

VALE

(Courtesy of Bob Gilroy)

Rifleman Frank Coleman 1/59712

30 August 1937 to 10 February 2004

Frank Coleman passed away at his home in Chatswood, NSW on the 10th February 2004.

Frank was a member of B Company, PNGVR Rabaul during the late 50's and early 60's and was employed as a Customs Officer. He was transferred to Madang as a Customs Officer and in 1962 married Shirley, his Fiancee from down south.

Frank was then transferred to Wewak where he was the Collector of Customs. In 1964 their twin daughters, Ruth and Yvonne were born. Frank and family were later transferred to Lae where he took over from Jack Goad (NGVR) as Collector of Customs.

Frank and his family returned to Australia in 1974.

Frank was an Honorary Member of the Vietnam Veterans Association (Sydney Northern Division). This was in recognition of the assistance he gave while working with the Vietnam Vet's Welfare Officer. Frank was a member of the Chatswood RSL Sub-branch and worked as an assistant Welfare Officer.

Noel Serafini and Bob Gilroy represented NGVR/PNGVR at the RSL funeral. The Eulogy was given by Barry Billing, State President (NSW) Vietnam Veterans Association.

Frank is survived by his wife, Shirley, daughters Ruth and Yvonne and 3 grand children.

AIR NIUGINI



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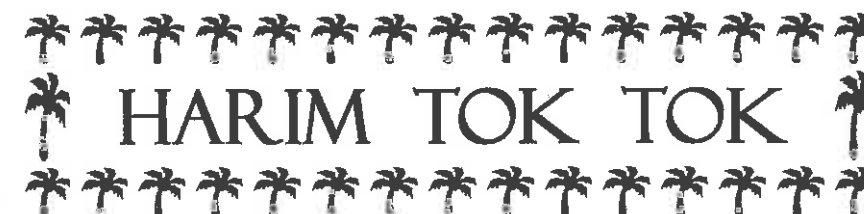
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Col Gould—Editor



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

VOLUME 34

MARCH 2004



President's update.....

It has been almost thirty (30) years since the laying up of our Colours in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, an indication of the swift passing of the years as some of us near our use by date. It is an unfortunate fact that similar ex-service organisations often struggle to maintain a viable operation due to falling membership.

Our membership base is located across every state of Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, yet we can muster some 90 members each ANZAC Day. Surely that is a good indication of the continuing pride and belief in our Regiment and Association's future.

It is obvious that due to membership numbers in S.E. Queensland the majority of our activities are based in this area. However I would like to stress that we also have a great group of members in far north Queensland where they helped organize an NGVR/PNGVR Memorial Plaque to be placed in the Rocky Creek Memorial Park. There is also a group in Victoria/Tasmania looking to organize regular get-togethers.

To ensure that our members, especially those in other states, all have a say in our Association, I will be submitting to the Executive Committee before the 2004 AGM, a proposal to establish a Modus Operandi for the Association's future.

Item 2(a) of our Constitution states—"To promote and encourage through the Association a close relationship with the people of Papua New Guinea". We achieve this by way of our past and ongoing support of the Papua New Guinea Consulate General in Brisbane and the Australia-Papua New Guinea Society Inc in Brisbane. We also have good representation in Papua New Guinea through our Vice-President, John Mudge, MBE. Discussions are underway with the Commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force on possible ways we can expand our "Annual Shields of Military Excellence" (currently 9 RQR and 31 RQR) in line with our Constitutional objective 2 (c) To offer awards to members of the Australian Army and Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

Due to the efforts of Committee member, Phil Ainsworth, we have entered into an agreement with CTI Multi Media Productions to produce an 8-10 minute video promo on the NGVR and PNGVR. The promo, funded by donations, will involve interviews with some of our NGVR members and senior PNGVR members and supplemented with WW2 film footage and photos from various members. With major sponsorship, the video promo will hopefully lead to a 40-50 minute video production on the history of the NGVR and PNGVR, similar to what is being done for the RAAF's G for George WW2 Bomber.

Finally, in February I accompanied Joe Fisk, Col Gould and Bob Collins to a meeting with the Hon. Mal Brough, MP., Minister assisting the Minister for Defence. We discussed with the Minister the history of the NGVR and PNGVR and our Members various PNG awards and our desire to have them recognized and listed on our service records. We also discussed our aim to have former Papua New Guinean members of PNGVR awarded the *Australian Service Medal 1945-1975* in recognition of their service in the PNGVR. More on these topics in the next newsletter.

I look forward to seeing our members at the Regimental Dinner and ANZAC Day march in Brisbane.

H N Green



DATE: Sunday 25 April 2004 **Brisbane Parade**

FORM UP: Left Side of George Street near Elizabeth Street—look for the banner.

ASSEMBLE FROM: 0930 Hours **PARADE STARTS:** 1000 Hours

FORMAT: Navy leading 2004 Parade. NGVR/PNGVR position number is approx 55 in the overall Order of March on the day.

DRESS: ANZAC Day dress or civilian with Jacket & head gear. ALL Non-members of NGVR and PNGVR, eg members children or grand children, wishing to march MUST first obtain permission (this is a requirement of the Brisbane ANZAC Day Parade Committee) contact Col Gould, Secretary ASAP on Ph: 07 33117480 or mobile 042 111 7092. Non-members to position themselves at the rear of the Unit. NB There will be TWO (2) *EYES LEFT*, first at the Saluting base and second at ANZAC Square.

NGVR SERVICE: A brief memorial NGVR service will be held in the Shrine of Memories, ANZAC Square immediately after we finish the march. All members are requested to attend.

JEEP TRANSPORT: Ring Secretary Col Gould NOW if you require jeep transport. Jeeps load near Myers in Elizabeth Street.

**30th Anniversary of the laying up of our Colours
ANZAC Day 25 April 1974.**

Member Bob Harvey Hall is compiling an article on our Queen's & regimental Colours from inception, presentation to laying up in 1974. If you have any personal information, photo's, stories etc, Bob would like to hear from you ASAP. Please contact Bob on Ph: 03 9727 3893 or email harveyhallmaj@ozemail.com.au

POST COURIER SNIPPET

ACQUITTED

3 March 2004

Brig. General Jerry Singirok, the man whose actions led to the Sandline mercenaries being kicked out of PNG, was acquitted of sedition charges by the National Court yesterday. Maj-General Singirok, the former Defence Force Commander, walked calmly from the courthouse but accused State prosecutors of being selective and vindictive during his trial. Maj-Gen Singirok, 47, told reporters after his acquittal that he knew he was innocent all along. He said that the State had failed to prosecute those who had tried to destroy lives while he was tried for saving thousands of innocent Papua New Guineans, when he terminated the Sandline contract with the State. National Court Judge Cathy Davani dismissed the sedition charges and discharged Maj-General Singirok, directing that he collect his K100 (A\$50) cash bail and walk out of the court room as a free man. Maj-General Singirok was stripped of his title of Commander of the Defence Force and sacked that day after he went to air (March 17, 1997) on National Broadcasting Commission, demanding then Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan and Defence Minister Mathias Ijape resign within 24 hours. Justice Davani found that Maj-Gen Singirok had no intention to either topple the government of the day or revolt against the head of the Commonwealth or the Parliament. Justice Davani held in her verdict that although Maj-Gen Singirok had bought his address to the Nation to the NBC studio, he had innocent intentions that he did not wish to bring the Queen and Head of State into hatred or contempt.

VALE

(Courtesy of PNGVR Member & Bother , Jim Dutton)

PNGVR Rifleman William 'Bill' Dutton

1/60006 1924 to 15th February 2004

"I was born at Burleigh Heads in Queensland in 1924 and grew up working on our parents farm at Maleny.

On his 17th birthday Bill decided to join his brother, George, in the 5th Light Horse (later to become the 5th Motorised Regiment) then encamped at the Gympie Showgrounds. So having advanced his age to the required 18 years, he enlisted as a Trooper and commenced military training at Gympie. Later he moved to Townsville for further training and a subsequent posting to New Guinea with the 19th Brigade where he saw action in various areas along the north coast of New Guinea. He departed New Guinea in 1945 and was discharged in Brisbane in 1946.

After completing several courses at the Brisbane technical College, Bill teamed up with an army mate and embarked on a career of contract building in Western Queensland.

In 1950 he received an invitation to the wedding of his brother, James, to nursing sister Jean Pringle which was to be held in Port Moresby. Happily this coincided with his appointment to a position with the Commonwealth Department of Works (CDW) so he was able to attend. Whilst with CDW he received postings to Losuia, Samarai, Rabaul and Kavieng where he was involved in building projects.

He remained with CDW until 1955 when he secured an appointment of Building Inspector with the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) and shortly after was transferred to Madang.

In 1956 he joined the PNGVR in Madang and served with this Unit until he return to Port Moresby in 1961. In 1956 whilst in Madang, Bill was responsible for the construction of the PNGVR Drill Hall next to the Madang Police Station. (The Drill Hall is still there and occupied by the Police). During a visit by the GOC Northern Command, the General asked Bill how he had managed to construct the building with the slender resources available from the Defence Department, to which Bill reportedly replied, " Well Sir, I don't think we should go into that!"- the resources of DCA probably contributed more than a little to the project.

Whilst in leave in Brisbane in 1961 Bill married Sister Vivienne Champ and when they returned to Port Moresby they took up residence in a DCA 'Hawksley' in 1st Street, Boroko. They remained in Port Moresby until 1966 when they moved to Perth, where Bill had been promoted to Chief Building Inspector. In 1969 another promotion saw Bill back in Brisbane where he subsequently had considerable input onto the construction of the new Brisbane airport.

Bill retired in 1984 to their home at Woody Point where he was able to indulge his passion for fishing. After fighting a losing battle with cancer for several years, Bill passed away on the 15th February 2004. He is survived by his wife, Vivienne, and two children, William Jnr. and Anne Marie.

AROUND THE TRAPS

WHERE IS SANDON ??? Five intrepid ex-PNGVR members and a friend Bernie, set out to answer that question earlier this year.

It is a nice coastal camping spot in northern NSW, east of Grafton and south of Yamba. The PNGVR team of explorers consisted of Barry Wright, Bob Collins, Jessie Chee, Joe Fisk and Peter Rogers. Barry and Bernie arrived at the RV, a coffee shop at Little Italy, exactly an hour LATE. (Something to do with faulty alarm clocks), by which time the rest of us were full of caffeine and making frequent trips to check out the amenities.

Finally the convoy got underway with Peter driving the lead vehicle and Joe Fisk navigating. Joe insisted that the very well sign posted turn-off was in fact not the correct one, but Peter remembered Joe's abilities in field navigation from long long ago, and Bob's warning that they could end up in Newcastle, and pulled up to wait. Sure enough everyone else had turned off at the right point, and wondered how the lead vehicle had suddenly become Tail-End Charlie.

After a bone jarring drive over corrugations (only road in the world where the vehicles drive in the wheel tracks completely off either side of the road rather than the graded bit), the group reached its objective. After the usual committee meeting, a beaut site was selected for our Taj Mahal under Bunya pines and a few meters from the river beach. Barry's magnificent tent and accoutrements for every conceivable camping need was speedily erected despite his constant directions. At this time it was almost high noon, so the beer was broken out before it got warm. Jesse and Bernie started the first of many fishing forays, which alas, yielded nothing but great stories of the ones that got away, and the ones that had to be thrown back because they were too big. To be fair they did come good on the last day.

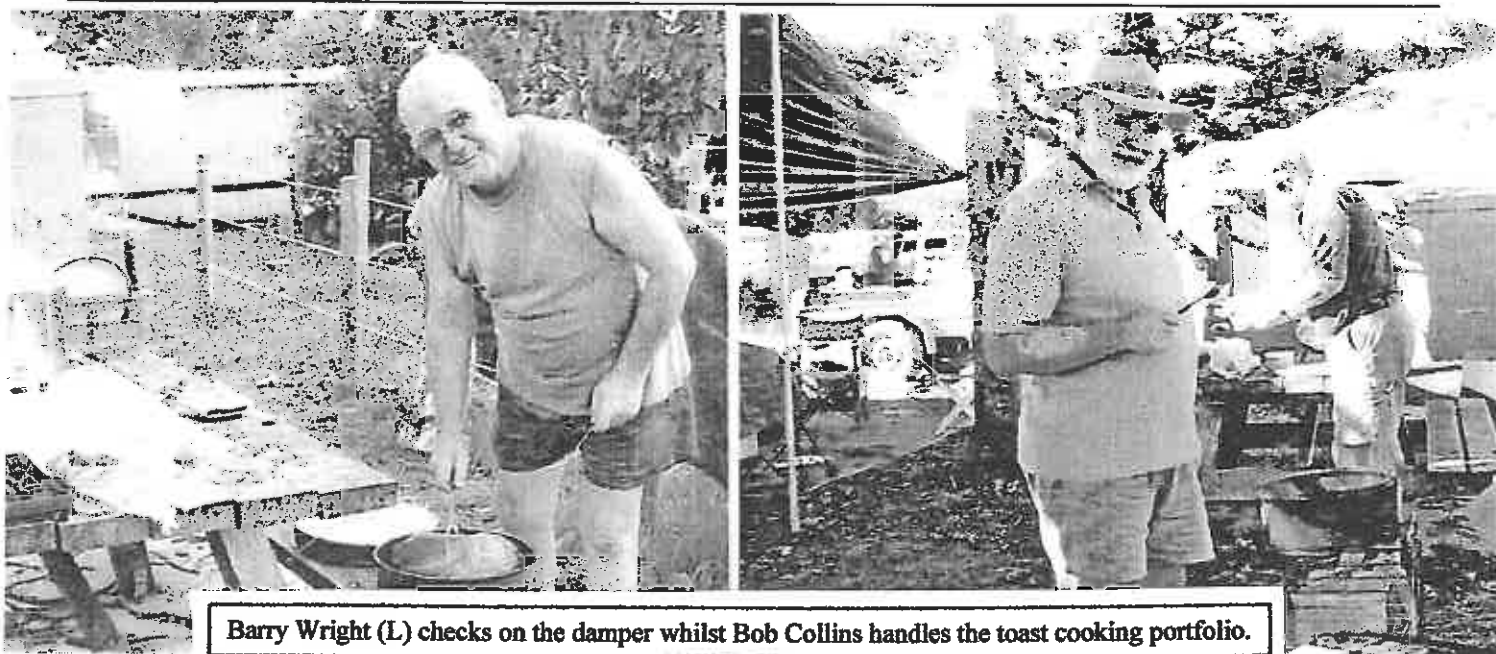
By late afternoon the heavens had opened and we were treated to a light and sound show, with a reported 4,000 lighting strikes in two hours. The lady in the tent next door took refuge in her vehicle and also during every storm after, leaving her hubbie and teenage twin girls to fend for themselves. Probably because we didn't offer to join her, she came to the conclusion that we were all gay.

The rain bucketed down, but the Taj and two hoochies stood up amazingly. When the hail as big as golf balls came, Bob drove his 4WD half into the Taj and Peter nudged in close behind. The brave ones led by Joe and Jesse threw carpets over the exposed parts of the cars. Joe, as well as being Mentioned in Dispatches for heroism under (hail) fire, earned the Purple Heart for a direct hit on the shoulder. Barry used a shiny helmet for protection that looked suspiciously like a wash basin. When the storm ended we had piles of natural ice for the eskies. The third night bought a howling wind storm but the last night was magic.

Of course the elements didn't stop the formal dinners each evening, superbly prepared by Barry, and complete with sherry in crystal glasses, silver candelabra and port in silver goblets.

Barry did all the cooking, and managed the camp to the 9th degree over the protests of the rest. It was agreed that the main problem was that there were all chiefs and no Indians—but what else could you expect.

Beaut food, cold beer, good wine and good company supplemented with fond reminiscences in a breathtakingly beautiful place. What more could a man want?



Barry Wright (L) checks on the damper whilst Bob Collins handles the toast cooking portfolio.

ANZAC DAY RECEPTION

All members and their guests are cordially invited to attend the ANZAC Day reception following the Brisbane march.

Date: Sunday 25 April 2004 **Time:** 11.15 am

Venue: Upstairs function room (Air conditioned)
Exchange Hotel—corner of Charlotte & Edward Streets

Cost: \$20 per person payable at the door. Exact money would be appreciated. Includes limited beer / wine and lollie water. Light finger food to be served from 12.30 pm.

Trade Store: Our Trade Store will be open in the function room from 12.00 noon until 1.30 pm sharp to take membership fees and sell various Q Store items.

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 23 APRIL 2004

REGIMENTAL MIXED DINNER REUNION

United Services Club, Brisbane

Dress:- Mess Dress / ANZAC Day Dress / Evening wear

Assemble:- 1830 Hours

Pre-dinner Sherry:- 1900 Hours

Dinner:- 1930 Hours

Cost:- \$70 per person includes Dinner/Sherry/Wine & Port

BOOK NOW—SEATING STRICTLY LIMITED

Ph: Bob Collins 041 383 1397

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SUNDAY 27 JUNE 2004

RESERVE FORCES DAY BRISBANE MARCH

Form up:- 0930 Hours March commences:- 1000 Hours

Assemble:- CREEK Street between Ann & Adelaide Sts.

Route:- From Creek St along Adelaide St to George St.

Disperse in George St.

ANZAC Day dress with full medals.

More details next Newsletter

Please support this special day for all Reservists.

THURSDAY 1 JULY 2004

MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL SERVICE

Shrine of Memories—ANZAC Square Brisbane
10.15 am for 10.30 am Service
ANZAC Day dress with full medals
All members and guests most welcome.
For more information contact:- Joe Fisk Ph 3208 5298

SATURDAY 27 JULY 2004

MID YEAR BUSH DINNER—JIMBOOMBA

Hosted by Pam & Barry Wright
Phone Barry now on 07 5546 9865 to book your place.
Visit for the night OR camp over on the Saturday night.

Cost:- \$ 30 per person includes sherry/dinner/sweets/Port
Plenty of fire places to keep you warm.
BYO drinks and relax around the giant bon fire (weather permitting)
Cheques to Bob Collins,
"Capricornia"
45 / 121 Surf Parade, BROADBEACH Q 4218
Ph: 041 383 1397



Bring your tent, camper trailer, motor home, or swag and camp the night.

BYO Bacon & eggs etc for breakfast

Message from the Welfare Officer, Paul Brown

Each week, I telephone or visit Association members who may be ill or just in need of a friendly visitor. The Association considers welfare work an important part of its aims and objectives for its members.

If any member is aware of a comrade who is ill or would like to talk with our Welfare Officer, please contact me on 07 32833939 or 040 264 4181. Confidentiality is assured.

Paul Brown.



Member Max Hayes at the dedication of the Memorial

MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO DIED ON THE MONTEVIDEO MARU 1st July 1942

On the 23 rd January 1942 the Japanese invaded Rabaul, on the island of New Britain, and quickly defeated the small Australian garrison—LARK Force

About 160 of the Australian soldiers who surrendered were massacred in February, at Tol Plantation.

On the 22 June 1942, the Japanese ordered 845 Australian POW's and 206 civilian internees to board the Japanese ship Montevideo Maru, for transport to Japan. The ship bore no markings to indicate that it carried POW's.

The POW's were members of the 2/22nd Battalion AIF, New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, an anti-tank battery, an anti-aircraft battery a coastal defence battery, a RAAF group and a detachment of the 2/10th Field Ambulance, uniquely the 2/22nd Band were all members of the Salvation Army bands.

On the 1st July 1942, an American submarine the USS Sturgeon, attacked and sank the Montevideo Maru unaware that more than 1,000 POW's were locked in its holds.

There were no survivors—no indication of its sinking nor of the tragic loss of life was given by the Japanese Government.

The sinking of the Montevideo Maru is the largest wartime disaster in Australian history.

VISIT TO BRISBANE BY THE HON. LADY CAROL KIDU, MP PAPUA NEW GUINEA MINISTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

On Thursday evening the 4 March 2004, the Australian -Papua New Guinea Association Inc, hosted a dinner at the Queensland Irish Club for Lady Kidu which was attended by over 250 guests.

Representing our Association was Bruce & Jenny Crawford, Col & Pattie Gould, Bob & Jenny Collins, Norm & Joan Mundy, Barry & Pam Wright, Paul Brown, Joe & Val Fisk & Tom (Snappy Tom) Dowling. Lady Kidu accompanied by the new Papua New Guinea Consul General, Mr Paul E Nerau, LLB, and official guests were piped into the function room by a Irish Club Piper.

A Guard of Honour was provided by PNGVR members in Mess Dress and the party was led to the top table by the Piper followed by Col Gould and Paul Brown carrying the Australian and Papua New Guinea flags.

Lady Kidu spoke on the role played by women in tradition PNG Society and the need today to combine tradition with the increasing globalization amongst nations, and the development of economic growth. Lady Kidu, originally from Brisbane, is the only female member of the 109 seat Papua New Guinea Parliament. The 'Lucky Door' prize—dinner for 2 at the Irish Club—was won by our own Snappy Tom.

MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION Ballarat, Victoria, 7 February 2004 By Max Hayes

The commemoration of the \$1.8 million 130 meter polished black granite wall at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens to honour and name the 35,675 Australian P.O.W. from the Boer War and subsequent wars took place on Friday 6th February 2004.

The P.O.W. Wall commemoration was a much publicised event with our Governor General, Major General Michael Jeffery, Lt. General Cosgrove, the Victorian Premier and other dignitaries taking a prominent part in the proceedings to commemorate our P.O.W.'s until the Korean War concluded in 1953. (There were no Australian POW's in Vietnam.)

This event was well covered by all national and regional media. Some 8,000 including about 500 surviving POW's attended this event.

By contrast, whilst the City of Ballarat, as a sponsor for the commemorations, worked hard locally to make the events of the 6th and 7th of February a success, it was almost impossible to achieve any publicity for the Montevideo Maru commemoration which took place the following day on the 7th February.

I personally contacted ABC Radio and TV and Melbourne newspapers—none sought fit to refer to this event, save by obscure oblique references relating to the ship, and none advised of the Saturday Montevideo Maru commemoration, making this event a virtual secret.

Prior word of mouth and phone calls by those interested, did however attract some 400 people to the **Montevideo Maru Memorial dedication** on a beautiful day in Ballarat. Mr Kim Beasley, MP was in attendance, having a personal interest in the loss of his Uncle, a missionary carpenter who did not survive.

It was pleasing to see the Veterans' Band of the Salvation Army in attendance and their performance was much appreciated. It was the Brunswick Salvation Army Band which volunteered in 1941, en masse, to join the 2/22nd and all were lost, save for one, in the Rabaul events in 1942.

Presiding Officer for the Montevideo Maru dedication was Brig. Keith Rossi, AM, OBE, RFD, ED. (Retd). Introductory welcomes were given by the Mayor of Ballarat; Mr Norman Furness, President of the 2/22nd LARK Force Association (one of those members who escaped Rabaul after the Japanese invasion of 23/1/42), and Mr John Clark, representing relatives of those who died on the Montevideo Maru and Mr Ian Hodges of the Australian War Memorial.

It then fell to Mrs Lorna Johnson, M.I.D, (nee Whyte) who came from New Zealand for the dedication and who was formally of the Australian Army Nursing Service and was captured in Rabaul and transported to Japan as a POW on the "Naruto Maru" where she remained until the end of the war, to address those present and unveil the polished black granite monument. The monument is situated adjacent to the centre of the long POW wall.

Today, there are only three of the nurses who were taken to Japan alive (one Army, one Missionary and one civilian.)

The dedication was led by Canon John May, MBE, who was Padre of the 2/22nd Battalion, who was also captured and taken to Japan.

The monument lists the services of; 2/22nd; NGVR; various Army units; RAAF and Field Ambulance. There appears to have been several accidental omissions in naming some units on the memorial, eg 1st Independent Company; the battery at Praed Point; Fortress Engineers/Signals/Artillery and those of the Norwegian crew of the "Herstein" sunk at Rabaul. It is intended to have the surface reground and etched with further unit names.

On the Friday night, a book by Carl Johnson, titled "Little Hell", the story of the 2/22nd Battalion and LARK Force, was launched by Kim Beasley. The 320 page book on A4 size, case bound with dust jacket is priced \$120 + \$15 postage/handling can be obtained from History House.

Email jenkinaust@optusnet.com.au

The Association was represented by Bob & Dawn Harvey-Hall, Ray Doust and Max Hayes.

Max Hayes.

MY NGVR / ANGAU DAYS © By Cpl Henry J McCauley NG 2366 / NGX 313

The early days:

I was born in Adelaide in 1918. My father was a labourer and things were pretty tough at home with three children. I left home at age 16 as I was sick of living rough and poorly. I started jumping trains and getting what work I could.

By the time I turned 18 I had worked picking grapes during the harvest in Barmera and Red Cliffs in NSW and had also worked in Queensland. I worked on a sheep station, "Tarella", out of the opal fields at White Cliffs in NSW.

Basically I kept on hoboing. At one stage I ended up in Western Australia where I was caught trying to jump a train. The policeman who caught me was a good chap—I later met him again just before the Japanese entered the war—he had joined the Army and was off to the Middle East, where, unfortunately, he was killed. A Police boat in Adelaide was named after him—the "Archie Badnock".

He had gotten on the train at Tarcoola and caught us at Cook. At the time myself and some others were just about starving on one of the open wagons. He said "Look! I am a police officer and you fellows are under arrest. If you go east or west I will see you tomorrow and if you go north or south you will starve in the desert". The next day he took us back to Tarcoola and they to Port Augusta where we were tried for jumping a train. We got 14 days jail in Green Bush, the jail there.

While I was in the jail I was told to go and see a recruiter for labour on the railway gangs. I went and saw him and when he had a group together his first words were "Are there any returned soldiers here"—obviously WW1 Soldiers were going to get preference for work as navies.

As it happened I was given a job. We were issued with some rations and then put on another train to work at the 430 mile camp on the East West railway line out towards Perth. Things were pretty tough at the camp with temperatures well into the 40's and no refrigeration. After some months I was given a free pass to Palmerston (Kalgoorlie) where I worked for a while.

I kept jumping trains around Western Australia for a while and then got caught trying to jump a boat back to Adelaide. I was forced to pay my fare—seven

pounds, which was a lot of money in those days The ship was the "Manunda" which later saw service in New Guinea. I actually came back from New Guinea on the "Manunda", by then a hospital ship, when I came down on leave during the war.

After I got to Adelaide I started jumping trains again and went up north to Quorn, out from Port Augusta towards Alice Springs, where the Ghan train went in those days. You had to take all your own food on the train back then—a loaf of bread or whatever. I used to go to the engine driver and get a billy of hot water from his steam gun, and go back to the carriage to make a cuppa'.

From Quorn I went to Alice Springs where there was no work so a few of us tried to get a vehicle ride out to Tennant Creek. I eventually got a ride with Richard Baldock who was the mail contractor to Tennant Creek. There was no work in Tennant Creek either and it was hard to get a ride out of town for some time. So I camped in the bush behind the town.

The only free water available was the 7 mile bore out of town, but a friendly chap used to occasionally unlock his tank behind the ANZ Bank which saved us the long walk out to the 7 mile bore just to get a drink of water. He used to say "I will let you fill your billy this time chaps but don't make a habit of it".

I eventually got another ride up to Birdum with another contractor, Bob Middleton, who used to pick up his oil supplies from the railhead for the mine in the area, the "Rising Sun".

I eventually ended up in Darwin where I worked in the building trade for about 8 months as a labourer. However the Union bosses eventually put an end to that. I was in the North Australian Workers Union at the time and we always seemed to be on strike. It was OK for the Union bosses—they used to go out to the wharves and get a job which paid double time etc, but we went without.

Arrival in New Guinea:

In 1940 I was reading the local Darwin paper and was reading about New Guinea so I decided to go and have a look. I sailed to Port Moresby on the "Montoro" via Thursday Island. I looked for work in Port Moresby and got a job near Hanuabada working for Bob Stubbs as a builders labourer.

At the time there was a lot of talk in Port Moresby about the New Guinea gold fields so I got a berth on the "Machdui" which sailed to Samarai and Rabaul.

I tried to get a job in Rabaul, and, when asked what I did, I replied "I am a cook". I was told that natives did all the cooking around Rabaul so I had to get back on the boat which then went to Kavieng and then Lae and Salamaua.

I got off at Salamaua and then caught a plane, a Ford, up to Wau. The plane was so loaded up that it had to go right out to sea first in order to gather height to get over the ranges. From Wau I got a little plane down to Bulolo. The pilot was a chap called Gerry Pentland. Later in the war I met him in Madang when I was with ANGAU—he was in the RAAF then and stationed down in the Trobriand Islands.

The local manager at Bulolo was surprised to see me when I went and applied for a job and he said, "You mean you came all the way up here looking for work?" to which I replied "Yes". I didn't know at the time but Bulolo Gold Dredging did almost all of their recruiting and employment down in Sydney. He was so surprised he said, "Well if you came all this way we will have to give you a job". I was employed and sent down to Number 8 dredge which was at Bulwa.

Well I must say that the money was good and there was no taxation in the Territory then. My official job on the dredge was "stern oiler" in other words a greaser. The dredge worked three shifts and we alternated shifts.

I did not know at the time but Tom Lega and Jim and Tom Keenan also worked on No 8 dredge. No doubt at different times and sat at the same meal table with them.

On my days off I used to pack a swag and go walkabout to see some of the country around Bulkwa.

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles:

On the 22nd January, 1942, all males between the ages of 18 and 45 were called up to full time duty, and so I enlisted in the NGVR in Wau.

Groups of us were taken into a large hall in Wau to

attend a meeting. Horrie Niall advised us that, as we were all fit and within the specified age group, we had been called up. After being enlisted I was sent down to Bulolo to be issued with my gear. I actually wore most of my own gear, shirt, shorts etc which I had made up by Chinese tailors in Darwin. I kept my own mosquito net as I felt it was better that the Army issue one. I had this net from my days in Australia and felt it was easier to put up with just a couple of sticks.

We were also issued with bandoliers and a rifle—the bandoliers were leftovers from WW1. My impression was that a lot of the gear the Army issued us with was made before I was born in 1918.

Training:

Our training was pretty limited and consisted mainly of weapons training. On one range shoot I got a bull's-eye and the instructor, Phil Tuckey, who also worked on No 8 dredge (his brother was later killed) made some comment. I replied "Oh! That was just a fluke". He asked what I was aiming at and when I replied the bull's-eye he commented, "Well if you were aiming at it and hit it, how can it be

a fluke? We also received some training on the Vickers and Lewis machine guns.

Service on the Markham:

One of my early jobs was to go down to Kirklands Camp on the Markham River. We were sent down to patrol and observe. It would probably be fair to say that I was responsible for the initial establishment of Kirklands Camp. I am not sure just why Kirklands was chosen but feel that it must have been a crossing point before the war.

Quite often if would only be either 2 NGVR or myself and a police boi who carried out the patrols. I was never aware just why I was by myself at times but never queried the fact.

Our job was to patrol up and down the Markham River, and from time to time, cross the river and find out from the villages whether Japs had been around. We used to patrol as far down as Nabzab.

Other tasks included loading native canoes to carry cargo either across the river or up or down it, no doubt to get supplies to other patrols in the area. I never traveled with these canoes so I am not exactly sure of their destinations. Many of them went to Nabzab where they were off loaded for carrying over the other side.

Another job was recruitment of natives. From time to time they used to hide in the mountains as they knew we were recruiting, and I would have to say to a village, "OK, *upela nau tok tok long garamut nau tok long all boi long bus nau tokim mipela laik 2 pela ten boi ikamup long me long wok*". It was very hard at times to get cargo bois we were not paying cash but paying in promises.

We hardly had enough rations to look after ourselves and they knew it. We were never given any money—I had a 5 pound note in January when I was called up and still had the same note that October.

Any information we did gather was sent back by runner as we did not have any radio with us at the time. Occasionally someone with a radio would come down and our big thrill was actually listening to the news on it.

I must say that while I was down on the Markham I hardly knew what day it was. Quite often Japanese planes flew over and, when they did, the natives would stand up and wave their lap-laps while I would hide under whatever was handy at the time.

While I was at Kirklands the talk came down that a Japanese plane had been shot down and the pilot had been saved by the Gabensis natives and taken to Lae. I was sent to Gabensis Village by long boat to find out the full story.

When I got there I asked why that had taken the Japanese pilot to Lae and was told, "*Alright supos wan pela pilot bilong balus bilong yupela I falldown mipela can bringim long yu. Nausupos I bilong Japan mipela can brigim long em*".

I thought that this was fair enough as what would I do with him? I had no facilities for prisoners and was so hungry at the time I would have been tempted to cook and eat him.

I suffered a lot from malaria at Kirklands. We had quinine (although not a lot) but had very little good food and suffered from malnutrition as well. One officer I met from the 2/5 Independent Company, Lt Bill McDonald, later died from scrub typhus over the other side of the Markham.

One bush tucker we used to eat were the ends of

wild pumpkins. We ate the vines and the stalks that went into the pumpkins as well. The whole lot used to get boiled up. I can remember saying to Lt McDonald "It's pretty crook when things are so bad we have to eat this".

Extracts from my Diary March 1942 to when I left New Guinea for the first time:

Unfortunately my earlier diary was lost but this one starts on 26/3/42.

Checking dumps from the Wampit River to the Markham:

Left Timni with Jock Martens and walked to the Wampit River camp, had Kai and walked on to Dargan (Bankara) village and camped. Next day walked out to Mari village, came back to Dargan and camped. On 28th (March 1942) came on to the Wampit where I went down with fever.

29/3 Alone I passed through Dargan to Mari where I camped. Plenty of mosquitoes all along the valley. I called it the death valley from the Wampit to the Markham. That night I camped at Mari where a snake jumped from the palm thatched roof onto a mouse close to my bed.

30/3 A carrier and I walked over the Kunia Ridge to the Markham dump where I checked cargo. Came back to Mari and camped the night.

31/3 Heard our aircraft bombing Lae. Got 3 carriers off the Tul-tul and went on to Dargan where most of the natives had gone bush in case the Japs came up the valley. I checked the cargo there and walked to the Wampit.

1/4 Lt W McDonald, Jack McCabe and myself and 3 police boys went to Dargan to bring back cargo but there were no carriers. We got a boi to hit the garamut, a large hollow log which sounds for miles like an African drum. Two hours later, 12 bois who had heard the message on the garamut came in. McDonald and McCabe went on to the Wampit and a police boi and myself loaded 12 bois with cargo for the Wampit.

5/4 Lt Noblett's men came into camp at the Wampit.

10/4 7 men went through to Mari. Duncan Boyd stayed with me. I got fever on the 9th April, perspired bad. Still crook on the 11th. Capt Lyons, Larry Baker and C Eldred left for Mari. Jack Goodwin was accidentally shot down at the Markham—he was my winch man on the No 8 dredge.

TO BE CONTINUED next issue

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