



# HARIM TOK TOK

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

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

August got off to a good start with Bob Collins representing the Association at the annual Kokoda Commemoration on the Gold Coast. Mike Griffin and I represented the Association at the Kokoda Commemorative Service held at the Sherwood/ Corinda RSL on Sunday 11th August. The keynote speaker was Patrick Lindsay who spoke well about the Militia units which first bore the initial Japanese thrust. Other dignitaries present included Ken Nolan, the Chairman of the AWM and National President of the RSL, and Terry Meechan, the Queensland President of the RSL.

I was the only Association member who turned up for the practice shoot at the Fassifern Valley Rifle Range on Saturday 24th August, but we were much better represented on the following Saturday at the shoot off with the Light Horse Re-enactment Group at the same location. Unfortunately PNGVR was outshot again, but we are improving. Perhaps new blood is required to represent us, maybe a ring in or two?

PNG's 38th Independence Day Celebrations were attended by our Secretary Colin Gould in Brisbane and Don Hook and Phil Ainsworth in Canberra. Colin had the opportunity of meeting with the PNG Acting Consul General Ms Moi-be and I renewed many acquaintances at the PNG High Commissioner's function.

VALE; Lorna Johnston nee Whyte, aged 98 years, the last surviving nurse who was captured in Rabaul and spent 2 ½ years in Japan during the war as a POW died in Auckland, New Zealand on 30 September 2013. Her funeral and memorial service was held 4th October 2013. Lorna was born in Hay, Australia on 19th April 1915. She was an outstanding Australian who inspired



so many with her courage, her energy and her joy for life. We have all been touched by Lorna's spirit of forgiveness and her enthusiastic and lifelong quest to ensure that those with her in Rabaul when the Japanese invaded in January 1942 would always be recognised and remembered. She was always generous in sharing her time and knowledge and was a tremendous supporter of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial from the start. We were privileged and honoured to know her.

The six monthly mixed dinner night at Jimboomba was held at Heather and Ted Mc Allan's Jimboomba home last Saturday night, 12th October, 2013. About 35 attended this delightful function. The usual high jinks ensued with Barry Wright being Mr Vice.



Doug & Fran Ng  
at Jimboomba

The usual six weekly Committee Meeting was held at the Museum on Saturday 21st September, which was well attended when it was decided to go ahead with the Anzac Centenary Commemoration function at the Museum on 24th September 2014. The Association is continuing to plan other events or items for the coming Anzac Centenary Celebration.

The 14th September 2014 event will be an 'open to the public' tribute at the Wacol Military Museum when a plaque commemorating the capture of the German Bitapaka Wireless Station near Rabaul, New Britain and the lives of the six Australians lost at that time on 11th September 1914, is dedicated. Several days later the Australian submarine AE1 disappeared without trace with the loss of all 35 men. On the 21st September 1914 all of German New Guinea was formally surrendered to Australia; thus a vast territory contiguous to Australia's Territory of Papua was held and administered by Australia until Papua New Guinea became an Independent nation in September 1975. The 11th September capture also is the start of a centenary of Australia's involvement with PNG. Please diary this important day now. The function will be similar to that run by the Association on Rabaul's Centenary in 2010 – lots of fun and entertainment embracing an important commemoration.

Other suggestions for the Anzac Centenary is the publication of PNGVR's History which has been compiled by Bob Harvey-Hall, and the publication of the NGVR personal stories which were collected by Bob Collins. The publication of both of these books have been pending for some time. The format, whether it is to be hard copy, ebook or CD has still to be decided. A request for a grant from the Anzac Centenary Committee is to be submitted.

The PNGAA is proposing to run a 2 day Symposium in the NSW Parliament building, Sydney on the 10th and 11th September 2014. The title is – From Colonial Battlefield to Pacific Powers: a Century of Australia Papua New Guinea Relations. Does the Association wish to be involved?

PNGAA is endeavouring, in conjunction with the Rabaul Historical Society and the Australian Government, to arrange an re-enactment of the Bitapaka event followed by the dedication of a suitable plaque for civilians lost during the Japanese invasion including the massacres and the loss of the Montevideo Maru in the grounds of the Bitapaka War Cemetery sometime late 2014. Do we as an Association wish to be involved in these events?

The Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance is about to establish a permanent display about the Victorian 2/22 Battalion which formed the major part of Lark Force, and in which B Company NGVR was attached at the time of the Japanese Invasion of Rabaul. A significant piece of that display could well be about Cpl O'Neil and Rudy Buckley. As a matter of support and goodwill, does the Association wish to be involved, say to the extent of providing copies of our display?

Our Museum continues to be a focus for our activities and it is thanks to our Curator John Holland for providing his continuing support. Whilst a few have assisted John in the maintenance and running the Museum, more hands are required to make the load lighter. Additionally, the fund raising sausage sizzles are less successful and this enterprise will probably be curtailed in the near future. Other sources of revenue will need to be found, any ideas?

Please do not forget to attend next Saturday's AGM starting 10am at the Museum. We are expecting about 65 to attend including many guests. It will be a good time to inspect the Museum, meet with friends and have a few laughs and a great day.

Phil Ainsworth  
13th October, 2013

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## EXCAPE FROM NEW BRITAIN

**Cpl (Dr) Norman Henry Fisher, AO.**

**Continued.**

### Record of Service.

My record of service was:-

September, 1939 - Joined NGVR, Wau

December, 1939 – Transferred Rabaul.

February, 1940 - Promoted Lance Corporal

October, 1940 - Promoted Corporal in charge of the Mortar Section consisting of R. Skillen, J. Petersen, J. Nicholls, Keith Paul and G. Moody. There was another chap who I mentioned before was taken out by his father as he was too young. Bill Clark, the Manager of the Bank of New South Wales, who was not in the NGVR, also spent a lot of time with us as a couple of his staff (Nicholls and Paul) were in the mortar crew. I was in Canberra when I received my discharge 'in absentia' from the Army. My Discharge Certificate, No 378953 reads,

NG 608 Cpl Norman Henry Fisher

Served with the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces from 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1942 to 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1942, a total of 89 days, in Australia for 6 days, outside Australia 55 days.

Height 6 ft Eyes Blue. Complexion Medium. Hair Brown

### Back in Australia

While I was in Brisbane I had tried to enlist in the Royal Australian Air Force, but was advised that I would not be accepted as I was in a reserved occupation.

The two persons I worked with mostly in the Territory of New Guinea were:-

Lyn Noakes, – Lt NGVR – NG 2224 – who operated with NGVR in the Wau / Mubo area and was later approached by Commander Eric Feldt and became a Coastwatcher on the coast of Papua, on the mouth of the Mambare River, some 40 miles (64km) North West of the Japanese positions at Buna. He is favourably mentioned in Eric Feldt's book 'The Coast Watchers'. He was later sent to Australia to assist with the Strategic Minerals Survey. Lyn was my first Assistant in TNG.

Clem Knight – who did not join the NGVR but came out from Rabaul with our party. Clem was also refused permission to join the Forces as he was to assist with the Strategic Minerals Survey. Clem was my assistant in Rabaul.

My eldest brother, Percy, died whilst a Prisoner of War at Sandakan, in what is now Indonesia. He had served in WW1 also, and whilst not in the landing at Gallipoli, he had served there, going over as a reinforcement after training in Egypt. He then served in Europe for the rest of the War. He had been wounded three times – once badly enough to have three months recuperation in 'Blighty' as England was known to the troops, and once, with another wound, he returned home, but only for a week or two before he was sent back to France.

### Return to Civilian Life.

As I stated before I had been informed while I was in Rabaul that I was required in Canberra to assist with the strategic minerals study of Australia and by April I was in Canberra.

While I was in Brisbane I was in intensive care at home under the treatment of Sir Raphael Cilento, who had been Di-

rector of the Health Dept in TNG. His house was in Clayfield, a suburb of Brisbane, just across the street from the apartment which I had purchased. He understood and was an authority on tropical medicine and was great – he attended me very carefully. I was very fortunate as I had Cerebral Malaria and a number of other things which kept me in bed for a month. My wife attended to the nursing side.

Even while I had been recuperating I had been in touch with Dr Raggatt, the Commonwealth Geological Advisor, who had succeeded Dr Woolnough, who I mentioned had visited Rabaul. Unfortunately for Woolnough he had never become a permanent officer in the Public Service and in his own words 'had been cast aside like a rag doll' and never received a pension, being only a temporary officer. He eked out a living during and after the War by translating documents for the Dept of Supply, and eventually I had him translating geological documents – he had propensity for languages, particularly German and Russian.

Raggatt was urging me to come to Canberra as quickly as possible as there was a lot of work to be done and nobody to do it.

We moved to Canberra in 1942, and at the time there was no shortage of housing there, as many residents were away at the War. The housing situation changed shortly after that, but we had a house. My wife's mother lived with us and my wife, Ellice, had a daughter by her first marriage.

My title was Chief Geologist, Mineral Resources Survey and this was the forerunner of the Bureau of Mineral Resources. My main problem was recruiting suitably trained personnel – there were no geologists in the country. During the War no University had been conducting complete geological courses and those qualified geologists either had a job or had gone off to the War. I was left to build up a staff of geologists with practically no pool of geologists to draw from. All the staff were temporary officers and we were specifically tasked with helping to provide information on specific minerals such as wolfram, copper, molybdenum, quartz crystal etc. Much of our time was taken up with surveying existing mines to find the extent of their ore deposits.

I was away from home a lot. Transport was a major problem in those days and generally you were confined to transport within your own State. To move from State to State you had to get special permission from the Govt. I had special clearance for myself, but if I wanted to take Ellice with me, which I sometimes did, I had to get special permission for her to travel.

The Department had only two vehicles in Canberra. One of them, called 'The old grey mare' was a one ton Chevrolet truck fitted with a gas producing unit, which used charcoal, and we were most conscientious that, when we pulled into a service station, we did not fill up with petrol, but purchased bags of charcoal. It was quite a business getting the truck started in the morning. You had to get a fire burning by using a special accelerator which caused the fan to draw air through to get the charcoal alight and to a stage where it was producing gas. The characteristics of a gas driven vehicle in those days were that it was alright going down hill and not too bad on the flat but hopeless going uphill, and we eventually got to the stage where we used to help it along by using petrol to get up the hills. It had a maximum speed of 40 mph (64kmh) along the flat, or down hill, so you would press the accelerator to go as fast as you could down hill to get a bit of a run up for the next hill, where you would go chug – chug – chug – helped by petrol.

We were serviced by the big motor pool in Canberra, as all Government vehicles were, and all drivers used to compare notes about their vehicles. I was talking to one driver one day when he showed me his vehicle. He towed a trailer behind the car and, when he opened the gas burner on the trailer, it had never been used. He explained to me that they never used gas. Well the Government was busy at the time telling all Australia how they

supported and used gas producers to save petrol, but their drivers were using petrol, even though petrol was rationed. Very few people owned cars in those days – they used public transport.

My staff had to use public transport wherever possible – except where they had to go was not anywhere near a railway station. There were only about half a dozen of us at the time and we managed with 'The old grey mare' and the Ford utility which had a towed unit which was not as satisfactory as the inbuilt one on the Chevrolet. The gas producer was towed on a trailer and, naturally, it was a much slower vehicle. The unit was a good one once it got going, but it took a long time to get up and running.

Many of our trips were to existing mines, such as Mt Hope, a copper mine about half way between Canberra and Broken Hill. I would travel there by rail and the mine staff would meet me and transport me to the mine, some miles away from the railway station.

The Commonwealth Government had appointed a Controller of Minerals Production and the man recommended for the job was Sir Colin Fraser. However a Labour government was in power and Fraser was identified as being closely associated with Broken Hill Proprietary Ltd which the Labour party had always hated, so they appointed a red-headed, bad-tempered chap called Malcolm Newman. He had the authority to set up a mine and bring it into production. Our role was to provide him with the geological information. He appointed three or four engineers who were pretty useless. One of them was really quite mad and used to fall in love with his projects, and had exaggerated ideas about them, so I spent a lot of time fighting with him, trying to bring things down to sensible proportions. Some mines were opened and working and producing such things as tungsten and wolfram. However the mines had the same trouble as I had – manpower – there were not a lot of miners about as many of them had gone off to the war. Mining was a protected occupation in Broken Hill and Kalgoorlie, but not anywhere else – even Mt Isa was scratching for staff. Requirements for minerals in Australia during WW 11 were monitored and controlled by the British – America had not joined the war at that stage. When sufficient stocks of vital minerals were reached by Britain they then instructed Australia to close the mines down as many were then terribly cost effective. Strangely enough the British even got somewhat offended when Australia charged them with the cost of production of these mines, some 2 million pounds (\$4m).

It was vital that Australia knew the full extent of its mineral resources so we would examine reports which had been produced from either the State geological surveys, and also from university and company surveys, and make assessments based on these surveys, and compile reports based on those assessments.

I remained in Canberra for the rest of my working life. When the Mineral Resources Department was set up they had two branches, the Geological branch and the Geophysical branch. Geophysicists are people who use instruments to try and detect what is under the ground and this branch mostly operated on demand from the mining industry. I previously mentioned Dr Raggatt, the Commonwealth Geological Advisor, and he used his position, after the War finished to get the mining industry organised and he set up a permanent organisation, the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics. It was established in May, 1946, with a permanent staff of about 52. I spent a lot of time trying to fill the positions. Our location was still with the Department of Supply, whose headquarters was in Melbourne. It had several name changes, Dept of Supply & Development, Dept of Supply & Shipping and eventually just the Dept of Supply. Dr Raggatt made the decision that he had to be close to the Secretary of the Dept and he moved the Bureau of Mineral Resources to Melbourne. I managed to convince him that the geological part of the Dept should stay in Canberra and only the geophysicists should move to Melbourne. The Chief Geophysicist, Jack Rayner,

who still at the time was seconded from the Geological Survey Dept of NSW, made the point that his dept relied on machinery, instruments and equipment which were quite technical and there was no facility in Canberra to service their equipment, whereas there was in Melbourne. That was his official position, but his wife came from Melbourne and she was mad keen to go back.

Another reason for our remaining in Canberra was that the Victorian Geological Survey Dept were already hostile to the idea of setting up a Commonwealth Dept, as were most of the State Geological Surveys, who opposed the setting up of a central body, and that had been why no Australian Geological Survey Dept had been established, as had been the case in most countries USA, France, India, Canada, etc. Financially things worked out quite differently from what I had anticipated, as, when the Dept of Supply and Development became the Dept of Development Raggatt became the head of the dept. The geophysical dept was relocated back to Canberra, Raggatt was promoted out of it and his deputy Mr Nye, became head in his place.

Much of my activity in those years was concerned with recruiting staff interviews etc in an environment where there was virtually no pool of qualified geologists in Australia, but a lot of very competent people finishing their Degrees under the post war reconstruction scheme. Returned servicemen were given absolute priority for positions with the Government at the time.

Owing to the opposition of the States to the setting up of our central body, what had looked to be an impossible dream became reality when the Qld and WA State governments requested the assistance of the Dept of Mineral Resources in resuscitating the mining industry which had gone into abeyance immediately after the war. It was not quite stated in those terms but both Govts requested our assistance in the search for petroleum. Their attitude was – we will look after the hard rocks – you look after the soft rocks, those being the sedimentary based ones. That gave us a great start and we set up field parties to work in the Carnarvon basin in WA and North – West Qld.



Norm & Mollie at conference, China

Commercial mining and petroleum companies, when they made geological maps, made them specifically just around their mining base, and whatever they did was theirs and was not available to

anyone else. The function of the Govt was to provide the geological map which people could look at and decide just where their mining or exploration activities would be. Consequently our maps were highly sought after. One of the things I insisted on was that anything we had carried out would be immediately available to the public – even a preliminary map in the course of compilation was to be made available to the public. For example anyone interested in prospecting in the Cloncurry district of Qld could come to the BMR and have a look at the maps we would have prepared as a result of our field work, which may not be com-



pleted and published for a year or two. It was the norm to have a geologist or two from mining companies in the DMR just looking over what we had prepared.

One of the first things we endeavoured to do was to standardize the geological symbols and colour schemes throughout Australia, as each state had their own symbols and colours. Victoria flatly refused to comply as their Director, a Welshman, Thomas, was pigheaded and refused point blank to comply with a central colour scheme. Our maps were 4 miles to 1 inch or 1:250,000, and we got around Victoria's opposition by producing maps for the rest of Australia with standard symbols, colours and notations. We then advised Victoria that we would not produce maps for Victoria, but, fortunately with the effluxion of time Thomas was succeeded by someone else and they agreed to the central scheme.

I became Director of the Bureau of Mineral Resources in 1969 and retired in 1974, to be succeeded as Director by Lyn Noakes. I consider that the geological mapping of Australia to be my major achievement. By the time I had retired we had covered the whole of Australia and Papua New Guinea, with the exception of South – East Qld (a small area around Brisbane) and each State had built up its own geological survey team and was producing their own maps as part of the standard scheme (Tasmania has only about two full maps).

In 1976 I received an Order of Australia, having been nominated by the geological community for my contribution to the geological knowledge of Australia and representing Australia overseas scientifically. I received my award from Sir John Kerr, the Governor General of Australia.

I gradually moved to Sydney and was doing a lot of commuting between Sydney and Canberra between 1974 and 1984, carrying on geological consulting work, mainly for private companies, but also for companies such as Mt Isa Mines Ltd.



Norm & Mollie, wedding, 1994

Ellice and I had one son, William, born 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1946, as well as Lorolei, Ellice's daughter from her first marriage. William joined the Dept of Foreign Affairs, and has spent most of his time in overseas postings Switzerland, Laos, Noumea, Vila, Iran, Israel, Ambassador to Thailand, Ambassador to France, and is now High Commissioner in Canada.

Ellice became a victim of Alzheimer's Disease and was ill for 2/3 years before she passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1993. I was her full time carer and towards the end she spent quite a lot of time in Hospital.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1994 I married Molly Bowman and at the time of writing (2006) we live at Neutral Bay. Until a few years ago I was playing tennis at the courts near our Unit.

**This is Norm's story as told to Bob Collins.  
Another great story from one of our NGVR forebears.  
Norm had an amazing escape from Rabaul.**

**Norm died on 23rd Sept, 2007, a week short of his 98th birthday. Molly still lives at Neutral Bay, Sydney.**

## ANZAC DAYS

There are many stories about the origins of many of the Anzac Day customs and traditions that have evolved over the years. A good number of the stories behind these traditions have become blurred by time and others lost; however, here are some of the stories behind but a few of these Anzac Day legends.

The Ode, which is read across the Australian dawn and well into the morning, is from the third verse of Laurence Binyon's poem *For The Fallen*. This work has suffered somewhat over time, with people changing the words. The first line begins "**They shall grow not old...**", NOT " ... not grow old ...", and the last word of the second line is "**contemn**" (meaning: to feel contempt for or to scornfully disregard), not "**condemn**".

While it is said that an Anzac Day dawn service was conducted at Albany, Western Australia, in 1923, the service as we know it today had its beginnings at Sydney's Martin Place Cenotaph. A frail, grey-haired woman was at the cenotaph in the predawn hours of April 25, 1927, and, when attempting to place some flowers on the memorial, she tripped and fell.

Five veterans were on their way home after a night out at an Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen Club 'smoko' and had wandered up along Martin Place. They saw her fall and moved across to help her up and retrieve her scattered flowers. The lady refused to get up, preferring to kneel in prayer instead, and one by one the five men joined her. One year later, the first official dawn service was held at the cenotaph and a wreath to the fallen was laid by George Patterson, one of the five from the previous year. The crowd was some 130 strong. From here, the dawn service spread to all capital cities and many country towns.

The cenotaph statues were modelled by LS John Varcoe from Dubbo, NSW, who had served in HMAS Parramatta and Pioneer; Pte William Darley (15 Inf Bn and 4 Fd Amb). The 'official' side of the memorial is that facing the post office, with the pre-eminent flag position being the George Street end. There are numerous stories as to the origin of the 'gunfire breakfast'. However, the following snippet from *The Great War* appears to be the most logical. Following standdown after a long, cold night in the trenches, the soldiers turned to their breakfast and an important part of that meal was the ubiquitous cup of tea which, when possible, was laced with a 'little something extra' to give it added warmth and taste.

An unofficial truce was conducted at this time of day by both sides. However, at times the lull would be broken by gunfire, with someone, cheerful from his breakfast, popping off his machine-gun at the other side. It has been said that "... if any one drink won the war it was the gunfire tea; there should have been a banner inscribed with the honour 'Tea: 1914-1918' ..."; or so the story goes.

### WOI C.J. Jobson, former RSM Ceremonial and Protocol

*Two Irishmen flew to Canada on a hunting trip. They chartered a small plane to take them into the Rockies for a week hunting moose.*

*They managed to bag 6. As they were loading the plane to return, the pilot said the plane could only take 4 moose.*

*The two lads objected strongly. "Last year we shot six. The pilot let us take them all and he had the same plane as yours"*

*Reluctantly, the pilot gave in and all six were loaded. The plane took off. However, while attempting to cross some mountains even on full power, the plane couldn't handle the load and went down.*

*Somehow, surrounded by the moose bodies, only Paddy & Mick survived the crash. After climbing out of the wreckage, Paddy asked Mick "Any idea where we are?"*

*Mick replied "I think we're pretty close to where we crashed last year,"*



This photo gives some idea of the size of a B52 bomber.

## EXPLANATION OF THE ORIGINS OF

### VP (Victory in the Pacific) and

### VJ (Victory over Japan) Days

On the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1945, the Emperor of Japan announced that Japan would accept the Allies ultimatum to surrender.

On the same day, just after nine o'clock, as the majority of the population would normally have been starting the day's work, Prime Minister Ben Chifley's voice was heard over the wireless sets of the nation announcing that Japan had bowed to the ultimatum issued by the Allies and peace was at hand.

This was the signal for a spontaneous outpouring of happiness never before or since seen in Australia. Martin Place in Sydney, Bourke Street in Melbourne, Queen Street in Brisbane and the main streets of almost every city and town across the nation became rallying points.

Australians, not normally given to public displays of emotion, danced in the streets through piles of shredded paper which rained down from office buildings. Motor traffic came to a halt and trams inched along main streets with revelers clinging to the sides and roofs.

Chifley declared the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> public holidays. The uninhibited rejoicing of the 15<sup>th</sup> gave way to more formalized celebrations on the 16<sup>th</sup> as victory marches were staged through most major cities. Turn-outs of citizens to watch these displays were similar to those which had farewelled the AIF (Australian Imperial Force) Divisions departing for the Middle East in 1940.

The day of Ben Chifley's announcement became known as VP day. It is RSL policy that the 15<sup>th</sup> August each year be known as VP Day and the Queensland Branch of the RSL has conducted a Commemoration Service at Anzac Square each year on that date since 1946.

The formal surrender of the Japanese Empire took place on the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1945. This became known as VJ Day.

## ANZAC SQUARE, BRISBANE. Continued.

The other 1998 memorial is more remarkable. It commemorates Australia's most controversial military involvement, the Vietnam War.

### The Memorial to Vietnam

Like the two World War 2 memorials, it depicts raw human suffering. A wounded digger lies at the feet of a standing comrade. Both are bareheaded, something that humanizes the soldiers. The comrade has his arms outstretched and his gaze uplifted towards the Shrine of Remembrance. To the uninitiated observer, he appears to be appealing to the shrine for help or inspiration. But the truth is more mundane. The



standing digger is guiding a rescue helicopter to pick up his wounded colleague. There seems little doubt that the designer of the memorial realized the double meaning that this could convey – the simple message of battlefield rescue, and the symbolic linking of the Vietnam diggers with the spirit of their World War 1 counterparts represented by the shrine.

### Conclusion

Taken as a set, the memorials in Anzac Square can be read like a time line of Australia's military involvements over the past century, from the Boer War to the Vietnam War. But they can also

be read as a record of apparent changes in the way war has been memorialized during that time. At one end of Anzac Square is the imposing, classically-inspired Shrine of Remembrance.

At the other end stands the similarly imposing Boer War memorial. Both are larger-than-life and seemed designed to evoke pride and reverence. Between the two, dotted around the square, are four memorials which depict other dimensions of war; suffering, support, caring; and which remind us of the vital roles of other players in the drama of warfare, the Indigenous men of Papua New Guinea, the nurses of the Australian army, the medivac helicopter crews.

### Postscript: East Timor



The careful observer will find one more memorial in Anzac Square. Simple, unobtrusive and easy to miss, it's a marble plaque set into the ground in front of a small tree. Set there in 2001, it celebrates the contribution of "Australian Peace Keepers and Peace Makers".

On the plaque the tree is named the "Wars to Peace Tree". The marble was donated by the people of East Timor. The memorial's ordinariness, its use of a living tree as the centerpiece and its optimistic name seem to take memorialisation one further step away from the grand and imposing towards the simple and human.



### About the author

Brian Hoepper was co-editor of *Ozhistorybytes* – the online magazine of the Commonwealth History Project – in which this article first appeared. Brian's career has included substantial periods as a secondary history teacher and tertiary curriculum lecturer.

### Acknowledgments

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The photographs used in the article were taken by Kathleen Gordon.

### Links

Boer War (1899-1902)

Sometimes called the Anglo-South African War, the Boer War was fought between British forces and the Boer republics over control of southern Africa. It was a cruel and bitter war in which the British Army suffered some early defeats before it overcame the small, irregular Boer forces.

Sixteen thousand Australians served in colonial and Commonwealth units in South Africa, of whom 606 were killed or died of illness, disease or wounds. In Australia the war excited strong enthusiasm for and against, though the 'antis' were a decided minority. Some opponents noted how the Boers, though men of Dutch ancestry, were mostly settlers in a rugged frontier land, much like settlers in Australia. Others blamed 'British imperialism', insisting the British wanted southern Africa for strategic reasons and for its natural resources, diamond mines included.

Amongst the prominent men who argued against the war, Henry Higgins lost his seat in the Victorian Parliament and Professor Arnold Wood at Sydney University came very close to being dismissed from his chair of history. Two Australians serving in a South African irregular unit called the Bushveldt Carbineers were executed in 1902 for killing Boer prisoners 'in cold blood'.

They were Harry Harbord , Breaker Morant and Peter HaNcock. Quite striking Boer War memorials are to be found in Adelaide and Ballarat, as well as Brisbane.

### Kokoda Trail

Sometimes it is called the Kokoda Track, at other times Trail. It was the track or trail across the Owen Stanley Ranges in New Guinea, linking the north coast with the south coast. It was a route of great strategic importance during the fighting between Australian and Japanese forces in mid 1942. The Australians sent north across the track at that time were given the task of halting a Japanese force that was superior in numbers and experience. Their success in resisting the Japanese has become a cause celebre among the great battles fought by Australian forces in World War Two. As to the terminology – Australian soldiers used the term 'track', but the Americanised 'trail' gradually became standard and was used by the Commonwealth Battles Nomenclature Committee in the October 1957.

### VOLLEYS

The three volleys fired into the air at a military funeral are directed at imaginary devils so that they might be scared off and not enter the hearts of men at such a moment as the burial of a comrade in arms. The old superstition is that the doors of men's hearts stand ajar at such times.



### Male sensitivity Men really are the sensitive, sympathetic , caring ones!

The room was full of pregnant women with their partners. The class was in full swing. The instructor was teaching the women how to breathe properly and was telling the men how to give the necessary assurance to their partners at this stage of the pregnancy.

She said "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier; just make several stops and stay on a soft surface like grass or a path."

She looked at the men in the room, "and Gentlemen, remember -- You're in this together--It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with her". The room suddenly got very quiet as the men absorbed this information.

Then a man at the back of the room slowly raised his hand.

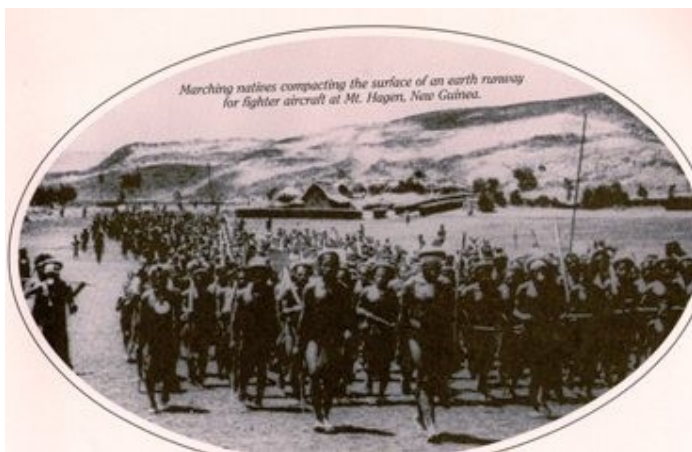
"Yes", answered the Instructor.

"I was just wondering if it would be all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"

**This kind of sensitivity just can't be taught.**

### REVERSE ARMS

The reversed arms is an acknowledgment of killing, and was first used at the funeral of the Duke of Marlborough, in 1722. Death puts the rifle to shame of killing and the reversal of the barrel symbolises that shame and reverence.



The above two photos are from the magazine "Invasion" produced on the 50th anniversary of the invasion of PNG 1942-1992.

Top. Marching natives compacting the surface of an earth runway for fighter aircraft, Mt Hagen.

Artillery Spotter's position.

Above.

## NAVY TO ADOPT NEW ENSIGN

The following article is taken from the "Rabaul Sub Branch Returned Services League of Australia, Bulletin 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1967.

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister that the Royal Australian Navy is to have a new ensign, the Minister for the Navy, Mr Chipp, said the ensign conforms to two important principles.

First it is a recognisably Australian flag, which fits neatly into

the general group of Australian Flags, such as the National Flag, and the Australian Red Ensign.

Secondly it is an ensign which embodies the main features of the traditional British White Ensign – the Union Flag in the upper corner and the white background.

In place of the red St. George's Cross which was added to distinguish the Royal Navy's Ensign as an English flag, the Australian Ensign will carry the Australian stars to distinguish it as an Australian flag.

The new ensign will be flown in all H.M.A.S. Ships and Establishments for the first time on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1967.

### Background

In 1625 it was considered necessary to distinguish for tactical reasons, the centre, van and rear squadrons of English battle fleets.

Accordingly, the ships serving in each squadron flew an ensign either red, white or blue.

The ensigns were all similar in basic design having a plain field with a small red St. George's Cross in the top corner.

In 1702 it was found that the white ensign of the three was apt to be confused with the French National Colours which at that time also had a white field, and with the Flag of Dunkirk which in fact was identical with the White Ensign. Accordingly a large red St. George's Cross was added to the white ensign to remove the source of confusion.

As the other countries of the British Isles came into union with England, so their crosses were added to the small St. George's cross until the Union Flag in its present form evolved. These modifications were incorporated in the Navy's ensigns and so these flags now bear the Union Flag in the upper corner.

As with Squadrons, so with Admirals, who were appointed Rear-Admiral, Vice Admiral or Admiral of the Red, or of the White, or of the Blue. The individual ships of the Admiral's Squadrons or division wore a coloured ensign of the same colour as the Admiral. Ships on independent service wore the red, which was the senior ensign.

In the course of time the need to distinguish the different squadrons for tactical reasons disappeared and the complication of the various units in one fleet wearing different ensigns itself became a hindrance.

Moreover, the French Revolution brought a change in that country's flag – the tricolour – and this was now sometimes confused in the smoke of battle with both the red and blue ensigns.

It therefore became the practice for the Commander to order only one ensign to be worn and the white was normally selected.

Thus at the battle of the Nile in 1798 the British ships wore White Ensigns, although Sir Horatio Nelson was in fact Rear-Admiral of the Blue.

### Trafalgar

At the Battle of Trafalgar Lord Nelson was Vice-Admiral of the White, and all ships wore the White Ensign even though those in Lord Collingwood's Squadron would normally have worn the blue ensign.

In 1864, just over a century ago, it was decided that three ensigns were unnecessary and the white was selected for the exclusive use of the Royal Navy. The Blue ensign was allocated for use by Merchant ships commanded by officers of



the Naval Reserve and the Red Ensign for use by other British merchant Ships.

### R.A.N. Founded

When the Royal Australian Navy was founded in 1909 the question of the selection of the ensign to be flown by Australian ships was raised during the Imperial Defence Conferences. The Admiralty view was that Dominion warships should fly the White Ensign because this "would foster and maintain a feeling of union between the Dominion naval forces and the Royal Navy, and would show that it is desired to offer the new Dominion ships a full share in the heritage of the British Navy".

Australian ministers considered that Australian ships should fly either the white ensign defaced with a seven pointed blue star of the Australian Flag. After some months of discussion it was finally agreed that Australian ships would fly the White Ensign at the stern at all times, with the Australian Flag on the jackstaff on the bow when in harbour.

The new Australian White Ensign preserves two features of the British White Ensign – the Union Flag in the upper canton at the hoist and the white background. In place of the St. George's Cross which was added in 1702 to distinguish it as an English Flag, the blue Australian stars denote an Australian ensign.

#### SISTER MARY ANN'S PETROL

*Sister Mary Ann, who worked for a home health agency, was out making her rounds visiting home-bound patients when she ran out of petrol. As luck would have it, a Caltex petrol station was just a block away.*

*She walked to the station to borrow a petrol can and buy some petrol. The attendant told her that the only petrol can he owned had been lent out, but she could wait until it was returned. Since Sister Mary Ann was on her way to see a patient, she decided not to wait and walked back to her car.*

*She looked for something in her car that she could fill with petrol and spotted the bedpan she was taking to the patient. Always resourceful, sister Mary Ann carried the bedpan to the station, filled it with petrol, and carried the full bedpan back to her car.*

*As she was pouring the petrol into her tank, two Baptists watched from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said, "If it starts—I'm turning Catholic!"*

**HELL'S BATTLEFIELD: The Australians in New Guinea in World War II.** By Phillip Bradley. Allen & Unwin. 506pp. \$49.99.

Reviewer: MICHAEL MCKERNAN

Many of us. I'm sure, have taken the opportunity of walking in the cloisters of the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour.

There are 40,000 names, or thereabouts, of the Australian dead of the Second World War. As I've often lamented, it is impossible for each of us to know the details of even more than a handful of these men and women. Phillip Bradley has done that work for those Australians who fought in New Guinea from 1942 to 1945. His research and work on the ground is inspiring and impressive. There have been many books about the fighting in New Guinea over the past few years and those of Peter Brune stand out. Gritty, informative, angry even. In 'War Horrors for diggers in New Guinea' Phillip Bradley set himself an important task. What about, he

wondered, putting all the battles in which the Australians fought in New Guinea into the one book.

Why separate Kokoda from Wau or Shaggy Ridge? Why not tell of the last Australian fighting on Bougainville or Wewak as the war came to an end, as well as the very first of the fighting on New Britain and New Ireland? For the New Guinea battlefields were the same place essentially. Soldiers faced the same awful conditions in which to fight, they faced the same fanatical enemy. Taking all the battles together, Bradley is able to show the "generational change" in the three years of the fighting, as few, either leaders or soldiers, would last long in the appalling conditions. Bradley gives you the feel, from the very start of his book, for just what a hellish place this was to fight a war.

It was a neat idea, the first single book to tell the whole story of the Australian fighting in New Guinea across the whole war. And it works, up to a point. There is a sense of rush, or of urgency, in the writing which is a bit breathtaking.

There is almost an encyclopaedic feel to this book. Each episode of the war is dominated by those who were killed or were wounded, and there is little opportunity for pause and reflection.

There is plenty of time, though, for a few key themes to emerge. The first is the astonishing bravery of the Australians and their extraordinary capacity to endure and to keep on giving. Readers of this book will share. I believe, Bradley's intense pride in the qualities of the Australian soldiers of the Second World War.

They will be infuriated, though, by elements of the leadership the Australians had to endure. I can't say I'm always in agreement with Bradley's judgments, and I'm more than surprised by his distaste for Brigadier Arnold Potts, whom I'd thought to be one of the genuine performers.

The third theme to emerge is of the variety of ways to be killed in this hellish place. Death stalks every page of this narrative. Men are shot, obviously, they drown, are swept out to sea, waiting in trucks men are incinerated by a crashing aircraft, other men plunge to their deaths as they struggle up precipitous ridges, and men die of exhaustion.

This is a very human book, written with a deep empathy for all this suffering humanity, Allied and enemy alike.

The research is astonishing; readers will be awed by the extent and range of the materials uncovered. This is a book to treasure, to be read slowly and thoughtfully, and to return to frequently. An encyclopaedic approach to the fighting in New Guinea, comprehensive, complete, clear and deeply moving. I'd like to go back to the War Memorial and look at the Roll of Honour for the names of some of the many men in Bradley's sympathetic narrative. These men live again through Phillip Bradley's eyes and we are all in his debt for that.

Michael McKernan is a Canberra historian



L-R: PETER DENNIS, BILL SMITH, ? LLOYD, ? LLOYD, JACK SHAY, BILL COOTES, ?

NGVR  
Bulolo  
1940.





reconstructed this  
jetty of Lae  
for the transfer  
of oil  
from  
offshore  
tankers  
to inland  
storage  
tanks.  
Approx  
1944.

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for the  
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of oil  
from  
offshore  
tankers  
to inland  
storage  
tanks.

Approx  
1944.

### SGT STUBBY WAR DOG HERO

Meet America's first war dog, a stray Pit Bull/Terrier mix, named Stubby. He became Sgt Stubby, the most decorated war dog of WW1 and the only dog to be promoted to Sgt through combat.

One day he appeared at Yale Field in New Haven, Connecticut, while a group of soldiers were training, stopping to make friends with soldiers as they drilled. One soldier, Cpl Robert Conroy, developed a fondness for the dog. He named him Stubby because of his short legs. When it became time for the outfit to ship out, Conroy hid Stubby on board the troop ship. In order to keep the dog, the Private taught him to salute his Commanding Officers, warming their hearts.



Stubby served with the 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 26<sup>th</sup> (Yankee) Division, in the trenches of France for 18 months and participated in 4 offensives and 18 battles. The loud noise of the bombs and gunfire did not bother him. He was never content to stay in the

trenches but went out and found wounded soldiers.

Stubby entered combat on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1918, at Chemis Des Dames, north of Siossons, and was under constant fire, day and night for over a month. In April, 1918, during a raid to take Schieprey, Stubby was wounded in the foreleg by the retreating Germans throwing hand grenades. He was sent to the rear to convalesce, and, as he had done on the front, was able to improve morale. When he recovered from his wounds, Stubby returned to the trenches.

After being gassed and nearly dying himself, Stubby learned to warn his unit of poison gas attacks, continued to locate wounded soldiers in no man's land, and since he could hear

the whine of incoming artillery shells before humans could, became very adept at letting his unit know when to duck for cover.

He was solely responsible for capturing a German spy in the Argonne. The spy made the mistake of speaking German to him when they were alone. Stubby knew he was no ally and attacked him, biting and holding on to him by the seat of his pants until his comrades could secure him.



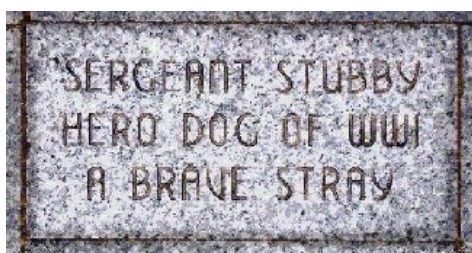
Following the retaking of Chateau Thierry by the US, the thankful women of the town made Stubby a chamois coat on which were pinned his many medals.

There is also a legend that, while in Paris with Cpl Conroy, Stubby saved a young girl from being hit by a car. At the end of the war Conroy smuggled Stubby home.



After returning home Stubby became a celebrity and marched in, and normally led, many parades across the country. He met Presidents Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge and Warren G.A.M. Aliel Harding. Starting in 1921 he attended Georgetown University Law Centre with Conroy and became the Georgetown Hoya's team mascot. He would be given the football at half time and would nudge the ball around the field to the amusement of the fans.

Stubby was made a life member of the American Legion, the Red Cross and the YMCA. In 1921 the Humane Education Society awarded him a special gold medal for service to his country. It was presented by General John Pershing.



In 1926 Stubby died in Conroy's arms. His remains are featured in "The Price of Freedom; Americans at War" exhibit at the Smithsonian. Stubby was honoured with a brick

in the Walk of Honour at the US WW1 monument, Liberty Memorial, in Kansas City, at a ceremony held on Armistice Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2006.

*I was at a dinner party the other night for family & friends with about 20 people there. All during dinner my four-year old niece, sitting across from me, stared at me intently. She could hardly eat her food for staring. I checked my shirt for spots, felt my face for food, patted my hair into place. I tried to ignore her, but, finally it was too much for me, so I asked her "Why are you staring at me?" Everyone at the table had noticed her behavior and the table went quiet. She replied "I'm just waiting to see how you drink like a fish".*



### "GREY GHOST", A RELIC OF WW11

This well preserved Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress was originally bound for the UK under the terms of a Lend Lease Agreement before being assigned to operate in PNG.

In 1944, under the command of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Raymond S. Dau of Arlington, Virginia, the bomber took off from Port Moresby to attack a Japanese convoy off Lae. But anti-aircraft fire crippled the B17 forcing the pilot to crash land near Black Cat pass.

The crew survived, but radio operator Robert Allbright later died from his wounds. The abandoned aircraft remains intact and has become a popular tourist attraction in the area, gaining the nickname "The Grey Ghost"

### FIRST BANK IN KAVIENG

By Jim Ridges in Kavieng

The Westpac Bank of PNG, renamed from the original Bank of New South Wales, is rightly celebrating 100 years of trading in Papua New Guinea, having opened their first branch at Port Moresby in 1910, and is, as they are frequently telling us, 'The first bank in PNG'. But not the first bank in Kavieng, as many people in New Ireland believe when told that the first time a branch of the Bank of New South Wales opened in Kavieng was in 1927. The bank in Kavieng operated then from a lovely, wide verandas all round and therefore cool and shady, two-storey establishment located where the Kavieng Club was built after the war and is now.

The bank building was used as HQ's by the occupying Japanese forces, and there are still bunkers there to prove it, until bombed and totally wrecked in 1944. For whatever reason the bank did not return to Kavieng immediately after the war. There were no banks as such operating in German New Guinea prior to the Australian military occupation in the First World War, at Rabaul in September 1914, and the 17<sup>th</sup> October for Kavieng. The larger German trading houses had fulfilled the role of banks at that time, offering credit and letters of credit as requested, but with the influx of about fifteen hundred Australian soldiers into German New Guinea, and the likelihood of them remaining until after the end of the war, whenever that would be, the Australian government could not operate using enemy owned and controlled businesses.

In 1915 the Commonwealth Bank of Australia opened its first branch in Rabaul, and in 1916 at Kavieng, mainly to serve the needs of the military administration and the Australian soldiers and, as the German businesses and plantations were forbidden to trade with the enemy Germany, no doubt to facilitate their obligatory business dealings in Australia.



CBA Bank, Kavieng 1916

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Kavieng, operated from a two storey building roughly where a road led down to the present Kavieng main wharf area, near where Shell is today.

It must be remembered that it was

only on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1916 that the 'British Military Administrator' entered into an agreement with Frederick Arthur Smith, the planter and sawmiller on Tsoi Launung island, 'for the building of a wharf on a certain piece of land at Bagail being Block Number 26/5'. He also leased and later operated the wharf when complete in 1917, collecting charges gazetted on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1917. On 14<sup>th</sup> June 1918 (gazetted 24.9.1918) he was relieved of his duties and lease 'in the events that happened the Administrator did re-possess and re-enter upon the said land and wharf'. Thereafter it was 'managed and carried on... as a government wharf'.

In 1920, after the war had ended in 1918, and the Versailles peace agreement in 1919 had allowed Australia to take German property to compensate it for war expenses, the Australian parliament legislated to expropriate German property, both business and personal, and the Custodian of Expropriated Properties (COEP) was established. From 1920 when all the properties were taken over, until 1927 when the tenders offered in 1925/6 were approved, the COEP dominated business and life in the Territory of New Guinea.

However, in accordance with the mandate given by the League of Nations to Australia, the military administration was replaced by a civil administration on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1921, even though most of the military personnel just changed hats and continued in their civilian clothes. This meant that the Australian Government, the owners of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, no longer had a direct interest in payment and services to its soldiers, so the decision was made, and the Kavieng branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia ceased operations on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1923, much to the annoyance of the Expropriation Board, as it meant that they had to maintain a much larger cash advance in their



Bank NSW Kavieng 1929

Kavieng office, managed by Frank Saunders at the time, in order to meet the need for cash of just about all the plantations and business in the province, that the Board now managed.

No doubt this pressure from Kavieng helped the Bank of New South Wales to make the

decision to open its branch in Kavieng in 1927, after over three years with no bank services, and especially aimed at obtaining the business of the many new owners of plantations and business following their successful tenders of the German properties in 1925/6 that were finally approved in 1927.

**First bank in PNG 'Yes', but in Kavieng 'No'.  
Thankyou, Westpac Bank PNG Ltd**





2 PIR on  
parade

Date  
unknown.

### MT AMBRA SHOOT

These photos show a contingent of Banz Company attending a shoot at Mt. Umbra near Mt. Hagen in 1964. I think it was one of the first at this Range. That night during an exercise a couple of parachute flares were fired which resulted in a growing frenzy of yodelling from villages and plantations from many miles away. It was quite amazing. Some of the plantations in the Hagen area lost many of their workers who fled for safer pastures.

Graham Jones



Lt. Ian  
Rutledge  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Left)  
and Capt.  
Peter Har-  
beck (3<sup>rd</sup>  
left)



Cpl. Alan  
Booth (left)



Sgt. Des  
Pryde  
(standing)  
with Capt.  
Peter Har-  
beck and Lt.  
Ian  
Rutledge  
sitting on  
right.

### GOVT MAKES MOVES TO REBUILD PNGDF by Isaac Nicholas 3rd Jan 2013

The PNG Defence Force will undergo a major re-fleeting program starting this year to bring it back to its glory days of the past.

The National Executive Council has approved a K170 million funding package for this first and major re-fleeting programme since independence 37 years ago, Defence Minister Fabian Pok announced at a joint press conference in Port Moresby yesterday. Mr Pok said K30 million for this major exercise to build up PNGDF's operational capabilities across the board. PNGDF, through its three elements of the Army, or infantry, the maritime element or the Navy and the Air Transport Wing, has been hamstrung by lack of land vehicles, patrol boats, landing craft and planes and helicopters and the re-fleeting programme would form the basis to rejuvenate the PNGDF and make it more effective as a development tool for the Government and the people of PNG.

Minister Pok said the Cabinet had asked him to go out and borrow K170 million that would be used to buy uniforms, vehicles and other military hardware. He said this was the first time that Government was serious about addressing the needs of the Defence Force by approving the submission of K170 million which was over and above the normal Defence Force budget by allocating an additional K30 million in the 2013 Budget for the exercise.

Mr Pok said the normal defence budget was K160 million but the National Government had given an additional K20 million for a total K180 million in the recurrent expenditure for 2013.

The defence Minister and Defence Department Secretary John Porti will be leaving this weekend for China in their effort to secure the K170 million. He said the Defence Force would be talking to financiers and suppliers in China, India and Singapore on the Defence Force hardware and uniform needs.

"We will be talking to people on the type of uniforms we need, the types of cars we need and planes and by the end of this year we will try to achieve some of these things" Mr Pok said. "I thank the O'Neill—Dion Government for approving K170 million and giving us K30 million up front to re-fleet the Defence Force to its glory days" he said.

Article from secretary, Colin Gould, MBE.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Asia has 250 million rice farms, most cover less than one hectare.  
20% of the kilojoules consumed by the human race come

from rice.

Rice farming has been traced back as far as 5000 BC .

In Mandarin Chinese the word for 'rice' and 'food' are the same

Rice is cultivated on every continent except Antarctica.

A 1kg bag of rice contains more than 62,000 grains.

In the Czech Republic, peas are used instead of rice to throw at newlyweds.

More than 90% of the world's rice is both grown and consumed in Asia.

On average, each Asian person eats 150kg of rice a year. The average in Europe is only 5kg.

## TERRY EGAN ROOM NAMING FUNCTION 1 May 2009

WO2 Terry Egan served with PNGVR as WO Instructor. On Friday 1 May 2009 around 50 guests were present when Maj. Gen. A.P. Fraser officially named the Memorabilia Room at the Museum of Australian Army Flying the Terry Egan Room. Board Member Mr Jon Martlew welcomed Maj. Gen. Fraser, Toowoomba Regional Council Deputy Mayor Mr Paul Antonio, the Egan family, BRIG Bill Mellor (retd) and guests to the Museum and then handed the proceedings over to Maj. Gen. Fraser. For the benefit of all members and friends who were unable to attend the function I have included below Maj. Gen. Fraser's address. It is lengthy for the Newsletter; but well worth the read.

"Deputy Mayor Cr Paul Antonio, Mrs Carol Egan, the other Egan family members Mrs Tracy Butterworth, Michelle, Maree and Lachlan, Brig. Mellor, distinguished colleagues of the aviation profession.

It is a true mark of the man that WO2 Terry Egan was to have such a wonderful gathering in honour of him today. Indeed he was a special man of true character and also of faith who no doubt is watching over us on this special occasion, and although a little unorthodox I think it appropriate that we just remind him of who is here to commemorate this room in his honour. Thus could I ask that in turn you each announce your name and connection with Terry Egan.

There are some that were not able to make today and passed on their apologies including Col. Ross Harding who with the assistance of Len Avery, on the 20 Sep 08 at the Museum of Australian Army Flying Annual General meeting tabled a motion:

*"that the memorabilia room at the Museum of Army Flying be named the Terry Egan Room and that a suitable explanation of the reason for it being so named, together with an appropriate photograph of Terry Egan be displayed at the entrance to the memorabilia room"*

We gather here in this most magnificent facility because of Warrant Officer Terry Egan DCM. Born in Tamworth on 13 May 1936 he joined the Army Reserve at the age of 18. After four years of reserves he transferred to the Australian Regular Army in 1954. Interestingly Warrant Officer Egan's aviation connection was strong in his youth as evidenced by his 1954 flight licence that Carol brought in today.

He was a man shaped by his operational experience in PNG and in particular in South Vietnam with the Australian Army Training Team. The characteristics of courage and determination that we later came to know him for when he joined us at the School of Army Aviation, were recognised for his Vietnam time with:

- The Distinguished Conduct Medal
- twice awarded the South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star
- and the Vietnamese Star of Courage.

Appointed as the Honorary curator in 1987 he started for Army Aviation what we all put in our News Years resolution about sorting out our boxes and trunks of photos, books, notes, letters, plaques and memorabilia...lots of precious historical memorabilia....he sorted and displayed the many items that had been stored in a room in the old School of Army Aviation. Many would have given up, but Warrant Officer Egan persevered and great credit to him to obtain an old 171 Squadron building relocated for the initial display that has grown and matured into this outstanding collection on display here today.

Indeed his success with the museum display brought professional reputation from near and far. Donations and loans were many made, such as the Boxkite replica in 1989 from Mr Cliff Douglas, and the Boomerang so kindly donated in 2005 by Mrs Lynnette Zuccoli – it is wonderful that you have joined us here today. For his enduring work for Army Aviation War-

rant Officer Egan was chosen as Army Aviator of the Year in 1991. Terry Egan is one of our elders who shaped the Army Aviation capability into what it is today. As a formal corps that has been formed for more 40% the time that man has been flying powered aircraft. A corps that has been presented a Guidon for two of the three Regiments we now have, we started with one squadron.



WO 2 Terry Egan DCM

Terry was a WO Instructor with PNGVR

Just as Army Aviation has Chinook in Afghanistan and Black Hawk in East Timor today with our troops supporting their fellow soldiers on operations, 40 years ago we had 4 Cessna and 6 Sioux deployed in Vietnam. This memorabilia room and this museum tracks that important history. Our aviation profession is extremely demanding, it always

has been, and it always will be. Too often our current force is consumed in the work at the time and meeting the demands of us. It is a great honour for me as the senior Army Aviation officer to join you here today, to reflect on our journey and commemorate the tireless work of many of you as well as the work of one.

Terry's work reminds me of the work of two fine ex Air Force engineers at Point Cook who are building a flying replica of our first aircraft – the Bristol Boxkite that the Australian Flying Corps used for the first military flying sortie in Australia on 1 Mar 1914. Their current building is very similar to that first building Warrant Officer Egan obtained. Project 2014 is currently ahead of schedule and under budget, with construction mostly complete and assembly about to commence. I am indebted to many of you here who are also assisting them. In the year our Australian Army Aviation corps was formed, the



Boeing 747 made its maiden flight and the first computers were being used to enable a spacecraft to orbit the moon. They were massive in size but very limited in capability. By contrast we are now introducing two aircraft that are flying computers and indeed the MRH90 does not have solid control rods found in our conventional aircraft but rather it is a collection of computers and wires to transmit the pilot control inputs to the electric and hydraulic servos.

The ARH Tiger can hold a firing position with a crosswind almost the same strength that the Sioux could fly at maximum speed forwards. It can fire a Hellfire missile and strike a target at a distance that would take the fittest of our soldiers almost 30 minutes to run, (8 km). At that range it was only 33cm from the centre of the target. Over these 40 years we have grown, we have matured.....some of us have even grown old – and Warrant Officer Terry Egan's work has been to display proof of our achievements during this time.

Army Aviation has continued to be an integral element of combat operations for its versatility and strength over terrain that is truly helicopter territory. Technology has assisted us to do this, such as the NVG program we started 26 years ago, and the head up displays we now have for day and night flight, but most importantly it is our being part of the land force – our understanding of our fellow soldiers requirements in the lethal environment of combat operations. An environment that Warrant Officer Terry Egan excelled in. Our capability is unmatched in the spectrum of operations we conduct. From the extremes of direct combat operations to the medical evacuation of an individual or a rescue at sea, from the clearest of bright sunny days to the darkest of wet and cloudy nights, we are all called upon and are able to achieve a vital capability for this nation of Australia. We have had our difficult times and lost some fine young Australians along the way, but we have always had reason to stand proud and tall.

The hard work of the volunteers of the Museum of Australian Army Flying and the Army Aviation Association provide us the means to reflect on our collective successes. Long after our time, this museum and memorabilia room will display the continued success of the bright young men and women of the Army Aviation capability, of the future integration of the new leading edge technologies of both our manned and unmanned platforms .... all done with the strength of character, humour and compassion that Warrant Officer Terry Egan DCM initiated. Our aviation profession is a rewarding one, but one that is demanding of us as individuals, of us as a team and of our families. It is most fitting that the Egan family are here today to commemorate this room in his honour. Just as he made your lives special, he helped make many of us who we are today and the ability to see where we have been".

Thank you Stewart Lewis for this article.

### ***A Sh^tty Aussie Ditty.***

*They were funny looking buildings, that were once a way of life  
If you couldn't sprint the distance, then you really were in strife.  
They were nailed, they were wired, but were mostly falling down,  
There was one in every yard, in every house, in every town.  
They were given many names, some were even funny,  
But to most of us, we knew them as the outhouse or the dunny.  
I've seen some of them all gussied up, with painted doors and all But  
it really made no difference, they were just a port of call.  
Now my old man would take a bet, he'd lay an even pound,  
That you wouldn't make the dunny with them turkeys hanging 'round.  
They had so many uses, these buildings out the back,  
You could even hide from mother, so you wouldn't get the strap.*



*That's why we had good cricket-  
ers, never mind the bumps,  
We used the pathway for the  
wicket and the dunny door for  
stumps .  
Now my old man would sit for  
hours, the smell would rot your  
socks,  
He read the daily back to front in  
that good old thunderbox.  
And if by chance that nature  
called sometime through the  
night,  
You always sent the dog in first,  
for there was no flaming' light.  
And the dunny seemed to be the  
place where crawlies liked to  
hide,*

*But never ever showed themselves until you sat inside.  
There was no such thing as Sorbent, no tissues there at all,  
Just squares of well-read newspaper, a hangin' on the wall .  
If you had some friendly neighbours, as neighbours sometimes  
are,  
You could sit and chat to them, if you left the door ajar.  
When suddenly you got the urge, and down the track you fled,  
Then of course the magpies were there to peck you on the  
head.  
Then the time there was a wet, the rain it never stopped,  
If you had an urgent call, you ran between the drops.  
The dunny man came once a week, to these buildings out the  
back,  
And he would leave an extra can, if you left for him a zac.  
For those of you who've no idea what I mean by a zac,  
Then you're too young to have ever had, a dunny out the back.*



Bird of  
Paradise  
A photo to  
bring back  
memories



PNGVR reunion Enoggera, 1985. Photo Stewart Lewis

## Cairns firm to distribute SP

By GAVIN BROOMHEAD (PRIDE MEDIA)

Island & Cape has officially secured the rights to distribute SP Brewery products, including PNG's favourite beers, across North Queensland.

The Cairns-based wholesale distributor celebrated the announcement with a special cocktail function at the Shangri-La Hotel in Cairns on February 22. Representatives from Island & Cape and SP Brewery joined Cairns business leaders retailers and trade experts at the occasion.

Island & Cape will distribute popular products such as SP Lager, South Pacific Export Lager and Niugini Ice.

To continue the PNG theme, PNG rugby league club "Agmark Rabaul Gurias" and "Northern Pride" players also attended the event ahead of their trial match at Barlow Park last Saturday night.

Island & Cape Chief Executive officer John Smith said the company was delighted to have secured the deal with PNG's number one brewer.

"There is a massive interest in SP Brewery products in North Queensland due to our close proximity and links to Papua New Guinea", he said.

"We have a large PNG population living in Cairns and many people from our region have lived and worked in PNG over the years.

"Those people have quenched their thirst many a time on SP Lager and other SP products, and we're thrilled to be able to bring this superb beer back to our region for everyone to enjoy."

SP Lager is already on sale at the following FNQ outlets, with Island & Cape expected to announce more available products and outlets in the coming weeks:

- Salt House Cairns;
- Big Cat Cruises Cairns;
- Bamaga Tavern, Bamaga;
- Bamaga Resort Bamaga;
- Weipa Bowls Club, Weipa;
- Sea Swift's Trinity Bay passenger cruise vessel;
- Opor Bakir Atabur (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation-Mer Island; and
- Saibai Community Development (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation -Saibai Island.

South Pacific Brewery (SPB) is Papua New Guinea's premier brewery, producing its four internationally award-winning beers, and employing over 300 people at its state-of-the-art premises in Port Moresby and Lae, and sale offices around the country.

The brewery, now part of the Heineken-owned Asia Pacific Breweries (APB) group, has an award-winning family of beers.

If you would like to know where else you can buy SP here, or are a retailer and interested in selling SP Brewery products at your outlet, contact Island & Cape on 4040 9300.

Forwarded by Colin Gould MBE Assn Secretary from Post Courier

## Minutes of a Meeting of PNGVR Officers Held at Igam Barracks - Lae Sat 6 Oct 73.

Following members present. Col Green, Lt Col Cole, **Majs** Harvey-Hall, Kelly, Harbeck, Newton **Cpts** Kenna, D.Smith, Molony, Wright, Hendricks, Parkinson, Wadsworth, O'Reilly, Thompson, Urquart. **Lts** Aschhoff, Vandepeer, Jenner, Kemish, McDermot, Cattermole, Barlow. **2Lt** Williamson, Russell.

Maj Harvey-Hall opened the meeting at 1715 hrs. He then read out parts of a draft constitution he had prepared for the establishment of a PNGVR Association. He also spoke of a meeting he had attended of PI members of A Coy Lae who have decided to establish a Club for ex members of the Unit.

Discussion followed and Capt Parkinson brought up the need of the objectives of the proposed Association be carefully thought out - otherwise the Association could flounder.

Lt Aschhoff spoke of the ideas voiced by the members of A Coy "they wanted to keep in touch with each other". The RSL in Lae had also agreed to assist in every possible way

Maj Newton said he could not see any club starting in Wewak because of the calibre of PI members. Capt Thompson asked if the idea was to now establish something for PNG. The Mess Meeting held during Annual Camp the idea seemed to be to have something in Australia.

Col. Green mentioned the CMF Association of Australia and if a PNGVR Association was formed it could be associated with the CMF Association.

2IC said he would like this meeting to form an executive body to get the Association off the ground.

Col. Cole stated that he felt a local association would in the short term be ideal but that the main action should be concentrated to have something established in Australia.

There is a need to have a realistic attitude because of the rapidly changing situation in PNG.

It was asked how many members present expected to be here after December 1974 --16 1975 - 6.

Lt Kemish said that from the numbers just shown it would perhaps be best if everyone joined the CMF Association of Australia.

Moved Maj Kelly, Seconded Col Cole "That a committee be elected to investigate:-

- A, how to affiliate with the CMF Association
- B. provide current CMF information to ex-members of PNGVR
- C. HQ's to finally be in Australia".

General discussion followed in which some of the major points were-

Col Green - need for PI members to have more than a social aspect to their clubs

Maj Harbeck - spoke of the club being established by ex members of the unit in Hagen

Lt Jenner - perhaps there should be a club for PNG and an Association for Australia

Capt Parkinson - spoke of need for committee to investigate details as soon as possible and report before 30 Dec 73.

Voting 17 in favour 4 against. Carried.

Discussion then followed on who would be best to be put on the committee. All Port Moresby officers were to be co-opted under



Maj Kelly. Communications with all other officers would be by present outcentres OC's.

All members would need to keep their address current and should keep in contact with Maj Kelly whose postal address is P O Box 6666, Boroko.

Funds for the committee to operate would be through a special bank pass book which has a present balance of \$204.50.

General discussion followed and the meeting closed at 1825 hrs to allow the CO to speak on the progress made in laying up of the Colours.

Signed. W.J. Moloney, Capt. Secretary

**As it eventually occurred—this was not actually the formation of the current Association—as we all know it occurred in a totally different manner—thanks to Harry Green, Norm Mundy and Joe Fisk.**

ON THE 22ND AUGUST 1942 JAPANESE MARINES  
SAILED AND LANDED AT MILNE BAY NEW  
GUINEA. WHERE THEY MET THE AUSTRALIANS  
THE BATTLE LASTED TO SEPTEMBER 9TH 1942  
  
THE ENEMY WAS DEFEATED AND THE  
AUSTRALIAN VICTORY WAS THE FIRST IN THE  
PACIFIC CAMPAIGN. THE DEFEAT ON LAND WAS  
SUFFERED BY THE ENEMY FOR THE FIRST TIME.  
WE LOST 200 MEN KILLED 373 WOUNDED.  
AUSTRALIA WAS SAVED.



New items in the Museum.

Top. This brass plaque was donated by the late Sgt William Puckering who was with the 11th Field Ambulance at Milne Bay. How he came into possession of the plaque is not known.

Bottom. WW2 petrol generator made in USA in 1942. I has all the instruction manuals and is still in running order. It was found in the Solomon Islands. This type of generator was used by the coastwatchers. Donated by Dave England through Paul Brown.

**Joint Military Exercise Set**

Approximately 70 soldiers from the Australian Defence Force's

2nd Commando Regiment will be parachuting into Wewak Harbour, East Sepik Province, on Monday 19th August to mark the commencement of Exercise NIGHT NIAP, an ADF/ PNG Defence Force exercise that will run until 5th September. The exercise focuses on amphibious and jungle training activities to enhance both the ADF and the PNGDF's capability and ability to operate together.

These training activities include a course jointly instructed by ADF and PNGDF members demonstrating the mutual learning benefits that come with such a combined exercise.

Exercise NIGHT NIAP will occur in a number of locations in East Sepik Province, before an ADF element will head to Nadzab, Morobe Province to conduct another parachute jump on September 4.

This jump is significant—being in the same area as the first parachute jump Australian forces (sic) undertook in Nadzab in 1943, during the recapture of Lae in World War 11.

Participating units from the PNGDF will include 2RPI based at Moem Barracks, Wewak, the Long Range Reconnaissance Unit, and other elements from within the PNGDF.

The exercise will utilise the PNGDF's Bell 212 helicopters, which have been leased for the PNGDF through Australia's Defence Co-operation Programme.

Head of Australian Defence Staff, Colonel Dick Parker, stated "Exercises such as NIGHT NIAP demonstrate Australia's commitment to building a more professional and capable PNGDF."

They also provide an excellent opportunity for ADF members to learn from their PNGDF counterparts and to build on the already very strong links between our two Defence organisations."

From the Post-Courier, courtesy Secretary Colin Gould MBE

## Anniversary of Capture of Lae

16th September is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> Divisions AIF recapture of Lae. This momentous invasion caught Lt. General Adachi completely by surprise. The Japanese turned and ran. They were already engaged by a force from Wau on the Salamaua Trail and the Markham River.

On the morning that the 7<sup>th</sup> Div were being airlifted from Jacksons Strip, Port Moresby, a tragedy occurred when a fully loaded B24 Liberator Bomber, that was supporting the invasion ploughed into several trucks loaded with troops of the 2/33 Battalion AIF, who were awaiting embarkation at the end of the strip. (probably the Southern end )

The death toll was 69 and 92 were wounded. When General Blamey and his HQ heard of the tragedy they gave the surviving troops of 2/33 Battalion, the choice to stand down as LOB. When this was put to the troops they chose to carry on.

In 1942 the 2/33 helped push the Japanese back from Ioribaiwa all the way to Gona. They engaged them in major battles at Myola, Oivi Ridge and Gorari where 500 enemy lay dead when the 2/33 moved on. Then dug them out of Gona. They knew of the atrocities on the Kokoda Trail and cannibalism at Gona and Buna and weren't about to be denied the opportunity to settle the score.

**LEST WE FORGET**



*More items in your museum.  
Top. Amenities radio receiver made by AWA. It is still in the original box which is in need of repair. Donated by the daughter of the late Cpl Cooper through Viv Humphries.*

*Left. WW2 Red Cross hanging First Aid Kit. When opened it contains a small bandage, a field dressing a small bottle of mercurochrome and two batteries. John Holland, Curator of your Museum, found this in a second hand shop in Boulder, WA.*

*A bloke walks into a brothel and says: "I'm a bit kinky, how much for total humiliation?" The madam replies: "\$60". "Wow, what do I get for that?" he asks..*

*She says: "A baggy green cap and an Australia cricket shirt."*

*The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness.  
Think of your three best friends—if they're OK then it's you.*

## FUNCTION DATES

### Saturday 12th October.

Mixed Dining Night, Jimboomba.  
Contact Barry Wright  
(07) 5546 9865 or  
Bob Collins (07) 5526 8396

### Saturday 19th October. 10am

Association Annual General Meeting at Wacol Museum. Followed by BBQ. All welcome contact Colin Gould—phone 0424 562 030 or email pngvr@optusnet.com.au



**NATIONAL MEDALS**  
Pty Ltd



## REPLICA MEDALS OR MOUNTING OF MEDALS

A reliable alternative source for medal work is National Medals, [natmedals@bigpond.com](mailto:natmedals@bigpond.com), Ph 07 3871 0600 Ask for Greg Faux, mobile 0419 196 172. Located at 13/200 Moggill Road, Taringa, Brisbane, 4066

## 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**

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**Bob Collins—Editor**



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