

**ANZAC DAY CHARTERS TOWERS
SPECIAL REPORT**

REMEMBER THE PAST WITH PRIDE AND THE DEAD WITH HONOUR, AND KEEP THE ANZAC SPIRIT ALIVE.

So comments "The Northern Miner" newspaper of Charters Towers.

Charters Towers Member, Brian Jones, reports that on Anzac Day in Charters Towers, members of the local community paid tribute to those who fought for their homeland. The ceremony included the laying of poppies on War graves. One of the War graves was that of NGVR Cpl R H SUTTON NG2031. Photo (Left) St Mary College Year 12 Prefect Cindy Wallace lays a poppy on a war grave at the Charters Towers Cemetery.

The grave was that of Cpl Sutton. (Photo/comments courtesy of the Editor, "The Northern Miner").

Brian Jones also laid a wreath at the grave site on behalf of our Association, with the wording... *YOUR RESTING PLACE FOUND BUT NOT FORGOTTEN. REGIMENTAL COMRADES NGVR-PNGVR ASSOCIATION*.

Our thanks to Brian for the laying of the wreath and for the press cuttings and photos.



COMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS

**NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL**

DATE: Tuesday 1 July 1997
VENUE: Shrine of Memories, Anzac Square, Brisbane.
TIME: 1100Hours for 1115 Hours
DRESS: Anzac Day Dress with (full) Medals

COMRADESHIP: Old Stock Exchange Hotel - Edward St.
ALL MEMBERS & GUESTS WELCOME

AUST-PNG SOCIETY BALL

DATE: Saturday 8 November 1997
VENUE: Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club Coorparoo
COSTS: To be advised
DRESS: Mess Dress/ Anzac Day Dress/ Jacket
BOOKINGS: Col Gould
Ph: 07 3355 3382
after 1900 Hours

"No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form without the permission of the Executive Committee.

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc.
PO Box 287, Everton Park, Brisbane Q 4053



HARIM TOK TOK



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED.

VOLUME 8

JUNE 1997

ANZAC DAY 1997

SPECIAL EDITION

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Greetings to all Members. In February, March and April this year I was in Port Moresby following up appointments with senior Government officers through the excellent co-operation of members Chief Superintendent Dennis Samin, OBE., now CEO of PNG Police, and John Mudge MBE., Brigadier of St Johns Ambulance. Both these members are currently the President and Vice-President of the R.S.L. (PNG). Tony Milan, ED., was also involved in Government discussions in April - Tony being Technical Advisor to PNG on hospital management operations.



Discussions with the Secretary of Protocol Division of the Department of the Prime Minister (PNG) were most rewarding. Approval has been obtained for Association members who have had their PNG awards lost or stolen, to have their awards replaced through the Executive Committee of this Association. Of much interest to members is your Association's efforts to have appropriate approval for the entering into Australian Army Service records, details of Member's PNG Honours and Awards. Such agreement requires Government to Government approval. To this end and with the valuable assistance of our PNG resident members, an audience with the PNG Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan was requested - unfortunately the political situation and action of the PNG Defence Force intervened. However your Committee with Dennis Samin and John Mudge are still in contact with Ms Louise Pena, First Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister. After the 1997 elections, we are confident of obtaining a decision.

I must ask members to appreciate the extensive and continuing work being done behind the scenes by those members outside the Committee and Australia. I speak of Gerry McGrade in Rabaul now busily engaged in the huge task of restoring the Rabaul civil and military cemetery. We are assisting in supporting Gerry's mobilisation of support. Other members like Ken MacGowan in Vanuatu, Dennis Samin and John Mudge in Port Moresby are all enhancing the ideals of this Association.

Gentlemen, the medals you are wearing have not only been awarded officially by the Papua New Guinea Government, but the granting was also supported by the records of YOUR service in PNGVR and to the people of PNG as a result. Your Association submitted over the years 1989-1992 complete information to the PNG Government for the granting of these awards. We also recorded 100% granting of the Australian Service Medal with PNG Clasp by C.A.R.O.

Through the endeavours of Brian Crane and John Holland we have complete volumes of RO's 11 of NGVR and PNGVR personnel 1939-1947 / 1951-1974.

Your Secretary and Committee members and myself are constantly approached by people outside the Association for information/requests and sometimes demands for 'such & such' a medal- the time expended on letters, phone calls and faxes not to mention costs, is vexing.

Please, should any member be approached by persons outside the organisation seeking PNG awards and medals, do NOT refer them to me or the Committee but inform them to...."see their last/former Commanding Officer" with the added comment that the PNG Honours & Awards Committee will only consider fully substantiated submissions certified by their last/former CO and submitted through an official in PNG whose recommendations must accompany same.

Finally my personal thanks to all members who made parade on Anzac Day in Brisbane ensuring that the Association was well represented on this most important occasion. Your Association is organised and unique in its service and endeavours. Lets keep it that way.

H N Green.

HISTORIC EVENTS

MV MACDHUI

Launched: 23 Dec 1930 Gross Tonnage: 4650
 Cargo: 3200 tons Pax: 138 Passengers
 Taken over as a troop ship and munitions carrier 1941 and later used to evacuate European women and children from Rabaul. Arrived Port Moresby 15 June 1942 with 154 Pax and 77 Crew. Attacked on the 17 June and sunk on the 18th June 1942 after four direct hits. Killed: 13 Injured: 10.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (PNG) BY DENNIS SAMIN,OBE.

REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE WITH RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER, SIR JULIUS CHAN, GCMG.,KBE.,MP.

I am informed that the President of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Member Assoc Inc, Colonel Harry Green, MBE., ED., EM., (Ret) will be arriving in Port Moresby on Thursday 20 th February 1997, and will be departing for Rabaul on Tuesday, 25 February 1997.

Colonel Green wishes to pay a brief visit to the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Sir Julius Chan, GCMG., KBE., MP for the purpose of:-

(a) to present a historical photograph dated 1941 showing the Rabaul Chinese community who served in the NGVR identified by name:-

(b) to ask the Prime Minister to write to the Australian Foreign Minister, the Honourable Mr Alexander Downer, MP, for permission that those NGVR-PNGVR members who have been granted various awards and medals by the PNG Government, be entered in the Australian Army service soldiers records at Central Army Records Office, Melbourne.

(c) The NGVR-PNGVR Association will supply a certified list of names and medal details to CARO if this is approved.

If a brief appointment could be made for Colonel Green and two of his Association representatives who are residents in PNG, this Association would be most grateful.

Yours sincerely,

*Dennis Samin, OBE.,
 for NGVR-PNGVR Association.*

Once again our Queensland weather looked upon this day of Anzac with favour giving us beautiful sunshine for this our most important day of Remembrance, as we say in Queensland, "Beautiful one day and perfect the next".

My day started with attending the Woodridge Dawn Service with Karl Aschhoff, where we bumped into Darkie Edwards who was in Wewak in the early 70's. After the Service we downed a few jugs and talked about old times. The clock started to tick away and we said our farewells and returned home for a hearty breakfast followed by preparations for the Brisbane march - dress, flags, banners etc.

We arrived at the Stock Exchange Hotel (now Club 131) where members of the Committee were flat out with display and venue preparations for the day's activities for the enjoyment of Members and guests after the march. We moved up to the assembly area in George Street about 0930 hours where we met our Regimental Comrades and of course we started to catch up on the gossip of the last twelve months.

Our number came up to join the march with our contingent led by by Colonel Harry Green followed by myself (wearing the Regiments Juniper Greens dress uniform, the flag bearers (Australian, Regimental and PNG Flags), the wreath carried by young Jamie Bell followed by the Banner and the main contingent with a total of approx 95-100 members. Once again we had the much welcomed and appreciated services of the 9 RQR Pipe Band leading the contingent with a number of NGVR and PNGVR members in a command vehicle in front. Once again thanks go to George Bagajluk for organising the Band.

Judging by the playback of home videos and the ABC coverage, we may be a bit older but we have not lost our touch. Our contingent looked splendid with members in their dark blue jackets, berets, ties, medals and flags. Congratulations to all members who travelled from near and afar to ensure that our Regiment was well and truly represented on Anzac Day.

After the march most members proceeded to the Shrine of Memories in Anzac Square where we conducted a memorial Service to the Fallen. The following Service will take place each year in Brisbane on Anzac Day:-

- * Welcome address
- * Prayer for the Fallen
- * Last Post
- * Moment of Silence
- * Ode
- * Reveille
- * Final address

We had a good attendance at this moving Service. We then proceeded down to the Old Stock Exchange Hotel to exchange a few yarns, drink a few jars and view the comprehensive display of Association historic material.

On the official side, Colonel Harry Green addressed the reunion, welcomed the acting Consul-General and members of the PNG Consulate, visitors, and read out apologies from members who could not attend.

A special welcome was extended to Members who had travelled from inter-state and overseas and to 12 NGVR members who were present. This was followed by the Official Toasts:

- * Royal Toast - Colonel Green
- * ANZAC Toast - Joe Fisk
- * Regimental Toast - Karl Aschhoff
- * Absent & departed members - Tom Lega
- * Papua New Guinea - Rudy Buckley
- * Members of the NGVR - Col Gould

It was at this time that the acting Consul-General of PNG Mr Vagi Heni presented the flag of his Country to our Association. Secretary Col Gould accepted the flag on behalf of the Association. All members appreciated this gesture as it binds our two Nations together in friendship. During the reception drinks and finger food was served. The drinks lasted well into the afternoon, but there was a slight problem in getting the food trays past some members who frequented the servery area. The Committee is going to discuss the issue of food quantity and distribution for next year.

Many of us stayed until late afternoon while I believe others stayed to attend the evening Disco - yes Disco. Overall the day was a great success with many old friendships renewed.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Committee members and members who worked behind the scenes to make this day memorable for all concerned. Special thanks to Col Gould for Venue set-up, John Holland & Ken MacGowan for the display, and Bruce Crawford for door duties, and to those members who assisted from 0600 hours on the day. Our thanks to Neal Lega who watched over our display during the march.

Special recognition must be given to those members, who at great expense, travelled to Brisbane to be part of this special day:- Tony Milan (Port Moresby), Ken MacGowan (Vanuatu) Ken Shorthouse (Mauritius), John Batze (Cairns), Stan Carswell (Cairns), Bernie Gough (Cairns), Brian Pearce (West Aust), Gil Harvey-Hall (Townsville), Karl Aschhoff (Charleville), Jess Hansford (Murray's Run) Brian Crane (Port Macquarie) Bruce Inch (Coolamon), Ivan Old (Camden) Ian Sayers (Canberra), Harold Osborne (NGVR Vic),

it was also very pleasing to see so many of our NGVR comrades in attendance. This shows the comradeship that exists within our Association. Well done Fellows.

Joe Fisk.
 MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE

**MOVED HOUSE ?
 CHANGED PHONE NUMBERS?
 DON'T FORGET TO LET YOUR
 ASSOCIATION KNOW.**

FACES OF ANZAC DAY - BRISBANE



TOP (L to R) Tom Keenan/Tom Lega/ Stan Burton (NGVR): Colonel Mal Bishop, MM.: Brian Pearce/ Bruce Inch:
 BOTTOM: (L to R) Bill Kelly, MBE., ED.: Patrick Seeto / Bill Bickerton : Ken MacGowan: