

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

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OUR PNGVR TABLE OR BOOK YOUR OWN GROUP TABLE
MESS DRESS OR ANZAC DAY DRESS MOST APPROPRIATE.

CHRISTMAS DINING IN THE FIELD NIGHT

Saturday 20 November 2004

TO ALL NGVR AND PNGVR MEMBERS

Barry and Pam Wright cordially invite members and their friends to join them for Christmas celebrations at 176 Kurrajong Road, Jimboomba.

You are welcome to camp overnight and enjoy a great evening and even participate in Sunday morning's "Sick Parade". The usual great roast dinner awaits all who attend, not to mention a few glasses of sherry and port to help clear the sinus's. **Phone Barry now on 07 5546 9865 or Joe Fisk on 07 3208 5298 to reserve a seat at the table. \$30 PP**

PRE-DINNER DRINKS:- 1800 HRS

**TOP TABLE OFFICIAL
GUESTS MOVE IN AT: 1900 HRS**

BARRY'S
HAUS
KUK



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

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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 38

NOVEMBER 2004

President's Up-date....

Greetings!

On Saturday 28 August, 42 members and their guests enjoyed the facilities camaraderie and an excellent hot/cold buffet dinner, at the Long Tan Sergeants Mess at Gallipoli Barracks (formally Enoggera Barracks) in Brisbane—the occasion being our 2004 Annual General Meeting and Members Reunion Dinner. Some of those who traveled many miles include Bob Harvey-Hall, Karl & Jenny Aschhoff, Charlie Nelson & Harvey Booth.

I thank all those members who were able to attend, and also thank the Mess Committee and catering staff for making us feel so welcome. We not only got a bit wet on the "inside" but the rain pelted down after the dinner and some got wet on the "outside" as well. The Executive Committee elected for 2004/5 :-

President:	Colonel H N Green, MBE.ED
Senior Vice-President:	Colin Gould, JP(Qual). Assoc Dip Bus(Mngt).AFAIM
Vice-President (PNG Representative):	John Mudge, MBE. C St. J.
Vice-President (Media/PR):	Phil Ainsworth, B.Econ.
Secretary:	Colin Gould, JP(Qual). Assoc Dip Bus(Mngt). AFAIM
Treasurer:	Doug Ng, FAFA. Dip All. JP (Qual).
Hon. Solicitor:	Bruce Crawford, OAM.
Committee:	Paul Brown (Welfare Officer)
	John Holland Tom Dowling Mal Zimmermann

I would like to welcome two new members to the Committee, Doug Ng and Mal Zimmermann. I would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution made to the Association by those members standing down from the Committee—Norm Mundy, Joe Fisk, Bob Collins and Barry Wright. I would like to make mention of the work put in by Bob to interview and record the invaluable recollections of our few remaining NGVR members. I believe that this translates to some 180 pages of typed recollections. This information has proved to be a valuable resource for the production of the NGVR/PNGVR historic documentary. A remarkable effort—thanks Bob.

Norm Mundy, who has become very active in local and state RSL activities, joined the ranks of the Association's 'Life Members' when he was duly appoint a Life member during the AGM. Norm was one of the Association's founding members in 1989. Congratulations Norm. Joe Fisk is now heavily committed to his local SES and doing sterling work in his new media role. Joe is currently assisting with the Chinese Memorial project. Barry Wright (and Pam) continue to host the Bi-Annual Dining in the Field Nights at Jimboomba giving members the opportunity to meet socially in a most relaxed environment. See the back page for details of the next field function.

As you are aware our Secretary Col Gould, has been working for some time on seeking Government approval for our former Papua New Guinea PNGVR comrades, to be awarded the **Australian Service Medal 1945-1975 with Clasp PNG** in recognition of their service in the PNGVR. Approval from Canberra was received in August 2004, & our Secretary has compiled 56 personal applications for the ASM and dispatched them to Canberra. The majority of the applications have come from Major Peter Harbeck's former Company—C Coy—in Mt Hagen & Goroka. Other applications have come from former members

in Madang, Wewak and Port Moresby.

I would like to acknowledge the help and assistance of former C Coy Corporal, Patrick Ambelye in Mt Hagen. Patrick and his PNGVR comrades have been very active in locating former C Coy Members in the Highlands, which has resulted in the establishment of the **C Coy PNGVR Ex Members Association—Mt Hagen**. If any of our members who served in the Highlands would like to correspond with the Association in Mt Hagen, you can write to:-

Mr Patrick Ambelye
Acting Secretary
C Coy PNGVR Ex Members Association
c/- Post Office Box 469
MT HAGEN W.H.P. Papua New Guinea

I will keep you informed of developments in the Highlands and with the ASM applications.

On the 17 October, the Association presented its annual Military Excellence Award to 9 RQR at Gallipoli Barracks. Full details are in this newsletter, but I would like to congratulate the Bundaberg based infantry section under the leadership of Corporal K Lammi, for taking out this year's award.

In mid November, Townsville member, Major Juergen Raasch, will represent the Association for our 2004 Military Excellence Award to a soldier below the rank of Sergeant with 31 RQR in Townsville. I would like to thank Juergen for his support with this project.

Phil Ainsworth and the CTI Productions team have been very busy with putting together final interview with NGVR and PNGVR personnel for the documentary film. We are still seeking major corporate sponsors to make this unique film possible. If you have any ideas or suggestions on possible funding sources, please contact the Association immediately. 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the war in the New Guinea theatre and it would be an achievement to be able to fund and complete the film before August 2005.

I would like to draw your attention to two (2) major functions in 2005—our ANZAC Day Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion at the United Services Club in Brisbane, and the 30th Papua New Guinea Independence Anniversary Ball to be held in Brisbane on the 10 September, hosted by the Australia-Papua New Guinea Association.

It is an unfortunate fact of life that, each year, the cost to host such functions slowly increases. Your Executive Committee feels that the United Services Club in the heart of Brisbane offers a great historic venue and whose staff are experienced in catering for military Regimental functions. The venue offers on-site accommodation for those members who wish to make it a long weekend for the ANZAC Day march and the Regimental Dinner—all within easy walking distance. There is also most suitable accommodation right next door at the Astor.

The Association hosts the Regimental Dinner at a break-even cost for its members. The 2005 Dinner will be around \$75 pp which includes a great venue, pre-dinner sherry, dinner, sweets, port and tea/coffee. The Independence anniversary function, some 5 months later, will be in the region of \$55 pp. Your Committee would like to keep our annual Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion as a major function of the year for members, but to achieve this, we need to be able to secure a commitment from 60-65 members and guests for the 2005 function. I therefore invite members to plan ahead now for these two functions in 2005 and submit your name or names for 2005 ASAP please. So if your Mess Dress jacket, trousers, Dinner jacket or cummerbund seem to be getting **smaller** each year, now is the time to do something about it. (Changing Dry Cleaners may not necessarily fix the shrinkage problem.) How say you Gentlemen?

In closing, I have been undergoing medical treatment and hospitalisation over the past few weeks and would like to sincerely thank all those members who have phoned, visited or sent me get well wishes. You have all been a source of strength. May you and your family have a safe and joyous festive season which is fast approaching.

Harry N Green.

Many of the natives on Kar Kar were very pro Jap, so we used to go down to the beach regularly and have a few shots from a yank .45 pistol and our .303's. On the Island were the graves of four Missionaries who were buried in 1892. Kar Kar Island suffered a lot during the war as the Japs sent their sick soldiers to the island. An outbreak of dysentery occurred and some of the villages suffered up to 50% deaths.

A Jap lifeboat had been left behind on the beach. It was from the "Osaka Maru" and had a capacity of 50 people. A terrible lot of petrol was also being washed up on the beaches.

On the 23 August I had to take 50 bois to Madang. Dom, the boss boi of my line, handed me a present of some Jap cargo Bills when I left. The trip to Madang took 5 hours on the "Silver Finn" and I arranged transport to Bilio on the Wakoi River for us. There I met Lt Gerry Monk and WO Hector Wiles, ex NGVR. They were pleased to see me—the old NGVR sure stick together.

" was at this time that I saw 3 Japs who were captured by WO Tom Lega, ex NGVR, down by Bogadjim. Tom, with his Police Bois shot 7, one got away and the 3 prisoners, makes 11—not a bad effort. People at the time seemed to think that there are plenty of Japs at the back of Madang.

Met Capt Doug Umphelby on 30th August and had a talk about the old NGVR days, and the changes that had occurred since then.

My role then changed to working natives with the 2/4th Infantry Battalion, 6th Australian Division. We move around the place quite a bit and I find the work interesting. On Sunday 3 September I hitched a ride on an old Jap truck to Bilio, where ANGAU were quartered to see a Sing Sing. There were thousands

of natives from all parts of New Guinea there, and the Sing Sing was rather good, although there were few decorations around. Not like a Sing Sing in the old days.

The RPNG Police bois and the New Guinea Infantry Battalions put on a good show during the ceremony and three Police were decorated for their loyalty during various campaigns in New Guinea. A medal was put over each Police Boi's head by a Brass Hat (Senior Officer) who then shook hands with each. Then Capt Hamilton, senior ANGAU Officer, read out their citations in Pidgin English to the natives gathered around and also told them how the Government and Service personnel felt about the help they had received from the natives. After that the Sing Sing started again.

On 15th September, Lt General Savaige came out to Gum Camp to thank ANGAU and the natives for the work they had done. There were about 3000 natives there and Lt. Col. Blue Allan told them in Pidgin English how much Lt. Gen. Savaige appreciated their good work. When the General came round to shake hands with us he asked me if I had lived in New Guinea before the war and I told him that I had, and had been in the NGVR.

My duties varied from time to time but consisted always of working with bois from either the Army or Air Force.

We built houses for troops, ANGAU personnel and Air Force storage sheds, and also houses and copra sheds for plantations so that they could get back into production. Had one of my greatest days since coming back to New Guinea here. The Navy corvette "Rockhampton" hosted me aboard for the day. They gave me a few bottles of beer and the food was great.

To be continued.

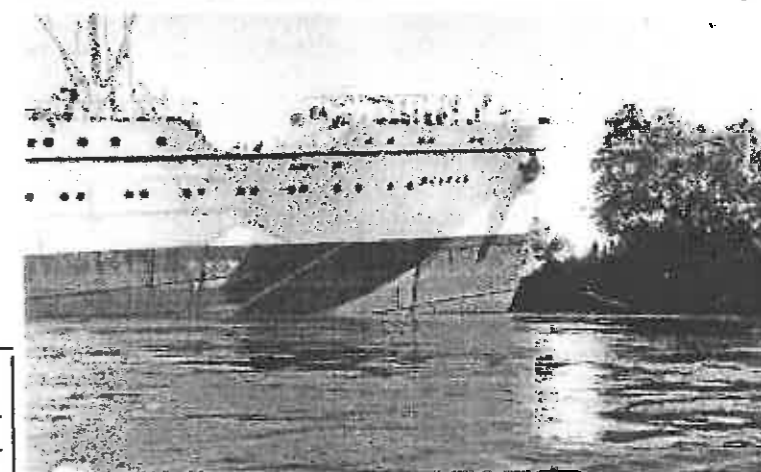
TAIM BIPO

In an earlier edition, we featured an article on the civilian and proud military history of the MV BULOLO. Bev Kenna reports that in the mid 50's the BULOLO ran a little bit aground on Krankit island in Madang harbour.

It was under the command of Capt. Edwards—Capt Bill Wilding, the regular master was on leave during that voyage. No damage was done and the ship was easily re-floated. Photo: courtesy of Pam Nobbs.

PLEASE HELP

Member Ian Sayers (Ph: 2 6254 0961) is keen to hear from any members who were plantation owners or workers. Ian needs to learn a little about "corpa" for a project he is working on. If copra is your talent, please give Ian a phone call. Email: isayers@optusnet.com.au



(STEEL TUFF cont:-)

After a great Bar-B-Q at the JOHN FRENCH VC CLUB, awards were announced. We congratulate Delta 1 Section from Bundaberg, as the winning section for STEEL TUFF 2004.

Corporal	K R Lammi	(Sect Commander)
L/Cpl	L M Hart	(Sect 2IC)
Pte	W G Applebee	
Pte	J W Burgess	
Pte	M M Downs	
Pte	J P Dent	(MG)
Pte	T S Cordell	
Pte	M A Finn	
Pte	B D Quinn	(MG)

Phil Ainsworth addressed the gathering and

briefly spoke on the history of the NGVR and PNGVR. Medallions and Certificates were presented to the Delta 1 Section by members of our Association.

Brigade Commander Brig Dave Chalmers, 9 RQR CO Lt. Colonel Stev Volkes and RSM WO1 Jamie Heron made additional presentations:-

Defence Long Service Medal:-	Sgt A R Davis
Soldiers Medallion:-	Pte K Laughton
Tug-of-War Competition:-	Delta 1
Champion Section Commander:-	Cpl K Lammi

Colin Gould.

NGVR RECOLLECTIONS

MY NGVR/ANGAU DAYS Cpl. Henry J McCauley NGX 313 (Continued from volume 37)

Madang & Kar Kar Island.

On the 3rd August we went aboard an Australian Barge to be taken to a Landing Craft Infantry for movement to Madang. For some reason they could not take us so back we went. I went to the pictures that night and sat in the rain. Our tent also leaked that night as well.

On the 5th August we eventually got away on an LCI. To get on board the LCI we had to go to the wharf and climb over two Liberty ships. The trip was very rough. In such a small craft the Yank cooks looked after us very well, even though we were an unshaven and dirty looking lot, all wet and covered with mud. I did so well for myself (apples and oranges) that Sgt Knox commented that I was a good scrounger and they would never starve if they were posted with me.

The LCI arrived at Alexishafen after an 18 hour trip. Some yank soldiers were landed and we went over to Mililat Plantation to off-load some 5th Aust Div personnel, and then went down to Madang. We were transported to ANGAU Gum River where Lt Ireland was in charge and I met Alan Kirkland and Neville Swanson.

There was plenty of Jap equipment still lying around—helmets, ammunition, rifles etc. Went into Madang to see about some new clothing and then went out to the strip which was under construction.

There were about 25 Jap Zeros destroyed on the strip and plenty of bomb craters around. Had a look at the Australian war cemetery near ANGAU.

Went to a Jap gun position and scrounged around some of their old houses, which had already been looted. Had swims in the Gum River where there are two Jap barges which had been captured from the English in Singapore.

Left Madang on the 10th August in an American Barge off kar kar Island. The trip took 3 hours. Jim James, McKenzie, Laurie Parker and myself reported to W) 2 Bill Camerson for duty at Dagowan.

Soon after a truck bought in an American air gunner who was found by natives washed up on a beach. His body was in a bad way as his legs had been mauled by sharks and his flesh was decaying. The natives dug a grave and I suggested that one of the Americans read a chapter from my Prayer book, the one that my dear wife gave me before I left. There were only 6 Americans on the Island and they did not like the idea of reading the service, so Bill Cameron read it and we threw in some soil as was the custom. It was a sad affair. His ID discs showed him to be S/ Sgt George E Schaefer, 5th US Air Force. The next morning I made a cross for his grave and also put some coral on it.

We started work the next day with about 60 bois building houses. The next day I had to line up 100 bois and issue them with their weekly rations. They also had to take a spoonful of fish oil with their rations, and I had to see that they swallowed it, as they had a habit of spitting it out.

9TH BATTALION
THE ROYAL QUEENSLAND REGIMENT



9 RQR

STEEL TUFF
2004

Gallipoli
Barracks

ENOGERA.

On Sunday 17 October, eight (8) members of the Association attended the 2004 presentation of the Association's "**Shield of Military Excellence**" to the winning Section of 9 RQR during their end of year "Steel Tuff" competition held at Enoggera Barracks, Brisbane.

Representing the Association were Col Gould, Phil Ainsworth, Doug Ng, Tom Dowling, Paul Brown, John Holland, Bruce Crawford and Mal Zimmermann.

During the lead up to the final announcement of Awards, we were shown an array of modern day infantry weapons and Section equipment.

"**What! No 303's**" exclaims our Historic Officer, John Holland. One fact seems to be common though—a weapon that weighs 5.5 kg on day one of an exercise, weighs in excess of 15 kg on the last day of the exercise.

During the morning we witnessed two infantry sections being put through the Base's new training tool—the WTSS—Weapons Training Simulation System.

This in an indoor facility allowing a Section of soldiers to experience on a large video screen, some 12 m x 4m , numerous battlefield situations from rain to sun, desert to jungle, complete with full surround sound. The purpose of this electronic marvel is to enable a soldier to become proficient in using and firing his weapon—in this case the styer—as well as Section fire control.

In the demonstration we saw, a Section of troops were facing a open semi desert scene in which featured 2 incoming enemy helicopters, some road transport and a large number of enemy in an extended line attack.

Each soldier had 210 rounds and the Section Commander had to direct fire control to bring down the 2 helicopters then direct fire on the attacking enemy.

Each styer was connected with an air hose that would simulate the "kick" each time the weapon was fired. The computer system would track and record each soldier's use of the weapon, for example, the movement of the barrel in relation to the selected target 3 seconds before the round was fired, then .3 seconds before firing then .3 seconds after firing. At the end of the shoot, each soldier could be shown on the video screen to his/her immediate front, the movement of the barrel for each shot; whether or not they "squeezed" the trigger or "pulled" the trigger. They could also be shown where each round hit in relation to the target.

Remember during the cricket season on TV, how the commentators often use white, yellow or green pens to show on the screen the movement of the ball or field players etc. Well the WTSS system uses a similar display to show barrel movement in relation to the target.

Once the enemy choppers were shot down, the Section would engaged the extended line of attacking infantry under the fire control of the Section Commander. Both Sections we watched, successfully completed their exercise.

I might add that the loud surround sound system was complete with machine gun fire, mortar bursts and small arms fire throughout the shoot. This exercise was based on a range of 300 m

The WTSS system allows a soldier to learn the correct use of his weapon and see, first hand, any mistakes he/she may make, without expending countless and costly ammunition on the open range. Skills learnt in the WTSS, especially in fire control, can then be use in the field and on the range.

We were also given a hands on demonstration of the WTSS based on targets at 100m, and like the soldiers before us, were shown the results of the shoot. Judging by the results, PNGVR did quiet well after so many years.



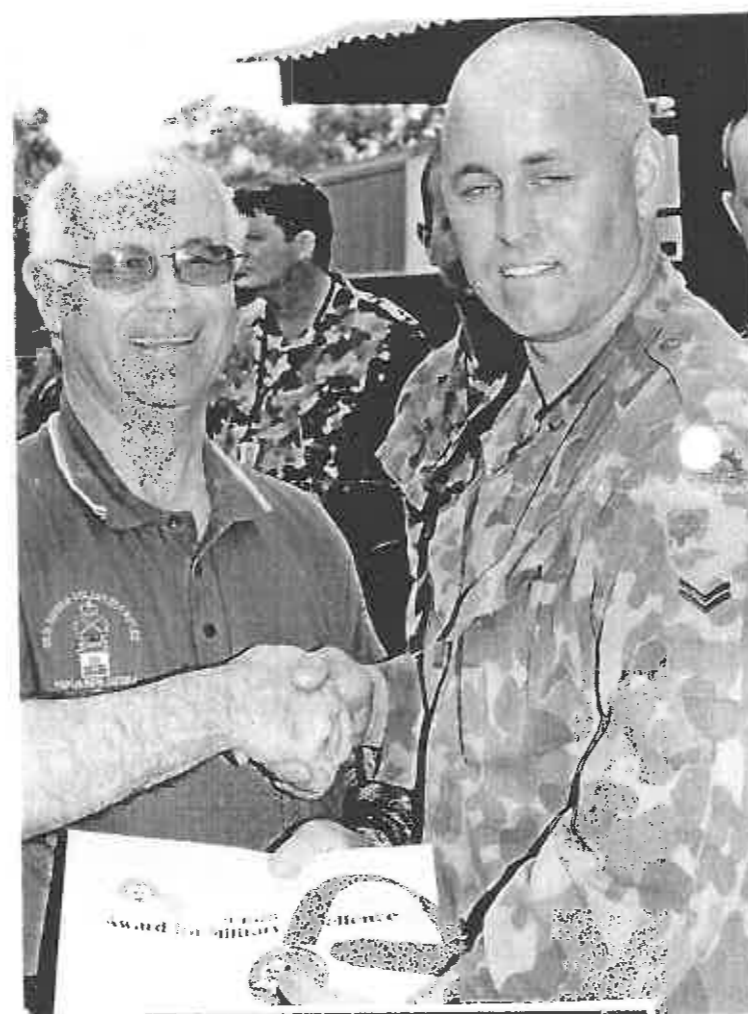
9RQR soldiers at the ready with their styres at the Weapons Training Simulation system
STEEL TUFF 2004



The RSM explains the workings of some of today's infantry weapons.



Association Treasurer Doug Ng presents Delta 1's Pte W G Applebee with his Award.



Association Vice-President (Media/PR) Phil Ainsworth congratulates Cpl K Lammi

Association members with the winning Section, Delta 1, STEEL TUFF 2004.

(L) Col Gould, Doug Ng, Tom Dowling Mal Zimmermann; Paul Brown; Bruce Crawford, John Holland and Phil Ainsworth.

Enoggra Barracks—October 2004



9 RQR RSM WO 1 Jamie Heron congratulates Delta 1 Section Commander, Cpl K Lammi



Brig. Dave Chalmers presents the Defence Long Service Medal to 9 RQR's Sgt. A R Davies.—October 2004.