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

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Although it has taken a while and a lot of hard work by a few lead by Curator, John Holland, our Museum has come of age and is becoming very popular. For instance, there were visiting groups on the 8th, 10th, 12th, 18th, 23rd and 26th September with more on the way. John is in need of additional assistance to share the load of looking after the visitors. Many of these visitors come for morning tea or lunch. Pamela Wright and Jessica Harrington have unstintingly baked and provided the cakes etc for our guests. Thank you Pam and Jessica.

The Association received its first electricity bill from NSAAQ recently, previously paid by another party on behalf of NSAAQ. The Committee decided to install a meter to measure its future usage in the shared heritage precinct. This was done without payment by two great friends of the Association, Paul Wall provided the meter and Joe, the electrician, installed it. Joe, who lives nearby, has also installed lights and other electrical fittings without payment. Thank you gentlemen.

Our congratulations go to the NSAA for the erection of and arranging its recent dedication service of the National Memorial for the 500 plus national servicemen killed in service since the Second World War at the AWM in Canberra. Over 5000 from Australia wide were in attendance and the service and associated functions were highly successful. Member Don Hook reports the NSAA crowd took over Canberra for a few days. Disappointingly the Brisbane press did not report on this significant event.

The NSAAQ is presently conducting another round of negotiations with the Developer of the adjacent ex-Army land about its plans. A decision should be reached soon. It is hard to believe that within a month or two it will be five years since we were invited by NSAAQ to participate with them in the precinct's development. The fifth anniversary of the opening of the Museum's will be celebrated on 16 February 2011.

The most recent issue of "Uno Voce", the journal of the PNGAA showcased NGVR, PNGVR, the Association and the Museum with a five page spread. It also advertised for members of PNGAA to consider assisting with the work at the Museum. This is an outcome of the recent visit to the Museum by the President, Dennis Doyle, and Journal Editor, Andrea Williams, to the Museum late July. This exercise is to find professional and interested people to steer the Museum through its next stage of development.

Our Association recently became a life member of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society whose object, amongst others, is to erect a national memorial for the victims of Rabaul and Montevideo Maru wartime tragedies. The membership will allow the resumption of the distribution of the Montevideo Maru Newsletter by email.

The Association has again sponsored the Mili-

tary Excellence Awards for the winning section in 9 RQR's annual Exercise Steel Tuff. President Phil and "Snappy" Tom represented the Association and presented the winning eight man section with the much sought after awards. The awards are in the form of an attractive, suitably engraved alloy medallions of 63mm or 2.5 inches in diameter. The details of Steel Tuff are set out on page 11 of this newsletter.



Military Excellence Medallions showing front and reverse sides.

Bob Harvey Hall is presently visiting Brisbane. He attended the last committee meeting to brief members on his progress of the history of PNGVR. He has substantially completed the text and is waiting for some promised content to include. He plans to have the completed copy by Christmas. In the meantime, the format and layout is being discussed, photographs sorted and maps selected. Initially Bob intends to prepare the materials in CD form with quick referencing by page or section. This format may be easily adapted to book form if it is decided to proceed in that direction.

The PNG Consul General of Brisbane, Mr Paul Nerau, hosted PNG's 35th Anniversary Independence cocktail party on 15th September. The function was thoroughly enjoyable and it was once again great to meet up with old friends. It was also the day of the announcement of the joint hydro electricity project in which the Queensland Government is involved. Besides the usual attendees, there were also many business people. We were represented by our Patron, Major General John Pearn, splendidly dressed in military uniform, President Phil, Museum Curator John Holland, Honorary Solicitor Bruce Crawford and Social Officer Paul Brown. Our Patron, in his usual great style, proposed the loyal toast and John Holland conducted a successful touting exercise on behalf of the 24th October Rabaul 100 year anniversary event at Wacol Museum.

I have been asked to speak at a 31 RQR, Kennedy Regimental reunion luncheon in October, which will give me an opportunity to renew acquaintances and explain our activities. The 31 Battalion have a well deserved and proud history having many battle honours including Milne Bay.

Our Annual General Meeting/Reunion/BBQ and Museum showing will be held at our Wa-

col Museum on Saturday 16th October. Gates will open at 10am with a free barbecue at 12:30pm, followed by the AGM in the Chapel at 1:30pm. There is free off street parking next to the Museum - turn in just before the Museum. Further details are on page 12. Also see rear page for details of Remembrance Day functions and talks by Patrick Lindsay about his "Coastwatchers" book.

PNG's 35th Independence Anniversary and the Rabaul Centenary Celebration will be held on Sunday 24th October 2010. This gala function is being organized by our Association together with the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, PNGAA and many others, with the proceeds going to the Montevideo Maru National Memorial and upkeep of our Museum.

The event will run from 10:30am to 2:30pm and is planned to be a great family day with children's activities and lots of other things to do and see. There will be raffles such as the Air New Guinea sponsored double return air ticket to Rabaul with up to 5 nights accommodation at the Rabaul Hotel, a 4 lbs of PNG Highlands coffee, rides for the children, face painting and much more.

It is planned to have the PNG Consul General to open the function. A talk about the coastwatchers will be given by Lionel Veale in the Chapel. Food and refreshments will be available to purchase. There will be plenty of shade for everyone.

As mentioned, this historic army precinct including the NSAAQ Chapel and Everyman's Hut, as well as our Museum will be open. You do not need to stay the day, just leave when you are ready. We need to make this a big success so tell your friends and neighbours and ensure they come. There will be an optional gold coin donation entry to assist with the fund raising. The programme of activities is available on www.pngaa.net. It will be emailed to all members. There is free off street parking adjacent to the precinct - watch for the sign.

**REMEMBER: SUNDAY 24TH OCTOBER
RABAU CENTENARY CELEBRATION AT THE
WACOL MUSEUM.**

Phil Ainsworth

October 2010

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Continuation of Alan Dunwoodies' story as told to Bob Collins

The Attack on Salamaua and its aftermath.

Sgt Jim McAdam (NGVR) and his scouts did a lot of the scouting work for the planning of the raid.

The night before the raid Walter Chapman (NGVR – NG2138) and myself were ordered to take one of the Vickers Machine Guns down to Komiatum in case the raiding party was pursued by the Japanese. It takes about 8 carriers to move a Vickers – one to carry the tripod, usually two to carry the ammunition, two more to carry the gun itself and a couple of spare carriers to relieve those carrying. Our role would have been a rear-guard one, but fortunately, the raiding party was not closely followed up. We arrived just on dark but would not stay in Komiatum village itself as the Japs had a habit of flying past and shooting up such a village. We found a deserted hut just off the village and bedded down for the night. The hut was off the ground and had a fenced in area underneath in which the pigs lived. All scraps were thrown down through a hole in the floor in one of the corners of the hut to the pigs and the natives also used that hole in the floor as a toilet. (This also fed the pigs)

Next morning I got up and in due course duly took my bayonet and went out into the bush to attend to the call of nature. I dug a hole and, with my pants down around my ankles, duly squatted down. The next thing I heard "Oink! Oink!" behind me and, looking around, was facing a huge white pig which had been left behind by the natives. It was obviously looking for a feed but here I was bravely protecting myself with a bayonet with my pants down around my ankles. Fortunately it was reasonably domesticated and moved off.

As soon as the raiding party moved out on their attack we set up the Vickers down by the Frisco (Francisco) River and manned it until after they had passed through us again on their way back. Neither of us was very happy about spending the night on the Frisco River as it was notorious for the number of crocodiles that inhabited it and you could hear them moving about and snorting all night.

The raiding party was carrying a few chaps that had been wounded during the raid, and stopped at Komiatum for a brief meal on the way back. They then set off back to Mubo and Walter and myself were left to guard the track for a while and then had the job of carrying everything back to Mubo ourselves.

The Salamaua raid was considered to be a most successful one as:-

- It was the first offensive action by Allied troops against the Japanese in New Guinea
- Approx 116 Japanese were killed for the loss of three men lightly wounded
- Documents captured were rushed back to Wau and then to Port Moresby and it is believed that some of the maps and orders were responsible for

Australian troops being rushed to Milne Bay before the Japs landed there.

As it happened my move back to Wau was pretty well timed as, just after I left Mubo the Japs attacked it in force, stung by the raid on Salamaua which had killed some 100 of them. Fortunately for NGVR and unfortunately for the Japs the air strip at Mubo had been marked off every 100 yards with old biscuit tins so our blokes were aiming at measured distances. It was here that the Vickers Machine Guns came into their own, and the Japs were cut to pieces.

NGVR members in the process of recovering \$2,800 in



silver from the Bank of New South Wales strongroom at Wau. Manager Bob Byrne in the doorway, Teller Horrie Harris standing on a ruined refrigerator and John Brown at the foot of the door.

After the bombing the Bank was destroyed, with only the strongroom left standing.

Photo by Damien Parer, famous Aust photographer

No Medical Officer a Mubo

We had no Doctor at Mubo until the 2/5th Independent Coy arrived, having for medical supplies only those we had managed to obtain from the Chemist in Wau before going down.

I can recall one native who had fallen and skinned his leg and side severely. He was sent to me for attention, why I don't know, but all I had was Mercurochrome so I used that. Well I had never seen a native go pale before but this one did so the application obviously hurt.

When the 2/5th Doctor came into our area to carry out a general health check he weighed me and with my Army boots on I was down to 8 stone 4 lbs from my previous weight in January of 9 stone 8 pounds. He made the decision that I needed a rest so I was sent back to Ballams, near Kaisenik and almost to Bulolo.

While I was at Ballams I received a message to report immediately to Headquarters in Wau, where I was told that someone was necessary for cipher purposes for the radio traffic (cipher is encoding and decoding) and quite by accident this is how I got into an area which was to take up all of my time after I left NGVR in Wau.

I move into Cipher

I found cipher to be an easy and comfortable job. The radio section was only small and I was the only cipher clerk.

I considered this to be the best job I had since I joined NGVR. After what I had been doing this was great.

At the time there were a number of 44 gallon drums placed all over the airstrip at Wau in case the Japs tried to land any planes there. There was a special team of natives whose job was to roll them away when a friendly plane came in to land. One of the DC3 pilots was quite a strange person and he often used to fly low over the airstrip in a practice 'shoot up' of the drums before he landed. Naturally, as we heard an aircraft coming in low, everyone in sight used to drop onto the ground and stay there in case the aircraft was Japanese, so it would be some time before the drums were rolled off the strip to allow him to land.

It was while I was in cipher in Port Moresby later that, quite unknown to me, a policeman called at the family home in Bowral and announced to mum and dad "You've got a son in New Guinea", which caused mum to almost faint on the spot as she was then expecting the worst, but he went on "Don't worry – I just have to check up on the family history as he is in special work".

'Scorched Earth' Policy – the Burning of Wau

Then came the 'Scorched earth' policy.

After the initial attack on Mubo the Japs withdrew but returned in force. Mubo was being approached on 3 sides and was evacuated. At the time Lt Hicks (NGVR – NG2454) had only 29 men and the Japanese force was estimated to be 900-1000 men.

Lt. Col Fleay realised that the Japs could not be held either at Mubo or at Kaisenik and that his forces could be cut off from his planned defensive position near Winima, some two hours walk south of Kaisenik.

Consequently he issued orders for the evacuation of Lae and Bulolo to Winima and Kudgeru (on the way to the Bulldog track from where forces could withdraw into Papua and down the Lakekamu River if necessary) and their destruction. All bridges, dromes, roads and buildings were demolished on the night of 30th August, 1942 and Headquarters Kanga Force moved out for Winima during the night. On the night of 2nd September, they arrived at Kudgeru in pouring rain and set up the Headquarters Sig-

nals Unit.

For the next couple of months we operated here – light at night was provided by carbide lamps.

As it happened the Japanese stopped just after Mubo and did not come up to Wau.

While we were at Kudgeru we were supplied by air drops. Because of my previous New Guinea experience I was allotted to be in charge of the natives picking up the supplies. Remember that supply by air was very much in its infancy then so a gully was picked for the drops as it had softer soil and it was believed that supplies would suffer less on landing – not much at all was supplied by parachute – it was all free fall.

I clearly recall one case of tropical spread that was thrown out - I had to get out of its way and the last I saw it just disappeared about six feet into the mud where we were waiting to retrieve the drop. Another spectacular fall was a big supply of Army biscuits. The biscuits were hard but when they landed on a particularly hard part of the hill at the side of the gully – well even though we soaked them in milk as a type of porridge for breakfast before eating them later you could still taste the dirt.

The natives were particularly good at hearing aircraft before we could and they would announce "Balus ikam masta" (the aircraft is coming). At this point I often started to run as we had a couple of people (one native and one 2/5 Ind Coy) killed by the falling supplies.

On one occasion we were out of petrol for the generator and our transmitter was giving trouble so we asked for an air drop of both. Well the petrol was dropped in a four gallon drum without any wrapping or parachute and the parachute for the transmitter failed to open and you should have seen the faces of the signallers when they were looking at a mess of twisted wires. Naturally we could not salvage any petrol either.

Each day I had to encode the messages sent to Port Moresby giving our strengths and I can recall that at the time we had 74 NGVR personnel on strength in the Bulolo Valley.

At this point it was decided I would be sent out to Port Moresby and I flew out in a Douglas DC3 which had the sides taken out of it so a jeep could be driven into it for transport. We were escorted from Wau by Kittyhawks. While this was comforting they were not the most reliable of aircraft – I can recall one day when we were listening to the radio at Kudgeru a Kittyhawk saying to a transport he was escorting "My oil pressure is dropping Sir! I'm off back to Moresby". As I recall it was just short of Christmas 1942, I had been in the Bulolo valley for 10 months.

Service in Port Moresby with Line of Communications Signals Unit

On my arrival in Port Moresby I reported to Murray Barracks and was immediately ordered to report to a cipher group in Port Moresby. When I reported to their Headquarters I was told that "Oh yes! I see you have just come across from Wau. Well we're very short of staff and would just keep you working here for a while". I

found out later that, as I had been working on cipher in the Bulolo Valley and knew exactly what was going on all around me, the Army wanted to keep me away from any chance of being able to tell anyone what I knew. In fact the 'while' turned into 6 months. I was attached to L of C Sigs (Lines of Communication Signals Unit), based at Jacksons Airstrip at the 7 mile.

In fact our Unit was right next to General Tom Blamey's Headquarters.

We were accommodated in Australian tents – 4 to a tent and we were scattered all the way down the valley as Port Moresby was still subject to Japanese air attacks.

I was not kitted out here and had to exist with the gear I had come across from Wau in.

Even though this was a main Headquarters area the food was very ordinary. It was not uncommon to have Christmas cake and cordial for breakfast. We did not mess in a hut all the time and mostly ate our meals outside .

I did not use Army issue dixies at this time. After martial law had been declared I had raided the pub in Wau and had a china plate which I thought was unbreakable until later on in the War at Bonegilla. I was showing off and rolled my plate down the centre of our hut and unfortunately, it hit a steel helmet on the way – exit my plate.

At Port Moresby we at least had an encoding and decoding machine. It was like a big typewriter with two drums. For encoding you set the first drum and just typed out your message. What was typed was the message that was sent. At the other end they set the other drum and typed in what was received and, sure enough, the original message was then displayed. As it happened I worked mainly on manual encryption and decryption as I was not a very good typist.

At different times we put padding into our messages, particularly if they were coming to Australia where we knew AWAS (Australian Women's Army Service) would be doing the cipher just to break the monotony. I recall one message I sent I put in the addition "Come into the garden Maud. The reply, when it came had the additional message "Maud is far too wise".

This was the time that the battle of the Kokoda Track was being fought. Wireless communication was not good on the Kokoda Track and the messages from the forward troops requesting air support and giving their bomb lines would come through our unit and we were responsible for passing the messages to the bombers.

It was not unusual for bombers to be warming up on the airstrip next door to us as we were decoding the messages requesting assistance and giving the bomb line co-ordinates. As I say the communication was not good and many of the incoming requests were corrupted. Many a time our signallers would go back three or four times to ensure that they got the correct co-ordinates as they did not want to be responsible for having our own

troops bombed. It was not a nice feeling at 3am being on duty and having requests for bomber assistance come in knowing that they could not take off until dawn as the country just was too difficult for them to attempt night bombing.

It was in Moresby that I was ordered to receive my share of Army inoculations. When I reported to the RAP (Regimental Aid Post) the Medical Sgt asked for my pay book. He did not believe me at first when I said I didn't have one and then I had to explain where I had been and that I never had been given a pay book.

I was duly given my injections and boy – was I sick that night. The next day I reported in sick only to be told "Don't be ridiculous! We put through 180 yesterday and you are the only one to report in sick". I persisted and requested that the orderly at least take my temperature. He did and the immediate response was "Just lie down there soldier – the Doctor will be here in a minute". I had a week off after that.

The work was hard. There were three sections and we had to maintain a 24 hour duty roster. If the load got particularly heavy you were called in to assist but still had to do your next shift. Every third day we changed shift so that day you worked for 16 hours. This went on 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year without any days off at all.

We used to get to the pictures occasionally. A truck used to come around and show movies. On one occasion a couple of us managed to get around near the Officers reserved area which of course had a better view of the screen. There was a cane chair there and we found out later why. The show was supposed to start at 2000 hrs but General Tom Blamey (the cane chair was especially for him) did not turn up until nearly 2030 hrs and the show was held up for him, much to the disgust of the troops who were catcalling etc. Anyway, during the pictures an air raid occurred and the ack-ack went up. There were 3 Jap planes and these were picked up by the searchlights. All of a sudden you could hear the whistling of a bomb and everybody started to fall flat. I can tell you I ended up under at least two or three so I was safe. The bomb went over our heads, the Japs were aiming for Jacksons strip, and when we were all picking ourselves up after it has exploded, the officers were picking themselves up too, there was Tom Blamey sitting calmly in his cane chair waiting for the pictures to commence again.

We used to hitch-hike down to the beach for a swim and a visit to the PX when we could.

My first Leave

I spent 16 months in New Guinea before I was given any leave. In June, 1943, I flew to Townsville in a flying boat. One of the first things we did on arrival in Townsville was to walk into a Café to order a milk shake. We sat down and the waitress came up. She was a rather dumpy girl

with a wrap around brown dustcoat and when she came to the table she had on floppy slippers. Remember that we had not seen a white girl for the past 16 months but the first thing that I said was "Gawd! Lets go back!"

I travelled south by troop train and went on leave. Even though we were well looked after on the way the troop trains were most uncomfortable to travel in. The seats were along the wall and you had nowhere else to look other than at the bloke across from you. Sleep was difficult and usually you ended up either lying on the floor or putting your head on the shoulder of the chap beside



Alan in his backyard in Kiama, NSW with his two tame magpies

you. The first night was bad enough but after the second night I wasn't game to talk to anybody as we were all in a foul mood from lack of sleep.

When my couple of weeks leave at Bowral finished I was ordered to undergo training at Bonegilla, near Albury on the NSW Victorian border.

The training was a bit of a joke for someone who had been in the Army for 18 months – we used to march along and had to salute stumps etc on the march. On one occasion we were ordered to stand at ease and an instructor came around with a tape to measure the distance between our heels – I roared laughing at this and was lucky not to have been put on a charge.

It was while I was at Bonegilla that I caught malaria. This was winter and coming out of New Guinea I suppose it was inevitable. I ended up in hospital at Bonegilla and was visited by one of the girls I knew when I was working in Bega. She must have seen my name in the papers as, in those times, it was common for the

names of soldiers who were in hospital to be published – I guess this was so that anyone who knew them would visit them.

While I was in hospital the doctors took the opportunity to cut a spur out of my foot – this had been caused by my Army boot.

I think it was while I was at Bonegilla that I was promoted to Corporal.

To be Continued....

BILL GATES AND GENERAL MOTORS

For those who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on.

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX) Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with the technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon".

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating: "If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:-

For no reason whatsoever, your car would crashtwice a day.

Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.

Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.

Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down, and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.

Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive – but would run on only five percent of the roads.

The oil, water, temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This car has Performed an Illegal Operation" warning light.

The airbag system would ask "Are you sure?" before deploying.

Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio aerial.

Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.

You'd also have to press the 'Start' button to turn the engine off.

P.S. I'd like to add that when all else fails, you could call "customer service" in some foreign country and be instructed in some foreign language how to fix your car yourself!

The way to make a queue move faster is to join the other one.

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter. What are you doing?" She asked.

"Hunting flies" he responded. "Oh! Killing any?" she asked

"Yep! 3 males, 2 females" he replied.

"How can you tell them apart?"

He replied "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone".



FLASHBACK

Construction of PNGVR Madang Training Camp 1964—66

All materials were donated and Madang PI members voluntarily carried out the work.

Rear standing Sgt Bernard Arnold

Front L. WO11 Malea Ealedona, Unknown, Pte Eddie Matthies

The Camp, Constructed at Rempe, outside Madang, consisted of

- Orderly room / Officers Quarters
- OR's Quarters
- Radio Hut
- Mess Hut
- Haus Cook
- Shower Block
- Flushing toilet
- Parade Ground
- 240 V Generator Hut (5 KVA)

S/Sgt Stan Gould was the moving inspiration behind the project, and was told by Col. Mal Bishop that this was the only PNGVR project that didn't cost the PNGVR any money

Photos made available from your museum

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES

UNIT HISTORY 1950-Mar 1953

By Lt Col N.P. Maddern MBE

Continued from last issue

RECRUITING CAMPAIGNS

Recruiting campaigns so far conducted at the following times have followed the same pattern:

- (a) On opening each centre
- (b) Jul, Sep and Dec 51
- (c) Jul 52
- (d) Dec 52
- (e) Apr 53 – projected

The elements of the campaign were:

- (a) A letter to the Administrator asking for his support. The Administrator has sent a personal letter to each Government departmental head.

- (b) From a list compiled from the Territory telephone book, a personal letter from CO PNGVR to every business manager, head of every government department and sporting body, president of every club or organisation such as the RSSAILA, and many private individuals, requesting assistance in recruiting.

- (c) A circular campaign – hundreds of circulars delivered to messes, clubs, business houses, works and mines.

- (d) Press advertising, radio announcements.

- (e) A personal approach to young men wherever they may be found by CO PNGVR – not done during later campaigns.

- (f) Letters to young men listed by members of the unit as potential recruits.

In the initial stages, excellent co-operation was received from the Commonwealth Bank, Royal Papuan Constabulary and Bank of New South Wales and the Department of Works.

It is interesting to note that the Civil Administration has

produced few recruits indeed.

The Department of Works is the backbone of the unit – but the men are mostly contract workers and excellent men come from this department. Of the 23 men from the Commonwealth Bank enlisted when centres first opened, none remained in the Territory after 18 months.

The most interesting aspect is the apathy with which the barrage of letters and circulars has been received. The first campaign produced three replies:-

- One from the Administrator
- One from Mr Bill WYETT of WYETT's LTD, PORT MORESBY, advising that his son would enlist and wishing the unit the best of luck
- One from an Administration employee, which was in fact the letter he had received from CO PNGVR with a footnote "Thanks for the offer, I prefer a commission with the RAAF unit".

The many letters to the RSSAILA State President (Mr WHITTAKER) or to the Presidents of sub-branches have never produced a single reply, nor have those to hundreds of other organisations except for odd official acknowledgments of correspondence from Government departments.

In spite of these criticisms of the Territory response, the unit at its peak strength had enlisted 3% of the population in main centre's and about 10% of the population of WAU.

MOTTO AND SLOGAN

The training slogan of the PNGVR was "The more you sweat in training the less you bleed in battle". This was the training slogan of General SUB KI-JIN, Chinese Na-

tionalist Army.

The slogan offended some mothers and it was suggested that it should be "The more you perspire in training, the fewer expire in battle".

The unit motto "Per Angusta ad Augusta" – 'Through Trials to Triumph' was selected by Mr G. WHITTAKER, a former member of the NGVR, and now State President of the RSSAILA.

CMF OFFICERS

CMF Officers selected were as follows:

Maj C J MacFARLAND MC	21C
Maj J BUCKRIDGE	OC Hq Coy – to R of O Dec 52
Lt W.S. KERR MC	PI Comd, later OC HQ Coy
Lt C RAFTERY	PI Comd HQ Coy
Lt. K HOLLOWAY	Pnr PI Comd – to R of O Apr 53.
Maj M THOMPSON MC	OC A Coy
Lt J. McKEAN	2IC A Coy
Lt G CORLIS	No 5 PI WAU – to R of O Sep 51
Lt J F DAVIS	No 5 PI WAU – to R of O Mar 53
Maj (Lt Col) R K WILSON	OC B Coy RABAU
Lt F HOLLAND MBE	2 IC b Coy – to R of O Mar 53
Lt R SCOTT	PI Comd B Coy

Lts P HARBECK and P BROMAN qualified for first appointment to commissioned rank at examinations held Jul 52, and both were appointed to HQ Coy. Those were the first men who had enlisted as privates to be commissioned.



King's Birthday Parade, Ela Beach Oval, Port Moresby, 1951. 65 members of PNGVR paraded together with the Pacific Islands Regiment (which had just started recruiting) and the Royal Papuan Constabulary.

HTT Vol 63, Page 5, PNGVR Unit History by Lt Col Maddern, reports on the occasion.

ROLE OF THE PNGVR

Initially the role of the PNGVR was to:

- (a) Provide local defence detachments in the event of war
- (b) Collect information for the revision of wartime terrain studies.



*Lt Col Maddern
in Port Moresby,
date unknown.*

Photo from your
museum

It was decided during early 1952 that the transient nature of the population rendered this role impracticable. It is very likely that, in the event of war, most of the men will return to the mainland. A small proportion only can be regarded as permanent residents of the Territory.

The role of the unit now is:

"To provide officers and NCO's for an expanded PIR in the event of war"

Most of the men have some contact with natives and accumulate some experience in the handling of them, particularly those who can be regarded as permanent Territorians.

Of the men in the unit at any one time, approximately 20 would

be available for Aust Staff of the PIR and about half would be officer material. The remainder of the unit would be men who had some military training. These men probably would enlist in mainland units.

First class material such as Royal Papuan Constabulary Officers would be key men in their own organisation in war.

INTELLIGENCE

A great deal of basic intelligence is available from such organisations as:

- (a) Companies engaged in oil search
- (b) Department of District Services and Native Affairs Patrol officers reports and other Government Departments.
- (c) Missions
- (d) Native labour recruiters

From Jun-Sep 51 Capt R MATHAMS was attached to PNGVR to organise the collection of such material.

A great deal was accomplished and much material sent south.

On the return of Capt MATHAMS to 11 Inf Bde TOWNSVILLE, Sgt B E PARKER took over intelligence duties. He was a qualified projectionist and had no intelligence experience. He remained with the PNGVR for 14 months and accomplished nothing. He was entirely unsuited for the job and although he was tried in other appointments, he was finally returned to the mainland.

Sgt R EFFORD, formerly Int Sgt 3 Bn RAR, KOREA, was posted to the unit in Feb 53. Within one month EFFORD had restored the flow of material and over a period all wartime terrain studies should be greatly improved.

RIFLE RANGES AND RIFLE CLUBS

In Apr 51 a reconnaissance was made for a rifle range in PORT MORESBY. The old wartime range was located. It had degenerated to a jungle patch and the butts and target mechanism were buried by soil washed down from the hills.

Prison labour was obtained and the butts dug out and the range cleared.

GOC N Comd inspected the range in Jun 51 and was of the opinion that its restoration was a major task beyond the capabilities of the unit and that we would never get the target mechanism to work.

However the following was done:-

- 200 sheets of Marsden (airfield) matting was obtained free from the Dept of Civil Aviation Unit ARA personnel went into the hills and salvaged a number of 80lb steel rails for uprights.
- An ex RAEME Officer (Capt W MAY) restored the target mechanism and the concrete pit.

When this was done, 407 pounds (Dept Works estimate) was required to:

- (a) Set the steel rail uprights in concrete
- (b) Bulldoze earth for the mantlet.
- (c) Back the uprights with the Marsden matting.

Getting the 407 pounds was a difficult task. Firstly the range was declared unsafe by HQ N Comd and eventually an MBI was necessary revisiting safety regulations. Although the range did not have 3,500 yards clearance beyond the butts, it did have a 604 ft feature rising steeply enough at the butts to make it safe.

The new Garrison Engineer decreed it uneconomical.—
The access road would be impassable in wet weather. -
The access road was 1 ½ miles in length and would be a major maintenance problem,

- The butts would fill with water

CO PNGVR disagreed violently with these views. Maj Gen R KING visited PORT MORESBY in Feb 52 and the morning he inspected the range followed a night of heavy rain. The access road and the butts were dry.

The 407 pounds quickly became available and the first practices were held in Jul 52. Self help often meets with many frustrations.

In LAE an excellent range site was obtained. Clearing commenced with prison labour and a great deal was done. The District Commissioner Mr NIALL who had approved of the range, then withdrew the land since he had discovered that it would eventually be bisected by a road.

A new site was obtained and clearing commenced in Jun 52 – one year had elapsed and no range yet available. 200 pounds was made available for initial clearing. A further 500 pounds was requested and hire of labour continued pending allocation of funds.

When a total of 800 pounds had been spent, work was stopped. CO PNGVR was in trouble for continuing to incur expense without authority.

A total of 2,000 pounds became available in Feb 53. At the same time, by arrangement with the Government Secretary, prison labour continued clearing. The range still awaits work by the Dept of Works.

In RABAUL a civilian rifle club commenced to make a range. CO PNGVR assisted with cash for bulldozing. After some work was done the District Commissioner withdrew the land.

The PNGVR will not build a range in RABAUL. When the PIR becomes established there, a range will be constructed for them and for use also by PNGVR.

HQ PNGVR was concerned directly or indirectly with the formation of rifle clubs in:

KOKOPO NB

SOHANO, BUKA PASSAGE, BOUGAINVILLE
MADANG

LAE & RABAUL – still forming or in abeyance

PORT MORESBY – sponsored by HQ PNGVR

The KOKOPO Club built an excellent two target range in one weekend.

These rifle clubs ask for more “encouragement”. This is difficult to give except by speedily passing on any requests to HQ N Comd.

It is felt that they accomplish very little. However a civilian group of good rifle shots, armed and with a small supply of .303 ball, exists at each of the places listed above. They could perhaps be regarded as “local defence detachments”.

To be Continued

MUSEUM REPORT – OCTOBER

Work is steadily being carried out on improvements and alterations to the displays as funds and assistance from volunteers becomes available. Volunteers from outside the Association include Emma from the MacArthur Museum who is updating our computer programmes, such as ‘Mosaic Plus’, and Brian Collin from Greenbank RSL. They are also putting various photos we have into folders separately named on the computer so access in future will be quicker and accurate. Others have been assisting with maintenance and upkeep of weapons and particularly, bullets, which need careful cleaning and polishing – in the process it is being ensured that the bullets are actually not in firing condition.

We have also received some photos of Lt Col Peter Maddern from his daughter and some newspaper clippings re him from Jim Burton.

Upgrades to the displays include a new mannequin dressed in the late Bruce Inch’s mess dress (the mess dress was originally Joe Fisk’s, so it has double meaning for us, and rearrangement of displays as more display cabinets become available.

GUESS WHAT THIS IS? ANSWER NEXT PAGE

Photo taken 1956



GUESS WHAT THIS IS?

It's a hard disk drive back in 1956—with 5 MB of storage.

In Sep 1956 IBM launched the 305 RAMAC—the first 'Super' computer with a Hard Disk Drive (HDD). The HDD weighed over a ton and stored a 'whopping' 5 MB of data.

Do you appreciate your 8 GB memory stick a little more now?

Museum report cont...

Donations. Speaking of display cabinets I would like to again thank Phil Ainsworth and his Company, King & Co, for donations of display cabinets, cupboards and 9 comfortable chairs. Member Viv Humphries donated an RAR (Royal Australian Regiment) badge with the King's Crown – extremely rare – and his Korean Ribbons. The late Mabel Holland (my mother) donated an RAAF matchbox holder from WW11. Norm Mead, Sunnybank RSL, gave us a Qld Railways ticket dated 17th Feb, 1944, from Brisbane to Townsville, and we have also received a 3d (threepence) deposit ticket for bottle return.

Visits continue with recent groups from Sunnybank RSL, Bayside Retirement Village, MacArthur Museum and some of the PNGAA members and committee, etc. These visits require attendance from members of the Association to ensure they are properly informed and escorted through and I would like to thank all those members who regularly attend when visits are in progress. Again thanks to Pam Wright and Jessica Harrington for all the lovely biscuits, cakes and other goodies they continually supply for our visitors.

Volunteers are always required so please contact me if you can spare a few hours from time to time. If you have never seen our museum please contact me for details of a pending visit and you will be pleasantly surprised at what a great little museum we actually have.

John Holland, Curator, 07 3375 5484

The museum is a great source of photos and material for
HTT – Editor.

PIR HISTORY

Email received from Hori Howard.

I am pleased to advise that Mauri Pears and I have received agreement from the Army History Unit (AHU) to scan the two PIR History books and place them on their website, at high resolution. Most importantly the material will be saved for posterity, and the books could be re-printed if there is ever a market.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Jim Sinclair for releasing copyright for this purpose, and, of course, to the AHU for this outstanding support. I will write on behalf of all.

We will let you know when the task of scanning the books is complete.

I will now write to the Chief of Army about the history of Army in PNG post WW2.

I feel sure that I have missed many of our old comrades with this email, so you may care to let them know.

Regards, Hori Howard.

As another email stated "Well done Hori and Mauri".



PIR, King George VI birthday, 1951. Ela Oval, Port Moresby

This and the PNGVR photo on page 7 were sent by Burnie Gough who stated "By coincidence my father George Gough, Ex ANGAU, photographed that parade. The 65 PNGVR are dressed as Col. Maddern described, long khaki with white belts, gaiters and slings. The PIR were most distinctive in green jackets over green shorts, with the RPMGC in their traditional black serge."

DEPARTED COMRADES.

11877 Sgt Kevin CHEATHAM.– Aug. 2010

Kevin was in the regular Army, RAEME Corps, and served with PNGVR in the years that 2PI A Coy was in Kainantu. Our condolences to his wife Judy.

Albert Leonard Samuel KEMISH—29th Aug, 2010.

Aged 79 years.

The Rev Len Kemish was former Parish Priest at Maryborough and Caboolture. He was the loving husband of Sheila and father of Deborah, Ian and Peter.

(taken from Courier Mail 2/9/10)

If anyone has further details or photos re either of the two comrades above, please forward to the Editor for inclusion in future issues of HTT.

LEST WE FORGET

DID YOU KNOW?

Steam power was invented in 50 BC but wasn't used for fear it would cause unemployment.

Beer is the world's oldest alcoholic beverage.

EXERCISE STEEL TUFF



The winning Section from A Coy, 9 RQR, based in Yandina with their Exercise Steel Tuff medallions which were presented by Association President Phil Ainsworth and Committee member 'Snappy' Tom Dowling.

Six sections of 9 RQR competed in Exercise Steel Tuff 2010 for the Military Excellence Awards sponsored by our Association. The exercise was conducted over the Saturday and Sunday of the 11th and 12th September at Galipoli Barracks, Enoggera.

The Commanding Officer of 9 RQR, Lt Col. Michael Bond said "we have 73 soldiers in Darwin completing their final training before deploying to East Timor. Their deployment represents the majority of the largest deployment of the Reserves since the Second World War.

The six Steel Tuff sections were therefore largely the younger soldiers of the Battalion. They were asked to 'stand up' and they did. The competition involved the usual array of challenging stands culminating in the obstacle course and the Battalion tug of war competition.

The winning section came from Alpha Company based at Yandina. Corporal Adam Noke led his section to victory, including the tug of war competition. The Battalion remains very grateful to the Association for their support to the competition".

The Association was represented by President Phil Ainsworth and Committee member "Snappy" Tom Dowling who presented the much sought after Military Excellence medallions to the eight members of the winning section who are:

8213041	Cpl	Adam Noke
8509354	Lcpl	Andre McKenzie
8541895	Pte	Kieran Hoy
8536476	Pte	Nathanael Young
8525123	Pte	James Drew
8232933	Pte	Joshua Bailey
8501726	Pte	Tredoux Pretorius
8535939	Pte	Issac Jamieson



Another problem caused by deforestation

THE SLOUCH HAT – "THE DIGGER HAT"

What was the origin of the famous Slouch Hat.

According to what was known years ago to the New South Wales Ordnance Department, it was born from a shortage of helmets during the South African War.

Sir Harry Chauvel traced the hat from Tyrolean style first worn by the South African Police and later (in the early nineties) by the Victorian Mounted Rifle Regiment.

The first unit to top its uniform off with the slouch felt hat was the Imperial Bushmen's Corps, which was raised by public subscriptions on a federal basis in January 1900.

Military stocks were notoriously short at this transitional period of Federation, and, in Adelaide at least, that hat was simply an emergency issue.

The Poet Laureate (John Masefield) paid the following tribute to that hat: "Instead of an idiotic cap that provided no shade to the eye, or serene for the back of the neck, that would not stay on in a wind, nor help to disguise the wearer from air observation, these men (the diggers) wore comfortable soft felt slouch hats that protected in all weather and at all times looked well.

GET WELL SOON PATTI

Our hard working Secretary, Colin Gould, is on a steep learning curve with domestic issues. Wife Patti is at home recuperating from a knee replacement and Colin is chief cook and bottle washer.

Support the Montevideo Maru Memorial by attending either or both Remembrance Day breakfast and/or luncheon with Patrick Lindsay, the author of the recently published "Coastwatchers" book.

The breakfast : Venue: City Tattersall's Brisbane Time: 7:00am - 8:30am Cost: \$40 per person (tables of 8 also available)

The Luncheon: Venue: The Ship Inn (cnr Stanley & Sidon Sts), Southbank Parklands, Brisbane Time: 12:00pm Cost: \$45 per person (tables will also be available, drinks available from a cash bar)

RSVP: 27th October, 2010 to editor@pngaa.net or phone 0409 031 889

C J MEDALS

Professional Medal Mounting
Shop 17—Foodworks Shopping Complex
59 Bryants Road, Loganholme.



Clive Johnson

Ph: 07 3806 5980
www.cjmedals.com

WANTED

Photos and articles from your PNGVR days for publication in HTT.

Group photos should have the names of those in the photo and date and place where it was taken.

PIR photos and articles also urgently required as I do not have anything for publication from our PIR members.

Email to bob-collins@bigpond.com or post to:

45 Capricornia, 121 Surf Parade,
BROADBEACH QLD 4218

NGVR & PNGVR EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION'S 2010

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/REUNION/BBQ

AND MUSEUM OPEN DAY

at Boundary Road, Wacol

Saturday, 16th October, 2010

Gate opens at 10am - Lots of free off road parking available

Free BBQ lunch at 12:30pm / AGM in the Chapel at 1:30pm

RSVP essential - to Secretary Col Gould

on 0424 562 030 or pngvr@optusnet.com.au

FUNCTION DATES

Sat 9th Oct, 6.00 pm Field Dining
Night—Jimboomba.

Be there by 3pm and enjoy the company of former comrades.

Sat 16th Oct. 1.15pm AGM

Assn Museum, Wacol

Be there by 12 Noon and enjoy a BBQ and viewing of the Museum prior to the AGM

Sun 24th Oct. Museum, Wacol

8am—3pm

Rabaul Centenary Celebrations Great day of family, children's activities plus lots of other activities

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

Battalion

All correspondence to:-

The Secretary, P.O. Box 885, PARK RIDGE, Qld., 4125

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Bob Collins—Editor



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