

**PNG part of Solomon Islands force—25 June 2003**

The PNG Government has agreed in principal to participate in a Regional Peace Keeping Force to assist trouble-torn Solomon Islands restore law and order. Details are in the hands of the National Security Advisory Council which included Defence Force Commander Brig-General Peter Ilau and Police Commissioner Sam Inguba. The force's terms of reference and area of authority will be raised at a Sydney meeting of Foreign Ministers on 30 June 2003. When pressed on whether the PNG Force would be focusing on Guadalcanal, Solomon Island Foreign Affairs Minister, Lauri Chan said "that is a good reflection of what is happening in my country". If PNG sends security forces, it will be PNG's first involvement in a regional peace-keeping mission. Its only other involvement has been to assist Vanuatu achieve peaceful independence by flushing out rebel elements from Espiritu Santo Island.

**CAA receives funding help 25 June 2003**

Australia is pumping nearly \$5 million into its efforts to improve air safety in PNG. PNG was warned earlier this year that Australian Civil Aviation authorities might have to take action of PNG planes flying into Australia because of concerns over PNG standards. AusAID has a long term commitment supporting PNG's efforts to improve air safety. The head of Ausaid in PNG said that the Somare/Marat government and Transport Minister Don Poyle had been very supportive of the current reforms. Using PNG contractors and CAA staff to design and oversea works, AusAID has funded maintenance, rehabilitation and upgrading work on 14 of the 22 major airport in PNG. More than K 168 million has been spent on airport maintenance so far.

**Chief Defends 27 June 2003**

Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare had defended the appointment of the new Air Niugini Chief Executive Officer saying it was proper. Sir Michael said he himself would have preferred a Papua New Guinean be appointed but after being briefed on the selection process, he was satisfied with the criteria and the process used in selecting Australian Rod nelson.

**Preferential Voting system 8 July 2003**

The new limited preferential voting (LPV) system for National Parliament elections makes it hard for anyone to win by buying votes. Under the LPV voters have three choices of candidates they like, and their second and third votes decide an election for the best liked candidate to win. The LPV gives real power to voters and to their vote. Corrupt powerbrokers and candidates who buy votes with money, gifts and feasts will not like the LPV.

**PNGBC sale was rushed 10 July 2003**

Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare lashed out at the former Mekere-led People's Democratic Movement government for selling the Papua New Guinea Banking Corporation in a rushed manner. He said that he had set up the commission of inquiry to probe the sale because many members of Parliament were left in the dark when the previous government bulldozed the decision to sell the bank. Sir Michael said the urgency of the sale was suspicious and MP's at the time were not allowed to debate the sale of the PNG Banking Corporation. MP for Samarai-Murua Brian Pulayasi said there was no need to sell profitable state institutions managed by nationals.

**Soldiers & cops for Solomons 11 July 2003**

PNG will contribute 84 policemen and soldiers to the Australian-led multi-national force to the Solomon Islands. It will consist of 40 policemen and 44 soldiers Foreign Affairs Minister Sir Rabbie Namaliu told

Parliament. He would ask Parliament to amend the law so the force could be deployed in the Solomon Islands. The Opposition threw its support behind the decision to deploy PNG security forces to the Solomons.

**PM moved to amend vote law 14 July 2003**

The Government is pushing for a 36-month grace period before a vote of no-confidence motion can be moved against it. Sir Michael is to bring the amendment before Parliament and moved at the weekend to consolidate his coalition numbers to push the amendment through. The new amendments will be \* Grace period from 18 months to be extended to 36 months and, an absolute majority is required for a motion of no-confidence to be successful instead of the current simple majority. ( An absolute majority is 55 MP's )

**Kokoda gets fresh water 14 July 2003**

Villages along the Kokoda Trail now have access to fresh clean water, thanks to the Australian Government. The Australian Gov funded the construction of water supply projects in 11 villages along the Trail including Kovel, Isurava, Alota, Abuari, Hagutava, Kaile, Felai, Soa and the new Isurava memorial. Australian High Commissioner Michael Potts said the new clean water projects would provide a supply of clean water for the increasing number of trekkers who chose to walk the Kokoda Trail each year. In addition to the water supply, Australian soldiers have been expanding the radio network along the Trail and have installed 18 radio stations along the Trail. Minister for Inter-Government Relations Sir Peter Barter urged the people to look after the project as it would not only benefit them but the tourists visiting villages

**Gov won't sell Harbours Board 18 July 2003**

The National Gov will not sell the PNG Harbours Board but it will have to prove it will continue on its path to economic recovery.



# HARIM TOK TOK



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



VOLUME 31

JULY 2003



## 2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS RE-UNION BUFFET DINNER

**Date:- Saturday 23 August 2003**

**Venue:- Long Tan Sergeants Mess—Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera**

**Times:-** 1630 hours—Assemble in the Mess  
1700 hours—AGM commences  
1830 hours— Buffet Dinner & Re-union

**Dress:-** ANZAC Day dress with miniatures / Jacket & tie / evening wear  
**Cost:-** \$12-00 per person on arrival for the Dinner & Port  
**RSVP:-** Please ring Joe Fisk on 07 3208 5298 or Col Gould on 07 3311 7480 by the 10th August if you are attending the AGM—firm numbers are required for catering purposes.  
Members & guests most welcome.

### RESIDENT'S UPDATE...

Greetings!

At the 2002 AGM there was much debate over the possibility of transferring our Colours to Brisbane for permanent display and possible use on formal occasions.

It has now been resolved to keep the Colours in storage at the Australian War Memorial where they are well cared for, even though they are not on public display.

I have suggested to the Executive Committee that one of the last requests made to me personally by the late Peter Grimshaw, OAM.OBE.BA.JP just prior to his passing in March this year, was that application be made to the AWM Board for the Association to produce an acceptable plaque on the service history of the NGVR and PNGVR for public display inside the AWM.

This will ensure that our Regiment's place in Australian & Papua New Guinea Military History will always be available for public

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Col Gould—Editor.

viewing in the years to come.

Members are invited to express their views on this subject and any suggestions for suitable wording, should the AWM approve of our intentions.

I have received excellent feedback on the inclusion of NGVR service recollections in 'Harim Tok Tok'. My sincere thanks to those who have allowed the Association to produce their service history. I also thank Committee member Major Bob Collins who visited the NGVR members concerned and edited the final drafts for publication.

The interesting NGVR stories and events you have read to date can now be kept for future readers. Please remember, these articles are © Copyright and all formalities must be observed.

In this issue of 'Harim Tok Tok' the NGVR service recollections of Sgt Bruce Fraser has commenced. In coming issues we will feature the recollections of NGVR Cpl Henry J McCauley and NGVR Carlo

Cavalieri.

Please note that the size & weight of each issue of Harim Tok Tok plus any enclosures must be kept within a maximum postage 'weight' to remain within the 50c postage fee, otherwise our postage expenditure will be too excessive. Unfortunately this sometimes limits the length of each NGVR story we produce in each issue.

Our 2003 Annual General Meeting is to be held on the 23 August at the Long Tan Sergeants Mess, Gallipoli Barracks (Enoggera Barracks in Brisbane). The evening also includes a great buffet dinner.

I encourage our valued members to attend this important annual event, and I thank you one and all for your ongoing support of your Association.

*Yesterday is history  
Tomorrow is a mystery  
Today is called the present."*

H N Green  
President.

#### MIXED FIELD DINING NIGHT - 19/7/03

By Bob Collins

Another successful Mixed Dining Night was held at Jimboomba on Saturday 19th July.

Some 33 members and partners attended, and once again the dining marquee was set up splendidly, with white table cloths, Candelabra, Mess Silver, etc set off by candlelight. The tables were set up in the traditional 'U' shape and members wore either their ANZAC Day blazer or Association Polo Shirts.

Formalities commenced with sherry in the annexe an hour prior to meal time and the Dining President introduced those who were attending for the first time.

At 1830 hours guests moved into the Dining area where they remained standing while the flags were marched in.

The meal was prepared by 'Coast to Coast the Golden Roast', who have catered for all our Field Dining Nights. They offered a choice of 4 meats, 4 vegs and 4 salads, followed by a choice of 4 sweets and tea and coffee. As usual there were seconds

available, and even then, there was some food left over.

Following the dinner there was the traditional passing of the Port and a number of toasts were given:-

Norm Mundy—'The Queen'  
Joe Fisk—'The Regiment'  
Joe Hall—'Absent and departed Comrades'  
Greg Shaw—'The Ladies'

There was also the traditional 'Kangaroo Court' held by Mr Vice, Barry Wright.

Following the dinner and ceremonies, the flags were marched out and the huge bon-fire lit. As the evening was rather cool, this was a welcome addition.

Some members and their partners carried on for some time around the bon-fire, but that did not hinder the washing and cleaning up the next morning. This was completed by 0900 and a hearty breakfast was enjoyed by all who stayed the night.

**NEXT FIELD DINING NIGHT**  
**Saturday 22nd November 2003**

## FROM THE 'Q' STORE

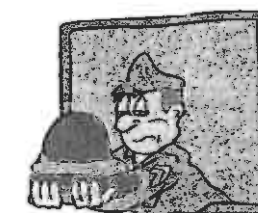
### NEW ITEM

- GOLD coloured PNGVR epaulette badges—only \$12 a pair includes postage

Actual size:-

**PNGVR**

Ideal for hats, blazer lapels & ties.



And don't forget our very attractive ASSOCIATION REGIMENTAL PLAQUES—30 cm x 20cm (12 inches x 8 inches) in polished timber with full colour Queen's & Regimental Flags, PNGVR badge, Australian Rising Sun Badge, NGVR Colour patch and US Citation along with your name, rank and serial number engraved on a small plate.

*A great keepsake for the family*  
**\$70-00 plus \$10 for packing & posting in Australia.**



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THE NGVR / PNGVR EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION PROUDLY SUPPORTS  
THE NATIONAL AIRLINE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

#### **2004** **REGIMENTAL MIXED DINNER** **REUNION**

**Friday 23 rd April 2004**

United Services Club- Brisbane

Discounted accommodation available  
next door at the Astor Hotel.

Cost for Sherry/Dinner/Wine & Port  
\$65-00 pp ( to be confirmed)

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Contact:- Bob Collins—Treasurer

Phone:- 041 383 1397

**Early Bookings Welcome—pay in 2004**

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New  
Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members  
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Editor:- Col Gould

To complete this record, the Senior Vice-President of our Association, and NGVR member, Tom Lega, MM., assisted with information as to what was carried out in the various places described. However Bruce has been shown the draft copy of this history, and thanks to the efforts of his daughter, Yvonne Farrant, has given his approval for this to go to print in 'Harim Tok Tok'.

The Association wishes to thank Bruce Fraser, Yvonne Farrant and Tom Lega for helping to put this history together and thanks also to our Treasurer, Bob Collins for his editorial work in producing the final draft.

Col Gould—Editor

### NGVR/ARMY HISTORY OF NG 2421 (NGX 419) SGT BRUCE FRASER ©

Bruce Fraser was born on the 19 August 1914 in Brisbane, the youngest of six children—Alexander 19, Edith 18, Stuart 16, Hubert (Bert) 14, Mary 12.

Alexander died on the Somme in 1918 during the first world war. Brother Bert was wounded three times in World War 1, including once on the Somme.

In his younger years Bruce lived at Ascot, West End and Tweed Heads, and from 1929-35 in Brisbane where he attended Brisbane Grammar School from 1930-1931. From 1932 to 1935 he worked in the family grocery and hardware business. In 1935 he moved to Edie Creek near Wau in New Guinea where he worked for New Guinea Goldfields.

**NGVR Service:-** On 31 January 1942, Bruce joined the NGVR at Wau. (Bruce may have been away at Edie Creek prior to 31 January, as there was a general call-up of New Guinea males to full time duty on 22 January 1942).

No information is available about his training and the following account of his service comes from his diary and some assumptions have been made with the assistance of NGVR member, Tom Lega, MM—Senior Vice-President of our Association—who saw service in the same area. The dates and place/comment are copied directly from Bruce's diary but the following explanation or comment in brackets is what occurred in those places.

- 21/1/42 Bulolo, Lae & Salamaua raided (by Japanese planes).
- 1/2/42 Wau riad. (also by Japanese planes—some damage occurred).
- 4/2/42 Left Bulolo. (Bruce was travelling to Mubo at this stage. B Coy, to which Bruce was attached, in a different platoon to Tom Lega, was moving to Mubo to carry out patrolling and endeavour to locate tracks which could be used by the Japanese to attack the Wau/Bulolo area).

- 5/2/42 Mill. (Anderson's saw mill about 7 km outside Wau which was used by NGVR as an assembly / forming up place).
- 6&7/2/42 Ballams (A camp 4 1/2 hours walk from Anderson's saw mill used as a staging camp on the first day out. It was here that NGVR were first issued with Tommy Guns. However due to a shortage of ammunition they were only allowed to fire 5 or 6 shots, mainly to get them used to the 'creep' of the weapon—as you fired, the barrel climbed higher).
- 8/2/42 Skin-Diwai (a native materials camp. Sleeping accommodation was put together by vines etc., and Tom Lega states that when anyone moved during the night, just about everyone had to move).
- 9/2/42 Mubo (This was taken by the Japanese in March 1942. Prior to this NGVR had three platoons and a portion of B Coy HQ based there carrying out observation and, as previously explained, looking for approach tracks to Wau/Bulolo. B Coy NGVR set up the base at Mubo from which patrolling was carried out and Bruce was part of this setting up process).
- 21/2/42 Lookout. (Out from Mubo, down the Bitoi River, up Kitchen Creek and to the back of Komiatum. The Lookout had a view out over the coast towards Salamaua).
- 23/2/42 Komiatum. (Looked out over the San Francisco River—called the 'Frisco' River by all of us. This was considered a likely approach by the Japanese).
- 25/2/42 Fever —1st dose. (This was Bruce's first ever bout of malaria. His time in New Guinea prior to the war had been spent at Edie Creek, about 7,000 feet high and free of malaria).
- 1/3/42 Wau raid. (Another air raid on Wau).
- 4/3/42 Wypole. (This is how it was written in Bruce's diary. The correct name of the village is Waipali and it was located above the Bitoi River with a track coming down from it into Mubo. Again this was a scouting area for likely enemy approaches).

Letters were important to soldiers at any time but Bruce obviously felt it important enough to include them in his diary as the following extracts show.

- 20/2/42 Wrote mother.
- 4/3/42 Rec'd Bert's letter (Perhaps informing Bruce that Bert had been ordered to leave Edie Creek in March, along with about 80 other civilians. Bert, aged 42, would have been considered too old, and his injuries in WW1 would also ruled out military service. Bert has since recorded his experiences on the Bulldog Track and we hope to reproduce those at a later time).

(To be continued in the September issue)

## ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

### MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL SERVICE

61 st Anniversary 1 July 1942—2003

By Joe Fisk.

The annual Memorial Service was conducted by the Association with approx 38 Members and visitors attending, which was a little down on last year's figures.

Joe Fisk acted at 'MC' and the opening address was delivered by Major Bob Harvey-Hall, RFD. ED. who stood in for President Harry. (Harry had a fall on Reserve Forces Day and injured his leg causing some great concern. I am pleased to report that Harry is on the mend and did participate in the Reserve Forces Parade via way of a military jeep with Tom Lega, MM and Peter Harbeck.) Bob's opening speech covered a brief history of the fall of Rabaul and the final resting place of the 'Montevideo Maru'.

After the opening address prayers and hymns were conducted by the Rev. Alan McFarland of the Commando's Association, who has also graciously assisted in our past Services. Thank you so much Alan. During the dark days of World War 2, NGVR Members taught the Independent Companies how to survive in the jungle as well as teaching them jungle warfare, and this is the close connection between the two Associations.

During the Service, the Roll of Honour, which lists NGVR personnel and civilians who perished on the ship, was called by Joe Fisk and Tom Dowling. This was followed by the laying of the wreath by NGVR member Jack Goad, and Bob Harvey-Hall on behalf of all

members of the NGVR / PNGVR Ex Members Association. This was followed by the Service of Remembrance and concluded with the Australian National Anthem.

The closing address was given by Bob Harvey-Hall which fitted the occasion.

After the Service all participants were invited to the usual 'watering hole' across the road for refreshments and fellowship.

Thanks goes to all who took part with special thanks to Barry Wright, who, in conjunction with Norm Mundy, provided the extra support for organising the flags and music etc., and to our Secretary Colin Gould for the printing of the programs.

On behalf of the Association I would like to thank those members who attended the Service as NGVR had some 80 members who were captured in Rabaul, aboard the ship at the time of the sinking. It is to their memory and the other allied personnel and civilians who were lost, we conduct this Service in their honour on the 1 July each year.

Joe Fisk

Footnote:- Information has come to hand that some 17 members of the Japanese crew did survive the sinking and made it back to Japan. One crew member currently residing in Japan has stated that there were in excess of 1000 prisoners of war ex Rabaul on board the ship at the time of the sinking which is consistent with our previous historic information and eye witnesses. More information as it comes to hand.  
Col Gould—editor

### MEMBERSHIP FEES 2003/4

WERE DUE ON THE 1 JULY 2003

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR FEES????





## NGVR RECOLLECTIONS AND ANGAU EXPERIENCES ©

By Jim Huxley NGX 432

(Continued from Issue 30—June 2003)  
FINAL CHAPTER



of them.

District Officer Horrie Niall, who had been discharged from ANGAU, came to Wewak to relieve John Milligan. Medical Assistant,

Harry Erskine, who was in charge of the Wau native hospital before the war, and who had served in the NGVR medical detail, arrived to relieve me. However there was no chance that I or my assistant at the time, Cpl Don McBeath (he had replaced Ted Cole when he was sent to Angoram to assist Ted Hagenlocker), wouldn't qualify for early discharge. We were both young, single with very few discharge points.

After I handed over to Erskine, Milligan, who was still officially in charge, decided that I should fill in some time visiting the islands off the Wewak coast and then spend a few days at Angoram. First I visited Kairuku Island, where the Japs had a seaplane base and had planted numerous flat mines around the area. We very carefully went ashore. I found the local people in pretty good health, and there was a need only to take a couple of the villages back to Wewak for treatment.

I was taken to Kairuku in the Commanding Officer's launch. The boss man at the time was Brig. Alwyn Garrett, who had relieved Lieut-Gen Horace 'Red Robbie' Robertson. Before we returned to Wewak the Brigadier decided to make one more trolling run along the straight separating the Kairuku and Muschu Islands, the latter being used as a POW camp. About 15,000 Japs were being held there until some of their transports (among the few left) came to take them home.

As we made our way along the strait with the C in C's flag flying proudly above the launch, hundreds of Japs, mostly nude, stood on the shoreline and bowed as we passed.

On my return to Wewak, Niall, who had taken over officially, suggested that I might like to hang on and help out the Civil Administration, until my time for discharge came. He said Jack Barlow, who was married with a child, was off colour and should go to Australia, and suggested I go to Maprik. I agreed to do so, and, with Inogu in tow, I set out on the three day walk to Maprik.

I overnighted at Yangoru and Baainyik, the latter a pre-war Government Agriculture Station. When I arrived at Maprik, a neat area with a small grass airfield on the banks of a river, I found I was to work

with my former patrol mate, John Wakeford.

I spent 10 months at Maprik and enjoyed every minute of it. I found I had a lot of work and many challengers to overcome. On one occasion I had to operate on a young man who was gored badly by a wild boar. His injuries were much worse than those of the youth I treated at Wantoat.

Unfortunately this fellow died from his injuries (abdominal and legs). I worked all night knowing that I could not save him, but there was a matter of good will. It was like waving a flag of friendship. We had to show the local people, who had been under Japanese dominance for some years, that we were still their friends. Whilst attending to this unfortunate villager, I had to use the anaesthetic, ether, which was a very inflammable substance. All we had was a naked flame tilly lamp to work under. Polis bois took it in turns standing on a chair and holding the lamp high above their heads, and this went on for several hours. Luckily there was no explosion.

After the young man died, I felt in a way guilty about not being able to save him, but he was too badly hurt and his condition was beyond my expertise. However I tried and when I went outside, I was thanked by the village officials and members of the immediate family for attempting to save his life. This made me feel a bit better.

There was electricity at Maprik, but it was not connected to the small operating theatre the Australian Army had left there. Electricity was not connected to the native hospital either.

Pre-war Assistant District Officer, Ken Bridge, came in to take over the station and John Wakeford was to stay with him as his assistant. Inogu fell in love with a local Maprik meri (woman), whose first husband had been killed while working for the Japanese as a carrier. The woman also had a young child who

thought Inogu was great, just as I did. When I knew I was to go to Sydney for discharge, Inogu assured me that he would be happy to stay in Maprik. Ken Bridge approved this and said he would help fill the void caused by the Japs taking the young men from the village and letting them die.

**Return to Australia & discharge:-** I eventually left Maprik late June, 1946, in the first civilian post-war aircraft to visit Maprik. It was a Mandated Airlines (MAL) DH84 Dragon, piloted by experienced New Guinea pilot, Arthur Collins.

At Lae I was met by a young Army Lieutenant, whose name I don't recall. He was delighted I was there at last. He shook my hand vigorously and said he had been sitting there in his tent for weeks waiting for me to pass through. He informed me that I was the last of the ANGAU people to leave the New Guinea mainland for discharge. He then went off to book me on an RAAF C47 to Port Moresby.

After spending a couple of days at Murray Barracks I was flown from Port Moresby to Townsville in another RAAF aircraft. At Townsville I was put on a passenger train which carried me to Roma Street Station in Brisbane, and, from there, I was put on another train, the Sydney Express, for my last journey as a soldier.

My mother was very happy to see me at last, when I walked through the back door of our Willoughby home after being discharged.

—END—

Footnote:- We thank Jim for sharing his military experiences © with us. Jim has published a book "NEW GUINEA EXPERIENCE 1940-1965"

## NGVR / ARMY HISTORY OF NG 2421 (NGX 419) Sgt Bruce Fraser ©

The following history has been taken from Bruce Fraser's diary and selected extracts from letters written whilst he was recuperating from malaria in Australia and later while serving with HQ 6 Aust Div. back in New Guinea.

Unfortunately Bruce suffered a massive stroke in 1991 and has since lost all speech. Bruce was obviously a man of few words because his diary, at best, could be described as 'brief'. He wrote in his diary the name of the camp/village/place where he was and the date.



**Transfer to Wewak:-** Sometimes after this I was promoted to Sergeant and transferred to Wewak. I was to take charge of the big native hospital there on Moem Point where I was to relieve Lieut Jim Goreham.

The appointment came as a complete surprise to me. There were a lot of Medical Assistants at Malahang senior and more capable than I, but I was given the job.

When I arrived at Wewak, I was greeted and welcomed by the ANGAU District Officer, Major John Milligan. I found the hospital to be a large and busy establishment but short on staff. There was a doctor who liked a tippie or two several times a day, a Hygiene Sergeant, Len McNamara, who was also a keen photographer, and a Medast, Corporal Ted Cole. There were about 20 "dokta bois".

After I had been on the job for a few days I heard a familiar voice emanating from the hospital surgery. Sure enough it was Inogu. When I approached him he wouldn't, at first, accept it was me. As far as he was concerned I was at Lae and he was just about to look for some transport, possibly a small ship, which might take him to Lae where he could find me.

I invited Inogu to join the staff officially as a dokta boi, and he could carry out special duties as well—like looking after me. By this time the war was over. The Japs had thrown in the towel following the atom bombs falling on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

**Japanese surrender and return to Civil Administration:-** As soon as the Japs surrendered ANGAU personnel, carrying a note from General Adachi ordering his soldiers to stay clear of the Australians, were sent out into the previously held Japanese territory. Sgt Ted Hagenlocker was sent to Angoram on the Sepik River and Sgt Jack Marlow, another 'lik lik dokta' walked three days to Maprik, at the back of Wewak. Patrol Officers were also sent to these stations and others.

Among the ANGAU kiaps working the region were Tom Lega, Tom Healy, Gus O'Donnell, Jerry Monk, Col O'Loghien, Jim Birrell and Jack Godwin. It wasn't long before the first of the Civil Administration officers came to relieve the ANGAU people, or at least some