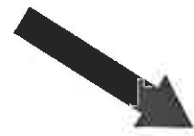


AMENDMENT

In the last issue of Harim Tok Tok, the date for the Mid Year Bush Dinner was incorrectly shown as Saturday 27 July 2004. The CORRECT date is **SATURDAY 17 JULY**.



Gremlins in the computer keyboard me thinks.



MID YEAR BUSH DINNER—JIMBOOMBA **SATURDAY 17 JULY 2004**

Phone Barry Wright now on 07 5546 9865 to book your place.
\$30 per person includes **FREE** camp site, **FREE** bon fire (weather permitting)
FREE blazing fire places, a great dinner, excellent port and lots of great stories
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Christie Corporate Building
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Phone: 07 3221 7915 Fax: 07 3229 6084 Email: pngcg@kundubne.org

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Monday to Friday

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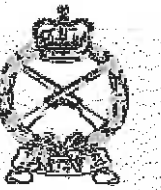
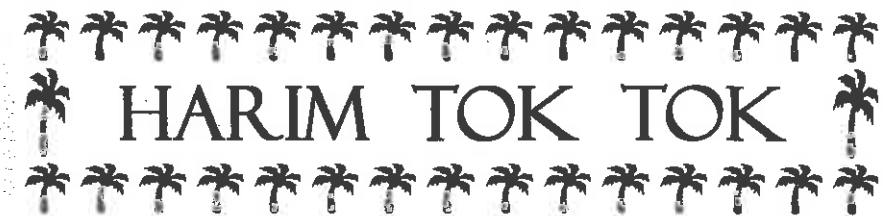
All correspondence to:-

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EVERTON PARK Qld. 4053

Ph/Fax: 07 3311 7480 Mobile:- 042 111 7092
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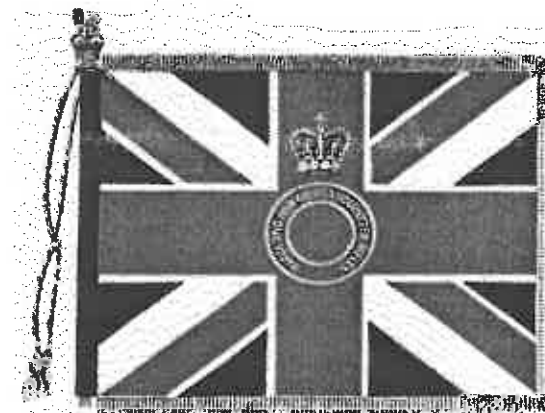
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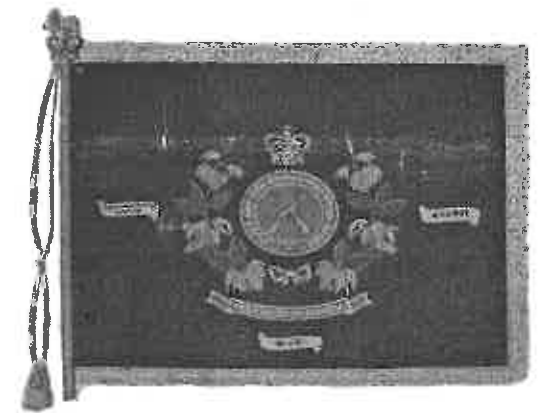
NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
AND
PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC.



VOLUME 35 APRIL 2004



QUEEN'S COLOUR



REGIMENTAL COLOUR

BATTLE HONOURS
RABAU WAU
SOUTH—WEST PACIFIC
1942—43

30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAYING UP OF THE COLOURS IN THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA

25th April 1974 to 25th April 2004

President's update.....

On the 17th May 1969, our Battalion was presented with its Queen's and Regimental Colours at a Ceremonial Parade at Igam Barracks Lae. The presentation was made by the then Administrator, Colonel D O Hay, CBE.DSO.

Officials at the ceremony included:- Major-General N A Vickery, CBE, MC, ED—CMF Member representing the Military Board; Brig R T Eldridge, OBE—Commander of PNG Command and Captain R R Cole, OBE, MC, - Honorary Colonel.

Ceremonial music was provided by the Pipes and Drums of the 2nd Battalion, Pacific Island Regiment.

The Colours embody the history, spirit and traditions of the Regiment to which they belong. They are highly valued, carefully guarded and treated with great respect.

Background:

Colours are the development of the banners of mediaeval nobility and trace their origins to the ensigns and standards of the Romans, Greeks and Egyptians. Their evolution has been due to the need for some mark of distinction between families, tribes and races, and to provide a conspicuous rallying point in battle.

Over the centuries various practices were adopted in relation to banners and colours. It was not until September 1743 that a royal warrant decreed the practice of each battalion having only two colours—the **Queen's Colour** and the **Regimental Colour**.

The Queen's Colour symbolizes for its holders their loyalty to their country and their Queen; the Regimental Colour their loyalty to the Regiment and their comrades.

In battle, Colours were carried by Ensigns in the centre of the front rank where they could be readily seen and recognized. They invariably became the centre of the most bitter fighting, and in 1813, the rank of Colour Sergeant was introduced to give the Ensigns some local protection. Colours were last carried into action on 26 January, 1881, by the 58th Regiment of Foot (now 2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment) at Laings Nek in South Africa.

All Colours derive from the Sovereign, who personally approves their design and presents them, or arranges for their presentation. Because of their historic and symbolic significance, Colours, before being presented, are always concentrated at a special ceremony when God's blessing on them is asked.

Battle Honours:

The first battle honour, or honorary distinction as it was once correctly called, was awarded in the British Army to the 18th Irish Regt by King William the III for its service at the Siege of Namur in Belgium in 1695. Thereafter, the custom of granting honours became more common. For example all the Regiments that took part in the defence of Gibraltar during the Great Siege of 1779-1783 were allowed to bear the title 'Gibraltar'.

As battle honours were gradually introduced, they were placed on clothing and other appointments, such as drums, as well as the unit colours.

The PNGVR Regimental Colour bears the Battle Honours of :-

RABAUW WAU SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC 1942-43

Laying up of the Regiment's Colours—ANZAC Day 1974—Canberra:

From the initial letter to AHQ in 1961 by Major Richard Newman, raising the issue of Regimental Colours, to ANZAC Day 1974 when our Colours were laid up, many dedicated men in PNGVR and in Papua New Guinea were involved and were outstanding in their efforts, dedication and co-operation. I remember well, for example, the firm insistence of then Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Bob Cole, OBE.MC. that the '*Dalbertis Creeper*' (New Guinea Flame of the Forest) was the appropriate surrounds for our Regimental Colour in lieu of the standard Australian Wattle. I remember to, Captain Phil Ainsworth, B.Econ, formally of Admin Coy and now one of our Executive Committee members, who drafted a coloured drawing of the '*Dalbertis Creeper*' for HQ's consideration. There was no such thing as a colour photo copier around in those days.

APRIL 25 1974 in Canberra was a was a magnificent day. Some 100 members of PNGVR and other personnel were flown in by C130 for the laying up ceremony. The last CO of PNGVR, Lt. Colonel Peter Cole accompanied me in PNGVR uniform. Three outstanding CO's and 3 Honorary Colonels were in the official party—notably Colonel Mal Bishop, MM., Honorary Colonels Bob Cole, OBE.MC and J R McCarthy, CBE.

The Canberra Times reported on the Ceremony:-

PNG NEWS MEDIA REPORTS

Air Niugini and a PNG Trade Promotion Venture are expected to take up space in one of Ms Ming's Shanghai buildings, according to sources. The Chinese delegation also looked at an 80-hectare site earmarked for an industrial development centre at Ulaveo.

Race for power 3 April 2004

The race for political power is on again now that the Court had rejected the election of Sir Pato Kakaraya as the next Governor General which could have an impact on the running of our nation for the next few years. The gate to power has been ajar since February, when the protected period for no-confidence motions in Parliament expired. (NB Parliament was adjourned on the 21 January until 29 June which is the subject of a Supreme Court challenge by the Ombudsman Commission as being unconstitutional)

You can't table a motion of no confidence if the Speaker and the 100 plus members of Parliament are not there in the meeting chamber of Parliament. Once Parliament is recalled, the plotting and counter plotting which has been conducted across the nation and back rooms will shift to the corridors of the Haus Tambaran.

House to sit from 20 April 5 April 2004

Parliament will meet on April 20—for its third attempt at electing a Governor-General Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare said. The April 20 session of Parliament is likely to test the strength of the Somare-Maladina coalition government with a vote of no-confidence expected. The grace period for votes of no-confidence ended in February 2004. Sir Pato was elected Governor-General on 4 December 2003, following a previous Supreme Court ruling that ousted earlier Governor-General elect Sir Albert Kipalan. Sir Albert initiated court

proceedings that saw Sir Pato's election annulled. Interest in the now vacant post of Governor-General has been expressed by PNG Author and first Foreign Affairs Secretary Sir Paulias Matane, as well as former Public Service Commissioner and Chief Ombudsman, Simon Pentanu. (NB Sitting now deferred until 27 April)

Investment Boom 5 April 2004

More new businesses are expected in PNG and the region in the next 10 years says Kina Securities Ltd's Managing Director Syd Yates in Cairns. New investors will be from Malaysia and other countries in the South East Asian region and not Europe and Australia. He said in 10 years, major new businesses would be established in PNG undertaken by companies that are new to PNG and the region. "I foresee that with globalisation initiatives, PNG will eventually be recognized as a resource rich nation, both in natural and people resources".

Single currency bid too complex—PM 5 April 2004

Pacific Island states needed to have a good economic base to support a regional currency such as Europe's euro, Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare said yesterday. He was giving reporters in Port Moresby an advance notice of his views on a mooted regional currency before flying to NZ for a special meeting with other island leaders. He said it took Europe 20 to 30 years before the issues surrounding the acceptance of a single currency now known as the euro were sorted out.

New aircraft replaces F28 6 April 2004

The new aircraft on the Air Niugini fleet is the BAE 146, which is flying the Port Moresby-Cairns route and other PNG routes. It replaces the F28 aircraft. This is the interim arrangement from 1 April to

June 30 this year before replacement aircraft—Fokker 100 series— from the highly regarded Fokker stable comes into operation. The passing of the F28 from our skies marks the end of a long history of servicing the Cairns- Port Moresby route for Air Niugini and serves to highlight the airline's commitment to ongoing modernization of its international fleet, as well as to strict compliance to Federal Airport Authority (FAA) noise requirements. The F28 used on the Port Moresby-Cairns route will now continue as part of the airline's domestic fleet.

K28 Million power plant for ENB 6 April 2004

A new K28 million power plant for East New Britain province would soon be set up in Ulugunan near Kokopo. The plant is supplementary to the Warangoi Hydro scheme and the Kerevat generators.

Ombudsman to pursue court case despite recall of Parliament 6 April 2004

The Ombudsman Commission will not withdraw its court action to declare the five-month parliamentary adjournment (21 January to 29 June 2004) as unconstitutional. Chief Ombudsman Ila Geno said. He is still proceeding with the action despite the Prime Minister's announcement that he is recalling Parliament on 20 April to elect the new governor-general.

Government plans to open promotional offices in Australia 14 April 2004

The Government will open a tourism promotional bureau in Sydney with branches in North Queensland at a cost of K 10 million. Tourism Minister Nick Kuman said the aim was to promote tourism in Australia to get visitors into PNG.

Courtesy Post Courier & The National

AROUND THE TRAPS

NGVR WAR SERVICE MEDALS RECEIVED.

Carolyn Wharton of Runaway Bay was very happy and elated to finally received her father's war service medals after some 61 years. Carolyn's father was **IVAN PATERSON**, a New Zealander, and who was one of the original members of the **New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR)**. Ivan saw war service in and around Wau & Salamaua and was involved in the well know raid on Salamaua. Ivan was born in 1900 and passed away in 1984.

Carolyn is sending Ivan's medals to her Bother Jon in New Zealand for mounting and safe-keeping for the family.

PNG urged to invest in Australia
23 March 2004

The new Consul General for PNG in Brisbane, Mr Paul E Nerau, LLB., is promoting "reverse fit" to draw more Papua New Guineans to invest in Australia. He said the idea of "reverse fit" was to promote Australia to Papua New Guineans back home so they could invest overseas. They should go to Australia to start up businesses or get involved in partnerships with businesses in Australia.

Foreign Reserves at K 1.7 B
25 March 2004

The Government is expecting a rise in foreign reserves held by the central bank after it reached Kina 1.702 billion (US \$526 million) by the end of last month. The favorable news about a much lower inflation outcome of 8.4 per cent for 2003 and sustained high prices for most of PNG's mineral and non-mineral exports led to an increase inflow of foreign exchange.

Kina 1 B from Fisheries
29 March 2004

PNG's tuna industry revenue will reach Kina 1 billion annually in 10 years with the increase in tuna processing plants around the country, but Fisheries Minister and member for Madang Alois Kingsley said Papua New Guineans were not participating effectively in the industry. He said PNG waters contained some of the most productive tuna stocks in the world but foreign vessels were harvesting the annual catch of 170,000 tons. This country has the potential to be the central point for tuna fishing in the region and to make this happen will mean all parties, including Papua New Guineans and the private sector, coming together to achieve this for mutual benefit.

Law and Order drive expected to entice Australian Investors
30 March 2004

PNG business and government leaders meeting their Australian counterparts this week are hoping that a planned law and order drive in PNG will help entice private investors back to their struggling economy. Australian private sector interest in PNG is at an all time low even though government aid to the former

colony us due to reach record highs under a five-year crime and corruption fighting plan set to get underway this year. As part of a more aggressive policy towards struggling nations in the Pacific, Australia has proposed deploying some 300 police and bureaucrats in PNG to fight rampant crime and corruption and improve government finances.

Japan may fund new Markham Bridge
30 March 2004

The Japanese government may be prepared to pay for a new bridge to replace the Markham Bridge that was badly damaged by floods recently during which time a section of the bridge collapsed into the river.

Jeepneys here in 3 years
31 March 2004

PNG could be manufacturing its own jeepneys in three years time if an agreement is reached between officials of PNG and the Philippines bears fruit. The move is a long term part of an agreement reached to start importing jeepneys from the Philippines. Land Transport Board David Opa said a trial of the jeepneys would start in May. A licence has been granted to the Sealand Resources Company Ltd to import and sell jeepneys from the Philippines for the next 3 years until it is able to start manufacturing jeepneys in Papua New Guinea.

Fuel Shortages in Highlands
1 April 2004

A serious fuel shortage is looming in most of the Highlands provinces. This follows the stopping of fuel runs by major suppliers, Shell and BP, past Goroka, due to the deteriorating conditions on sections of the Highlands Highway. Road Transport Assoc President John Lacey said they are particularly concerned about the Daulo Pass area and sections of the highway near Chuave in the Chimbu Province. A large section of the road near the top of the Daulo Pass on the Chimbu side is on the verge of collapse. He said that if the failing sections of the highway are not fixed immediately and there is total collapse the highway may be closed to up to 3 months.

No plans to expand OK Tedi after 2010
1 April 2004

OK Tedi Mining Ltd will not consider moves to expand the life of its mine after the mine life is up in 2010. Managing Director Keith Faulkner said the rules of the company and its shareholders would not permit any more exploration work to expand the mine's life. The company would maintain its current production levels—200,000 tonnes of copper and 500,000 ounces of gold every year.

G-G Ousted
1 April 2004

The appointment of Sir Pato Kakaraya as the next Governor-General of Papua New Guinea was declared null and void yesterday by the Supreme Court in Port Moresby. This means the Vice Rega' post becomes vacant until Parliament is called back to hold fresh elections for the position. Sir Michael Somare immediately announced Parliament will be recalled to deal with the issue of the nomination and election of the new Governor-General.

April 28 Hearing on Parliament's adjournment
2 April 2004

The Supreme Court will hear on April 28, the Chief Ombudsman's application to declare Parliament's adjournment from 21 January to 29 June 2004 as unconstitutional. The matter will be heard before a five-judge bench. The Chief Ombudsman named the National Parliament, acting Speaker Jeffrey Nape, the National Executive Council, Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare, and Attorney-General Francis Damem as defendants.

Chinese team hints on K400 million hotel for East New Britain
3 April 2004

A Chinese business delegation has announced plans to invest more than US \$100 million (K400 m) in a 5-Star hotel and golf course in East New Britain province. The delegation's visit followed Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare's recent trip to China, in which East New Britain Governor Leo Dion participated to try and attract investors to his province. This appears to have paid off with Shanghai businesswoman, Ms Ming Hayien, expressing interest in building a 5-star international hotel. The PNG Tourism Promotion Authority,

" The recent disbanding of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles marks the end of one of the most famous battalions in Australia's military history.

The Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour of the PNGVR were laid up yesterday after the ANZAC Day service at the Australian War Memorial. The commandant of the battalion Colonel H N Green, together with several other officers, flew from New Guinea for yesterday's ceremony. The official party included three former commanding officers and three honorary colonels of the battalion.

Colonel Green said last night that officers and members of the PNGVR were upset at the disbanding of the battalion without prior consultation of senior officers and members of PNGVR. He said that he realized the move was inevitable. Australia could not continue to support a regiment of the caliber of the PNGVR in another country. (NB PNG was granted independence the following year in 1975). "Our regiment was fully integrated with about 80% PNG national enlistment" Colonel Green said. "We had about 800 in the original unit but at disbanding the number was about 460".

He said he had been delighted with the co-operation of the Australian War Memorial Trust in its acceptance of the Colours, the first to be laid up at the War Memorial.

"The PNGVR had 35 years of continued service for Australia" Colonel Green said. The battalion was the equivalent of the Citizens Military Force of Australia. The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles was formed in Rabaul in 1939 and the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles in 1950."

Thirty years on, ANZAC Day 2004 in Brisbane, will see at least five members present who were involved in the laying up ceremony. One member of the laying up Colour Party, PNGVR Sgt Alastair Martin, will be flying into Brisbane from overseas for the 30th Anniversary of the event.

Today, our Colours are stored in excellence conditions in the Australian War Memorial, and have been viewed from time to time by former PNGVR members visiting the AWM. Reports indicate that our Colours are well cared for by Museum staff.

NGVR Video promo:

Finally, as mentioned in the last newsletter, the production of the 10 minute "NGVR—The Gallant 500" promotion video (promo) is now underway. Research has been completed and filming of personal interviews with some of our NGVR and PNGVR members started on the 17 March 2004. It is planned to have the video promo available at the Regimental Dinner and/or ANZAC Day reception.

While the total cost is \$5,000 some member donations have already been paid to CTI Multi Media Productions. We need to raise at least another \$3,500 through member donations and sale of the video promo. Donations towards the project can be sent to our Secretary—Post Office Box 287, Everton Park, Qld 4053—clearly marked that it is a video promo donation.

Copies of the finished product will also be available for sale on ANZAC Day and at the Regimental Dinner for \$30 per copy.

The purpose of the promo is to allow CTI Productions to approach major sponsors within Australia and Papua New Guinea for the eventual production of a 45-60 minute video / movie of the NGVR and PNGVR. The rapidity of putting this project together is necessary to utilise our increasingly frail NGVR members in the production. Please support this project if you can.

Wherever you may be on the 25 April, may the weather be great and I hope that you have the opportunity to meet former comrades in NGVR and PNGVR.

Harry N Green
PRESIDENT

* Information sourced from the Canberra Times, & WO1 Ceremonial.

NGVR RECOLLECTIONS

MY NGVR / ANGAU DAYS ©

By Cpl Henry J McCauley

NG 2366 / NGX 313

(Continued from Issue 34 March 2004)

15th April 1942 Went down to Mari, came back 16th.
17th Walked to Gabensis Village with Police boi to bring in 20 bois—the Lululai came along. I came back in 4 hours with doktor boi and 2 carriers. Left a Police boi to bring in the remainder the next day.
23rd. Left Wampit, checked the dump at Dargan then went on to Mari to camp for the night. Next morning walked down to Markham dump to see that the cargo gets away on the canoes and to relieve Charlie Wilson.

24th April Plenty of mosquitoes here, and crocs in the Markham. 14 Jap planes flew over my camp. One left the flight and dipped down on the empty canoes to see if they had any cargo on board.

2nd May 1942 The Japs sent a patrol up the valley as far as Nabzab Mission. They fired on some of our fellows but no one was hurt. The Japs however took two prisoners—2/5 Independent Coy who I had put on a canoe that very morning. Bob Main was one of them. He was from Glenelg, South Australia, and had just arrived from Port Moresby.

3rd. May 1942 Lt McDonald, George Cockran, B McLean, Mick Rouse, Ted Shelley and C Hancock came in after a close shave with the Japs. Ted Shelley and myself got a canoe and went on to Chivising Village on the Markham. A croc nearly caught one of the canoe bois on the way. It took us 6 hours to reach Chivising. A boi took us up to the Haus Kiap and the meris carried our cargo. The doktor boi, a Tul-tul and a Luluai came over to see us. They seemed friendly but we were very suspicious of them at first because they took a Jap pilot who had crashed into the Watup down to Lae 3 weeks previous. We had to tell the fellows who were expecting to come down from the Ramu to carry on to Mari.

Bob Emery and Ted Rowlands came through early, but no one else. We were treated well in Chivising, and it is a big village. A boi bought a note to say we had to return to Kirklands, so we left on Monday 5th May with 2 canoes. Ted also shot a crocodile on the way down.

It took us two hours downstream and I carried on business as usual—shot a croc on 4 May 1942 and one on the 5th. Charlie Wilson came back on the 4th and Les Pryke and Mick Rowse were also here for a

few days, but returned to Mari.

Thirty men crossed the river on Wednesday night and we had a tin of fruit each and went on to Mari. Two Jap bombers flew around the camp that afternoon, flying low and having a good look at the canoes.

Lt McDonald, McLean, Bob O'Neil camped the night. Next day Leo Gielis, Ted Richardson and Pat Zacher came down to patrol the Markham front. I'd done a 6 hour watch with Leo Gielis—the mosquitos were very vile. I had a low fever for a few days, taking 10 grams of medicine a day in this area.

The canoe bois often catch flying foxes in the night with a big spiked stick. Some of the foxes have a 4 foot wing span. At present I am looking for a sp from this mosquito area. I have had three months or them and six doses of fever. I'm run down at present and I think of my folks down south and the good time I could be having. But the day will come when I can see my folks and have the good time I crave to spend, and a good smoke and drink. At present I'm smoking native tobacco and look forward to mail from home and a spell from nat-nats. (mosquitos)

I write this while patrolling the dirty shore of the Markham River, half deaf from quinine and my system rotten with fever, and ready to hide from a balus (aircraft) or the Japs if they attempt to come down and cross the river. Doing six hours at night and twelve hours a day.

Came down to Mari 11th. Ted Tscharke, Jack Piper, Dick Stanbury, Len Branch, Syd Richardson and F Zacher remained.

Took a line of bois down to Kirklands on the 12th for cargo. Major Edwards, Lt Anthony, Don MacDonald, Robinson, Jack Hunt and others went on to the Wampit.

16th—still at Mari having a good spell whilst in charge of the dump.

20th Came over to Kirklands again as cook and runner. Our fellows have had a go at the Japs again. Frank Anderson is missing, and they shot two Japs.

1st June 1942—Left Kirklands. I was cook and runner, running to Dargan and back, but broke down with fever. Nerves are also very bad. I lost an urgent pass on 31st May, and went before the Military Court with Lt Anthony and Major Edwards sitting on the bench. I was reprimanded. Bob O'Neil, who stole two of Major Edward's fish, was fined 20/-.

ROCKY CREEK WAR MEMORIAL PARK

(Courtesy of John Hardy—Secretary Rocky Creek War Memorial Park Advisory Committee and Denis Samin.)

During Easter 2004, members of the Military Jeep Club of Queensland and the Military & Historic Vehicle Club of Townsville made a successful Tableland visit to the Rocky Creek War Memorial Park.

(Picture) Jeep Club Members visit the NGVR / PNGVR Memorial Plaque which was recently organized and dedicated by NGVR/PNGVR Members in North Queensland.



60th Anniversary of the awarding the US Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation to 'BREWER' Force— Los Negros campaign, Admiralty Island.

1st CAVALRY DIVISION

1944 to 2004



5th CAVALRY REGIMENT

'BREWER' Force consisted of elements of the US 5th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division and attached allied units including NGVR members who were involved in the successful Los Negros campaign between 29 February and 4 March 1944. The US Citation was presented to Lt Frank Holland, MBE B Coy PNGVR in Rabaul in June 1952, and PNGVR was charged with the task of carrying on the fine record of inspired service set by BREWER Force.

ANZAC DAY—SUNDAY 25 APRIL 2004—BRISBANE

- Form Up:-** From 9.30 Hours Left side of George Street facing Elizabeth Street
- March Off:-** Parade commences 1000 Hours— **Position Number 53** in the Order of March.
- Jeeps:-** Those members who requested jeep transport to assemble outside the Myer Centre in Elizabeth no later than 9.30 am—look for **John Holland** and lots and lots of jeeps and military transport.
- NGVR Service:-** A brief NGVR memorial service to be held in ANZAC Square immediately the Unit finishes the march. All are invited to attend.
- Reception:-** To be held at the Exchange Hotel corner Edward and Charlotte Streets **GROUND FLOOR FUNCTION ROOM.** Yes! No stairs this year —**please enter via Charlotte Street door.**
Buy your own drinks until 11.15 am— Complimentary drinks after 11.15am and light hot and cold finger food at 12.15 pm.



\$20-00 pp payable at the door—exact change appreciated.

Paul Brown's **TRADE STORE** will be open during the reception from **12 Noon until 1.30 pm.** for the payment of membership fees, etc. Some Q Store items will also be on sale, eg Association caps \$15, Polo shirts \$25.
NGVR Video promo \$30-00



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Contact: Denis Samin - National Internet Service Provider

1 AUS Internet Phone:- 07 4095 0231 Mobile:- 0428 911 955
Join online at website: www.1aus.net Email: aus1@1aus.net

A great place this Bobs. No mosquitos. I put in a transfer to get here to get away from the mosquitos. I had about four months among the mossies and had malaria fever eight times and also a lot of low fever.

4th June, 1942. This week has been the quietest week for months for enemy aircraft—must be something going on. Frank Vickery and Jim Monteith came back from over the river with Lt Keith Noblett on the 2nd June.

Left Bobs 10th June for Bwaraib on the junction of the Markham and Wampit rivers. I called in at the Wampit on my way to Gabensis where I camped the night at the haus polis (Police station) . Next day Mark Schultz and I came down to Bwaraib and camped in the village. We passed Lake Wamin on the way—a big lake—plenty of ducks and puk-puks (crocs) . Crossed a sac-sac swamp before we came to the village.. Had an issue of fine cut tobacco at Bobs—first for three months.

Went down to Kirklands with an urgent pass. Took a pass to Wau on the 16th. Was examined by Captain Stout before I left—said I was getting too much fever. I left Bobs at 0930 hours and arrived at my destination at 1715 hours and camped there for the night. Next day went to Sum Sum, had dinner at Mumeng, got a ride to Bulwa, had a feed then came back to Bulwa.

19th—Had a look for my case but everything of value had been pinched. Same at Bulwa except they took case and all. Started work on the cookhouse on the 20th. I walked back from Bulolo, called in at Middle Camp and had a drink of tea with the two fellows there.

Doctor Capt McKenna had me on 10 grains of quinine for five days. Had an attack of fever on 28th June. Camped out at number 8 camp for four days, coming in each night. Walked out and had a look at the Kittyhawk that was shot down by a Zero.

14th July—still in the cook house—still have no tobacco. 20th July—had my 10th attack of fever now taking 25 grains quinine a day for seven days.

Construction duties with NGVR:

I left Bulwa 29th July 1942 for Wau. 30th July walked to Ballams and camped. Next day walked to Mubo and shifted to the Saddle where I built a few houses. On the 8th August had an attack of fever my 11th dose, also had dysentery. Went up to Wypalia village to get some bois to build a new hospital at Lumu and shifted up to it 12 August.

Saturday 29th. Went down to Mubo for duty but came back to Lumu. Next day the Japs came up to Mubo.

30th August at 11.00pm we evacuated to Guadigasel Saddle but kept going on. Had lunch at Skin Diwai and walked on to Ballams. 22 hours without sleep. Next day—1st September— walked down to Kaisenik village and then on to Winima. Had a good sleep.

2nd Sept. Walked to Blake's camp where I met Cliff Nunn and went onto Kudjiru but camped on the road and walked in the next morning.

5th September. Six USA transports dropped cargo on the drome but it all smashed about. I'm sure getting sick of this place. Hope I can get out for a spell and see my folks and boy, I'm run down. Had 11 attacks of fever.

'HAD MY 10TH ATTACK OF FEVER – NOW TAKING 25 GRAINS OF QUININE A DAY FOR 7 DAYS'

Sunday 6th September. Left Kudjiru with Jack Cleary and Ray Watson for Winima to build two houses. Camped at

Balkes first night. Next day walked to Winima where I built two houses with the Winima natives.

10th September. Left for Kudjiru, carried my pack from Balkes, my boi was very sick. Captain Lang wanted me to assist Bob Griffiths to build a camp at Banis Donkey.

Comments on the above Dairy entries:

On one of my patrols I was walking along a track on the side of a mountain when, out of nowhere, came a Jap plane. I was taken completely by surprise, and there was nowhere to hide. I looked up at the pilot and waved, and, instead of strafing me, he waved back. To this day I do not know whether he was out of ammunition, or just considered me too unimportant to bother wasting a few bullets on.

2005 DATE CLAIMER

30TH PNG INDEPENDENCE BALL – SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2005
QUEENSLAND IRISH CLUB BRISBANE

While we were building the hospital at Lumu, which was on a hill, there was a lovely spring just a bit higher up than our hut. I ran a pipe of split bamboo from the spring to our hut so we had 'running water'.

We had little warning that the Japs were coming to Mubo. The first we knew they were there was a mortar round fired by them. NGVR had two Companies at Mubo—A Coy and B Coy—at the time but the total strength would not have been much more than 120/150 officers and men.

I was sleeping near a window in the hut at Lumu and went out of the window with my rifle and some quinine tablets when I heard the Jap mortar round. I had a pack ready just for such an occasion so I grabbed it, my rifle and out the window I went.

I was very pally with Doctor Marsden at Mubo, he told me he would look after me because I spoke the language well and looked after the natives to his satisfaction. He had a batman called 'Brownie' who was also a great bloke and we had lots of cuppas and a laugh together.

The Japs came back to Mubo later. We were not a threat to them but more of a nuisance. However after our attack on Salamaua they got very serious and sent strong forces up the valley.

My trip out to Port Moresby:

I got a pass out to Port Moresby on 11th September from Major Edwards. Jack Hunt put in a good word for me to Lt Jack Sutherland, Adjutant. I left Kudjiru 12th September and walked to Water Dry, 4 1/2 hours—where I met Baden Wiles—from there to Centre Camp on the Tivira River, very hard walking over the mountains along a terrible track nearly always raining in the Kadamia Ranges.

There are no mosquitos after leaving Wau until you get to Dead Chinaman, however, plenty of moccas, sweat bees and fleas.

Had a day's spell at Centre Camp, saw Jack Allentorn there and Dave Marsden. Walked from there to Cox's Camp—3 1/2 hours away—where I met George Tuckey. Saw a mob of Kukukuku and a kukukuku grave. The body was wrapped up in bark with the grave built of sticks and bound with lawyer cane.

The kukukuku wore necklaces made of dog's teeth, and wore a skirt—the front of grass and the back a piece of bark string. Some of them had bark cloaks. I left Cox's Camp on the 15th. Had fever during the night and had a sweat. Walked to Dead Chinaman where I met Fred Steel, had a feed and walked on to Bulldog 6 hours away. Camped at Bulldog that night.

I met Leo Pryke, Tom Healy and Blue Smith. Got a canoe from Bulldog to Oiapu—1 1/2 hours—where we camped for the night. The dose of fever I got at Cox's came out on me. This being the 12th dose. I got the shivers and had a good sweat. Jimmy Stewart, who was stationed there looked after us very well.

17th September 1942. We left Oiapu in a launch "Nanona" down the Lakekamu River, called in at Kovu where we met Don MacDonald and Bob Doyle, and went on to Tarapo. Had a few shots at the crocs on the way down. Went over to the catholic mission, Taropo Mission, on the Tauri River and went fishing up river in a canoe. There are two Sisters and a Father Kimiss at the Mission. I also saw Hector Wiles on the "Lady Jean" on the Tauri River.

Left Tarapo on the "Bilua" after saying goodbye to the bois. Had lunch at Kokipi with Jack Higgins then pulled out to sea at 2.30 pm. Our engines broke down three times while out at sea, a very rough trip. Dropped anchor in the stream at Yule Island at 2.00am 20th September 1942. Came ashore about 7.00am and went up to the catholic Mission where the Sisters looked after us, which we highly appreciated. The best Kai-kai we have had since January. Went around to Kairuku for a walk, plenty of coconut palms there. Yule Island is a very good place but a bit dry at present.

Left Yule Island 23rd on the "Rasputin" and reached Port Moresby at 4.30pm. Saw quite a few villages on the coast as we were traveling quite close to shore.

Port Moresby:

We were trucked into Murray Barracks and saw a few of the boys out at John's Gully. M Cheyne and Bill Yandell called around to see me. We were very pleased to see each other, the first time in 14 months. I was put into hospital at Murray Barracks. Went out to Hanabauda 26th September. Met Bill Melish. Port Moresby is very dusty making all the buildings dirty. Left Murray Barracks 2nd October and came down to the wharf where we caught the hospital ship "Manunda". Left Port Moresby 11.00am for Brisbane.

Had a very good trip. I knew a couple of the stewards, Pat Murray and Bert Briggs. I worked in the pantry while on the ship. I am trying to get a transfer to the Merchant Navy.

To be continued next issue:-

MV BULOLO

By Col Gould (info courtesy Burns Philp)

There would not be too many expats from PNG who did not either sail a trip or two on the Burns Philp ship "Bulolo" and/or have an ale or three in the ship's bar. Who can remember the crowd of land dwellers waiting dock side whenever the *Bulolo* berthed, for the 'tourists' to disembark so they could go on board for a cold beer. After 4.06 pm of course.

I had three trips on the *Bulolo* in the 50's and 60's, and during my Customs Officer days, watched the parade every 6 weeks or so in Madang.

Did you know that the *Bulolo* also had an active military history?

The *Bulolo* was built in Glasgow and launched on 31 May 1938. A twin-screw motor vessel which could muster 15+ knots, she was 413 ft long, had a beam of 58 ft and was of 6267 gross tons. The ship was needed to enable Burns Philp to continue to honour the contract between the Commonwealth Government and the Company for the mail steamer service between Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, New Hebrides, Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands.

Bulolo commenced trade between Australia and PNG ports on 19 November 1938 and completed 8 voyages by the time the WW2 started. On 22 September 1939 she was taken over by the British Ministry of War Transport on behalf of the Royal Navy, and was taken in for conversion to an armed Merchant Cruiser, the conversion being completed in January 1940. Her armament consisted of 7 x 6 inch and 2 x 3 inch anti-aircraft guns and well as equipment for depth charges and several types of small arms.

At 12 knots *Bulolo* had an endurance range of 9,300 miles, and at 15 knots the range was 7,700 miles.

HMS Bulolo sailed on 24 January from Freetown on convoy escort duties to the UK. Her career over the next 2 1/4 years was almost all in the Atlantic Ocean. Apart from her escort duties, *Bulolo* due to armament and speed, was used to search for German Raiders.

Commodore Douglas Pennant, the Naval Commander of Force 'G' hoisted his flag on *HMS Bulolo* on 28 April 1944. On 24 May 1944 King George VI visited the ship. On 6 June 1944, 'D' Day, *Bulolo* led assault ships to craft lowering positions off the Normandy Coast and remained off the beachhead directing the assault. She then participated as a HQ ship in the re-occupation of SE Asia.

HMS Bulolo's Battle Honours were Atlantic 1940, North Africa 1942, Sicily 1943, Anzio 1944, Normandy 1944. *Bulolo* was also one of the ships used for the Japanese surrender at Singapore in 1945.

Naval service terminated 5 December 1946. Handed back to BP's in 1948, *Bulolo* resumed her original service on 18 August 1948. Her main ports of call were Sydney, Brisbane, Port Moresby, Samarai, Lae, Madang, Manus, & Rabaul.

She was sold to Taiwan for scrap in 1968 and arrived at Kaohsiung 24 May 1968.

Extract from a 1959 passenger information sheet:-

The voyage from Brisbane to Brisbane takes 25—28 days. The "Bulolo" normally proceeds outside the Barrier Reef on the northbound voyage, and, when time permits, the ship will return from Port Moresby via the Cook and Whitsunday Passages. This vessel has accommodation for 180 first class passengers in single, two and three berth cabins. The public rooms comprise—Dining Room, Music Room, Vestibule, Smoking Room and Verandah Café. The "Bulolo" is built specially for the tropics and is fitted with "PUNKAH LOUVRE" ventilation throughout and the Dining Room is air-conditioned.

