Herring in Canberra on Anzac Day 1974 - twenty years ago this year. Darcy has located the original "Issue and Receipt Voucher" and donated it to our Association's Historical records.

Your Association is slowly gathering a wide range of old photos, articles etc to be preserved and made accessible to all former NGVR and PNGVR members. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will have a permanent "home" for all our historical items.

Bill McGrath has kindly donated copies of most "R.O's" issued by the PNGVR. These records will prove invaluable in obtaining and/or confirming members service numbers, enlistment and promotion dates etc.

Fellows, if you have any historic items, please consider donating them, OR providing the Association with a copy for our records

Col Gould

Do You Remember . . .

Do you remember the old "Haus Wind" at the local Hotel, Club etc in PNG. A local firm in Brisbane now makes them in KIT FORM ready to assemble. If you want to PNGise your back yard pool or BBQ area. (Down here they're called Brush Huts) Contact: Backyard Resorts Pty Ltd Phone: (07) 206 667 for details or to arrange a visit to their factory at 35/57 Mt Cotton Rd., Carbrook 4130.



ISSUE AND RECEIPT VOUCHER		AP 1011 (Adj. 4/83)	
HQ IGAM BARRACKS Igam Barracks, LAE, PNG. Unit A. ENG 21 AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA, ACT Unit A		7170	
66-029-0231 COLOURS, QUEENS, PNGVR 1 66-029-0232 COLOURS, REGIMENTAL, PNGVR 1 CLASS 0155 00-000-0177 BELTS, COLOURS 2 00-000-0176 CASE, COLOURS 2 00-000-0005 PIKE, COLOURS 2		REMARKS: Ref: ARMY CANBERRA, DES, (a) 54472 of 100050Z Oct. 1973.	
SENDER Signature: <i>[Signature]</i> Rank: Capt Date: 4 APR 74 HQ IGAM BARRACKS Unit Name	SPECIAL APPROVAL (If Required)	DESPATCH DETAILS Description and No. of Pkgs Contingency No. Making of Despatch Date of Despatch	RECEIVER Signature: <i>[Signature]</i> Rank: Lt Col Date: 21 April 1974 AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL Unit Name

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 16 September:
Annual General Meeting,
1 Trg Group Sergeants Mess, Wacol

Saturday 24 September
Frangipani Ball, Mayfair Crest Hotel, Brisbane.
\$55 per person (\$50 if paid before 1/9)
includes 3 course meal, wine, juice, beer

For a RESERVED NGVR/PNGVR TABLE, bookings and money to Secretary Col Gould ASAP on (07) 355 3382. Anzac Day formal dress or dark suit is most acceptable. The PNG Prime Minister is, at this time, expected to attend the Ball. Don't leave it to the last minute. I'm told that this will be the first major function to be held at the extensively renovated Mayfair Crest Hotel.

Monday 26 September

Papua new Guinea Independence Day Golf Tournament organised by the Australia-PNG Society, at the Indoeroopilly Golf Club. 18 holes from 8.30am. Prizes. \$50 per player includes lunch, beer, wine etc. Profits to charity. Phone Peter Colton 371 7019 or Paul Reid 221 1544 for information and bookings.

Sunday 9 October

Proposed BYO Picnic and BBQ at White Cedar or Red Cedar Park at the foot of Mt Glorious. From 1000 hours. All Welcome. More details at the AGM.

Medal Mounting

Medal Mounting and minitures can be obtained from:-
Kevin Gillett
20 Zealand St., Taigum, Brisbane. 4034
Phone: (07) 865 2615 Fax: (07) 865 4411
Mounting from \$8 per medal. Cost of minitures varies from \$9 to \$12.

Anzac Day 1994

Once again Anzac Day crept up upon us. Are the months flying or are we just getting older and it takes so much longer to do anything?

Anyway the weather in Brisbane was kind to us once again this year and a few more members seemed to be able to attend this year's march, we mustered approximately 93 members. Congratulations to all who made Parade.

It is always pleasing to see and thank our Members who travel from Overseas and interstate to celebrate this occasion. This proves the saying "Make a friend in Papua New Guinea and you have that friend for life."

Before the commencement of the march, photographs were taken of members behind the Banner. We enjoyed the opportunity to be in the early part of the march and not almost at the end as usual.

Colonel Harry Green led us in the march followed by original NGVR members, Flag Bearers, Australian, Regimental and Papua New Guinea Flags, our 2 members in Jupiner Green uniforms and then followed the Banner and the main body of Association Members. Jeeps followed at the rear to cater for the NGVR Members who felt they would not make the distance. In front of the Banner a wreath to the NGVR Fallen was carried by Allan Bell's young grandson, it was thought that involving the youth of today may encourage Anzac Day to live on in the future.

A special thanks goes to the 9 Battalion Pipes and Drums who played for us during the march and were later invited back to the Irish Club for refreshments.

After the march Members moved to Anzac Square to lay our wreath at the Plaque recently dedicated to the NGVR Fallen. This was the first time many of the Members had seen the Plaque and it will be here, each Anzac Day, where we will lay our wreath in the Shrine of Memories.

Tom Lega M.M. and Jack Goad, both original members of NGVR jointly laid the wreath and this was followed by a Minutes Silence and the reciting of the Ode.

Refreshments were taken at the Irish Club but it is strongly thought that another venue be sought for next year's celebration. The Club was very over-crowded, noisy and much of our refreshments were purloined by other Associations and the bar service left a lot to be desired. We found it hard to talk between ourselves let alone hear the Toasts.

Investigations into a venue, close to the march dispersal area with reasonable parking are in progress.

I believe NGVR - ANGAU Association made our members welcome in Sydney for the march and refreshments. We hope to have more news from Jess Hansford in the next issue. We thank their Association for looking after our Members on this occasion.

Bill Bickerton, DUBAI, United Arab Emirates sent a fax which read:-

"Joe we will be having an Anzac Day Service and social function here in Dubai on Monday evening arranged by the Australian Consul General, Mr Bob Shepherd. Be assured that PNGVR will be represented and all due respect will be paid to the Regiment and our Comrades by the Middle East Contingent. Please pass on my regards to all the Troops. Had hoped to get down but at the moment it is not practical, maybe next year. Bill"

After the day's or should I say evening's events, a busybody told me that on the way home, somebody sitting in the back seat of a vehicle left his side window down. Now in the front passenger side the occupant decided to put his head out the window to have a barf and you can guess what happened to the guy in the back seat. What a Mess; Which Mess? No names! No pack drill! All that can be said is there are some very understanding wives in our Association.

Our popular President seems to be getting more popular each year! Last year it was a bit of lip service from the World War 2 nurses, this year it was page 2 of the Courier Mail. I believe all his family have asked for a copy of the photograph.

This concludes Anzac Day for another year.

Our President has been on the sick list for quite a few months after a large operation recently. I am glad to say that he is now well on the way to recovery and looking much better after the ordeal. I would like to thank those Members who visited our Senior Member in hospital to give him good cheer and support

Joe Fisk



Col., Green giving the salute on Anzac Day

Dedication of Memorial Plaque Pacific Islands Regiment

On Friday, 3rd June, 1994, at the Shrine of Memories, Anzac Square, Brisbane, a Memorial Service was held to dedicate a plaque to the Fallen from:

THE PAPUAL INFANTRY BATTALION
THE FIRST NEW GUINEA INFANTRY BATTALION
THE SECOND NEW GUINEA INFANTRY BATTALION
THE THIRD NEW GUINEA INFANTRY BATTALION
THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT 1950-1975
THE ROYAL PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT 1975 ONGOING

Brief History of The Pacific Islands Regiment

The original formation of the Pacific Islands Regiment was in 1950 and was made up of ex Members of the Papuan Infantry Battalion and the various New Guinea Battalions listed above.

The Papuan Infantry Battalion was formed on 1st June, 1940 and known as the P.I.B. This unit was attached to the 8th Military District. The P.I.B. made its first contact with the enemy on 23rd July, 1942, east of Awala. This unit was also attached to the 7th, 9th and 3rd Australian Divisions in various theatres of World War 2.

First New Guinea Infantry Battalion, NGIB was formed in March, 1944 and was attached to the 3rd Australian Division on Bougainville, New Britain, Madang and Ramu.

Second New Guinea Infantry Battalion, NGIB, was raised at Nadzab in 1944 and was attached to the 6th Australian Division in the Wewak/Maprik Sector.

Third New Guinea Infantry Battalion, NGIB, was raised in August, 1945 and at the end of the war was still training. This unit saw no Active Service but served in Rabaul after the surrender until early 1947.

The wartime Units of the Pacific Islands Regiment killed in total 2,201 enemy for the loss of 10 Europeans and 55 Papuan New Guinean Soldiers. In addition there were 110 probables killed, 118 wounded and 106 prisoners of war taken. The wartime units took part in every campaign from the time contact was made on the 1st July, 1942 until the surrender on 15th August, 1945 with the exception of Milne Bay. The unit was awarded 11 Battle Honours of which 10 are inscribed on its Colours.

Seventy ex Members of the Papuan and New Guinea Infantry Battalions, New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles ex Members Association were present for this solemn occasion.

The welcome address was read by Sergeant G.M. Byrnes and the unveiling of the Plaque was carried out by Major H.J. Jesser, M.C., Major Jesser was the first Officer to be awarded the Military Cross in the Papuan and New Guinea campaigns. Chaplain I.C. Allan, M.I.D. read the Dedication for the Ceremony and his namesake, Sergeant W.G. Allen laid the wreath. After a Silent Tribute, Sergeant H.G. Dawson recited the Ode. Colonel A.W. Power, M.B.E. (RTD) read the Benediction.

NGVR and PNGVR Ex Members Association were invited to take part in the Service and although it was a week day quite a number attended. Everyone wore medals and as usual the association Members looked very smart. President, Colonel Harry Green, led the contingent ably assisted by Vice President, Tom Lega.

After the Service everyone was invited back to the Gaythorne R.S.L. for refreshments. I myself could not make it to the R.S.L. but Kel Williams tells me the PNGIB Association Members had a most enjoyable time recalling events of past years.

Let's hope we hear more from the PNGIB in the future.

Kel Williams and Joe Fisk.

In our last newsletter we published an article depicting the background and formation of the NGVR, which was distributed to all PNGVR units in 1966 by Lt Col. M. Bishop.

In this issue we have included other interesting articles that have been written about the NGVR, (1) "NGVR They were civilians. . ." and (2) "Some men of the NGVR".

In future issues we hope to publish "The night Salamaua died" and "NGVR Robaul". Ed

NGVR

*They were civilians, "over-age or unfit"
but packed a wallop like a
steam-hammer.*

Two very raw recruits stood on a George Street corner, talking. Nearby (and, as they thought, out of earshot), waiting for a tram, stood an Australian officer. On his shoulders was the legend N.G.V.R.

"What d'you reckon that means?: one raw recruit asked the other.

The other did not know, but he was willing to make a try for it. "N-G-V-R" he muttered. "N-G . . . that would mean New Guinea, I suppose."

The first nodded. "That's what I thought," he said "But what does the rest mean?"

"V-R" he said slowly "V-R" Something stirred deep in his brain. He had heard the initials used in reference to Queen Victoria. "Must be some English unit fighting in New Guinea," he said "You know - like they have the Yeomen, and the King's Rifles, and-" he brightened. "Yes, that's what it is - Victorian Rifles."

Such is often the reward for outstanding but unostentatious work. For the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles deserves all the praise that can be heaped on it - and more.

These are the men who stood firm and fought shoulder to shoulder, bullet for bullet with a tough, young seasoned A.I.F. section, until they were overpowered by a greatly superior mass of enemy men and steel. But they were not overpowered until their ammunition was finished. And even then some of them escaped to lead parties to safety.

They may have been disbanded, but the spirit they showed will never be disbanded. No record of Australia's fight for New Guinea can be complete without some mention of their work.

These were among the first Australians to fight for their land and their homes on Australian soil. At the top of their strength there were no more than 500 of them, distributed over the length and breadth of New Guinea and New Britain.

Some of them have been killed in action; some have died of jungle illnesses; some are prisoners; some have become casualties, never to fight again . . . some are still in action.

But the old, gallant, colorful N.G.V.R., as such, is no more.

Gallant, yes - and colorful; because these men had all it takes to make a colorful force. If any proof were needed that you can take almost any Australian and make a good soldier out of him, here was that proof.

For these men had volunteered from every

branch of New Guinea's civil life. In their ranks were engineers, schoolteachers, gold prospectors, bank clerks, shipping clerks, clergymen, solicitors, dentists - almost any profession you cared to mention.

Many of them were old soldiers of the Great War, a lot of them were over-age, medically unfit, apparently unsuited for the kind of life and fighting a soldier in New Guinea has to live and do.

But they fought like tigers - over-age, medically unfit, and all. Perhaps some day the full story of their exploits will be told. It will make fascinating, somewhat incredible reading.

They had a tremendous advantage no one else had - an advantage that made it possible for them to outwit the Japanese time and again, an advantage that made them invaluable to the Allied army that would soon pour into New Guinea . . . they knew the country, and they knew the natives.

They knew all the tricks - the tricks of living off the land, of moving about a tortuous, tangled sub-continent whose every feature makes movement a supreme difficulty. With comparative ease they seemed able to achieve apparent miracles in this country.

The N.G.V.R. was formed in Rabaul on 19th September, 1939. At the time it had about 150 members. At Madang, Lae and Salamaua other detachments were organised. The total at these three places was roughly 300.

The men trained in their own time and they did it thoroughly. By the beginning of 1942 they were a small but highly efficient force.

This was understandable when it is remembered that their ranks included specialists in nearly everything that makes an army tick - doctors to provide medical service, engineers to organise engineering units, experienced soldiers from the last war to provide a thousand and one tips and training that only experienced soldiers can provide - this midget, self-contained army had a little of everything, and that little was of the best.

Their training went on right up to January 21, 1942 . . . on which day, the Japs came. They came in their planes - 60 of them to blast Lae and Bulolo . . . bombers, dive-bombed fighters with spitting machine-guns. They pounded and tore at Lae for upwards of an hour.

At the same time, other planes were savagely attacking Salamaua and Madang. From that minute, the N.G.V.R. had work to do. Civil administration ceased. Civilians were

evacuated, and the Volunteer Rifles took over. No one else was left on the New Guinea mainland; they had it to themselves.

At Rabaul, on that day, reports arrived that a Japanese invasion fleet was headed for New Guinea. Only about 70 Volunteer Rifles were available by that time. Nearly all the rest had managed to join the A.I.F.

They took up a position on the now often bombed Lakunai aerodrome. On January 23, the N.G.V.R. was still holding out on the section they had taken over, even after all other troops had been withdrawn.

After that they established themselves in a new sector on the beach near Raluarra Point. That spot has become historic. It was here they fought side by side with seasoned A.I.F. troops - 1 savage, last-ditch resistance of the kind that flames through the ranks of men only on rare occasions.

They fought through the pre-dawn blackness, fought into the dawn with all hell screeching around them, fought with blackened, sweat-streaked faces, hoarding their fast-ebbing ammunition, fought steadily without a falter.

Of the 70, only seven got away. They led considerable sized parties and after grim hazardous weeks which, in themselves, would provide enough material for several books, they and their parties reached the mainland. Those parties would have been lost without them; because for strangers to try to find their way about the filigreed tracks of New Guinea and New Britain would be a near-hopeless task.

On the mainland, the N.G.V.R., on the morning of January 21, 1942, had been a band of civilians, trained and ready; but civilians, nevertheless - dentists and hotel-managers, office workers and miners, builders and shopkeepers.

By the same afternoon, with civil aerial transport at a standstill after the bombing and strafing, these men were full-time soldiers.

It was work at which these men excelled. It was what they had been training for.

Most of them could find their way about the territory almost blindfold. They moved silently and swiftly. They struck like a flash of lightning and were gone again as suddenly.

They appeared and disappeared with disconcerting rapidity. To the Jap it probably seemed as though the jungle was full of these fierce, shadowy men whom they seldom even saw properly.

They brought in what was in those days the

most important and precious of all commodities - information . . . information of the Jap positions, his strength, his actual and probable equipment, his planes.

It was deadly work, of the kind that can be done only by trained and experienced men.

They often lived off the land and what they could pillage from the enemy. They robbed his stores and wrecked his equipment wherever they found it, whenever they had the opportunity.

Many times they somewhat contemptuously went through Japanese positions - either alone, or in group. They combed Japanese aerodromes and came back to report the numbers, types and even the armament of the planes.

And they belted the devil out of Japanese in actions in the Markham Valley and at Mubo, and defeated him. They raided Salamaua and killed a reported 100 Japanese (and perhaps more) without a single loss to themselves.

For those few, hectic weeks, New Guinea was theirs. The only rule on the spot was that administered by the N.G.V.R. And it was a calm, and efficient, and thorough-going administration as any.

They found themselves responsible for the welfare of thousands of indentured natives - natives recruited from many outlying districts by planters and others and now unable to return.

The N.G.V.R. established depots and fed them.

The natives who had gone bush when the raids began started to recover from their fears and shock and to wander back. The New Guinea native is far from being a fool; and when he saw Allied planes coming over to plaster the Jap, his morale jumped; it made him really excited and enthusiastic.

When some half dozen fat transport planes landed with troops and materiel, the natives danced with joy and got to work unloading them with a zeal not always to be found among natives.

To the N.G.V.R. must go much of the credit of establishing this thousand-strong army of native carriers and laborers.

They worked and fought on. They had seen their womenfolk evacuated - often at only a few minutes notice, taking only a strictly regulated few pounds of luggage.

They had lost their homes and everything they possessed. For months no mail from the outside world reached the Volunteer Rifles.

They fought splendidly - these men who were too old to join the A.I.F., or medically unfit or employed in restricted occupations. They fought and still found time for important administration, and for laying down an organisation of native labor that later grew to be a most important contributory feature of the success of the Allied campaign in New Guinea.

Some Men of the NGVR

1959 Article supplied courtesy of Mick Byrnes

At Madang, New Guinea, each Anzac Day, much decorated John Cox, on behalf of Old Soldiers, lays a wreath on the Cenotaph in tribute to the memory of members of the famous NGVR (New Guinea Volunteer Rifles).

The generation now taking over in New Guinea knows little or nothing of what was done by its civilian predecessors, who formed themselves into the NGVR, fought the Japs heroically if, hopelessly when they invaded in early 1942, and later in the jungle, gave our side priceless help as scouts and patrol guides.

We asked John Cox to tell what he could remember of the NGVR men whom he met in the Lae area in 1942, when the Japs were completely in the ascendant, and he supplied the following notes:

Colonel Bill Edwards: Stout of heart and body. Before the war a Medical Assistant with Guinea Airways, and with a nice house and a coffee plantation out on the Markham Road. He was the man who was mainly responsible for building up the goldfields and Lae and Salamaua detachments to platoon strength. A decorated soldier from World War I and he had the trust and confidence of all who served under him.

Padre Sherwin: A real fighting padre, whose unflinching good humour and matchless facility for "scrounging" comforts (both solid and liquid) endeared him to all.

Captain Ernie Hitchcock: A goldminer and a highly decorated veteran of World War I (he held the DCM and MM), he was later transferred to the Pacific Islands Battalion. He was a man of cold blooded courage, initiative, and daring of a high order. He made a speciality of attacking Japanese posts and patrols. In the NGVR, we used to say: "Join the Army and see the world. Join Ernie Hitchcock and see the next world".

Rifleman Bob Emery: Decorated MM, and later, I believe, commissioned. Bob ran a dairy farm near Lae before the Japanese invasion. He was a fine specimen of the Australian soldier at his best - full of courage, energy and resource, coupled with a Puckish humour. Bob simply ran rings around the Japs who were searching for him, and he was a master of bushcraft.

Rifleman Dick Vernon: He was a planter and recruiter, who lived near the Markham Valley road. A keen soldier, well known and well liked by Europeans and natives. He was killed in a clash with a Jap patrol not far from his own house.

Fearful Odds

Riflemen Merv Prosser, Freddie Clark, and Peter Mumphries were only boys in years but they acquitted themselves as men when faced by fearful odds'.

Sergeant Ossie Priebe of Guinea Airways, Lae. He was horribly burnt on legs and thighs when setting fire to drums of petrol at Voco Point, Lae. He bore himself with fortitude and courage, and he never complained while his injuries were being attended to by Rifleman George Whittaker shortly before the Japanese landing.

Afterwards, when only partially recovered, Priebe showed a great courage and fortitude by walking with the other members of his platoon and some civilian prisoners part of the way from Lae to Bulldog. It was noted that a well known Islands firm chartered an aircraft to carry out its account books, while Ossie Priebe and other sick and wounded riflemen were left to stagger out as best they could. Sergeant Priebe subsequently joined FERLO and became a WO

Rifleman Jack Priebe: This civilian soldier, a

brother of Ossie, also was employed by Guinea Airways. Although in indifferent health, he marched with his pack on his back and full equipment from Lae to Bulldog, and spared no effort to assist by word and example those of his comrades who either through illness or physical weakness could hardly make the grade. Many an old member of the NGVR will join me in saying, "God bless Jack Priebe".

Rifleman George Whittaker (later Captain, and MBE): He served with ANGAU. George formerly had his own lucrative business as optometrist at Lae, besides being a Medical Assistant with Guinea Airways. He lived on his property at Awilunga, planted up with coffee and native foods, about 10 miles out on the Markham road. He was liked and respected by Europeans and natives throughout New Guinea. He had extraordinary success in treating difficult tropical diseases, and was noted for his untiring energy in tramping up hill and down dale to attend to even the most humble native or European miner or planter.

He detested all forms of drill or regimentation - in fact anything military - but when the hour struck, and the Japanese invaded his beloved New Guinea, he threw himself heart and soul into the grisly business of war, not only killing Japanese, but attending to the wounds and diseases of his comrades.

George Whittaker was entirely without skilled assistance and had very few drugs. Yet, in those dark days when one never asked, "Are they ours?" when the watchful Zeros skimmed the tree-tops. George carried on and with his own skilled hands and a wealth of experience, saved many good Australian lives. The MBE was his sole reward from a grateful country.

Afterwards during the Lae - Salamaua campaign, Lieutenant Whittaker did invaluable work, not only in organising native carriers carrying essential stores to the front line, but in operating a very efficient espionage service in both Lae and Salamaua. Devoted natives, many of whom owed their lives or the lives of someone dear to them to the same "Masta Whittaker" risked everything in obtaining vital information from inside the two heavily garrisoned towns.

George Whittaker is a truly great man and one whose name will be honourably mentioned whenever the old NGVR lads foregather.

Sergeant-Major Alf Lane, DCM: He was a veteran of World War I and he worked very hard indeed training the NGVR at the goldfield towns and at Lae and Salamaua

Rifleman John Cook, who ran the Guinair, Guinea Airways motorlaunch, between Lae and Salamaua, prior to the Jap invasion. "Jackie" as he was affectionately known, though small in stature, had the heart of a lion. While toiling up and down the awful greasy slopes of the hills and mountains between Lae and Bulldog, many an old-timer would never have made the grade, had it not been for John Cook, who often turned back, and carried the weary one's equipment, as well as his own, to the next halting place - and thought nothing of it.

Of all this gallant little band it may well be said:

For how can man fight better than when facing fearful odds

For the ashes of his fathers, and the temples of his gods.

Proposed Australian Service Medal

(ex PNGVR Members 1951-1974)

Thank you to all those members who quickly returned their ASM applications and annual membership fees. Our noble Treasurer, George has a smile on his face once again.

A number of the ASM applications were minus service numbers and dates of service. So if your application was one - don't worry, you were not alone. Thanks to Bill McGrath, we may be able to track down missing numbers from the copies of PNGVR R.O.'s kindly donated, but you can imagine how much work this will involve.

For the record, your Association cannot access Army records for missing information. Requests for service details must come direct from the member concerned. If your "ting ting" on your exact details is hazy, you "may" be able to obtain your service history by writing, in person, to:-

Army Records Section
Soldiers Career Employment Manpower Agency
Central Army Records Office,
360 St Kilda Road,
Melbourne. Vic 3000

As at the 5/8/94 the following ASM applications have been received. If you have NOT yet sent your ASM application to the Secretary of the Association by the 10/9/94 it will be presumed that you either do not wish to apply OR intend to pursue your application direct.

Col Gould

AHMAT M	DOUST R.	HOLLAND F	MARTIN A	SCARLE P
AINSORTH P	DOWLING T	HOLLAND J	MCAULEY-WHITE M	SEARS D
ASCHHOFF K	EASTWOOD D	HOLLAND WS	MCDERMOTT D	SEDGWICK A
ATKINSON G	EDWARDS G	HOOK DJ	MCKIMEY J	SEETO R
BAGAJLUK G	FISHER W	HOWARD P	MILAN T	SERAFINI NA
BAGOT K	FISK J	HUI L	MUNDY N	SHORTHOUSE K
BARLOW P	FREWEN J	HUI SS	MILFULL M	SIMS HC
BEAMAN P	GIDDINGS R	HUMPHRYS V	MORRISON W	SULLIVAN BJ
BELL A	GLOVER K	HUTCHINSON W	MOSES P	SULLIVAN BN
BICKERTON W	GOUGH B	INCH B	MOYLE E	TEH JY
BLANCH G	GOULD C	JEFFREY J	MUDGE J	THORNTON T
BOULTER A	GOULD SF	KELLY LB	MURRAY J	TILBROOK F
BOULTER WC	GREEN HR	KELLY TJ	NELSON C	TROY C
BRETAG J	GRIFFIN M	KELLY W	NG D	VAN RUTH W
BROMAN P	GRIMSHAW PJ	KENNA N	NUNAN T	WADSWORTH A
BUCKLY R	HALL C	KENNEY G	OLD IE	WALSH W
CHEATHAM K	HALL GA	KONECNY M	O'SULLIVAN MJ	WEARE K
CHEE J	HANSFORD J	LARKIN M	PAGE JW	WEBB T
CHIE PG	HARBECK PN	LAWIE DC	PARSONS I	WELLNER U
COLEMAN F	HARVEY-HALL WR	LEE CW	PEARCE B	WESTMORE NM
COLLINS NK	HAYES M	LEONG P	PRICE B	WILLIAMS K
CONNELL T	HEAP DJ	LEWIS D	ROBERTSON I	WRIGHT RB
CRAWFORD B	HENDREN KD	LOFTS A	ROGER P	ZIMMERMANN Malcolm
CRUICKSHANK B	HITCHCOCK K	LYME G	ROONEY E	ZIMMERMANN Michael
DONKERSLOOT A	HOETER F	MACGOWAN K	SAMIN DC	

ENQUIRIES: Phone Col Gould (07) 355 3382

Lost & Found

Your Executive is making every effort to track down and make contact with other ex NGVR and PNGVR members. Our Nationwide Public Notice in the "Weekend Australian" and "Courier-Mail" bought to light over 20 former members, who had yet to learn about the Association and the proposed Australian Service Medal. Many have since joined the Association.

We often get mail returned when members relocate and forget to let our Secretary know.

Where are they . . . ?

Lost

L Alden (Hagen)	Jim Berwick (Lae)	Stan Botherill (Lae)	Bob Carmichael (Madang)	Bob Casey (Mail R/T)
Ian Grattidge (Madang)	Eddie Mathies (Madang)	PE Neville (Mail R/T)	Bruce Waters (Lae)	A Armstrong (Hagen)
Garth Blackman (Pom)	Mike Brown (Madang)	John Carrol (Madang)	Danny Daniluc (Pom)	J Mitchell (Rabaul)
Stan Carswell (Lae)	RA Fish (Mail R/T)	Vince Keenan (Mail R/T)	Mike Morgan (Rabaul)	Max Shadlow (Mail R/T)

Found

Peter Grimshaw:- Peter was the first, yes very first member of the PNGVR to enlist way back in 1951. Peter is in Canberra and is providing great assistance with our Australian Service Medal project. Welcome Peter.

Burnie Gough	POM	1959/64	Maxwell Hayes	RAB	1961/63	John Wild	POM	1952/54
John Jeffrey		1972/74	Tom Brockington	POM	1952/53	Frank Coleman	RAB	1956/58
Colonel A Lofts (Ret)	POM	1954/54	WP Tanner			Major R Doust	RAB	1957/58
Robert Cruickshank	HGN	1964/66	S Creevey		1954/57	Tom Nunan	RAB	1954/57
Neil Westmore	RAB		Ken Fugsley	RAB	1952/54	Kevin Shanahan		1950's
Major E G Moyle	LAE	1950's						

A taxi driver had five American women in his taxi and they were talking about men they had met around the world.

One lady said to the driver, "We reckon that taxi drivers are the third most romantic lovers in the world, and we reckon that the first and second are Jewish men and cowboys!"

She said, "What's your name?"

The taxi driver paused for a moment and then replied, "Hopalong Goldberg!!!"

N.G.V.R. Roll of Honour



SHRINE OF MEMORIES _ BRISBANE

Three intelligent men were walking along a beach and found a lamp which held a genie. When they released him they were granted one wish each, The first man wished to be 10 times more intelligent. "No problem," said the genie. The second wished to be 100 times more intelligent. "Easy," said the genie. The third man wanted to be 1000 times more intelligent. "That will be a bit difficult - I'll have to turn you into a women first".

Where did our Regiment Motto Originate

The motto of the PNGVR is 'PER ANGUSTA AD AUGUSTA'

(Through trials to triumph).

This motto was selected in September 1951 by Mr George Whittaker, the then State President of the RSSAILA and a former member of the NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES.

"It is the proud duty of members of the PNGVR to carry on the fine traditions of service established by our parent unit the NGVR and officers and men of Brewer Force."

Routine Orders 1951

PNGVR

N.B. TO COLONEL
STEVENS, C/BERA

Vale

159296 Corporal Dudley James FOLEY passed away in Brisbane on 17th May, 1994 aged 63 years. Our sincere thoughts go out to the Foley Family and to Aileen and Bill Kelly on this sad occasion.

Dudley, as everyone knew him, served in P.N.G. V.R. from 1951 to 1953. He was a well respected soldier and a good Corporal. He led a very colourful life and enjoyed what he did in helping others, often at his own expense and the type of bloke who would give another the shirt off his back if that person needed it more than himself.

In later years Dudley took up home brewing and anyone visiting the Kelly household will tell you that Dudley's brew was a top drop even down to his own brand label on the bottle.

It was only fitting that we drank to the memory of Dudley with his own brew at the Wake held at Bill's home after the Service, and I am sure as other Members would agree, that is the way such a great bloke like Dudley would want us to.

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles ex Members Association Inc.
P.O. Box 287, Everton Park, Brisbane, 4053

Membership Fees: Nomination \$25 Annual \$10

NOTE

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PRESIDENT: Colonel H.N. Green, MBE., ED., EM., (RL)