



HARIM TOK TOK

VOLUME

90

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

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The start of our 2015 begins with our first committee meeting at 10 am Saturday 17 January. The meeting will plan our year's activities: the usual 6 committee meetings; the publication of 6 issues of Harim Tok Tok, the first being Issue 90, the February issue; Anzac Day March, Reunion and NGVR Memorial Service at the Brisbane Cenotaph; the 1 July Montevideo Maru Memorial Service; two mixed dining nights at Jimboomba and supporting our Military Museum at Wacol. Additional activities will be the publication of "PNGVR, A History 1950-1973" authored by Bob Harvey-Hall and "Personal stories of NGVR Soldiers 1941-1942" authored by Bob Collins and, hopefully, the extension of the Museum.



AE1 Memorial Service on foreshore of Rabaul Harbour, 14 September 2014

Priority has been given to self publishing of the book "PNGVR, A History" and this will be launched by an appropriate distinguished person at our Anzac Day Reunion, with the author present. The book is written and the editing is on track for completion early to mid February ready for the printer. It is just over 400 pages with photographs and maps. Basically the book is arranged in a chronological fashion with special chapters for particular events. It is a soft back publication with colour front and back covers. A major feature will be the book's substantial index showing names of places, people, events with page numbers where the index names are mentioned. A nominal roll for PNGVR is also included. Committee member Kieran Nelson is overseeing the publication on behalf of the Association and the editing facilitator is Jeannette Gilligan from Dragonwick. The pre-publication price is \$45 to members plus \$10 for mailing anywhere in Australia- **please order**

now using the coupon on the flyer included in the newsletter, the discounted price ends 1 April 2015.

After "PNGVR, A History" is published, our attention will focus on self publishing the second book about the personal stories of NGVR soldiers. It is intended to publish using the same method as used for the PNGVR history. This book is written but needs some organising prior to handing over to the editing facilitator.

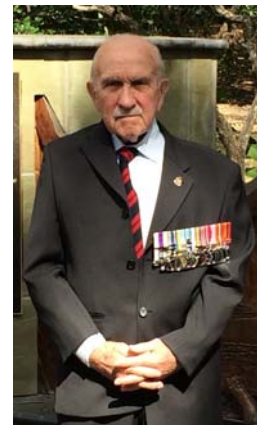
We are waiting for the result of our Community Gaming Fund Round 82 application, due late January 2015, before announcing the start of our Military Museum Extension. Without some outside funding we are unable to proceed. A supplementary application for Round 83, which closed 30 November 2014, was lodged and accepted for consideration should our Round 82 application be unsuccessful. It takes about 5 months before the results of each round



The photo of this painting of PIR scouts near Wewak early 1945 was taken from an exhibition of Queensland painters at Queensland Art Gallery mid 2014. The painter was James Wieneke (1906-1981) who served with RAE, 2AIF and published "6th Division Sketches; Aitape to Wewak". The watercolour over pencil was part of this collection.

are announced. Of course if our Round 82 application is successful, the supplementary application will be withdrawn. A complication to proceedings could be the

present State Election period when decision making/money allocation is suspended.



Lt Col Maurie Pears MC in front of Kokoda Memorial Wall, Cascade Gardens, Gold Coast, 8 Aug 2014

The next Jimboomba mixed dining night will be held at 4pm Saturday 21

March 2015. Seating is limited so contact either Bob Collins on 0413 831 397 or email bob-collins@bigpond.com or Barry Wright on 07 5546 9865 or email barrypam.wright@bigpond.com.

Phil Ainsworth,
January 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ED TSCHARKE, NGVR	2
THE SALUTE	5
PNGVR PEWTER MUG	5
BRITISH IN RABAU	6
A MEDAL FOR HORATIUS	6
USA UNKNOWN SOLDIER	7
AUST. SOLDIER'S GEAR	8
OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM	9
LEIGH VIAL, COAST	9
LITTLE ROCK'S C130	11
140 YEARS AGO	12
THE PILBARA REGIMENT	13
LONG TAN VETERAN DIES	14
VALE: JAN BOOIS, NGVR HENRY VAN LEEUWEN, NGVR	15

Rfn EDWIN G TSCHARKE, AO. MBE

NG2480

SOME MEMORIES OF THE PAST

1942—1943 NGVR EXPERIENCES

The following was written by Dr. Tscharke in March, 1997, and a summary was delivered to the Association Committee shortly thereafter. It gives some indication of the difficulties encountered when being evacuated from the New Guinea Goldfields via the Bulldog Track.

Ed was a Lutheran Missionary in Finschhafen when the story commences.

I have often felt that I should write details of what took place at Finschhafen when all ordained and lay missionaries and lady Dr Agnes Hoeper had to suddenly leave at the time of the imminent invasion by the Japanese on PNG.

On 15th Feb 1942 the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR), a military unit that was formed of European residents living in N G, planters, gold miners, school teachers, government officials, missionaries and other work personnel living in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea were made aware of the seriousness of the situation, when, on 15th Feb 79 bombers and fighters flew directly over us at Finschhafen mid-day, heading for Lae, bombing Lae and Salamaua to the ground.

All European women and children had been evacuated from this entire area of the Mandated Territory just before Christmas 1941. On the 16th Feb representatives of the NGR came to Finschhafen where I lived as well as other missionary staff, as doctors and teachers and lay missionaries and were suddenly called to Finschhafen Mission Lutheran headquarters bulk store the shipping port where the mission ship M.V. *Bavaria* was anchored. Here the military officials waited till it was getting dark and then commanded us, including lady Dr. Hoeper to get aboard and the ship left for an unknown destination which later turned out to be Lae.

We arrived just shortly before day break. The reason why we travelled by night was that the Japanese planes were over us all the time and no lights or lamps were to lit at any time. The following days in Lae we were under close military supervision, where sorting out of personnel took place. A group of us were eventually sent overland by the military to the gold mining valley to the township of Bulwat, which was part of the towns in the Wau—Bulolo Valley where a number of huge gold mining dredges were stationed. At Bulwa the officer in charge of the NGVR called me into his office and handed me an enlisting certificate paper. After I had read it he asked me if I would sign the document, to which I said "Yes". Following this he said "Here is your rifle and bayonet and bullets and get on your way to Lae with the other soldiers". This took several days until we arrived at Nadzab air strip near the Gamatzung mission station where our difficult military patrols began.

The war situation was now real. No fires could be even lit to boil water for a cup of tea. It was a very frightening time. After approximately six months food ran out and no natives with gardens were to be found anywhere. When our health was deteriorating fast with malaria and dysentery and, of course, malnutrition, the order came "Get out if you can to Port Moresby over the Bulldog Trail. There's no more food here!" The Japanese were over us all the time by planes and in the jungle. I say it's only by the grace of God I survived.

One story may interest you. Five of us soldiers picked up

our rifles etc. and rucksack and walked up towards the Bulolo Valley. Because we couldn't boil water as smoke would give our position away to the Japanese for a bomb to be dropped, almost immediately we drank water from the Markham River knowing full well the river was used for toilets by New Guineans. I got acute dysentery.

The five of us were each given a young native to help us on our way. My help was called *Washem*. Our trek seemed indeed almost impossible as we were all suffering from malnutrition. After a days walk or so we came to a flooding river with no bridge over it. There was, however, a fairly long tree still with limbs on, reaching over the chain wide river which was a raging torrent in flood.

When I saw this river I collapsed to the ground and said to *Washem* "Maski. Mi dai dai hia" (Let me die here). Because of my ill health I couldn't keep up with the others. After a while I became aware that *Washem* had left me. Some time later he touched me and said "Give me your rucksack". I asked "Why?" He said he was going to take it across to the other side of the river going over by the tree trunk bridge and left me a second time. I was almost too weak to talk because of my severe dysentery and malnutrition. After a while *Washem* stirred me up again and said "Give me your rifle, bayonet and bandolier" (this had 95 bullets), and once more he was gone as I was too weak to look and see what he was really doing.

After a while he was back again and said "Masta! I want to carry you on my back across the river over the tree trunk". *Washem* was no taller than 5ft 3 ins, if that. I struggled up from where I was lying. I doubt if I weighed more than 100 lbs. I was only skin and bones. He finally got me on his back and held my two legs and slowly walked across that tree with me. What a miracle" This fuzzie wuzzie was to me truly an angel, and I cannot thank and praise the Lord enough for this unforgettable experience. I have never in all the years after the war been able to meet my angel *Washem*, a short Sepik native.

I finally caught up with the other four who were in a reasonably close village where there was a small army medical outpost. Here I received treatment for my dysentery condition and later being able to get a fairly decent New Guinea meal, I was able to gain strength. When we got into the gold mining town of Bulwa we could have reasonable meals and my legs began to get stronger, but the threat of war was far from over, and once more we were told to burn all houses and trade stores and get onto the Bulldog Trail over mountains and to Port Moresby. Of course our group of men were now about 25. We went with trucks along a road, when suddenly the order came "Abandon your trucks!". Then came the next order "Go and push all the 4 or so vehicles over the cliff into the river and start walking".

I might just say that when our children were at Katherine Lehmann School at Wau, I took Tabitha (my wife) and our children in a vehicle out along that road and finally to the spot where the road ended and—lo and behold—deep down in the river's rocky edge lay the rusted remnants of those vehicles. To me especially it brought back memories which, unless you have gone through it, cannot be described.

From there on we walked and walked, until the about 2 miles high mountains of the Bulldog Trail taxed our strength to the utmost, so much so that I could not carry my rifle anymore, which I told the officer. He replied "A soldier never gets rid of his rifle". Some distance on I finally was ready to collapse with the officer this time said "I will look the other way, do what you want to". I took the bolt out of my rifle and threw it in different directions in the mountain jungle growth. All I had now was my rucksack with a few clothes and then my Bible which my parents gave me at the time of my commissioning in 1940, and my baptismal and confirmation certificates, and two pictures which I had

ripped out of their picture frames when I had to hastily abandon my little room at Finschhafen. One of these pictures was an angel leading two children across a dangerous bridge and the other one was of the thorn crowned Christ and then also a music voluntary book, all from my room at the Salankaua Finschhafen mission home when I was given 5 minutes to take what I could out of my possessions and then was lead by a soldier away to our "Bavaria" mission ship where all the remaining missionaries and dear Dr Hoeger of Kakaka Hospital were waiting. Finally we were all taken at night to Lae.

Now back to the Bulldog Trail where we were in such mountains where a person could shout or talk to a person on the opposite mountain top and be understood. Still it would take a full day to get there by foot climbing and climbing up and down. Quite unexpectedly we came upon a group of natives known as the Kukakukas. There were no women around. This was a sign that if we wandered from our group we may have never been seen again. Those were heathen head hunters and cannibals. They were friendly and brought us sugar cane to eat but we didn't trust them. When people ask me how many days did it take you to walk to Moresby the answer is - I can't remember. I can only remember that when the sun came up and when the sun went down another day had gone and that is as far as our brains would tell us.

Eventually we came to a small military camp which was on the Lakekamu River. Here we relaxed and ate a normal meal again although our appetite had changed and often we didn't feel like eating much. There were no boats around when one of our group produced a tomahawk we cut down suitable trees and made a large raft and finally floated our way several days down to the River's mouth where we finally met and were offered a launch by the Catholic Mission to go to Yule Island. Here the Catholic Mission was still working as though there was no war in PNG.

Here our group were looked after well and we slept in the student's dormitory. After four days a boat bound for Port Moresby was ready to go. It took at least a whole day or maybe two days to reach Port Moresby but I cannot remember exactly. When we arrived at Port Moresby there were dangers of mine fields, little did we know that we had crossed over a mine field with our shallow boat as we sailed into the Port Moresby harbour. I actually saw one mine just below our boat as we sailed over it and all of us were absolutely frightened what may happen next. The sky lit up with search lights and bombers and fighters were around everywhere. We went ashore and were taken by army vehicles to more army officers where we were told you have no name in our records and more. We were advised that you have been written off our records, and are no longer on our lists of NGVR soldiers. You have no rifles and bayonets and we regard you as lost in action as we hadn't heard of you for weeks, and are regarded as members of the LOST LEGION. We will now have to re-enter you into our record files with all your personal details including your army number NG 2480.

We were then checked out medically by doctors where I was found to have a 5 plus spleen stretching across the midline below the liver (normally the spleen cannot be felt). Those who were still well enough (of which there were only 2 of our 25) had to go into the Kokoda Trail battles, we others had to prepare to be transferred to hospitals in Australia.

We landed at Cairns and after several days were directed into train cattle trucks where we lay on the floor all the way down to Brisbane. In Brisbane at military Headquarters we were checked out one by one (here I discovered I had lost my South Australian identity and was now a Queenslander). A few days later I had a very severe malaria attack and was taken by ambulance to Redbank Military Hospital where I was for six months between hospital and convalescent depot.

The story isn't finished here but this is a short resume of the first nine months in 1942 of some of my hazardous experiences in the

war. Being saved by God's grace. In 1943 I was back again in PNG and wasn't discharged from the army until May 1946. In my mind there is only one thought that the Lord had a plan for me and his guardian angels were ever around me as the Lord was preparing me for the challenges and work in our Lutheran Mission's Christian medical outreach to the many who will never see a doctor.

Awards accorded to Edwin G. Tscharke AO MBE

1974 Member of British Empire MBE
1975 PNG Independence Medal
1978 Queen Elizabeth 11 Silver Jubilee Medal
1982 Rotary Paul Harris Fellow
1987 Anzac Peace Prize
1988 Unsung Heroes & Heroines of Australia Medal
1989 Order of Australia A.O.
1989 Rotary Paul Harris Bar
1989 Doctor of Medicine (Honoris Causa) Uni of PNG
1874 World Health Organisation (WHO) Geneva sent Dr Hearnkan Hell berg to assess PNG's Health Services before PNG's independence, and assessed Gaubin Hospital and their community health approach as the model for the Third World's International Primary Health Care.

As Ed stated in his story his military service does not end there.



By the time he arrived in Sydney in Oct 1942 he was "a fragile shrunken figure in an over-sized army uniform; nervy half starved and bewildered (he was 23 years old).

In Nov 42 he returned to an army camp in Brisbane and suffered another attack of malaria and admitted to the 2/4 General Hospital at Greenbank where it was discovered he had an enlarged spleen. Hospital records show that only 11 cases of malaria were treated at Greenbank on

Oct 42 compared to 239 in Dec and 492 in Feb 43. He was discharged in Dec. In March 43 he was posted to a tank repair shop at Wattlebrae in Sydney where he qualified as a tank driver and mechanic.

Whilst at the tank workshops he heard that the Australian New Guinea Administration Unit (ANGAU) were looking for men with New Guinea experience. Ed volunteered and was posted in as a medical assistant. He travelled back to Port Moresby in February 1944 on the Dutch ship "Van Swall", a slow and grimy steamship crammed with aircraft parts.

The course Ed attended was the first of its kind in Papua or New Guinea and its aim was to train European Medical Assistants (EMA). In the absence of doctors they brought basic health care to remote areas, often in hospitals which they had built themselves. In New Guinea they were called "lik lik doctors" and in Papua 'Medast'. The course was held at the former London Missionary Society TB and leprosy hospital on Gemo Island, near the entrance to Port Moresby harbour. The 200 bed hospital had been built only a few years earlier with wards built out over the sea. As a fringe benefit patients could toss a line out from the verandah. There were only 6 on the course.

At the end of the course Ed was promoted to Cpl and posted to Samarai, an island off the Eastern tip of New Guinea, where he arrived in April, 44. He was 2i/c of the Baraga native hospital. His most distinct memory of Samarai is that ANGAU used homing pigeons to carry messages to and from Port Moresby.

After 3 months at Baraga Ed was promoted to Acting Staff Sgt and posted 200kms north to Kiriwina in the Trobriand Island Group, to Losuia native hospital. In Nov 44 Ed was promoted to Staff Sgt and given a European assistant. In January 45 another EMA was appointed and Ed proceeded on leave and married Tabitha Rohde.

Ed was finally discharged from the army in April 46 as a Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2) and had worked in 3 more native hospitals—Baniara and Tufi on the north coast of Papua and Heldsbach, near Finschhafen.

Ed joined the Lutheran Mission again and, after waiting 7 months for their immigration clearances to be finalized, Ed and Tabitha embarked for New Guinea on the 'Montoro' in early Jan 1947. They took with them 12 Jersey cattle, 8 pigs, 8 ducks and 50 head of poultry. Their gear included a wringer, a radio, soldering outfit, pegs, a rat trap, bandages, 8 rulers, 2 yards of plastic, four half-pint tins of enamel paint, condiments, billies, music books, a medical kit and a .22 rifle.

Ed worked in Finschhafen as Dr. Braun's assistant from Feb to July 47. *Dr Braun was a Lutheran Doctor who had stayed on in New Guinea and during WW2 was a POW of the Japanese, survived strafing by US warplanes when on the 'Dorish Mauru' when, of the 154 missionaries on board, only 25 were unharmed. After the war he was at Yagaum Hospital near Madang, an immense specialized health centre which the Lutheran Church opened in 1950. As a matter of interest Dr Braun removed the Editor's appendix at Madang hospital in 1960.* In Sep 47 Ed and Tabitha left on the 'Malaita', loaded with tons of material Ed had been able to obtain from surplus military stores left at Finschhafen, for Madang, bound for Kar Kar Island, Ed had been told "Go to Kar Kar Island, build a Hospital, and work in it". These were the very words he used as his job criteria until he left PNG.

The words were simple but there were many difficulties in building a hospital on Kar Kar, including filling in gun emplacements and bomb craters

The people of Kar Kar were typical of those in every coastal village of New Guinea after the war. They were sick and hungry and the villages were full of people with yaws, malaria, tuberculosis and dysentery. Ed was told that over 1,000 people had died of malnutrition and dysentery during the war.

With no budget, no site survey reports, no cost benefit analysis, no environmental impact statements and no stastical surveys of disease patterns, Ed eventually built and ran Gaubin Hospital.

For the first 3 months Ed and Tabitha lived on half a verandah of a house with another person living on the other half.



They slept under a mosquito net with an army ground-sheet over it to keep out the rain. There were no cooking facilities. The occupier of

the other half of the verandah, Jack Lindner, had about 100 fowls for eggs and meat. He killed a broiler on Saturdays, and boiled it as a soup on Sundays with shallots, sweet potato leaves and rice added. The meat lasted 3 days but the bones could be out for a week by adding water to the anaemic broth. They often ran short of supplies when no ships came and they obtained their salt by boiling sea water.

After 3 months they moved into a native materials hut to live, while



Gaubin Hospital—Kar Kar Island.

work slowly proceeded on the hospital, however Ed also cared for the natives of Kar Kar at the same time. In 1948 over 13,000 injections for yews was given, with a record of 504 injections on one day. Ed was the only medical person on Kar Kar so all this was done in conjunction with treating all other illnesses and accidents.

The first stage of the Gaubin hospital was officially opened on 27 June, 48. Ed had managed this with the materials he had brought from Finschhafen plus 5 tones of cement from Madang. It was furnished with 80 beds made from local Galip wood, pit-sawn on site. In the early 40's the Administration assisted with a grant of 500 pounds, and Ed never stopped building.

In 1963 the German based Lutheran aid organisation, Bread for the World donated \$44,000 for the construction of a 200 bed hospital using local labour and bricks made on site. And this was dedicated on 27 June 1967.

Gaubin withstood volcanic eruptions in 1970, '74 and '79, the latter killing two govt volcanologists, sustaining minor damage which Rotarians from all over the world came to Kar Kar to repair.



The Tscharkes returned to Australia, in Sept 1988 where they retired to Brassil, near Ipswich, Qld. Ed died in the late 1990's and Tabitha died earlier this year, aged 93.

The latter part of this story and the photos have been taken from "God's Maverick" by Ian Frazer and "A quarter Century of Healing" by Ed Tscharkes.

A remarkable story of dedication to God and the people of Kar Kar Island.

THE SALUTE

The exact origin of the military salute has been lost in time. However, it is believed that it probably originated in a gesture that showed the right hand (the fighting hand) was not concealing a weapon. Another possibility is that when men-at-arms took to wearing armour, the approaching generals or king would ride forward and, holding the reigns of the horse with the left hand, raise the visor with the right to identify each other.

When a knight or a king wanted to raise an army, he would ride among the people to enlist men-at-arms. Only free men were allowed to bear arms and they would show their availability by looking their king or knight in the eyes (a serf or slave had to bow his head and direct his eyes toward the ground). Today, this custom is preserved as the "eyes right" on the ceremonial march past when a marching body of troops passes by a reviewing officer.

The protocol of paying a compliments to armed bodies of troops (Armoured Corps or Armed Party) also goes back hundreds of years. If a lone soldier did not stand fast for a passing body of troops and declare his allegiance, the party would assume him to be hostile and treat him accordingly.

The sword salute is a reminder of the Crusader days when the knight kissed the hilt of the sword before entering the conflict. The hilt represented the Cross and the motions of the salute roughly described a Cross. Today some of the motions of the salute have been omitted; the "Recover" is, however, still symbolic of kissing the Cross.

Whilst drills change with the introduction of different styles of rifles, the rifle salute of today is still based on a drill in which the salute was the first motion of "present arms". A sentry's salute to an officer of field rank (major to brigadier) and above was, and still is, a full salute with the weapon – the "present arms"; whilst junior officers received the preliminary movement only, hence the rifle or "butt salute" (the accepted civilian-attire equivalent to the military salute is, depending on the occasion, the doffing of one's headdress, the complete removal of the headdress, the right hand up across the heart, or the bowing of one's head).

PRESENT ARMS

On his return to England to claim the Throne in 1660, King Charles II was confronted by Colonel George Monk's Coldstream Regiment. Upon accepting the allegiance of the Regiment a command of "Present your weapons for service under His Majesty" was given. Every man in the Unit held his musket of pike forward at arm's length and at the "high port" position. The order "ground your weapons" was given, followed by "In his Majesty's cause, recover your weapons".

The King was so pleased with the ceremony of surrendering weapons into his service that he ordered the "present arms" to be a feature of all future inspections as a mark of respect.

WO1 C.J. Jobson, former RSM Ceremonial ADHQ

Mad Wife Disease

A guy was sitting quietly reading his paper when his wife walked up behind him and whacked him on the head with a magazine.

'What was that for ?' he asked.

'That was for the piece of paper in your trouser pocket with the name Laura Lou written on it,' she replied.

"Two ween ago when I went to the races, Laura Lou was the name of one of the horses I bet on," he explained.

'Oh darling, I'm sorry,' she said. 'I should have known there was a good explanation.'

Three days later he was watching TV when she walked up and hit him in the head again, this time with a frying pan, which knocked him out cold.

*When he came to, he asked, 'What was that for ?'
'Your horse phoned !'*



Japanese "Betty" Bomber on 'Kabaيرا' Plantation, Rabaul, after WW2. 'Kabaيرا' was owned by the Washington brothers. Cpl George Washington, NGVR 2297, one of the brothers, escorted Italian & German national internees from Rabaul to Australia. Photo courtesy your museum at Wacol.

THE PNGVR PEWTER MUG

Chaplain Pete O'Reilly was a Roman Catholic priest who served as a Chaplain with PNGVR and later with PIR. 143772 Chaplain 4th Class (RC) P J O'Reilly was posted to PNGVR on 7 June 1960. He was one of three Chaplains involved in the blessing of the Queen and Regimental Colours during the presentation in July 1969 at Igam Barracks. He became well liked and well known identity in the Army in PNG. In March 1974 he wrote from Yassip, outside Wewak, to Lt Col Peter Cole at Igam Barracks, Lae.

"Dear Pete,

It was a pleasant surprise last week to receive a fine Pewter Tankard as a memorial gift of PNGVR. Permit me to thank you and all concerned for that token of appreciation. I can assure you it will remind me of my years in the service of PNGVR. I must say I was happy in this service and I hope that I brought some happiness to members of the Battalion.

Yours as ever,

Father Pete."

Bob Harvey-Hall says his pewter mug still has a pride of place with his memorabilia. Each mug was inscribed with the recipients rank and name in capital cast letters and with the following inscription :-

*Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles
On disbandment of the PNGVR
31.12.73*

Russ Ames says he attended the last PNGVR officer formal dining night at Igam Barracks when he was presented with his pewter mug to which later he attached the PNGVR badge. The seating plan for the dinner shows he sat on the right of Chaplain O'Reilly. Russ was one of a fortunate 'band of brothers' who had the luck to be at Igam Barracks Officers Mess that significant evening in the history of the Unit.

Thank you Bob Harvey-Hall



Sgt Karl Aschhoff on extreme right marches C Coy in an Annual Camp

HTT Vol 71 contained a book review on "What Price Bushido", the story of 18 British survivors found in Rabaul after WW2,

Below is the story of one of the soldiers shipped to Rabaul, as researched by his daughter.

My later father, Gunner Alfred William Burgess, No 1831431, serving with 144 Battery, 35 Light Anti Aircraft, RA, lost his life in the Far East on 5 March 1943 as a Japanese POW. I was 6 years old at the time.

On the 50th Anniversary of the end of the war in the Far East I began to wonder what really happened to my father. We had had a telegram from the War Office "Missing at Sea, presumed dead 5.3.43". I wrote to the Ministry of Defence and paid 20 pounds sterling to be told what I already knew—that he had been lost at sea. However I also wrote to the Far East POW Graves Archives and was put in touch with Peter Dunstan who kindly sent me a brief history of the Royal Artillery "Ballale 600".

After the fall of Singapore in Feb 1942 my father was taken prisoner and spent time in the camp at Changi. In early Oct 1942 the Japanese decided that 600 men from the Royal Artillery units (various units) plus a few men from the RAMC and RASC who had been attached to the RA should be moved to another camp in Japan. The 600 were under the command of Lt Col John Basset. The party was taken to Singapore Docks where they boarded a ship believed to be the "Masta Mauru" and endured horrendous conditions. Many men were sick at this time and Sgt Maj Lambourne died from dysentery. On the journey it was noticed that the ship was definitely NOT heading for Japan but was heading South. On 5 Nov the ship docked at Rabaul on the island of New Britain where the men were unloaded and marched along dusty tracks ankle deep with volcanic ash despite many being without footwear. During this period the men were made to work in the tropical sun with many beatings.

At the end of Nov the men were assembled and the fittest 517 were told that they were to be taken to build an airfield for the Japanese. 82 men did not go with the party as they were not deemed fit enough. **Only 28 of the original 600 survived to return to the UK—these being among the group that did not go on to Ballale.** The 517 were taken by another hell ship on the two day journey to the small island of Ballale which is approx 4 miles in diameter to build an airstrip. In time, probably on completion of the airstrip and the news being received by the Japanese that the Allies were closing in, orders were given that **"Prisoners of war were to be disposed of by whatever means available"**. Accordingly on 5 Mar 1943 those who were still alive (some having died of illness and others as a result of Allied bombing as the Japanese had not allowed the prisoners to dig trenches to take cover) were massacred in cold blood and not one of those taken to Ballale survived. It was only through one of the few natives who lived on the island and who had witnessed the events that this story was able to be recorded by the Australian Forces who re-occupied the island some time later. In 1946 the remains of these British servicemen were recovered and were finally interred in graves in the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Port Moresby where they are tended by the Australian War Graves Commission.

The British Army records had shown that the 600 Royal Artillery men died when an unknown ship was sunk somewhere in the Pacific—false information given to them by the Japanese. This accounts for the telegram my mother received.

After learning of the above I placed a notice on Teletext "Service Pals" asking if anyone had known my father. I heard from a lot of people including the Rev Baker who was with the 600 but was not well enough to go on that last fateful journey to

Ballale. He has written a book called "What Price Bushido" which tells the story of the '600' from the time they were in Singapore until the party went off to build the airstrip and relates what happened to the ones who stayed behind in Rabaul.

A friend then gave me the address of the Office of Australian War Graves who have been so kind and understanding and when one of their members went to Bomana War Cemetery in Port Moresby they kindly arranged for three beautiful photographs to be taken of the graves of the men killed on Ballale and sent them to me. As the bodies when recovered could not be identified (the Japanese having removed identity discs), each one has an individual grave marked "Known But to God" in a suburb setting.

I have also had a letter from Australia saying that when one of their staff visits the remote island of Ballale, they will try to take a photograph of the airstrip which my father was working on in the last months of his life.

I have felt much closer to my father as a result of all efforts over the past four years and am grateful to know he has a grave, albeit unmarked, in a beautiful cemetery.

Web site 'Britain-at-war.org.uk/WW2.

A MEDAL FOR HORATIUS

Rome

11Calends, April, CCCLX

Subject: Recommendation for Senate Medal of Honour.

To: Department of War. Republic of Rome

1. Recommended Caius Horatius, Captain of Foot, O-MCMXIV, for the Senate Medal of Honour.

11. Captain Horatius has served XVI years, all honourably.

111. On the 111 day of March, during the attack on the city by Lars Porsena of Clusium and his Tuscan army of CXM men, Captain Horatius voluntarily, with Sgt Spurius Lartius and Cpl Julius Herminius, held the entire Tuscan army at the far end of the bridge, until the structure could be destroyed, thereby saving the city.

IV. Capt Horatius did valiantly fight and kill one Major Picus of Clusium in individual combat.

V. The exemplary courage and the outstanding leadership of Capt Horatius are in the highest tradition of the Roman Army.

Julius Lucullus

Commander, 11 Foot Legion.

1st Ind. A.G. Calends, April, CCCLX.

To: G-11

For comment.

G.C.

IID. Ind G-111. IX Calends, May, CCCLX

To G 11

1. For comment and forwarding.

11 Change para 111, line VI from "saving the city" to "Lessened the effectiveness of the enemy attack." The Roman Army was well dispersed tactically; the reserve had not been committed. The phrase as written might be constructed to cast aspersions on our fine army.

111. Change paragraph V, line 1, from "outstanding leadership" to read "commendable initiative". Capt Horatius' command was 11 men—only 1/1V of a Section. J.C.

111d. Ind. G-II Ides, June, CCCLX.

To G-1.

1. Omit strength of Tuscan forces in para 111. This information if classified.

11. A report evaluated as B-11 states that the officer was a Captain Pincus of Linternum. Recommend change "Major Pincus" to "an officer of the enemy forces". T.J.

IVth Ind. G-1 IX Ides, January, CCCXLI.

To JAG.

1. Full name is Gaius Caius Horatius.

11. Change service from XVI to XV years. One year in Romulus Chapter, Cub Scouts, has been given credit for military ser-

vice in error.

E.J.

Vth Ind. JAG 11d of February, CCCLX1

To: AG

1. The Porenza raid was not during wartime; the temple of Janus was closed.

11. The action against the Porenza raid, ipso facto, was a police action.

111. The Senate Medal of Honour cannot be awarded in peacetime (AR CVIII-SSV, paragraph XII,c.)

IV. Suggest consideration for Soldier's Medal. P.B.

Vlth Ind. AG. IV Calends, April, CCCLXI

To G-1.

Concur in paragraph IV, Vth Ind.

L.J.

Vllth Ind. AG, 1 day of May, CCCLXI.

To AG

1. Soldier's Medal is given for saving lives, suggest Star of Bronze as appropriate. E.J.

Vllth Ind. AG 111 day of June, CCCLXI

To JAG. For opinion.

G.C.

IXth Ind. AG 11 Calends, September, CCCL1

To AG.

1. XVII months have elapsed since event described in basic letter. Star of Bronze cannot be awarded after XV months have elapsed.

11. Officer is eligible for Papyrus Scroll with Metal Pendant ,PB Xth Ind. AG. I ide of October, CCCLXI.

To G-1.

For draft of citation for Papyrus Scroll with Metal Pendant

C.C. XIth Ind. G-I 111Calends, October, CCCLXI.

To G-I.

1. Do not concur

11. Our currently fine relations with Tuscany would suffer and current delicate negotiations might be jeopardised if publicity were given to Capt Horatius' actions at the present time. T.J.

X11th Ind. G-II VI day of November, CCCLXI

To AG

1. In view of information contained in preceding XIth and XIIth endorsements, you will prepare immediate orders for Capt G.C. Horatius to one of our overseas stations.

11. His attention will be directed to paragraph XII, POM, which prohibits interviews or conversations with newsmen prior to arrival at final destination.

I.T.

Rome

II Calends, April, CCCLXII

Subject, Survey, Report of DEPARTMENT OF WAR

To. Capt Gaius Caius Horatius, III Legion, Phalanx, APO XIX, c/o Postmaster, Rome.

1. Your statements concerning the loss of your shield and sword in the Tiber River, on III March, CCLX, have been carefully considered.

11. It is admitted that you were briefly in action against certain unfriendly elements on that day. However, Sgt Spurius Lartius and Cpl Juilus Herminius were in the same action and did not lose any government property.

111. The Finance Officer has been directed to reduce your next pay by II i/II talents (I III/IV talents cost of one, each sword, Officers; III/IV talent cost of one, each, shield, M-II).

IV. You are enjoined and admonished to pay strict attention to conservation of government funds and property. The budget must be balanced each year.

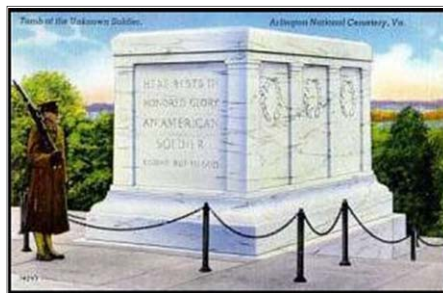
H. HOCUS POCUS

Lieutenant of Horse,
Survey Officer.

One has the feeling that things have not changed a lot in the Military insofar as Honours and Awards are concerned.

*My doctor wrote me a prescription for "dailysex".
My wife had to break it to me gently, that he was actually talking about "dyslexia".*

THE AMERICAN TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER



1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

21 steps: It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or

foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

3. Why are his gloves wet?

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.



4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to

the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year

What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.

General.

Guards must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way..

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb.

There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin. The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform.. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery .. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred.

Among the notables are:

President Taft,

Joe Lewis {the boxer}

Medal of Honour winner Audie L. Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII and of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington,

DC, the US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm.. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment.. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in



the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honour that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.



Arrival of the Administrator, Rabaul, 1918

The basic gear of an Australian Army soldier

IN 15 years, the value of an Australian soldier's gear has jumped from \$3,700 to almost \$30,000. The uniforms have been redesigned, the armour has been upgraded and the weapons have become even more deadly.

All of those improvements raise our Diggers' chances of survival when they travel to the world's most dangerous places.

Of course, soldiers carry different types and amounts of equipment, depending on their duties. In some situations they're expected to carry up to 58 kilograms. But even their most basic gear is impressively hi-tech.

CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORM

The army uses three kinds of camouflage, each of which is tailored to certain conditions. The first is a *Disruptive Pattern* print, which has been around since the 1980s and was developed using aerial photographs of Australian terrain. Then there's a *Disruptive Pattern Desert* print, which incorporates different colours and is used in, you guessed it, desert conditions.



Finally, there's the *Multicam* uniform, which has seven different colours and works in a wide range of environments. It also has built-in knee

These two soldiers are wearing Multicam uniforms



and elbow pads to help reduce the number minor injuries our soldiers suffer.

TIERED BODY ARMOUR

The Tiered Body Armour System gives soldiers extra protection, along with a series of pouches in which to place their ammunition and equipment.

The armour is [designed to stop](#) "small arms fire and fragmentation." It also has a quick release mechanism, which makes it quick and easy to remove the armour in an emergency.

ENHANCED COMBAT HELMET



Four soldiers wear the Enhanced Combat Helmet

The point of the helmet is pretty obvious — it's there to protect the soldier's head from bullets. But it's engineered to be lightweight

and camouflaged as well.

The current standard issue combat helmet was introduced in 2004 after winning a competition between four rival designs.

OCULAR PROTECTION SYSTEM

Eye protection is extremely important, particularly in desert-like environments where sand and dust swirls through the air.



No, those aren't just ski goggles

The Ballistic and Laser Ocular Protection System shields a soldier's eyes from enemies, as well as environmental threats. It comes in the form of goggles or sunglasses

F88 AUSTEYR RIFLE The F88SA2 is the standard combat weapon for Australian infantry. It fires 5.56 x 45 millimetre ammunition at up to 850 rounds per minute, with an effective



A soldier from the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment firing an F88 rifle.

range of 300 metres. The rifle can even be fitted with a Grenade Launcher Attachment. In other words, it's a very deadly weapon. The rifle is 79 centi-

metres long, and it weighs four kilograms when fully loaded.

FIELD PACK

Packs are used to carry supplies during operations that last longer than 24 hours. They come in several sizes, but the largest contains about 80 litres of space, which is enough to hold sleeping gear and more than three days' worth of food and water.



AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL ANTHEM.

"Advance Australia Fair"

Are you aware that the song that is now the National Anthem originally contained four verses? The following is taken from a song sheet, price 1/- (One shilling) complete with music. It is undated but has at the heading "**Sung by the Great Choir of 10,000 voices at the Inauguration of the Commonwealth. The first music performed by the Massed Bands after the naming of the Federal Capital of Australia, Canberra.**"

The words are:-

Australia's sons let us all rejoice For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil Our home is girt by sea ;
Our land abounds in natures gifts Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's stage, let every page Advance Australia fair. I

In joyful strains then let us sing Advance Australia fair.

When gallant Cook from Albion sailed, To trace wide oceans o'er

True British courage bore him on, till he landed on our shore;
Then here he raised Old England's flag the standard of the brave;

"With all her hearts we love her still" " Britannia rules the wave"

In joyful strains then let us sing Advance Australia fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross, we'll toil with hearts and hands;

To make our youthful Commonwealth Renowned of all the lands;

For loyal sons beyond the seas We've boundless plains to share;

With courage let us all combine To advance Australia Fair.

In joyful strains then let us sing Advance Australia Fair.

Should foreign foe e'er sight our coast Or dare a foot to land;
We'll rouse to arms like sires of yore To guard our native strand
Britannia then shall surely know Beyond wide oceans roll;
Her sons in fair Australia's land Still keep a British soul.

In joyful strains then let us sing Advance Australia Fair.

Thank you Ted McAllan.



7,200
lbs of
explo-
sive
light up
the sky

A young ventriloquist is touring Norway and puts on a show in a small fishing town. With his dummy on his knee, he starts going through his usual dumb blonde jokes.

Suddenly, a blonde woman in the fourth row stands on her chair and starts shouting, "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes. What makes you think you can stereotype Norwegian blonde women that way? What does the colour of a woman's hair have to do with her worth as a human being? It's men like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in the community, and from reaching our full potential as people. Its people like you that make others think that all blondes are dumb! You and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blondes, but women in general, pathetically all in the name of humour!"

The embarrassed ventriloquist begins to apologize, and the blonde yells:

"You stay out of this!I'm talking to that little idiot on your lap."

THE LONELY VIGIL OF "GOLDEN VOICE"

Taken from "The Hidden Chapters" by Robert Piper, a unique collection of stories describing the drama and tragedy that occurred on our doorstep and on our shores.

The story of Leigh Vial and his six months as a Coastwatcher above Salamaua, New Guinea, during 1942 is a legend. Even before this, as an Assistant District Officer with the civil admini-



PNGVR Annual Camp Goldie River, 1960.



Photo of Leigh Vial at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

stration at Rabaul, he assisted Australians, including members of 24 Squadron, to escape the town when the Japanese invaded.

Enlisted into the RAAF at Townsville in January 1942, as a Pilot Officer, Leigh Vial returned to New Guinea specifically to be a coast watcher above Salamaua. This was an area where he and his family had worked and lived in pre-war years.

On his return to Port Moresby from his coast watching duties, Leigh was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross by the Americans. There was no recognition, unfortunately, at the time, from the Australians or our Air Force.

Vial tragically lost his life on 30 April 1943 when guiding an American B-24 Liberator carrying supplies to a remote Australian Army reconnaissance group in the Highlands of New Guinea, near the present day Goroka. All on board the bomber lost their lives when it crashed short of the drop zone.

Vial, as a well educated young cadet patrol officer in New Guinea in 1933, went seeking adventure and a career after graduating from Melbourne and Sydney universities, with a degree in anthropology at the latter. His early days were spent in the Morobe District, around Lae and Salamaua. "Vial loved the country and people." In 1936 he wrote '...It's a long time since I left—nearly a year now—but the time has passed very rapidly for me. I've been patrolling steadily for the last five months in my own district. Theoretically I'm stationed at Buki, but all told I've only been there about four weeks'.

On 15 Aug 1938 Vial made the first ascent of Mt Wilhelm (15,400 feet), the second highest peak in New Guinea. To

calculate the height he boiled water on the peak, recorded the temperature with a thermometer, and a calculation then gave him the altitude. At the summit he noted mist and snow lying in sheltered spots. Vial climbed the mountain again in 1939, this time accompanied by a geologist L.C. Noakes, investigating evidence of glaciation.

When war broke out with Japan in late 1941 Vial was an Assistant District Officer stationed at Rabaul.

The day before the Japanese invasion of Rabaul, Vial led a large group of Army and Air Force to Sum Sum. On the other side of the island, from where unarmed Empire flying boats ferried them to safety.

With his wife Marjorie and two children, who had also earlier lived at Salamaua, safely back in Australia, Vial enlisted into the RAAF at Townsville. Eric Feldt in his book *The Coastwatchers* recounts:

'Vial quietly insisted that he should be given a coast watching assignment. With his youth, ability and knowledge of the country he was an ideal coastwatcher. It was expected that the enemy would occupy Salamaua before long, and operate aircraft from there and from Lae against defenseless Port Moresby. The Air Intelligence Officer (Squadron Leader J. Welwood DFC) was as anxious to get Vial to Salamaua as I was. In two days Vial was commissioned as a Pilot Officer and within a week we had supplied him with a telradio, codes and food.'

Vial took a portable radio and a large supply of trading items for the natives which included a big bag of New Guinea shillings. He also carried a series of grid maps of the whole Lae-Salamaua area so that he could describe exactly the location of any targets, especially shipping. An RAAF Hudson flew him in before Salamaua fell. A diary was kept and the following are two extracts from it:

20.2.42 Arrived O.P. area

10.4.42 Seaplane left Salamaua about 6.30. Ship 1,000 tons thought merchant vessel into Lae at 0735 (Reported)

Careful Watch all day—weather good. Cars seen to and from drome and to and from assumed enemy H.Q.

An extract from 32 Squadron's diary records a supply drop from one of their Hudsons on 19 April 1942.. 'A16-153 Photographic reconnaissance Madang-Wewak ad drop supplies to P/O Vial.'

The Japanese were not long in monitoring Vial's transmissions and seeing the results in the bombing of Lae, Salamaua and coastal shipping, as well as the timely interception of their aircraft heading for Moresby. A small enemy floatplane was sent to

comb the ridges and machine-gun his area, backed up by ground parties, and on 24 June 1942 Vial was forced to move his post and equipment. Twice he escaped by remaining motionless in the fork of a tree infested with green stinging ants, while a Japanese patrol passed below. But such was his skill and jungle craft that he was not caught and the local people never gave him away.

His mother wrote afterwards of some of the privations that Leigh suffered because of the damp and poor food during his lonely vigil:

'The worst time was when he had a very bad case of tinea—the irritation was intense on his face, eyes and body. He had to keep his arms straight out at right angles as he lay in his shelter, to control himself from scratching. Then he could only crawl out and put his shaving mirror on the ground in front of him to see the sky and so send his report on the weather. Each week there was a telephone message to his wife (from Sqn Ldr J. Welsood DFC) "Your husband is well and sends his love."

Some six months survival in the difficult climatic conditions, combined with a poor diet, began to have their effect and Vial began suffering bouts of blindness caused by lack of vitamins. On 10 Aug 1942 he was replaced by Lt F.H. Moy of ANGAU (Australian New Guinea Administration Unit). Vial then set out by foot for Wau, in the hinterland, from where he was airlifted to Moresby.

The Air Intelligence Officer, 9 Operational Group RAAF subsequently reported:

'It is desired to draw attention to the fact that during the period of six months in which Vial was at his post he transmitted as many as nine signals a day giving valuable information of enemy dispositions, and not on any single occasion did he neglect to get his messages through, and thus showed a total disregard for his own safety.'

However it was the Americans who were quick to recognise and give Vial recognition for his work. On 12 Sep 1942 Gen Eichelberger, at a formal parade at which all available troops were gathered in a hollow square, presented the modest coast-watcher with their Distinguished Service Cross. The citation, which was not released at the time for security reasons, read in part, *'...his reports enabled us repeatedly to disperse our aircraft and send aloft fighters for successful interception. They also enabled a striking force to sink several ships and to harass enemy operations.'*

Vial, on his return from Salamaua, produced an excellent booklet on jungle survival for Allied aircrews. He was also promoted to Flight Lieutenant and placed in charge of the Port Moresby section of the Far East Liaison Office. This organization's work was psychological warfare, which often involved the dropping of propaganda leaflets from the air with information to both the enemy and local New Guinea people.

In April 1943 a special reconnaissance party (codenamed Ladybird), led by Lt G. Greathead, a pre-war patrol officer, radioed for a supply drop in the Bena Bena (Goroka) area of the highlands of New Guinea. Assigned to the task was an American B24 Liberator, named *Czechem*, from the 90th Bomb group then based at Jackson's Strip, Port Moresby. On 16 April *Czechem*, with a crew of 11 and Leigh Vial as observer, departed for the Bena Bena area.

For reasons still unclear today the Liberator crashed 16 air miles south of the drop zone and all on board lost their lives. Coincidentally, Lt Eric Snook, an engineer surveying for the Army in the area, saw the crash and with the aid of local natives and missionaries he was traveling with found and buried the bodies.

Serving with Vial in pre-war New Guinea as a patrol officer was Gerald Keogh. They had been together on the Yuat patrol in 1934 and remained friends over the years and into the war. Keogh enlisted with the RAAF on 13 July 1942 to also become an intelligence officer at Port Moresby.

Exactly four months after Leigh Vial was killed Gerry Keogh lost his life under similar circumstances. A pre-dawn takeoff from Jackson's Strip (Port Moresby) in a B24 Liberator of the 90th Bomb Group, with an American crew of 11 and Keogh as the RAAF observer. In a slow climb out over nearby Bootless Bay and a 180 degree turn to the north, the bomber struck the top of nearby Variata Plateau at 2000 feet above the drome and all on board were killed instantly.

On 30th April 1993, 50 years after his death, the RAAF remembered Leigh Vial. An oil impression painting, by the late Frank Harding, was presented to Mrs Marjorie Vial and her family at the RAAF Museum, Point Cook. In a moving ceremony Group Captain Dave Stevens made the presentation, which depicted Leigh overlooking Salamaua from his 1942 hilltop hideout. Also present for the occasion were Leigh Vial's daughters Lindy and Jill and son Andrew.

In July 1994 Lindy Gilham, Vial's youngest daughter, went to New Guinea to satisfy a lifelong ambition. She visited her father's grave at Lae and the area around Salamaua, where he operated. Lindy had seen her father only once, when he visited Melbourne on two days leave.

At Salamaua she unexpectedly met Norman, a local who helped her father in 1942 in the hills above the town. She learned that to the locals, Vial is still remembered as a 'Masta Diwai', Pidgin English for 'The man who lived in the trees'.



Four camel ambulances attached to the Imperial Camel Corps at Rafa - used as a base for the attack on Gaza.



THE C-130 ON DISPLAY AT THE FRONT GATE OF LITTLE ROCK AFB, ARKANSAS

This C-130A Hercules was the 126th built by Lockheed Aircraft Corp. of Marietta, Georgia. It was accepted into the Air Force inventory on 23 August 1957.

On 2 November 1972, it was given to the South Vietnamese Air Force as part of the Military Assistance Program. A few years later, the aircraft would be involved in a historic flight.

On 29 April 1975, this Herc was the last out of Vietnam during the fall of Saigon. With over 100 aircraft destroyed on the flight line at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, some of them still burning, it was the last flyable C-130 remaining. In a very panicked state, hundreds of people were rushing to get aboard, as the aircraft represented a final ticket to freedom.

People hurriedly crowded into the Herc, packing in tighter and tighter. Eventually, the loadmaster informed the pilot, Major Phuong, a South Vietnamese instructor pilot, that he could not get the rear ramp closed due to the number of people standing on it. In a moment of inspiration, Major Phuong slowly taxied forward, then hit the brakes. The loadmaster called forward again stating he had successfully got the doors closed.

In all, 452 people were on board, including a staggering 32 in the cockpit alone. Using a conservative estimate of 100 pounds per person, it translated into an overload of at least 10,000 pounds. Consequently, the Herc used every bit of the runway and overrun before it was able to get airborne.

The target was Thailand, which should have been 1:20 in flight time, but after an hour and a half, the aircraft was over the Gulf of Slam, and they were clearly lost. Finally, a map was located, they identified some terrain features, and they were able to navigate. They landed at Utapao, Thailand after a three and a half hour flight.

Ground personnel were shocked at what "fell out" as they opened the doors. It was clear that a longer flight would almost certainly have resulted in a loss of life. In the end, however, all 452 people made it to freedom aboard this historic C-130.

Upon landing, the aircraft was reclaimed by the United States Air Force and assigned to two different Air National Guard units for the next 14 years.

On 28 June 1989, it made its final flight to Little Rock Air Force Base and placed on permanent display

10 mph.

*The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower !
The average US wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour.*

The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

*A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year,
A dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year,*

And a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.

Ninety percent of all Doctors had no college education.

Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and the government as 'substandard.'

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

There was no such thing as under arm deodorant or tooth-paste.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

The five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza

2. Tuberculosis

3. Diarrhoea

4. Heart disease

5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars.

The population of Las Vegas Nevada was only 30!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6

percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S.A.

I can now forward this to someone else without typing it myself. From there, it can be sent to others all over the world...all in a matter of seconds!

The above obviously relates to the USA but the statistics would have been just as pertinent here in Australia.

Try to imagine what life may be like in another 100 years



Native
stretcher
bearers
New
Guinea
WW2

This has only been 104 years ago...Amazing!!!

The year is 1910, over one hundred years ago. What a difference a century makes! Here are some statistics for the Year 1910:

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.



*Fuel for this car was sold in drug stores only.
Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.
Only 8 percent of homes had a telephone.*

There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads in the USA

The maximum speed limit in most cities was



The US
Aircraft
Carrier
"Lexington"
burns prior
to sinking in
the Battle of
the Coral
Sea 1942

*A long married couple came upon a wishing well. The wife leaned over, made a wish and threw in a coin
The husband decided to make a wish too. But he leaned over too much, fell into the well, and drowned.
The wife was stunned for a moment, but then smiled, 'It really works!'*



The regimental crest (unit badge) depicts an emu forward of crossed .303 rifles, flanked by branches of Sturt's desert pea in flower. The title 'PILBARA REGIMENT' is displayed in a scroll at the base of the crest and the unit motto 'MINTU WANTA' is displayed in a scroll at the apex of the crest.

The emu was selected as the central theme as:

- it is common throughout the Pilbara,
- It has a wary yet inquisitive nature,
- it has an ability to blend with the environment,
- it has an ability to move swiftly over vast distances, and it has an ability to survive.

The Sturt Desert Pea was selected for the wreath because of its local profusion. The Regimental motto loosely translates to 'always alert' and is the first motto of an aboriginal language to be incorporated in a regimental crest in the Australian Defence Force. The motto is one of the Western Desert dialects and was selected after discussions with the Aboriginal Language Department of Hedland College.

The Pilbara Regiment colour patch comprises a horizontal double diamond but with the predominant local colours of burnt orange and black. The Pilbara Regiment colour patch does not have the battleship grey background of the NAOU colour patch as this is reserved for units descended from 2nd Australian Imperial Force units.

The Embryonic Years.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s the need was acknowledged for a military presence on the north west coast of Australia. The government of the time identified the requirement for an integrated air, sea and land surveillance network. The regional plan revolved around an air component at Learmonth, the development of a Naval facility at Finucane Island in Port Hedland and the raising of reserve unit by consolidating reserve soldiers living in the Pilbara.

After a detailed feasibility survey by Brigadier Taylor, the Commander of 5th Field Force Group and 5th Military District, Army Office released the Organisational Instruction 592/81 authorising the raising of the 5th Independent Rifle Company, The Pilbara Regiment in December 1981.

The Company was to be raised in order to provide a military presence leading to the development of a ground surveillance and reconnaissance capability.



Rear window sticker on car in Rabaul, PNG , Sept 2014

Current Role (2002) To provide the Australian Army with information by conducting surveillance operations to contribute to an effective Australian Defence Force surveillance network in the North West of Australia (Pilbara Region).

One of three Regional Force Surveillance Units, the Pilbara Regiment is responsible for 1.3 million square kilometres of country from Port Hedland in the North, to Carnarvon in the South, from the coast in the west to the Northern Territory border in the east. An area which is larger than New South Wales and Victoria together - approximately 1/6 of Australia.

The initial regimental area of responsibility was the West Australian coast from 180 south (vicinity of Broome) to Geraldton.

The Company was to be prepared to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance, acquire and maintain military geographic information on the assigned area, provided information for and assistance to other units deployed in the area and be prepared to act in a 'stay behind' capacity.

The initial peace time tasking was to develop capability by the conduct of patrols, developing and maintaining military skills relevant to operating in north west Australia, acquiring infrastructure and military geographic information, employing the special skills and knowledge of the local population including aborigines and provide guides and information required by visiting units.

The 5th Independent Rifle Company, The Pilbara Regiment, was officially raised on 26 January 1982 with a headquarters of six staff operating out of the 5th Military District Cadet Brigade Headquarters in Nicholson Road, Subiaco in Perth. After three months the company headquarters moved to Campbell Barracks in Swanbourne.



In early 1982 cadre warrant officers were posted to Newman and Tom Price. During March 1 Platoon was raised at Newman and 2 Platoon was raised at Tom Price. Recruiting teams received an enthusiastic response from the local population and almost 25 special conditions members of the 28th Independent Rifle Company, The Royal Western Australia Regiment were transferred into the company. In fact these serving members were to form the backbone of the company and provide the officer and NCO structure

The first local recruits underwent basic training at Northam Army Camp in March 1982

Support Platoon was raised in Port Hedland in 1983 and again was again initially staffed by members of the 28th Independent Rifle Company. 3 Platoon was raised at Karratha in mid 1983

On 26 January 1985, 5th Independent Rifle Company evolved into The Pilbara Regiment and was tasked as a Regional Force Surveillance Unit. The rifle platoons were redesignated as A, B and C Troop with the Support Platoon being redesignated as D Troop

Of long term importance in the mid to late 80s was the formalisation and development of the local observer element or network. The network was to establish a web across the region capable of monitoring all activity, identifying changes in normalcy patterns and reporting of findings. The local observers were selected for their local knowledge, geographical locations and proven support of the regiment. Local observers were enlisted into the regiment and at times provided limited training. In addition to the local observers a complimentary network of non enlisted contacts were established throughout the region.



The regiments fifth troop, F Troop was raised in late 1991. The Regiment was reorganised in 1992 and surveillance squadrons were raised with the 1180 meridian separating squadron areas. East Squadron comprised a headquarters in Hedland with troops in Hedland and Newman and a patrol located at Marble Bar. West Squadron comprised a headquarters in Karratha with troops in Karratha, Tom Price, Carnarvon and Pannawonica / Onslow. The squadrons were redesignated 1 and 2 Squadron latter in 1992 and B Troop was allocated to 1 Squadron. Also raised in 1992 was the Operational Support Squadron that encompassed the Quartermaster Troop, Transport, Workshop and Medical Sections.

The regiment established itself at Exmouth in 1993 and G Troop was raised

The 90s saw the significant development of equipment and introduction of the Steyr and Minimi weapon systems, the Raven family of communications equipment, global positioning systems, night vision goggles and computer work stations.

The organisation of the Regiment was re examined in February 2000 with one outcome being the redesignation of Operational Deployment Squadron as 3 Squadron and being tasked as a surveillance squadron in its own right

Current Organisation

As at 2012 the Pilbara Regiment comprises three Surveillance Squadrons, a Regimental Headquarters and two Support Squadrons. The Regt sub-units are:-

- Regimental HQ
- 1 Squadron
- 2 Squadron
- 3 Squadron
- Operational Support Squadron

The Regimental Headquarters is located in the town of Karratha and most other elements of the Regiment are spread across the Pilbara region. 3 Squadron is located in Perth.

The Regimental Motto *Minta Wanta* means *Always Alert*.

Two blondes were going to Dreamworld . They were driving on the highway when they saw the sign that said Dreamworld LEFT. They started crying and turned around and went home



Rafa, Gaza, 1917, A British WW1 fighter plane of the Royal Flying Corps.

My father Richard Betteridge, standing in front of it. Notice something unusual about the plane? Its engine is at the rear and the main machine gun is up front. There is

no rear wheel, just a steel strut. In those early years this was a rare aeroplane indeed, as the machine gunner had full commanding view—with no propeller in the way to shoot at accidentally.

LONG TAN VETERAN DIES

15989 SGT THOMAS HENRY (BUDDY) LEA

2RAR, 6RAR, 9 RAR.

3.7.1939—13.9.2014



Thomas Henry 'Buddy' Lea, a South Sea Islander, was born and raised in Rockhampton and later moved to Bowen, North Queensland. He enlisted in the Army in 1960 at age 20 after two years of National Service.

On 18 August 1966 Buddy found himself as a section commander patrolling with the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment's D Company in a rubber tree plantation in Long Tan, Vietnam when they came up against the enemy. For three and a half hours, in torrential rain and mud, the 108 Australian diggers fought against a regiment of 2,500 North Vietnamese soldiers.

Buddy was shot three times while trying to pull a mate to safety and spent five months in hospital recovering. He spent 33 years in the Army.

Buddy was farewelled "Exactly how he would have wanted" - in a room filled with music laughter and those he loved. Almost 1000

people filled the Hervey Bay Baptist church to honour the Vietnam veteran who lost his battle with cancer.

Fellow Vietnam veteran Lt Col Harry Smith paid tribute to his friend who





over the years had called him "boss", then "H" and in more recent times, "brother". He and Buddy attended war memorial services together at Hervey Bay over the past few years.

During the service a photo of Buddy and Harry together on the front of the District Yellow Pages was shown. Harry also paid tribute to another Long Tan veteran in the room, the medic, Phil Dobson, who saved Buddy's life after he had taken 3 AK47 rounds while dragging a wounded mate to safety..

In his book "The Battle of Long Tan" McAulay tells of a conversation during the battle between Buddy and another wounded soldier "Paddy" Todd as they were on their way back to the aid station and they saw two soldiers coming towards them Paddy said "Hey, Buddy, have a look there!" Buddy replied "That'll be A Company, they're on their way", to which Todd said "Well, they must have changed uniforms, mate, because they're all in black". Buddy shot at the NVA but was again wounded.

With Buddy in the Aid station and his 21/c killed, another Section Commander had to be found from another Section for the remainder of the battle.

Buddy had two children, Barry and Miesha, who delivered the Eulogy at his funeral.

LEST WE FORGET

VALE JAN BOOIJ

3 Aug 2014, Aged 88.



Jan Booijsen was the fifty percent shareholder of the Hevilift Group.. A Group that through his skill as a businessman and negotiator now employs over five hundred people and has operations in five countries throughout the Asia Pacific region.

He was the first of the Booijsen generations to leave Holland and venture into the world. After surviving the Second World War, Jan joined the Dutch army as a volunteer joining the assault division. He left Holland in 1946, destination the island of Sumatra in Indonesia where he served until 1949. He returned to Holland and completed his trade as a master butcher and smallgoods maker. He could not see a future for himself in Holland, so he decided to volunteer and signed up for the Korean War, only to be convinced that Australia was a better option. He landed in Sydney, Australia on 12 Sep 1950, and spent the next 3 years travelling throughout Australia and New Zealand, taking odd jobs when and where required.

From Australia, Jan went to Papua New Guinea, where he aspired to become a coffee grower. He landed in Lae with 100 pounds to his name. He had numerous jobs from painting bridges to being a supervisor on the Lae wharf and then set out to start his own business, eventually ending up in Kainantu. In 1959, he travelled back to visit family and friends in Holland, where he was introduced to Dean. They married in 1961 and

both returned to PNG and continued to build several businesses, some of which are still in operation today. Jan was a true pioneer and entrepreneur. He established amongst other things a butchery business, an engineering business, a general store, a cinema, several service station, a trucking business and, finally, Regional Air, that was the precursor to the Hevilift Group of today.

It was when he was in Kainantu that 2 PI, A Coy, PNGVR, was raised at Kainantu and Jan served with 2 PI until its disbandment some time later.

Jan's affection for PNG and its people never waned. He believed that the success of humanity would be through education and his aim was to create the means to fund that vision. To that end, he was an active member in countless committees and Boards. He also sponsored countless individuals through schools, universities and trade apprenticeships

The hard war years revealed to Jan the dangerous side of life and taught him how to survive in adverse circumstances. He learned how to collaborate and take responsibility as a soldier in Indonesia, and he enjoyed his freedom whilst travelling through Australia, New Zealand and finally Papua New Guinea. In PNG, he settled down to build his business, establish his family and secure their future.. He still maintained family ties within the Netherlands, and had friends in different places around the world. He was actively involved in business collaboration with PNG partners and still had his PNG passport.

Jan died aged 88 after a short illness. He died with dignity and with his three sons by his side.

LEST WE FORGET.

VALE

HENRY VAN LEEUWEN

7 Nov 1925 — 16 Nov 2014, Aged 89.



Henry was born in Holland and during WW2 when Holland was invaded was, in his own words "Given the choice of 'volunteering' for the German Army or a Concentration Camp". This was a no-brainer and saw Henry in the German Panzer Corps on the Russian Front for the whole of that campaign. He commented on the fact that, during the Russian winter, he had to hold his rifle over a burning brazier to thaw, the mechanism, which had frozen, but after 15 minutes, this had to be repeated all over again.

His war ended when, as a Tank Commander of a Tiger Tank, he was captured by the Canadians at the Battle of Eden, and spent the rest of the war as a POW delousing mines and bombs.

On his return to Holland post war he was advised that he was not very popular at home because of his war service so he joined the Dutch East Indies Army and served in what is now Indonesia.

When Indonesia gained Independence he moved to Western Australia, not at that stage speaking English, and then to Victoria, working mainly on farms and properties.

He met and married Thelma in Victoria and then moved to PNG about 1963 working as Malaria Control Officer in Kainantu.

When 2 PI A Coy was raised at Kainantu Henry joined and served until its disbandment some years later.

He then worked as a Council Clerk at the Kainantu Local Council and left PNG about 1978/80.

His and Thelma moved to Bargara in Qld where Henry obtained some casual work at the Bowling Club and carrying out Tidal surveys.

Henry is survived by Thelma, his daughter Robyn and son Mark.

LEST WE FORGET.



HTT Vol 88 had a story about the Madang locals looting a an Air Niugini ATR-42-400 which overran Madang airstrip on takeoff.

This is a photo of the aircraft at the end of Madang airstrip.

Armed bandits ransack Nadzab airport

Armed bandits robbed passengers and ransacked an airport in Papua New Guinea yesterday, the Australian - Department of Foreign Affairs said as it warned travellers to be cautious.

Nadzab airport, about 40km from the port town of Lae, was

overrun by the group in the early hours of the morning, with reports that they held the airport for two hours.

"Approximately 30 heavily armed criminals robbed passengers and caused significant damage to the terminal," DFAT said. "Travellers are reminded that crime rates in PNG remain high."

Reports said the group, armed with pistols, rifles and machetes, held about 30 people who were at the airport for an early morning flight at gunpoint before escaping across the runway. One man was assaulted with a rifle butt as the bandits looted office equipment and food, the ABC reported.

"The nine security guards manning the airport said they were outnumbered and ordered at gunpoint to huddle up with the passengers in front of the terminal," police spokesman David Terry told the broadcaster.

He said the men were unable to break into a safe of the national carrier Air Niugini. "The airport authorities are trying to see if anything major was stolen," he added.

A World Bank report released in August found that high levels of crime and violence were causing substantial losses to 80 per cent of businesses in the poverty-hit country, hampering economic development 1st Dec. 2014

FUNCTION DATES

ANZAC DAY. Don't forget that the Brisbane March commences at 9.30 am. Army is leading the march so please be there by 9.00 am.

Association Committee Meetings

Saturday	17th January
Saturday	21st March
Saturday	16th May
Saturday	18th July

Meetings commence 10am and all members are welcome to attend.



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

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

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

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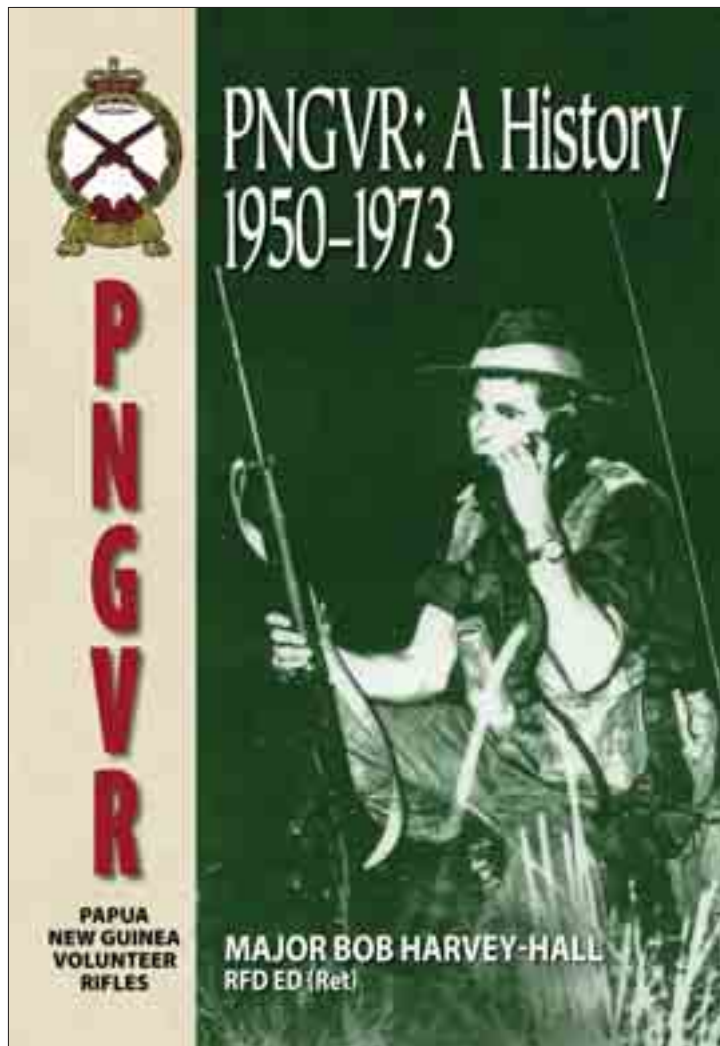
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PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES

was the successor to the WWII New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Militia Battalion. It was the only Australian post-WWII Militia (CMF) Battalion, which was:

- formed, served and disbanded overseas
- never served in Australia
- always on the Australia's Order of Battle
- always commandeered by a regular army officer
- from 1964, actively enlisting Papua New Guineans (non-Australians)
- from 1964 a fully-integrated unit comprising Australians and non-Australians in all ranks

The colourful story of this unique Australian Militia Battalion unfolds in this detailed telling by Major Bob Harvey-Hall RFD ED (Ret), the second-longest serving PNGVR soldier/officer/ Company Commander and Battalion 2/1C, from the unit's earliest days until near when it was disbanded.

The story reveals how expatriates thought and lived in PNG from the early 1950s, just after

the war; how the battalion provided the initial defence of the country and assisted to re-establish the Pacific Island Regiment. As the country's development process increased, the battalion's role was expanded and Papua New Guineans were welcomed enlistments into the PNGVR military community.

The battalion played an important role during the anxious time the governing of West Papua was transferred to Indonesia from the Dutch. As the country rapidly moved towards its own independence, there was no need for an Australian CMF unit in PNG and the unit was disbanded. Many of the expatriate Australians remained in PNG after independence and further assisted the country in its development.

Read how the bonding created by the unique shared experiences within PNGVR remains strong today and is exemplified whenever a group of former PNGVR soldiers meet.



To: **NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association, PO Box 885, Park Ridge QLD 4125**

Prepurchase before 1 April 2015 at the discounted price of \$45.00 per copy

(Retail price after the book launch on 25 April 2015 will be \$49.95)

After the launch, please send me copies of **PNGVR: A History 1951-1973** at the prepurchase price of \$45.00 plus \$10.00 p&h each (more if overseas)

☐ Enclosed please find my cheque, made payable to NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association, for \$..... **OR**

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Kieran Nelson: kierannelson@bigpond.com (email)—0412 236 013 (mob.)