

GOLDIE'S TIMELY REVAMP

13 August 03

Goldie Barracks has a new look thanks to 70 engineers from the Australian Army's 21st Construction Squadron and 45 engineers from the PNGDF engineer battalion, who worked together to upgrade soldiers' living quarters, ablution blocks, internal roads and the access road to the barracks. The joint project cost K 1.2 million and was funded under the Australian defence co-operation program.

NEW OIL RESERVES FOUND

18 Aug 03

Oil reserves have been uncovered in the Southern Highlands by Chevron Niugini Ltd. PNG's crude oil production for July 03 totaled some 1.6 million barrels with an export value of US \$ 44 million.

CHINA BUILDS UP PNGDF SOLDIERS

MORALE

21 Aug 03

The renovation and construction of facilities at the PNG Defence Force Headquarters are aimed at boosting the morale of soldiers. The project funded by the Chinese Government has two parts. The first part is the renovation of the Taurama Barracks hospital and the seconded is the renovation and construction of HQ facilities, which include the gym, construction of a boxing ring, soldiers club, a haus wind and landscaping. The contract was awarded to a Chinese construction company, COVEC (PNG) Ltd. A Chinese military delegation led by senior Colonel Qian Lihua arrived recently to inspect progress of the project. PNGDF Major Gerson Balema said the designs are based on mutual understanding, and this is clearly evident in the roofing design of the boxing ring which is designed in Chinese style. The project would also include joint training between the PNGDF and Chinese military. The Gym will be used during the Commanders' mini Olympic games in October.

ON THE TAKE

22 August 03

Internal Security Minister told his officers some of them were being paid off to allow illegal immigrants into the country. He said it is known people were collecting money on the side to allow illegal immigrants into the country. He estimated that there were up to 10,000 illegal immigrants in PNG because officers in the department were not trying very hard to stop them getting in. He said that the issue of gun and people smuggling was a big task to overcome. Police Commissioner Sam Inguba said two officers from the Hong Kong Police criminal intelligence bureau would be in PNG soon to address a seminar on the increasing threat of Asian organized crime.

SKATE'S CLAMP ON PERKS

26 August 03

Some perks and privileges of Members of Parliament and parliamentary services staff were cancelled by Speaker Bill Skate. Mr Skate's move is intended to reduce

wastage and costs. The cost cutting measures include telephone usage, credit facilities at Parliament's refreshment rooms, vehicles and office space. He said that all phone lines in the National Parliament, including ministerial offices will be restricted to local lines. All ISD and STD phone lines will be disconnected except for the Speaker and Clerk of Parliament.

PLANE LOUNGING

27 August 03

A Lounge bar with a difference will soon be open for business in Port Moresby. It is the Dakota Lounge of the BALUS Bar which is part of the Airways Hotel. The DAKOTA lounge, an up market luxury bar is an old DC-3 (P2-002) aircraft. Weighing around 20 tonnes, it will be lifted to a 30m high scaffolding and connected by a short ramp to the Balus Bar. The luxury lounge would have 22 seats and accommodate up to 45 people. The DAKOTA Bar will become a major landmark for the city.

GOVT SEES HIGHEST REVENUE

EARNINGS

8 Sept 03

The Government achieved its highest revenue collection for the 12 months of Kina 274.3 million in August 2003. Treasury figures reveal that this was K 80.8 million or 42% above the 2003 budget forecast of K 193.5 million. Total revenue collected from January to August 2003 was K 1.8 billion with a surplus of K 143.4 million. The significant surplus for August was due to the excellent performance of direct taxes. The surplus in direct tax collections was mainly attributed to the mining and petroleum tax

PNG MANUFACTURERS HIT ONE

BILLION KINA

9 Sept 03

The manufacturing industry has for the first time achieved K 1 billion in export earnings this year. Chairman of the PNG Manufacturers Council Wayne Golding said that the industry was one of the biggest contributors to PNG's gross domestic product. He said that every container exported meant 20 tonnes of cargo and in 2001, 2570 containers were exported and 2962 containers exported in 2002. It was estimated that in 2003, 3744 containers would be exported.

RICE BILL CAN BE SLASHED

9 Sept 03

PNG can easily cut its K400 million a year bill on imported rice by growing its own, Taiwanese rice experts have declared. Studies on Taiwan's Agricultural Technical Mission had identified that provinces such as Morobe and East Sepik can grow and produce rice of a large scale to supply the local market and reduce the substantial import bill. Head of the Republic of China on Taiwan's Ag Technical Mission said that the Markham Valley was an ideal location to grow rice as land was readily available there, and PNG could produce about 10,000 tonnes of rice domestically by 2007. The Sepik plains was another ideal

location. PNG currently imports 160,000 to 250,000 tonnes or rice per year mainly from Australia.

GUN FREEZE UNDER FIRE

12 Sept 03

The Government will maintain the current freeze on new firearm licenses until all illegal weapons are bought in. Internal Security Minister Bire Kimisopa said MP's illegally in possession of firearms should also hand in their weapons. He said that many illegal guns have been bought into the country as trade off for illicit drugs like marijuana. Inter-Government Relations Minister, Sir Peter Barter also told Parliament he is writing to the Australian and Indonesian Governments seeking help to curb the guns for drugs trade.

ROTARY GIVES

19 Sept 03

A container of medical supplies worth A\$90,000 arrived at the Port Moresby General Hospital. The donated goods came from Brisbane and was part of Rotary Australia's world community service. Members of Boroko Rotary Club and Rotaract helped unload the supplies.

WAIGANI SHIFTS STANCE

19 Sept 03

Papua New Guinea economic Ministers have given their backing to the controversial proposal by Australia to have strategic advisors put in key government positions. Sir Rabbie said that once they got a clearer understanding from Alexander Downer on what was being offered and in what context, it was not significantly different from what has been happening in PNG. Mr Downer said that the technical experts could be in the area of audit control and financial management. Australia's proposals are designed in close discussions and agreement with PNG to help restore PNG to a positive growth over a sustained period of time.

NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL

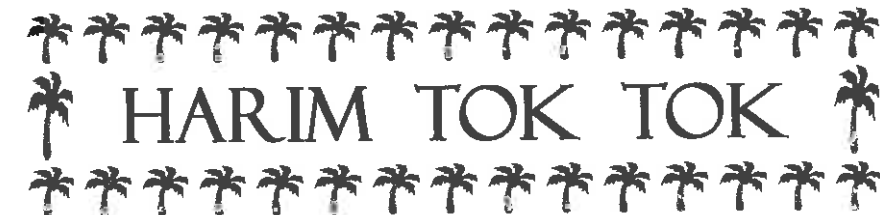
19 Sept 03

Congratulations to Sir Albert Kipalan on his election as the new PNG Governor-General. Sir Albert will become Papua New Guinea's 8th Governor-General when he takes over from Sir Silas Atopare who has held the vice-regal post for the past six years. Other candidates for the vice-regal post included former Chief Justice Sir Arnold Amet, Bernard Narokobi, former Minister Pato Kakarya, former diplomat Sir Paulias Matane and Sir Thomas Kavali.

H'WAY TO COST K500 million

22 Sept 03

The complete rehabilitation of the Highlands Highway will cost the State about K500 million and members of Parliament from the H'lands Region have called upon the Prime Minister to make K200 million available in the 2004 budget and the rest in 2005. The road has now deteriorated to a stage where the people and the business community are finding it difficult to carry out their social and economic activities.



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

VOLUME 32

OCTOBER 2003

President's Update.....

Greetings. On Saturday the 23 August 2003, the Association hosted its 14th Annual General Meeting at the Long Tan Sergeants Mess at Gallipoli Barracks (formally Enoggera Barracks) in Brisbane.

Thirty-five members and guests were made most welcome by the staff of the Sergeants Mess, who excelled in providing a well laid table of hot and cold tasty dishes including sweet kai. The Mess environment and collection of Mess silver and other military displays provides us with an excellent facility for our annual meeting & reunion buffet.

Our thanks to the Mess President & members for allowing us access to their Mess.

A Committee of thirteen was elected for 2003/4:-

President:-	Colonel Harry Green, MBE, ED,	Senior V-President:-	Tom Lega, MM
Junior V-President:-	John Mudge, MBE	Secretary:-	Colin Gould, JP(Qual) AFAIM
Treasurer:-	Bob Collins	Hon. Solicitor:-	Bruce Crawford, OAM
Members Reps:-	Joe Fisk & Norm Mundy	Media / PR Officer:-	Phil Ainsworth, B.Econ.
Welfare Officer:-	Paul Brown	Historic Officer:-	John Holland
A/Historic Officer:-	Tom Dowling	Projects Officer:-	Barry Wright

Each year members at the AGM award 'Life Membership' to a member of the Association. This year, I am pleased to announce that our long serving Secretary, Colin Gould, has been awarded Life Membership of the Association in recognition of his dedication and service. Congratulations Mr Secretary. Colin joins nine other members in this category:- Brig. Ian Hunter, CVO, AM, MBE, ED; Colonel Mal Bishop, MM; Colonel Harry Green, MBE, ED; Lt Col., Peter Grimshaw, OAM, MBE (deceased); Major Bill Kelly, MBE, ED; Major Peter Rogers, DFC; Major Col Lee, MBE; WO 2 Terry Egan, DCM; and WO1 Joe Fisk, RFM, EM.

The Association has sent a letter of congratulations to our newly appointed Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC (Retd). Major General Jeffery was a graduate from the Royal Military College at Duntroon and during his military career saw service in the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) in Perth; 2nd & 3rd Battalions of the RAR in Malaya and was seconded to the British SASR for an operational tour in Borneo.

In this issue:-

*President's Report. Executive Committee 2003/4; NGVR Recollections—Sgt Bruce Fraser (cont).
New Guinea Coffee deals for members, PNG Consulate General Brisbane; End of Year Field Dining Night.
Air Niugini holidays to PNG; Post Courier Snippets*



From 1966-69 Major General Jeffery served in **Papua New Guinea** with 1st Battalion, PIR. Following a tour in Vietnam as a Company Commander with the 8th Battalion, during which time he was awarded the Military Cross, Major General Jeffery was promoted to Lt. Colonel in 1972 to command the 2nd Battalion PIR.

In 1986 he was promoted to his current rank and commanded the Army's 15,000-person 1st Division in Brisbane. Major General Jeffery was sworn in as Australia's 24th Governor-General on 11 August 2003.

One issue your Committee has been working on involves the steps needed to have our Members' various Papua New Guinea awards entered onto their Australian Army Service records. To this end, we have written to the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, the Hon Sir Michael Somare, requesting consideration be given to a letter being sent from the PNG Prime Minister to the Australian Prime Minister with our request. Our understanding is that if successful, the Australian Governor-General can approve such inclusions in our Australian Service records.

I would like to remind our members who have been so honoured with such medals via this Association, that the awards were made by and with the authority of the Papua New Guinea Government and under the hand of the then Papua New Guinea Governor-General.

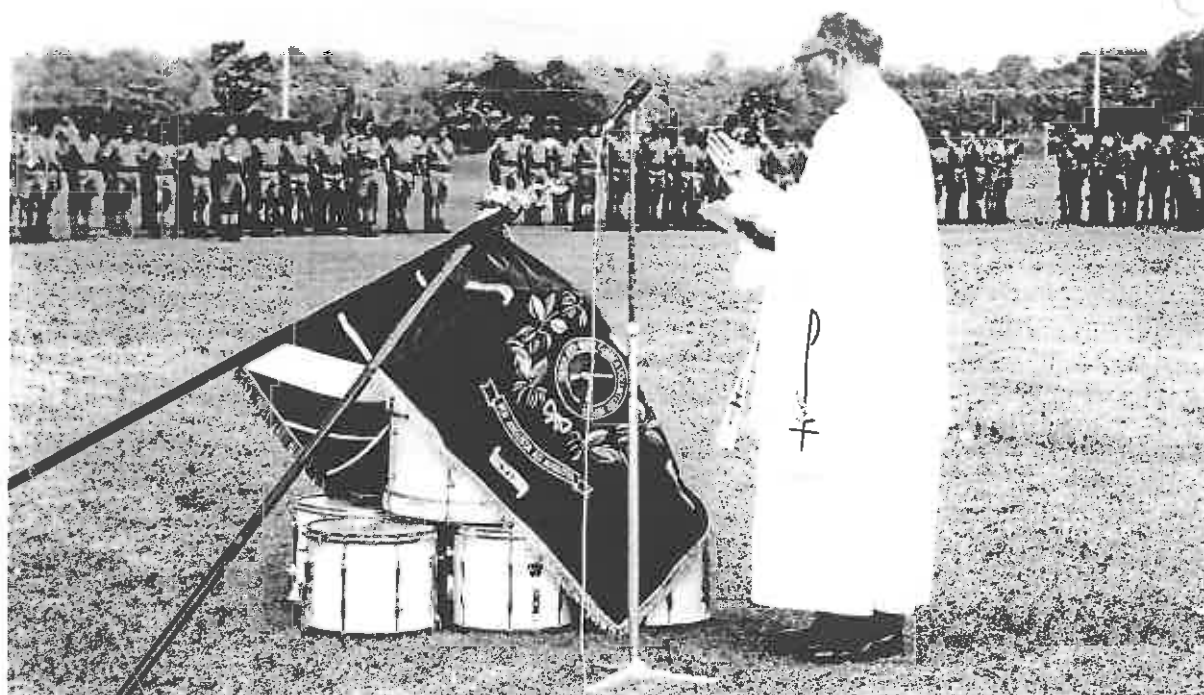
During these negotiating years with the Chairman of the PNG Honours & Awards Committee and being a resident of Rabaul, I well remember with great appreciation, the full co-operation and assistance of two other residents of PNG who are also Association members. I refer to then Chief Superintendent of Police, Denis Samin, OBE and John Mudge, MBE, who is our Junior Vice-President and current President of the Port Moresby RSL. My diary recalls eleven comings & goings to Port Moresby with these stalwarts resulting in the presentation of our Association plaques to Sir Michael Somare and former PNG Governor-Generals on ANZAC Day in 1990, in appreciation of our PNG awards.

During this time in Australia, then Secretary, Major Bill Kelly, MBE, ED and Treasurer Lt Doug Ng along with member Reps WO1 Joe Fisk, RFM, EM and WO1 Norm Mundy, RFM. put in considerable effort to vet eligible members and compile the appropriate records etc.

ANZAC Day 2004 (Sunday) looms as a special occasion for the Association and Regiment, for it was on this day in 1974, that I led a party of PNGVR personnel to officially lay up our Queen's and Regimental Colours in the Australian War Memorial. **ANZAC Day 2004 marks the 30th anniversary of the laying up of our Colours.** The photo below depicts the blessing of our Colours in 1969 at the Annual Camp at Igam Barracks, Lae.

If any member has good quality photos of the presentation of the Colours or the laying up of the Colours in 1974, please send the original (or a professionally digital scanned copy if possible) to the Secretary for use in 2004 in Harim Tok Tok and on ANZAC Day.

Harry N Green



**RING BARRY NOW
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NEXT FIELD DINING NIGHT

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2003

Barry & Pam Wright invite you to the end of year Field Dining Night at 176 Kurrajong Road, JIMBOOMBA.

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**New Guinea Volunteer Rifles
and
Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles
Ex Members Association Inc.**

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EVERTON PARK Qld. 4053

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"Things have changed since I was up here in '42—food and living conditions are much better. There is a weekly issue of two bottles of beer per man. Originally the bottles were opened and handed out separately twice a week in order to prevent hoarding. However, the beer being warm, and the men wishing to call, and consume it at their leisure, a protest was made and direct action taken, with the result that one may now hoard his weekly issues and eventually have a real binge".

Bruce's next letter is dated 13 Sept 1945.

Today marked the climax of the Wewak campaign—Lt Gen Adachi, C-in-C of the Jap 18th Army, signed the surrender document at about 1015 this morning. The remnants of the Jap Army total about 14,000 strong, strung out between the Ramu River (near Finschafen) and Hollandia in Dutch New Guinea. The ceremony took place on a small landing strip, which, until the Casualty Clearing Station moved out about a week ago, was utilized to evacuate seriously wounded or ill patients to the General Hospital at Aitape, about 90 miles away. Owing to the smallness of the strip, a full Division parade could not be held, and consequently only 3,000 odd paraded, including detachments from the RAN and RAAF. The parade was in the form of a hollow rectangle with one end open through which the GOC of this particular Division drove to the particular spot where the actual

surrender was to take place. He took the salute, and then Adachi, accompanied by four or five of his staff officers and an interpreter and escorted by several of our officers and provosts, marched through the parade to where our GOC was waiting.

The parade at this time was standing at ease. The surrender document was then read to Adachi, and was then signed by him, followed by our GOC. The Japs then surrendered their swords which are usually issued by the Jap Army to WOs and Senior NCOs. Their own swords, which are usually magnificent pieces of work, have probably been hidden as they have usually been in the family for ages. Then Adachi and his officers were marched from the parade. I had a close up of them when they were driven to their temporary quarters—they're a nondescript lot with their baggy breeches the seats of which hang down around their knees, and the tunic finishes halfway down the back. They are living in the visitors and observers section about 100 yards from my tent. They have their batmen with them and there has been a considerable amount of bowing and scraping whenever any of the officers or batmen approach the august presence of Adachi. He's done practically nothing except sit, smoke and stare into space."

TO BE COMPLETED NEXT ISSUE.

NEXT ISSUE—Cpl Henry McCauley NG2366 NGX 313

NEW ARTICLES FOR HARIM TOK TOK

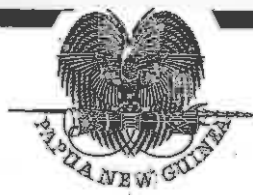
We would like to include two new sections in future newsletters:-

(1) **PNGVR Snippets**—short PNGVR stories—historic/humorous etc submitted by individual members. Please include your Platoon/Company/location details, and

(2) **Around the Traps**—short individual reports on members recent activities eg return trips to PNG / upgrading to "Grand Dad" status or for that matter "Great Grand Dad" status / news on any up and coming PNG reunions, for example there is a proposed "Steamies" Reunion being considered for 2004. Clear photos welcome and will be used if suitable.

Col Goud — Editor

PS Does anyone know when and where the next "Madang Re-union" will be held.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA CONSULATE-GENERAL

Acting Consul General:- Ms Winniehayne W Herry-Ugava

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Hours of Business

Monday to Friday

VISAS

9.30 am to 12.30 pm

1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

OFFICE

9.30 am to 12.30 pm

1.30pm to 4.30 pm

NGVR

RECOLLECTIONS

NGVR / ARMY HISTORY OF

NG 2421 (NGX 419) Sgt Bruce Fraser ©

Continued from Volume 31—July 2003

(NB Bruce kept a very brief diary showing only the name of the village/place he was at and the date. With the assistance of Senior Vice President & NGVR member, Tom Lega, MM, we have been able to describe what took place in the various places listed in Bruce's diary. Editor)



- 6/3/42 Wrote to Mum.
- 8/3/42 Landing Salamaua (The Japanese landed at night. NGVR had an old Bedford truck at Salamaua which was notoriously difficult to start. However at the sight of the enemy barges and ships coming into Salamaua, the NGVR detachment there jumped into the truck, which, for the first time in 10 years started at once. They then went to the airfield and set fire to all the fuel, and on withdrawing over the 'Frisco River', Fred Leather cut the supporting wire cables and collapsed the bridge into the river, destroying the axes used to cut the wire cable in the process.)
- 15/3/42 Wrote Bert (His brother)
- 19/3/42 Left Mubo. (B Coy NGVR was still at Mubo at this stage so Bruce must have been sent back to Wau for a break after his bout of malaria)
- 20/3/42 Left Skin-Diwai
- 22/3/42 Arrived Fullers. (This was a Trade store in Wau. It was in front of this trade store that the photo of NGVR with the captured Japanese flag was taken.)
- 20/4/42 Received Mum's letter.
- 21/4/42 Wrote Mum.
- 1/5/42 Platoon left Black Cat. (At Black Cat the whole area had been searched for tracks, but NGVR did not find the old German track that the Japanese eventually used on their approach march to attack Wau. Nobody in NGVR knew that this track existed. There was a foreigner called Hoffstetter who farmed between Bulwa and Bulolo but when the general call-up came in January, 1942, he disappeared. It was through that he was Swiss prior to the war, but it is now believed that he was German and was responsible for handing the Japanese a map showing an old German surveyed track leading from the coast to Wau—the Japanese used this map to successfully approach Wau undetected.)
- 3/5/42 Stopped smoking. (Bruce does not mention that this was voluntary or caused by supply problems. Tom Lega states that when there was a general call-up in January, 1942, all supplies were taken over by the Army including 2 oz tins of Log Cabin tobacco. By May 1942, there was no tobacco left for issue and NGVR personnel were reduced to smoking 'BRUS' the local tobacco wrapped in banana leaf—a very potent mixture which caused a few NGVR to give up smoking.)
- 11/5/42 Entered Wau hospital. (Bruce was carried 8

miles to hospital and was there until 19/5/42.)

- 20/5/42 Stayed at Kaindi. (Bruce stayed here for 2 weeks to recuperate after release from hospital and Bruce stopped in his brother Bert's shack at Kaindi.)

- 23/5/42 (This relates to the landing at Wau of the 2/5 Independent Company, often referred to as Commandos.)

- 3/7/42 Arrived Ballams.

- ?? Arrived Skin Diwai

(There were no more notes in Bruce's diary until 30/8/42 although we know Bruce transferred to KANGA Force on 16/8/42.

On 16/8/42 NGVR was demobilized and all personnel still remaining in the New Guinea Area were transferred to KANGA Force.

His paybook was signed by N Winning on 31/7/42 - Capt Norm Winning, 2/5 Independent Coy, was involved in the raid on Salamaua and mentioned in Tom Lega's history as an officer who deserved a Military Cross. Capt Winning was killed post war in Borneo during a local uprising on a plantation.

From Here we are also working on assumptions. Tom Lega went down to the Markham River in August and was not with his old Platoon. From here on Tom cannot verify what Bruce actually did. The diary now continues.)

- 30/8/42 Left NOBM's. (This abbreviation is not known but it is believed that at this stage Bruce was back in the Mubo vicinity carrying out surveillance on Salamaua.)
- 1/9/42 Arrived NOB's (???)
- 15/9/42 Left NOB's (5,000 ft) and walked to Shep's (5200ft) via summit (6,100 ft) 8 Hours. (Shep's would be Captain Sheppard, 2/5 Independent Coy)
- 16-17/9/42 At Shep's
- 18/9/42 Shep's to Mal's (2,950 ft) 8 1/2 hours. (Mal's would be Sgt Mal Bishop, MM 2/5 Independent Coy. Lt Colonel Mal Bishop later was a Commanding Officer of PNGVR, and as Colonel Bishop commanded the Lae District area.)
- 19/9/42 0800 left Mal's 1000 hours arrived Saddle via G Ridge. Ascended LAB road to 1800 ft (This would be Lababia Road and Guadagasal Ridge.) Contacted Mubo native prior to this. Observed nothing.
- 20/9/42 0710 left Mal's—arrived E of Norm's 1130. Capt Winning, 2/5 Ind Coy) Arrived Mal's via Lababia 1845 hours. No water. (It is believed that these positions were all on the top of ridges where there was no running water, and all water had to be carried.)
- 21/9/42 Left Mal's 1510 for Saddle—salvaged time-pencils, grenades & cupcharger. Arrived Mar's 1720 in company with Helcup & Boxall. (2/5 Ind Coy personnel) MG fire from Saddle. It is presumed that the Japanese had patrolled up from Mubo to Guadagasal Saddle—about 1 hour from Mubo)

- 22/9/42 0630 Left Mal's—Kunda bridge at 0750—Waipali bridge at 1100—left at 1245—arrived Waipali at 1400—1300 ft to 2700ft. Fresh Jap tracks from Saddle and cartridge cases.
- 23/9/42 Left Waipali ascended to 5257 ft then 5800 ft. Heard MG fire. Arrived Neil's Creek at 1500 lunched and then left at 1615. Unable to find track. Returned to Beil's Creek and stopped at 1900 hours. Camped. (*It is presumed here that the delay caused by them not finding the track they were obviously looking for made them late on return and they had to bush camp.*)
- 24/9/42 From Neil's to Shep's. (*Capt Shepherd 2/5 Ind Coy*)
- 25/9 to 1/10/42 At Shep's. Carried out Guard and River patrols and also supply line. (*Supply line would be carrying supplies forward to those maintaining positions near Guadagasal Ridge.*)
- 1/10 to 4/10/42 Shep's to new Mal's, then to Guadagasal Ridge (4000ft) via old Mal's. (*Sgt Mal Bishop, MM, 2/5 Ind Coy—later to become CO PNGVR*)
- 5/10/42 Contacted C.F. and James about 0930. Lunched and left for House Cooper. Arrived 1900—No water. (*Do not know who C.F. was but James could be either Jim Macadam or Jim Cavanagh, NGVR or Trooper J W James 2/5 Ind Coy.*)
- 6/10/42 House Copper to Black Cat (7 1/2 hrs) Met Charles Blake (NGVR) on route and lunched together. (*Black Cat was an old gold mine up on the Bitoi River east of Wau and was frequently used by NGVR when searching the area for tracks.*)
- 7/10/42 Left Black Cat via Wandumi (3 1/2hrs) and Kaisenik (2 hrs) to Nobs (3 hrs) (*Wandumi was a village on the Bulolo River and it was one of the places on the Japanese route when they came up to Wau in January 1943. The Japs actually used Wandumi as a forming up place for the attack on Wau.*)
- 8/10 to 13/10/42 At Nob's. (*On different days he lists Japanese planes, eg 14 fighters, 14 bombers, 12 transports.*) To Leahy's farm. (*Leahy's farm was just out of Wau half way to Kaisenik.*)
- 14/10/42 Truck to Wau. Left native hospital 0830 arrived Kaindi 1330.
- 15/10 to 17/10/42 At Kaindi with Keith Woodman and Hilary Farr. Back to Nob's on 17/10/42. (*Woodman was a WO2 and Farr a Sergeant, both with NGVR. Tom Lega states Farr was an excellent Sgt who should have been commissioned.*)
- 18/10 to 21/10/42 At Nob's. Arrived Shep's 1730 on 21/10/42
- 23/10/42 To Scouts Camp via House Banana. (*Scouts Camp was behind Salamaua and House Banana was near Gadagasal Saddle and Scouts Camp would have been in Japanese occupied territory by then.*)
- 25/10/42 To Saddle via gardens. Natives frightened and back via Hospital. Store and House Wireless burnt—all day trip. (*This was in Japanese territory and the hospital referred to would have been an RAP bush hospital. Obviously the Japanese had torched any buildings carrying signs that NGVR had used them.*)
- 27/10/42 To wypole and back via Gadagasul Hamlet. Collected some blankets and rucksacks.
- 28/10/42 In camp. O'Neill Archie and Albert left. (*Bill O'Neill 2/5 Ind Coy; Archie Graham & Albert Pauley, both NGVR. Albert Pauley later served with the US 1 Cav Div on Los Negros Island, was decorated and awarded the US Presidential Unit Citation.*)
- 29/10 to 31/10/42 At O.PIP. Hulcup, Stein and Savage arrived. Sent rice, parcels etc to Archie (*Hulcup & Stein 2/5 Ind Coy. Jim Savage & Archie Graham NGVR*)
- 1/11/42 At Scout's camp.—other 3 left.
- 2/11/42 From Scout's camp to Mubo—arrived Archie's 1500 (*At this stage the Japanese were probably in Mubo—Bruce Fraser had to be scouting the area.*)
- 3/11/42 Left Archie's and went to Geoff's—inspected O.PIPs and house in afternoon. Injured leg muscle in morning at Archie's. (*Geoff White—NGVR*)
- 4/11/42 Moved from Geoff's to Advanced Base.
- 5/11 to 7/11/42 At O.P. early morning and afternoon. The observation post is believed to be observing Mubo.)
- 8/11/42 Building new quarters. Boi from enemy appeared at Geoff's (White). Moved from advanced base and slept at Archie's old quarters.
- 9/11/42 Moved from Archie's old quarters to new site in creek below.
- 10/11/42 At new camp in creek. Geoff, Archie and Albert left in the afternoon.
- 12/11/42 Geoff, Archie and Albert returned. Enemy at Geoff's old camp. Moved to Doctor Boi's house in afternoon.
- 13/11/42 Moved from Doctor Boi's house to Waipali by long route up Bitoi. Met Winning and party. (*The long route would be eased by the Japanese occupying part of the area. Capt Norm Winning 2/5 Ind Coy.*)
- 16/11/42 Moved from Gadagasul to Skin D.Y.
- 17/11/42 Moved from Skin D.W. to Ballams. (*Ballams is in the Wau Valley*)
- 20/11/42 From Ballams to Wau for dental treatment. (*Imagine walking 4 1/2 hours just to go to the dentist. Bruce had jaw pain, probably caused by the onset of cerebral malaria.*)
- 22/11/42 Entered hospital in the afternoon. Temperature up from 19/11 to 8/12/42

Bruce was in hospital from 22/11/42 to 20/12/42. A Japanese plane came over on 20/12/42 so he was moved to Quinn's. (*Quinn's was probably a plantation near Wau which would have been considered safer in view of previous air attacks and bombing of Wau.*)

On 28/12/42 Bruce was flown from Wau to Murray Barracks at Port Moresby.

OTHER MILITARY SERVICE DURING WW 11.

Bruce's next correspondence is a latter dated 8 July 1943, to his sister who lived in the Sudan and later in London, written whilst he was a patient in the 2/1st Australian General Hospital in Warwick, Queensland, recovering from cerebral malaria. He was shipped from Port Moresby to Sydney in mid January, 1943 and hospitalized at

Bathurst, NSW.

On discharge from hospital Bruce went on leave, first of all in Sydney, and then, whilst on leave in Brisbane came down with malaria again and spent another 4 weeks in hospital.

His letter to his sister is quite descriptive as to his feelings whilst in hospital in Port Moresby where he was obviously seriously ill and the doctors told him it was touch and go at several stages.

An irony occurred at this stage as Bruce was medically downgraded to 'B' Class, mainly due to his history of migraine (not malaria as this history would suggest). He had applied to return to New Guinea with a posting to ANGAU (Australian New Guinea Administration Unit) but they were only accepting A Class soldiers, so he was posted to Queensland Line of Communications Area Records Office, Warwick, as a clerk.

It was at this stage that Bruce was issued with a new Army number, NGX419. It would be fair to say that he was not enjoying life as a clerk as part of his letter reads "This clerical job will probably drive me nuts in time, considering that I've been in the open air and had a fairly free and easy time up to now".

Bruce spent the next 18 months in and out of hospital with cerebral malaria.

His next correspondence is also a letter written to his sister, by then in London, on 21 July, 1945. By then he had been:-

- Married. Bruce married Rene Armistead, co-incidentally a sister of Harley Armistead, a member of Lae NGVR (Cpl H J L Armistead NG2279) in May, 1944, in Warwick.
- Promoted to Sergeant.
- Posted to HQ 6 Div AIF and was in Wewak, New Guinea.

He had been medically reclassified A1 in March 1944, and applied again for overseas service. His letter described how he had tee-ed up with a friend to have him sent to Morotai, but, as Bruce described it in his letter, "the goat let me down, and here I am". He had arrived in Wewak late in June, 1945.

It is highly likely that he wished to be posted to Morotai as he 2/5 Ind Coy was near Morotai at the time. Tom Lega

advises that Bruce got on extremely well with Capt Norm Winning and others of the 2/5 Ind Coy and Tom feels that Bruce would liked to have returned to active service with them.

His letter describes some interesting facts.

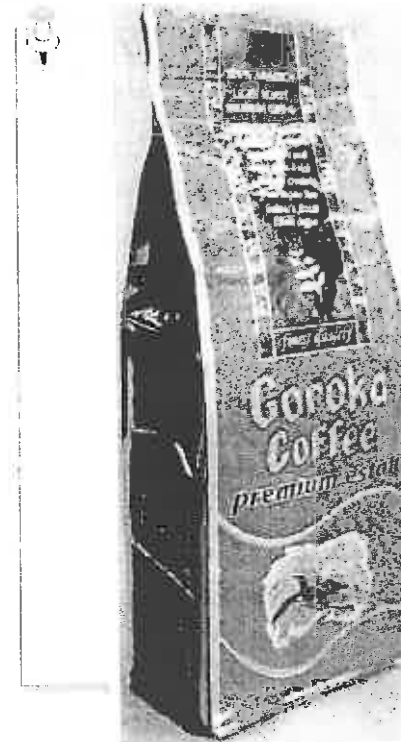
Telegrams at the time were sent by air from the mainland and took a week to 10 days to arrive, whereas Sydney and Brisbane newspapers were dropped by plane in Wewak on the day after publication.

A night at the pictures is also well described:-

"There is always an enormous audience for the pictures and unless one arrives early, one can obtain a seat only on the sides, from which the picture assumes an elongated appearance, or at the back, which, being a fair distance from the screen, makes hearing difficult. Consequently, men converging on the barbed-wire enclosure from all directions, carrying seats of all description, from about five-fifteen until seven when the show starts. In order to obtain admittance to the open-air barbed-wire enclosure, one must have in his possession a bottle of mosquito repellent. This repellent is applied to exposed portions of the anatomy at sundown, and repeated every couple of hours before going to bed. Halfway through the show, whilst the reels are being changed, a siren screams out, the lights of the trucks parked around the enclosure are switched on to the audience, and everyone should then apply the repellent. The seats become rather hard, and whilst the reels are being changed, there is a general uprising to relieved numbed parts."

Bruce's next correspondence is also to his sister dated 21 July, 1945, whilst still at HQ 6 Aust Div. Wewak. Several extracts are:-

This letter is being written in the midst of a nudist colony. However, it's not at all interesting as it's purely a male one. I came down for a swim and sun bake. There is one part of the shore where trunks must be worn, and that's where the nurses swim. Anyway, here I am, with nary a stitch to hide my shame, stretched out in the sun slowly baking to a cinder. The water here is quite warm and one can indulge one's liking for a swimming for hours without becoming frozen. Warwick at this time of the year, is bitterly cold, and I'm glad I'm out of it".



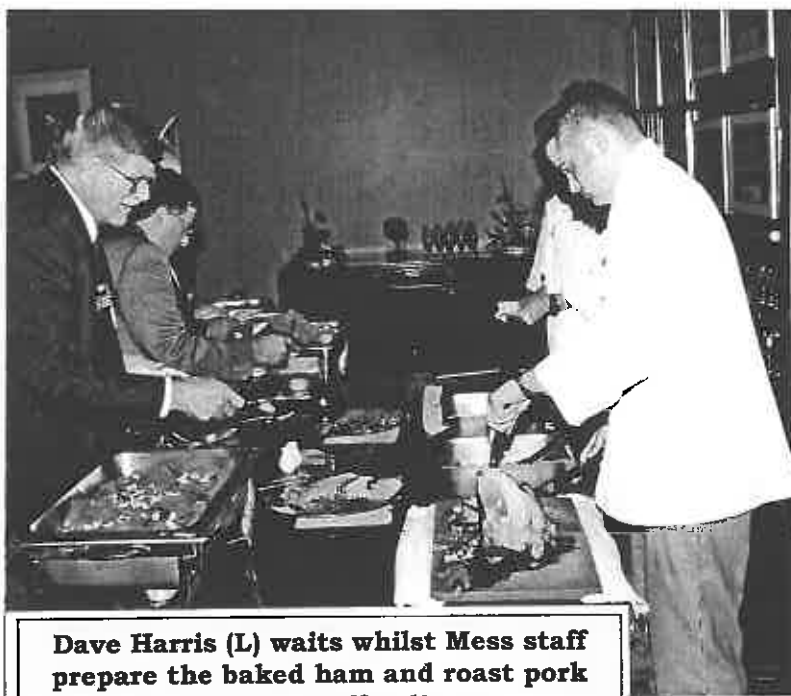
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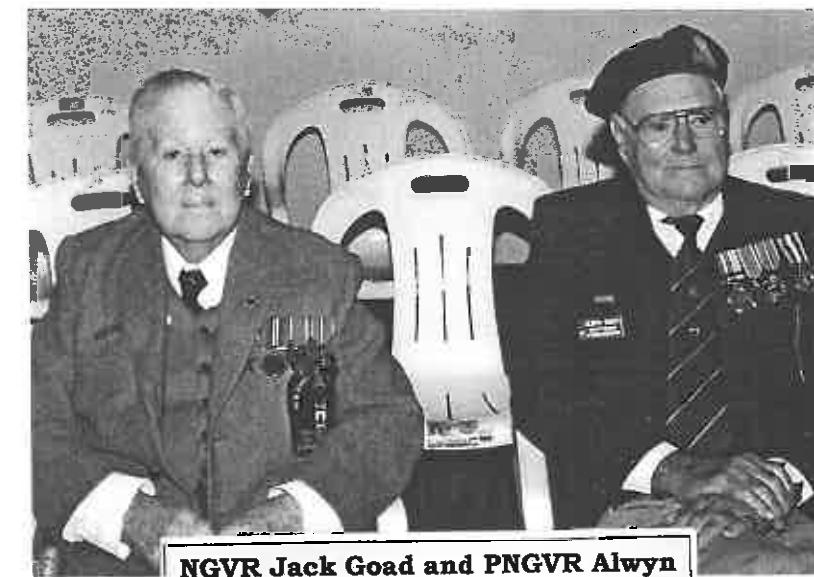
Dave Harris (L) waits whilst Mess staff prepare the baked ham and roast pork At the AGM Buffet dinner. Long Tan Sergeants Mess.



(L) Peter Barlow and Mal Zimmermann enjoy a coffee and a drop of Port at the 2003 AGM



Rev Allan MacFarland Queensland Commando Assoc. Conducts the Montevideo Maru Memorial Service 1 July 2003 ANZAC Square—Brisbane



NGVR Jack Goad and PNGVR Alwyn Smith at the Montevideo Maru Memorial Service 2003



Major Peter Harbeck, ED examines a copy of the original hand written patrol report lodged by Tom Lega, MM (left) in August 1944.

ANZAC DAY 2003 IN HOBART

(L) Rick Giddings (behind sign bearer) Jes Hansford, Mike Konecny & Grahame Norris marching under the NGVR / PNGVR banner.

This is the first time the Association has been represented at an ANZAC Day march in Tasmania. Our thanks to Jes Hansford for assisting with the get-together.



Rick Giddings, MBE with Son-in-law Darren de Lacey at the Hobart ANZAC Day March— 2003



Colonel Green thanks Mess Caterer Corporal Carmody for the evening's first rate buffet dinner for the AGM. Long Tan Sergeants Mess





Tom Lega, MM, with his framed 1944 report presented to him at the 2003 AGM by Bob Collins.

AUG 44

*Bogadjim, MADANG
ELIMINATION JAP REMNANTS*

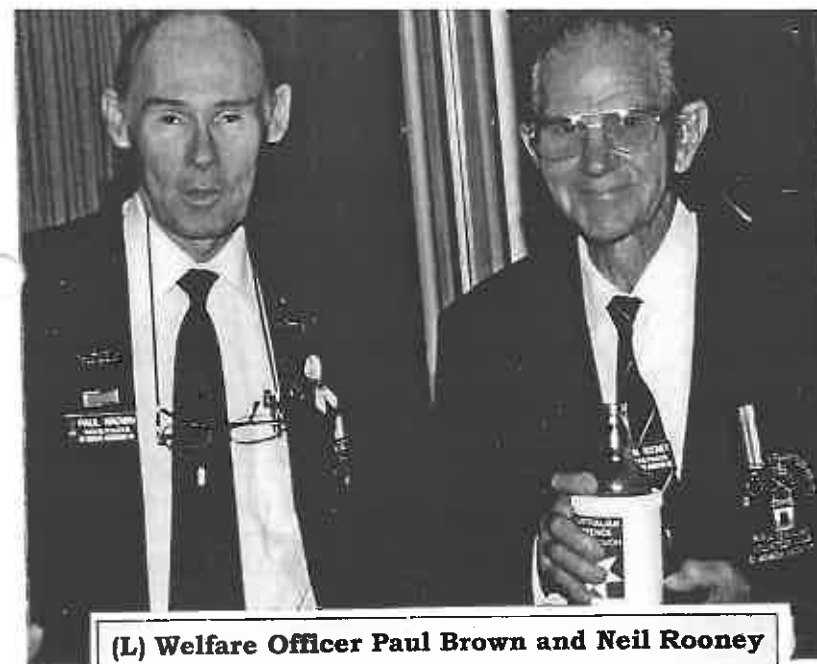
WO2 LEGA 1 Cpl RPC. 7 O.R's. + 1 Local RPC Picked up

T.T. advised Jap party hiding near BANGRI. 2 P.B.s with 2 local natives sent investigate. Returned reporting Japs camped. Counted P.B.s ensured issued & set off. Found Jap working digging Taro—quickly overcame & left in charge P.B. bound & gagged.

25 yards further we came across 2 washing clothes & taro in stream. Near camp so could not shoot. Short struggle but both quickly subdued with rifle butt. Only casualty 1 P.B. with hand bitten. Also bound & gagged & left with other extra P.B. guard. 100 yards or more upstream saw smoke coming from small clearing. Approached edge clearing. Opened up with rifles & grenades. Lasted 20 minutes—fire returned quickly but one sided more or less. During action felt heavy blow over left eye but did not realize wounded till finished action. 7 Japs dead, 1 escaped (severely wounded but got away from P.B. who chased) 3 captured. Collected documents & equipment & decided to return to base owing to wound. 2 days down to beach every step a head buster. Connected with barge, then to base & to hospital with shrap wound after handing prisoners to G2. Police behaved excellently especially Corporal.

A hand written patrol report by WO2 Tom Lega
August 1944
For this patrol, WO2 Lega was awarded the Military Cross

PB = Native Police Boys. OR's = Other ranks



(L) Welfare Officer Paul Brown and Neil Rooney



Mike Griffin & Kel Williams
Enjoy a quiet ale after the AGM

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING
23 Aug 2003

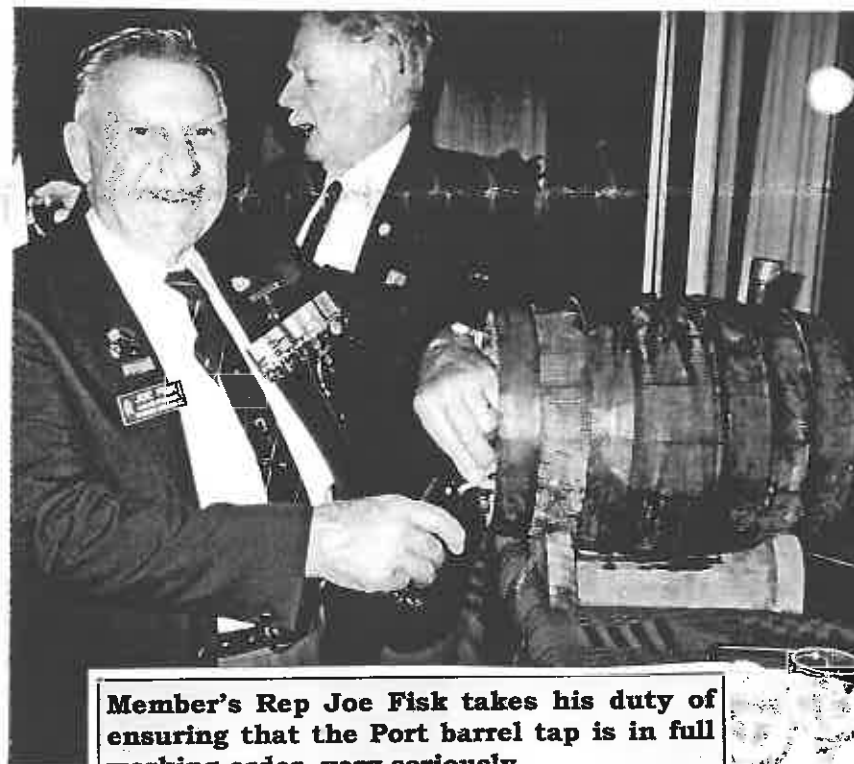
Long Tan
Sgts Mess



Bill Kelly, MBE and Bruce Johnson .



Colonel Green congratulations Secretary Col Gould on his appointment to 'LIFE Member' of the Association.



Member's Rep Joe Fisk takes his duty of ensuring that the Port barrel tap is in full working order, very seriously.
Tom (Snappy Tom) Dowling hands out the Port.



(L) Colonel Green, Ralph Seeto and Treasurer Bob Collins with guest Peter Low, OAM (2nd left) - President of the Queensland Chinese Forum at the AGM



(L) Phil Ainsworth following his election to the Committee for 2003/4.