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

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Our Association has again had a very productive year. We have a strong group which continues to be very active and contributes to its members and community generally.

Our organisation depends very much on a few hard working committee members but this is no different to many others groups. It is that time of the year when we reflect on the past and plan for the next period. **I wish everyone a very enjoyable Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year with your family and friends.**

About 45 attended our Jimboomba mixed dining night on 11 October. We thank our hosts Heather and Ted supported by Barry and Pamela Wright again for their generosity for making their home available and assisting for this twice yearly delightful function. Our Patron Major General John Pearn and his wife Vena attended and added to the night. I was the only speaker and spoke about our Association's future for next year and beyond.

The following Saturday, 18 October our AGM was held at Wacol in the former Cadets building followed by a Barbecue luncheon. It was another successful event. The old committee was thanked and replaced by more of the same. The only exception was our long standing committee man Jesse Chee who decided not to stand in 2014/15, and I thank him for his long contribution to the Association. Jesse has made himself available if needed. In his place Kieran Nelson, our face book master was elected. Our Patron and President of NSAAQ were present. Also present was Peter Dunn, the onsite Manager for Metroplex, the landlord for NSAAQ and developer of the contiguous industrial land who was invited to brief us about the current situation of the site and how the future development will effect NSAAQ and NGVR/PNGVR.

Peter Dunn explained that Metroplex was now in partnership with another major company and intended developing the site in stages, the first being south of Boundary Road which Road is currently being built into a four lane road through to the creek and which is expected to be completed by the of December 2014. Peter said Metroplex is discussing with the Brisbane City Council the possibility of the Military Heritage Precinct becoming a Park. The NSAAQ and our Association have a clear interest in this proposal and both will be ensuring that discussions are undertaken while both are present. Handing the site over to BCC has distinct advantages for the developer but not necessarily for either NSAAQ or NGVR/PNGVR. Some of the issues are title, public access and security. You will be kept informed of progress.

The Minutes of the AGM will better cover

proceedings than I can. One pleasant agenda item was to ask our Patron to make his annual presentation of the Patron's award. This year the former Vice President of the Association, John Mudge and founding member and committee member Norm Mundy were received into this prominent list of awardees. John who was unable to attend the AGM greatly assisted the Association in the earlier days when he was one of the few members living in PNG. Without John's knowledge and experience with the PNG Government at that time it is unlikely the Association members would have received their service medals due to them. Norm with Harry and Joe were the founders of the Association but without Norm's initial input the rest probably would not have occurred.

The refurbishment and general maintenance of the Museum Building is an ongoing project. The end wall at the road end has had the windows removed, the wall re-



Patron presenting the Patron's Award to Norm Mundy 18 Oct 14

sheeted in weather board and painted. The veranda floor have been resealed and the wall has been repainted. Exhibits are regularly changed and or being brought up to date. Much of this work was completed prior to our 6 September Anzac Commemoration/Dedication Service.

The construction of an extension to the Museum is a priority project to enable the presentation of our exhibits in a safe and comfortable environment to our members and community visitors. It is intended to extend the existing premises about 10 m to the entry end of the building. It would be in similar materials and the access and services from the existing building, including the ramp will be utilised to save money. A submission was made in August to Round 82 of the State Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund for \$35,000 but the result will not be known until late December or January 2015. Accordingly, in order to save time between rounds and under advice of the CEO of that office, our submission will be resubmitted for Round 83 by 30 November 2014 in case we are unsuccessful. If we are successful in Round 82, the second application will be withdrawn. About \$8,000 was raised for this purpose through the AirNiugini Raffle and other funds are available to assist to complete the project should our major application for funding be successful. Plans have been drawn up, NSAAQ approval received to construct on site and quotes

received. When a start is made we would expect completion of the project within 6 months.

Our Association has been presenting awards for excellence to the top performing section in 9 RQR for many years. 2014 awards were made 31 August and the engraved medallions were forwarded to 9 RQR recently to ensure the return of these much competed for awards are in the hands of the recipients before the end of the year. 9 RQR is being presented with new Colours at 08.30 hours on Saturday 6 December 2014 in the Roma Street Parklands Celebrations Precinct followed by a luncheon at Enoggera Barracks and an invitation has been extended to members and friends to attend this colourful ceremony in Brisbane. Please view www.9bnassoc.org for full details. If you are attending, the dress is PNGVR Anzac Day Dress with full medals.

An early reminder that the march ANZAC Day 2015 will commence at 09.30 hours, an half an hour earlier than usual to allow for an expected larger than usual number for the 100 ANZAC Anniversary. The Army will be leading the parade in 2015 so diary this change now and be early. Other details will be advertised as they become available.

The next and last committee meeting for the year will be held at Wacol 10am Saturday 22 November. All are welcome. Please bring your luncheon and a few drinks to finish the year.

Phil Ainsworth, Nov 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Abel Sheath NGVR	2
Army Formations	5
Kokoda Day (Gold Coast)	6
Book Review	8
Tank Battle	8
Last of the Enola Gay	9
Commando Dagger Returns	10
Last Zero Pilot	10
Soldiers & Solar Packs	11
Jap Treatment of POWs	11
Patron's 6/9/14 Speech	13
Vale: Col Parry, NGVR	14
Vale: Richard Hart PNGVR	15
New ASSN. Committee	16

**BGVR/ BRISBANE WORKSHOP DAYS****Sgt Abel Richmond SHEATH****NG 2380**

I was born in Bexley, a suburb of Sydney, on 6th July, 1916. My father was an accountant with Mauri Bros and Thomson, Wholesale Merchants, of York Street, Sydney. I went to Primary school at Carlton and High School at Hurstville. The eldest in our family was a sister Dulcie, then came Ernest, Brentnall, myself and Winifred was the youngest.

Each year we went to the Blue Mountains for a holiday at my Uncle's cottage. The whole family went up and down from Bexley to the Mountains in a train drawn by a steam engine.

When I left school the first job I obtained was with Bennett and Woods as a delivery boy. I had used to ride my bike to work in the city and carry out deliveries with the bicycle they provided. The reason I rode to work was to save 2/6 (25c), the cost of the train fare. There were not many cars on the road in those days – mainly bicycles. The worst delivery of the lot was up to Kings Cross where the hill up William Street is so steep that you had to push the bike up the hill, not ride it. I then obtained a position with a Company called Electric Control and Engineering at Camperdown. I was not apprenticed, as very few apprentices were available in those days, but I started doing fitting and turning – mainly lathe work. I learned to use all the lathes and milling machines myself. I used to prefer lathe work myself as it was better paid than the other jobs I used to carry out. At this stage I still rode by bike to work as Camperdown wasn't very far. When you knocked off work at 5pm the roads were full of people cycling home.

One of the things I did in my spare time was to join the Militia when I turned 18. I joined the 33rd Fortress Company and we trained out at Malabar Rifle Range at Long Bay. We had huts there and used to spend a lot of time on the Rifle Range firing our .303s. We had searchlights which operated from their own motors and these searchlights were based at South Head, on the southern entrance into Sydney Harbour. After we had fired up these searchlights they would shine all the way into Sydney Harbour and for about 3 miles out to sea – they were very powerful.

I go to New Guinea

I had a friend at the time, Harley Blackman, incidentally, later on a Rifleman in NGVR, who was married and had gone to Bulolo in New Guinea working as a dredgemaster. The life and the money sounded pretty good to me, so I asked him to find out if I could get a job in the machine shop at Bulolo.

I left Sydney on the 'Machdui', a Burns Philp ship in 1940. I recall my brother-in-law took the whole family down to the wharf to see me off and drove right onto the wharf up almost to the gangplank. The 'Machdui' called at Brisbane, where I had a short walk around the City, then went to Townsville, Port Moresby and then to Salamaua where I left the ship by lighter and flew up to Wau in a tri-motor Ford aircraft. I distinctly recall looking out at the motor on my side and it was moving about three inches in its sockets. That was probably deliberate and gave the motor plenty of room to move while vibrating, but, for a young lad on his first flight it was not a comforting sight. There was no glass in the aircraft windows, only perspex, and you could open the window and put your hand out – a huge difference from aircraft of today.

I started out working on the baby machine in the machine shop, a lathe, no doubt until the Supervisor found out how good I was. I quickly learned that, up there, there were plenty of requests for 'foreign orders' of various types, mainly brass, for the other workers in Bulolo. However it was not long before I commenced operating the other bigger machines, lathes and drilling machines which cut gears etc for the dredges. The Bulolo Gold Dredging machine shop was the best set up workshop I had ever seen – a lot better than any I had seen in Sydney. The Foreman was very competent but was not interested in imparting any knowledge to anyone else – it was a matter of having to do your own thing. We were very busy at the time as BGD had 8 dredges operating and it was our job to keep up the spare parts to them so they were able to operate around the clock. Each Friday a group from the workshop went out to one of the dredges and went over it completely. We had to examine the huge pins that held the buckets in place etc.

One of the things that amazed me about the Bulolo Valley at the time was the huge rock piles that the dredges, which had been operating for some years, had left behind them. At the time there was no attempt made to revegetate the valley.

I stayed in the single men's mess which was high set off the ground to keep the quarters above the water when it rained heavily. We worked 6 days a week and were paid additional for Saturday work. You could have worked 7 days if you wanted to, but I never did, and on my day off I used to go for walks around the district and up into the mountains. The villages were very primitive in those days but we were always made welcome. As I recall I was paid about 10 pounds (\$20) per week and I used to send most of my pay down to my mother. When I came down on my first leave with the Army she had it all banked and waiting for me.

Among the photos I have now are some of the workshops showing the quality of the machinery there, a lathe in the foreground, a huge drill in the middle distance, and a power hammer in the background. Another photo is of a Junkers airplane with the top cut out so that heavy machinery and vehicles could be loaded in with a crane. One in particular shows a crane bringing out an ambulance, which had been flown into Bulolo.

I join the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR)

In January, 1942, I was working one Sunday in the workshop – I think it may have been some sort of 'foreign order' for myself making brass egg-cups – when I heard some planes fly over and the air-raid sirens sounded. As it happened there were two Junkers transport planes sitting on Bulolo airstrip, one with a load of beer, and the two planes flying over were Zeros. They destroyed both planes on the strip and also destroyed the hydro-electric power station. One minute we had all the work in the world and the next moment – nothing.

All able bodied men were called up to full time duty on 22nd January, 1942, and I was among those called up. As I recall some of the more important people in BGD obviously had seen what was coming and had gone on leave and not returned. I do not remember now but it may have been possible for me to just walk out – over the Bulldog Track and down the Lakekamu River, but I just accepted the fact that we were now at War and allowed myself to be called up.

We were given very little formal training that I can recall. I was lucky in that I had seen my previous service in the Militia in Sydney but do not consider that I was well trained in any way. I was issued with a 1917 .303 rifle.

I was attached to B Company. My Platoon Commander was Lt Col O'Loughlen, the PI Sgt was Lea Ashton, my Section Corporal



Tom Lega. Others in B Coy were the C.S.M. (Company Sgt Major), Lyn Noakes, and the Corporals in charge of the other 2 Sections were 'Tiger' Lyons and Arch Graham.

We were sent down to Mubo, on the Bitoi River. This was a four day march. On the first day we left Wau and had just a short march to Anderson's Sawmill, close to Wau.

The second day we left Anderson's Sawmill and proceeded to Ballams Camp, situated above Old Kaisenik Village. On the third day we travelled from Ballams to Skin Dewai Camp, crossing the mountains at about 6,000 feet. As you could imagine Skin Dewai was cold and miserable. Day four brought us to Mubo. There we settled in, dug our slit trenches while the Officers and NCOs worked out where the guard posts were going to be, and generally established the Base Camp at Mubo for the NGVR.

I did not participate very much in the activities going on for, as soon as we reached Mubo, I came down with my first attack of Malaria. I had never experienced malaria before, but I well remember the mosquitoes coming up from the Bitoi River. I was given doses of quinine, which got me on my feet again, but as soon as I went off the quinine, I came down with malaria again and started running a temperature. As I recall the medical people at the time did not like us taking too much quinine so it was rationed unless you actually had a malaria attack. I eventually became more or less used to having malaria, I recall I constantly ran fevers and had headaches, but I did not always go to the medical people with my fevers.

We did a lot of patrolling out of Mubo, and our role was that of reconnaissance, not to seek a fight with the Japanese. I do not remember a lot about the patrols, except that in one of the early ones, before the Japanese landed at Salamaua, I accompanied a very small patrol to a beach near Salamaua, probably Busama, and a large civilian boat was at anchor. They sent a motor boat ashore but were aghast when we offered them a meal of bully beef (that was all we had). Apparently it was a boat full of refugees heading south, and had a few Americans, probably Missionaries, on board, and it left the next morning. The other thing I remember about our patrols was the fact that we were forever climbing up and down mountains and crossing small rivers and streams.

On some of these patrols we were accompanied by armed police boys and I consider that they were very good soldiers. They could shoot as straight as us and were better in the bush. They used to show us a lot of respect and, every time you gave one an order, he would stand to attention and do everything but salute.

I was very friendly with J.S.H. (Blue) Doran, NGVR. 'Blue' had the reddest hair you have ever seen in your life. The natives used to almost worship him (a lot of the natives died their hair red), They used to come up and shyly touch his hair and sigh deeply. Unfortunately 'Blue' was drowned on Bougainville later in the War while serving with ANGAU (Australia New Guinea Administration Unit).

I often wish I had kept a diary, although it was against standing orders. I can remember one of our chaps kept a series of notebooks and wrote everything down – the Officer's orders, what different people said etc. As I tell this I feel that his notes would really be worth having now.

Before June, 1942, members of the 2/5th Independent Company started joining us at Mubo and we used to take them out on patrol with us to get them accustomed to the country around Mubo.

The Japanese attack Mubo

After a group of NGVR and 2/5th Independent Company attacked Salamaua on the night of 29/30th June, 1942, killing 116 Japanese

at the cost of 3 walking wounded, the Japanese became much more aggressive about patrolling into the interior.

Shortly after this, during July, we were just lining up for our evening meal parade when one of the chaps said to me "Who is that crossing the air strip?" Just then three shots rang out – which was our alarm signal- and he yelled out "Christ! It's the Japs", and it was. Everybody moved very quickly then and manned their prepared battle positions.

Unfortunately for the Japs the air strip had been marked with distance markers every 100 yards and we had 2 Vickers Machine Guns sited to cover the air strip and they attacked right into the face of machine gun fire. I was doing my bit with my Tommy Gun which fired a .45 bullet, but do not consider that I helped a real lot – the Vickers Guns did the most damage. I can say that my shoulder was very sore from firing the Tommy Gun after the battle. Tom Lega, NGVR, who was also in that fight, recalls that the NGVR scouts kept tabs on the Japanese as they were returning to Salamaua and they reported that every able bodied Japanese was carrying a dead or wounded comrade.

I am in the photo which is often shown when NGVR is mentioned. It is the one with the Japanese flag captured at Mubo in the battle above, and I am on the right centre, leaning over – easy to pick as I am the only one bending over.



The photo mentioned above by Abe. He is on the right centre, leaning over.

Back to Wau and off on another Patrol

About the end of July, 1942, not long after the Japanese attack on Mubo, our Platoon was sent back to Wau.

I assume that, because of the attack on Mubo, there was concern that the Japanese were determined to attack Wau. There were three tracks leading from Salamaua to Wau:-

1. The normal route we used to take was as I described earlier – Mubo, Skin Dewai, Ballams, Andersons Sawmill, Wau.
2. Another track from Mubo to Wau via the Black Cat. This was a disused gold mine, and from Mubo led to Kaisenik Village and then Wandumi Ridge into Wau. [This appears erroneous]
3. The third track, which was not thought of by our authorities at the time was an old German surveyed track which was the one eventually used by the Japanese when they did put in their attack on Wau.



Our Platoon was ordered to patrol the second track, and I assume our orders were to find out if any Japanese were using this track. We set out with a small carrier line which could carry food for one Platoon only and patrolled via Wandumi Ridge to Kaisenik, down to Mubo and back to Wau.

The best thing about this was that you could have your pick of any of the houses in Wau. The civilian population had been evacuated from Wau early in 1942 and there were still houses with baby clothes in the cupboards etc.

From Wau to Port Moresby

I was in Wau for only a couple of months and was then ordered to Port Moresby. The only way out was along the track to Bulldog, then to the head of the Lakekamu River, down it to Yule Island, and then by coastal vessel to Port Moresby – a trip which could take a week or more.

The first stop was a village called Kudgeru, and from there it was a climb over a 7,000 ft mountain and then down the other side to a camp at Dead Chinaman. This section was in Kukukuku country (a fierce cannibalistic tribe not accustomed to white people yet). From Dead Chinaman the track called at another staging camp and then to the head of the Lakekamu River where we were put into canoes and taken to the mouth. There we were put ashore on the bank of the river and had to walk down to the beach where more canoes took us over to Yule Island.

Just as we started out from Kudgeru I had a pack which I had used before joining the NGVR to go walking into the mountains and villages on my day off. I had it stuffed with everything I would need for a week, but, as we were having a blow under a couple of trees on the track several Jap Zeros came over and we took off. I had a healthy respect for the Zeros as I had been told that they had proved on a number of occasions that they were very accurate with their firing. We did not come back for our gear, so I actually set off for Port Moresby with nothing but my rifle. Luckily for me the staging camps had tarpaulins set up so I could at least sleep dry.

When we reached Port Moresby I was sent to a camp at the 6 mile. It was a huge staging camp which had been set up for the arrival of the 6th Division and the number of tents and toilets set up was very impressive. I had never seen such a number of toilets set up before and wondered just what they were – thoughts of graves etc went through my mind until I realised just what they were.

I Return to Australia

I was not too long in Port Moresby. I was still suffering from malaria but did not want to end up in hospital in Port Moresby so I said nothing and just suffered the attacks.

I eventually left Port Moresby by ship, around December, 1942, and recall seeing the 'Machdui' which had brought me to New Guinea in the first place run aground. Apparently it had been bombed in one of the Japanese air raids on Moresby and, to save it sinking, the Captain had run it aground in Port Moresby harbour. I remember saying to someone "That's the bloody ship I came up to New Guinea on".

We called at Cairns and I travelled by troop train to Sydney where I was given leave. After my leave I had to report to the 1st Australian Reinforcement Depot which was situated at Kleinton Camp, just north of Toowoomba. We had to undergo a bit of fairly basic training here and it was here that I once again fell sick with malaria during the winter of 1943 and was hospitalised.

While I was in hospital in Toowoomba, unknown to me for a while, my eldest brother, Ernest, was in the same hospital. His wife was brought in to see me by mistake, and that is how I found out he was there.

I am reposted to 3 Aust Watercraft Workshops

My posting to 3 Aust Watercraft Workshops came through and I went to Brisbane. The workshops were situated at Kangaroo Point where Evans Deakin had their big ship repair and engineering workshops. The military had taken them over for the duration of the War and, obviously because of my skills in the workshops, I was posted there.

Even though I was in uniform I stayed in a boarding house at Kangaroo Point with a lot of chaps from the country who were working on the ships which called at the Dockyards.



I remained there until the end of the war and took my discharge in Brisbane. A matter of interest is that for the whole of my Army life I wore the colour patch of the NGVR on my hat and uniform, and a slip on over my epaulet with NGVR on it.

I meet my future wife

I actually met my wife, Jean Somerville, on a blind date on 30th June, 1943. I had a mate who had a date with a friend of Jean's and he had arranged to meet her and Jean at the Upadium, commonly known as the Up, a

dance hall in Brisbane, and he wanted me to come in with him as his girl was bringing a friend.

We were engaged in October, 1943, and married on 22nd January, 1944.

In one of the Official Australian War History Volumes there is a photo of Jean's brother, Roy Somerville, being treated in New Guinea after being wounded in action. Roy was with the 2/31st Battalion, went to the Middle East and then to New Guinea. He was wounded at Oibi, near Gorari, New Guinea and was carried out by the 'fuzzy wuzzies'.

Our eldest child Barbara was born in 1945, Jennifer was born in 1948 and Brent was born in 1950.

After the War we lived in Carlton, a suburb of Sydney for 8 years and then moved to our present address at Blackheath, in the Blue Mountains of NSW. The block we built our house on was given to us as a wedding present by my mother. My brother-in-law and myself built the house on the land ourselves.

Discharge Certificate

I was discharged from the Army on 20th Feb, 1946.

My Discharge Certificate states that I served on continuous full time service in the Citizen Military Forces from 27th January, 1942, until 20th February, 1946, a total period of 1,485 days, In Australia for 1,233 days and outside Australia for 247 days. There is a discrepancy of 5 days in this certificate but I cannot recall being AWL (absent without leave) for 5 days so am unable to explain.

Every Discharge Certificate gives a description of the soldier on discharge and my height was 5 ft 73/4 ins so I never was very tall. One thing I must say about being small and wiry was that I could walk up and down the mountains better than most.

**This is Abe's story as told to Bob Collins in 2004.
Abel Sheath died at Blackheath on 26 July, 2014, at the
age of 98.
LEST WE FORGET**

It is generally accepted that NGVR was disbanded in 1943 when those still fit for service were transferred to other Units. Jim Huxley was the last of the mainland NGVR men to go on leave to Australia in April 1943 after serving non-stop for 14 months.

However two members of NGVR served longer:

- Shui Hong Wong NG2448 - his discharge Certificate reads: New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. served in the Citizen's Military Forces from 29 Jan 1942 to 12 Apr 1946 a total of 1,535 days.
- Abel Sheath whose discharge certificate reads continuous full time serviced in the Citizen Military Forces from 27th Jan 1942 to 20th Feb 1946 a total of 1,485 days. As Abe states in his story he wore his NGVR colour patches on his uniform and hat for the whole of his service.



A diver explores a Japanese fighter in the ocean off Rabaul.

ARMY FORMATIONS

The word formation comes from the Latin "formatio", a term used in the Roman Empire to describe the disposition of troops going into battle. Today formations in the Australian Army range from command formations through to divisions, brigades (or task forces), regiments, battalions, and companies (batteries or squadrons), all the way down to troops, platoons and sections.

Brigade

The term brigade is French, coming from the old Italian word "brigare" meaning to fight.

Regiment

The term regiment, from the Latin "regimentum" (to rule) is a confusing one, for it has many meanings. In the case of the

artillery, the engineers and armoured units it means a unit composed of sub-units (such as batteries or squadrons). However, in the case of the gunners, the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery itself is comprised of a number of regiments (regiments within a Regiment, as described in the paragraph below dealing with the Battery). Within the infantry a regiment is an organisation that is made up of a number of battalions. Before the 17th century, the main military unit was the company. However, as warfare changed companies were brought together under the rule (or regime) of a single commander; hence the term regiment.

Battalions

The term battalion dates back to the 16th century and is said to be derived from the French "battalion", which is thought to have been a common term used with the word battle. The battalion is, traditionally, a unit of infantry made up of several companies and forms part of a brigade and/or a regiment.

Battery

The word battery comes from the French "battre" (to beat), which is itself derived from the Latin "battuere". A battery was a "fixed" fortified structure in which artillery pieces were placed; artillery in the field, however, was grouped into troops and companies. In 1722 gunner companies were organised into a regiment and it became known as the Royal Regiment of Artillery (see paragraph above on the regiment). In the late 1850's, companies of guns became known as battalions, then with another name change, they became regiments. Over the same period, troops of artillery came to be referred to as batteries.

Company

The term company comes from the French "compagnie" for companion. Towards the end of the medieval feudal period mercenary bands of professional soldiers roamed the land looking for battles and wars to fight. The captains of these groups would accept contract and money was then invested to finance these bands, which became known as companies. The soldiers would then share in the resulting profits gained from plunder and ransoms.

Squadron

It is said that the term squadron is derived from the Italian "squadron", or "squadro", which itself is derived from the Latin "quadra", a square.

Troop

The origin of the term troop has been lost in time. However it is thought to have come originally from the French "troupe", based on the Latin "tropus", a flock. Today troops are subordinate formations within artillery batteries and both engineer and armoured unit squadrons. The term troops is also used to describe the "other ranks" (the junior NCOs and private soldiers).

Platoon

From the French "peloton", a group of men.

Section

Derived from the Latin "sectio" which in turn is taken from "secare", a cut; implying a part of a larger body.

WO1 C.J. Jobson, former RSM Ceremonial, ADHQ.

*Little boy gets home from school and excitedly says
"Dad! I've got a part in the school play as a man who's been
married for 25 years."
His Dad replies "Never mind Son. Maybe next time you'll get a
speaking part!!"*



The An225 and a Boeing 747.

The largest aircraft ever built. It is an AN225 Mriya, designed in Russia and built by Kiev Manufacturing Plant in 1988. (could this be why Russia wants Ukraine back).

The largest payload it has carried is 156.3 tons, a world record. It is 84m long and 18m high.

PUN--OGRAPHY --- I like it.

- I tried to catch some fog. I mist.
When chemists die, they barium.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
- How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- They told me I had type A blood, but it was a type-O.
- This dyslexic man walks into a bra .
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- A cross-eyed teacher lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.
- I wondered why the ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me!
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
- I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- All the toilet seats in London police stations have been stolen. Police say they have nothing to go on.
- I took the job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Velcro !!! - what a rip off!
- Cartoonist found dead in home. The details are sketchy.

On 8th August the Surfers Paradise RSL held their Kokoda Day Commemoration Service at the Rotary Kokoda Memorial Wall, Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach.

The Keynote speaker was Lt Col Maurie Pears MC., who had been a Coy Commander with PIR and commanded 1 PIR from 1968-70

I SPEAK FOR ALL THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN KOKODA, FOR THE ASSOCIATIONS WHICH NOW HONOUR THEM AND FOR THE FAMILIES WHO CHERISH THEIR MEMORIES OF THOSE LOVED



AND LOST. I WELCOME YOU ALL. IN PARTICULAR I ACKNOWLEDGE JIM SPILLMAN OUR LAST REMAINING KOKODA VETERAN WHO IS WITH US TODAY. JIM WE TRUST YOU WILL BE WITH US FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE KOKODA WALL AND TRACK, ROTARY, GEORGE FRIEND, DAVID YARDLEY, BILL BELLAIRS AND THE ASSOCIATIONS OF THE 39TH AND 2/14TH INFANTRY BATTALIONS WE THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS KOKODA WALL. IT IS A MEMORIAL OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES WORLD WIDE.

I AM HUMBLD TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU IN THE SPIRITUAL SHADE OF THIS MOST MOVING MEMORIAL. WE ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF GREATNESS, NOT ONLY THE MAGNIFICENCE OF THIS MEMORIAL DESIGN WHICH EMBRACES US BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN THIS ICONIC BATTLE. IT IS A MEMORIAL MORE ENDURING THAN BRASS. IT IS AN ECHO OF GALLANTRY THAT WILL RING FOREVER.



Lt Col Maurie Pears MC , centre with Sgt Gary Screen, PIR, (L) and Maj Donald Graham PIR, (R).

THE MAJOR UNITS FIGHTING WITH MAROUBRA AT KOKODA WERE THE 39TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF OUR CITIZEN FORCES, THE 2/14 AIF INFANTRY BATTALION AND THE PAPUAN INFANTRY BATTALION SUPPORTED BY ANGAU.

I ASK YOU TO LOOK CLOSELY AT THIS MEMORIAL, A MELANESIAN STORY BOOK, WHICH REPRESENTS

KOKODA AND THOSE WHO TOOK PART. THE STORY OF KOKODA HAS BEEN TOLD MANY TIMES IN MANY WAYS BUT NONE MORE ENDEARING THAN THIS. WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE MEMORIAL. PERHAPS YOU SEE UNBELIEVABLE VALOUR AT MENARI, AWALA, KOKODA, DENIKI, ISURAVA, IMITA, BUNA, GONA.

I SEE COURAGE, ENDURANCE, MATESHIP AND SACRIFICE SO POIGNANTLY ENGRAVED ON THE STONES OF ISURAVA. I SEE A PERILOUS MILITARY SITUATION, HEARTBREAKING TOPOGRAPHY, DEBILITATING CLIMATE, DECIMATING DISEASE. I SEE SOLDIERS LEAVING THEIR PITS UNDER FIRE TO SAVE A WOUNDED MATE, I SEE SOLDIERS HUNGRY AND WITHOUT SLEEP WATCHING THE IMPENETRABLE JUNGLE FOR THREAT, I SEE SOLDIERS RISKING THEIR OWN LIVES TO SAVE THEIR COMRADES.

WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE KOKODA BATTLE WAS NOT WON BY BRILLIANT TACTICS OR DEPLOYMENT OF MEN AND WEAPONS. THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS. THERE WERE NO BANDS OR VICTORY PARADES. IT WAS WON BY THE FRONT LINE SOLDIER FROM THE CMF, THE AIF AND THE PNG FORCES WHO CLASHED WITH THE ENEMY AND OUTFOUGHT THEM. IT WAS VETERAN JAPANESE ASSAULT TROOPS FROM THE ASIAN BATTLEFIELDS AGAINST THE "BOYS FROM KEW". IF EVER MATESHIP SAVED THE DAY FOR THE INFANTRY, IT WAS THEN.

IT IS DIFFICULT IN WORDS ALONE IN TO GIVE HOMAGE TO THOSE WHO SERVED. SUFFICE TO SAY THAT, KOKODA WILL LIVE IN THE MEMORY OF SOLDIERS SIDE BY SIDE WITH GALILPOLI, TOBRUK AND KAPYONG AS BATTLES OF SURVIVAL AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS.



Four Assn members present at Cascade Gardens. L-R. Kieran Nelson, Phil Ainsworth, Bruce Johnson, Bob Collins. Others present were Bill McGrath & Ross and Pat Johnson

THE 39TH FOUGHT ITS LAST KOKODA TRACK ACTION AT EORA CREEK AND WHEN FINALLY RELIEVED AT KAGI ON 5TH SEPTEMBER, IT HAD MARCHED AND FOUGHT CONTINUOUSLY FOR 6 WEEKS. BY THE TIME THEY WERE WITHDRAWN FOR RETURN TO AUSTRALIA THEY COULD ONLY MUSTER 32 MEN REMAINING FROM THE ORIGINAL FORCE. THEY SUFFERED CASUALTIES OF 118 KIA, 266 WIA

AND UNTOLD SICKNESS.

THE 2/14 INFANTRY BATTALION HAD COMMENCED THE KOKODA CAMPAIGN WITH 546 MEN. UPON ARRIVAL AT RESERVE IN UBERI THEY HAD ONLY 88 MEN AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS.

THE CONSOLIDATED 39TH, 2/14TH AND PIB CAMPAIGNS ARE CONSIDERED SOME OF THE FINEST EXAMPLES OF BATTLE ENDURANCE FOUGHT IN THE PACIFIC.

LEST WE FORGET.

After the Kokoda Memorial Service three plaques which have been mounted on the Rotary Kokoda Memorial Wall were dedicated.

Following is Maurie Pears' Dedication Address.

THIS IS A BIG DAY FOR THE PACIFIC ISLAND REGIMENT AND THOSE UNITS FROM WHICH IT GREW. AFTER MANY YEARS WE WILL NOW HAVE OUR OWN MEMORIAL. ON BEHALF OF THESE VETERANS OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA FORCES ENGAGED IN THE KOKODA CAMPAIGN I THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TODAY FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE PIR MEMORIAL PLAQUES. OUR FORMER COMMANDER IN CHIEF (MAJ GEN MICHAEL JEFFREY) WAS A COMMANDING OFFICER OF 2 PIR AND A COMPANY COMMANDER OF 1 PIR. HE WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND TODAY BUT SENDS A MESSAGE TO US.

"I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE REGRET THAT I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS SPECIAL DEDICATION SERVICE TODAY.

THE THREE MEMORIAL PLAQUES PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MAGNIFICENT SERVICE OF THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE PAPUAN, NEW GUINEA AND AUSTRALIAN FORCES DURING WORLD WAR 2. THEIR SUCCESSOR IN 1944 – THE PACIFIC ISLAND REGIMENT – CONTINUED TO SERVE IN PNG AS A UNIT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY UNTIL INDEPENDENCE.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE WAR THE PAPUAN, NEW GUINEAN AND AUSTRALIAN FORCES FOUGHT WITH EXTRAORDINARY DISTINCTION AND BRAVERY, INCLUDING THAT ESPECIALLY HARD FOUGHT CAMPAIGN ALONG THE KOKODA TRAIL. THE COURAGE OF THOSE WHO SERVED THERE HAS BEEN WIDELY DOCUMENTED AND RECOGNISED.

IT IS FITTING INDEED THAT THESE PLAQUES ARE PLACED ON THE EXISTING ROTARY KOKODA MEMORIAL WALL AT CASCADE GARDENS.

THE ROTARY KOKODA MEMORIAL WALL AND TRACK, WAS DEDICATED ORIGINALLY TO THE SACRIFICES OF THE 39TH AND 2/14 BATTALIONS AND PIB AT KOKODA. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE PNG FORCES AS OUR MAJOR MEMORIAL IN AUSTRALIA. WE HAVE ATTENDED REMEMBRANCE CEREMONIES SINCE FOUNDATION, AS BROTHERS IN ARMS.

NOW, THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE KOKODA TRUSTEES WE CAN JOIN THIS MEMORIAL WITH THE THREE PIR PLAQUES TO BE DEDICATED HERE TO DAY.

THE NGVR/ANGAU PLAQUE DONATED BY THE PNGVR REPRESENTED BY PHIL AINSWORTH.

THE PIB, NGIB PIR PLAQUE, DONATED BY THE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTED BY GREG IVEY.

THE PIR PLAQUE DONATED BY SOMERVILLE FUNERALS REPRESENTED BY JENNY CREWES,

AT LAST WE CAN JOIN FORMALLY WITH OUR BATTLE BROTHERS WHO GUARDED THE GATE TO MORESBY
THESE PLAQUES TELL A STORY OF DEFEAT INTO VICTORY.
THE ANGAU AND NGVR PLAQUE



SINCE 1939, AND BEFORE KOKODA, THE DEFENCES AROUND MORESBY WERE PROVIDED BY THE PIB AND THE ISLANDS BY THE NGVR AND ADMINISTRATION BY ANGAU. THE EUROPEAN KIAPS, TRADERS, PROFESSIONALS AND COAST WATCHERS WITH THE PIB, HELD THE GATEWAY TO PORT MORESBY AND ITS LOGISTIC TREASURES.

FROM 1940 TO 1941 THEY STOOD ALONE AGAINST THE INVADERS.

WHEN THE JAPANESE INVADERS RABAU ON 23 JANUARY 1942 THE 2/22nd Bn AMD THE NGVR GALLANTLY DEFENDED AGAINST OVERWHELMING FORCES. THEY SUFFERED 70% CASUALTIES IN THE DEFENCE TOGETHER WITH THE MASSACRE AT TOLL PLANTATION AND THE SINKING OF THE MONTEVIDEO MARU. LATER, ON THE MAINLAND, THE NGVR, THE PIB AND POLICE WERE LEFT TO DEFEND THE EAST COAST WITH ONLY 200 TROOPS UNTIL REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED. THE RESULTANT CASUALTIES DECIMATED NGVR AS AN INDEPENDENT FORCE AND IT WAS ULTIMATELY ABSORBED INTO ANGAU AND OTHER UNITS TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT.

THE PIB, NGIB, HQ PIR PLAQUE



THE PIB JOINED THE MAROUBRA FORCE AT THE SIGNATURE BATTLE OF KOKODA. THEY SHARED SUCCESS WITH THE 39TH AND THE 2/14TH INFANTRY BATTALIONS.

THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGNS THAT FOLLOWED KOKODA, THE PIB AND NGIB TROOPS, SUPPORTED BY ANGAU AND NGVR, FOUGHT WITH THE AUSTRALIAN FORCES IN ALL THE PNG CAMPAIGNS THROUGHOUT PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE ISLANDS.

THE PLAQUES

IN 1944 THE PIB WAS COMBINED WITH THE NGIB BATTALIONS, TO FORM THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT WHICH TODAY CARRIES THEIR BATTLE HONOURS ON ITS COLOURS. MORE THAN 3,500 PAPUANS AND NEW GUINEANS SERVED DURING THE COURSE OF THE WAR. THEY IMPOSED SOME 2,600 CASUALTIES ON THE ENEMY SUFFERING 230 KILLED, MISSING AND WOUNDED.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT AND ASSOCIATED PNG FORCES NOW HAVE A HOME OF THEIR OWN UNDER THE SHADOW OF THIS MAGNIFICENT KOKODA MEMORIAL WALL. THE SPIRIT OF ALL THESE UNITS AND PLAQUES LIES IN THE BLOOD OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT.

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO, INTRODUCE THE REVEREND MIKE



UPTIN WHO WILL DEDICATE THESE PLAQUES TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO SERVED ON THE BATTLE FIELDS OF ISURAVA AND KOKODA, WITH COURAGE, ENDURANCE, MATESHIP AND SACRIFICE.

"MANY WILL COME TO THESE GARDENS FOR REST AND FOR ENJOYMENT. MANY WILL PASS BY THIS PLACE, AND, AS THEY DO, PERHAPS, CHOOSE THIS ME-

MORIAL AS A PLACE TO PAUSE AND REMEMBER AND HONOUR.

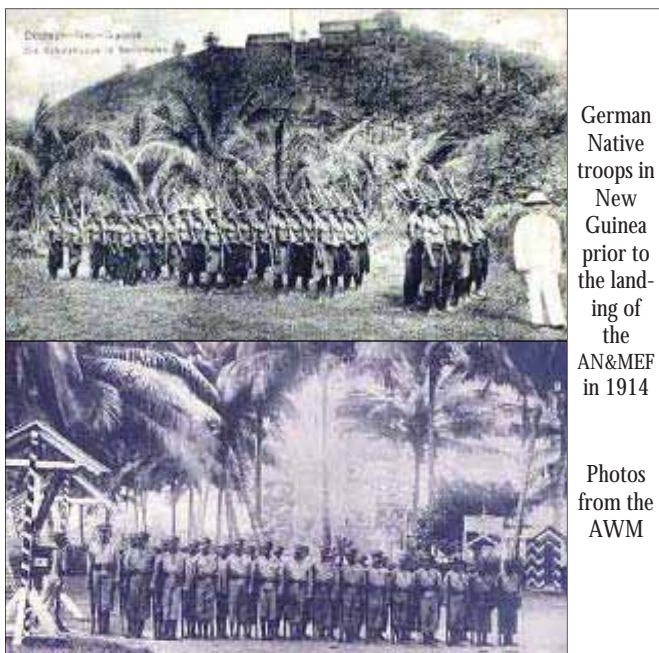
REMEMBER AND HONOUR THE COURAGE; THE MATESHIP; THE ENDURANCE AND THE SACRIFICE OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE DEFENCE OF KOKODA.

SO KNOWING THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN IN THE DAYS, MONTHS AND YEARS TO COME - GENEROUS AND GRACIOUS GOD - WE DEDICATE THESE PLAQUES AS PART OF THIS MEMORIAL - AND AS WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE PEOPLE IT HONOURS, HELP US TO BE MINDFUL THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS THERE FOR US WITH YOUR GUIDANCE WHEREVER WE FIND OURSELVES.

WE PLEDGE OURSELVES ANEW TO OUR WORK IN SUPPORT OF OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN - DEAD AND LIVING. WE PROMISE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP WHERE THERE IS A NEED, AND TO ENSURE THAT ALL PEOPLE MAY ENJOY THE YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD IN COMFORT AND DIGNITY AND CONTENTMENT.

WE DEDICATE THESE PLAQUES TO YOU; TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE IT HONOURS; AND TO THE PROMISE AND PLEDGE WE HAVE MADE TODAY. AND LORD WE ASK FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND YOUR HELP AS WE DO THIS."

AMEN



German Native troops in New Guinea prior to the landing of the AN&MEF in 1914

Photos from the AWM

Email from Russell Linwood ASM, Lt Col Army

A book titled **One Shot Kills: A History of Australian Army Sniping** has just been released commercially. Produced by Glenn Wahlert (prime writer) and myself (technical

advisor), it is published by *Big Sky Publishing* on behalf of the *Australian Army History Unit*. It is structured as follows:

Introduction

Chapter 1. The origins of the sniper

Chapter 2. Preparing for the First World War

Chapter 3. Gallipoli

Chapter 4. The Desert War

Chapter 5. The Western Front

Chapter 6. The Second World War

Chapter 7. Korea to Vietnam

Chapter 8. Sniping comes of age: Somalia and East Timor

Chapter 9. Iraq and Afghanistan

Chapter 10. The future of military sniping

Conclusion

Highly illustrated, and security cleared, it includes formal evidence of the longest confirmed combat sniper engagement in history, achieved recently by Australians.

The book is available at a range of outlets such as Angus and Robertson, Dymocks, QBD etc, and also online at <http://www.bigskypublishing.com.au/Books/Campaign-Series/One-Shot-Kills/1053/productview.aspx> and other outlets.

An outline of the book is available at this website; you will also like the price for both paper and electronic versions. Some of you will know something of my background, and I am proud to have played a small role in this actual history. You might like to pass this email on to friends and colleagues as you see fit. Glenn and I would appreciate any feedback in due course. As we have already been paid I Army service days for doing this, there is no commercial benefit for us. However, a major gap in the literature and history is now closed.

Hope you enjoy the book.

In about twelve months' time I will have completed the next in the series - working title is **Man Against Steel: Australians in Anti-Armour Combat**. Similar treatment: to record the experiences of real people doing real things, with a complete evidence base to back it all up. If you happen to have a relative of friend who actually did this so of thing in World War II or Korea, please let me know. I am looking for primary sources to build on considerable research already done.

I wasn't planning on going for a run today, but those cops came out of nowhere.

THE TANK BATTLES THAT NEVER HAPPENED

When Australian forces arrived to take over the huge Japanese base at Rabaul after World War 2 ended in August, 1945, they found it included a tank park of 92 light and medium tanks which had remained grounded because there had been no transport which could take them to the fight. The RAAF and the USAAF dominated the air over the Bismarck and Solomon Seas and in particular the Vitiav Strait between New Britain and New Guinea. Japanese forces had to transport supplies under cover of night mostly in barges. At Sio, its most advanced position in the Huon Peninsula campaign, A squadron crews of the 1st Armoured



Regiment found a Japanese cargo submarine abandoned in the shallow waters of a beach.

How would the Japanese tanks and the Matildas of the 1st and 2/4th Armoured Regiments have



fares in battle with each other? The Japanese built a large range of armoured vehicles but those at Rabaul did not include their heaviest types.

The internet holds several very informative sites dealing with the Japanese development of tanks for various purposes and a brief account of the American experience in with Stuarts and Shermans in the Pacific Islands.

"Tank Tracks," the history of the 2/4th Armoured Regiment, records a meeting with a Japanese tank near Moem, New Guinea in May, 1945:

"Here is what (Major) Gus Cory had to say about it: 'Where the swamp ran out to the sea at the base of Moem there was a type of Jap tank stranded. How we wished it was mobile. Of a type I have not seen before – obviously a tank with recovery attachments... weight 6-8 tonns. Crew probably three. Hand operated turret which once fitted a heavy machine gun in ball mount... V12 air cooled Diesel engine...'



'I tried a 2 pounder AP out on it at ap-

proximately 30 metres. What it did was just a shame. One shot on the turret 2 cm plate went right through both sides and for good measure through a 25 cm tree. The fragmentation was as if a grenade had exploded inside ...A second shot into the hull below the top of the track had the same effect.... The one shot through the turret would have put all the crew out of action.' "

Paul Handel's "Dust, Sand and Jungle" (RAAC Memorial and Army Tank Museum, 2003) tells of the detachment sent by the 2/4th to Rabaul "to assist with the security of 100,000 Japanese who had surrendered."

"The first big event was a ceremonial parade to take over Japanese armour on the island. The parade was staged on the Rapopo airstrip, 48 kilometres from Rabaul. Some eighty vehicles were taken over, and in two convoys the tanks were driven back to the unit lines by a Japanese crew man carrying a 2/4th man on each vehicle. Later forty Japanese tank crew and mechanics were allocated to the detachment to perform maintenance on the vehicles." (A technology officer at the Australian War Museum told me there had been reports of the Australian and Japanese tank men holding races with the tanks but this has never been confirmed.) "Tank Tracks" says the Japanese crews and mechanics 'did a good job'. They were amazed at the thickness of the Matilda's armour.



B Squadron personnel under the command of Major Phillip Vernon reformed with two Matilda tank troops, four Japanese medium tank troops, each

of three Type 97 mediums with 47-mm guns and a reserve of three Type 97s with 57-mm guns. A trial of Japanese Amphibious Tank (Type 2 KaMi) was held in November with "pleasing results". Only 184 of this type were built for Japanese Special Naval Landing Forces. Only 19 of another amphibious tank, Type 3 KaMi, were built and these were used as dug in pill boxes in the Pacific Islands. "Tank Tracks" says of the November trial that "the tank entered the water smoothly, the drive being transferred from the tracks to the twin screws as it floated. Sitting low in the water it resembled surfaced submarine". Three 2/4th officers went to another major Japanese base on New Ireland where they supervised the destruction of 20 tanks. The Japanese crews drove the tanks over a reef and as the tanks sank the drivers jumped into sea and swam back.

How would the Matildas and their opposites have fared in battle? The heavier guns of the Type 97s may have given them an advantage. The heavier armour of the Matildas probably would have given greater protection, but there would have been many other factors to be taken into account on the day. An interesting exercise for military history buffs. One of the studies on the internet says the best Japanese designs were never tested in combat as they were kept back in the expectation of defending the Japanese home islands.

Thanks to "Lancers' Despatch", the journal of the Royal New South Wales Lancers Association.

Theodore "Dutch" Van Kirk.

Last Survivor of Enola Gay Mission to bomb Hiroshima



"Dutch" Van Kirk was the navigator and last surviving crew member of the Enola Gay, the B29 Super Fortress that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in the last days of WW2.

In the pre-dawn hours of 6 Aug, 1945, the Enola Gay, piloted by Col Paul Tibbets and carrying a crew of 12 took off from Tinian in the Mariana Islands with a uranium bomb. Van Kirk spread out his navigation charts

on a small table at the end of a long tunnel atop the bomb bays and took the plane bearings, using a hand held sextant to sight the stars.

At 8.15am Japan time, the plane reached Hiroshima, a city of 250,000 and the site of an important army headquarters. The bombardier, Maj Thomas Ferebee, released the bomb, known as Little Boy, and 42 seconds later, at 576 metres above ground zero it exploded in a nuclear inferno, leaving tens of thousands dead or dying and turning Hiroshima into scorched devastation.

Tibbets executed a diving turn to avoid the blast effects, but the Enola Gay was buffeted by a pair of shock waves. A flash of light that Van Kirk likened to a photography flash engulfed the cabin. "The plane jumped and made a sound like sheet metal snapping" Van Kirk said on the 50th anniversary of the raid. "Shortly after the second wave, we turned to where we could look out and see the cloud, where the city of Hiroshima had been."

Three days later, another B29 dropped a plutonium bomb on Nagasaki. On 15 Aug, Japan surrendered.

Theodore Van Kirk—everybody called him Dutch—was born on 27 Feb, 1921 and grew up in Northumberland, Pennsylvania.



He attended Susquehanna College for a year, then became an Army Air Forces cadet in Oct 1941. Tibbet selected Van Kirk and Ferebee for his crew the next year.

After 58 missions over Europe and North Africa, Van

Kirk returned to the US to train navigators. When Tibbets was selected to command the 509th Composite Group, a unit of 1800 airmen assembled in Utah in the autumn of 1944 to train for delivering the atomic bomb, he brought Van Kirk and Ferebee with him. This time they trained on the new B29s.

In the summer of 1945 the 509th conducted its final training on Tinian, and President Harry Truman gave the order to drop the atomic bomb.

Van Kirk retired from military service in 1946 as a major, having received the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering from Burknell University and became a marketing executive with DuPont.

"Dutch" Van Kirk is survived by 5 children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

New York Times.

A 65 year old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience.. Seeing God She asked "Is my time up?"

God said, "No, you have another 33 years, 2 months and 8 days to live."

Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a Face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair colour and brighten her teeth! Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it.

After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance.

Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had Another 33 years? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the Ambulance?"

God replied:

"Hell! I didn't recognize you!!!!!"

Dagger makes a comeback.

Commando regiments will now be able to wear the Australian Army Stiletto (AAS) dagger on ceremonial occasions when in ceremonial orders of dress and bearing arms. Socomd has approved the reintroduction of the AAS into military service for qualified 1 Cdo and 2 Cdo Regt soldiers, 71 years after its issue in WWII.

The AAS will replace the issued bayonet as an accoutrement when dressing caskets for both repatriation ceremonies and service funerals for ORs up to the rank of WO1. The blade is marked on both sides – on the front with a double diamond, the universal symbol for Australian commandos of all eras, and on the obverse with the Defence ordnance mark (broad arrow) signifying it is a Defence requisitioned item.

These two distinguishing marks, along with the serial number, signify that the knife is issued to a qualified commando.



The Australian Army Stiletto

The knife of today is all black like that designed by Whittingslowe Engineering (WE) and comes with a full-grain black leather sheath for soldiers to match the current parade belt.

Each knife is individually serial marked on the cross guard for issue and

will be recorded in a unit ledger for posterity

From the "Army newspaper."

Zero Fighter Pilot to offer 'food for thought' in upcoming documentary



Nagoya Katsudo Shashin, a film group in Nagoya, Nagoya, is making a documentary about Kaname Harada, a former fighter pilot who flew the Imperial Japanese Navy's Type 0 Carrier Fighter, known simply as the "zero" or "zerosen" in Japanese.

In addition to providing an opportunity to reflect on the war that ended almost 70 years ago, the film will also be a valuable addition to the historical records of World War II.

The veteran fighter pilot, now 97, participated in many battles during the Pacific War, including the Battle of Midway. During that battle, his aircraft carrier, the Soryu, was sunk after he took off, forcing him to land on the last remaining carrier in the flotilla. That carrier would later be destroyed by the U.S. Navy as well.

When his plane eventually ran out of fuel, Harada ditched but was fortunately picked up by a Japanese ship that happened to be nearby.

After he got onto the deck, however, horrific sights awaited him. Several young men who had lost various limbs were lying around. One soldier was so badly injured that his intestines were spilling out from a slash in his abdomen.

But the doctor gave up on the more seriously injured and chose to treat Harada first. He recalled the doctor saying, "You just have to discard guns with a bent barrel."

"I said to myself, 'We aren't human beings. We're like a weapon or ammunition,'" Harada says in the documentary. "That's the reality of being on the front line."

Nagoya Katsudo Shashin began interviewing Harada in 2011. The group met Harada during the filming of "Nagoya Kushi wo Kataru," about the bombing of Nagoya during the war.

The director, Zero Mori, 49, was introduced to Harada as a person familiar with events of the war. After completing the movie, Mori repeatedly visited Harada in Nagoya, fascinated by his accounts of the war and the experiences he had after it ended.

"As I listened to his stories, I naturally started to toss around the idea of making a film about him," Mori said.

Harada took part in the invasion of China as well as the attack on Pearl Harbor, which brought the United States into World War II.

He survived the Battle of Midway and a few others, and became a kamikaze pilot trainer upon returning to Japan.

"He had firsthand knowledge of the war. He can talk about all the events that occurred during the war," explained Mori. After Japan surrendered, Harada became a dairy farmer before eventually starting a kindergarten, prompted by his wife's words: "If you want to atone for the lives you have taken, what better way is there than to nurture new lives?" He looked after many children until retiring as headmaster a few years ago.

"I want the audience to think about the life that they have been given and how they want to use it. I'm sure this film will give them food for thought," said Mori.

Filming on the documentary is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year, with the premiere planned in Nagoya next February

From "The Japan Times".

Sun-powered soldiers charge with solar backpacks



Defence trials of the solar backpack technology developed by the ANU.

The Australian Army is just a couple of years away from potentially ditching the burden of heavy batteries thanks to the development of solar-powered backpacks.

Soldiers have recently tested out the flexible SLIVER solar-cell technology on a 72-hour training mission, giving it the go-ahead for commercial sale.

The six centimetre-long silicon cells might be small – at 1.5 millimetres wide they are thinner than human hair – but when combined they can power all sorts of electronics for years, from GPS devices to night-vision goggles.

ANU professor Andrew Blakers – who heads the Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems, which developed the technology – said the "backpacks" could not only lighten a soldier's load but extend the life of a mission.

"If you're carrying fewer batteries you either have a lower weight or you have the same weight but more endurance," he said.

"I've heard soldiers sometimes carry kilograms of batteries. If you can eliminate most of those batteries and replace them with rechargeable ones, you can save quite a lot.

"On a long mission, the solar panel does not wear out, it just keeps going and going, so you can have electric power days into a mission – or weeks or months."

While full sunshine was best, the solar panels could limit or even eliminate the drain on batteries during cloudy weather, he said.

The technology has been developed as part of the \$2.3-million Defence Science and Technology Organisation project in collaboration with the CSIRO and defence and security systems company Tectonica Australia.

With testing out of the way the university is set to commercialise the project outcomes with industrial partners.

While the solar cells are likely to hit the military market in the next two to three years, they, like many armed forces re-

sources, are expected to attract a much broader customer base.

"There is a vast number of civilian applications for something this lightweight and flexible," Professor Blakers said.

"Soldiers in the field are not a lot different from bushwalkers in the field – you don't want to carry a glass module in your backpack."

ANU scientists originally developed the cells with glass – but their flexibility got the centre thinking about their potential with plastic.

The result is a flexible, lightweight technology that can be weaved into fabric, such as the wearable backpack-style technology tested by soldiers, or as a material that can be folded akin to a stack of cards and then deployed.

Professor Blakers said the panels could also power remote sensors, like micro cameras, for years.

"You can't do that with a battery."

Canberra Times

27 August 2014

JAPANESE TREATMENT OF POWs

A new book, [*Forgotten Ally: China's World War II, 1937-1945*](#), by [Oxford historian Rana Mitter](#), states:-

"The scale of China's involvement in the war was massive. Chiang Kai-shek, for example, fielded four million troops at the Nationalist's height, while China as a whole lost an estimated 14 million in the war. Had China folded, Japan's capacity to fight the U.S. or even the Soviets would have been vastly amplified."

Most of the POWs the Japanese murdered were Chinese, the death toll is in the millions. Most were killed at the time of capture or soon after. The Japanese did not maintain POW camps for the Chinese. They simply killed them.

The Japanese also murdered Allied POWs, but in must smaller numbers. There are many documented reports. This began almost immediately after the Japanese launched the Pacific War. Most of the Western victims were Americans and Australians. Most of the Allied fatalities were more from benign neglect, denying the POWs food and medical care. There were, however, numerous actual incidents of flagrant murder. Reports indicated that the Japanese upon seizing the Dutch East Indies forced some Australian prisoners into basket then took them out to sea and throwing them overboard (1942). There were murders during the Bataan Death March in which about 1,000 Americans perished (April 1942). The deaths included Japanese officers wielding their swords, in some cases trying to cut off heads from moving automobiles (1942). The American survivors on Wake Island were murdered (October 1943). Most of the murders came later in the War. Some but not all camp commanders for various reasons

executed orders received from Tokyo to kill surviving POWs



Leonard George (Len) Siffleet (1916 – 1943) was an Australian commando. He joined the Second Australian Imperial Force in 1941 and by 1943 had reached the rank of sergeant. He was posted to M Special Unit of the Services Reconnaissance Department. He was on a mission in Papua New Guinea when he and two Ambonese compan-



ions were captured by partisan tribesmen and handed over to the Japanese. All three men were interrogated, tortured, and later beheaded. A photograph of Siffleet's impending execution became an enduring image of the Pacific War. The Japanese executed quite a number of POWs in this way, but this is the only surviving photograph. The Japanese after 2 weeks took the captives down to Aitape Beach (October 1943). There on the orders of Vice-Admiral Michiaki Kamada, the bound and blindfolded men, surrounded by Japanese soldiers and native onlookers, were forced to the ground and beheaded. Japanese officers were very proud of their swordplay. Yasuno Chikao was the officer who beheaded Siffleet. He ordered a private to photograph him in the act as a souvenir.

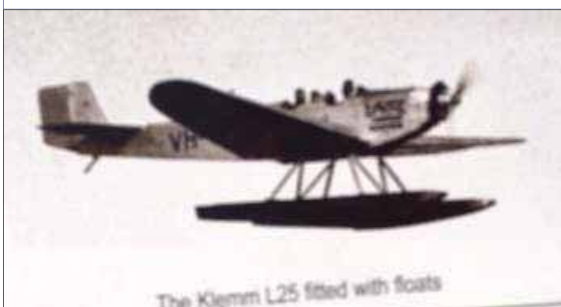
TOTAL POWS FROM JAPANESE STATISTICS

Country	Total POWs	POW Deaths	Death Rate (%)
Britain	50,016	12,433	24.8%
Holland	37,000	8,500	22.9%
Australia	21,726	7,412	34.1%
United States	21,580	7,107	32.9%
Canada	1,691	273	16.1%
New Zealand	121	31	25.6%
Total	132,134	35,756	27.1%

Comparative Statistic for Japanese prisoners of war held in the Soviet Union: Out of 575,000 internees, 55,000 died in captivity, a death rate of 9.6%.

Source Google—POWs of the Japanese

A mother is driving her little girl to her friend's house for a play date. "Mummy", the little girl asks, "how old are you?" "Honey, you are not supposed to ask a lady her age" the mother replied "It's not polite. "OK" the little girl says. "What colour was your hair 2 years ago?" "Now really" the mother says, "those are personal questions and are really none of your business." Undaunted the little girl asks, "Why did you and daddy get a divorce?" "That's enough questions, young lady. Honestly!" The exasperated mother walks away as the tow friends begin to play. "My mum won't ell me anything about her" the little girl says to her friend. "Well!" says the friend, "All you need to do is look at her driver's licence. It's like a report card, it has everything on it." Later that night the little girl says to her mother "I know how old you are. You are 32." The mother is surprised and asks, "How did you find that out?" "I also know that you used to have brown hair." The mother is past surprised and shocked now. "How in heaven's name did you find that out?" "And," the little girl says triumphantly, "I know why you and daddy got a divorce." "Oh really?" the mother asks "Why?" "Because on your driving licence it says you got an F in Sex!"



Klemm aircraft flown by Father John Glover.

HTTS Vols 87 & 88

A VANGUARD OF SACRIFICE

A Centenary Tribute to the service of those, in World War I, who were the first to give their lives in the service of Australia.

**Major General John Pearn AO RFD
Patron**

**An Address on the Occasion of the
Memorial Plaque Dedication Ceremony**



Maj Gen Pearn, AO. RFD., giving his address with the Queensland Governor, Paul de Jersey, AC. with Committeeman Paul Brown in the background.

At this time we reflect on events which comprise significant milestones in Australian history. They were events, both tragic and triumphant in their outcome, whose record our Association has the privileged trust to keep alive. In November 1884, as part of colonial expansion, Queensland annexed Papua, and Germany annexed New Guinea including the islands of New Britain, Buka and Bougainville. In 1914, political disasters across the world in Europe enmeshed in combat these two colonial powers in their territories of occupation; and not least the Melanesian men and women of the

Islands which the two Imperial powers controlled. One hundred years ago, two weeks after the declaration of World War I, in August 1914, Australia dispatched an expeditionary naval and army force to capture Rabaul, the capital of the German colony of New Guinea

In 1914, the Acting Governor of German New Guinea, Dr Haber, was based at his administrative headquarters in Rabaul, as the capital of German New Guinea. An important radio station had been built at Bitu Paka nearby. It was an important civilian communications hub for the German administration of New Guinea and for the extended German commercial interests of the south-west Pacific. From 1914, the radio station was also a crucial military communications base for the powerful German Pacific Fleet. This latter comprised the two armoured cruisers, *Gneisenau* and *Scharnhorst*; the cruiser *Kormoran*; three light cruisers, *Emden*, *Nurnberg* and *Leipzig*; and the *Planet*, a hydrographic survey ship.

On 6 August 1914, the day after the declaration of war, the British Government informed the Dominion Governments of Australia and New Zealand that "the seizure of the [German] wireless stations of Yap, Nauru, Samoa and New Guinea would be 'a great and urgent Imperial service'. Immediately, New Zealand dispatched a force to capture the German base at Samoa; and Australia dispatched an amphibious assault group and a powerful naval squadron to New Britain. The Australian force deployed to New Guinea was titled the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, always referred to as ANMEF, under the command of Rear Admiral Patey. The naval force comprised eleven surface ships and Australia's first two submarines, AE1 and AE2. The Royal Australian Navy Squadron consisted of *Australia*, *Sydney*, *Encounter*, *Warrigo*, *Yarra*, *Parramatta* and *Berrima* together with the store ship, *Arangi* "plus three colliers assembled off the Louisiades to the south-east of Rabaul". Besides those serving as crew on the ships of the Australian Squadron, the



Assn Patron, Maj Gen Pearn, AO. RFD.
And Assn President, Phil Ainsworth at
the "Last Post".

expeditionary force, ANMEF, consisted of five hundred sailors plus an army contingent commanded by Colonel Holmes.

Following the declaration of War, the German community on Rabaul hastily readied a local defence force consisting of at least three German officers, together with non-commissioned officers and volunteers, comprising sixty-one expatriate men in all; together with 240 Melanesian men, hastily trained. Confronted with the threat of an amphibious assault from the sailors and soldiers of ANMEF, from the Australian Squadron, the German Force

was put under the command Captain Wuchert. In Rabaul, the Germans established three defensive posts along roads to the administrative headquarters and the radio station – at Herbertshohe, Toma, and on the Bitu Paka Road.

The Australian tactics centred on two amphibious assaulting parties. One party landed near Herbertshohe, met no opposition and raised the Union Flag on the German administrative headquarters. The other party landed at Kabakaul under the command of Lieutenant RG Bowen RAN, not expecting opposition.

Lieutenant Bowen's party also contained a young (24 year-old) Sydney medical officer, Captain Brian Pockley AAMC. This Bitu Paka assaulting party moved off the road into the bush, and progressed towards the radio station. They encountered the defensive German force, with the German officers and soldiers in front and with the Melanesian militia in the rear. What followed has been summarised:

"Petty Officer GR Palmer spotted an enemy group with a German in charge. He shot the German in the hand. The supporting Melanesian troops were unable to fire through the German soldiers in front of them. Lieutenant Bowen attempted a ruse de guerre. He forced the wounded German, Sergeant Major Mauderer, to call out to the defending German troops to surrender 'because 800 [Australian] troops had landed'. The feint was to indicate it was futile to resist. During the heat of the encounter, Able Seaman W.G.V. Williams was mortally wounded at 9:30am. The medical officer, Captain Pockley, hurried to Williams' aid. Noting the seriousness of Williams' wounds, Captain Pockley arranged for Williams to be carried back to the ship's hospital. Conscious of the danger confronting the patient and his attendant, Pockley gallantly removed his Red Cross insignia and placed it around the cap of the stretcher-bearer".

Having attended to the wounded seaman (Williams), Captain Pockley then attended urgently to the wounded German Sergeant Major, Mauderer, who was bleeding profusely. Pockley amputated his hand (without anaesthetic!), and then sent the casualty back to the Australian Force back on the beach. Captain Pockley, now without his Red Cross brazzard, was shot and mortally wounded. With Williams, he was evacuated to the transport *Berrima*. Both Australians died that afternoon.

The assault continued, strengthened by reinforcements under Lieutenant I.A. Bond RAN. As the assaulting party neared the wireless station, Lieutenant Bond encountered a heavily armed group of eight German officers and twenty Melanesian police, the final defence line protecting the wireless station. It was recorded that:

"Lieutenant Bond, aware that he was covered, acted swiftly and daringly. He bounded to the Germans and snatched pistols from their holsters. It was a surprise act that so stunned the Germans and the Melanesian men that they surrendered. The Germans and the Melanesians had been so positioned, with the local militia at rear of the officers, that the New Guinea men could not fire with the officers between them and Bond's group".

For this resolute and courageous act, Lieutenant Bond was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, the first Australian decorated in World War I.

Captain Brian Colden Antill Pockley (1890-1914) was born in Sydney. He was educated at the North Sydney Church of England Grammar School where his career was described as one "of brilliant athletic and scholastic distinction [and] of absolutely stainless honour, where he exerted a silent but great influence over the generations among which he lived and of a personality strangely attractive to both young and old".

Dr Pockley graduated in medicine from the University of Sydney and completed his residency at the Sydney Hospital where a memorial tablet was unveiled to his memory on 22 December 1915. The memorial brass tablet was surmounted by the motto "Deo, patriae, tibi" – "God first, country next, self last of all".⁵ The tablet is further inscribed with the sentence:

He died through giving to a wounded comrade the badge protecting his own life".

In the engagement, six Australian soldiers and sailors, one German soldier and thirty Melanesians were killed in the Battle of Bitu Paka. Four Australians, nineteen Germans and ten Melanesians were wounded.

We reflect today on the bravery of the men of four nations – Australia, Great Britain, Germany and Papua New Guinea – who were involved in this combat. Thirty-seven were killed or wounded in action – each man doing his duty, enmeshed in tragic events dictated by politics generated by irresolvable conflict across a world most had never seen.

The Loss of Australia's First Submarine, AE1

Before War was declared on 5 August 1914, an official cable from the British War Office, dated 27 July 1914, carried news of imminence of war. On 5 August, the cruiser HMAS *Sydney* and Australia's three destroyers were coaling in Townsville. The Nation's first two submarines, AE1 and AE2, were completing their refits at the Garden Island Dockyard in Sydney Harbour. AE1 completed her refit on 8 August 1914; and with her pennant Number 80 painted out, voyaged north. Professor Michael White has written that the Australian Naval Board was opposed to any action, and specifically an amphibious land assault, that would detract from the primary aim which was the destruction of the German Pacific Fleet. However, after the Australian warships had conducted their first naval sweep and had failed to locate any German warships, the Australian Fleet Commander, Rear Admiral Patey, initiated the intermediate task of the capture of Rabaul and its wireless station. Between 9 and 11 September 1914, the Australian Squadron with its two submarines proceeded to sweep the sea off Rabaul without sighting any German warships. HMAS *Berrima* diverted to send the assault teams ashore to capture the wireless station at Bitu Paka. As we have seen, this assault was successful and on 12 September 1914 Rabaul was under Australian Naval control. The Acting Governor, Dr Haber, formally surrendered to Colonel Holmes on 17 September 1914. At 7.00am on 14 September 1914, the submarine AE1 and the River Class destroyer, HMAS *Parramatta*, left Rabaul Harbour with orders "to patrol east of Cape Gazelle ...keeping a look out for any enemy, and return to harbour before dark".⁶ The



submarine was never seen again.

Many searches (at least eight) have endeavoured to find AE1; and enormous research efforts over the succeeding 100 years have endeavoured to solve the mystery of her loss. It is believed that the submarine's most likely fate was that she hit a reef and, disabled, was swept by strong currents into deep water and sank.

The thirty-five submariners who perished were elite sailors. The crew comprised nineteen Royal Navy sailors on loan to the Royal Australian Navy, fifteen Australian sailors and one New Zealander. The three officers, Lieut Commander Thomas Besant, Lieut Charles Moore and Lieut The Hon Leopold Scarlett, were Royal Navy submariners. Of the thirty-five who perished, only one is known to have his image recorded in any surviving photograph, that of Chief Engine Room Artificer Joseph Wilson.⁷

It was said by Dr Graham Seal of the *Submarine Institute of Australia* that:

"forgotten though AE1 was in the ensuing events of the War, her brief life and the unexplained circumstances of her loss made an extraordinary impact on the Australian public and still have the power to move us today".

The Australian Submarine AE2

The other Australian submarine, AE2, returned to Australia and was despatched to the Mediterranean for the attempts to force the Dardanelles. On 25 April 1915, AE2 entered the Dardanelles at 2.30am. She torpedoed the Turkish gun boat *Peykisevket* and proceeded through the Narrows, pursued by service vessels. She was attacked by heavy shells from the shore batteries. She made it through the Narrows and Turkish deceptive marine minefields to enter Sea of Mar-mara on 26 April 1915. On 30 April 1915, the Australian submarine was attacked by an Ottoman torpedo boat, the *Sultanhisar*. Mortally disabled, AE2 was scuttled by her commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Stoker. All the crew of the AE2 were rescued by the crew of the Turkish warship as the submarine sank to the sea floor. AE2 remains there as a memorial to Australian Naval heroism.

A Centenary Tribute

I have entitled this brief presentation, "A Vanguard of Sacrifice". One might ask what were the datum points in Australian military history, marked by those events? For those with an interest in "firsts", these tragic engagements, soon relatively forgotten and for many overlooked against the perspective of the enormity of the carnage of Gallipoli, Belgium, France and that of the entire Western Front. Nevertheless, the Battle of Bita Paka and the loss of the Australian Submarine AE1 marked the first signposts along the tragic pathway of World War I. Those milestones included:

- The Battle of Bita Paka was the first operation undertaken exclusively by Australia as a military nation.
- Bita Paka was the first successful independent military operation undertaken by the Nation, following Federation
- The action was the first wartime joint operation involving a conjoined Navy and Army Force.
- In the Battle of Bita Paka, the first Australian servicemen were to lose their lives, in World War I.
- The first loss of an Australian Warship.
- Lieutenant Bond RAN was the first Australian to be decorated for gallantry in World War I

In these events are enfolded the oldest mysteries of Australian naval history involving the unknown fate of Australia's first submarine, the AE1. In the annals of those events, also, are to be found another record of gallantry of an Aus-

tralian Regimental Medical Officer, embedded as a non-combatant with sailors and soldiers with whom he formed an integral team. Their graves reside today in the Bita Paka War Cemetery. The submariners of the AE1 repose in an unknown grave, in the depths –

*Wrapped in the ocean boundless
Where the tides are scarcely stirred
In depths that are still and boundless,
They perished unseen, unheard."*

This was the address given by Association Patron Maj. Gen. John Pearn AO. RFD. at the Battle of Bita Paka Commemoration Day held at your museum at Wacol on 6th Sept, 2014.



The Raffle run by the Association in conjunction with the PNGAA drawn on Bita Paka Day at the Museum was won by Brian and Nancy Jones. However due to Brian's health the trip to Rabaul was taken by his son Richard and wife Elizabeth. Susie McGrade provided accommodation for the raffle winners and below is Richard's letter of thanks.

Hi Susie,

Thank you so much for your help and advice for our recent visit to Rabaul. Your staff were extremely friendly and helpful and made our stay all the more enjoyable.

I never thought I would ride in a PMV in PNG, but, hey, we did that and saw some of the sites. The contrast of Rabaul compared to POM and Lae is amazing. We were so happy to see that Rabaul is so clean and tidy with very few of the security implications which are so often associated with PNG, with a distinct lack of razor wire and armed guards. We are considering coming back up for the Mask Festival next year.

We indulged in the Chow Kai chicken and had a fantastic day cruising the harbour with Rod on the Sunday. Thank you for your assistance in organising that. Unfortunately we didn't catch any fish but it was a great day all the same.

Thanks again for your generous prize donation also.

**VALE
Colwyn Arthur PARRY (Col)
1/10/1928—15/9/2014**

Col was born in Kokopo, NG where his father was X ray technician, health inspector and apprentice chemist at the hospital, having served in the Australian Medical Corps in WW1.

His father was reported to be a Corporal in the NGVR when the Japanese invaded in 1942, but refused to leave 200 patients in



the hospital, and was captured by the Japanese and lost his life when the "Montevideo Mauru" was sunk by an American submarine off the Philippine Islands. NGVR records were lost in the invasion, and Arthur Parry's wife was advised not to pursue his service with NGVR as she would be better off with an Administration pension, incorrect advice as it turned out. After the War Frank Wilson (NGVR and AIF) who had returned to his plantation outside Rabaul, recommended that the new hospital at Kokopo be named "The Parry Memorial Hospital" (Rabaul Times.)

Col joined the PNG Police Service on 29/1/52 and served with them until 20/7/75 when he returned to Australia working for 10 years as Programme Supervisor for the NSW Public Service. He studied by correspondence at Mitchell CAE for his Associate Diploma or Arts in Social Rehabilitation after his return.

He obtained the rank of Senior Superintendent and his Certificate of Service comments "Has seen all aspects of police duties over a wide area. Has been commended on several occasions (3) by Commissioner of Police for his initiative, organisation ability and leadership qualities.

Col and his wife Jean had 3 daughters, two born in Rabaul and one in Lae.

His medals and awards include:-

- Queens Police Medal
- Police Long Service Medal
- Certificates of commendation & merit (3)

LEST WE FORGET.

VALE

Richard HART (Dick)

19.7.1946—6.10.2014



Dick commenced his military career in the Cadets at Homebush Boys High in Sydney.

He left school at 17 and joined the Bank of New South Wales and in 1965 was posted to Goroka where he joined the PNGVR. He was promoted to Corporal in Goroka.

On returning to Sydney Dick transferred to 3 Coy, RAASC, at Ashfield until in 1968 he transferred to HQ Coy, Communication Zone. He married Margo in 1970.

When he was posted back to Port Moresby in the early 1970s he resigned

Anzac Day Goroka, 1965. The Catafalque Party consisted of PNGVR, Cadet, Policeman and Warder. Dick was PNGVR rep and Sgt Bob Collins Parade Commander.



PNGVR Drill hall Goroka, 1964 at Cpl Ken Weare's departure from PNGVR. Sgt Karl Aschhoff, Cpl Ken Weare, Sgt Bob Collins, Cpl Dick Hart. Note Red Sea Rig dress.



Dick at Darkes Forest, Sydney, when in HQ Coy.

from the CMF with the rank of Corporal. Dick never wanted promotion beyond the rank of Cpl as he loved driving trucks. He considered that any promotion beyond Cpl would result in his not being able to continue as a driver.

On his return from Port Moresby he moved to Wheeler Heights in Sydney where his two children Jonathan and Samuel were born.

In 1987 he resigned from the Bank of NSW, or Westpac as it was then known, and moved to the Southern Highlands of NSW where he opened shoe shops at Bowral and Moss Vale.

He became involved in community affairs in the Southern Highlands and was a member of Rotary, involved in the local Soccer team and assisted with Careers and Cadet events at Chevalier College.



Dick at Anzac Day, Brisbane, 2014.

His hobbies were cooking, music and following Manly Warringah Rugby League team.

He attended Anzac Day in Brisbane this year and marched with our Association. It was only three weeks later that he was admitted to Liverpool Hospital with acute Leukaemia.

LEST WE FORGET



The first full parade of the Pacific Islands Regiment was held at Vunakanau Airfield on 12 Feb, 1946.
Photo Australian Territories Magazine, Oct 1966



YOUR COMMITTEE formed 18th Oct 2014

Patron. Maj Gen John Pearn AO. RFD.

President. Phil Ainsworth Ph 0418 730 348

Email p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au

Vice President Bob Collins Ph 5526 8396

Email bob-collins@bigpond.com

Secretary Colin Gould MBE JP (Qual) Ph 0424 562 030

Email pngvr@optusnet.com.au

Treasurer Douglas Ng JP (Qual) Ph 3349 2525

Email douglasng@inet.net.au

Museum Curator John Holland Ph 3375 5484

Email rabaul42@gmail.com

Committee

Tony Boulter Ph 0413 173 393

Email tonyboulte@ourairline.com.au

Paul Brown Ph 0402 644 181 Email paulbrown@gmail.com

Kieran Nelson Ph 0412 236 013 Email kierannelson@bigpond.com

Leigh Eastwood Ph 0413 039 103

Email leeroeastwood@optusnet.com.au

Mike Griffin Ph 0409 043 845 Email mgri7263@bigpond.net.au

Mal Zimmermann Email morebe.wantok@gmail.com



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

Battalion

All correspondence to:-

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

Mobile:- 0424 562 030

Email:- pngvr@optusnet.com.au

www.pngvr.com

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Bob Collins—Editor

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY YEAR IN 2015

FROM PRESIDENT, PHIL AINSWORTH,

AND YOUR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE



The dining night Jimboomba, October. Jack Hobbins and Percy Neville were in 7 Pl C Coy Madang 1959-62



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Contact Phil Ainsworth

07 3844 3222

Email: p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au

99 Annerley Road, Woolloongabba QLD 4102

www.kingco.com.au