



HARIM TOK TOK



VOLUME

58

DATE

October 2009

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

**PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

**AGM 17th October 2009**

Prior to preparing this report I read the Association's objects to relate them to our 2009 activities. I was surprised by the number and variety of our activities and their appropriateness to our objects. My report will not be in any necessary order nor will it endeavour to cover all the activities, but it will show that we are a vigorous and worthwhile organisation.

For a start, the committee met six times during the year. There were two Harim Tok Tok's distributed and eight Presidential monthly e-newsletters posted. Further updates were given at the bush dinners, Anzac week functions and other activities. Thus our activities were well documented and communicated to our members and friends throughout the year. Although our Association is small in number with a correspondingly small budget, we should be proud of our high standing and respect, in which we are held.

I thank our Patron, Major General John Pearn for his interest and support. I also thank our committee for its hard work and dedication. I also thank those members who have assisted the committee and Association in many ways, for instance Don Lawrie attended as our representative and played the bagpipes at the Rocky Creek Military Muster in Atherton during Kokoda week. Kokoda services were also attended at the Gold Coast and Sherwood, the former by Bob Collins and the later by four committee members.

Three bush dinners have been held since the 2008 AGM on Barry & Pam Wrights property at Jimboomba on the 11th October 2008, 13th June 2009 and 10th October 2009, the later being a formal function. All these were well attended and proved to be popular and enjoyable events. In May the Fassifern Valley Light Horse invited us

to a shoot, initially a training session attended by four members and the shoot later in the month which was attended by 20. Incidentally, we were out shot.

Anzac week was our usual highlight of the year. All functions were very well attended and successful, including our mid week dinner held at the Greenbank RSL and the march, NGVR Memorial Service at the Cenotaph and post march function at the Victory Hotel.

A major item for the year was the formation of the Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee (MMMC) in which our Association was recognised and invited to participate. I was honoured to be our representative. The goal of the MMMC was preparing a submission to the Federal Government for national recognition, which was submitted mid October. This is being supported by the imminent launching of "The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru", a two hour documentary which will be launched on the Foxtel History Channel on Armistice Day, the 11th November. Our usual commemoration service conducted by Paul Brown and John Holland was held on the 1st July in the Cenotaph with 50 - 60 in attendance.

Our Association was a sponsor and the organising party for the erection of the Subic Bay plaque for commemoration of the Montevideo Maru victims. The plaque was dedicated by the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines on the 1st July in Subic Bay when over 20 victims representatives were present. More of this will be said during a slideshow of the event later. Incidentally the MMMC submission has been well received by the Minister for Veteran Affairs, Alan Griffin and a meeting with the Minister, the patron of the MMMC, Ambassador to the USA elect, Kim Beazley and the Chairman of the MMMC Keith Jackson, will be held mid November. The submission will

be made public sometime in November, initially through Keith Jackson's blog.

The Museum remains a major focus for the Association. Committee meetings are held there and the Curator, John Holland, Jessica Harrington and other committee members and friends continue to improve the museums exhibits, systems and attendance by individuals and groups. A grant was received and an ATO approval was received for donations to the museum to be tax deductible. If you have not been to the museum for a while, I suggest a revisit will be worthwhile. Well done and thank you John and your team.

I wish the incoming committee all the success and support necessary in maintaining the Associations objects, activities and good name.

**Phil Ainsworth**



*A happy group at PNG's 34th anniversary Independence function, Brisbane on 15th September 2009*

*R-L Patron Major Gen John Pearn, Consul General Paul Norau, President Phil Ainsworth, Secretary Colin Gould*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
CARLO CAVALIERI	2
EXERCISE STEEL TUFF	6
THANK YOU COLIN	6
RESERVE FORCES DAY	7
JIMBOOMBA BUSH DINNER	7
KAM-ON LEO	8
LIET-COL N. P. MADDERN	11
NOTES FROM MUSEUM	12

## MY WARTIME EXPERIENCES CARLO CAVALIERI NG2234 NGX 388

### Pre War History

I was born in Lugano, Switzerland, on Lake Lugano, near the Italy/Swiss border on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1920, the son of an Italian father and a Swiss mother. I believe my grandfather had left Italy in the middle of the night some years before as the result of an incident, which, at the time, he believed he had killed another man (this was not the case, he had only injured him). He started up a piano business (it was not pianola, but another type of piano which had a large roller with spindles on it which made music when the roller turned) in Lugano and it was here that my father met my mother and married.

The family migrated to Australia in 1926, when I was 6 years old, and I was naturalised when I was 11 years old, on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 1932, together with my father and mother, when Sir Isaac Isaacs was Governor General of Australia, and my naturalisation papers are signed by him. There was a lot of emigration from Europe at the time and I assume my father came to Australia in search of more opportunities and a better life. We came in a migrant ship "Re di Italia" (King of Italy). The ship called at Fremantle, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and we left the ship in Cairns. I had three years of school in Cairns and in 1929 we moved to Mt Isa. Mt Isa Mines was only commencing then and my father obtained a job with the mines in Mt Isa.

I went to school in Mt Isa, and was definitely not a model student. I used to average the cane at least once a day and wagged school almost every Friday as, in later years, I used to be given 2/- (40cents) which enabled me to buy some tobacco and take a girl out on Saturday night. Every time the inspectors came to the school I was taken out of class and sent to the Nunnery to practice on the piano. My thumb was always black and blue from the cane and I wasn't able to spread my thumb for the 9<sup>th</sup> key of the Octave and then I would get a ruler across my hand.

After the depression years the family moved to New Guinea in 1934 where my father obtained a job as a fitter and turner in the goldfields at Wau. We sailed to New Guinea on a Burns Philp ship and flew to Wau from Lae on an old Canberra aeroplane owned by Stephens Airways.

As I said I was never a good scholar and, although I should have been in the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, I asked the School Headmaster, Vin Garvie, to put me into the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, where I would be more comfortable. This he did. I was at School in Wau for 6 months and then we moved to Kaindi.

I was doing school by correspondence at Kaindi, and it was there I played a dreadful trick on my mother. Being a New Australian, she could not speak English all that well, and I got smart. Being all of 14 years of age I said to her "Look Mum! I have just got a letter from the Correspondence Teacher and I don't have to do any more school".

I then started work at McGilvrey's Store in Kaindi part

time while mother cooked at Bob Franklin's Kaindi Hotel. My mother also cooked at Mrs Alice Bowering's boarding house at Kaindi, which catered for the "Day Dawn" mine employees. At one stage the vehicle Mrs Bowering was a passenger in, between Wau and Kaindi, accidentally went over the edge of the very narrow road and rolled some 1200 ft before stopping. Mrs Bowering ended up with a fracture in her back but she eventually recovered.

I then started full time work, at the age of 15, for Alf Beutler (or Butler) At least he called himself Beutler although I believe he may have been hiding from maintenance payments and his real name was Butler. I was doing general mine work for him – panning, dollying etc and assisting with the primary smelting. We used to retort the gold, the Mercury used to turn into steam vapour, and then revert to quicksilver. It never occurred to me at the time that this could be a dangerous occupation, as, in those days, we were not aware of the dangers of inhaling the vapour. I would have to say that I was never affected as I am now 82 years of age and in good general health. We worked for 6 days a week and, once a month, I was allowed to stay at the Wau Hotel. I recall that, at one time, another youth called Charlie Budden, came up to Mt Kaindi for a week, and stayed 6 months. His company was welcome as there were no other youths up there at the time.

I then commenced work at the crushing mill at Day Dawn Mine, an underground mine, where I carried out general duties, including maintenance and fault finding on the 110v electrical system

They had two mills there, Badcock mill and Willcock mill, with huge crushing wheels where ore was crushed and sorted. I worked at the Day Dawn Mine until I was called up for full time duty with NGVR.

My mother was evacuated on the last flight out from Wau when all civilians had been ordered out of New Guinea. The pilots name was Ross. I can still recall she was only allowed one small suitcase so she wore 6 of everything she could put on, as it was the only way she could think to get some of her clothes out. When she got to the coast she must have nearly sweated to death with all those clothes on.

### NGVR Service

I joined NGVR when it was formed in 1940 and did my initial training. We carried out weapon training on the .303 rifle, Bren gun, Lewis gun and Vickers gun. We did not do a lot of drill. Once a month we paraded on Saturday, carried out our training and then, on Saturday night, went to the Wau Hotel and partied on.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1942, we were called to full time duty.

At the time all civilian activities ceased and we were called into Wau. From there I went down through, Balam Camp, Skindewai Camp (so called because the camp was made out of tree bark), to Salamaua.

### Salamaua

I was in 4 Platoon with Jim Birrell. Alf Lane was our Lt and there were times I could have killed him as he whistled Reveille at daybreak. Alf had also fought in WW1 and used to have a go at us for using a mirror when



*Carlo on leave in Australia 1944*

shaving as he used to skite about him being able to shave without a mirror.

We went straight to Salamaua and stayed there. Gerry Owers was our Captain in charge but he injured himself when he rolled a utility and was moved out of Salamaua.

Our orders were pretty sketchy but basically we were watching for the Japanese to land. Our guard duty consisted of sitting up a large tree on a platform and watching the ocean. At the time we had plenty of beer and food at Salamaua as all civilians had been evacuated and everything had been left behind.

At different times the Catalina and Sunderland flying boats would call in and we would fuel them, using a hand pump, and fill them with beer to be taken back to Port Moresby, where beer was in short supply.

Information at our level, I was a Rifleman, was pretty scarce and I can recall Bob Franklin, who owned the Day Dawn mine, saying "Another 6 month of this and we will be back to work again", we did not realise the danger.

On the night of the Japanese invasion I had knocked off at midnight, climbed down from the tree, gone and lay down on my nice wet mattress and promptly got the shakes. This was my first attack of malaria (we did not have malaria up at Wau and Kaindi).

Well I was so sick I did not even know what was going on, and really didn't care. The other members of the Section woke me and promptly took off. I crawled out on my hands and knees and only got a few hundred yards before I totally collapsed and went to sleep on the beach. When I woke up everyone had gone and I started to walk out. I only got as far as one of the native villages when I lay down on the sand and went to sleep again. All I had was my rifle and by this time I had discarded my boots. The boots I was wearing had belonged to Col O'Loughlen (now Sir Colman O'Loughlen, and they were full length leather. We had swapped boots some time earlier. Well, with my illness, they weighed a ton so I took them off and walked on in my socks.

When I woke up again a native was standing over me saying "Sorry tu much Masta" and a small Japanese biplane was circling over me at about 50 feet. Lucky for me he obviously did not have any guns as he did not shoot at me at all. My sleep had refreshed me and I decided it was time I really got out of there so off I went. What had woken me up was my wet feet as the tide started to come in.

As I went up to Skindewai I looked down from a ridge on the Frisco River where we had a suspension bridge. This had been destroyed by the chaps withdrawing from Salamaua. but I thought I could see one of the steel wires still standing and thought the Japs had put one up again.

I was a fair distance away and did not have any binoculars but I can remember just for the hell of it firing two shots at the Japs swimming across the Frisco River. Whether or not I hit anyone I will never know but I was getting pretty browned off by this time. I just kept going into Skindewai where I met up with my Platoon again.

To this day I have no recollection at all of the destruction of the fuel dump and the blowing up of the aerodrome, as the NGVR left Salamaua, as I was too sick with malaria at the time. I would only have seen it from a distance anyway as we were stationed close to the mainland end of the Isthmus.

I never said a word about the rest of the Section leaving me at Salamaua until many years after the war when I ran into Cpl Kevin McNamara in the Wau Club and asked "Why the b..y hell did you leave me behind. Why didn't you kick me in the backside and make me walk out?" His response was pretty simple – they had to go in a big hurry, and could not worry about anyone who could not walk out.

### **Skindewai Camp**

We stopped at Skindewai for a while and I got over my malaria attack. The ex Post Master in Wau, Capt Jenyns was in charge of Skindewai at the time and he disappeared from the Camp under unusual circumstances. He claimed to be going out to get some bush orchids – went out and we never saw him at Skindewai again. It was months before anyone saw him again – a long time to get some orchids.

Our cook at the camp, before Neville Swanson took over, used to have a slight stutter and would say when asked what was for the meal "Sssssaaaammthing you can eat"

### **Attack on Salamaua**

On 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1942, a raid on Salamaua was carried out. I volunteered for this and the raiding party consisted of 50 men from the 2/5 Independent Company and 21 from NGVR. I think it was either Capt Norm Winning or Capt Doug Umphelby who called for volunteers

I clearly recall our cook, Neville Swanson, asking me to leave behind my good Swiss watch before I left as "You won't come back you silly b...d".

I had a sticky tank bomb (most of these had also been reinforced with a kilo of gunpowder) and one of my tasks was to throw it into the house I used to stay in while we were posted to Salamaua. The sticky tank bomb was heavy and coated with a glass covering which, so the theory went, was smashed on the tank as you hit it with the bomb and then the main bomb stuck to the tank and exploded. I also carried a Tommy Gun and two grenades. We were all given tasks with which we would be familiar and this made a lot of sense.

The worst thing I remember about the raid was the waiting for the raid to commence. We had to cross the Frisco River to get to our forming up place for the raid and were in a swamp up to our shoulders in mud with millions of mosquitos covering our faces. This was our approach march, but, as we were moving through the

swamp, one of our party of 4 (Alf Lane was one of our party) saw a Jap sentry standing only a few yards from us. We then had to stand perfectly still and make no movement at all in case he heard us. We could not even brush the mosquitos from our faces and that was almost unbearable. It seemed not a few hours but a few days before we went into action.

The action started a few minutes early as Capt Winning was spotted by the Japanese and had to fire the flare to commence the attack early. This did disrupt the timings somewhat, but, after being spotted he had no other alternative. H Hour (the time for the attack to commence) had been set for 3am, but as soon as the flare went up firing started in all directions.

As soon as the flare went up and firing commenced, the Jap sentry raced off to see what was happening and we scrambled out of the swamp and raced for our targets.

We had then to cross the northern end of the airstrip to get to our targets. Gordon Kinsey was next to me, and I remember Tom Lega being close by.

Our target had two concrete steps. Right opposite the house was a Japanese machine gun firing directly across the road towards us and we had to shelter behind the steps as it kept firing. To throw my sticky tank grenade into the house I had to lie on my back and throw it over my head through the back door, to stand up and throw it at the time would have been foolish and dangerous.

Throwing the sticky tank grenade was my main role and, as soon as the machine gun stopped firing (to this day I don't know why he stopped but he did) we headed off running through long huts shooting at any Japs we saw and threw our grenades at any inviting target. One rumour the Japs started after the raid was that we had run through Hospital huts and killed and injured Chinese and native patients. I must say that, even though it was pitch dark and we were in a hurry, I doubt that this was the case. I am sure the huts we shot up were occupied by Japs.

The raid was a success and the official results of the raid were 116 dead Japanese (counted by us) and three of our soldiers were wounded – all walking wounded. Mal Bishop (2/5 Independent Coy) caught a ricochet bullet in the back, Jim Curry a bullet through the wrist, and Alex Garvie a nick in the shin (both NGVR).

### **Back to Skindewai**

Quite a while after my arrival in Skindewai the Japanese attacked the Camp.

Unfortunately for them we had only ranged in our rifles and marked out distances from the valley approach to the camp a few days before their arrival.

Our Platoon Sgt, Hilary Farr, whose father went down with the 'Montevideo Maru', climbed a tree and called down to me "Get me some grenades". I stood at the foot of the tree tossing up grenades to him. I was in a bit of a panic and a lot of them didn't reach him, but quite a few did. Frankly I couldn't think what he was going to do with grenades up a tree. He called down to me to go across

and tell Mick Shutt and the others on the other side of the Camp that the Japs were coming.

We took up our positions and I had Bill Allen on my right. We were facing down into the valley and had ranged our weapons. Early in the piece I realised that the Japs were using dum-dum bullets – a bullet landed between Bill and myself and left a huge hole in the ground. This then caused us to take the point off our rounds as we saw red at that and said "Well if these blokes want to ignore the Geneva Convention, so can we".

The Japs never took the camp and, after the action, we went down into the bush where they were to have a look. There was a lot of blood and bandages scattered around, but no bodies. Actually they never left anything behind, so we never knew just what casualties we had inflicted, but as we were all firing down on them and had our weapons ranged in properly, there were obviously a lot of casualties judging by the amount of blood.

Life carried on as normal after this.

About a week later I heard that there was eggs and ham over at Ballams Camp. It took a fully laden soldier 9 hours to get from Ballams to Skindewai, but I could do it at a jog trot in 3 1/2 hours. When I got to Ballams I got my second dose of malaria and ended up not getting any eggs or ham.

Again some months later the whole section was relieved and called back to Wau.

## **ANGAU (AUSTRALIA NEW GUINEA ADMINISTRATION UNIT)**

It was about this time that ANGAU was formed, and I volunteered for them because my pay went from 6/- per day to about 10/- per day and was given three stripes (promoted to Sergeant).

ANGAU had been formed to commence the transition of PNG from military control to civil control, but, instead of using civilians, soldiers, mainly with PNG backgrounds, were recruited as they at least knew the country and the people.

When we joined ANGAU we were given new Army numbers. NGVR was a militia Unit but ANGAU was an AIF Unit and we were entitled to a new number with X in it. Consequently my number changed from NG2234 to NGX 388.

Horrie Niall was in Wau at the time and handled the Administrative side of my transfer to ANGAU>

On 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1942, Lt Col Fleahy, believing Wau would be attacked from three different directions ordered the torching of the whole of the Bulolo Valley.

### **Madang**

Three days before Lt Col Fleahy had Wau torched, 7 of us from ANGAU and 2/5 Independent Company volunteered to carry out a task in Madang. In charge of the party was Sgt Jim Golden, 2/5 Independent Coy, who was later killed in the Markham Valley while carrying out reporting duties on Jap movements in the Valley. Bob

Rasmussen, also 2/5 Ind Coy was also a member of the party.

We walked down the Markham Valley, over to the Ramu Valley and then across the mountains to Madang, 200 miles. As it happened we crossed the mountains close to where the Battle of Shaggy Ridge was fought later in the war.

On the way to Madang Harry Lumb (later WO11, NGVR, killed in the Markham Valley), who was a miner in the Watut area, gave me a German Luger and 8 rounds of ammunition. The Luger ammunition was 9 mm and, at the time, there was no 9mm ammo available through Australian sources. I eventually threw it away while returning back from this patrol while crossing the mountains to Bena Bena as I could not obtain any ammunition for it.

Our task in Madang was to advise the local Commander, Capt Nick Penglase, that it was time to evacuate all the civilians as the Japanese were expected to land there shortly. It appears that Madang was receiving little information about Japanese movements on the rest of the PNG mainland.

At the time ANGAU was so new that one civilian came up to me and asked "Listen mate! Just who is this Angoram mob?" – obviously he meant ANGAU. I explained to him who we were and told him that he had to get out of Madang.

After just a few days in Madang we commenced breaking in horses, which, to my knowledge, were ex-racehorses from Australia, most of which had become a bit wild after being abandoned by their previous owner.

I used to race Capt Penglase regularly, but his mare beat my horse every time.

### **Bogadjim**

Our next move was to Bogadjim, where the track from the Coast to Dumpu, on the Ramu River commenced. I was given one of the horses from Madang and took him with me.

Before we left Madang we had a pretty wild party which left me very hung over the next day – not a good day to start walking to Bogadjim.

I was joined in Bogadjim by Lt Boyan, ex Patrol Officer, and one of our first jobs was to disarm hundreds of armed natives.

These were natives from the Morobe Goldfields who had been released from their contracts and told to go home. There were Madangs, Sepiks, Aitapes etc. The Markhams had dropped off on their way through. These former contract workers and domestic servants had managed to obtain shotguns, rifles and revolvers from abandoned houses (there were a lot of guns in New Guinea in those days). My Pidgin English was very good, in view of the fact that I had lived in New Guinea since I was 14, so there was no question about whether the natives understood our messages to hand over their weapons. We disarmed the natives, smashed all the weapons and allowed the natives to continue on their way back to their villages.

There were two Lutheran Missionaries in Bogadjim at the time, Wilbur Wenz (German) and Harry Dott (American). They were a terrific couple of men but refused to be evacuated as they believed they would be safe with the Japanese.

I was patrolling the coastline between Bogadjim and Madang when the Japanese landed at Madang and Bogadjim. The last time I saw the two missionaries alive was when the Japs were three miles off their house. I kept in touch with them by written notes. I used to ride my horse to within a mile of their church and send in a native with the note. When the notes stopped coming back my enquiries with the natives substantiated that they had both been shot and buried. The last note I received from Harry was to the effect that the Japs would be at the mission on the following day and not to come in.

### **Saidor**

My next task was to proceed to Saidor to destroy the Government schooner 'Thetus' and get the Chinese engineer to Bena Bena, near Goroka in the Central Highlands.

The night I got to Saidor, one of the wildest storms I had ever seen occurred, and saved me the trouble of destroying the schooner. The next morning all that was left of the schooner were planks strewn all over the beach.

I duly got the engineer off to Bena Bena.

That same night a 'biscuit bomber', a DC3 crashed into the sea some hundreds of yards off the beach. I could see one of the crewmen on the wing of the DC3 when the lightning flashed. It was so dark that you could only see when the lightning flashed. However the seas were so huge that survival was almost impossible, and the DC3 sank shortly after crashing. Only one of the crew survived, an American Sergeant, and no other bodies washed ashore. He told me that the person I had seen was a civilian, but either could not or would not give me any other information about him.

The next day I came across a Lt Smith, a Coastwatcher, who had also been on the plane. He was wounded in the shoulder, and had been on the plane to have his wound tended by qualified doctors.

The three of us stayed for a few days with another Lutheran missionary, Paul Fryberg (a relation of General Fryberg, a senior officer in the New Zealand Army). I had been ordered to evacuate Paul Fryberg and had actually been told 'If he won't evacuate, you know what to do with him'. I must say I could never have carried out that task, but, in any case, it was not necessary. After I told him what had happened to his friends at Bogadjim he readily agreed to come with me.

*(To be continued next issue)*

---

*My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, 'I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds.' I bought her a bathroom scale. And then the fight started...*

---

## EXERCISE STEEL TUFF 9 RQR MILITARY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

September 2009



*The 9 RQR winning section with Association members*

*Paul Brown, John Holland, Bob Collins, Colin Gould, Mike Griffin and President Phil Ainsworth. Assn photographer Tom Dowling took the photo*

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September was the date set for 9 RQR's annual exercise "Steel Tuff" the aim of which is to determine the best Section in 9 RQR. Over the years our association has annually presented a Certificate and a Medallion which features the badges of both 9 RQR and PNGVR to the winners. The CO of 9 RQR is very keen on this annual presentation as it gives the Battalion a chance to test its soldiers in basic military skills and enables it to determine just what stage of proficiency the Battalion has reached.

The competition commences on Friday night with, normally, a tactical move through the bush to take up a defensive position and set up a patrol base for the next day. On the Saturday various patrol exercises, contact and ambush drills are carried out culminating in a tactical withdrawal from the defensive position. Then a number of tasks are set which require Section co-operation as well as a great degree of ingenuity. This is followed by a written test of each soldier's military knowledge and some classics come out of this. *See next column.*

The culminating exercise is a Section movement over the Obstacle course. It is good to see that the Army now recognises the name Obstacle course – for many years it was called the Confidence course, and believe me, nothing on the course raises confidence at all, if anything it puts your confidence somewhere around the sole of your boot. Many of the obstacles on this course cannot be overcome by individual soldiers – they need the Section to work as one. All the time various staff move around the Sections awarding points, and when all the points are tallied, the winning Section can be determined. On Sunday afternoon the whole Battalion gathers and the winning Section is announced and presented with their Certificates and Medallions by members of our Association. This year the winning Section came from C Coy, Loganlea and comprised. Cpl Morris, L/Cpl Wintzloff, Ptes ,Boyle, Burnett, Caldwell, Day, Markovich and Williams.

We congratulate the winning Section.

## EDITOR HARIM TOK TOK

After 17 years as editor of HTT our Association Secretary, Colin Gould, has called it a day. He took over from Bill Kelly in 1992 and has worked conscientiously since then ensuring that members are able to keep up to date with Association activities.

During that time he has spent many hours of his own precious time producing a magazine that is extremely important to all Association members as, in many cases, it is the only communication emanating from the Association. Not only did Colin edit HTT but he also produced it, spending a great deal of time photocopying, folding and enveloping editions – all in all a fantastic effort.

The task of producing HTT is not easy. Despite repeated requests to all members to forward in articles and photos of interest, very few members actually make the effort to do so. I would point out that, if you want a HTT that is interesting and informative then the only thing to do is to make your contribution and ensure that HTT remains so.

Fortunately for us all Colin is remaining as Association Secretary, a position he carries out extremely efficiently, so all official correspondence continues to be directed to him.

However for any notices, reports, photos etc you wish produced in HTT please forward them in future to Bob Collins email [bob-collins@bigpond.com](mailto:bob-collins@bigpond.com) or at address

45 Capricornia, 121 Surf Parade,  
Broadbeach, QLD 4218.

Again thank you Colin from all the members for the tremendous effort you have put into the production of HTT over the past 17 years.

### General Military Knowledge Test

- \* What is the weight of the MAG 58 unloaded? **Heavy**
- \* What are the methods to judging distances?

#### **Knowing & guessing.**

- \* The 9th Battalion has many battle honours. Name at least five:

One of you summed it up with by writing: **"I'm in so much trouble"**.

- \* Who is the current RSM-Army.

**92% of the Battalion thinks it should be our RSM, WO1 Darcy. One of you thought it was the CO.**

- \* Regimental motto "Pro Aris-Et Focis" means in English? **Toughest Battalion in Queensland.**

- \* There are two types of patrols: What are they?

**Standing & moving, long & short, passive & aggressive.**

## RESERVE FORCES DAY SYDNEY

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2009



L-R Ray Dalton (AIF, PNGVR); Gen. Gillespie (Chief of Army); Owen Bennett (AIF)

For the first time since Reserve Forces Day commenced over 10 years ago in Sydney, our Association marched as a Unit behind its own banner on 5<sup>th</sup> July. The contingent was only small and consisted of Ray Dalton, ex WW11 soldier (Lae), Noel Serafini (Lae), Richard Hart (Goroka, Port Moresby), John McGrath (Port Moresby), Gordon Wilks and Bob Collins (Madang, Goroka). The day was organised by Jes Hansford who eventually marched with 23 Fd Regt as they were short on numbers and needed his presence to be able to participate.

The march was held in Sydney's Domain. Due to the small numbers in our contingent our banner was carried by two cadets. We marched on, the weather was fine, and the parade was reviewed by the Governor of NSW, The Hon. Marie Bashir. A number of speeches were made and special guests for the day were those who had been in the CMF prior to WW11, regrettably few in number now.

After the march the participants retired to their various waterholes to catch up with others from Units in which they had served and, unfortunately, Ray Dalton had a fall on his way to the Rugby Club and ended up in Royal North Shore Hospital with a broken hip. At time of printing Ray is out of Hospital and on the road to recovery, but is determined to be present again next year.

## MIXED FIELD DINNER NIGHT

Jimboomba 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2009



48 Association members and guests attended the 20<sup>th</sup> mixed field dining night at Jimboomba on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> October. The Assn Patron Maj. Gen. John Pearn was present, as was Assn President Phil Ainsworth. Most dinners held to date have had dress 'smart casual' however on this occasion dress was formal and it was an unusual sight to have members wearing mess dress in the bush setting.

Formalities were few, with, after the passing of the port and the usual toasts, a short address by the Patron and an update on Assn activities by President Phil. However, when the 'Kangaroo Court' was convened, the hilarity commenced. Host Barry Wright found himself on the receiving end of a couple and President Phil was also charged over the error in his recent newsletter re the 'Montevideo Maru' submission.

A total fire ban prevented the usual bonfire after the dinner so the participants sat around chatting after the flags had been marched out.

Prior to the gathering in the annex a short ceremony was held and a Ghost Gum planted in memory of Bruce Inch who had made a number of financial contributions to allow improvements to the area. Members of the Assn had been in touch with Bruce prior to his passing and he had specifically requested a ghost gum be planted.



L-R Bob Collins & Noel Serafini after the tree was planted

Phil Ainsworth, Tom Dowling and Jesse Chee all spoke on their memories of Bruce.

If anyone has not been to one of these functions, they are unique, being held in a total bush setting, and the atmosphere has to be seen to be believed. The next dinner will be held on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> March, and further details will be available in future issues of HTT.

*I rear-ended a car this morning. So, there we were alongside the road and slowly the other driver got out of his car. You know how sometimes you just get soooo stressed and little things just seem funny? Yeah, well I couldn't believe it... He was a DWARF!!! He stormed over to my car, looked up at me, and shouted, "I AM NOT HAPPY!!!" So, I looked down at him and said, "Well, then which one are you?"*

## NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES CHINESE AUXILIARY AMBULANCE DETACHMENT

### KAM-ON LEO C.A.A.D. 107

Editorial: The way Chinese community members were enlisted in NGVR differed from centre to centre eg in Rabaul a Chinese Auxiliary Ambulance Detachment (CAAD) was formed, but in Bulolo and Wau, they were enlisted as soldiers. There appears to be no official explanation for this: it probably was a matter of expediency and circumstances and because no directive of this nature was made. Rabaul was an established civilian administrative and plantation centre; Bulolo, Wau, Lae Salamaua and Madang were exuberant private enterprise centres driven by gold mining pursuits inland. Kam-On Leo, whose story is told below, joined the CAAD in Rabaul. The story of Shui Hong Wong, who enlisted as a soldier, will be told in a later edition of HTT.

I was born in Rabaul in New Guinea in 1920. My father's name was Leo Bo and my mother's Lee. They came to Rabaul from Hong Kong and my father was a blacksmith in Rabaul for the Germans prior to WW1. After the Germans were expelled from New Guinea and it became an Australian Mandated Territory in 1919 my father stayed on in Rabaul and continued to work as a blacksmith, but in the late 1920's opened a trade store also.

I was the youngest of four children with two older brothers and an older sister. Lam Ling Leo, my sister was the oldest of the family. (Lily Seeto, wife of Rfn Ralph Seeto, PNGVR, is her daughter.) Kam Tai Leo was the oldest of my brothers, Kam Woo Leo was the other brother. We were a very poor family and we children did not have the benefit of schooling. When I was a child there was only a very small Chinatown in Rabaul of probably only half a dozen families. Over the years the Chinese population in Rabaul grew to something like 1,000 in 1941 with a flourishing Chinatown.

During the early 1930's my parents were also operating a trade store in Rabaul. They then went back to Hong Kong for some years and left my brother Kam Tai in charge of the trade store. He did not make a success of it, and it suffered financially partly because of his involvement with a Chinese girl which may have distracted him, and he also went back to Hong Kong in 1932. I was about 12 years old at the time and went with Kam Tai to Hong Kong for several years. Kam Tai had been looking after me during our parent's absence in Hong Kong, but when he lost the money in the trade store he decided I would have to go back to our mother. I travelled by cargo ship to Hong Kong. Anyway after about three years in Hong Kong I returned to Rabaul, again by cargo ship, and obtained a job as a builder with a Company called Bai Loo. I had been working as a builder for about two and a half years when Vulcan volcano erupted on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1937. Rabaul was devastated by the eruptions of two volcanos Vulcan and Tavorvur (Matupi). The tree lined avenues had all the trees flattened and the whole town was covered by a blanket of pumice ash about three feet deep. The roads, water systems and sanitary services were all put out of action. When it rained everything was flooded in mud and when it was dry the whole town was choked with ash and



*Kam-On Leo (CAAD), Shui Hong Wong (NGVR) & Ralph Seeto (PNGVR), at the Chinese Memorial Bell Dedication, Brisbane Chinatown, 10th March 2007.*

pumice dust. The official death count was 2 Europeans, 1 Chinese and 438 New Guinea natives. The latter were gathered near Vulcan for a sing sing when it erupted and were entombed. After this eruption there was talk of moving the Administration centre of New Guinea, then located at Rabaul, to Lae on the mainland, but this never happened. Naturally there were no jobs available in Rabaul in the immediate future after the eruption and I went to my sister's place in Kavieng on New Ireland for two years.

After two years at Kavieng one of my brothers sent me a message to come back to Rabaul and, when I did so, I obtained a job as an apprentice mechanic for a Company in Rabaul which also ran the local Taxi service. My apprenticeship was to last for 3 years but the Japanese landed in Rabaul before I could complete my apprenticeship. My parents had moved back to Hong Kong before the 1937 eruption of Matupi and were not in Rabaul when the Japanese invaded. My oldest brother also, Kam Tai Leo, who was in China still, joined the Chinese Army and fought with Chaing Kai Shek against the Japanese. However the other three of us children stayed in New Guinea. My sister by this time had been married and was living in Kavieng. When the Japanese landed Kam Woo Leo 'went bush' and stayed there. Kam Tai Leo returned to Rabaul during the 1950's.

### **I Join the Chinese Auxiliary Aid Detachment of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles.**

The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles was established on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 1939, after the outbreak of WW11. From the outset indigenous people of New Guinea and Chinese were not allowed to join the NGVR as combatant troops. However the Chinese population of Rabaul realised the impending danger because of recent Japanese atrocities against the Chinese population in China itself and, under the guidance of the Reverend Mo Pui Sam who had been a medical student before joining the Methodist Mission they formed an Ambulance Brigade which became known as the Chinese Auxiliary Aid Detachment. They were allotted expatriate Officers (most of whom could not, for one reason or another, join the



fighting units of the NGVR). The military aspects of training were under the control of Warrant Officer R.L. Kennedy of the NGVR.

I joined early in their history and, while I believe my allotted Army number was 17, my medals are inscribed 107 so that must have been my Army number. Our training consisted mainly of first aid training and drill. We were supplied with medical supplies both by the Administration and by private doctors in Rabaul. It is worth noting that we did not at any stage have any weapons training, as at the time it was not permissible for Chinese to have firearms in New Guinea. Our training was strictly limited to medical and first aid training.

#### **Evacuation of Women and Children from Rabaul.**

As early as 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1941, an unidentified aircraft, considered to be Japanese flew over Rabaul and again on 18<sup>th</sup> December several Zero scout planes again flew over. The Administration issued the order to evacuate European women and children on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1941, and by 29<sup>th</sup> December this had been carried out. However the order did not include any Asians or half-castes and this, naturally, caused a lot of resentment among the Chinese community.

#### **Japanese attacks on Rabaul**

Rabaul was first bombed on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1942, when two separate air raids were carried out. Further air raids were carried out on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan, 7<sup>th</sup> Jan and 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. Very little resistance was able to be put up by the Australian forces and the Japanese were very careful not to bomb either the airfields or the town itself as they obviously wanted to leave these intact for their own use later. By far the biggest air raid was carried out on 20<sup>th</sup> January when 109 aircraft in total were used in the raid destroying any shipping in the harbour and a number of anti-aircraft batteries.

#### **NGVR called to full time duty and the Japanese Invade Rabaul.**

On 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1942, NGVR was called up for full time duty. Only four of us from the C.A.A.D reported. They were Ben Cheong, Sui Ban Cheong, Leo Chee Chai and myself. I do not know why only 4 of us out of about 25/30 Chinese members were the only ones to report for duty but it probably had a lot to do with the fact that, by now, the Chinese community realised that they had to look after themselves and could not rely on the Administration to assist their families in any way. They naturally were concerned for the safety of their families and were assisting in evacuating them from Rabaul to the Catholic Mission at Ratongor (about 15 miles from Rabaul) and the Methodist Mission owned Vunakambi Plantation (about 10 miles from Rabaul). There were about 1,000 Chinese population in Rabaul to be moved.

I was picked up in a car by an Army NCO (Non Commissioned Officer) from the C.A.A.D. and was taken to the Regimental Aid Post which was set up in a small church at Navunaram, near Vunakanau Airfield, some 7/8 miles from Rabaul Township itself. This field hospital was under the control of Dr. John Akeroyd who was the Regimental Medical Officer of the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Division, Australian Imperial Force.

The Japanese attacked Rabaul at 2am on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1942. Their invasion fleet consisted of some 5,300 Assault troops, assisted by three Special Naval Landing Battalions transported in 32 ships and to oppose them were 1,399 Australian troops. The Japanese landed at about 10 separate points around Simpson Harbour and Kokopo, the first two being Praed Point and Nordup from where two Battalions quickly encircled the Lakunai airfield and the town and, despite some very determined stands by various Australian units of which NGVR was one (one of the Japanese Battalion Commanders recorded that bitter fighting took place at Vulcan where A Company, NGVR was located), the battle was virtually over by 11am on that day. It was about that time that the order was given "Every man for Himself" An indication of the Japanese treatment of Chinese in uniform is given in an extract from "Hostages to Freedom – The Fall of Rabaul" by Peter Stone who writes "Some members of the Chinese Ambulance (C.A.A.D.) were captured from the Chinese camps and others were captured in Rabaul. The Japanese ignored their Red Cross arm-bands and either executed them or used them to carry ammunition".

#### **Confusion and Escape down the South Coast of New Britain.**

After the order was given things were very confused. No plan for withdrawal had been put in place and none of the Australian soldiers had been given instructions in either where to withdraw to or had been taught anything about living in the bush. There was no plan even to establish a series of food dumps to assist troops trying to escape, even though it was obvious long before the Japanese landed that they could not possibly be held at Rabaul. Our Regimental Aid Post was not busy at this time as only a very few wounded soldiers managed to get back. The speed of the Japanese advance after their landing, and the confusion which followed, just did not allow any orderly evacuation of wounded to the RAP. I was sent out to find a soldier who had been reported as being wounded and in the bush trying to find our hospital. From here on I quote from a statement given by Staff Sergeant B.L. Perkins of the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion.

On January 23, 1942 following the Jap landing I was in command of a Patrol with Sgt J. Foxwell and Cpl L Bhetts with instructions to take a position on the right flank of D Company on the Toma Ridge near Malabunga Road Junction. We saw an R.A.P (Regimental Aid Post) Post with R.M.O. Major J. Akeroyd, R.M.O. (Regimental Medical Officer) 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. We stopped to get information re enemy and saw the Cheong Brothers in uniform on duty. Pte B. Cheong had just assisted the doctor remove a bullet from the right thigh of a soldier. Both were dressed in military uniforms and wore Red Cross Armbands. Later when forced back to a point between Malabunga Mission we found Pte Leo Kam On. He had been out looking for a soldier reported to be wounded in the bush. He got cut off by the Japs and could not get back. He joined up with us. We reached the end of the road, smashed the truck and retreated into the mountains. Pte Kam On was in a military uniform and was carrying a large army medical haversack. Two mornings later a soldier was found with a

gashed leg. Major Palmer, S.M.O. (Senior Medical Officer) 2/10 Field Ambulance looked at it and instructed Pte Kam On what to do and moved down the track to treat 2 wounded soldiers. Pte Kam On treated and bandaged the leg and we moved on to Lamingi Mission. Here an R.A.P (Regimental Aid Post) was set up. After one day our party and others at intervals were told to move out to the South Coast ready for possible evacuation. Pte Kam On was attached to me to give medical aid to any along the way which he did. On late afternoon, January 29, we arrived overlooking Adler Bay on the South Coast. We came under a naval bombardment from ships off shore and spent the night in a gully. Next morning we moved onto the coast. The Japs had erected signs calling for us to surrender, as we had no hope of getting off the Island. They also left leaflets as well. At a house further along we found a number of troops sitting under a white flag waiting for the Japs to come and get them. They were sick and worn out and felt without medical supplies and food it was hopeless to go on. The so-called "every man for himself" order did not mean you did not stay under command but as the C.O. (Commanding Officer) did not surrender every man could decide when he felt he had come to the end of his tether. I asked my men who felt they didn't want to go on and one Pte. with bad feet said he could go no further. Pte Kam On felt as his family were still in Rabaul he could not go on. I said that was alright and there was a saw mill nearby run by Chinese. I went with him to the mill where they said he could stop with them. I told them that being Chinese and a member of the Australian Army he could get ill treated and probably shot. I told them to burn or bury his uniform and tell the Japs he worked at the mill. He gave me some of the medical supplies, the rest were for the sick, surrendering. The mill gave me a little rice and we moved out fast to avoid the Japs. I never saw Pte Kam On again.

During our time in the jungle he told me the Chinese were the medical orderlies and stretcher bearers for the N.G.V.R. They trained in their own time like our pre-war Militia. Their medical training was done under a doctor whose name I can't remember. Their Army training was done under Warrant Officer R. Kennedy, N.G.V.R. On January 20 they were called in and sworn in as full time soldiers of the Australian Army. He said they did not wait until they were all together but as they arrived were sworn in immediately and posted to different areas. The sawmill was at Namonge Plantation at Adler Bay, near Sum Sum Plantation, on the South Coast of New Britain, and belonged to the family of T.C. Wee, a Chinese businessman who had attempted to escape from Rabaul when the Japanese landed. He had a small boat and was endeavouring to get down to the South Coast to his sawmill but unfortunately on the way the boat overturned and he was drowned. However as stated above his family allowed me to stay on at the sawmill. I might add at this stage that the Japanese did not honour their surrender documents and, at a Plantation called Tol in Henry Reid Bay further down the South Coast of New Britain, they rounded up some 150 Australian soldiers who had escaped from Rabaul and surrendered to them, roped them together, and took them into the bush and brutally massacred them either by shooting, bayoneting or by beheading. They then cal-

lously left the bodies lying around in the plantation without even attempting to bury them. I did not go as far south as Tol Plantation but remained at T.C. Wee's sawmill at Adler Bay, some 70 miles south of Rabaul. There were 17 Chinese in all at the mill.

### **I Assist Coast watching Activities at Adler Bay.**

I was at the sawmill for close to a year. Food was not plentiful but we lived on what was at the Mill supplemented by growing our own vegetables, mainly kau-kau and taro, and shooting any wild pigeons or animals we found. Guns and ammunition were plentiful as the Australian soldiers had left many weapons and ammunition lying around as they became weaker on their journey south and discarded them. Naturally we had to be careful that the Japanese did not find out that we had weapons or they would have treated us harshly, even killed us. Another Chinese from Rabaul, Chin Hoi Meen, was also living at Adler Bay then. He had joined the Auxiliary Ambulance detachment of the N.G.V.R. in 1941. He had previously sent his wife and her family as well as his own family from Rabaul to Adler Bay and he remained in Rabaul after the Japanese landing. He was eventually given permission by the Japanese and a permit was issued to him to join his family at Adler Bay, some 4 days hard walk from Rabaul.

At the time the A.I.B (Australian Intelligence Bureau) had commenced Coastwatcher duties on New Britain. First of all Lt Wright contacted our group of Chinese at Adler Bay to find out what information we had of the Japanese either at Rabaul or anywhere on New Britain and later on Capt Bates, also of the A.I.B. used to come ashore by submarine to obtain information from Chin Hoi Meen. (Chin Hoi Meen is the uncle of Fran Ng, wife of Lt Douglas Ng, PNGVR, and member of our Association.) The submarine came up at irregular intervals – sometimes 6 weeks apart and sometimes as close as 3 weeks. This meant we had to keep a watch at the beach each night for their signal. Three Chinese men, Cheng Shui Ben, Tim Yau Mack and Chee Young were marine mechanics and worked on the wharves for the Japanese. They used to count both the warships and the merchant ships in the harbour and also report on the results of bombing raids. They then sent their information through a Chinese network that stretched from Rabaul to Adler Bay, mainly via the Seven Day Adventist Mission. This was Chin Hoi Meen's sole method of obtaining information. When these visits were made the submarine would show a light from the sea and we would reply with a light from the beach and they would send a boat ashore. My job during these meetings was to move further along the beach before the boat arrived and keep a lookout for any Japanese who may be in the vicinity. It would have meant instant death for us if the Japanese had found out we were assisting the Australians. It was for this reason that we refused to have a radio and communicate with the A.I.B. It was too dangerous and, if a native betrayed us and the radio were found, it would have meant instant beheading. It

was also to protect the others in the event that one of us was betrayed or captured by the Japanese that we each had our task and that was all we did. My task was lookout at one section of the beach and, at no stage, did I talk to any of the Coastwatchers or Army personnel involved. I would not have been able to identify them even if I had been captured and tortured.

### **I Move back to Rabaul (Ratongor)**

After about a year at the sawmill the Japanese searched the South Coast more thoroughly, looking for sawmills from which they could obtain timber for their own purposes in Rabaul. Along with other Chinese I was sent back to Rabaul to Ratongor where the majority of the Rabaul Chinese community were. We were left in reasonable peace by the Japanese. However we had to work for them on a two week rotation system. For two weeks we would be allowed to tend our own gardens but for the next two weeks had to work for the Japanese. Many of the Chinese were used as labourers digging the tunnels the Japanese used to take cover from Australian and American bombing, as this was particularly dangerous work.

In his book "Hostages to Freedom – The Fall of Rabaul" Peter Stone also states that the Chinese widened and improved the coast road from Rabaul to Kokopo, built a road over the Toma Plateau to Kokopo and commenced a road from Rabaul to the Baining Range. I did not see this as I was working elsewhere. I was used mainly as an assistant cook at one of the Mission halls, although sometimes I had to perform labouring work, mainly on house construction jobs. Being used as an assistant cook suited me well as it gave me an opportunity to steal small amounts of rice, even though the penalty for being caught stealing food was death.

On our two weeks in Rabaul we used to all stay in a house which was closely guarded at night. Naturally we had to walk to and from Ratongor to Rabaul for our turn to work it was over a two hour walk. It was while I was here that I realised that the Japanese culture was that, once they had left Japan as a soldier, they were not to return to Japan unless they were successful. There was to be no surrender, and, if not victorious, they were not welcome back home. This explains the fact that very few of the Japanese surrendered during the War. The Japanese did not utilise the skills of the Chinese – I had been a carpenter and an apprentice mechanic but they only used my skills as a carpenter from time to time.

When the bombing of Rabaul took place I was never in the town itself – I was always out in the outskirts either building houses, assisting the cooks at the Mission, or out in plantations planting food between the coconut and cocoa trees. We had plenty of trenches dug at Ratongor for our own safety.

*(To be continued next issue)*

### **Lt.Col Maddern. M.B.E. C.O. PNGVR**

A newcomer to the Territory, and one who is sure to win his way into favour with all Territorians, is Lieutenant-Colonel N.P. Maddern, M.B.E., who was recently appointed to the command of the newly-formed Papua and New Guinea Volunteer Rifles.

Lieut-Col Maddern graduated at the age of 19 from Duntroon and was immediately posted to Darwin, where he served with the rank of Captain, as Adjutant of the Mobile Force. Captain Maddern was then posted to the 2/40<sup>th</sup> Battalion, in far away Tasmania, again as Adjutant, and his third military posting was in a similar capacity, but this time with the now famous Sparrow Force on the Island of Timor.

In February, 1942, Captain Maddern was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese and was held for some time on the island and in Java before eventually being transferred to Changi, Singapore, where many of Australia's P.O.W's were held. He was chosen for the position of Staff Officer in Changi, under Brigadier F.G. Galaghan, O.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., who was Officer Commanding the 12,000 Australian prisoners of war in the Singapore area.

After his return to Australia he was posted with the rank of Major to Washington, U.S.A., as a member of the Australian Military Mission. Upon his return to Australia he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and appointed to the Command of the P.N.G.V.R.

Lt-Col Maddern is a keen athlete, being a fair sprinter, a more efficient miler and a still better high jump performer. As a lad, he was Junior High Jump Champion of South Australia. He has played a little Aussie Rules football and is a keen gymnast.



Lieut.-Col. N. P. Maddern, C.O. of the P.N.G.V.R.

## C J MEDALS

Professional medal mounting  
Shop 17—Foodworks Shopping Complex  
59 Bryants Road, Loganholme



**Clive Johnson**

P: 07 3806 5980

[www.cjmedals.com](http://www.cjmedals.com)

## MEMBER EMAIL ADDRESSES

In order to increase and improve on communication between the Association and its members, your Executive Committee is requesting members to submit their current EMAIL ADDRESSES so that information can quickly be relayed around the traps. If you wish to be included on our Association email network, please email your name and email address to:-

**[pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au)**

Your email address will only be used by your Association to communicate information to you.

**Col Gould—Secretary**

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

**Includes former members of the Pacific Islands Regiment, Papuan Infantry Battalion and New Guinea Infantry Battalions**

All correspondence to:-

The Secretary

PO Box 885

PARK RIDGE QLD 4125

Mobile: 042 456 2030

Email: **[pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au)**

**[www.pngvr.com](http://www.pngvr.com)**

*No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the permission of the Association.*

NGVR / PNGVR Service Recollections

articles are copyright ©

**Bob Collins—Editor**

## NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM

We have been so busy I do not know where to begin, so will start with a thank you to Bernie Arnold (Adelaide) who has made a substantial donation of memorabilia from the New Guinea battlefields.

King & Co Property Consultants have donated a new fridge, display shelving and dining room table and chairs – thanks President Phil.

Ralph Seeto has installed new lights over the front steps and in the museum – thank you Ralph.

The internal displays have been re-arranged to give more space. Duplicated items are now in storage. All items have names with donors being acknowledged. We have had many tour groups through the museum, and since the installation of the new lights, we are having night tours.

At the last Committee meeting, members dug a trench to connect the fire hose reel to water. The hose had been donated by Alan Clayton – the precinct caretaker.

You will be aware that John Schindler is making a two hour documentary on the sinking of the 'Montevideo Maru'. The museum has loaned him photos, uniforms, Japanese army helmets, rifles from Tol Plantation, 303 rifles and surrender documents from 1942. (These were dropped over New Britain to Australian Soldiers fleeing Rabaul). Paul Brown, Welfare Officer for the Association, will be in the movie as an Australian soldier. All items on loan were signed for and have been returned.

We have received a donation of rifles from David Beattie. Paul Brown (our licensed museum holder) is carrying out the official paperwork.

We are always looking for assistance and donations. We have a lot of photos, artifacts, weapons etc. from Rabaul, but do not have much from other centres. We would like to prepare a display on the "Battle for Wau". DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOS OR ITEMS YOU CAN LEND OR DONATE??

P: 07 3375 5484 / M: 0449 504 058

**John Holland - Curator**

E: [newguineajohn@bigpond.com.au](mailto:newguineajohn@bigpond.com.au)



# Industrial property specialists

- ➔ Leasing
- ➔ Sales
- ➔ Property Management

**Contact Phil Ainsworth**

# 07 3844 3222

Email: [p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au](mailto:p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au)

99 Annerley Road, Woolloongabba QLD 4102

**[www.kingco.com.au](http://www.kingco.com.au)**