

Army Ducks "Swamp"

Courtesy of Swamp Productions, Everton Park.

# HAVE A LAUGH



Here is one for the left handed amongst us.....

**EVERYONE IS BORN RIGHT HANDED—ONLY THE GREATEST CAN OVERCOME IT !**

**IF THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BRAIN CONTROLS THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BODY THEN ONLY LEFT HANDERS ARE IN THEIR RIGHT MINDS !**

**SOCIALISM-** You have 2 cows. You give one to your neighbour.

**COMMUNISM-** You have 2 cows. The State takes both and gives you some milk.

**FASCISM-** You have 2 cows The State takes both and sells you some milk.

**NAZISM-** You have 2 cows. The State takes both and shoots you.

**BUREAUCRATISM-** You have 2 cows. The State takes both, shoots one, milks the other and then throws the milk away.

**AN AMERICAN CORPORATION-** You have 2 cows. You sell one, and force the other to produce the milk of 4 cows. Later you hire a consultant to analyse why the cow has dropped dead, and a lawyer to see if you can sue someone over it, and contact 60 Minutes to see if you can sell the story.

**A JAPANESE CORPORATION-** You have 2 cows. You redesign them so they are one-tenth the size of the original and produce 20 times the milk. You then create a clever cow cartoon image called 'Cowkimon' and market it worldwide.

**AN ITALIAN CORPORATION -** You have 2 cows but you don't know where they are. You decide to have lunch.

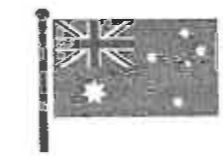
**A SWISS CORPORATION-** You have 500,000 cows. None of them belong to you. You charge the owners for storing them.

**A RUSSIAN CORPORATION-** You have 2 cows. You count them and you learn you have 5 cows. You count them again and learn that you have 42 cows. You count them again and learn that you only have 2 cows. You stop counting and open another bottle of vodka.

**AN IRAQI CORPORATION-** Everyone thinks you have lots of cows. You tell them you have none. No one believes you, so they bomb the \*\*\*\* out of you and invade your country looking for the missing cows. You still have no cows but at least now you are part of a democracy. The cows were never found.

**THE US ENRON VENTURE CAPITALISM-** You have 2 cows. You sell 3 of them to your publicly listed company, using letters of credit opened by your brother-in-law at the bank, then execute a debt/equity swap with an associated general offer so that you get all 4 cows back, with a tax exemption for 5 cows. The milking rights of the 6 cows are transferred via an intermediary to a Cayman Island Company secretly owned by the majority shareholder who sells the rights to all 7 cows back to your listed company. The annual report says the Company owns 8 cows with an option on one more. You sell one cow for cash on the quiet leaving you with 9 cows. You provide no balance sheet but make sure the public buys all your bull.

**THE AUSTRALIAN CORPORATION-** You have 2 cows. Business seems pretty good. You close the office and pop down to the pub for a few beers to celebrate.



# 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 53      MARCH 2008**



## PRESIDENT'S UP-DATE

My 10th November 2007 Jimboomba bush dinner address reported in my 'memo 17 November', a mini Harim Tok Tok in itself, covered many activities such as the AGM held on 29 September 2007 at Long Tan Sergeants Mess, Gallipoli Barracks,

in Brisbane. A matter not covered was Les Cunningham's my attendance at the dedication of the Milne Bay Memorial Wall at Nundah Memorial Park, Brisbane, on the 16 September 2007. This was a well organized and attended ceremony, sponsored by combined north side RSL's. The monument is well worth a visit if you are driving along Sangate Road.

Also a busy John Holland attended the Queensland and PNG Pacific Partnership Forum held in Brisbane on 25th October. Whilst this is a commercial forum, our attendance supported the PNG Consul General, Mr Paul Nerau, LLB., OBE., as well as forging new and renewing contacts in furtherance of our Association objectives. Thank you John.

Secretary Col Gould and I attended Yeronga RSL's annual mixed dinner lunch in October last year. We were well received and I spoke about our NGVR history and Association activities. We were assured that the Yeronga

RSL would look favourably on any Association proposal for funding sponsorship or having functions in it's centrally located venue.

Not surprising, our Museum is becoming the Association's focus. Besides the regular visits to it by RSL, TPI and Legacy groups, two functions were held there—our Patron's Afternoon tea in October and our Christmas gathering on 24 November. Both functions were moderately attended and a good time was had by all. John Holland with his small but dedicated band of loyal supporters and workers are doing a great job for the Association.

Whilst the possible relocation of our museum looms on the horizon, the Committee, at this stage, has no new information to report.

Although several leads have been received and examined, unfortunately little progress to date has been made in obtaining financial grants or donations to upgrade our IT equipment, or to publish the NGVR Service recollections on the Gallant 500 which Bob Collins has put so much effort into over the past 12 months or more. This is a most frustrating exercise, but I am sure that our persistence will eventually be rewarded.

The passing of two of the Association's stalwarts, Colonel Mal Bishop, MM and Lt Tom Lega, MM, in November and December last year, has really bought home that

**In this issue:-** President's Update: Apologies: Bikpela Parti I Kamap: Letters to the Editor: Brisbane ANZAC Day March information: From the Archives—PNGVR to be Disbanded: Museum Curator's Corner: PIR news: ANZAC Day Brisbane Reception & Members Re-union: Vale: Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion—23 April 2008, Have a Laugh

**Apologies—** Our apologies for the delay in the publication of this newsletter. In February we found out by pure accident that our ANZAC Day venue in Brisbane for over 10 years, the Exchange Hotel, had been taken over by new Owners and Management and they were not made aware by the previous operators of our long standing permanent booking on ANZAC Day. The new owners closed the Hotel for major and total renovations and will not re-open until sometime after ANZAC Day. However a booking has since been made for 2009. This left us without a reunion function venue on ANZAC Day.

As you can appreciate, nearly all licenced venues in Brisbane City are fully booked for numerous ANZAC Day unit functions. After much searching and street walking, we have found a suitable venue for ANZAC Day this year thanks to the kind support of the Manager ( Ex Army) and the Owners. ( L:icquor Licensing approval pending) Details in this newsletter.

It never rains but pours. Due to operational demands and staffing limitations, the Long Tan Sgts Mess is unable to cater for our usual ANZAC Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion. An alternative venue has been organized. It was therefore necessary to delay this issue until the above issues could be resolved and members informed. Please accept our apologies.  
Col Gould - Editor.

**New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc.**  
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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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Includes former members of the Pacific Islands Regiment, Papuan Infantry Battalion and New Guinea Infantry Battalions

there are so few of our World War 2 members left. Their obituary summaries are in this newsletter. We were also fortunate to have the Courier-Mail print Tom Lega's obituary on 21 January 2008, exactly one month after his funeral. Both services were well attended by our members, with Welfare Officer, Paul Brown, once again very active behind the scenes and during the funeral services. These solemn ceremonies were fitting occasions to celebrate the lives of these good men. LEST WE FORGET.

PNG Consul General to Queensland, Mr Paul Nerau, LLB. OBE has created several recent initiatives with the Queensland RSL towards obtaining support to establish a Papua New Guinea Remembrance Day ceremony in Brisbane (*PNG Remembrance Day is 23 July*) when PNG citizens and returned and ex servicemen can come together to commemorate their special day. Our Association along with the Queensland RSL and with the support of Queensland Rotary, are exploring the possibility of dedicating a memorial plaque in Brisbane for this purpose. Further details will be available in the near future.

As you are aware, the Consul General is also active in promoting additional war time historic walks in Papua New Guinea to augment the over used Kokoda Track, as well as to further enhance PNG tourism generally. The two to three tracks that seem to be heading the list are the *Black Cat Track* between Wau and Salamaua (our preference), the *Bulldog Track from Wau to Bulldog on the south Papuan coast* (somewhat remote) and the *Lark Force Memorial Track* from Rabaul over the Baining Mountains to Wide and Open Bays. The latter seems to be progressing more rapidly with a private group headed by Kori Chan of South Seas Horizons arranging villages along the Track with an upgraded "Trust" model used for the Kokoda Track. This could be launched sometime in 2008.

Kori Chan seeks to have the endorsement and support of the 2/22nd Lark Force Association and our Association for this venture. Peter Gosling of True North Journeys is also working towards a Gazelle Peninsula Track walk, but this seems to be around Baining rather than over the top. These moves have encouraged us to renew our Association with the 2/22nd Battalion Lark Force Association through its President/Secretary Noel Furness,

based in Melbourne, who has also kindly donated pertinent papers to our Museum. We will continue to exchange our respective newsletters and assist each other whenever possible.

Tim Vincent, a former regular Army officer who resides in Wau, is working towards a similar venture as Kori Chan's for the Black Cat Track. Tim recently visited Brisbane and met with the Queensland RSL and Consul General to further this project.

Our web site— [www.pngvr.com](http://www.pngvr.com) - is operational and well worth a look. Whilst there are still a few warts present, your constructive comments are sought.

A reminder that Bob Harvey-Hall in Victoria is progressing in writing PNGVR's history and is still seeking information, articles, stories and photos from members. This is a huge task and I urge all members to support Bob in his endeavours to record our Regiment's history.

2007 was a very busy year for your Association. 2008 should be less busy, but much work needs to be done to ensure our continuation. Key projects include maintaining our Museum at Wacol, upgrading our IT equipment and ensuring the final publication of Bob Collin's NGVR Gazette 500, and later, Bob Harvey-Hall's PNGVR history.

We will continue our activities in PNG to locate our former National PNGVR comrades, and ensure that those eligible received their ASM 1945-1975 and/or their ADM. 55 medals have so far been awarded with a further 30 or so applications being processed in Canberra. There are 30 ex PNGVR members in Wewak and we are making contact with them. Col Gould and Bruce Crawford have been very active in moving this project forward. Well done.

I am looking forward to meeting many of our members and Associates on ANZAC Day and at our Mixed Dinner Reunion. My best wishes to all for a successful 2008.

**Phil Ainsworth.**

**HARIM OLGETA!  
WANPELA BIKPELA PATI I KAMAP**

**PNG REUNION GOLD COAST SATURDAY 21 JUNE 2008**

Supported and sponsored by SP Brewery Airlines of PNG Kingswood Press  
Gold Coast Panache Magazine

**VENUE:** The Gold Coast Convention Centre, Gold Coast Highway, Broadbeach.

**DATE:** Saturday 21 June 2008 **TIME:** 6.30 pm until 12 midnight.

**DRESS:** Tropical Party—with planti Bilas

**TICKETS:** \$75 pp includes SP Lager & pre-dinner drinks on arrival. Canapés: Sumptuous buffet dinner.

Seating areas will be defined by geographical regions, eg Highlands, Lae, Port Moresby etc to help you find wantoks.

**RSVP by 1 June. Book tickets on-line [www.pngreunion.com](http://www.pngreunion.com)  
Phone enquiries: Emillie De La Cruz 07 5591 2703**



Tom was a founding member of the PNGVR and NGVR Ex-Members Association when it started in 1989. He was Vice-President for many years and was involved in most activities of the Association. He was immensely proud of NGVR and ANGAU and attended the opening of the Association's Museum at Wacol in February 2006, although unwell at the time.

Tom is survived by his wife Barbara, his son Neil and daughter Shirley.

Tom's decoration, service medals and awards were the Military Medal, 1939-1945 Star, the Pacific Star, Empire of Britain Medal, Australian Service Medal 1939-1945, Australian Service Medal 1945-1975, the PNG Independence Medal 1975, PNG Independence Anniversary Medal 1975-1985 and the PNG Defence Force Medal 1940-1990.

Tom was a humble man, a dutiful man, a good family man, a brave man, a humanitarian and a thorough gentleman. He had a wonderful memory and, until the day he died, Tom's mind was as sharp as a tack. In later years, Tom's family had a problem to get him to travel, perhaps he had done enough. He once wrote "I don't seem to have achieved any greatness, but I have had a great life"

There are less than a dozen "keepers of the gate" alive today.

**Phil Ainsworth  
President, NGVR/PNGVR Ex-Members Association**

**REGIMENTAL MIXED DINNER REUNION  
WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2008.**

As mentioned in this newsletter, the Long Tan Sergeants Mess was not able to cater for our usual dinner this year, due to operational and staffing implications.

Rather than cancel this important annual event, we have decided, even at this late stage, to hold the dinner at the YERONGA RSL Club on the south side of Brisbane. Naturally we are asking members to attend and support this temporary change of venue.

- Date:** Wednesday 23 April 2008
- Venue:** Yeronga RSL Club—private function room Corner Fairfield Road & Kadumba St. Yeronga
- Time:** Assemble from 6.00pm for Pre-dinner drinks Dinner at 7.00 pm
- Cost:** \$ 45-00 pp includes 3 course dinner, Port, tea/coffee & limited table wine.
- Dress:** Mess Dress / ANZAC Day Dress / Evening wear - with miniatures
- RSVP:** Please ring Col Gould immediately on 042 456 2030 (after 7.00 pm)  
or Email: [pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au) or ring Doug Ng on 07 3349 2525  
We are seeking a minimum of 50 / 55 Members & Guests.

The Japanese were bypassing Saidor inland, then cutting back to the coast and onto Madang. Tom moved to Bogadjim and met the surprised first Australian patrol coming down the Ramu River. They had a close call during their return with a patrolling American B-25 bomber.

From Kaulau, Tom was posted to Madang and carried out census patrols inland. He had many interesting experiences during this time. One patrol was a return to Bogadjim, and another was over the mountains from Bongo to Bangri. It was at Bangri where an encounter with the Japanese won Tom his Military Medal.

After establishing the number of Japanese, Tom with his nine policemen attacked and captured 3 Japanese, killed 7 and wounded another, who escaped. Tom was wounded by friendly grenade shrapnel, but managed to patch his wound and walk three days back to Madang with his prisoners and patrol intact. He spent three weeks in hospital recuperating.

Returning from leave, Tom was flown to Tadj, near Aitape, which had just been taken over by the Australians from the Americans. His first patrol here was under Major David Hay, later to be Administrator of Papua New Guinea, of the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF. He was recalled to Aitape and sent to Lumi. He remembered the intensive search for the missing aircraft with an American service woman on board. The crashed plane was found and the crew collected. On another patrol from Lumi, he met with Gaven Stanley of the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB), a legendary figure in pre-war and post-war Papua New Guinea. After 5 months at Lumi, Tom was recalled to Aitape and told to go to Wewak where he undertook further patrolling.

After a while Tom was attached to the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion under the command of a Colonel Cullen and conducted patrols around Passam, Rindojim and Neumoiken until the cease fire. Awaiting for his discharge movement order in Wewak, Tom was posted to Burui to repair the airfield and patrol to Timbunke to ensure the area was clear of Japanese.

He arrived back in Wewak in time to witness the surrender of the Japanese by General Adachi. His last job was to go to Muchu Island to inform the Japanese of surrender details and evacuate the natives off the island as it was to be used as a prison until the repatriation of the Japanese.

Returning to Australia, Tom flew to Lae, picked up a ship and arrived in Sydney on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1946. Fourteen days later he was discharged from the Army with the rank of Lieutenant.

Tom's qualities were recognised in the service, and he was promoted through the ranks and received a field commission.

Following a short family holiday in Brisbane, he arranged his June 1946 return to New Guinea. He was given numerous jobs with his old firm the Bulolo Gold Dredging Company, initially as a plant operator, then dredge salvage and repair worker, generally assisting the rehabilitation of the gold fields to its pre-war productivity. In September 1947, he was eventually allocated a company house in Bulolo and his wife Barbara arrived with their 8 month old son, Neil. Daughter Shirley was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 1949.

When the dredging was discontinued for economic reasons in 1965, Tom was given machine shop welding work, then appointed Native Labour Supervisor and, lastly, as Town Manager of Bulolo. His work also included a variety of short term, away from home, company assignments prospecting for copper at Lake Trist, 48 km south-east of Wau, Kokoda, along the Salamaua / Morobe coast and Bougainville, as well as gold prospecting at Pogera in the Highlands.

Tom retired on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1987, departing Bulolo on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1988. Tom and his family settled in Wynnum North, Brisbane, to a well earned retirement. He never returned to PNG.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

NB: I would like to share with members a letter I received from the family of a National member of 12 Platoon D Company Madang who served with both myself and my late Father, S/Sgt Stan Gould. Even though more than 30 years have passed since the Regiment was disbanded, and most of us departed PNG in the following years, this letter reflects the emotion and meaning PNGVR had for many of our former comrades and their families. Col Gould—Editor

Ben Wamaram  
ALOTAU MBP 20/2/08

Dear Mr Gould

*It is with deep regret that I inform you of the passing of my Father, the late Corporal William Todokta (Wamaram) Dad passed away on 18 January 2008 after a stroke and was buried a week later in Milne Bay, his adopted home.*

*I am Benjamin, the late William's eldest son. As I write this letter I recall Madang, home base of 12 Platoon D Company, PNGVR.*

*Dad really treasured those days and was very proud to have been in PNGVR, especially as a member of 12 Platoon. He certainly enjoyed those years as a voluntary rifleman, with the trooping of the Queens and Regimental Colours at Igam Barracks in Lae—was his most treasured memories and one that he would often recall.*

*I was old enough then to also have fond memories of what I now refer to as the best years of my life. I particularly remember the night after his Corporal's exams when both you and Dad festooned our house with lots of toilet paper after a celebration at the Drill Hall.*

*Dad was also a very proud recipient of the Australian Service Medal 1945-1975 acknowledging in salutation his loyal service in the PNGVR by the Australian Government.*

*In closing, I would like to thank, on behalf of Mum, Nancy and our family to thank you and the NGVR/ PNGVR Ex Members Association and to thank all the members of 12 Platoon D Coy PNGVR Madang, for being such an important part of my Father's life and for those unforgettable years. That goes for us as well who still remember those times.*

*Your newsletters, Harim Tok Tok were nostalgic to him and he was always looking forward to each new issue. I would appreciate your continued corresponding with me on behalf of my Dad.*

Yours faithfully

Ben Waraman.

### Association ties



\$ 32-00 plus \$5 for post pak  
and postage

Make cheques payable to:-  
"NGVR / PNGVR Ex Members Association"

Orders to the Secretary:-  
PO Box 885 Park Ridge, Q 4125

Or email; [pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au)

For new Mess Dress, Jackets or 'shrinkage' alterations  
contact:-

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Level 3  
231 George Street  
BRISBANE

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## ANZAC DAY BRISBANE MARCH

**Assembly Point:** Left side of George Street facing towards Elizabeth Street (look for our Banner)

**Timing:** Assemble from 9.30 am Brisbane march commences at 10.01 am

**Order of March:** This year the organizers have grouped a number of Units together rather than allocate an order of march number to each and every Unit. For example "8th DIVISION" includes HQ 8 Div., 2/10 Field Regt RAA; 2/11 Field Coy RAE; 2/26 Inf Bn Assoc etc. NGVR/PNGVR are part of the "NEW GUINEA FORCE" which includes, in order, NG Air Warning Wireless Gp; NGVR/PNGVR; PIR/PIB/NGIB; 39 Aust Inf Bn; 49 Bn Assoc.

**Dress:** ANZAC Day Dress with full size medals, beret, tie etc or neat civilian (jacket, white shirt, tie, long trousers and hat preferred if possible.) Please, no jeans.

**Jeep loading point:** Limited Jeep transport has been reserved. Look for JOHN HOLLAND at the jeep loading point in Elizabeth Street just down off George Street.

**NGVR Memorial Service:** A brief NGVR Memorial service will be held in ANZAC Square Shrine immediately after the march. All are invited to attend.

**Please Remember:** There will be TWO EYES LEFT—one at the official saluting base in King George Square and the second as we pass ANZAC Square.

### FROM THE PNGVR ARCHIVES

#### PAPUA NEW GUINEA NEWS RELEASE—6 September 1973. PNGVR TO BE DISBANDED

The Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr L E Barnard and the PNG Minister for Defence, Mr Albert Maori Kiki, announced today that the Australian Citizens Military Forces Battalion in Papua New Guinea, the PNGVR would be disbanded before the end of the year.

The PNGVR is an Australian CMF Battalion and it has been decided that it would not be appropriate to maintain Australian CMF elements in Papua New Guinea after the achievement of self-government in December 1973.

After careful consideration of PNG's future defence needs it has been agreed that the unit does not have a place within PNG's future defence priorities, the Minister said.

The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) was raised in September 1939. Its mission was "To arm and train those residents in PNG who wished to be better prepared to defend themselves should the war threaten their shores."

Headquarters NGVR was at Rabaul and companies and sections were located at Wau, Salamaua, Lae and Madang. During the South-West Pacific campaign, NGVR did not serve as a complete unit but its volunteer members from all walks of life and of many nationalities fought with great skill usually in small groups in many of the battle areas of Papua New Guinea, the Ministers said.

The Unit was awarded the Battle Honours—Rabaul, Wau and South-West Pacific 1942-43

In the years that followed the war, the spirit of the volunteer fighters was carried on with the formation in 1950 of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (PNGVR) which had its Head Quarters at Lae and elements at Lae, Port Moresby, Rabaul, Madang, Goroka, Mt Hagen and Wewak.

The Ministers expressed their Government's keen appreciation of the devoted service which the officers and men of PNGVR have given, both in war on full time service, and in peace, when they have given their own free time to train for national emergencies. Arrangements for the future of the CMF officers concerned are under examination by the Australian Department of Defence.

Due to the difficulty and shortage of supplies, many men were withdrawn to Wau where there was adequate food. After the Japanese occupied Lae and Salamaua on 7/8<sup>th</sup> March 1942, patrolling continued with strict orders not to engage the enemy. When the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Independent Company arrived in May, simultaneous raids of Salamaua and Heath's plantation near Lae were planned. Tom was one of the 21 NGVR men deployed in the successful Salamaua raid with the 2/5<sup>th</sup> on 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> June 1942, when over 100 Japanese were killed for three slightly wounded Australians.

The NGVR comprised many older men and the unit was disbanded in August 1942 because of exhaustion, due to it having served continuously for six months in the bush with minimal military, medical and food supplies. Many were so sick they were discharged and never served again, while some were either posted to other units or served in the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) after a stint of leave. The men of NGVR were the "keepers of the gate", prior to the turning point battles of the Pacific war.

Important timings to bear in mind are: 5/8<sup>th</sup> May 1942, Battle of the Coral Sea; 4/6<sup>th</sup> June 1942, Battle of Midway; 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1942, American forces land on Guadalcanal Island in the Solomons, 25/26<sup>th</sup> August 1942, Japanese land at Milne Bay, Papua; 17<sup>th</sup> September 1942, Japanese drive over Kokoda track halted at Imita.

Tom, however, was immediately placed in charge of Kirklands Camp, an outpost on the Markham River, from where most of the river crossings took place. Kirklands was a 5 to 6 day walk from Wau. Tom assisted Peter Ryan, the author of "Fear Drive My Feet", to cross the Markham. He remained in this mosquito infested place from August 1942 to January 1943. On his recall to Wau, he spent a couple of days rest at Edie Creek, high in the mountains south of Wau. He then spent the next three weeks accompanying and guiding inexperienced American C47 aircraft pilots between Port Moresby and Wau / Bulolo valleys on resupply missions.

During his time in Port Moresby, he went looking for his younger brother, Arthur, and discovered that he had been killed on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1942 at Sanananda, with his body disappearing into the mud and never recovered.

On 23 March 1943, he was given 30 days leave in Australia, having spent 14 months on continuous operations. In Sydney he met Barbara, whom he married in October 1944. Tom recalled that when he reported to have his pay book entered, the clerk said to him "where have you been, you haven't operated on this pay book for over twelve months?", to which Tom replied "I have been places where you don't need money".

Tom spent April to August 1943 with a reinforcement unit at Kleinton Camp, just north of Toowoomba. He was then posted to ANGAU, arriving in Lae, New Guinea 10 days after its capture from the Japanese. ANGAU was an army unit formed on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1942 to undertake the civil duties of the combined Papua and New Guinea administrations during the war and which operated in the Allied controlled areas as well as behind enemy lines. Another role was for a selected group of men to be inserted prior and help plan the invasion, and then go in with the invading force to prepare for, and look after, the civilian population, as well as assisting in resupply, by organising and maintaining a native carrier line in support of the attacking force.

Tom received many postings. The first was to Finschhafen and he was on the Sattleberg Road where Matilda tanks were used and Tom Derrick won his VC. After a few initial patrols with ANGAU, Tom was attached to C Company of the Pacific Infantry Battalion which was following up the Japanese withdrawal from Lae and Finschhafen, high in the Finisterre Range.

In January 1944 Tom was attached to the Americans in Saidor on the north coast of New Guinea (where he saw a civilian John Wayne in the flesh), and soon after took part in the American landing at Kulau, 72 km west of Saidor.

After tough and demanding training, the unit moved to New Guinea in April 1942. From Port Moresby the 2nd / 5th numbering approximately 330 personnel, was flown to Wau. At that time the only other troops north of the Owen Stanley Range, apart from a Japanese invasion force of 2,250, was a small group of New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR), a militia unit of some 400 officers and men from the civil administration, miners, plantation operators, store owners, lawyers etc. The combined group - 2nd / 5th and NGVR— known as 'KANGA' Force, was not only heavily outnumbered but isolated from reinforcement and both tactical and logistical support.

Their orders were to "harass and destroy enemy personnel and equipment in the Markham Valley". Despite overwhelming odds against them, they soon made the Japanese aware of their presence. In an early operation on 29th June 1942, a small party undertook a daring raid on the Japanese base of Salamaua. With only 3 men wounded, the attacking party killed over 100 of the enemy and captured a number of important Japanese papers, weapons and equipment. Although Mal was one of the wounded, he was awarded the Military Medal for his "bravery in the field."

After several more operations in the Bulolo Valley and around Mubo, he was sent to Australia to attend Officer's school—a clear endorsement of his ability.

Mal was appointed to the rank of Lieutenant in August 1943 and posted to the 2nd / 6th Australian Commando Squadron in December 1943. After New Guinea he took part in the liberation of Borneo and was still serving when the war ended on 8 August 1945. His post war service saw him as Adjutant of 51st Battalion, the Far North Queensland Regiment based near Cairns and Brigade Major of the 7th Brigade in Brisbane as well as on the staff of HQ 1st Division.

Papua New Guinea reclaimed Mal with a number of postings over many years, including Company Commander, 1st Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment, on the staff of Area Command, as the Commanding Officer of PNGVR and finally as area Commander of the new Lae Area.

Mal was the first Australian Army Officer to attend the United States Marine Corps Staff College at Quantico, USA. Other overseas postings included 2 years in Malaya as second-in-command of the 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment during the terror emergency for which the Malaysian Government awarded him the Pingat Jasa Malaysian medal.

Mal and his wife Mickie retired on the Gold Coast. He passed away on the 18 November, 2007.

(extracted from the Obituary prepared by Major-General Kevin Cooke, AO, RFD, ED, (Rtd)

## ONE OF THE LAST "KEEPERS OF THE GATE"!

**Lieutenant Thomas (Tom) William James Lega M.M.**

**NG 2244  
NGX 385 (ANGAU)**

Born: 20<sup>th</sup> May 1921 at Woonona, NSW  
Died: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at Brisbane, Qld

Too young to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), Tom Lega followed his brother Chris and travelled to the New Guinea (NG) goldfields in 1940. This was the start of a fulfilling 47 ½ years life of hardship and adventure in what was to become Papua New Guinea. A time which saw him win the prestigious Military Medal for bravery.

Tom obtained a job on a gold dredge and was stationed at Bulwa about 16 km north west of Bulolo. Bulolo, the centre of the NG goldfields was situated at an altitude of about 700 metres and was separated from the coast by a mountain range rising to 3900m high Mount Missim. It is 75 air km south west of Lae on the Huon Gulf and 270 air km west, north west of Port Moresby on the south Papuan coast. To fulfil a condition for his war time travel to New Guinea, he enlisted in the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) upon his arrival.

When NGVR was mobilised on 22 January 1942, the day the Japanese invaded Rabaul, Tom went to Wau, located about 45 air km south west of Salamaua and 15 air km south east of Bulolo, and was appointed a section commander of B Company. NGVR at this time comprised about 250 men in two companies, A Company deployed in the Lae / Markham area and B Company in the Wau / Salamaua area. Ordered to Mubo on the Salamaua / Wau track, the next two months were spent continuously patrolling the area, collecting intelligence and updating maps, which would be put to good use in the future Wau / Salamaua battles.



HONOURED ... Tom Lega.

## NGVR / PNGVR MUSEUM CURATOR'S CORNER...

One of the more interesting objects in our Museum is a Japanese Officer's personal rubber stamp "seal". Contained in a small stainless steel tube no more than 6 cm long it is kindly on loan to the museum by the Holland family. When the top section is screwed onto the base of the seal, the machining of the two sections is of such a high quality, it is almost impossible to see the join where the two parts come together.



Have you ever wondered what our soldiers of today eat in the field? There are some 5 different food combinations of today's army "24 hour ration packs". We have a current ration pack on display in our Museum.

A big change from the 50's and 60's and a bigger change from the NGVR cuisine of "bully beef and hard biscuits" for a field breakfast and "hard biscuits and bully beef" for tea.

It must be stated that today, great importance is placed on the nutritional needs of the modern combat soldier in the field.

Rations—one man for 24 hours in the field ( Army wording)

- Chunky chicken & veg 250 ml
- Beverage, powder, sport, lemon/lime 12 g
- Beverage, powder, sport, orange 12 g
- Biscuit, Brigadoon, shortbread 33 g
- Fruit grains, apricot 15 g
- Beef, minced with spaghetti 250 ml
- Chewing gum, juicy fruit 1 pkt of 4
- Fruit spread, peach 26 g
- Sauce, tomato, ketchup 15 g

- Confectionary, cream chocolate 50 g
- Freeze dried rice 55 g
- Soup, low salt, chicken 30 g
- Sauce, sweet chilli 10 g
- Fruit, peaches, diced, canned 140 g
- Biscuit, jam, sandwich type 45 g
- Candy, chocolate 60 g

- Beverage, chocolate powder 40 g
- Biscuit, crisp bread 34 g
- Cheese, cheddar, canned 56 g
- Milk, condensed, sweet, tube 85 g
- Beverage, coffee, instant 2 x 3.5 g
- Pepper, black 2 g
- Salt 2 g
- Sugar 8 x 7 g
- Beverage, tea, bags, pot 2 x 2.5 g
- Candy, hard ( life savers) 2 x 30 g
- Tropical fruit, candy 32 g
- Vegetable, extract 15 g

- Bag, plastic, re-sealable (food /water) 1
- Matches, safety, waterproof vial of 10
- Opener, can, hand 1
- Pads, scouring, soap impregnated 1
- Paper, toilet, 2 ply 10 sheets
- Spoon, dessert, plastic 1
- Bag, plastic, sundry 1
- Rubber bands, size 32 2
- Rubber band, size 62 1

I would like to thank those members who have generously offered their time to help with garden maintenance at the museum, display re-organization and general maintenance, as well as welcoming visitors and answering questions on our open days. Jesse Chee for wood chip; Tom Dowling and John Winterbottom for cataloguing; Paul Brown for all our weapons security, legal obligations and display set ups; Doug Ng for his expertise with his lawn mower; John Batze for his collection of donations at the Exit door— a real tax collector in disguise is our John Batze: and all our other supporters—Mal Zimmermann, Col Gould, Bob Collins, Ralph Seeto, Barry Wright, Jessica Harrington, et al. Thank you one, and all.

Finally, we are always looking for new items to put on display. You can either DONATE items to the Museum or give them ON LOAN only for a specified period. Receipts are issued for all donations.

John Holland  
Museum Curator



## ROYAL PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT

### BATTLE HONOURS

- |                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| * KOKODA TRAIL   | * SCARLET BEACH                      |
| * KOKODA- DENIKI | * SIO-SEPIK RIVER                    |
| * NASSAU BAY     | * BONIS-PORTON                       |
| * TAMBU BAY      | * KABOIBUS—KIARIVU                   |
| * FINSCHAFFEN    | * LIBERATION OF AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA |

South West Pacific 1942-3 ( Not shown on the Colours )



( Thanks to Colonel Donald Ramsay for this information )

### VALE

**Colonel Peter Derek D 'Arcy ( 1923—2007 )** Colonel Peter D 'Arcy was a senior staff officer at PNG Comd, Murray Barracks in the 60's. He passed away in Canberra on 6 December 2007. His funeral was held in the ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. He was described by his fellow officers as a gentleman of honour, courage and integrity.

During World War 2 he served with the Indian Army's 11th Sikh Regiment, taking part in the Arakan campaign and in the great battle of Imphal Kohima. Colonel D 'Arcy joined the Royal Australian Regiment in 1948 and served in Korea and later with the ANZUK force in Singapore. His final posting was defence attaché in Cambodia. He is survived by his widow Barbara, three daughters and seven grandchildren. ( Courtesy of Don Hook. )

**Medical Sergeant Wesley Alan Coleman ( 1920—2007 ) NX 190426** Wesley Coleman was born at Arncliffe, NSW and enlisted on 25 August 1942. In March 1944 he was transferred to Finschhafen, New Guinea. From July 1944 he transferred to 2nd NGIB and served as a Medical Sergeant in Wewak and Madang areas. He was mentioned in Despatches for distinguished service, gazetted 6th March 1947. He passed away in his sleep on the 21 June 2007. ( Courtesy of his son, Geof Coleman, Oyster Bay, NSW )

**Dr Lancelot Turbet Robey, OAM ( 1919—2007 )** Dr Robey was born on the 26 June 1919 at Waveley in Sydney's Eastern suburbs. He was educated at Scots College ( 1933-1936 ) and the University of Sydney ( 1937-1942 ) Indeed, he was sitting for his final medical exams during the Japanese submarine attacks of 1942.

With the Japanese Imperial Army approaching Australia's doorstep, like most of his generation in those dark years he put up his arm to defend our shores. He served as a medical officer with the Papuan Infantry Battalion ( 1943-1946 ), seeing active service in in Papua and in Bougainville.

On return to civilian life, Dr Robey worked in Victoria from 1946 until 1951, when he purchased a medical Practice at Ramsgate in Oberon, where he worked until 1984. Lance was always up to date with the best medical practices and participated fully in his local community. In June 1985 Lance's work at Oberon was formally recognized when he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division ( OAM ), for services to the community, in particular in the field of medicine. Dr Robey passed away peacefully July 13, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Marion, 3 children and 8 grand children.

**Colonel Malcolm Alexander Bishop, MM ( 1921—2007 )** Formally Commanding Officer 1st Battalion, Pacific Island Regiment, Commanding Officer—Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, and area Commander, Lae. Further details In this newsletter.



LEST WE FORGET.

## ANZAC DAY MARCH BRISBANE REUNION RECEPTION

As advised on page one of Harim Tok Tok, our usual post march venue, the Exchange Hotel, is under new owners and management and is currently closed for major renovations, and is not expected to re-open until May.

The owners / management of the Victory Hotel on the corner of Edward and Charlotte Streets , directly opposite the Exchange Hotel, have offered to assist us with a venue on ANZAC Day. The Victory Hotel does not open or cater for functions on ANZAC Day until after 1.00 pm. However, they have applied to Liquor Licensing this year to cater just for us from approx 11.00 am onwards.

Pending licensing approval, we plan the usual post march function for members and guests.

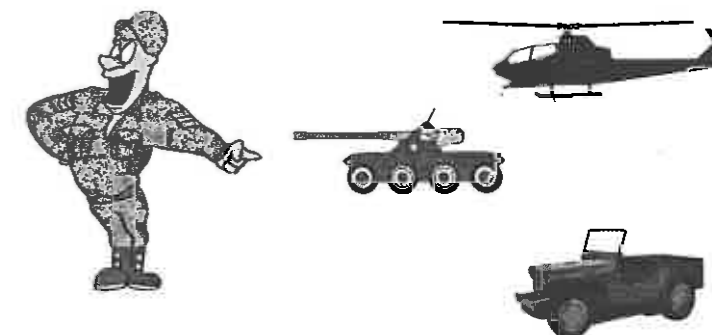
**Date:** Friday 25 April

**Time:** From approximately 11.00 am

**Venue:** Upstairs function room, **Victory Hotel**, opposite the Exchange Hotel.

**Entry:** Enter via the ground floor main door in Charlotte Street. Look for our sign on the door.

**Cost:** \$20 pp pay at the door ( exact change please ) Includes limited beer, wine and lollie water. sandwiches and hot finger food.



**Paul Brown** will have his Trade Store open for a limited time during the function for all your Q Store supplies.....

and Treasurer **Doug Ng** will have his Receipt book open for a limited time to receive annual fees or donations.



### VALE

**Colonel Malcolm Alexander Bishop, MM**  
1921—2007

( Former Commanding Officer— PNGVR )



Mal Bishop was born on 29th April 1921 at Moree, just west of Brisbane He was educated at Brisbane State High School where he did well in his academic subjects but showed a real love of sport.

Mal was of that generation that found World War 11 underway when he finished his schooling, so did not have a chance to start any civilian career and virtually went straight to enlist in the Army. As he owned his own motor cycle and was a good rider, it was natural that he started his army life as a dispatch rider, and because of the lack of equipment at the time, was paid to take his own motor cycle with him.

Late in 1941 he volunteered to join a new secret organisation being formed in Victoria. These were called the "Independent Companies " to later become known as Commandos. They were smaller than the usual formation of troops , but highly trained. Mal was allotted to the 2nd/5th Australian Independent Company whose colour patch was a double black diamond and within a short time at the age of 19 years, was an engineer sergeant.