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VOLUME:

65

DATE:

DECEMBER 2010



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

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

This is our sixth and last edition for calendar year 2010. Your executive has been busy since the distribution of HTT 64 late September 2010.

After spending over a week preparing the site for the 9 October Bush Dinner at Barry and Pam Wright's Jimboomba home, the function had to be cancelled early that day because of the rain; it was too wet and dangerous to allow the caterer's vehicle on site. This was disappointing to all concerned, particularly for those who did the preparatory, clean up and tidy away work. I thank and commiserate with you, for the bush dinner is one function which is anticipated with much enthusiasm. May the weather be kinder for the next one, scheduled March 2011.

Our Association's Annual General Meeting was held at the Wacol Museum on Saturday 16 October. This was preceded by a working bee to prepare the grounds and Museum for the forthcoming Rabaul Centenary Celebrations and a barbeque luncheon. As there were only one nomination per position and these were for the same positions occupied in 2009-10, the Committee remains the same for 2010 -11. Many of the current Committee will probably not renominate in future so members should be mindful for the need of new blood in the not too distant future. Melbourne member Bob Harvey Hall who was on his annual pilgrimage to the Sunshine State attended the AGM. Bob is writing the history of the PNGVR, the draft of which he is planning to complete early 2011, providing those members who have promised material get it to him in time.

A continuing issue and one I regularly raise is the succession plan for our Military Museum whose existence is presently so dependent on John Holland, our Curator. We continue to seek, without success, interested people to volunteer, not just from our Association but from the PNGAA, the Macarthur Museum and the NSAAAQ. This is an urgent and pressing situation, if this valuable community resource is to survive into the future. Association Friend, John Winterbotham recently gave the Museum an updated electronic and hard copy version of the PNGVR Routine Orders through to 1965. He managed to discover the 1965 RO's from the Australian Archives in Brisbane. Hopefully he is able to find the remaining RO's for the Regiment. Well done John and your work is recognised.

Some time ago member Brian Jones asked if I would speak at his 31 Battalion/ Kennedy Regiment Annual Reunion luncheon at the Red Brick Hotel, Woolloongabba on Friday 22 October. I talked about Rabaul, NGVR and Montevideo Maru to about 20 attendees. They showed their appreciation by presenting me with the Regiment's badge on a timber stand, which is now in the Museum. One of the attendee's was a re-

tired judge from PNG, Justice Shanahan. He was an interesting person with many humorous stories of his judicial circuits in the Sepik and other out of the way places.

The PNGAA, Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society (RAMMS) and our Association combined to hold a Rabaul Centenary Celebration at Wacol Museum on the 24 October. It turned out to be a most delightful and enjoyable day for the 300 or so people who attended. An article with photographs may be read on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter. About \$1,600 was made on the day. Curator John Holland with the assistance of PNGAA members Ally Martel from Toowoomba and Andrea Williams from Sydney did a tremendous amount of work to allow this to come to fruition. Thank you and well done John, Ally and Andrea.

Besides the 24 October occasion, John with assistance from a small group of our members has hosted at least 4 groups to the Museum during the past two months. Jessica Harrington has kindly assisted John with the catering arrangements and Pamela Wright continues to provide cakes and biscuits for the visitors. Thank you very much ladies.

In late September through the good offices of John Holland, Air Niugini offered two return air tickets from Sydney to Rabaul for a raffle prize which was quickly backed with an offer of a five day, twin accommodation package from the Rabaul Hotel, a total prize worth in excess of \$5,000. Encouraged by such generosity, the three organisations decided to pool their resources and use the prizes as a major fund raiser for the proposed National Montevideo Maru Memorial and the maintenance of the NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum on a 80/20 basis. Arrangements were made and a mail out to over 1,800 addressees, as well as sales at the 24 October Celebration function and Remembrance Day dinners in Sydney and Brisbane managed to raise an extraordinary \$ 25,000, of which \$20,000 and \$5,000 will be used for the Memorial and Museum respectively. Thank you prize sponsors, Air Niugini and the Rabaul Hotel who donated two return airfares from Sydney to Rabaul and five nights twin accommodation in Rabaul respectively, organisers and ticket buyers for your generosity and support. The raffle was drawn at the PNGAA's annual Christmas party held at Killara Golf Club on Sunday 28 November. The lucky winner was **Ms Margaret Curtis from Melbourne.**

The raffle arrangements were carried out by our Association and we are thankful to our Secretary Colin Gould and Treasurer Doug Ng for the handling of the tickets and money. Our sponsor, King & Co assisted through its resources to arrange the mail out addresses of the three organisations in a similar and suitable format and organising the ticketing, printing and distribution through a commercial mailing company. The whole exercise from

concept to completion was accomplished in just over 2 months.

Following the August visit by PNGAA President Dennis Doyle and Uno Voce Editor and committee member Andrea Williams, Andrea made arrangements for Patrick Lindsay, the author of the recently published book "Coastwatchers", to generously give his time to speak about his book at three functions, a Sydney luncheon on 9 November and a breakfast and luncheon on Remembrance Day in Brisbane. Patrick has great knowledge on the subject and is an amusing and distinguished speaker. The Brisbane functions were well attended with 60 at the breakfast and 74 at the Ship Inn luncheon. The 70 books sold out and a further 30 were ordered for later delivery. As resident committee member I spoke briefly about the objectives and activities of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society. Both functions were attended by former residents of PNG and a convivial and enjoyable time was had by all who attended. It was also financially successful with profits going towards the Montevideo Maru National Memorial.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish you a joyous and safe Christmas and New Year with your family and friends.

Phil Ainsworth

December 2010



The winner: Ms Margaret Curtis

whose uncle was Private John "Jack" Groat VX23647 of 2/22 Battalion a victim of Montevideo Maru. Marg will take her mother Ailsa Nisbet, Jack's sister, to Rabaul.

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CONTINUATION OF ALAN DUNWOODIE'S STORY**As told to Bob Collins****Return to New Guinea**

When my 'training' had finished I went back to Port Moresby. The trip was troop train to Townsville and then a boat called the 'Canberra' to Port Moresby. Because of the danger of Japanese submarines we travelled in convoy and there was one really slow steamer and the whole convoy had to travel at its pace. It was dreadful as the slow pace did not suit the 'Canberra' at all and it rolled and wallowed in the swell. One night there was an alarm. We all had instructions as to where we were to gather and the crew had to make sure the lower decks were cleared and close watertight doors. Well obviously we were 'all silent' and the clanging of the crew's boots on the metal corridors was one of the most eerie sounds you have ever heard.

I arrived in Port Moresby and immediately had to report to L of C Signals to commence work again in cipher. It appeared that once you got in you just didn't get out again quickly.

About this time ANGAU (Australia New Guinea Administrative Unit) put in a request for my services. Most of the NGVR men went into ANGAU because of their knowledge of native peoples and generally they were the ones who knew both the country and the people best.

L of C Sigs then said 'no' to the request and there was a bit of a fight on. ANGAU claimed to have a high priority for postings but in this case L of C Sigs had a higher one so I stayed where I was.

I stayed in Port Moresby until early 1943 when the Japs had just been pushed out of Buna and Gona on the north coast of Papua.

I was then moved to Poppondetta, in the mountains near Buna, and our unit was located at the end of the airstrip. There used to be about 20/25 Mitchell bombers landing and taking off on the strip at all hours, right over our heads.

One morning I was having a wash at an open air washstand when I heard an unusual sound and a B25 Mitchell bomber was still in the air but extremely low. He had lost one of his two motors and, full of fuel and bombs was having difficulty staying in the air. He passed over us very low and disappeared from sight. About an hour later a car pulled up and an Officer asked "Have you seen a B25 anywhere around here? – we seem to have lost one". I never found out what happened to the plane, but there was no great explosion so I hope he made it back ok.

About this time I was promoted to Lance Sergeant.

Officer Training Course and My Second Leave in Australia

It was while I was at Poppondetta that my Platoon leader

Lt Jack Boothroyd advised me that I was to come down to attend an Officers Training and Selection Course.

The course was held at Mt Martha, near Portsea in Victoria and, naturally, the course was held mid-year which was a very cold time for us from New Guinea.

The Camp had a Sgts mess and quite often a number of us on the course had too much beer with our lunch and the afternoons were very long having to listen to some instructor droning on in the lecture room.

This had to be one of the most disappointing Officer Training courses that the Army ever ran as there were 24 of us on the course and only 3 actually graduated as Officers.

I was one of those that failed the course, and I must say even now that I never had any ambition to be commissioned, so I never put in much effort.

The course lasted a month and immediately after that finished I went on my second leave in Australia.

Again I spent most of the leave in Bowral.

Return to New Guinea.

When my leave finished it was back on the troop train from Sydney to Townsville. This time I flew directly from Townsville to Lae where I was now to be stationed. This time we were located in a coconut plantation on the coast not far out of Lae.

The work was the same. It was a constant 8 hour shift with the possibility of 2 X 8 hour shifts every third day. As I have said before this went on every day of the year. We never had a local day's leave.

However, because of the shift work we did not have to attend any parades etc. In fact I recall that I used to keep my rifle under my stretcher, which was an American type I had 'acquired'. One day a new Officer decided to inspect my rifle and when I opened the bolt and put my fingernail so the Officer could see down the barrel. His comment was "That's strange! I can't even see your fingernail." A hornet had built a nest in the barrel, so in future I kept a bit of flannelette over the muzzle so the hornets could not get in.

One day in August, 1945, I was working a night shift. At about 2am I suddenly stood up and announced in a loud voice "I'm crook! I can't do this any more!" I eventually convinced the Officer of the shift that I was serious and I was then stood down and had to see the Doctor in the morning. I ended up in hospital for a period and then was discharged from hospital and placed on light duties.

I was admitted to hospital the day the Atom Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

In 1946 I was to be discharged from the Army medically unfit and sailed from Lae to Brisbane on the 'Ormiston' along with many other soldiers who were also to be discharged.

I reported sick again in Brisbane and the blokes I had come down on the ship with were astounded "You're not going to report sick are you? Goodness you are going to

be discharged!" All they wanted was to get out of the Army.

I was taken to Sydney and ended up in Concord Hospital where, amongst other things, I was given shock treatment. What a dreadful experience that was.

Return to Civilian Life.

The Bank of New South Wales was very good to me. They gave me three months leave on full pay and I was given the choice of where I would start work again. Naturally enough I chose Bowral and commenced work towards the latter part of 1946.

I married Barbara Catherine Christie who was also on the staff of the Bank of New South Wales at Bowral.



Alan & Barbara's wedding, Bowral,

In due course I was transferred in my work as Second Officer, Tallimba (near West Wyalong in central western NSW) and thought 'at long last I'm being promoted' but when I got to Tallimba I realised that it was only a two handed Branch.

I went from Tallimba to Moree and it was here that our daughter Allison who was only 12 months old was found

to have dislocated hips, which had not been detected when she was born. Because she had been attempting to stand up this further complicated the injury and she had to have 3 months in traction and a further 12 months in plaster.

After the plaster came off it was found that her feet had splayed and she then had to have further surgery on her legs to straighten her feet.

It was only three months after she had overcome the feet problem that the anti Tuberculosis unit came to Moree and we discovered that Barbara had TB. Again the Bank was very good to me and sent a letter to the effect "Just get Alan to tell us where he wants to go". We came to Sydney and I spent the rest of my working life there. Barbara spent 8 months in hospital.

I finished my career as the Assistant Manager in the Banks Share Department and retired in 1976.

We have three children:-

- Malcolm was born in 1950
- John was born in 1953
- Alison was born in 1955

After I retired Barbara and I spent 14 years, on and off, travelling around Australia, and we also used the caravan for lots of short trips away. For some reason we always kept a record of our trips and over the years we stopped at 276 caravan parks.

In August 2000 we moved to Kiama where we now reside.



Alan & Barbara in retirement in Kiama

A three-year old boy was examining his testicles in the bath

"Mum!" he asked "Are these my brains?"

"Not yet" she replies.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES

UNIT HISTORY 1950—Mar 1953

By Lt Col N.P. Maddern MBE

Continued from last issue

NCO's AND OFFICERS EXAMINATIONS.

The first NCO's examinations were held in Jul 51. The troops had had a thorough basic training and in each centre the standard was high for CMF troops.

NCO examinations have been held half yearly since a high standard is expected and there are usually a number of failures. Failing men leads to their applying for their discharge.

A subject A examination held on 14 Mar 53 was witnessed by Maj NICHOLLS, GSO2 Trg, N Comd. He considered that the standard was well above normal CMF standards and that the four men who qualified compared very favourably with ARA instructors on the mainland.

All individual training in the PNGVR is designed to produce instructors. In this way the primary function of the unit can best be fulfilled.

Subjects A and B for candidates for first appointment are made difficult. There are usually 50% failures in Subject B because the men are not to officer standard in tactics. This aspect received emphasis that only a high standard will be accepted.

As a matter of interest, if men are informed at the commencement of basic training that they are being trained to become instructors, their interest is stimulated considerably. If from the first day, men are called out to give words of command to the squad, a competitive spirit rapidly develops.

In Sep 51 CRE N Comd witnessed some NCO training. He complimented CO PNGVR on having a good ARA instructor with the squad. The man was, in fact, a CMF Corporal.

STAFF SHORTAGES

Dec 51 saw the commencement of a very difficult period for the PNGVR owing to staff shortages. These conditions persisted until Jan 53.

Firstly, Adj PNGVR Capt H W WRIGHT was promoted and posted to 11 NS Trg Bn. The instructors at LAE and RABAUL each became severe disciplinary problems and both were returned to the mainland. Later two drivers and the Cpl mechanic – a psychopathic kleptomaniac and confidence man – were returned.

RSM PNGVR was discharged late 1952. RQMS PNGVR was absent in WAU as instructor and PI Comd Oct – Dec 51.

To aggravate matters, 1 Aust Bomb Disposal Section was placed under command Nov 52, and HQ Area Comd Papua New Guinea was formed 5 Dec 51, with CO PNGVR as concurrently Area Comd and CO PNGVR.

PIR became an independent unit on the arrival of CO PIR Lt Col H L SABIN on 8 Sep 51.

For some time, the PNGVR ARA staff consisted of five men. It had centres in PORT MORESBY, LAE and RABAUL. It had the following additional duties or duties not normally performed by CMF Cadres:

- i) HQ Area Comd Papua New Guinea with all its ramifications.
- ii) Its ARA messing and single quarters
- iii) Unloading ships, transport of stores
- iv) Intelligence
- v) Liaison with Civil Administration.
- vi) Ammunition, and furniture storage for married quarters
- vii) Movements, including K Force transit troops.
- vii) Daily radio schedule with outcentres

Between Mar 51 and Jan 53, days – or even nights – off were luxuries rarely enjoyed.

Manual labour was performed by all ranks including CO PNGVR. For a short time in 1951 CO PNGVR was also the typist.

Except for the men returned to the mainland for disciplinary reasons or the Int Sgt who did not know how to work, the ARA staff responded extremely well.

Capt S T BENDALL, QM



PNGVR marching in King's Birthday Parade, Port Moresby, 1951.

Photo supplied by Burnie Gough

PNGVR and SSgt E W NEEDHAM both have been deserving of the highest praise.

It is difficult indeed to work at high pressure for long periods in a tropical climate and under primitive living conditions.

THE NEW SYSTEM

It was necessary to change the whole approach to training the PNGVR. The unit had no ARA Instructors. The many parades were too much for the Administration staff in PORT MORESBY since they both administered and instructed. The parades were too many for the CMF men.

From Jul 52 the Unit changed to:

- i) One monthly weekend parade in all centres – a different weekend in each centre
- ii) One night parade weekly (Tuesday nights).

Later Thursday night parades were held for Subject C instruction for potential officers.

An instructor (RSM PNGVR or, on one occasion the Garrison Engineer) was sent to outcentres for the weekend parade after the parade had been held in PORT MORESBY.

Enlistments again increased and this system seems to be the answer to instructor shortages and maintaining the interest of the CMF component.

Since the PNGVR still provides the Area Comd, Chief Clerk (RSM PNGVR) and ACMS (instructor) for HQ Area Comd, the system is still necessary. There is a resident instructor in LAE who also instructs in RABAUL on weekend parades.

CLOSING OF WAU.

Lt G CORLIS applied for return to the R of O shortly after No 3 PI was formed. His duties as Native Labour Officer took him away from WAU very frequently.

Lt J F DAVIS was a very able officer, but a most impatient man.

He wrote a letter to HQ PNGVR on 27 Jun 51 requesting certain supplies. He wrote a follow up on 28 Jun pointing out that the supplies were urgent. On 3 Jul 51, he wrote a letter threatening to resign if the supplies were not speedily forthcoming and intimating that perhaps No 3 PI was "out of sight – out of mind". All three letters arrived at HQ PNGVR on 4 Jul 51 – the mail to WAU is anything but regular.

DAVIS had accomplished a great deal. He had erected a small building as a Q store beside his home without cost to the Army. He rapidly rehabilitated the WAU rifle range and had built an excellent assault course. His training was thorough and administration excellent. All conditions were ideal – if only the recruiting potential had been better.

In Sep 51 CO PNGVR inspected the WAU det and was very pleased indeed with it.

During early Oct 51 Lt DAVIS contracted scrub typhus.

He was sent south for convalescence.

WO2 F W HOLDING was sent to WAU to carry on.

Unfortunately this time the Australian miners left Golden Ridges mine, reducing the detachment to 13 all ranks. Several men also were on leave.

Finally we saw attendance average 4 OR's.

WO 2 HOLDING carried out a thorough investigation of the potential in BULOLO and confirmed CO PNGVR's opinion – it was unwise to open there.

Lt DAVIS returned to WAU in Jan 52. By Mar 52 he was thoroughly disgruntled and over the SBE network which had been functioning for one month, he advised that he had closed down.

He wrote a very rude letter indeed, insisted that all the gear should be removed from the area forthwith.

Authority was sought and obtained to close WAU.

Lt DAVIS was most repentant later and until Feb 53 he continued to man the SBE relay station.

He was enlisted in the ARA 10 Mar 53 and posted to 11 NS Bn WACOL.

SBE NETWORK

SBE sets were installed in PORT MORESBY, LAE, WAU and RABAUL in Feb 52. For the first time the PNGVR had close contact with outcentres and nightly schedules were conducted until Mar 53, when improved aerals made daytime schedules possible.

The network reduced PNGVR correspondence to one third.

High aerals were erected in each centre with the assistance of the Garrison Engineer Capt A V GILES.

A SBE network can be recommended for all units with distant outcentres

MARRIED QUARTERS

When the DAA&QMG HQ Area Comd Papua New Guinea arrived in PORT MORESBY during Jan 52, 12 ARA families were resident in Murray Barracks.

As a matter of interest the following gives an indication of the Administrative detail involved in quartering these families:

- i) Liaison with the Civil Administration for each individual house resumed and with N Comd on policy.
- ii) Takeover of house
- iii) Arranging for essential repairs, electricity and water.
- iv) Notification of availability of quarters to N Comd
- v) Indents for furniture, receipt and cartage from wharf, unpacking and storage, placing in houses (furniture provided by Army for all houses).
- vi) Notification of occupancy to N Comd for furniture and house rentals, refrigeration charges.
- vii) Receipt of family, check of furniture inventory.

viii) Investigation of breakages personal effects and arranging claims.

ix) Adjustment of electricity etc, breakdowns.

x) Inclusion of details in monthly reports, stocktake of furniture. Until Mar 52 HQ PNGVR had no native labour for handling and stores and it was all done by the ARA staff.

All the administrative detail was done by HQ PNGVR for all the ARA members, including PIR.

To be continued

HOW DOCTORS INFLUENCE POLITICS

Everyone is aware of recent proposed changes to the medical system

Here is how the Australian Medical Assn proposed to influence those changes.

The Allergists voted to scratch it, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists has sort of a gut feeling about it, but the Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve.

The Obstetricians felt they were all labouring under a misconception.

Ophthalmologists considered the idea short sighted.

Pathologists yelled: "Over my dead body!" while the Pediatricians said, "Oh. Grow up!"

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it.

The Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing. The Internists thought it was a bitter pill to swallow, and the Plastic Surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter"..

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists thought the whole idea was as weak as wee-wee.

The Anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and the Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to all the asses in Canberra.

Well!" snapped the tough old Warrant Officer to the harassed soldier, "I suppose after you get discharged from the Army, you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and pee on my grave.

"Not me Sar-Major" the soldier replied. "Once I get out of the Army I'm never going to stand in line again.

PLANNED INVASION OF JAPAN, 1945/46.

Over the years we have all heard about the possibility of 1 million casualties if Japan had to be invaded to end WW2. The following account, was given to the Editor by Mr. Harry Simpson, Royal Navy during WW2, who, in 1950, back at Singapore en route to Japan and the Korean War, procured this report from a notice board.



FLASHBACK

Recruits Mal King & Dave Olley, 7PI C Coy, PNGVR

Goroka, May, 1967

It was on 24th July, 1945, that President Truman approved the report of the Combined Chiefs of Staff which called for the initiation of Operation "Olympic" and "Coronet", combined under the strategic plan "Downfall".

"Olympic" was the invasion of the Southern Japanese Island of Kyushu, with fourteen combat divisions, on 1st November, 1945. This was to be followed on 1st March, 1946, by landing a further twenty-two combat divisions on the main Island of Honshu. Apart from a section of the British Pacific Fleet, the two landings were to be carried out entirely with American forces.

It would have involved the entire U.S. Marine Corps, grown from a relatively small Corps in 1940 to six Divisions in 1945; the employment of the entire U.S. Navy and supported by the 7th 8th, 20th and American Far Eastern Air Forces. Over 1.5 million combat soldiers with millions more in support, totaling some 4.5 million American servicemen would have been involved.

Casualties were estimated to be well over one million men by the Northern Autumn of 1946, for this one last operation of WW2.

On 26th July, 1945, the United Nations issued the Potsdam Proclamation which called on Japan to surrender unconditionally or face "total destruction". Three days later, Domie, the Japanese Govt news agency, broadcast to the world that Japan would ignore the proclamation and refused to surrender.

It was during this period that the intelligence section of the Federal Communications Commission monitored

internal Japanese broadcasts, which called upon the Japanese people to mobilise, to close all schools and to arm the civilian population. However, it was not known until after the occupation of Japan just how complete the overall Japanese plan for the defence of their homeland was.

This plan was called "KESU-GO". Japan had been divided into districts, each with hidden airfields, underground hangars and buildings, with strings of interlocking fortified caves and other underground defences. All fuel supplies and every available aircraft were being held in readiness. Suicide units were scattered throughout the Islands and for the first time in the war, the Japanese Army and Navy Airforces would operate under a single unified command. Twenty additional suicide take-off strips were built on Southern Kyushu, in addition to the 35 camouflaged airfields and nine seaplane bases already established there.

According to the plan, 50 seaplane bombers plus 100 former carrier aircraft and 50 army planes were to be launched in a direct suicide attack on the U.S. fleet. Allied intelligence estimated that the Japanese had no more than 2,500 aircraft and guessed that only 300 of these could be deployed in suicide attacks. However, it was later discovered that, in August, 1945, there were still 12,725 of all types and that even at that stage of the war, in July, no fewer than 1,131 new planes were built.

Every village had some type of aircraft manufacturing activity. Hidden in mines, disused railway tunnels, under viaducts and even in department store basements, work of every description was carried on to construct new planes.

In addition, the Japanese were building newer and more effective models of their successful rocket propelled OKKA bomb. This was similar to the German V1 but each bomb was piloted by a suicide pilot who had rudimentary controls to guide the bomb to its target.

At Okinawa the American Navy lost almost 10,000 sailors to Kamikaze attacks. There, they had been relatively ineffective as the planes had to travel over water before their final plunge, and many were lost on the way. In addition the Americans had a very effective land and carrier based fighter command which provided considerable protection against suicide attacks.

But, during "Operation Olympic" the Kamikaze pilots would have only a short distance to travel and therefore their effect on the ships of the invasion fleet would have been catastrophic. Whereas at Okinawa the Kamikaze pilots concentrated on aircraft carriers and destroyers, the KESU-GO plan called for the planes to attack transports before they could disembark their troops. Thus many thousands of American troops would be killed or drowned before they even got to the beaches. The plan called for the destruction of an estimated 700 to 800 American ships.

Although the American air force had a large number of long range land-based fighters by this time, it would be necessary to use every available aircraft carrier and their planes to protect the many vulnerable transports. As

well as defence against suicide planes, steps had to be taken to protect the fleet from nearly 300 KAIRYU suicide submarines. These were two-man craft with 600kgs of explosive in the nose which were to be used for close-in ramming attacks.

The remaining 40 conventional submarines were to be used to attack the fleet, along with the 115 KORYU five-man suicide submarines. A further 496 KORYU and 207 KAIRU submarines were, at that time, under construction.

One of the most feared, because of the difficulty in detecting them were the KAITENS. These were to be used just off the invasion beaches. The KAITENS were human torpedoes over 60ft long with a warhead of 1600 kg of explosive, and each one was capable of sinking the largest American naval vessel. The Japanese had 120 shore-based KAIRENS, 78 of which were in the Kyushu area in early August.

Finally, in the sea-born attack craft, were almost 4,000 SHINO motor boats filled with high explosive and ideal for nighttime attacks against troop transports.

Any landing craft that survived these combined attacks then had to face the network of beach defences. These consisted of electronically detonated mines farthest off shore, three lines of suicide divers, followed by magnetic and other mines planted all over the beaches between low and high water. The divers, called FUKARYU or "crouching dragons" were armed with lunge mines each capable of sinking a landing craft up to 950 tons. Thousands of these divers, formerly oyster divers, male and female, could stay submerged for up to 10 hours and were to thrust their explosive charges into the bottom of landing craft, thus acting as human mines.

All this was the beginning for the 14 Divisions of American troops. Once ashore they had to face 14 Japanese Divisions, seven mixed Brigades and three Tank Brigades, plus thousands of Naval Landing Forces, the equivalent to the U.S. Marines. Odds would be 3 to 2 in favour of the defenders; 790,000 well trained and highly motivated Japanese to 55,000 Americans, if indeed this number even reached the shore. In the earlier landing on the stepping stone route to Tokyo, the odds had usually been two, or even three to one in favour of the Americans.

In Japan it would be different. By virtue of a combination of cunning, clever guesswork and sound military reasoning, the top Japanese military leaders were able to deduce, not only where, but when, the U.S. would land on the Home Islands. They therefore positioned their troops accordingly.

Unlike the early landings in the Solomons, Tarawa and other islands, the Japanese would this time be defending their homeland. The fanatical defence of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Iwo Jima and all the other islands, left no doubt in the Americans' minds that they would be up against their most difficult task yet. The Japanese would use every trick they had learned, and probably a lot more, in the defence of Kyushu and all other islands making up the most southern of the Japanese archipelago.

Apart from fanatical, well trained and equipped troops, there would be the entire civilian population, roused to a frenzy in the name of the Emperor to contend with. Twenty eight million Japanese had become part of the "National Volunteer Combat Force". These were the equivalent to the Home Guard. Armed with ancient rifles, lunge mines, satchel charges, Molotov cocktails; even swords, long bows, axes and bamboo spears. Inflamed by the slogan "One hundred million will die for the Emperor and Nation" they were prepared to fight the invasion to the death.

These special civilian units were to be tactically employed in night time attacks, hit and run maneuvers, delaying actions, and massive suicide charges at the American positions.

Even without the utilisation of Japanese civilians in direct combat, the Japanese and American casualties during the campaign for Kyushu would be staggering. It was estimated that the early stage of the invasion, 1,000 Japanese and American soldiers would be dying every hour. The long and difficult task of conquering Kyushu would have made casualties on both sides enormous. It can only be guessed as to how monumental the casualty figures would have been had the Americans had to repeat their invasion a second time when they landed at the even more heavily fortified and defended Tokyo plain the following March.

The invasion of Japan never became a reality because, on 6th August, 1945, the entire nature of war changed when the first Atomic Bomb exploded over Hiroshima. Three days later a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, and within days the war with Japan was at an end.

Had those bombs not been dropped and had the invasion been launched as scheduled, it is hard not to speculate as to the cost. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese would have died in the defence of their homeland. Just as many American soldiers, sailors and airmen would have been killed and maimed. Every foot of Japanese soil would have had to have been paid for, twice over, with both American and Japanese lives.

In retrospect, the one million American men who were originally estimated to become casualties were, instead fortunate enough to survive the war, safe and unharmed.

Intelligence studies and realistic military estimates made over forty years ago and not later day speculation show quite clearly that the battle for Japan might well have resulted in the biggest blood bath in the history of modern warfare.

At best the invasion of Japan would have resulted in a long and bloody siege. At worst it could have been a battle of extermination between two different civilizations.

Far worse would be what might have happened to Japan as a Nation and as a culture. When the invasion came, it could have come after several months of continual fire bombings on all the remaining Japanese cities and population centres. The cost in human life that resulted from the two Atomic blasts would have been small in comparison to the total number of Japanese lives that would have been lost by this aerial devastation.

Amongst the hundreds of thousands of American fighting men would have been those of the three Marine Divisions, the 37th, 43rd and 25th Infantry Divisions. All those divisions, a great number of whom were husbands, friends and sweethearts of New Zealanders, were listed to take part in either "Olympic" or "Coronet".

And so, what a great many thought after Pearl Harbour would take anything from five to ten years to complete, had been achieved with the aid of new ideas of warfare, new and often improved weapons, a tremendous industrial effort and at the cost of many thousands of lives in just three years.

People whose lives could well be in danger and who had seen friends die, depend on each other for survival. They tend to live life to the full at every opportunity. Life is brought down to the bare essentials – nothing else matters.

Harry's comment. This American planned invasion of Japan report gives only a brief mention of the British Pacific Fleet and no mention of the Commonwealth – British, Australian, New Zealand and Canadian Armies who were to be the back-up landing forces to the American troops. British Aircraft Carrier Groups and special Navy and Army Units were also to be called in to support the initial landing parties.

I was serving with Royal Navy special underwater warfare units, aboard H.M.S. Maidstone, underwater warfare and submarine depot ship.

At this time my ship, with many other British and Allied ships, troop carriers etc, and in convoy formation were en-route to the Marshall Islands to prepare for the planned invasion. Orders were soon changed and my ship with other R.N. ships were diverted to sail to Hong Kong and Singapore to assist in the take over from the surrendered Japanese forces. The invasion was cancelled and the war finally over, apart from a lot of tidying up and getting survived prisoners of the Japs back home as soon as possible

Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked the boat up to the car and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 90kmh, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio and discovered that the weather would be bad all day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back and whispered "The weather out there is terrible."

My loving wife of 5 years replied "Can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?"

And then the fight started

An old man entered a milk bar and slowly and painfully climbed onto a stool. He asked the waitress for a banana split.

"Crushed nuts?" she asked cheerfully.

"No! Arthritis" he growled



15.8.2010

Harry receiving Russian 65th Commemorative Medal of the Patriotic War, 1942-45, for served with the Royal Navy in WW2 on Russian convoys, from Russian Honorary Consul Irena Behk.

Harry served on HMS Onslow and HMS Tortola.

My guess Harrison."

If anyone can identify please advise the editor.

Photo supplied by your museum.

PIR NEWS

Email from Hori Howard

As promised, I wrote to the Chief of Army in July, putting a case for a history of Army's contribution to PNG from the end of WW2 until Independence. I am pleased to advise that the Army History Unit is seeking to engage an Army Reserve Officer, who is also a historian, to undertake the task. While this may take longer than if a full-time historian is to be employed, I think we can be well pleased that we have the Chief's support. This means that the job will get done.

In case you missed the earlier advice, the two PIR History books sponsored by Mauri Pears and written by Jim Sinclair, will be scanned and placed on the Army History Unit's website, in high definition. I will let you know when this has happened,

I have also had confirmation that the new Infantry Museum being built at the School of Infantry, and due to be opened in 2011, will include a PIR display.

ASSOCIATION AGM

WACOL SAT 16TH October, 2010.

The Association AGM was held at the Chapel in the Wacol precinct on the above date. About 20 members attended.

Prior to the meeting an enjoyable BBQ was held and any members who had not previously visited the Museum were invited to have a browse.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm with the usual Agenda – Welcome, Apologies, Minutes, Business Arising, Correspondence,, Treasurer's Report, Museum Curator's Report, President's Report and Election of Office Bearers for the coming year.

All reports were positive, with the Assn being in a sound financial position. The President's Report covered the various activities the Assn is involved in at present. One of the features of this report was the acknowledgment that, with the advancing years of both Executive Committee members and members generally, the Association is fast headed down the track to eventual extinction. He stressed the need to find younger persons from the wider community who are capable of, and young enough still, to take over various activities such as the Museum. If this is not done then the Museum faces closure in the coming years.

The Curator of the Museum, John Holland, emphasized this by announcing that, at next year's AGM he would not be seeking re-election due to failing health.

Election of Office Bearers created no surprise with the existing committee of:

Patron – Maj Gen John Pearn



An honour guard of PIR at Jacksons Airstrip, Port Moresby.

Can anyone identify the Inspecting Officer. We originally believed it to be Maj Gen Secombe but Maurie Pears advises "The Colours for 1PIR were not presented till 4 Jul 56 and 2PIR 18 May 66. The colours are shown as is the new uniform (no laplaps) so it must be after 1956.

Secombe was in PNG 1952 as GOC N Comd and supported PIR in 51 with Maddern, Can't be Secombe, no colours then. Wilton made a six day visit to PNG as CGS Apr 65 (threat from Indonesia). 1965 Ken McKenzie CO 1PIR 14th birthday trooping the colour attended by Adj Gen J.W. Harrison.

existing committee of:

Patron – Maj Gen John Pearn

President – Phil Ainsworth

Vice President – Bob Collins

Secretary – Colin Gould

Treasurer – Douglas Ng

Museum Curator – John Holland

Committee – John Mudge, Tom Dowling, Mal Zimmerman, Jesse Chee, Bruce Crawford, Paul Brown, Tony Boulter, Mike Griffin.

being re-elected.

Bruce Crawford was appointed as Hon Solicitor and Paul Brown appointed Welfare Officer.

RABAUL CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

WACOL PRECINCT

SUN 24TH OCT, 2010.

Fortunately for all the day was fine and a great crowd of between 300-400 turned up. People were amazed at what was available on the day and heaped praise on the organizers for their efforts.

The Museum attracted a big crowd and many commented favourably on the content and the presentation of the exhibits. For any members who have not visited the Museum it is definitely worth the effort.

For the day Museum Curator, John Holland, had specially constructed an amazing collection of Rabaul photos covering the history of Rabaul. The collection was about 6 metres long and placed on the Museum verandah, so that people entering and exiting the Museum could browse at their leisure. It proved to be a spectacular success and many “OOhs and AAhs” were heard as former residents of Rabaul came across photos that took them back over the years.

There were many stall holders, including Bill McGrath with his books, Jim Burton with his Pacific Island project, face painting, Ice Cream stall, Sausage sizzle, soft drinks, and a New Guinea coffee stall. The Cadets who occupy a historic hut in the complex had a stand as did several other Community Groups. Doug and Fran Ng’s two daughters did themselves proud by moving around the gathering all day selling raffle tickets for the return flight to Rabaul, donated by Air Niugini and accommodation in Rabaul donated by the Rabaul Hotel.

The day was officially opened by the PNG Consul for Queensland, Mr Paul Nerau, who spoke about the many business links between PNG and Queensland before cutting the huge cake, iced in the shape of Rabaul Harbour with its volcanoes.

President, Phil Ainsworth, reflected on Rabaul’s history and the reasons for the gala day, and the President of the PNGAA, Dennis Doyle also spoke.

At the conclusion of the speeches a very spectacular Chi-

nese Lion Dance took place in true Rabaul spirit. Later in the day a Pacific Island group performed South Seas dancing.

We were privileged to have the attendance of two Coastwatchers – Lionel Veale and Mat Foley – for the day. At mid-day Lionel gave a talk in the Chapel (one of the five historic buildings in the complex) on his experiences as a Coastwatcher, and those who attended thoroughly enjoyed it. He gave another address later in the afternoon to the crowd assembled in the large marquee, which was also enthralling. Between these two men there was an enormous amount of Australia’s Military History in WW2 in PNG involved.

While the exhibits were an outstanding success, one of the features of the day was the catching up of people who had not seen one another for many a long year. As with any PNG gathering the reminiscences exchanged were a feature of the day.

Congratulations for a wonderful day go to John Holland and his band of helpers from our Association and also to Ally Martell and her wonderful band of willing helpers from the PNGAA. All in all a day to remember, and the Association benefited financially from the day.



L to R: Coastwatchers Mat Foley and Lionel Veale

Mat operated on the North Coast of New Britain near Wide Bay. Lionel carried out 6 missions in all, including charting the coast near Buna, Wewak, Long Is and Umboi Is. He first went to the Islands with 2/1st Independent Company.



Chinese Lion Dance



Paul Brown shows a group through the Museum.

THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG.

Our flag came into existence at the birth of Federation in 1901. When the States of Australia decided to become a new nation, as a Commonwealth, a new flag was needed. The separate States already had flags of their own, and it pays to remember that these flags had the Union Jack on them. Choosing a National flag is never an easy job, so the new Commonwealth Government decided to have a public competition on 29th April, 1901. This seemed the fairest way to give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in the flag design.

The response from the public was overwhelming. There were 32,800 entries, which is a great effort considering, at the time, there were only around 3 million Australians in total. There were seven judges who were all eminent Australians. Among them was a heraldry adviser, one Member of Parliament, a journalist from the 'Melbourne Herald',

and representatives from the army, navy, mercantile marine and pilot services. The entries were publicly displayed, and the judges were allowed to decide their own criteria on which to make their choice.

On the 3rd September, 1901, the Exhibition Building in Melbourne was used to display the flag entries. Finally, the winning entry (of five similar ones) was by Ivor Evans. This flag was hoisted from the dome of the Exhibition Building, in the presence of Australia's first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton, and the wife of Australia's first Governor General, Lady Houpetoun. Our new flag first flew officially at the opening of the Townsville Town Hall.

The young Australian nation had a flag of it's own from this time forward.

Some flag critics contend that the poem 'Our Own Flag' by Banjo Patterson was written to encourage us today to come up with a new flag. However, this particular poem was written before Federation. He was later to become a keen supporter of our present flag.

The design of the flag chosen has proven to be correct and popular. The choice of the Union Jack was appropriate, as the States already had it on their individual flags. It also indicated our history and heritage.

The Federation Star has a point for each State, and the Territories of Australia, showing that the political power in our Commonwealth is divided equally among the States, as well as the Commonwealth.

The Southern Cross on the fly of our flag indicates the global position of our country – the shining Southern Cross of our night sky.

Flag critics say that the Aboriginals, as the first Australians, are not represented by our flag, but they forget the legends these people had regarding the Southern Cross, so it does speak of them in a beautiful way.

Perhaps it is just one more of those recurring coincidences, but all the stars on the Australian flag have seven points, except for the small star in the Southern Cross. The Encyclopedia Britannica Lists 52 flags that use stars but only two, including Australia, have seven points, in Christian numerology, seven is the perfect number; God's number.

One day a housework – challenged husband decided to wash his t-shirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room he shouted to his wife "What setting do I use on the washing machine?"

"It depends." the wife replied "What does it say on your shirt?"

"He replied "University of Technology".

And they say blondes are dumb!"

A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her voice, "Honey, pack your bags. I won Lotto!" The husband said "Oh my God! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?"

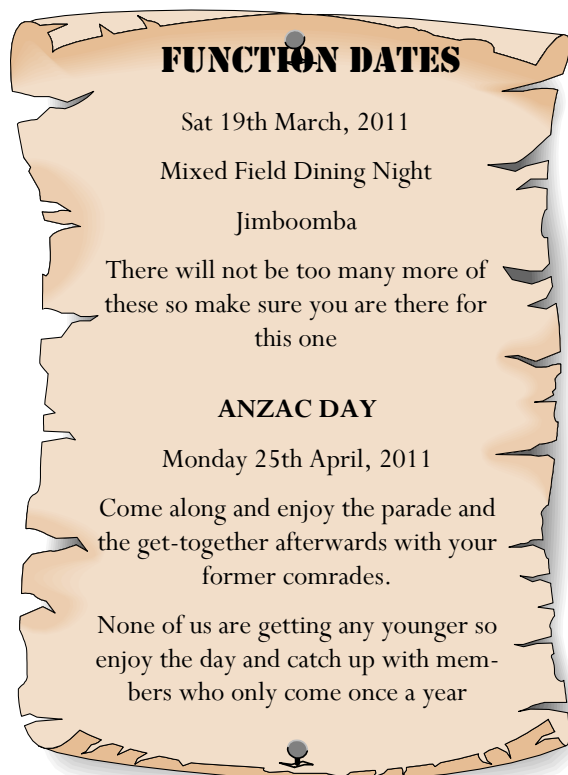
"Doesn't matter," she said "Just get out."



More photos from the Rabaul Centenary Day at the Museum.

L. The Rabaul Birthday Cake.

R. The sign made by Leigh Eastwood which sat outside the Museum for a week



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