

## COMING EVENTS

- **Saturday 18 March:** Executive Committee Meeting at Wacol Museum
- **Saturday 22 April:** Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion—Long Tan Sgts Mess
- **Sunday 23 April:** Members & guests Open day at our Wacol Museum from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm BYO lunch/drinks—gas bar-b-q available for use.
- **Tuesday 25 April:** ANZAC Day march and reunion function—Brisbane
- **Saturday May:** TBA Excutive Committee Meeting
- **Friday 30 June:** Combined Reserve Forces Dinner Dance— Riverside Ballroom –New Farm (Army Reservists –contact Phil Jones 07 3390 1130)
- **Saturday 1 July:** 'Montevideo Maru' Memorial Service—ANZAC Square
- **Sunday 2 July:** Reserve Forces Day Brisbane March at 10.00 am
- **Saturday 15 July:** Bush Dinner at Jimboomba—Ph Barry Wright 07 5546 9865

### HAVE A LAUGH-

Text of a letter from a new Army recruit from a small country town in far far western Queensland:-.....

Dear Mum and Dad

I am well. Hope youse are too.

Tell me big brothers Doug and Phil that the Army is better than workin on the farm—tell them to get in bloody quick smart before all the good jobs are all gone!

I wuz a bit slow in settling down at first, because ya don't hafta get out of bed until 6.00 am. But I like sleeping in now until 6.00 am, cuz all ya gotta do before brekky is make ya bed and shine ya boots and clean ya uniform. No bloody cows to milk, no calves to feed, no feed to stack—nothing!! Blokes have gotta shave though, but its not so bad, cos there's lotsa hot water and even a light to see what ya doing!

At brekky ya get cereal, fruit and eggs but there's no kangaroo steaks or possum stew like wot Mum makes. You don't get fed again until noon, but by that time all the city boys are worn out because we've been on what they call a "route march" - geez, its only just like walking to the windmill in the back paddock!!

This one will kill me brothers Doug and Phil with laughter. I keep getting medals for shootin'- dunno why. The bullseye is as big as a possum's bum and it don't move and is not shootin' back at ya like the Johnsons did when our big scrubber bull got into their prize cows before the Ekka last year! All ya gotta do is to make yourself comfortable and hit

the target. Dead easy.

Ya don't even have to load your own cartridges—they come all ready in little boxes and ya don't have to steady yourself against the roll bar of the moving roo shootin' truck when you reload!

Sometimes ya gotta wrestle with the city boys and I gotta be real careful cause they break easy—its not like fun fighting with Doug and Phil and Jack and Stev and Davo and Muzza all at once like we do at home after the muster.

Turns out I'm not a bad boxer either and it look's like I'm the best the platoon's got, and I've only been beaten once by this one bloke from Engineers—he's 6 foot 5 and 16 stone and three pick handles across the shoulders, and ya know I'm only 5 foot 7 and 8 stone wringing wet, but I fought him until the other blokes carried me off to the boozier.

I can't complain about the Army—tell the boys to get quick before word gets around how bloody good it is.

Your loving daughter, Jill.

#### **You are not a true Aussie 'till.....**

- You've had an argument with a mate over whether Ford or Holden make the better car!
- You have a great story that revolves around the excessive consumption of beer.
- You own a pair of thongs.
- You own a separate pair of 'dress thongs' for special occasions.
- You don't know what is in a meat pie.



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



VOLUME 45

MARCH 2006

### PRESIDENT'S UPDATE.....

Our NGVR / PNGVR museum was jointly opened on Sunday 12 February 2006 by the new Federal Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Bruce Billson, MP and the Papua New Guinea Consul General to Queensland, Mr Paul E Nerau, LLB. Daily and weekend working bees over 5 weeks attended by up to 15 members as well as a near full time effort by Project Leader, John Holland and Secretary Col Gould prior to the opening assured the completion on time of building and the successful set up of the displays as planned. In fact work officially finished at 2.00 pm the day before the actual opening. Thank you all who participated - *John Holland, Col Gould, Paul Brown, Phil Ainsworth, John Batze, Michael Ahmat, Tom Dowling, Ralph Seeto, Bob Collins, Neil and Edwin Rooney, Barry Wright, Doug Ng, Jesse Chee, Mal Zimmermann and Bruce Crawford.* Thanks also to our Welfare Officer, Paul Brown whose hidden talents enabled him to plan, cut, weld, paint and install 19 security mesh screens over all the museum windows—a major task in itself.

A special thanks also to National Servicemen's site caretaker, Allan Clayton and wife Lorraine, who kept the early bird workers well supplied with tea and toast and kept a very watchful eye on our building and its valuable contents.

The 500 plus who attended the Church Service and opening at the Wacol site were mainly associated with the National Servicemen's Association (NSAA). Our official guests included Paul E Nerau, LLB. Papua New Guinea Consul General and wife Pauline and our NGVR stalwarts, Tom Lega, MM and Jack Goad, and Mr & Mrs Hank Cosgrove. Our honorary Padre, Allan McFarland assisted at the Church service prior to our Museum's opening. Numerous visitors on opening day were extremely positive in their remarks on the layout and variety of military and war memorabilia in our Museum.

Our museum consists of a large carpeted display room complimented by a good size work room and secure storage room. A covered verandah along one side of the building is certainly an asset. While the museum will be shared with the NSAA, we will host the majority of items on display. The Queensland President of NSAA, Mr Colin Bell, is already talking about the need for a second building for the museum.

Minister Billson has confirmed the success of our application

to his Department for funding of \$3,000 for display up-grading and we should have the funds any day now. We thank the Minister for his support. The result of our application to the Gaming benefit Fund for air-conditioning, computers, electronic display equipment and specialized display lighting should be known before ANZAC Day.

There is on-site security and safes in which to store our more valuable items. We will finally be able to consolidate all our memorabilia and artifacts in one secure location. Once fully established, the museum will in effect be our HQ, Club, Museum and meeting area. Historic Officer John Holland is now working on a plan to have the museum available for regular showings, particularly for school children visits. Another idea is to have a regular working day at the museum from time to time to maintain the premises and display, as well as for social purposes.

The commercial owner/developer of the Wacol ex-army barracks site has proposed that the NSAA site including the Museum be relocated to another site within the Wacol boundaries—a site over the hill near a creek where a commercial area is planned. The NSAA will take into account our views on this matter at their April meeting.

Good relations with the NSAA continue. Colin Bell, the Queensland President, considers our Association an integral part of the site's use and attraction. Thanks to our Honorary Solicitor Bruce Crawford, our long term occupation licence on site has been negotiated, but the execution of the document is held back until the outgoings for the site have been established. We would expect to pay a proportion of these outgoings.

To date, our Secretary has received 32 Australian Service Medals, 1945-1975 with clasp PNG for our PNG ex-PNGVR comrades. The result of representations to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs made at and following the museum opening for a more streamlined processing of these applications and financial or in-kind assistance for our Association to personally present the ASM's in PNG, and to help establish local PNG Chapters or similar in PNG is awaited. We would like to present these medals before ANZAC Day 2006, however as time moves on this may be impracticable.

Information has been received that there is a local move to start a B Coy PNGVR Ex members Association in Rabaul. Former B Coy Corporal, Lucas POKA, MBE who lives in the

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

All correspondence to:-

The Secretary, PO Box 287, EVERTON PARK Qld. 4053

Ph: 07 3311 7480 Mobile:- 042 456 2030 Email: [pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au) [www.pngvr.com](http://www.pngvr.com)

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**In this issue:-** President's update; Editor's Mail Box; Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion 2006; ANZAC Day March, Brisbane; News from Papua New Guinea; Museum photos; Presentation of the Regiment's Colours—Part 1 of 3; Coming events; Have a laugh.  
**Coming Issues:-** Part 2 & 3 History of the Colours; Jack Goad's NGVR Recollections; 'A' Coy's Last Parade; NGVR Recollections of Carlo Cavaliere.

Hoskins area, has located some 15 B Coy members. Together with members located in Mt Hagen, Banz, and Port Moresby, we are on the way of seeing real results after a number of years of representations. However, we are mindful that any structure established in PNG must be efficient and able to rely on its own internal resources in the mid to long term. Assistance from the Minister will bring this project to fruition.

The Committee looks forward to seeing everyone at the Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion and ANZAC Day ,

details of which are in this newsletter. We are looking into hosting a social day / bar-b-q at our museum on Sunday 23 April so that members who travel into Brisbane for the Regimental Dinner and ANZAC Day march can view our new HQ.

Where ever you may be on the 25 April, may you have a successful day and wave the NGVR / PNGVR flag on our behalf.

Phil Ainsworth.

## EDITOR'S MAIL BOX



To all NGVR/PNGVR Association Members

Well, we did it...we took an old Army building and turned it into a Museum...what an accomplishment and what a mighty team effort!!

The Museum at Wacol was officially opened by the newly appointed Minister for Veteran's Affairs and Minister assisting the Minister for Defence, the Hon. Bruce Billson, MP., and the Papua New Guinea Consul General Mr Paul E Nerau, LLB. on Sunday 12 February at 11.30 am. This was the Minister's first official function since his appointment. Great news followed the opening when the Minister advised that he had approved our request for \$3,000 towards the cost of display equipment.

I want to thank each and everyone who helped in so many ways to ensure the completion of the museum on time, and for the helpful advice, friendship and laughs we shared along the way. It was hard work in often very hot conditions, but everyone got on with the jobs allocated to them, and the end result and comments received on the day speak for themselves.

There are some members I want to single out and thank in this letter for their extraordinary dedication in assisting me get the many jobs done to turn an old disused army building into a museum the Association can be proud of.

My heartfelt thanks go to Col Gould, who made the mistake of staying with his son and daughter-in-law not far from my house at Beronia Heights during museum working bees. I was able to get him out of bed at 0600 every morning to start work; To Paul Brown, who manufactured and erected the window security screens, all 19 of them, and thanks also to Paul's two friends who assisted him. Paul was also responsible for setting up the weapons display. I also want to thank John Batze, who was the official 'stirrer' ( ever tried to stir a 44 gallon drum of old but good turps based paint with a stick ? ) and he did a great job painting the interior walls of the museum. John's moment of fame came when he conned Minister Billson out of \$20 for the donation box. Thanks to Phil Ainsworth, our President, for the wonderful sign outside the museum, and for his painting and trench digging skills; Hidden talents continue to be discovered—thanks go to our Hon Solicitor, Bruce Crawford for all the plants outside the museum and his New Guinea display plus his skills with a vacuum cleaner; Thanks to Ralph Seeto for his work in getting power to our building; Jesse Chee along with Michael Ahmat were mainly responsible for external painting and painting of the windows, and Jesse donated the Japanese hand cart for the museum; I thank Treasurer Doug Ng for his prowess at wielding a paint brush. Doug wins the courageous award for "volunteering", Army style, to climb up to the highest point outside the building on planks and trestles to paint along the roof line. When we took the ladder away not realizing he was still up there, he screamed blue murder; Tom Dowling looked after the photo record requirements as well assisting on various tasks; Mal Zimmermann is thanked for the reconstruction of the front stairs and rails and for fixing all the windows and catches, as well as supplying the air compressor and a mountain of tools; Thanks to Barry Wright and Bob Collins for their skills at carpet tile laying. Poor Bob could never seem to do anything right as Barry was always supervising him along the way, but they both did a wonderful job. Thanks also to Neil Rooney and his son for their painting work on the casements.

I would like to thank Decorative Indoor Gardens who donated the wonderful plants for the opening and Leo Walsh, from the Victoria Barracks Historical Museum for the loan of the mannequins. Thanks to Allan Clayton and his wife Lorraine, on-site caretakers, for their help and keeping a secure eye on our building, and to Colin Bell (NSAA) the driving force behind the whole Wacol site. The Museum project was Joe Fisk's dream and wish that we would one day have a 'home' for all our Memorabilia, and it was his suggestion that we go with the Wacol project. Thanks Joe.

John Holland—Historic Officer

Captain Phil Ainsworth was a member of the Lt Col JK McCarthy committee set up by Maj Newman to investigate the provision of Colours for PNGVR. Phil went on the reserve in 1968 and did not attend the presentation of the Colours.

Lt Colonel Mal Bishop MM wrote to me in March 2004 as follows:

*I note in the March issue of Harim Tok Tok that you are about to write the details surrounding the approval and subsequent presentation of PNGVR colours.*

*In order that the background relating to the selection of the Dalbertis' Creeper as opposed to Australian Wattle is correctly reported by you, I will give you the events leading up to the adoption of the D'Albertis' Creeper.*

*When I was CO of PNGVR in Port Moresby, (Captain R R) Bob Cole was Honorary Colonel of PNGVR. I had received a letter from Northern Command advising that we were to be presented with our Colours and attached was a coloured sketch showing Australian Wattle as the surrounds on the Regimental Colours.*

*I passed this information to Bob Cole who in his capacity as Honorary Colonel, dictated and signed a letter to N Comd stating that Australian Wattle had NO relationship to PNG and that Dalbertis' Creeper flowers were tile appropriate surrounds. There followed lots of subsequent letters between N Comd and PNGVR, but Bob Cole never wavered from his stand. At last N Comd agreed, (with AHQ blessing) to the Honorary Colonel's proposal and a sample of Dalbertis' Creeper flower was obtained from Lae. Bob, (Harvey-Hall) you may recall supplying the sample? This was forwarded to N Comd and finally accepted as the surrounds for our Regimental Colours.*

I was involved in a minor way: I obtained a selection of D'Albertis' Creeper pieces (commonly referred to as the Flame of the Forest) from the Botanical Gardens at Lae and sent them to HQ PNGVR at Murray Barracks.

In the April 2004 Harim Tok Tok, the President of our Association, Lt Col Harry Green MBE. ED had this to say:

*From the initial letter to AHQ in 1961 by Major Richard (Dick) Newman, (then CO of PNGVR) 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, Captain Bob Cole, OBE. MC. that the D'Albertis' Creeper (New Guinea Flame of the Forest) was the appropriate surrounds for our Regimental Colour in lieu of the standard Australian Wattle. I remember too, Captain Phil Ainsworth 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.*

What do we know about the wreath of flowers on either side of the crossed rifles on red background and situated proudly above the Battalion's motto of Per Augusta Ad Augusta ?

This extract was supplied by Phil Ainsworth:

Mucuna albertisii, D'Albertis' creeper is a extensive climber, 5-20 metres plus long. The name D'Albertis' creeper is usually applied to a red flowered species and it seems reasonable to restrict it to the one bearing the name of the botanist and explorer, D'Albertis, who in speaking of the red one, mentions that the inflorescences hang and are up to 60 cm(2 feet) in length.

To be continued: Part 2— "The Presentation of the Colours"  
Part 3— "Laying up of the Colours"

3. Furthermore, it is apparent that it was intended, eventually, to employ NGVR by sub-units where and as required.

Note: this incomplete memorandum was raised when Colonel Ralph Eldridge was Area Commander and CO PNGVR

**PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES BATTLE HONOURS**

Extract from PNGVR Routine Orders' Part 1 Serial 6/62 of 1st June 1962.

Members of Papua and New Guinea Volunteer Rifles will be proud to learn that their unit has been awarded the following Battle Honours. The authority for the award being 'Aust Army Order 135/61'.

South West Pacific 1942-43  
RABAUL  
WAU

The fine traditions of service which have been handed on to PNGVR from the original New Guinea Volunteer Rifles will serve as a constant reminder to all ranks of the standard which must be achieved.

(Signed) R. D. NEWMAN Maj  
C O PNGVR

**REGIMENTAL COLOURS COMMITTEE**

A Committee, comprising the following Officers, has been set up, to investigate the provision of Colours for PNGVR.

Chairman - Lt Col J K McCARTHY - Honorary Colonel  
Members - Maj. R D NEWMAN - Commanding Officer  
Lt P AINSWORTH - D Coy  
Lt W A McGRATH - IO, HQ PNGVR

**DESIGN OF THE COLOURS**

*Major Col Lee MBE says two people come to mind in the design of the colours: Major Nev Harris (now Colonel RFD ED) and a Police Officer, Mike Thomas and using the D' Albertis' Creeper (Flame of the Forest) was a joint suggestion from Nev and Mike. The then RSM Col Lee also said there were a couple of applications to AHQ for approval of the design, however AHQ insisted that all Australian Army units, as PNGVR was, must have the wattle surrounds. Gloom and despair everywhere in PNGVR HQ when the second rejection occurred, said Col, who became involved in discussions on the matter and suggested that a further application be made pointing out that the design should be accepted by AHQ as PNGVR would no longer be an Australian unit when PNG was granted independence. AHQ accepted the reasoning and approved the design.*

*Captain Phil Ainsworth says he was the initial designer of the regimental colours incorporating the D'Albertis' flower in the wreath, rather than the Australian wattle. The idea was that PNGVR and its forerunner, NGVR, were created to serve in New Guinea and that the motif was most appropriate.*

*After discussions with the PNG Department of Forest botanists and looking at botanical photographs and drawings (Phil was employed there as a cartographer from 1961 to 1972) he selected the D'Albertis' creeper as representing the desired PNG theme. Phil simplified the shape of the flowers and drew them into a wreath around the regimental badge over the regimental motto. He goes on to say that there was some time between when the initial drawings were prepared and the presentation of the colours and this may be why few realise his part in the production of the regimental colours.*

**REGIMENTAL MIXED DINNER REUNION**

**Saturday 22 April**

**Long Tan Sergeants Mess—Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, Brisbane**

Main Gate at end of Lloyd Street, off Wardell St Enoggera

Taxi's and cars allowed access direct to the Mess.

**Times:** Assemble from 6.15 pm    Pre-dinner Sherry 7.00pm    Dinner: 7.30 pm

**Cost:** **Only \$40 pp** incl sherry, 3 course sit down dinner, silver service, table wine, port and tea/ coffee, drinks at Mess prices and a great night for all.

**Dress:** Mess Dress; ANZAC Day Dress; Evening Jacket; Ladies evening wear  
Miniature medals to be worn.

**Accommodation:** There is usually overnight accommodation in the Mess lines ( males only) which can be confirmed closer to the night. Motel accommodate suggestions include  
**Grand Chancellor Spring Hill** ( \$110-\$130 per room)  
**Riverside Hotel Southbank** ( \$110—\$145 per room)  
**The Ridge on Leichhardt Spring Hill** ( \$110—\$145 per room)  
**Brookside Hotel—Brookside** ( \$70 single ; \$80 twin/double) This Hotel has 12 older style but clean air-conditioned Motel type units. The Hotel is directly across the road from Brookside Shopping Centre and has a bus terminal to commute to the City. It is also about 400 m from Mitchelton Train Station. The Hotel has all the usual facilities and the shopping centre caters for food, fashion, newsagency, etc etc. It is approx 10 minutes by car from Gallipoli Barracks. Ph: 07 3355 5366. First in first served.

**DINNER BOOKINGS NOW!!** Ph: Col Gould 042 456 2030    pngvr@optusnet.com.au  
Doug Ng 07 3349 2525    douglasng@iinet.au

Cheques:- Payable to NGVR/PNGVR Ex Members Assoc. no later than 10 April.

**ANZAC DAY MARCH & REUNION RECEPTION—BRISBANE**

**Tuesday 25 April**

**Assemble:** From 0930 hours at left side of George St close to Queen Street Mall.  
( Look for our Banner)

**March position:** Position Number: 4 ( Army leading—some 170 Units marching in 2006 )

**March commences:** 10.00 am

**Dress:** ANZAC Day Dress preferred or Civilian with tie and hat Full medals to be worn.

**Jeep requests:** Phone John Holland **IMMEDIATELY** on 07 38001554 for jeep transport.  
Jeeps load in Elizabeth St.

**Reception:** Same as in previous years—Exchange Hotel corner Edward and Charlotte Streets and enter via Charlotte St. Ground Floor. Commences: 11.30 am

**Cost:** **\$20 pp** at the door—exact change requested, please, includes light finger food and limited beer / wine / soft drinks. Great NGVR & PNGVR stories FREE.

**Trade Store:** Paul Brown will open his Trade Store during the reception for membership fees, etc

- **Post Courier 24/2/06....** The PNG Defence Force will now be able to send troops on international engagements and 1 PIR would make sure this was possible when it announces one of its companies as the best after a competition to mark 1 PIR's 55th birthday since its inception in 1951 at Taurama Barracks. Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta and Support Companies staged a military drill competition where they were judged on field craft, weapons, tactics, shooting, drill etc. The outstanding Platoon would be on stand-by for any international duty call with UN approval.

- **Post Courier 8/3/06....** The end of the retrenchment exercise on the Papua New Guinea Defence Force in May this year will pave the way for a re-vitalized and modernized force. The exercise—which is part of the downsizing policy which was a recommendation of the 1999 White Paper and now in its final stages, is viewed by the public with mixed emotions. Commodore Illau, Commander of the Defence Force, said that after the downsizing we will focus on revitalizing and modernization of the Force. He said the new structure of the force would take place as soon as the National Government approved the legislation in the first 6 months of this year. He thanked the Australian Government for helping financially in the retrenchment exercise.

**Secretary Col Gould has received many written and verbal messages regarding the ASM with PNG Clasp from ex-PNGVR members in Papua New Guinea.**

- "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Australian Government for awarding me the Australian Service Medal. My family and I are very pleased and proud to receive this medal for my PNGVR service."  
Ex 8 PI C Coy Banz.
- "Thank you very much for your tireless effort in obtaining the Australian Service Medal for me and also to the NGVR/PNGVR Ex Members Association for their great work. I hope to see some of you again some day and once again, thank you very much"  
Ex B Coy Rabaul
- "The award of the ASM is a great honour to me. Therefore My family and I thank you and your Association for your effort to make this possible. I thank the Australian government too for awarding me the service medal."  
Ex 9 PI C Coy Mt Hagen
- "I am very very happy and proud to express my feelings and that of my families when I received your letter. Thank you very much for your hard work, dedication in making everything possible for me to

be awarded with a service medal. There was great joy of cheers and tears when your letter was opened and read out amongst the family members. This is great news and a big award for my family and community in recognition of my PNGVR service by the Australian Government. Thank you very much."

Ex 9 PI C Coy Mt Hagen

- "Thank you very much for your letter about my award and details of the Australian Service Medal and your last newsletter which I enjoyed reading. I am very happy and pleased that the Australian Government has awarded me the Australian Service medal in recognition of my service with the Australian Defence Force as a member of PNGVR.

Ex 12 PI D Coy Madang

- On behalf of my family I would like to say a very big thanks to you and your Association for bringing PNGVR the forgotten part time army servicemen to the surface to be recognized by the citizens of PNG. I am very happy and proud of my past PNGVR service, Sincere thanks to the Australian Defence Dept and Australian Government."

Ex 3 PI A Coy Lae

- "Your letter about my ASM gave me, family and grandchildren great pleasure. Thanks to the Association and my regards to you and Jes Hansford. We all like reading the Association's newsletter."

Ex 12 PI D Coy Madang

- Thank you very much for your letter about my award for the ASM I am very much obliged. I have started to form a B Coy Rabaul ex members Association and have 15 members. Happy New Year to Major Peter Rogers, DFC, Mr & Mrs Gerry McGrade, WO 2 Mal Zimmermann and Major Tony Milan, RFD.ED. and all the rest from PNGVR

Ex B Coy Rabaul

- Thank you very much for all the efforts you put in to have this ASM medal awarded to me. I enjoyed the company in PNGVR of yourself and people like Cpl Murray from the Commonwealth Bank, Capt Newton from Burns Philp, Sgt Ealedona from Misima Is, Elias Sakbua and others whose names I cannot remember now. My father was a policeman in Madang and me being an ex member of 12 Platoon D Coy Madang, helped to take me to where I am today and I thank people like yourself for that."

Ex 12 PI D Coy Madang

Since earliest times, warriors have carried banners, standards or flags as a distinguishing mark. Colours are the development of those banners and trace their origins to the ensigns and standards of the Romans, Greeks and Egyptians. Their evolution was due to the need for some mark of distinction between families, tribes and races and to provide a rallying point in battle.

Until 1881 the Colours were taken to war and carried by Ensigns at the head of a Regiment where they could be seen and recognised and where they often became the centre of bitter fighting: history records many acts of bravery performed in order to prevent the Colours falling into enemy hands and losses amongst Colour and Standard Bearers became so high, that since the Boer War, Colours have been retained in safe keeping when units depart on active service.

Arising from ancient tradition, units of today are allowed a Queen's and a Regimental Colour. All Colours derive from the Sovereign who approves their design: the Queen's Colour is a reminder to all ranks of their loyalty and duty to their Sovereign and Country whilst the Regimental Colour is a symbol of Regimental tradition, including the Sovereign's recognition of distinguished service in battle and of the duty owed by each member to each other and to the Regiment.

Colours are normally housed in their case in the Officer's Mess and are only paraded on formal ceremonial occasions and are never moved without their appropriate escort.

**BACKGROUND**

Archival documents show that Major Dick Newman, as CO PNGVR, initiated the first official correspondence on the matter of Colours for the Regiment to Northern Command Headquarters at Victoria Barracks in Brisbane. Dick Newman became CO on the 15th of March 1962, taking over from Colonel Ralph Eldridge (later Brigadier PNG Command and OBE), who was then also Area Commander PNG.

In seeking a beginning for this story, we need to go back to July 1961, when, as a result of a NGVR Battle Honours Committee submission, Colonel Eldridge authorised a memorandum to Northern Command making a claim for Battle and Theatre Honours for NGVR, covering operations in the South West Pacific 1942-43, RABAU and KAVIENG. The response was that PNGVR was awarded NGVR Battle Honours for South West Pacific 1942-43, RABAU and WAU; the award was promulgated in PNGVR Routine Orders' Part 1 of the 1st of June, 1962, less than three months after Major Newman became CO.

Here are details of some significant documents, from the unit archives, which are germane to this story:

Headquarters,  
Area Command  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
Murray Barracks,  
Port Moresby.  
Jul 61.

**NORTHERN COMMAND**

**BATTLE AND THEATRE HONOURS FOR THE SECOND WORLD WAR (1939-45) - NGVR**

1. Herewith is a claim for Battle and Theatre Honours for the Second World War (1939-45) submitted by NGVR Battle Honours Committee.
2. It has been extremely difficult to assess the strength of the NGVR component engaged in operations in RABAU and KAVIENG. However, page 46 of South West Pacific Area First Year, by Dudley McCarthy, gives a fair indication of the arrangements for the raising of NGVR. Strength of sub-units are known to have fluctuated considerably during the existence of the unit.

**A STORY OF THE QUEEN'S AND REGIMENTAL COLOURS  
OF THE PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES**

By Bob Harvey-Hall, RFD, ED

**PROLOGUE**

My first involvement with Colours was in 1949. Prior to going to Lae to live and work in January 1952, I had served with 25 Battalion, the Darling Downs Regiment and at the three annual camps I attended, the Battalion's Queen's and Regimental Colours were paraded. On each occasion, I felt I was involved in a dignified and significant ceremony; more so, given that 25 Battalion had an impressive list of battle honours from both World Wars.

During January/February 1953, in an exchange of letters between myself and the Adjutant Quartermaster of the PNGVR, Captain Bendall, at the end of a list of administrative matters related to A Company, I asked: "did he think something should be done about Colours for PNGVR". A very short time later, I received from Stan Beridall, a letter in longhand addressed to "Dear Harvey-Hall" (a typical form of Service address for the time to a subordinate) which tersely stated "the Battalion is still in infancy and you have better things to do, as discussed previously, than worry about unit colours and I am busy getting things cleared up before proceeding South".

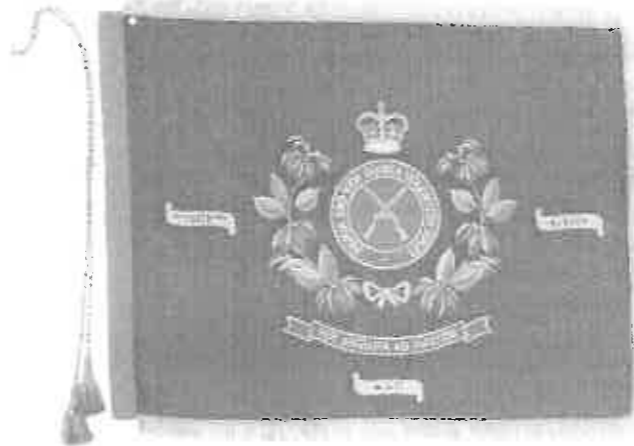
The "things getting cleared up" probably referred to the PNGVR Q Store at Murray Barracks, which mysteriously burnt down.

That was the end of the matter of Colours for PNGVR for myself. In 1961, whilst staying at Murray Barracks, Port Moresby, I was informed of a submission to go to Northern Command making a claim for battle honours for NGVR.

**COLOURS**

The term Colours includes Banners, Standards and Guidons. Queen's and Regimental Colours are carried by infantry units, except those units gazetted as rifle regiments. Guidons are carried by armoured units. In commemoration of some particular service or to mark some special occasion, as a token of the Sovereign's pleasure, a unit may be granted some Honourable Insignia, such as a Banner. In all cases they are given the same honours and esteem.

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.



**NGVR/PNGVR MUSEUM**

Paul Brown puts the final bolt into the Museum sign ready for opening day on the 12 February 2006.

All photos courtesy of Tom 'Snappy Tom' Dowling.



**MUSEUM OFFICIAL OPENING**

Minister for Veteran's Affairs and Minister assisting the Minister for Defence, the Hon. Bruce Billson, MP and PNG Consul General, Mr Paul E Nerua, LLB, cut the ribbon to open the Museum whilst NGVR/PNGVR President Mr Phil Ainsworth looks on.



Part of the NGVR display in the Museum with some items donated by NGVR Tom Lega, MM and Jack Goad.



NGVR/PNGVR President Phil Ainsworth presents Minister Bruce Billson, MP with an Association Plaque in appreciation of his support. 12 February 2006



Historic Officer and Museum Project leader, John Holland, stands beside a display of his Father's uniform—Lt Frank Holland, MBE



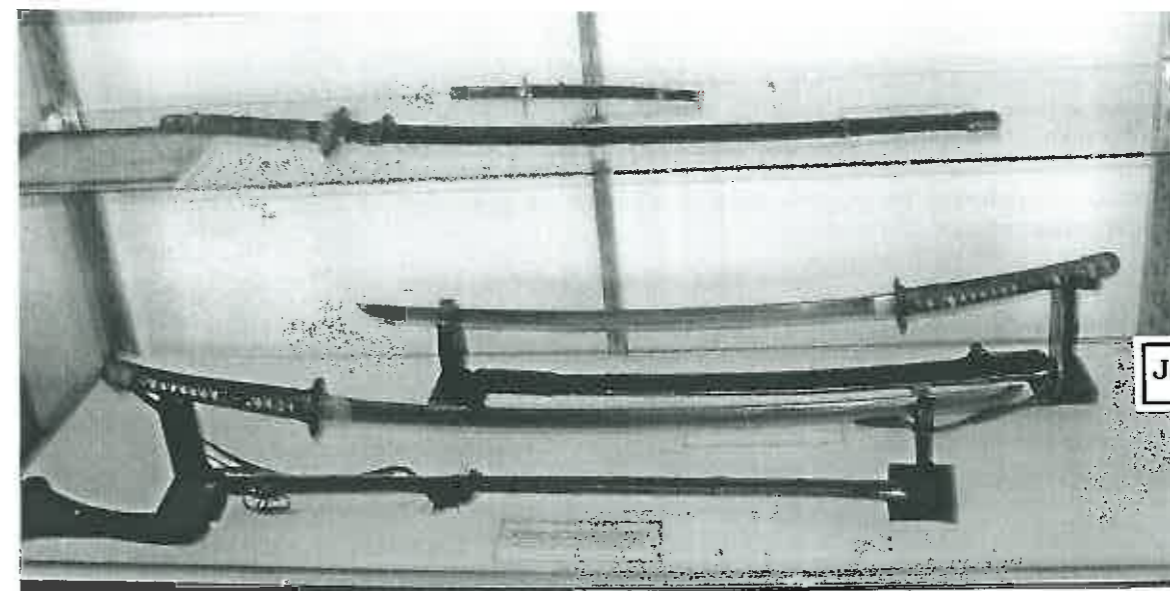
Display Items  
Includes Japanese helmet and water bottles, Saki bottle, a Japanese medical microscope, Nazi Pennant found in Lae and a Japanese officer's personal seal stamp.



Opening day at the NSAA Site, at Wacol with: - (L) Neal Lega, Wang Ahnon (from the PNG Consulate Office), Ralph Seeto and Gil Harvey-Hall.



Army Cadets march the flags into the Soldier's Chapel for the official opening. Includes the Papua New Guinea flag.



Japanese sword display.