



# HARIM TOK TOK

VOLUME 86

DATE JUNE, 2014



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

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Forty marched under the NGVR/PNGVR banner in the Brisbane ANZAC March. A number of others drove behind the marching body in jeeps or golf buggies. We were fortunate to have the Irish Pipe Band marching immediately in front of us and with Mal Zimmermann's assistance calling the pace at the rear, we managed to stay in step quite well, or so I am told – I led the march so I was in step. The Harbeck boys once again attended and carried the Association's banner – thank you Grant and Neil. The warm sunny weather brought the appreciative public out in droves with the streets lined six to nine deep. I watched the relevant part of the ABC's coverage of the march later and I thought we were well turned out and looked smart. It felt good and all those I spoke to after the march confirmed we marched well.



Grant and Neil Harbeck,  
our Banner Carriers, ANZAC Day

Immediately after the March about 35 of our members and the public attended the Memorial Service in the Hall of Memories, Brisbane Cenotaph to honour the eighty NGVR fallen during the Pacific War. Thank you Paul Brown for making the arrangements and being MC of proceedings. The lack of electricity due to the pending refurbishment of the premises did not allow the playing of the Last Post or Reveille but all sang the hymns and national anthem with gusto. It was a moving service and I thank those who attended.

The venue of our reunion reverted to the Exchange after a number of years at the Victory. The refurbished Exchange Hotel proved to be a great venue meeting all the criteria required to ensure a successful reunion. Over sixty attended, the finger food was outstanding in quality and quantity, Karl Ashhoff and Mal Zimmermann were in excellent voice and all had a wonderful time. Thank you Colin for orchestrating the arrangements and all the other members who assisted, from the door bouncers, collection agent, merchandise salesman and many more, thank you, your work was truly appreciated. Photographs of the March and Reunion can be found on pages 14 and 16 of this Harim Tok Tok.

Please diary our next event which is the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Service for those lost on the Montevideo Maru. This service will begin at 10am and be held at the Brisbane Cenotaph on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July. The Cenotaph is being refurb-

bished for next year's 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Landing and ANZAC Day so if the Hall of Memories is not available look around in Anzac Square for our Commemorative Group when you arrive. The Service was formerly only for the 36 NGVR men lost on the ship but since 2010 it has become a public event commemorating the 1053 military and civilian men lost. Please invite your friends along as the Montevideo Maru Tragedy is not well known by the Australian public. Immediately following the Service morning tea will be served at the nearby Rendezvous Hotel on the corner of Ann and Edward Streets.

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group of the PNGAA will be holding its annual Commemorative 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Luncheon on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June at the Mercure Hotel, Canberra and Commemorative Service at the National Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial, AWM, Canberra on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. For those who seek accommodation the Mercure Hotel has again discounted its rates for these events. Please contact Marge Curtis on phone 03 5974 4403/ 0418 323 555, email [marg.curtis@hvs.com.au](mailto:marg.curtis@hvs.com.au) if you wish to attend. The Luncheon speaker will be Dr Marion May, the daughter of Padre May a 2/22 Bn POW, who has researched the various lists and event and Major Kevin Alley of the Salvation Army will conduct the Sunday Service.

Our Association has been invited, and has accepted, to erect a NGVR/ANGAU Bronze Plaque (500mm by 400mm) at the Kokoda Memorial in the Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach, Gold Coast for dedication on Kokoda Day, 8th August 2014. Colonel Maurie Pears MC arranged this with the Trustees of the Gardens and Kokoda Memorial for which we are most appreciative. Simultaneously, two other plaques will be dedicated, one for the Pacific Island men who served in Pacific Island Regiment and the second to commemorate those serving men, soldiers and supporting services, who lost their lives during the Pacific War. We need a good turnout for this important day so diary it now. If you advise our Secretary of your attendance a personal invitation may be forthcoming. Dress will be our Association ANZAC Day dress with large medals. If you have not seen Cascade Gardens and the Memorials, here is a great occasion to do so. If sufficient numbers can attend perhaps a morning tea or luncheon may be arranged. Further details will be forwarded by email as they come to hand.

NSAAQ has given its approval for our Association to extend its Museum. The proposed 10m extension is to be added to the building at the entrance end. It will be constructed of similar materials as existing, have no windows and be serviced only with electricity. Plans are presently being drawn and a submission will be lodged early June for funding from the State Government's ANZAC 100 Grants Programme. It is expected to cost around \$80,000.

Here is a reminder to diary the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014 to participate in the Association's ANZAC Centenary commemoration and dedication service for Australia's first combat casualties at Bitapaka, New Britain. The Service and following family picnic day will be held in our Military

Museum grounds at Wacol, commencing 10am. Assistance will be required prior to and after the event. Please register your interest with our Curator John Holland. For further information see attached flyer.

Within a week or ten days each of you should receive a raffle book of ten tickets, the purchase of which will give you the opportunity of winning a return flight to Rabaul with up to three days accommodation in Rabaul and or the second prize's single entry to PNGAA's 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> September Symposium to be held in



Sydney, see attached flyer. The raffle has been arranged in partnership with PNGAA and will be drawn 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 in time for the winners to plan their trip to Rabaul for the Centenary Commemoration of the Battle of Bitapaka and Symposium. The Association will use its share of the proceeds for ongoing maintenance of our Military Museum and upgrading of its collection while PNGAA's share will assist sponsoring the Sydney Symposium – good luck!!

The annual Light Horse Shoot at Fassifern Valley Range will be held 31 August with a practice, still to be arranged, beforehand. We are looking for new talent so we can take out the prize this year. Please contact me on [p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au](mailto:p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au) to register your interest.

Phil Ainsworth

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**Robert Eustace (Bob) EMERY, M.M.**  
**NG 2001**  
**(Continued)**

**Evacuated to Australia after 10 years in New Guinea**

Then they put me on a Sunderland Flying Boat at night with a lot of other blokes and we left about 5am and landed in Townsville. When we went ashore, we walked along a long jetty arrangement, and, standing along the jetty were these American Red Cross ladies, and then there were Australian Red Cross ladies, and each one you came to gave you something. The first one gave me a little bag with a tooth brush (all I had with me was pyjamas), and the next gave me chocolate or something. We just kept walking down the jetty – there were a couple of dozen of us – some with arms in slings, some on crutches, but we were all more or less walking wounded. Then we were taken to a big hall and given a good meal, which was one of the best feeds I had since the War started. After that we were put in ambulances and off we went.

This was the first time I had been in Australia for 10 years, and I'd never been inland in Australia. We drove in these ambulances for an hour or so and we came to a big camp of tents and marquees, where we were unloaded for the night. This was some Forward Dressing Station or other, and we were given beds and made comfortable, and there I was given a new uniform, to replace my pyjamas I suppose. We were there for about 2 days, quite comfortable, and then I was transferred to Warwick Hospital, and I spent a few days there being looked after, and we were all given a bottle of beer one day and I was told it was Christmas Day, 1942.

I wasn't in that Hospital a very long time. It was my arm that was the trouble and I was quite mobile. My elbow was all right but I'd lost the use of my left hand, half of my left hand had become paralysed, and the Medical mob reckoned that the nerves that work the hand go through the elbow and that was where the damage was. Anyway they kicked me out of hospital and put me in this Convalescent Camp, and that was on Warwick Golf Course.

I must have been there for 2/3 weeks and there were hundreds and hundreds of men there, a lot of them had just been brought down from Milne Bay. Some of the stories these blokes used to tell I found a bit amusing, and enlightening as well. Another thing I remember well was that every afternoon there was a beer ration in the Convalescent Camp and you lined up at 4pm, and there'd be a long queue of men, possible half a mile long (3/4 km) lined up outside the Canteen. You had to have your own mug in one hand and a shilling (10c) in the other, and when you got to the head you got a mug full of beer and handed them the shilling, and you went away to drink it, or, if you had any sense at all, you went away and got on the end of the queue again, and, by the time you finished that mugful, you got another one. This was all-right as I had not struck too much of this for a while.

I met one or two New Guinea blokes there, but they were all strangers to me, and I can't remember who they were. This was the roughest joint I'd struck. You had to go through 3 grades of fitness, and every week every man would parade before the M.O. (Medical Officer). He was an old Scotsman, and he would look at you and ask "How are you going today young man?" when you lined up in front of him. If you said "I'm not too good Doc – I'm aching all over etc" he'd very likely let you stop where your classification currently was. If you said you were feeling all right he would take you out of C Class and put you in B Class. In B Class you had to start doing some route marches and eventually you'd get to A Class and then the route marches would be about 20 miles

(32km) a day, with a pack on your back, and you would also have to do drill etc, and attend 6am parade with physical training instructors, and it was worse than being in New Guinea.

I couldn't see how I was going to get out of this A Class bit, but I didn't want to do it at all. I hadn't had any leave yet, but knew some of the chaps had. Eventually I did get out of it – I can't remember how, and next thing I was on a troop train heading for Brisbane.

**Recruit Reception Depot and Trying to Obtain Leave**

On the troop train I thought this was all right as I would now get some leave. Well I finished up in the Recruit Reception Depot at the Exhibition Grounds in Brisbane. This was not worrying me too much – well, not yet it wasn't, and the first thing I did was go around and put in an application for leave in the Orderly Room. The Orderly Room was a pretty busy sort of place, I used to get paralysed when I went into any Orderly Room because there would be these officious looking, well dressed people behind the counter, and they'd never give you what you wanted, and I didn't know how to deal with them – if they'd had guns in their hands, well I could have started shooting. Anyway I put in my leave application and a snotty Corporal took it. "Yeah, all right, O.K." he said "You'll hear about it in due course".

I spent about a week there before I found I could get day leave, so I started wandering around the town, and I used to every now and then meet an NGVR bloke. I'd never been to Brisbane before in my life and it was very interesting – the whole place was full of blokes in uniform, and there were lots of Yanks. Everyone I met in the NGVR had all had 14 days or more leave. In the RRD you went through various tests each day and did exams etc. What they were trying to do was to sort us all out and put us into groups suitable for our qualifications, I suppose.

I was trying to get into A.I.B. (Allied Intelligence Bureau). I'd found out that two or three of my mates who were with me in Madang, Peter Monfries was one of them, were now in AIB, and I thought I had as good qualifications as anybody else, so I went up to the Allocations Officer, who eventually allocated you to a unit, and told him I wanted to get into AIB or go back to my old unit. "Well" he said "Your old unit is disbanded. You can join ANGAU (Australian New Guinea Administration Unit)". Well I wasn't breaking my neck about joining ANGAU because, as far as I knew, ANGAU was full of Kiaps (Administration Officials) and Police Officers, and I wasn't in that class. I was looking for something where you actually had something to do. Anyway this chap was sympathetic and said he'd do what he could. A couple of days later they called me back and said "I can't get you in – I don't know why or anything else, and I strongly recommend you join ANGAU,

This had all taken several weeks and I'm still waiting for my leave. Every night the local loud speaker used to call out the names and numbers of all the troops who had been allocated to various units. The loud speaker would call out the names and numbers then "You fall in on the railway, or the Orderly Room, in full marching order with packs at 1100 hrs or 1200 hrs or in the middle of the night, etc. One night I'm lying in there and I hear my name called out to fall in and report for onward movement in the morning. I got up and eventually found a Corporal or Sergeant and said "Where are we going mate?" "We're going to Darwin". I said "God strike me! I'm not going to Darwin if I can get out of it", so I went back to the Orderly Room and asked "What happened to that leave application I put in about a month ago?" "We can't do anything about it now" he said "it's being processed". Well by now I was starting to learn a bit about the Army, and that every man in the Army had the right to appear before his Commanding Officer, if he's got something to go crook about. I said this to the Corporal "Look! I want to see the Commanding Officer".

There was a Lieutenant in this office, and he was another one of these snotty looking buggers that wouldn't talk to you, so the Cpl went around to the Lt and up the other end of the office I saw a door with "C.O." written on it. I said to the Cpl "Who runs this show?" and he replied "Colonel Smith, or some other name" and pointed up there. After seeing the Lt he came back and informed me that I was on the draft to Darwin and to get on with it. I said "I'm here to see the C.O. and I want to see him now" – by this I'd had a gutful of things. "You can't see him" said the Lt so I said "Get out of the bloody way" and walked past him, so he went ahead of me and knocked on the door and went in and announced "There's a man who wants to see you Sir – demands to see you" – "Send him in". I went in and stood to attention and here was this crusty Colonel sitting at his desk, I was nearly shivering with fright, but thought – they can't shoot me – not yet anyway, so I started telling him my story. I said I'd been in this lousy Army for 18 months, I've been shot at and bombed, wounded and every other Goddam thing. I've had no leave, and applied for leave about 3 weeks ago, and now they tell me they're sending me to Darwin.

He asked "What's your unit?" to which I replied NGVR. "Bloody hell Sgt, if you're not telling me the truth it will be bad for you." He picked up the telephone and gets on to some mob in LTD (Leave and Transit Depot) or somewhere and said "We've got a man here, NG2001, Sgt Emery, and he said he's had no leave". The bloke on the other end of the phone mumbled something and the Colonel abused him in a loud voice and told them to pull their socks up and that I should never have been sent to RRD in the first place. Then he turned to me and said "Get your gear Sgt, and be back here in a couple of minutes – there will be transport waiting for you", and I was in the GDD (General Details Depot) out at Ascot racecourse about half an hour later. I walked into the Orderly Room and a bloke looks at me and asks "Are you Emery?"

### **I finally Obtain Leave**

I replied "Yes!" and he said "Right! Here's a leave pass, 14 days in Adelaide". When I asked where next did I go he told me there was a bed around in such and such a hut, so wait there for forward movement. When I got to the bed where I would be sleeping there was Mark Schultz (NGVR) sitting on the next bed – I hadn't seen Mark for months. He asked where I was going and when I told him I was just waiting to go south he laughed and told me that he had been waiting for about 6 days to go south also – everything was going north. Anyway we spent several days on day leave wandering around Brisbane – Mark had a brother there who had a business.

Eventually I got on a train to Melbourne and then to Adelaide. Well, I hadn't been home for 10 years and it was all-right seeing my parents again, but everyone I knew was gone, either in the Army or shifted away. I then found that Peter Monfries was on leave also, and I hadn't seen him since he gave me that wireless message "Emery report to HQ NGVR Nadzab". Peter had been transferred to AIB. We had a wonderful leave, and when it was finished I reported to the LTD and wasn't worried about anything at this stage. When I went in for allotment, after turning over heaps of papers, I was advised I was going to Victoria Park Junior Leader's School" as an instructor.

I was advised that I was still B Class at this stage and could not go back overseas. The Junior Leaders School at Victoria Park racecourse, Adelaide, was a training ground for NCOs, and I'm stuck there with about 6 other blokes, all returned men from WW1. This is one of those places where everybody's got everything spit polished properly, you shave with cold water before the sun

comes up, and you spend the day saluting each other. It didn't appeal to me much – I'd joined the Army to help chuck the Japs out of New Guinea – and this saluting each other wasn't my cup of tea. After a fortnight being messed around there I saw the M.O. (Medical Officer) one morning and told him I'd been made B Class and I'd like some treatment. They pulled me out and sent me back to Hospital in Dawes Road, and that was the end of me as an Instructor.

When I was in Dawes Road I found that if you could walk round and didn't mind doing something you could get a job as a working patient. You didn't have to work very hard, and a working patient got privileges and leave every night from 1700 till midnight. That was handy, as prior to this, leave was not easy to get. The Colonel in charge of the Hospital was a crusty old bugger, and a very strict disciplinarian, but I suppose he had to be because he had a pretty tough mob to deal with, most of them being AIF blokes back from the Middle East. As soon as these blokes could walk they were straight out of the Hospital to go for a look around Adelaide.

### **I am Awarded the Military Medal**

One day I was leaning on my hoe in the middle of the garden when the RSM came up and said "Emery! The CO wants to see you immediately – do all your buttons up, put your hat on straight, clean your boots and follow me", and I wondered what I had done wrong now. I got to the Colonel's office and he jumped to his feet, stuck his hand out and said "You've won the MM (Military Medal) Emery, Congratulations". God I got a shock – I nearly dropped dead in the CO's office. He asked was there anything they could do for me. I had been reading Routine Orders that came around every week and I found out that, if you'd been in hospital for a certain period, you could apply for sick leave – so I asked for some. He turned to his Adjutant and ordered him to make me out a leave pass for 14 days. By this time Peter Monfries had gone back but I still enjoyed my 14 days leave.

### **I organise Supplies for any new Posting Overseas**

One thing I had found out while I was up in New Guinea was that the Postal Service was the most efficient thing in the Army. We used to get parcels and letters sometimes where the last 40/50 miles (64/80km) would be carried by a Police boi, carried in canoes etc. You'd be sitting on your bottom one day and, all of a sudden, a Police boi would turn up with a bag of mail, so you would open it and you might find a parcel from home with a pair of socks or a cake or something in it.

While I was on this leave and had nothing to do I had a wonderful idea. I went around the town and got all the bottles of grog I could lay my hands on, about half a dozen bottles of whisky, rum and gin – grog was rationed. I sealed each bottle up in a tin and packed sawdust all round it, sewed it up with calico, and branded it 'Christmas Cake', put my number and name on each tin and left it behind with my mother with the instructions that when I was sent away to post one of them every month. You know what! I got them all in New Guinea and New Britain, all over the place. Every now and then we'd be sitting down and hadn't had any booze or mail for weeks and the mail would come in. I would ask if they would like a snort.



Bob Emery



"Aw yeah! There's no grog around here" I opened my parcel and, much to the amazement of all, I show them a bottle of rum or something. Well that was the best thing I ever did and if I ever had to go to another War, the first thing I would do would be to make up a few parcels of grog.

Eventually the leave finished and I was back at the hospital, a working patient again. By now I had woken up to what was going on and knew I could ask for a Medical Board. When the next Board was convened I was interviewed by three doctors and they asked me what I wanted to do. I told them I wanted to be right in or right out – not this half way business. They made me A2, subject to a re-board in 6 months. Well I haven't had that re-board yet and at time of dictating this I'm 83.

Within 3/4 days I'm on a train heading north and I find that I am now in ANGAU.. I guess I'll have to put up with all the Kiaps and Police Masters. I didn't have a lot of time for ANGAU in general but there were some good men there. However there were a terrible lot of no-hopers carrying high rank.

This was the end of Bob Emery's career with the NGVR.

**What a remarkable soldier Bob Emery was. Bob died some years ago, and the photos of his dog tags and Bob were sent by his son, Bob.**

#### CEREMONIAL TRADITIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY

The ceremonial traditions of the Australian Army were inherited from the British; however, they are now very much a part of our Army. From the start of a soldier's career, be it as a recruit or as an officer cadet, soldiers are trained in drill and ceremonial procedures. Even today this type of training is relevant and plays a very important part in the development of teamwork in new soldiers. Successful drill depends on its participants working and acting together as one; drill is also a proven method of conditioning soldiers to act immediately on an order, regardless from whom the order is given (both a necessity for success in combat). Ceremonial drill is also important in adding dignity to sensitive occasions such as remembrance days, when those who gave their lives in the service of their Country are remembered (such as unit anniversaries and ANZAC Day), and military funerals.

A number of these ceremonial traditions are performed on a daily basis, such as the saluting of commissioned officers, the inspection of troops, and the playing of Reveille and Last Post. During a period of the 1950s the west German Army did away with the saluting of officers by junior ranks; the consequences with regard to the respect of officers and general discipline were disastrous and as a result, the salute was quickly re-introduced, resulting in the restoration of both respect for senior ranks and daily discipline.

As time goes by those ceremonial procedures that are deemed to be irrelevant or out of place in the Army, are dropped, others are, where necessary, modified. However there is still very much a place for ceremonial pomp and circumstance in the modern Australian Army.

#### The Parade Ground

After a battle, when retreat was sounded and the unit had re-assembled to call the roll and count the dead, a hollow square was formed. The dead were placed within the square and no one used this area as a thoroughfare. Today the parade ground represents this square, and hence a unit's dead. It is considered to be hallowed ground, soaked with the blood of our fallen, and the area is respected as such.

#### Holding Ground

The correct terminology for "Holding Ground" is "Troops Keeping the Ground". Today on many unit ceremonial occasions, the corners of the parade ground have troops in position "Holding Ground"; these soldiers may be equipped with anything from lances to mortars, or even field guns, all facing out. The role of these troops is to "secure the area", thereby allowing the unit on parade to safely carry out its ceremonial duties.

The tradition dates back to the British hollow square (the "square" was just that, a fighting unit lined up in a four-sided formation with a hollow centre, the troops were shoulder-to-shoulder, three or four ranks deep). When the troops were resting, lines of picquets were placed out, at sufficient distances to give early warning of pending attacks, thereby allowing the battalion or regiment time to regroup and fight off the approaching enemy.

Taken from the Army Newspaper



Members of the Association Committee at a PNG Independence Function, circa, 2001.

From L. Barry Wright, John Holland, Bob Collins, Harry Green, Colin Gould, Joe Fisk, Norm Mundy.

#### THE ROLE OF IGAM BARRACKS AT LAE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Ron Inglis

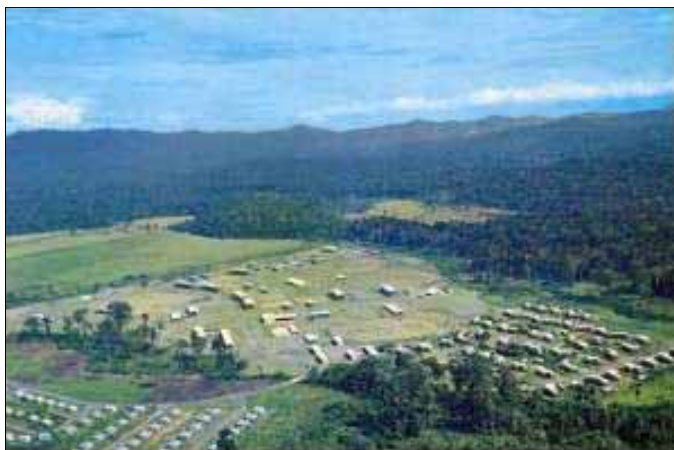
*1971 'Chalkie' at Moem and Igam Barracks, Ron Inglis, attended the opening of the Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR) Exhibition held at the Australian Army Infantry Museum, Singleton, on October 1, 2013. It was an opportunity to gather information on the establishment of Igam Barracks and to recall the role played by the 'Chalkies' in the various activities based at Igam.*

The plan for the development of the Pacific Islands Regiment, set out in the early 1960s, was to have three battalions and three new barracks: 1 PIR at Taurama Barracks in Port Moresby, 2 PIR at Moem Barracks in Wewak and 3 PIR at Igam Barracks in Lae. As it turned out, three new barracks were constructed but only two battalions were raised.

Work commenced on the construction of Igam Barracks in 1966. The barracks was duly built, with all modern facilities including a squash court and swimming pool, at a total cost of nine million dollars.

It was officially opened on 30 September 1968 by the then Minister for the Army, Mr Phillip Lynch.

3 PIR was never raised due to constraints on the Australian defence budget at a time when Australia was heavily involved in



Aerial view of Igam Barracks, Lae

the war in Vietnam.

At the time of the official opening, Igam Barracks provided accommodation for a number of Army units including Headquarters Lae Area Command, Headquarters Papua and New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, a Company of the 1st Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment, the PNG Military Cadet School and Headquarters 35 Cadet Battalion. Also on parade for the Official Opening was the 3rd Squadron Special Air Service Regiment, which was undertaking tropical training in Papua New Guinea.

During the years that the 'Nasho Chalkies' were sent to Igam, 1968 to 1972, the Barracks was home to seven military units.

□ **Headquarters, Lae Area Command** including a regimental pipe and drum band.

□ A **company of 1 PIR** from Taurama Barracks, was based at Igam on a 12-month rotation. The posting to Lae was keenly anticipated by companies of 1 PIR for soldiers' families also moved to Igam for the year and Lae was considered to be a much more pleasant environment than Port Moresby.

The **Pacific Islands Regiment** had been formed in 1944, as the headquarters for the **Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB)** and the 1st and 2nd **New Guinea Infantry Battalions (NGIB)**. By the time it was disbanded in 1946, some 3,500 Papuans and New Guineans had served in ranks of the PIR.

In March 1951 the PIR was reformed as an Australian regiment and it remained under direct Australian command until Papua New Guinea independence in 1975.

During the period of National Service in Australia, a number of platoon commanders in both 1 PIR and 2 PIR were National Servicemen, commissioned as officers after training at Scheyville in New South Wales.

□ 183 Recce Flight operated both helicopters and Pilatus Porter fixed wing aircraft. Their main task was to support exercises and civic action patrols of the PIR. They also supported survey operations being undertaken by the Australian Survey Corps.

□ Headquarters of the **Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (PNGVR)**. This reservist unit, was established in 1951 as an Australian **Citizens Military Force (CMF)** unit. Unlike PIR, PNGVR was always English speaking and, in the early years, was entirely European. In 1964 it became a multi-racial unit allowing Chinese, mixed race and indigenous members to join. By about 1966 PNGVR was around 70% indigenous.

Once Igam Barracks became available, the PNGVR camp was held there each year with RAAF Hercules and Caribou

bringing reservist soldiers from all parts of PNG. PNGVR was disbanded in 1973 at the time of the granting of Self Government, ahead of the granting of Independence in 1975.

□ Headquarters of the **Cadet Units** found in many schools across PNG. These cadet units mirrored the school cadet units found in many Australian high schools at the time. The Cadets also had an annual camp at Igam. On 28 August 1972, a Caribou returning to Port Moresby with 24 cadets and two Army officers, crashed in the vicinity of Wau. Only four cadets survived the crash and they were only located after they walked out to a riverbed where they could be seen from the air.

□ The **Military Cadet School (MCS)** prepared indigenous soldiers for officership in the PIR. In 1971 MCS was under the command of Lt Colonel Harry Bell. Some four or five 'Chalkies' were appointed to MCS each year and they had military as well as educational duties. A bonus for the 1971 'MCS Chalkies' was to accompany the cadets on an orientation excursion to Sydney.

□ **Lae Area Education** provided courses in English, Maths, Social Sciences and Civics for indigenous soldiers, and Australian Army Certificate of Education Courses for Igam-based Australian soldiers who wished to upgrade their education qualifications. Around four or five 'Chalkies' were appointed to Lae Area Education each year. The OIC of **Lae Area Education** in 1971 was Captain (later Major) Trevor McQuinn who interviewed many PNG Second World War soldiers about their war and post-war service. His research and documentation produced highly valuable historical material.



Igam military cadets School Cadets with 'Chalkie' Sgt Andrew Dalziel 1971-72.

#### Acknowledgements

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

**Major General Brian Howard** was a Company Commander, 1 PIR, stationed at Igam Barracks, Lae in 1969. Brian Howard played a key role in the documenting and display of PIR history at the Singleton Museum.

**Lt Colonel Laurie Kelly**, was a Markham Valley farmer and later an employee of the Commonwealth Department of Works when Igam Barracks was under construction. Laurie Kelly served in the PNGVR for 17 years. He was Officer Commanding, A Coy PNGVR. Laurie Kelly lived in the Lae area from 1953 to 1983.

**Australian Army Infantry Museum**, Singleton, Upper Hunter, New South Wales.



A photo taken on a US Carrier in WW1 as a deck crewman climbs onto a burning, crashed aircraft to rescue the pilot.

That's a fuel tank his foot is on! Empty?

### BITAPAKA DAY

**Saturday 6th September at your Museum**

On the above date at the Museum, a gala day will be held to celebrate the first action of the Australian forces in WW1. Please place the date in your diary now. Below is the story of the Bita Paka landings.

### THE AUSTRALIANS AT RABAU

#### IN WORLD WAR 1

#### The first Australian Soldiers killed in WW1

#### Chronology of events in WW1

##### 1914.

**June 28** Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria.

**July 28** Austria declares war on Serbia.

**Aug 1.** Germany declares war on Russia.

2. German troops enter Luxemburg and France

3. Germany declares war on France.

4. Germany invades and declares war on Belgium; Great Britain declares war on Germany.

5. Austria declares war on Russia.

10. Recruiting for A.I.F. opens.

11. Enlistment for AN&MEF begins.

12. H.M.A.S. *Sydney* and destroyers raid Blanche Bay.

HMS *Hampshire* puts out of action service station at Yap.

19. AN&MEF leaves Sydney.

23. Japan declares war on Germany. Japanese fleet blockades and bombards Tsingtao.

24. AN&MEF. arrives at Palm Islands.

30. New Zealand force occupies Samoa.

##### Sept

9 HMAS *Sydney* puts out of action wireless station at Nauru.

10 German Cruiser *Emden* first raids in the Bay of Bengal

11. AN&MEF Lands on New Britain.

13, British flag hoisted at Rabaul

17 Terms of capitulation of German New Guinea signed.

21 Surrender of German and native forces at Herbertshoke.

22. *Emden* bombards Madras, German cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* shell Papeete.

24. AN&MEF. occupies Madang

**Oct. 7.** Japan occupies Marshall and Caroline Islands

11. German naval yacht *Komet* captured by AN&MEF.

17. AN&MEF occupies New Ireland

**Nov. 1.** Battle of Coronel. First contingent of A.I.F. and N.Z.E.F. sail from Albany, Western Australia

6. AN&MEF occupies Nauru

7. Japanese capture Tsingtao

8. German light cruiser *Geier* interned by USA at Honolulu.

9. *Emden* destroyed by HMAS *Sydney* at Cocos Islands

11. AN&MEF occupies Admiralty and Western Islands.

28. Tropical Force leaves Sydney

**Dec 8** *Scharnhorst*, *Gneisenau* and *Leipzig* sunk in the Battle of the Falkland Islands.

9 AN&MEF occupies German Solomon Islands.

14 German auxiliary cruiser *Cormoran* interned by USA at Guam

**1915. Jan 8** Col Petherbridge takes over Administration of German New Guinea from Col Holmes.

9 AN&MEF begins to leave New Guinea, relieved by Tropical Force.

### German Colonisation of the Pacific.

Germany became a colonial power in the Pacific in 1884. The Australian Colonies and New Zealand had been urging the British Foreign Office to exercise sovereign rights in New Guinea without success when German cruisers hoisted their flag both in New Guinea and the New Britain Archipelago.

It was always suspected that Germany's real purpose in New Guinea was the building up of her naval power in the Pacific, and New Guinea gave her a base within easy steaming distance of Australia. Germany's next requirement would be a strategic point from which she could strike at New Zealand, and this was attained when, in 1900, she succeeded in getting control of Samoa.

With potential bases in the South Pacific assured, she turned her attention to the North Pacific. She wrestled Kiaochao from the Chinese Govt in 1897, and established there at Tsingtao a naval HQ. In 1899 she purchased from Spain the Caroline, Marshall, Pelew and Marianne Islands. This gave a useful connecting link between Kiaochao, New Guinea and Samoa.

By 1914 Germany was an important factor in the trade of the Pacific. The German East Asiatic squadron had been strengthened with the base at Tsingtao and coaling stations at the Caroline and Marshall Islands, Rabaul and Apia. Her position was strengthened by a chain of wireless stations at Samoa, Nauru, New Guinea and the Caroline Islands. The wireless station near Rabaul, based on the Telefunken system, was located at Bitapaka.

So when, on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1914, the nations woke to war, the German possessions in the Pacific became at one factors of great strategic importance. A powerful German fleet was in that ocean; it had bases and coaling facilities at selected points, with which it could communicate by wireless.

In New Guinea the Germans had first located their capital at Finschhafen, then Morobe, then Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen (Madang) but these places proved too hostile an environment with disease, so they moved their capital to Rabaul, and built up a sizeable town.

### Despatch of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF)

Time was important and from 8<sup>th</sup> August messages from London were urging Australia to speedy action against the German colonies. In three days (by 10 Aug) a scheme was evolved in definite detail by the General Staff. It was decided to send a combination of naval and military units – six companies of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, a battalion of Infantry at war strength (1,023 strong), two machine-gun sec-





Aug 1914  
  
Men of the  
AN&MEF at  
Randwick  
Agricultural  
Show Grounds  
Sydney

tions, a signalling section, and a detachment of the Australian Army Medical Corps.

The Force Commander was Col William Holmes, who, went to the the Boer War as a Lt, had been wounded, mentioned-in-despatches, awarded the DSO and promoted to Brevet-Colonel. Enlistment for the force began the day after Holmes was appointed (10<sup>th</sup> Aug), and there was a ready response. Very few of the infantry had previous experience and had to be clothed armed, equipped and trained. However the whole force was embarked on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug. The Royal Australian Naval Reserve six companies came from Qld, NSW, Vic and SA, and they were also equipped and concentrated in Sydney within a week.



Col William Holmes

Embarkation was on 18<sup>th</sup> Aug on the *Berrima*, 11,000 tons. She arrived at Palm Island on 24<sup>th</sup> Aug She was to be escorted to Port Moresby by the *Sydney* and the *Encounter*, however they were being used escorting New Zealand expedition to Samoa, so a delay occurred. This was probably fortunate as the troops aboard were taken ashore every day and instructed in musketry, moving through thickly wooded country, and the landings ashore every day gave the Naval Reserves practice in boat-work and the landing of troops.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept the escorts returned and all proceeded to Port Moresby to be bunkered with coal and oil. Other ships joined them there, *Upolu*, *Protector* and the submarines *AE1* & *AE2*.

The next rendezvous was Rossell Island, however on the way there the *Kawowna*, with a detachment from the *Kennedy Regiment* from North Qld, became disabled and was ordered to return to Townsville with all its troops.

#### German Forces and Dispositions at New Britain.



Men of  
1st Bn  
AN&M  
EF  
training  
at Palm  
Island

Total German forces in New Britain and New Ireland consisted of:



German  
Reserv-  
ists  
called  
out for  
active  
service



Reserv-  
ists in-  
structing  
native  
troops in  
mus-  
ketry  
1914

- 2 Officers Regular German Army
- 7 *Landwehr* Officers
- 52 white NCO's and men.
- 240 native soldiers

and these had been dispersed to Bitapaka (Bita Paka), Herbertshoe (Kokopo), Toma, Takubur and Vunadidir.

The German Governor, Dr. Haber, had moved his HQ to Toma. And had made preparations to move from Toma into the interior if needed.

The town of Rabaul had been cleared of senior Administration and all Military personnel.

#### The Australian Landing

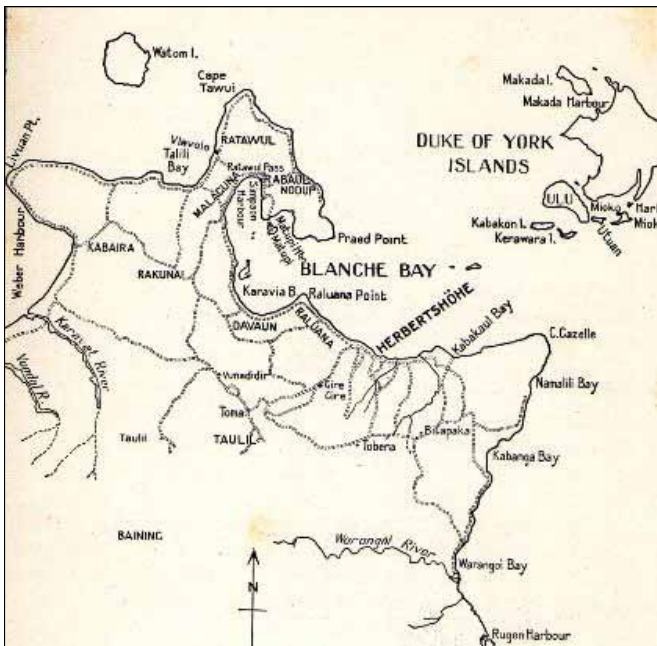


Toma

The first 25 of the Naval troops landed from the *Sydney* on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> Sept at Herbertshoe (Kokopo), carrying a letter to the German Governor, demanding his surrender, however he was not there so it was given to a civilian who undertook to forward it to the Governor. That party then remained in place.

Another party of 25 was landed at Kakabul with instructions to move inland to where it was believed the radio station was. Another party of 10 was landed later to maintain contact as the first party moved inland, accompanied by two persons from the Army Medical Corps.

As this party moved inland it came upon a mixed German and native troops group and the Australians opened fire. One German Officer was wounded and, shortly afterwards, surrendered. His wound was dressed and he then was ordered to call on the others in the ambush to surrender as 800 troops were behind this advance party— this he did, and the German



The Bitapaka Road  
Rifle pit evident

party surrendered. The German Officers carried maps of the area which greatly assisted the Australians from that moment on.

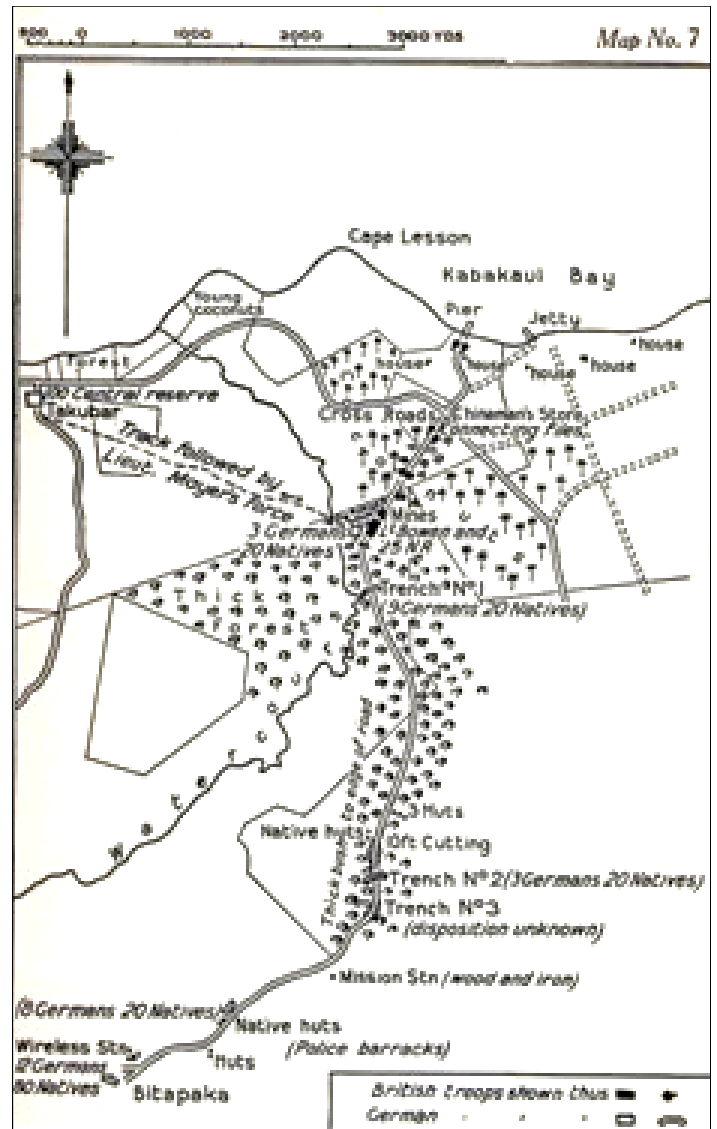
Meanwhile more troops had been landed at Kakabul and commenced to move down the road.

The forward party, having sent their prisoners back, moved further towards Bitapaka and again came under fire from natives in trees and others in trenches beside the road. It was at this stage that Able Seaman **Williams was mortally wounded, becoming the first Australian Serviceman to be shot in WW1.** He was carried back down the road.



The Medical Officer with the group, Capt B.C.A. Pockley, had just finished amputating the German Officers hand when he heard about Williams being shot and moved forward to him. Williams had been shot in the stomach and Pockley sent him to the

Capt Pockley  
the first Medical  
Officer of the Aus-  
tralian forces killed  
in WW1



rear with two men. Pockley took off his own red-cross brassard and tied it around one of the escort's hat. Pockley then moved forward to meet the advance party but had not gone far when he was fired upon. He took shelter for a while then moved forward only to be shot. He was picked up by an ambulance party later and carried to the *Berrima*. **Both Williams and Pockley died that night. Pockley's action in giving up his red cross badge, and thus protecting another man's life at the price of his own, was consonant with the best traditions of the Australian Army Medical Corps in the war.**



At this time parties from the body landed at Kaka-bul came under fire while moving up the road, unaware of just where the advance body was, but knowing that they were ahead of them. **Able Seaman J.E.Walker**

Bitapaka Road. Position  
of the first trench.





Bitapaka Road.  
Digging up the  
mines 4th Jan,  
1915.

(serving as J. Courtney) was shot dead near a sharp bend in the track.

The main party came upon wires with an electric battery at the side of the track and suspected that mines had been laid.

No 3 Company of the Naval Reserve, at this stage led by Lt Gillam was moving down the track.

After moving for about forty minutes they came under fire from enemy in the bush, unseen. They immediately extended into the bush and advanced in two extended lines. **During the advance Signalman R.D.Moffat was shot and killed.**

Shortly afterwards **Lt Comd C.R. Elwell** took command of the attack and advanced to within 80 yards of the German trench. **Here, after giving the order to fix bayonets and charge, he was shot dead, drawn sword in hand, at the head of his men.**

The end came, almost immediately after the shot that killed Elwell. With the arrival of reinforcements from Kakabul, the German position became untenable. At about 1.30pm a white flag went up in the German trench. However the German Officer refused to surrender to Lt Comd G.A. Hill, whose lack of badges and uniform made it incredible to a German that he should be an Officer at all. The German Officer, Lt Kempf, was taken back to meet Comd Beresford who was moving up the track, and he officially surrendered both the wireless station and the forces under his control.

With the thought in mind that the road may be mined, Hill forced Lt Kempf to stand on the road in the sections where wiring was found until the wires had been cut and the firing key removed.



March after the hoisting of the Union Jack. 13 Sep, 191



German and native troops at Herbertshoe 21 Sep 1914

When these mines were later all located and removed they were powerful enough to have caused a great loss of life. Each consisted of an iron pipe, four inches in diameter and twenty one feet in length, packed with plugs of dynamite, and placed lengthwise along the middle of the road, four or five feet deep. Nuts, bolts and stones had been piled over the pipes, the trench filled in and the road made smooth again.. When the first mine was eventually exploded by the Australians, the hole made in the road was 27 feet long, 15 in width and 7 in depth. The second mine was therefore lifted out and exploded in the bush.

To make the surrender effective Comd Beresford decided that Kempf and a fellow prisoner Sgt Ritter (the latter as interpreter) should accompany the troops towards Bitapaka in order to explain to any German troops met on the way that the fighting was over. A number of strongpoints were passed, all duly surrendering, although desultory sniping took place. At a third major trench position a brisk exchange of fire took place and **Able Seaman H.W. Street was mortally wounded**, with Sgt Ritter, the German interpreter, being killed.

Upon reaching the radio station at Bitapaka it was found that the masts had been cut through, but the machinery and instruments had not been damaged.

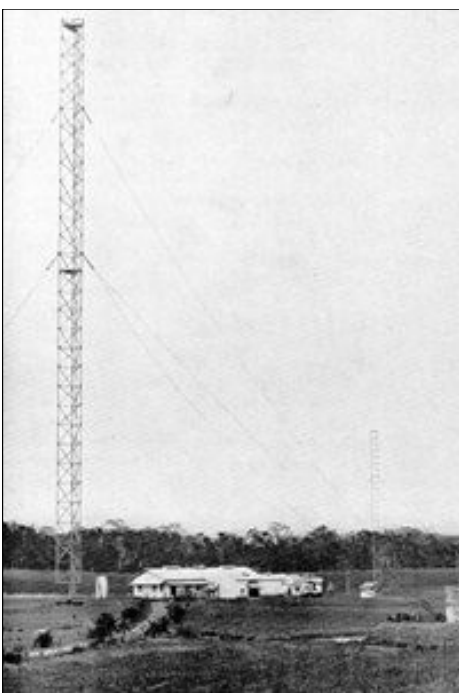
While this advance had been carried out the ships *Sydney* and *Warrego* had carried out shelling of suspected German positions, however on the taking of the wireless station Col Holmes halted all shelling while a letter demanding unconditional surrender was delivered to the German Governor, Dr Haber, at Toma.

With the wireless station out of commission for the near future, the force returned to the coast.

The casualties among the Australians were 2 Officers and 4 men killed, and 1 Officer and 3 men wounded. . On the German side the casualties were reported as 1 white NCO and 30 native soldiers killed and 1 white NCO and 10 native soldiers wounded. The proportion of the number of killed to that of the wounded bears evidence to the closeness of the fighting and the nature of the terrain.

At 3pm on Sunday 13th Sep the British flag was hoisted at Ra-baul.

On 20<sup>th</sup> October Kawieng (Kavieng) was occupied, followed by



The Bitapaka wireless station when completed by the Administration. At the time of the occupation in Sep 1914 the mast was lying on the ground, not having been erected.

Lozenge in the Admiralty Islands. The last shots of the campaign were fired at Lorengau when the *Siar* fired a belt of machine-gun over the heads of armed Germans who looked as though they would put up a resistance. On 9<sup>th</sup> Dec a party on board the *Meklong* accepted the surrender of Germans at Kieta, Bougainville. 6<sup>th</sup> Dec saw Nauru occupied Madang was occupied on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec by a force sailing directly from Australia in the *Eastern*. Marienburg and Angoram on the Sepik River were occupied on 9/10 Dec.

#### Transfer of Military to Civilian Administration

Col Holmes quitted New Guinea on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan, having formally handed over to the Civilian Administrator, Brig Gen Sir Samuel Petherbridge on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1915.

**The above article and photos and following note have been taken from "The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18; Vol XII The Australians at Rabaul by R.S. Mackenzie.**

#### The following is taken from a German Diary found at Rabaul after the German surrender.

7 Aug. A vessel enters St Georges Channel. All Englishmen arrested and kept in custody— not known where.

16 Aug. All the English have been sent to Batze in the Bainings, except Lt Gen Wylde, who is in custody in St Paul...

The Batze referred to is Hermann Batze, grandfather of Assn member John Batze, whose plantation was in the Bainings. John's father and three uncles were in New Guinea when WW2 was declared and two uncles, Karl & Hermann, were interned and shipped under NGVR escort to Australia, while his father Adolph and uncle Wilhelm were both in the NGVR and stayed on in New Guinea.

**It has been stated in various sources that the first Australian killed in WW1 was in Europe. However he was a Australian Citizen serving with a British Infantry Unit. Able Seaman Williams was the first Australian Serviceman to be killed in WW1.**

*I was at the Senior Centre today & failed a Health and Safety course that was on for us old fogies.*

*One of the questions was "In the event of a fire, what steps would you take?"*

*"Bloody big ones" was apparently the wrong answer.*



Courtesy Stewart Lewis



13 June 1944: An English brewery donates a sizable amount of fresh beer for the troops fighting in Normandy and a unique delivery method is created, strapping kegs to the underwings of Spitfires being shipped to forward airfields. Flying at 12 000 feet chills the brew to perfection

#### BENEATH THE WAVES

##### The story of Australian Submarine AE1

While the average Australian is familiar with the ANZAC legend and the hardships faced by those who have served, chances are they do not know the history of our Australian Submarines.

All this is about to change with 2014 marking the centenary of submarines in Australia, and organisations like Submarines Association Australia (SAA) are working hard to shine a light on this long—albeit unsung—military tradition.

Australia's first two submarines AE1 and AE2 arrived in Sydney Harbour in 1914.

##### Background

In 1910 the first ships for the Australian Squadron of the Royal Navy, as it was then known, were ordered from Britain. This order included HMA submarines AE1 and AE2.

In early 1914 they sailed to Sydney via the Suez Canal, Ceylon, Singapore and Darwin, a distance of 26,000 miles. They had an escorting warship and, on alternate days, were towed by that ship to save wear and tear on their propulsion systems. They

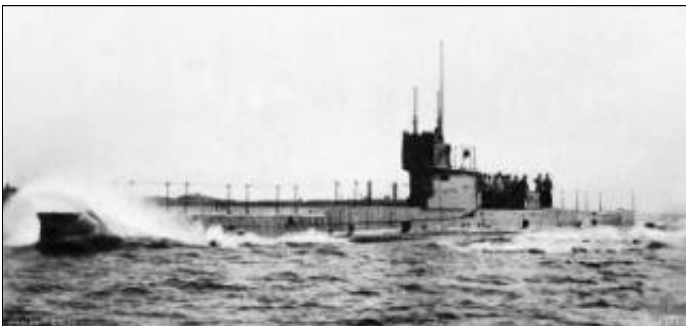


Submarines AE1 and AE2



docked at Cockatoo Island Dockyard, Sydney and were readied for service.

They were included in the fleet element of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) and sailed for New Guinea on 18th August.



Above  
Below

Submarine AE1 in the UK  
Crew of Submarine AE1



### The Day of the AE1's Loss

The landings of the AN&MEF at Herbertshoe (Kokopo) occurred on 11 Sep, 1914. On the morning of 14 Sep, whilst operations ashore were still continuing, HMA Submarine AE1 put to sea from Simpson Harbour (Rabaul) in company with HMAS Parramatta. Their orders were to stand out into St Georges Channel, between New Britain and New Ireland, to keep watch for any German warships which might come up and catch the invasion fleet at anchor. A German Cruiser Squadron was known to be at large in the Pacific at the time and would have made short work of the invasion fleet if they had come on them without warning, at anchor and off a lee shore.

The seas that day were calm, strong currents were running in the area. The sky was initially clear although the day itself was hazy, with visibility decreasing to about five nautical miles or less by 1500 hrs that afternoon. At 1430 hrs that afternoon the two ships were in visual contact and exchanged signals.

The AE1 was last seen by HMAS Parramatta at around 1520 hrs, in a position about 1.5 nautical miles SSE of Serard Point (on Duke of York Island). She appeared to be shaping a course to return to her anchorage in Simpson Harbour via the southern route around the Duke of York Islands. Parramatta continued to search to the north and eastwards out into the St Georges Channel and came back to the anchorage off Kokopo via the north and west of the Duke of Yorks. She returned to the fleet anchorage at Simpson Harbour several hours after sunset, to find that AE1 had not returned, and a general search was commenced at about 2000 hrs that night.

### The Immediate Search for AE1

HMAS Yarra and HMAS Parramatta both spend the night searching by use of star shell and signal search light.

The following morning HMAS Encounter and HMAS Warrego joined the search working on AE1's last probable position, basically to the North and West of the Duke of York Islands.



On the next two successive days a collection of ships boats, steam pinnaces and small captured German vessels were employed on a detailed search of the coastline around the Duke of York Islands and along the northern coastline of New Britain. During the search of the Duke of York Islands local natives were questioned and they admitted seeing the submarine during the day on the 14th, but had no further information about her loss.

At the end of three days of searching there had been no trace of oil, debris or bodies and the search was called off.

By this time the invasion had been successfully completed, and the tempo of the war was increasing elsewhere. All of the major war vessels were urgently required back in Sydney to refit and make ready to escort the first AIF contingent to the Middle East. At this same time the German Cruiser Squadron revealed their location by a raid on Tahiti and the major Australian war vessels were sent off post—haste after them.

### The Enquiry into AE1's Loss

Vice Admiral Patey (the Flag Officer Commanding) carried out a rudimentary enquiry on the scene. His report ran to just several pages and concluded (based mostly on the evidence given by the captains of HMAS Parramatta and AE2) that the AE1 most likely dived on its way back into port, to check its trim and/or clear a defect, and struck an uncharted underwater reef, thence sinking in the deep waters thereabouts. The report also noted that an internal explosion might have led to her loss.

No further formal enquiries into the loss of Submarine AE1 were ever held.

### The 35 Crew of AE1 are still missing

**Source. Extracts from The AE1 Association Website**

<http://www.ae1.org.au/>

**To this day the whereabouts of AE1 has never been established. There have been reports of maritime wrecks from time to time but most have turned out to be the remains of Japanese vessels sunk during WW2.**

AE2 created history by becoming the first submarine to break into the Dardanelles during the Gallipoli campaign in 1915.

A detailed article re it's historic endeavour and it's loss will be contained in the next issue of HTT.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p><b>Military Order 414 of 1908.]</b></p> <p><b>M.O.414</b><br/>continued.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Department of External Affairs,<br/>Melbourne, 8th December, 1908.</p> <p><b>H</b>IS Excellency the Governor-General directs the publication, for general information, of the subjoined despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and enclosure, respecting an alteration in the design of the Commonwealth Flag.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E. L. BATCHELOR,<br/>Minister of State for External Affairs.</p> <p>[Copy.]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Downing-street,<br/>27th October, 1908.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—MISCELLANEOUS.</p> <p>My Lord,</p> <p>I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lord Northcote's despatch No. 194 of the 22nd July proposing an alteration in the design of the Commonwealth Flag, by the substitution of a star with seven points for the six-pointed star which now appears beneath the Union Jack.</p> <p>This despatch was laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and I have now to transmit to Your Lordship, for communication to your Government, a Warrant issued by Their Lordships authorizing the flag, amended as desired, to be flown by vessels registered in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>The design of the corresponding star on the Commonwealth Blue Ensign, and of the star in the Badge of the Governor-General, will be similarly amended; and copies of each of the three amended designs, as they will eventually appear in the Admiralty Flag Book, will be forwarded to you in due course.</p> <p>In consequence of the issue of the enclosed Warrant, the Warrant dated the 4th June, 1903, and enclosed in Mr. Chamberlain's despatch "Miscellaneous" of the 24th of that month, becomes obsolete; and I should be glad if you would be good enough to forward it to me in order that it may be returned to the Admiralty for cancellation.</p> <p>I have the honour to be,<br/>My Lord,<br/>Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,<br/>(Sgd.) CREWE.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[Military Order 414 of 1908.]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Enclosure.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>M.O.414</b><br/>continued.</p> <p>Whereas by the seventy-third section of the <i>Merchant Shipping Act 1894</i>, it is provided that the Red Ensign usually worn by Merchant Ships, without any defacement or modification whatsoever, shall be the proper national colours for all ships and boats belonging to any British subject, except in the case of His Majesty's ships or boats, or in the case of any other ship or boat for the time being allowed to wear any other national colours in pursuance of a Warrant from His Majesty or from the Admiralty,</p> <p>And whereas by Warrant under our hands dated the fourth day of June, 1903, vessels registered in the Commonwealth of Australia were authorized to fly the Red Ensign of His Majesty's Fleet defaced as follows, viz. :—</p> <p>In the centre of the lower canton next the staff and pointing direct to the centre of the St. George's Cross in the Union Jack in the upper canton next the staff a White Six-pointed Star indicating the six federated States of Australia, and in the fly five smaller White Stars representing the Southern Cross.</p> <p>And whereas it has been represented to us that it is desirable that for the White Six-pointed Star aforementioned should be substituted a White Seven-pointed Star representing the six federated States of Australia and the territories of the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Now therefore we do by virtue of the power and authority vested in us hereby warrant and authorize vessels registered in the Commonwealth of Australia to fly the Red Ensign of His Majesty's Fleet defaced as heretofore, except that a White Seven-pointed Star shall be substituted for the White Six-pointed Star in the centre of the lower canton next the staff.</p> <p>Given under our hands and the Seal of the Office of Admiralty this third day of October, 1908.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Sgd.) W. H. MAY.<br/>(Sgd.) A. L. WINSLOW.</p> <p>By Command of Their Lordships,<br/>C. I. THOMAS.</p> <p>Governor-General,<br/>His Excellency,<br/>The Right Honorable,<br/>The Earl of Dudley, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,<br/>&amp;c., &amp;c., &amp;c.</p> |
|--|---|

Military Order re the change in design of the Australian Naval Flag. 8th Dec, 1908



Submarine AE2 in Simpson Harbour



M777 firing.

To make the most of the time left to you, you must start by estimating your total future capacity. One bottle of wine a day is 365 bottles a year. If your life expectancy is another 30 years – there are only another 10,000 odd bottles ahead of you.

Len Evans—wine expert.

Photo Left. A group visiting your museum having morning tea. Committeeman Paul Brown on Left in photo.







*New South African Toilet lock indicator.  
This one deserves an Oscar.*

### **VIOLENT RESISTANCE: The Indian National Army in the Great Pacific War.**

By Mike Bennighof Ph.D.

Two days after the surrender of Singapore in Feb, 1942, the Japanese separated their Indian prisoners of war from their British officers. The troops, including their Indian officers, went to a large open race course

where a British Colonel told that they were being handed over to the Japanese authorities. A Sikh Captain, Moham Singh, then announced that a new Indian National Army would be formed, receiving a thunderous reception. Many Indian soldiers present that day would later claim they took the British Officer's statement to mean they were released from their oaths.

The British Indian Army had suffered serious racial strains during the preceding Malaya campaign. British civilians resident in Malaya, often with little or no military experience had been granted emergency commissions. A number of these new officers had been assigned in Indian Battalions, and given Company commands over the heads of long-serving professional Indian commissioned officers (including the small number of Indian King's Commissioned Officers, whose stature supposedly equaled that of any white officer). Indians had been barred from British canteens, Indian officers from clubs and social occasions. Signs in public parks barred "dogs and sepoys". And when the poorly managed campaign led to defeat, with the army badly supplied, the Indian sepoys were ready to listen.



**The Rani of Jhawal  
Regiment, re-  
viewed in Singa-  
pore, 1943.**

The huge response seems to have caught the Japanese by surprise. Japan's production of modern

weapons was not nearly adequate for the Empire's own forces, much less for collaborators. The INA sepoys were re-issued their old uniforms and their old weapons: Enfield .303 rifles and a handful of machine guns and light mortars. INA units lacked any sort of heavy weapons, even 3-inch mortars now had to be held at the battalion level. Only an armband in the Indian tricolour differentiated them from their old dress (the Indian Army changed uniform colours before the INA entered battle, removing a potential source of confusion). The INA would be a light infantry force, entirely manned and officered by Indians. Hard-core professionals from the Indian Army handled training, but staff officers were always in short supply as these functions had been handled by British officers for the most part. Small-unit leadership also seems to have been poor at best, as the experienced officers were promoted to fill the spots of missing British leaders. Still, Singh hoped to recruit at least five divisions. For several months, the new INZA trained and organised itself.

By late 1942 the Japanese began to pressure the INA leadership to get some use out of the sepoys as guards on the "Death Railway", being built in Thailand and Burma, for rear-area security, even for labour. The Indian officers, for their part, wanted to get



**My major problem these days**

their men onto the front lines and fight and resisted Japanese attempts to use them to humiliate their white former comrades.

This clash of purposes almost led to the INA's destruction, in one of those minor incidents of grave import. During a meeting between INA and Japanese officers, one of the Japanese, speaking his own language to his colleagues, referred to the

Indians as "puppets" and complained about their constant "hair-splitting". Unknown to him, one of the Indians spoke Japanese fluently, and the Japanese contingent looked on in horror as he translated the insults word-for-word.

Between Indian fury over that costly gaffe and the arrest of one of the INA's leading officers on (well-founded) suspicion of aiding the British, the INA stood on the brink of dissolution at the end of 1942. Some within the Japanese leadership pressed for disarming the sepoys and using them as forced labour. But all this changed when a new leader came on the scene.

Subhas Chandra Bose had won the Congress Party's presidency in 1938, but lost it in a power struggle with Mohandas K. Gandhi the next year. When war broke out, he became outspoken that Indians should not assist the British: the Mahatma ordered Congress followers to apply themselves to the spinning wheel and ignore such issues. Bose called for civil disobedience, and this eventually led to a prison term. After several failed escape attempts, he announced that he was beginning a hunger strike, and the Raj transferred him to house arrest rather than risk creating a martyr. He then simply drove away and boarded a train for Kabul in Jan, 1941, and by March was in Berlin.



**Bose (right) failed to  
draw the Belligerent  
Mahatma card.**

There he helped recruit the Azad Hind Legion from Indian POW's, and his magnetic personality and great speaking skills

brought in 7,000 recruits. In Feb 1943 he boarded the German submarine U-180, which transferred him to the Japanese sub I-29 in stormy waters off Madagascar. By May he was in Singapore.

With Bose, now known as the Netaji (an affectionate term for "leader"), things began to move forward. The Netaji formed a provisional government, which later in the year declared war on Britain and the U.S. He galvanized the overseas Indian community, at least in the areas occupied by Japan, to provide money and goods for the INA, personal equipment, uniforms, boots and food. Weapons remained a sticking point.

Recruiting also now moved to the civilian sector, volunteers from the POW cages provided a good cadre, and over 18,000 non-military men joined the INA as well. These came almost exclusively from the overseas Indians resident in Malaya, Singapore, Burma and Thailand, with a handful slipping out of India to join. Four hundred women formed the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, and trained hard under the eye of veteran Indian Army drill instructors.



The INA's Natanji in uniform

At its greatest strength the INA numbered about 40,000 troops. They formed three weak divisions, none of which had artillery and depended on nearby Japanese units for support. They did have their own logistical services, including a well-manned and supplied medical service.

Hatred of the Raj was such that, although many Indians despised the Japanese and resented Japanese treatment of Sepoy POW's in Burma, INA teams had surprising success encouraging desertions. Only when the war was clearly lost for Japan did the INA's Bahadur (Victorious) commando/propaganda teams no longer find friendly audiences when they slipped into Indian positions to deliver their messages. However throughout the INA's existence trouble continually followed its units, since Japanese soldiers would not salute INA officers, the INA sepoys in turn refused to respect Japanese officers.

The INA finally entered combat in the spring of 1944 in northern Burma. Eleven battalions joined the Japanese 15 Army's drive in Imphal, while one went into the Arakan on the northwest coast of Burma. They did poorly in combat, and many sepoys now deserted for a second time. The three divisions went to the front again after the rains ended in the spring, and collapsed after a handful of fierce fights and many half-hearted ones.

Bose himself died on 18 Aug 1945, when the "Sally" bomber carrying him crashed in Taiwan. Bose survived the impact dazed but apparently unhurt, though he was soaked in fuel. While climbing out of the wreckage his uniform caught fire and he died in the Taipei military hospital after several hours of intense pain.

Just where Bose was headed on his final flight remains a mystery, he does not seem to have had any official meeting scheduled with the soon-to-surrender Japanese. Some speculate he hoped to transfer the INA into Soviet service, to continue the struggle against the Raj.



Bose addresses INA troops, Singapore, 1943.

In Singapore INA officers led by the Anglo-

Indian renegade Cyril John Stracey built a marble memorial to Bose, an obelisk 25 ft high. As soon as British troops discovered it on their re-occupation of Singapore in early Sep, they blew it up.

*In summary Japan took little advantage of Indian manpower, and the willingness, even eagerness, of Indians to fight the*

*British seems to have taken them by surprise. Had Japan been able to provide the weaponry they would have found tens of thousands of Indians willing to use it.*

**However to put this article into perspective 10 Victoria Crosses were awarded to Indians in WW2 and 200,000 Indians are reported as dying fighting for the Allies or in POW camps.**

<http://www.avalancheexpress.com/INA.php>

*Airport approach to a 747.*

*"United 329, your traffic is a Fokker, one o'clock, 3 miles inbound"*

*United 329. "Approach! I have always wanted to say this.!"*

*I've got the little Fokker in sight."*



Above. Bomana War Cemetery Port Moresby on Anzac Day



Brisbane before the march. Richard Hart (Moss Vale NSW) Bob Collins, Colin Gould, Karl Aschhoff (Charleville Qld)



During the march. Mal Zimmerman calling the step. Towards the front, Joe Hall, Karl Aschhoff, Mike Zimmerman, Richard Hart, Mike Griffin.



**VALE.****122053 WO1 David Ernest HARRIS**

Dave was born in Townsville in 1941. He grew up hating school but loving fisticuffs. He went to Windsor State school and Kedron High.

He joined the CMF in Brisbane but his restless nature took him to PNG in 1962 where he worked at Burns Philp in Madang, and transferred with the CMF to the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. There he met and married one of his co-workers at Burns Philp, Gertrude, and, in coming years they had three children, one of whom, Greg, died in 2003.

Dave loved both Papua New Guinea and his service life. In Feb, 1966, he went Full Time Duty with PNGVR and in May, 1968, he joined the Australian Regular Army until his retirement in Sept, 1993.

Dave;s service life reads:- Principal Units

9 Battalion,

1 Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment'

Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles

3 Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment

Royal Military College

1 Training Group Land Warfare Centre.

10 Battalion, the Royal South Australian Regiment.

Headquarters, 1 Military District.

His awards are. AASM with Clasp Vietnam. Vietnam Medal, ASM with clasp PNG, Defence Force Service medal with First and Second Clasps, National Medal, Australian Defence Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal, Returned from Active Service Badge, Infantry Combat Badge.

Dave was an extremely popular WO and, at his funeral, members of 3 RAR, Duntroon Military College, and PNGVR spoke fondly of him and his antics. Dave was CSM of C Coy, 3RAR, in Vietnam and a number of his soldiers attended his funeral. A big man, Dave at different times was known by the nickname of Moose or Boomer.

Dave died on 10th March leaving behind wife, Gertrude, Son Eddie, Daughter Yvonne and 5 Grandchildren.



**LEST WE  
FORGET**



Photos  
of Dave  
in  
Vietnam

Many  
RSM's  
and  
CSM's  
made  
regular  
use of  
Army  
folding  
chairs.





Roy Edward,  
Ben  
Scheelings,  
Phil  
Ainsworth,  
Barry Beaman



Les  
McAndrew,  
Douglas Ng,  
Roy Edward,  
Mike  
Zimmerman



Assn Presi-  
dent, Phil  
Ainsworth  
leads the pa-  
rade.



At the recep-  
tion. Simon  
Hui, Martin  
O'Sullivan  
and Douglas  
Ng.

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### **New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc,**

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

All correspondence to:-

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

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**Bob Collins—Editor**



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### **FUNCTION DATES FUTURE COMMITTEE MTGS**

Sat 24th May

Sat 19th July

Sat 30th August

Meetings commence 10am at your museum.

### **Montevideo Maru Memorial Service**

10am Tuesday 1st July 2014

Hall of Memories

Brisbane Cenotaph followed by morning tea  
at nearby Rendezvous Hotel

### **DIARY NOW**

**Sat 6th September.**

**Bitapaka Day at Museum.**

A gala day will be held at the Museum to  
commemorate the first action by Australians  
when they took the German Wireless Station  
at Bitapaka in New Britain.

A plaque will be unveiled and there will be  
refreshments and displays available for both  
adults and children.





# ANZAC CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

MILITARY MUSEUM, WACOL, BRISBANE

**6 SEPTEMBER, 2014**

The NGVR/PNGVR Association and its Military Museum is holding an Anzac Centenary Commemoration and dedication service at the PNGVR Military Museum at 1001 Boundary Road, Wacol on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.

The ceremony is being held to commemorate the lives of the first Australian soldiers to die for their country in World War 1. Six Australians from the AN&MEF were killed on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1914 when capturing the German wireless station at Bita Paka near Rabaul and thirty five naval personnel were lost in the Australian submarine AE 1 when it disappeared without trace near the Duke of York Islands, New Britain on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1914.

The day will start with the dedication of a plaque in honour of those first Australians who lost their lives in September, 1914. In addition to the dedication ceremony, the Museum will be open and there will be children's activities including a jumping castle and face painting. A brass band will be playing war time music and will be accompanied by singers. The Bougainvillians will perform traditional dancing. The air force cadets will be conducting a catafalque party, the bomb squad will be demonstrating their robot, a rifle section will be conducting a fusillade, and the fire brigade will also keep young and old alike entertained. A raffle will be conducted; first prize is courtesy of Air Niugini being a return air ticket for two from Brisbane, Sydney or Cairns to Rabaul, including three nights accommodation in Rabaul, courtesy of Rabaul Hotel to be drawn in August, 2014. Plenty of food and drinks will be available.

The profits of the function will be used to maintain the Museum particularly for the regular visiting schools and other community groups. All are welcome to attend so please put the date in your diary.

Entry will be by gold coin donation.

DATE: SATURDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2014

TIME: 10 am TO 3.30 pm

PLACE: Corner of Fulcrum and Boundary Rd (1001 Boundary Road, Wacol) UBD Map 27 N1

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact John Holland 0449 504 058 –email [rabaul42@gmail.com](mailto:rabaul42@gmail.com)



## **PNGAA SYMPOSIUM 17 - 18 Sept. 2014**

NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney  
Hosted by PNGAA with assistance Charlie Lynn MLC

### ***From Pacific WW1 battlefield to Pacific Powers: A Century of Australia Papua New Guinea Relations***

To Remember – To Acknowledge – To Educate and inform our futures.

In association with Anzac Centenary commemoration .

*To review the relationships between Australia and PNG over the century from Australia's first military engagement in WWI at Bitapaka, the administration of New Guinea as a Mandated Territory, the Pacific War, the continuing influence through to Independence; to discuss Australia's ongoing connections – commercial, social and cultural - before looking to the challenges of now and the future.*

This major event will be held at the NSW Parliament House in Sydney, with assistance from PNGAA member, the Hon Charlie Lynn MLC.

**Dinner:** Wednesday 17 September 2014 7pm Strangers Dining Room NSW Parliament House

**PNGAA Symposium:** Thursday 18 September 9am-5pm (Registration from 8am)

Theatrette NSW Parliament House

**Master of Ceremonies:** Dr Jonathon Ritchie

**Keynote speaker (Symposium):**

Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC, AO(Mil), CVO, MC (Retd)

The Symposium will be held in conjunction with the beginning of the Anzac Centenary, which marks 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War and the anniversary of the centenary of the Australian conflict at Bitapaka, East New Britain Province PNG on 11 September 1914.

Australian troops, the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) were landed to capture the wireless station at Bitapaka. Six Australians died. A further 35 Australians died when the submarine, AEI, disappeared off the coast of Rabaul on 14 September 1914. Six weeks later a convoy of ships that carried the Australian Imperial Force and New Zealand Expeditionary Force to the First World War in Europe departed from Albany in Western Australia.

Our PNGAA members have shared much of that history and retain a wealth of knowledge. The 2014 Symposium will have significant relevance to all our members and to interested others - we look forward to your interest.

Please watch our PNGAA website, email [info@conference-organisers.com.au](mailto:info@conference-organisers.com.au) or phone Margaret Reid Ph: 02-9882 2688 for further details.

Papua New Guinea Association of Australia

[www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)

E: [info@conference-organisers.com.au](mailto:info@conference-organisers.com.au)





# PNGAA SYMPOSIUM 2014

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

**17 - 18 SEPTEMBER 2014**

NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

The PNGAA invites you to attend this major dinner and symposium which will review relationships between Australia and Papua New Guinea over the past century - from Australia's first military engagement during WWI at Bitapaka through to PNG independence, as well as contemporary and future relationships.

**PNGAA Dinner - Wednesday 17 September 2014**

*Strangers Dining Room, NSW Parliament House*

**PNGAA Symposium - Thursday 18 September 2014**

*Theatrette, NSW Parliament House*

Elite speakers in their fields, including several PNGAA members, will address dinner guests and symposium delegates.

[www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)





# PNGAA

## SYMPOSIUM 2014

PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
AUSTRALIA INC  
**17 - 18 SEPT 2014**  
NSW PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE, SYDNEY

Enquiries:

Margaret Reid Pty Ltd

Conference Organisers

61 (2) 9882 2688

info@conference-organisers.com.au

## PNGAA SYMPOSIUM 2014 | Registration Form

**Please Note:** Payment must accompany this registration form.

If paying by cheque please make payable to PNGAA and mail with form to: *Margaret Reid Pty Ltd 2/303 Penshurst Street, Willoughby 2068*

ALTERNATIVELY: Scan and email completed form to *info@conference-organisers.com.au*

### Delegate Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Symposium? (Please tick appropriate box)

☐ PNGAA ☐ UNA VOICE Journal ☐ Industry ☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Symposium Registration Fees Rates quoted include GST

|                      | BEFORE 15 JULY | AFTER 15 JULY | AMOUNT |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|--------|
| <b>PNGAA Members</b> | \$175          | \$200         | \$     |
| <b>Non Members</b>   | \$225          | \$300         | \$     |

Sub Total A \$

### B. Symposium Dinner Wednesday 17 September 2014 | \$150pp

7.00pm Strangers Dining Room, Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney ☐ No. of tickets

Sub Total B \$

### C. Accommodation

1. **Hilton Sydney** ☐ \$269 ☐ SINGLE ☐ TWIN ☐ DOUBLE \$

2. **Metro Hotel on Pitt** ☐ \$175 ☐ SINGLE ☐ TWIN ☐ DOUBLE \$

DATE IN: / / DATE OUT: / / ☐ No. of nights Sub Total C \$

**GRAND TOTAL \$**

### Special Requirements Please note any requirements regarding health, physical disabilities, diet etc.

### Payment Details Payment must accompany registration form.

**A. CHEQUE** made payable to PNGAA & mail to Margaret Reid Pty Ltd, 2/303 Penshurst Street, Willoughby 2068 NSW

**B. ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER** | Bank: **COMMONWEALTH** | Account Name: **PNGAA** | BSB: **062 009** | Account Number: **00907724**

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Name as on card:

Authorising Signature:

**Cancellations** Cancellations must be made in writing and sent to the symposium organiser. Refunds for the registration fee less \$75 will be returned if cancellations are made before 15 July 2014. No refunds will be forwarded after that date, however a substitute delegate will be acceptable.