

HAVE A LAUGH

An middle aged MARRIED couple had to front the local Magistrates Court, where the wife had been charged for shop lifting.

Magistrate:- Madam, you have been charged and found guilty of stealing a can of pears from the supermarket. This is a serious offence but I must bear in mind your age and marital status when considering a sentence. Madam, how many pears were in the can you stole??

Wife: Only Six pears your Honour.

Magistrate: Therefore I will sentence you to six days in jail—one day for each pear you stole. Before I formally pass judgment, does anyone have any more to say on this case??

Husband. (Jumping up wildly and shouting) YES Your Honour, I have something important to say that may affect your judgment.

Husband: Your Honour, my wife also stole a very large can of PEAS.....

PROPOSED NGVR / PNGVR PAPUA NEW GUINEA TOUR JULY 2007.

The Executive Committee is looking at the possibility of organizing a 2 week tour of PNGVR sites in Papua New Guinea.

Open to all members and friends of the Association, the tour will coincide with Remembrance Day in PNG on the 23 July 2007, which, we understand, the main event will be held in Wewak (as well as ceremonies in other centres).

Allowance in time has been made for personal tours and business in each centre.

Subject to airline costs and schedules, the preliminary tour is as follows:-

- 19 July Depart Brisbane for Port Moresby (3 nights in Port Moresby with visits to Goldie River, Bomana, Murray Barracks etc.
- 22 July Group A departs for Wewak Group B departs for Mt Hagen. (Remembrance Day functions) Members may specify which group they would like to be in. Representation is required in both centres. 3 nights.
- 25 July Both groups fly to and meet up in Madang. 3 nights in Madang at the Madang Resort Hotel which includes a completely free rest day.
- 28 July Depart Madang for Lae. 3 days/nights Lae area.
- 31 July Depart Lae for Rabaul 2 days/nights Rabaul area
- 2 August Depart Rabaul for Port Moresby. Overnight Port Moresby.
- 3 August Depart Port Moresby for Brisbane. (with all your duty free)

Airfares, all meals, accommodation, drinks, visas, medical insurance etc will be member's own responsibility. Members will be able to do side trips, for example a member may wish to depart from Rabaul and visit Kavieng and Kimbe and make his own way back to Brisbane. Flight, day tour and accommodation costs have yet to be established, but at this stage we seek an expression of solid interest in the tour. Please write or email our Secretary direct, and feel free to make any comments or suggestions on tours or possible personal side trips. RSVP as soon as you can. The schedule is subject to change.

Col Gould

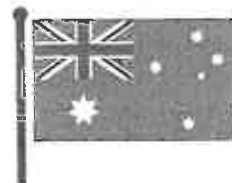
New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc.

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HARIM TOK TOK

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

PATRON: Major General John Pearn, AM, RFD. (Retd.)

VOLUME 49

DECEMBER 2006

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2005/6

The Association has progressed in many ways during 2005/06, thanks to your hard working Committee members. Other than our usual functions such as ANZAC Day, Regimental Dinner, Bush Dinners and memorial services, the two stand out activities were the establishing of our Military Museum at the National Servicemen's Historic precinct at the old Wacol Army Barracks in Brisbane, and the 2006 visit to Papua New Guinea.

Both activities have been reported in previous issues of Harim Tok Tok. Colin Gould and Bruce Crawford's work in PNG coupled with on the ground support by John Mudge, has certainly paid off. More ASM's with PNG Clasp are in the pipeline for our PNG comrades, and those with 4 or more years service in PNGVR may also be entitled to the new Australian Defence Medal. (ADM)

I am very pleased to announce that Major-General John Pearn, AM, RFD. (Retd) former Surgeon General, Australian Army and Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, at the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane, has accepted our invitation to become our Association Patron.

Bob Collins has continued his wonderful work in interviewing and recording the service recollections of our NGVR members. Some interesting and unusual stories and events have been recorded and efforts are being made to secure funding so that these personal stories from a small but unique Australian Militia Unit can be put into a book form.

I was amazed to learn that there is an NGVR-ANGAU plaque in the foreground of the Australian War Memorial. Although it was installed in 2001, no one in our Association was aware of its existence. The AWM has kindly offered to sponsor a dedication ceremony for the NGVR-ANGAU plaque. There is also plans to dedicate a PIR plaque incorporating the NGIB and PNGIB. **It is proposed to commence a combined dedication service at the AWM, Canberra at 10.00 am Tuesday 15 May 2007, followed by a tour of the AWM and lunch.** It is hoped that his Excellency the Governor General and Mr Keith Payne, VC. OAM. will be able to attend as well as NGVR, PNGVR, ANGAU and PIR

members.

Transport to and from Canberra, accommodation, meals etc etc will be by individual arrangements and cost. As you are aware our Association will assume responsibility for PIR members as from 26 April 2007, hence the reason for coordinating the two ceremonies on the same day.

Members and partners interested in attending are requested to write or email our Secretary, Colin Gould, as soon as possible, as confirmed numbers will have an important bearing on the format and style of the dedication ceremonies. Further information will be available in 2007.

The issue of up to 6 editions of our newsletter year is perhaps our most important function, as it is the main means to keep all our Members, Associates, Friends and related organizations informed of our activities. Favorable comments from members regularly confirm this, and such comments are helpful and well received. The unheralded work of planning, typing, photo coping and mailing some 400 copies is done solely by our Secretary Col Gould. On behalf of all our members, thank you very much Colin.

The following, not in any order, will give our members and supporters an idea of all the various activities of our Association. If you wish to help out in any way, please email or contact the Association or the various function coordinators:-

MUSEUM- maintenance; displays; administration; open days; security; Liaison with other museums;
(John Holland—Museum Curator & Paul Brown)

PLAQUE DEDICATION 2007: Planning / hosting
(Bruce Crawford—Chairman Planning Committee and Phil Ainsworth)

9 RQR MILITARY EXCELLENCE AWARDS:
(Col Gould)

PNG INDEPENDENCE FUNCTIONS:
(Col Gould)

NGVR/PNGVR FUNERAL SUPPORT SERVICE:
(Paul Brown & Tom Dowling)

In this issue:- *President's Annual Report; Association Patron; Jimboomba Bush Dinner; NGVR Jack Goad's Recollections (Final); 9 RQR Steel Tuff; Photos; Vale; Have a Laugh:*

Next Issue: *The last Parade of 'A' Coy; The Recollections of Colonel Mal Bishop, MM*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:
(Col Gould)
MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL SERVICE:
(Paul Brown)
ANZAC DAY & RECEPTION:
(Col Gould, John Holland, Paul Brown)
NGVR SERVICE HISTORIES & BOOK:
(Bob Collins)

HISTORY OF PNGVR & 'A' COMPANY:
(Bob Harvey-Hall)
CD or DVD of NGVR / PNGVR HISTORY PHOTOS ETC
(Phil Ainsworth)
CHINESE MEMORIAL BELL, BRISBANE Liaison:
(Ralph Seeto)
BUDGETS, FINANCE, FUND RAISING:
(Doug Ng)

JIMBOOMBA BUSH DINNERS:
(Bob Collins & Barry Wright et al)
AUSTRALIA—PNG ASSOCIATION INC Liaison
(Col Gould & John Holland)
PNG REPRESENTATIVE & ASSOCIATION / PNG LIAISON:
(John Mudge)
AWARDS FOR PNGVR NATIONALS:
(Col Gould, Bruce Crawford & John Mudge)

PNG CONSULATE GENERAL BRISBANE LIAISON:
Phil Ainsworth & Col Gould)
PIR ASSOCIATION LIAISON:
(Bruce Crawford)
www.pngvr.com
(Phil Ainsworth)
FUNCTION PHOTOGRAPHER:
(Tom Dowling)

PNGVR CHAPTERS IN PNG:
(Col Gould, John Mudge, Bruce Crawford)
NSAA SITE, RELOCATION & LIAISON:
(Phil Ainsworth & Bruce Crawford)
BLACK CAT TRACK, PNG MAPPING, HISOTRY, TRACK FACILITIES & MARKETING:
(Phil Ainsworth)
PROPOSED PNG TOUR 2007:
(Col Gould)

These are some of the main activities of our Association. Our Association is fortunate to have such a dedicated Executive Committee team and I thank them all for their support during 2005/6.

I now welcome the new Committee for 2006/7

Patron: Maj-General John Pearn, AM. RFD (Rt)

President: Phillip Ainsworth, B Econ.
VP (PNG Rep) John Mudge, MBE. MES. C St J.
VP: Bob Collins
Secretary: Col Gould, JP.(Qual). AFAIM.
Treasurer: Doug Ng, JP (Qual) FAFA.
Welfare Officer: Paul Brown
Hon. Solicitor: Bruce Crawford
Museum Curator: John Holland.
Committee: Tom Dowling
Mal Zimmermann
Jesse Chee
Jim Vote

I wish all our members and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Phillip Ainsworth
PRESIDENT

NEW ASSOCIATION PATRON

John Pearn was born in Brisbane. His immediate ancestors on both sides of his family were from pioneering cane-farming families of north Queensland. John was educated at the Auchenflower Infant School, at Milton State School and then Brisbane Grammar before matriculating at the University of Queensland. He graduated in both Science (1962) and in Medicine (1964), the latter with First Class Honours. His post-specialty training was in the spheres of paediatrics, tropical medicine, toxicology and genetics.



Major General John Pearn, AM. RFD (Rtd) (left) is officially welcomed to the Association by President Phil Ainsworth (right) and Vice President, PNG, John Mudge, MBE. MES. C St J.

In all General Pearn served on 5 separate occasions in Papua New Guinea. Initially, he served as the Regimental Medical Officer (2nd Battalion PIR) based at Wewak and Vanimo in 1966 and again in Port Moresby and Lae in 1967. In 1969 he established the University of Queensland's Paediatric Unit at Goroko Hospital, where he lived with his wife Vena and son, Owen, from late April until September 1969.

Whilst based in Goroka, he served as the Training Major for C Coy PNGVR. In that capacity he attended weekly training days and nights, and weekend bivouacs including a PNGVR ascent of Mt Wilhelm, in Papua New Guinea.

General Pearn returned professionally to PNG on three subsequent occasions—on two of these being appointed

VALE



Brig. Ian Hunter, CVO.AM. MBE

10/7/17 TO 5/11/06

Commanding Officer
PNG Command
1966—1969

In 1937, 19 year old Ian Hunter, already a Commissioned Officer, was accepted for entry into the Royal Military College, Duntroon. He was the 683rd cadet to enter the college, and, when he graduated in 1939, he was top of his class, presaging a military career that would be marked with many distinctions until he retired in 1969.

When war broke out, he was deployed to the Middle East with the 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion. On his return to Australia and for his services to the defence of northern Australia and Timor, he was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire, and promoted to Lt. Colonel, at the relatively young age of 24 years. After the war he served in Japan with the British Occupation Forces. He returned to Australia where he married his wife, Rosemary.

In 1949 he was seconded to the Prime Minister's Dept to serve under Ben Chifley and Robert Menzies to plan the Commonwealth Jubilee celebrations in 1951 and the planned Royal visit in 1952. The death of King George VI, cancelled the visit but during 1954 tour of Australia by a young Queen Elizabeth, he was honoured by HM and made a Companion of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) His career took him to the Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, USA and the Pentagon. Returning to Australia he commanded the Australian Staff College (1963-1965); PNG Command, Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby, (1966-1969) then retired from the Army in 1969. Whilst operating his business, 'Allied Rubber' in Brisbane, he dedicated himself to the Red Cross for which he was awarded the Red Cross Distinguished Service Medal in 1976 and made a member of the Order of Australia in 1994.

He followed the NGVR/PNGVR Association with great interest and was a very close and personal friend of our Late, Lt Colonel Harry N G... MBE.ED. Brig Hunter is survived by his wife of 59 years, Rosemary, five children, 11 grandchildren and one "and a bit" great grand children.

WARRANT OFFICE CLASS 2 WILLIAM (Bill) GUEST

Bill Guest went to war as a CMF soldier during WW2, as a member of the 39th Battalion, that famous Militia unit which began to arrive on the Kokoda Track in July 1942, having been given the task of preventing the Japanese moving in the direction of Port Moresby, and which fought the enemy until the 2/14 and 2/16 Battalions took over. Bill Guest stayed the distance with his mates in that harrowing campaign. Later on, as an AIF soldier he fought in the Borneo campaign.

Bill was demobbed after the war and rejoined the Army in 1951. In April 1952 he was posted to the fledgling Pacific Island Regiment, with its HQ at Taurama Barracks outside Port Moresby, as Orderly Room Sergeant. The PIR solders has trouble with the word 'Guest' and settled for 'Sergeant Biskit', a name similar to a biscuit which was part of their rations. Later that year Bill was posted to Vanimo near the PNG /Dutch New Guinea border as part of the advance party for A Coy PIR. Bill took part in border patrols, returning to Taurama Barracks in August 1953.

After 5 years service with PIR, WO 2 Bill Guest elected not to return to Australia as he felt he had established an affinity with the people and the country. He was posted to 'A' Coy PNGVR in Lae. As the Warrant Officer instructor for 'A' Coy he organized field exercises designed to test the skills of 'A' Coy soldiers in patrolling, weapons and tactics. Bill retired from the Army in 1963 and remained in PNG for some time before returning to Australia and settling in Queensland with his wife Pat and children Annette and Scott. During his military service, he presented a professional attitude to all tasks he performed, many times under difficult circumstances. He passed away on the 1 December 2006, with his wife and family at his side. His epitaph could very well say: Warrant Officer Bill Guest was a significant part of the Australian Army.

Contributed by Major Bob Harvey-Hall, RFD.ED (Rtd)



THE MORNING AFTER THE AGM THE NIGHT BEFORE.

Barry Wright, Lee Eastwood, Ken MacGowan, Brian Costello, Jack Hobbins and Bob Collins await sick parade treatment—Eggs,bacon, toast, tea and coffee

Photo: Col Gould



MUSEUM'S LATEST DISPLAY

Original NGVR field uniform including rain coat, map case, dog tags and cloth NGVR insignia as issued to NGVR veteran Bruce Fraser.
Items kindly donated by Yvonne Farrant

STOP PRESS—RAFFLE DRAWN

Our Raffle was drawn on Friday 8 December at 11.20 am under independent supervision at the offices of King & Co Property Developers, Brisbane. Winning ticket was Number 658 and won by the President of the Australia-PNG Association, Mr Ron Burgess.

We thank all buyers and Bob Collins for donating the prize of 7 nights accommodation for 4 people at South Pacific Plaza, Broadbeach, Gold Coast.



A 1968 PNGVR Annual Ball ticket—C Coy Mt Hagen.

Courtesy Stewart Lewis

International Visiting Examiner of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Papua New Guinea. In July 1998, as Surgeon General to the Australian Defence Force, he was again in Vanimo as part of Australia's Military Emergency Response to the tsunami which struck and destroyed 16 villages on the Sepik Coast on the night of 17 July, 1998. The Australian Medical Team was operating, on the ground, within 56 hours of that tragic event.

John Pearn enlisted in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, immediately upon his graduation in Medicine in December 1964, and saw operational service as the Consultant Physician to the Australian and New Zealand Force in the Vietnam Campaign (1970), and subsequently was the resuscitator and intensivist as part of the Forward Surgical Team in UNAMIR 11, the United Nations military response to the genocide in Rwanda (1994-95). He had completed and passed the general service military examinations to the level of Lt. Colonel, and commanded the 2 Field Hospital based in Brisbane in 1978-82.

Thereafter, he was appointed national Representative Honorary Colonel for the Australian Army Medical Corps (1997), and following the restructuring of the Australian Defence Force, was the first Reservist to be promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed Surgeon General to the ADF in 1998.

In 1986, General Pearn was appointed Professor of Paediatrics & Child Health at the University of Queensland, based at the Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane where he had worked as a Paediatrician since 1965.

General Pearn has received many awards apposite to his service in tropical countries, including the Sir Edward (Weary) Dunlop Asia Medal " for recognition of distinguished achievements and leadership in fostering sustained and harmonious Australia-Asia relations " in 1988, and the Medal of the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine " for outstanding contributions to tropical medicine, research, development and education" with particular emphasis on the Australasian Region, including Asia and the Western Pacific area., awarded in February 2000.

In 2006, Major General Pearn serves as a permanent member of the Australian Human Research Ethics Committee of the Australian Defence Force; He is Honorary Colonel of the Queensland University Regiment, and Patron of both the Australian Water Transport Association (RSE) in Queensland; and National Patron of the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association; this latter group of proud Australian servicemen and women who have won the Blue Beret on operational service overseas.

JIMBOOMBA BUSH DINNER

Fifty-three members, partners and friends enjoyed the delightful Bush Dinner held at Barry and Pam Wright's property at Jimboomba on Saturday evening 18 November. Commencing with pre-dinner drinks and nibbles, a great 2 course dinner was followed by Port and much conviviality. It was certainly a wonderful evening. To all those who assisted in preparing the site and organizing the dinner and drinks—congratulations for a job well done. Prior to the dinner, a short but solemn tree planting ceremony of a seedling from the original Gallipoli Lone Pine commemorating our departed comrades was held. Our thanks to Bob Collins who secured this unique seedling.

Dining President Bob Collins and Mr Vice, Barry Wright did an excellent job maintaining decorum, and after the formalities President Phil Ainsworth updated members on the Association's various activities. Remember, the next Bush Dinner is **Saturday 21 July 2007**.

Below left: Bob Collins and Barry Wright plant the Gallipoli Lone Pine seedling

Below right: Norm Mundy, Leigh Eastwood, Bob Collins and Paul Brown inspect the new Lone Pine tree.



A RESCUE MISSION ©
By Rifleman John Crayton GOAD
NG 2274
New Guinea Volunteer Rifles

(Part 2 continued)



MY MOVE TO FINSCHAFEN AND THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Early in February, 1942, Capt Simpson, OIC NGVR Lae, ordered me to accompany Patrol Officer G.C. (Blue) Harris to Finschafen in the Guinea Airways launch 'Gnair'. Our role was to evacuate those Missionaries from Finschafen who would not join the NGVR.

We sent most of them down to Lae but one went missing into the bush. Another NGVR soldier, Gus Kuster, and myself went after him on horses but this time "the mounties did not get their man" – he got completely away.

There was a general feeling at the time that the Lutheran Missionaries, most of them German, would be sympathetic to the Japs and the powers that be wanted them out or in the NGVR. Some, in fact, did join NGVR and were excellent soldiers. Pastor Freund, V. Neumann and A. Zacher, the whole of the Australian Lutheran Mission staff in New Guinea at the time, and Adolph Obst and Dave Rohrlach of the Lutheran Mission, Finschafen, did join NGVR at Lae. I worked with Harold Freund in New Britain shortly thereafter and he did a marvellous job both there and later as a Coastwatcher around Madang and the Umboi (Rooke) Island areas. However, behind Finschafen, at Sattleberg, the soldier with me did find a lot of German flags, swastikas, German books etc in the attic of a Mission house. I put one of the pennants in my pocket and eventually returned to Australia with it. The pennant has now been donated to the NGVR/PNGVR Ex Members Association and currently is on display at the Greenbank RSL together with a NGVR pennant I also donated.

I cannot remember just who gave me this particular order, but, later when I went across to New Britain with Pastor Harold Freund and we had to man the radio, I was told that if he used the radio for any purpose other for normal military signals I had to shoot him. This order must have been given to me in Finschafen before we left.

TO NEW BRITIAN ON A RESCUE MISSION

By this time Rabaul had fallen.

The force which was tasked to defend Rabaul, Lark Force, consisted of the Australian 2/22nd Battalion, attached Units of Artillery, Engineers etc. and elements of the NGVR, (Battalion HQ, 1 Rifle Coy, a Machine Gun Platoon, and the Chinese Auxiliary Ambulance Detachment), some 1,100 men in all.

The Japanese attacked Rabaul before dawn on 23rd January, 1942, in overwhelming numbers – at least 23 Japanese vessels were counted in the Harbour on the morning of the attack. It was all over in hours, the order 'every man for himself' was given on the morning of the 23rd January, and the survivors of the battle began to make their way down the New Britain Island, away from Rabaul.

Over the following weeks many of these survivors, who had not been given any training in living off the land, were either captured by the Japanese and returned to Rabaul, or, in some cases e.g. at Toll Plantation, were massacred by the Japanese. At Toll some 150 soldiers who had surrendered were brutally massacred and left where they were killed.

However some made their way south and were still alive and J.K. McCarthy, Assistant District Officer at Talasea, was given the authority to organise the rescue of survivors and was given the authority over all soldiers in the area regardless of rank or title. McCarthy's plan was for volunteers in small boats to go from the mainland of New Guinea across the sea totally dominated by the Japanese to New Britain and rescue escaping soldiers and civilians. For this task, what has sometimes been described as 'the NGVR Navy' was formed under the command of G.C. (Blue) Harris, Assistant District Officer. It consisted of the 'Bavaria', a 45 ton schooner belonging to the Lutheran Mission Finschafen, the 'Umboi', a 23 tonner owned by the Australian Lutheran Mission, the 'Gnair', about 15 tons owned by Guinea Airways, Lae, and the 'Totol', a 35 tonner belonging to the Lutheran Mission, Madang.

The various crews were:-

- 'Bavaria' – Adolph Obst, Dave Rohrlach, Bert Gazard, NGVR, and Harley Armistead, NGVR.
- 'Umboi' – Vic Newmann, Harold Freund, NGVR and myself, NGVR Blue Harris, in overall charge of the vessels sailed with us.

'Gnair' – Bill Money, Gus Kuster and W.B. (Snow) Blackley, all NGVR

'Totol' – Ted Radtke, Bob Emery, NGVR, Andy Smith, Ron Chugg, NGVR



Welcome to our new Patron
 at the PNG Consulate
 General
 Brisbane.

(From left:) Bruce Crawford,
 John Mudge, Major-General
 John Pearn, AM. RFD (Rtd),
 Phil Ainsworth, Col Gould.
 Paul Brown.

2006 AGM.

Phil Ainsworth, Bob Collins and John Holland with the Japanese rifle that was found at Tol Plantation, West New Britain in 1944. The rifle was donated to our Museum by the Greenbank RSL Sub-Branch along with a generous donation of \$1,000. Our sincere thanks to the Members of the Greenbank RSL Sub-Branch for their support.



AGM 2006

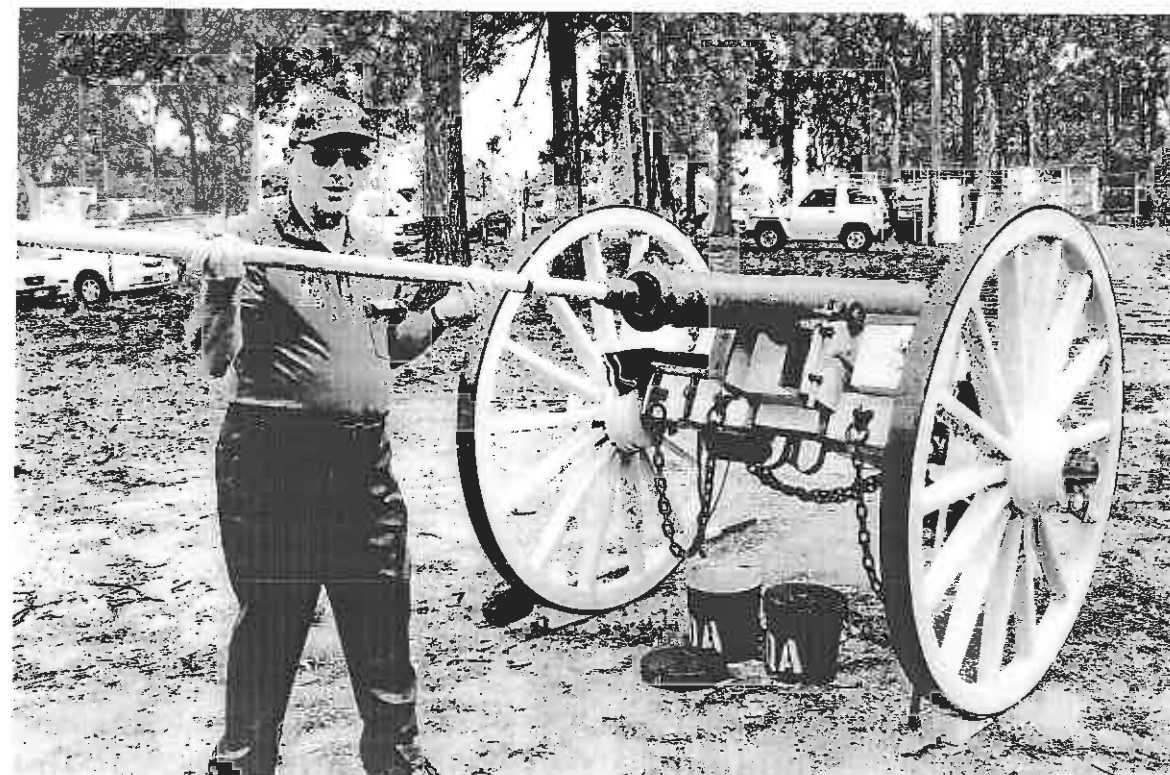
President Phil Ainsworth presents John Holland with his "LIFE MEMBER" badge. Tom Dowling was also awarded Life Member status at the AGM in his absence.

It is not generally known, but PNGVR had its own mobile artillery battery.

Members of the PNGVR Artillery battery ready for action around a 1855 vintage bronze smooth bore muzzle loading 6 lb field cannon at the NGVR / PNGVR Museum, Wacol, July 2006.

(from Left—standing) Doug Ng John Batze Ken Weare Col Gould Phil Ainsworth John Holland
Paul Brown Mal Zimmermann
(front centre) Barry Wright

(Below) Gunner John Batze loads the charge:



Three other vessels the 'Thetis', the 'Nereus' and the 'Winnon' were held in reserve. I do not recall just who asked for volunteers for this mission and cannot to this day explain just why I did volunteer, but I did so and set sail with the 'Umboi' for New Britain.

It must be pointed out at this stage, however, that I did have a particular interest in New Britain. My father had still been in Kavieng, in the Public Health Department, when the Japs invaded New Ireland, and I had heard nothing of him since then.

The day before we left the first group of 7 soldiers who had survived the fall of Rabaul were brought to Finschafen by the Rev Bernard Moore, an Anglican missionary from near Gasmata on New Britain. These men had walked some 350 miles (560 km) or more and this 7 were the only ones from a party of 200 or more men who started out to reach the mission station. Theirs was a remarkable achievement as they had only what food they could scrounge and no medical supplies at all.

We saw their vessel while it was still at sea. Thinking it was probably a Japanese vessel (there were very few Australian vessels in the area) 'Blue' Harris, Gus Kuster, Harold Freund and myself took out a mission launch armed with a Lewis Gun and several .303 rifles and set out to meet it. As a subterfuge we flew a swastika flag and had plenty of swastika banners on the launch. As it happened all we did was scare the daylighters out of those on board. As they said later they did not realise that the Germans were in the Pacific.

Prior to setting off it was decided to camouflage the vessels. They were all mainly white so some tins of paint were obtained from the Lutheran Mission store, mixed together and very sloppily applied to each vessel. It was not a Rembrandt finish but we hoped that the paint job would not make the vessels quite so conspicuous.

ACROSS TO NEW BRITAIN.

Our first stop was Rooke Island (also called Umboi Island) which is situated between the New Guinea Mainland and New Britain, with the Vitiaz Straights on one side and Dampier Straights on the other.

The second morning we arrived in the Cape Gloucester area and each vessel went into a separate anchorage and camouflaged itself with palm fronds etc.

We had been instructed to travel by night only and hide by day but this was not always possible. Firstly there were many reefs, which made night travel almost impossible, and secondly, it is very difficult sometimes to hide a 23 ton schooner with 12 metre masts. We did however, quickly learn to move in close to the mangroves and cover the schooner with mangrove and palm leaves.

THE TALASEA PENINSULA

We eventually anchored in Riebeck Bay, on the western base of the Talasea Peninsula, together with the 'Gnair'.

On Sunday, 8th March, four of us, Blue Harris, Snow Blackley, Harold Freund and myself then carried the Teleradio, which had been on the 'Umboi' with us, across the base of the Talasea Peninsula to Walindi Plantation by a rough native track. Transporting the Teleradio 3B was not easy. It consisted of three identical size metal boxes, one the transmitter, another the receiver and the third the loud speaker with space for the morse key, code books etc. There were also 2 batteries and a battery charger, as well as the aerial, petrol and oil. All in all it took 9 to 13 carriers just for the radio.

The first time we switched the radio on we received a signal from Assistant District Officer Pursehouse at Finschafen to the effect that "Harristown and Penglaseville are gone". This was our code. In case the Japanese were listening to our uncoded radio signals we avoided using names and places. Blue Harris, our leader, came from Lae, so Harristown referred to Lae, Penglase had been Assistant District Officer at Salamaua, so Penglaseville meant Salamaua.

This was an important signal for us as part of the plan had been to take any troops we rescued back to Lae where they could walk to Wau, some 80 miles away across very mountainous country, and then be flown out to Port Moresby.

Our options now were narrowing but we had no option but to carry on.

Keith McCarthy was at Walindi when we arrived but left a few days later to travel up the coast to collect any soldiers who may still be coming in.

I spent the next few days standing radio watch with Harold Freund until about 9am each day. The reason I mention 9am is that the Japanese were very predictable with their aircraft movements. Each day about 9am a group of planes would fly directly over us at Walindi Plantation. They were from Rabaul and were going to bomb Port Moresby. They did not fly directly to Moresby but would fly from Rabaul, over Talasea to Finschafen, then turn and fly over Salamaua to Port Moresby. Obviously I never knew the reason for this but my guess was that they found this route easier to navigate than the direct route which would entail a lot of flying over open sea.

After they had flown over, and we had made our coded radio call to Port Moresby giving them numbers of aircraft, I would go out into the surrounding swamp and jungle and look for refugee soldiers. I would take my rifle and some pocketfuls of cooked rice, as, any soldiers I found were in a sorry state, and grateful for the small amount of rice I could immediately give them to eat. Over the few days I found a few soldiers and brought them in to Walindi where they could be better looked after. These men were very weak and dispirited and many were reaching the end of their tether. They had survived nearly 7 weeks in the jungle with little in the way of food and medical supplies. They had numerous sores and ulcers and some had beards nearly a foot long.

Rod Marsland, NGVR, also assisted in rounding up the soldiers as they arrived in the swamps and jungles which surrounded Walindi.

It was at Walindi that I gave away all my spare uniforms to those of the refugee soldiers who needed clothing most. Many of them arrived in not much more than rags and were grateful to be given a shirt or a pair of shorts. The downside to this was that I had one shirt and one pair of shorts for the rest of my journey. Amazingly enough I was still wearing them when I arrived in Sydney some weeks later.

About 10/11th March, the last radio message came from Pursehouse at Finschafen to the effect that "The Japs are about to land. Two cruisers are standing off shore and their barges are coming in. I'm pulling all the switches. Cheerio!" Strangely enough the Japs did not land at Finschafen at that stage. The barges turned back to the cruisers just before they landed on shore, and the ships then sailed off. Unfortunately by this time Pursehouse had smashed his telradio and taken off to the hills with the 7 AIF men I mentioned who had arrived at Finschafen just before we left. However, as far as we were concerned the Japs had landed and Finschafen was no longer available to us.

The name of the radio code we used I cannot recall – it was called something like the 'Fairfield' code. It was very simple really but relied on the operator at the other end having a good knowledge of what you were talking about. For example, at one stage we said to Port Moresby "We are using the code of the Assistant District Officer who

In 1952 I became the Clerk of Customs, Lae, a position I held later in many other parts of the Territory.

In 1952 John Grayston Hoad Junior was born and in 1954 Helen also joined us.

I retired from the Customs Department in 1973 and spent some 3 months looking after Emily's brother's plantation in Lae and then moved to New Farm, a Brisbane Suburb.

In 1981 we moved to our present house at Griffin, on the Pine River, just north of Brisbane.

Emily passed away on 10th March, 1986 and I continue to live at Griffin.

**MILITARY EXCELLENCE AWARD
'STEEL TUFF'
9 RQR GALLIPOLI BARRACKS—BRISBANE**

On the weekend of 4/5 November 2006, members of 9 Battalion, Royal Queensland Regiment, completed a 2 day exercise that tested eapons and tactics drill, military knowledge and personal endurance and confidence.

Called STEEL TUFF, our Association recognizes the military excellence of the members of the winning infantry section at the end of the exercise by way of a personal green and gold medallion which features the badges of 9 RQR and PNGVR.

Present at this year's presentation was Brigade Commander, Brigadier Andrew Smith, CO 9 RQR Lt Colonel Chris Austin and RSM W0 1 Peter March. Association representatives included Phil Ainsworth, Bob Collins, Col Gould and Barry Wright.

The winning section was:- Cpl K Lambi, Pte S Earle, Pte G Kelly, Pte W Applebee, Pte J Dent, Pte F Watkins, Pte P Ruff and Pte A J Cleave. We congratulate Cpl Lambi and his soldiers on a job well done. Our congratulation also to all the other troops who took part to also achieve military excellence.

STEEL TUFF, was named after a Major Alexander Steele, DSO. DCM. MID. (1888—1917) He was a member of 9th Battalion, AIF, Enoggera Barracks and served with great distinction until he was killed in action by enemy artillery fire on 7 October 1917. Major Steele's story will appear in a future newsletter along with a most interesting hand written essay. During the weekend exercise in November, soldiers were given a sudden task to hand write their knowledge of the Regiment at around 1.20 am in the bush., after a long hard day and an equally hard night in the field. They had 25 minutes to complete the task (without falling asleep).

Our Association is proud to sponsor the 9 RQR Military Excellency Award.



First I was challenged and stopped by the sentry at the gate as I tried to walk in. The guard house had never heard of NGVR (this was a common experience for all NGVR soldiers in Australia) and phoned for help. Someone came down who looked at my uniform and said he had never heard of NGVR. I was then interrogated by an officer and I asked him for a proper uniform as I was very cold.

At this stage he took note of my rifle and, finding it loaded, he paraded me standing between two seven-foot MPs before another officer who was at least 20 stone (remember that in 1942 I was slightly built, not tall, and looked very young).

I was charged with not unloading my rifle after receiving an order to 'cease fire'.

I replied "I did not get an order to cease fire".

After a blast-berating lecture I was handed back my rifle—yes—still fully loaded.

I again asked for an Army uniform and was told that I was not in the Australian Army, and therefore a uniform could not be authorised (I knew no one in Australia – I was a Territorian).

At this stage I suddenly remembered Major Edward Penfold (he had been a commercial traveller and I knew him from my Burns Philp days.) No, there was no Major Penfold, but there was a Colonel Penfold in the barracks. A message was sent to him – I could see that if he was not the right Penfold I would be in real trouble. He arrived and we greeted each other as old friends with little recognition or sign of rank. I explained my situation and he ordered that I be given clothing. Then the 'Q' bloke refused on grounds that I was not in the Australian Army. Colonel Penfold had to command them to give me my clothing – which they did – 'on loan'.

SICK LEAVE AND DISCHARGE

I applied for a discharge on medical grounds. I had a double hernia and a spur on my heel, as well as chronic malaria. The Medical Board decided that the double hernia was caused by carrying the radio etc. and that an operation was not necessary – they should heal themselves.

Time went by, sick leave expired and no decision was reached. In desperation, a Lieutenant asked me if I would take leave without pay whilst he endeavoured to finalise my situation. After months, my discharge came through dated from the end of my sick leave.

I then spent nearly all day trying to exchange my 'on loan' uniform for an army discharge civilian suit. I had to threaten to leave before they understood I couldn't leave naked.

CIVILIAN LIFE

I married Emily Jacobsen on 31st October, 1942. We lived in Sydney until I eventually transferred from a position I had obtained in the Ministry of Munitions and joined the War Damage Commission.

It was shortly after I was married that I joined Freemasonry, an order with which I remained involved for the rest of my life.

I was transferred back to Port Moresby with the War Damage Commission and, later in 1943, Emily was one of the first fifteen women back to Port Moresby.

In 1947 the Administration required me to resign from the War Damage Commission and take up duties in the Customs Department.

I was then posted to Kavieng and over a long period was posted to many other ports around the Territory.

used to like ice cream". Now this particular ADO was named Woodfall and he used to take his own small refrigerator everywhere and used to make his own ice cream.

The code then read:-

W O O D F A L L

A B - C D E F -

G H I J K L etc.

On other occasions we would use the name of someone's wife and so on.

On about 12/13th March it was decided that we would return to the 'Umboi', taking on board about a dozen soldiers and proceed to Iboki, a village about half way between the Talasea Peninsula and Cape Gloucester.

This meant that Harold Freund and I had to dismantle the Teleradio and organise carriers to take it back over the Peninsula. Consequently we were the last of the group to leave but did not use the "short cut" we had come across on. The track we used was wide and open.

The next morning we left on the 'Umboi' for Iboki, and had not gone far when we ran on to a reef. We could not drive her off so, to raise the bow, we got all the soldiers to move to the stern, and this allowed us to get the bow off the reef.

By mid-afternoon we reached Iboki and there were about 250 soldiers here. It was here that all the rescued soldiers were being concentrated, and was a hive of activity.

PRIVATE TALKS ABOUT SETTING OUT FOR NEW IRELAND

It was while I was here that I caught up with Lincoln Bell, NGVR. Both of us had our fathers missing somewhere in New Ireland and from time to time we spoke of setting out to New Ireland in the 'Aussi' to find them, but it was badly needed to ferry sick, debilitated soldiers down the coast to join us at Walindi.

My father never did return. He is listed as missing when the Japanese naval prison ship, 'Montevideo Mauru', was torpedoed by an Allied submarine off the coast of Luzon, Philippine Islands, at 0230 hrs on the morning of 1st July, 1942. The ship was hit by 4 torpedoes and went down in 10 minutes. There were 1,035 allied soldiers and civilians aboard.

DECISION TIME FOR EVACUATION.

I have said before that the original plan was to evacuate all rescued soldiers to Lae for overland movement to Wau. However the Japanese occupation of Lae meant that was no longer possible.

One option was to get the soldiers to Bogadjim, south of Madang, and have them walk to Wau, some 200 miles away and over much rough country. Their physical condition was such that, if this was done, many of them would not survive such a gruelling walk, and there were serious doubts about how they would be fed along the way.

McCarthy was aware that the Burns Philp 300 ton trader 'Lakatoi' which was anchored at Peterhaven, in the Vitu Islands, under instructions from the Japanese not to leave. From time to time they sent over an aircraft to ensure that the vessel was still at anchor. The 'Lakatoi' was ideal for movement of the large number of troops

that we had, however, the risk of sailing a vessel of 300 tons over open water to somewhere like Australia was enormous, given the fact that the Japanese had total air and sea dominance and were also keeping an eye on the 'Lakatoi'. However before deciding to use the 'Lakatoi' a request was made to Port Moresby for flying boats to take everyone off. They could have landed in Iboki. This request was turned down – why we will never know, but it could have been because of the danger of flying through Japanese controlled air space, or there could have been a shortage of flying boats.

A meeting was held to decide where to go next and the decision was reached to commandeer the 'Lakatoi'. The 'Gnair' went across to Vitu first to commandeer the boat, and the other boats 'Bavaria' and 'Totol' followed. The 'Umboi' waited at Iboki for a party of soldiers who had gone past Iboki and a smaller boat, the 'Aussi' was sent to pick them up. However they had been picked up by yet another schooner the 'Thetis' and taken to Bogadjim from where they struggled to Mount Hagen, and were eventually flown to Australia. When the 'Aussi' returned with this news we set off for Vitu, reaching it on 21st March.

THE VOYAGE ON THE 'LAKATOI'

The 'Lakatoi' was made ready for the voyage with 214 soldiers and civilians on board. Cattle were shot and butchered and other food and fuel was transferred from each of the other boats.

If the Japanese had flown over Peterhaven while all the boats were there they could not have failed to see at least some of them, even though we had made attempts to camouflage them all and had them anchored close to the mangrove shores.

The 'Bavaria' was completely stripped as she was to be left in place of the 'Lakatoi' – I feel it was wishful thinking on our part that any Japanese pilot would mistake her for the 'Lakatoi' given the difference in their sizes, but we were pretty desperate men at that stage.

On 20th March we set off for our first overnight stay at Umboi (Rooke) Island. I was the only one of those who had set out from Finschafen or Madang who elected to sail with the 'Lakatoi'. The others considered it to be too dangerous and Harold Freund gave us only 1 chance in 100 of reaching Australia. They set off in their own schooners and headed in different directions. However Keith McCarthy and many of his party came out with us.

From Umboi (Rooke) Island to the Trobriand Islands was the most dangerous leg. We could not make enough distance in the 12 hours of darkness to get us away from the aircraft paths. You may recall that I mentioned before that the Japs were very fixed in their aircraft routes and flew from Rabaul to Finschafen – this would put them right above us at some stage of the journey.

We decided to leave earlier in the afternoon rather than be out at early morning. Remember that the Japs were at Rabaul and Gasmata on one side of us and at Lae and Salamaua on the other.

We were very fortunate as a rain squall came up shortly after leaving Umboi Island and we headed South in the rain. We could hear the Japanese planes flying overhead, but, due to the squall, they were unable to see us.

As we were approaching the Trobriand Islands, we had another scare. A boat was sighted coming towards us and, naturally, we thought it was a Japanese boat. Fortunately for us it was the 'Laurabada', under the command of Ivan Champion, on its way to Waterfall Bay, on the south coast of New Britain, to pick up 153 men known to be there.

Meeting the 'Laurabada' was a testing time for us and we were relieved when we realised who she was.

After leaving the Trobriands we passed through China Straights, called at Samarai and then proceeded straight to Cairns.

On the voyage I was somewhat disappointed at the attitude of some of the senior soldiers we had rescued. As they recovered their health the Officers also recovered their arrogance, and insisted on dining alone. Early in the voyage I joined a group at the table for a meal only to be told that they were Officers and I was only a Rifleman so I was told to move.

I might add that I was the only soldier on board who still carried his weapon. I had my .303 with me all the time, together with long bayonet.

I slept on the floor of the lounge during the journey.

The voyage was otherwise uneventful and on 28th March we reached Cairns.

Believing that the entrance to the harbour would be mined, we anchored offshore and sent a boat to shore.

The boat came back next morning with a message from the Harbourmaster "Come straight in!" There were no mines at all.

When we arrived in Cairns McCarthy had me taken to Hides Hotel – the 2/22nd Battalion soldiers went elsewhere.

I was still in my only pair of shorts and shirt and was not given another uniform at this stage. However the Comfort Funds were very accommodating and I managed to obtain a pair of pyjamas and some socks from them.

TRAVEL TO SYDNEY BY TROOP TRAIN

A troop train was organised to take the whole of our party to Sydney. McCarthy had taken me under his wing by then and he arranged for me to travel in a carriage reserved for some 3 or 4 Navy personnel and Nelson Tokidoro, his radio operator.

The rest of the troop train was packed except for the Officer's carriage, so we must have had one of the most comfortable journeys ever by a Rifleman on a troop train.

The journey was a slow one, with the train seeming to stop at every station and siding to allow other trains to move north packed with troops, tanks and artillery pieces.

We ate at refreshment stations on the way through and, overall, the quality of the food was pretty good.

When I realised that we would pass through Nambour I wrote a message to the mother and father of Rae Murtagh, NGVR, (I worked with him in Burns Philp) on toilet paper, telling them that I had seen their son and that he was OK. I knew Nambour was a small town and everyone knew everyone so that the message would be delivered. I threw it out of the train and the Stationmaster waved to me to let me know that he would deliver the message.

We arrived in Brisbane and reported to the Showgrounds. I eventually received a paybook here and was approved to travel on to Sydney with the 2/22nd troop train.

RECEPTION IN SYDNEY.

Between Brisbane and Sydney the weather turned cold. I had a pair of shoes I had brought to replace the sandshoes given to me in Cairns and a pair of socks given to me by the Comforts Fund but was still wearing the shorts and shirt I left New Guinea in. I also carried my leather NGVR bandolier and carried my .303 rifle and bayonet.

Thus dressed I reported to Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

I quote now from the article I wrote for the NGVR book.