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VOLUME

91

DATE April, 2015



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

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Anzac Day will soon be with us. The day's activities start with the March, commencing at 9.30am, a half hour earlier than usual because the Army is leading the parade this year. We are assembling near the corner of Charlotte Street with George Street at 9am – look for our Association banner. Dress will be full medals, grey trousers, black shoes, white long sleeved shirt, PNGVR Jacket/ Blazer, tie and beret. Those who require jeeps should contact the Secretary urgently by mobile or email. Immediately following the parade, a short Remembrance Service for those NGVR men who did not survive the War will be held at the Brisbane Cenotaph as the Hall of Memories is closed for repairs this year. If you wish to attend this Service, follow Paul Brown and Phil Ainsworth after the march. The post March/ Service Reunion will be held at the Exchange Hotel, corner of Elizabeth and Edward Streets, entrance via Elizabeth Street. The cost of the reunion will be \$20 per person for nibbles and drinks. Annual subscriptions are due 1 July, so Anzac Day is a convenient time to pay them: \$25 per member, \$20 per associate and \$15 per friend of the Association.

Our PNGVR, A History book is with the printer and on schedule to be launched at our Anzac Day Reunion. The author, Bob Harvey - Hall will be present in Brisbane on Anzac Day for the launch. You can buy your pre-launch copies by filling in and paying by your selected option as set out in the attached flyer. The pre-launch cost is \$45 plus postage. After the 25th April, the price will increase to \$50 plus postage per copy. Only 400 copies are being printed so get your order in now!

Our second project for the year is our Military Museum Extension. The total cost will be about \$60,000 with about \$50,000 being funded by grants and raffle proceeds. The balance will come from Museum fund raising including the *Buy a floor tile programme* (\$5 per tile donation). The Assessor and Builder have been selected and the contract is awaiting execution. The build will take 8 to 12 weeks depending on weather. We are grateful for Architect Ron Petersen who has prepared the plans on a pro bono basis, thank you Ron. We are asking for members and friends to purchase floor tiles at \$5 each to help defray the fitting out cost of the Museum extension. Please contact Treasurer Doug if you would like to contribute, see attached flyer.

Bob Collins is preparing the draft for publication of *NGVR Soldiers' Stories* which we intend to publish later this year. This will be another 400 page soft cover book of A4 size comprising about 35 stories told to Bob by

ex- NGVR soldiers. The front and back covers will be in colour and the publication will comprise selected maps and photographs including an extensive index. Ideally this production will follow closely the launch of our History but pressure of other projects may delay the publication. It is intended to use the same publisher and printer as our History book, an arrangement which has worked well. The expected price of this publication will be similar to PNGVR, A History.

140 people attended the PNG Australia Business Council luncheon held in the Westin Hotel, Sydney 10 March 2015. Our President, Phil Ainsworth, represented the Association and sat at the PNGAA table. He had the opportunity to speak briefly with the Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill and the PNG High Commissioner to Australia, Charles Lepani, after the luncheon. The Prime Minister spoke about current economic and social development in PNG: he spoke confidently, at length and in impressive detail; a man very much in control of his job.

Our Association in conjunction with the PIB, NGIB, PIR HQ Association is sponsoring a Memorial Service commemorating the formation of the 75th Anniversary Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB). The Service will commence 11am Saturday 20 June 2015 at the Kokoda Memorial Wall, Cascade Gardens, Gold Coast. Luncheon and or refreshments, at your own expense, will be available at the nearby Surfers Paradise RSL after the service. All are welcome to attend,



Photo: Prime Minister of PNG, Peter O'Neill, and Phil Ainsworth at PNG Australia Business Council luncheon 10 March 2015 held Westin Hotel, Martin Square, Sydney

particularly those in the Gold Coast precinct. Our Anzac Day dress with full medals will be the dress of the day. It is suggested we assemble at 10.30am. There is ample parking available on site.

Our face book page has just under 150 account members which is increasing at the rate of about one per day. Face book is

relatively new and some of our members may not use face book. For those who do use a computer but are yet to be introduced to facebook, I suggest you contact our facebook master, Kieran Nelson phone 0412 236 013 email kierannelson@bigpond.com and ask him for assistance. Face book will allow you to proactively communicate with like minded people and its usefulness is practically unlimited. Kieran may also introduce you to kindred facebook pages and organisations.

Here is a recent example posted on our NGVR & PNGVR Museum by member Mike Hutcheson - "A huge "thank you" to John Holland, for the time he gave my friend and I at the Museum today. The rare opportunity to have a personal tour of the exhibits on display and to chat about the history of PNG in WW2, will be remembered for a very long time. I'll be sending a list of artefacts that I accumulated in my time in Rabaul and on Guadalcanal, that I would like to donate to the museum, if they are suitable. The exhibits for schoolkids covering both major conflicts is a credit to the Association and will certainly remain in the minds of this latest generation. Thank you John, much appreciated!" Bob Collins is assisting Trevor Connell, our webmaster in the upgrading of our web page www.pngvr.weebly.com. This is an ongoing activity but should be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Everyone is invited to attend the Association's committee meetings which start at 10am on Saturdays, the dates are listed on the rear page. Bring a cut lunch and enjoy a good talk over lunch before heading home for an early afternoon's nap.

Phil Ainsworth, March 2015

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AN UNDERAGE NGVR SOLDIER

ADRIAN BARKER

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I was born in Quandialla, between Forbes and West Wyalong, NSW, on 25th December, 1925. My father, Jim Barker, was an amateur jockey in the area and later became a leading trainer at Randwick, Sydney. My mother was Bertha Dean, who came from Marinya, in the same area. I had two brothers and a sister, Laurie was the eldest, then came myself, Audrey was next and Jim was the youngest. I started school at Quandialla, but then my mother died when I was about six, Dad went to New Guinea and I went to stay with relatives at Randwick, Sydney and attended Randwick public school.

My father was an amateur jockey and went up to Wau in New Guinea to ride in a race meeting – there was plenty of money in Wau at the time, with the gold about. He saw that there was no dairy in the area, and stayed on to start one. My elder brother, Laurie, went up to help him. My sister and younger brother Jim stayed with relatives in Forbes, NSW.

I completed my primary school at Randwick public and, when I was about to go into High School, went on holidays out to Forbes and developed double pneumonia. It was about 5 months into the school year by the time I had recovered and when I went to high school, found I was too far behind the other students to catch up and did not understand half of the lessons – I was really lost and decided to abandon ship and get a job. Things were pretty tough in those days so my father then let me go to Wau, New Guinea, to work for him.

I go to New Guinea

I left Sydney on the 'Machdui', a Burns Philp liner in 1938. We called at Brisbane and Townsville and then went on to Port Moresby. I left the ship at Port Moresby and flew in a small aircraft to Wau. It was my first flight and I still recall flying along a valley between two mountains, one on each side higher than the aircraft was flying.

The racecourse was a bit out of Wau township itself, and the dairy farm was a bit higher than that again, overlooking it. Father had remarried by then and my brother Laurie and I stayed with Dad and Alma on the dairy farm.

There was not a lot of entertainment around Wau. One of my mates and I had a horse each and we spent a lot of time riding around the countryside. A year or so later we both got a motorbike, a BSA, – just about everybody in Wau at the time got a motorbike and we got around on them also. My wage was 5/- (50c) a week with keep thrown in.

When I was able I would go down to Salamaua and get a job on a coastal vessel for a week or so. You could never just have a holiday on the boats for nothing– you had to work your way as crew.

I started playing golf in Wau. My father got me a set of golf clubs and I used to have a round when time permitted – I still play golf today – so owe my start in golf to my time in Wau before the War. In those days just about everything could be imported from America at quite a reasonable cost so I had a fairly good set of golf clubs. I also used to play a bit of cricket and was pretty good, so, naturally, as the youngest in the team, I was always out in the middle when some of the others were inside in the shade having a beer. I was a reasonable bowler and batsman.

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles is formed and I join – underage.

When the NGVR was formed just about all the men in Wau joined, so I did also. Lt John 'Nobby' Clark knew I was underage but said to me that I could be 'the drummer boy'. I told him I was going to be a soldier like everyone else or wouldn't be in it, so I was enlisted the same as everyone else. My father Jim was a Sgt in NGVR and my uncle Roy a rifleman, same as myself.

Training consisted mainly of shooting on the rifle range and a bit of drill – I was the worst drill soldier that ever wore uniform I think. Parades were held both at night and on occasional weekends, however, when you work on a dairy, you can't always get time off for parades – the cows wouldn't wait, so I went when work permitted. Soon after my brother Laurie left the dairy and got a job as a sluice hand with Bulolo Gold Dredging so his hours were more stable, but that increased the hours I used to work at the dairy.

In late 1941 civilian women and children were evacuated from Wau and Alma left at this stage.

War Comes to New Guinea

In January, 1942, Rabaul was invaded by the Japanese and Lae, Salamaua and Bulolo were bombed by the Japanese. At this stage all civilian men fit for military service were called up and those of us in the NGVR were called to full time duty on 22nd January, 1942. We could not look after the milking cows so we drove them to Bulolo, pushed them up into the hills, and gave them to a Patrol Officer who had a post there.

We carried out routine duties around Wau in the early days of the call-up.

After the occupation of Salamaua, on 8th March, 1942, I was immediately detailed with about 6 other NGVR under the command of Lt Reg Plumb to proceed to the Snake River. We had to go through Bulwa, towards Sunshine, crossing the Watut River and then climb a very high mountain range to get to the Snake Valley. It took us all day just to climb the mountain, the track winding its way up round and round. We occupied a very small native village of about 6 huts high above the Snake River, and, as I understood things at the time, we were there to keep an eye out for any Japanese making their way up towards Wau/Bulolo from Salamaua. The Snake River flows into the Watut River

All our supplies were carried up with us, and we were there for about 6 weeks. HQ, NGVR had put outposts on all tracks leading up from Salamaua, or so they thought. However, when the Japanese did eventually attack Wau, they used an old German surveyed track, probably shown to them by a chap thought to have been Swiss, but was probably German, called Hoffstetter, who had been growing sweet potato (kau-kau) on his farm between Bulwa and Bulolo. This track was never covered by NGVR. It was a good thing the Japanese did not come up our way as all we had with us were our .303 rifles (mine was a pre WW1 issue) and a limited supply of ammunition.

I went back to Bulolo, which was in the process of being evacuated. Earlier all unfit male civilians who had not been called up had been evacuated to Edie Creek, up above Wau, and then advised to walk out via the Bulldog Track, which meant they came back to Wau, then to Kaisenik, Winima, Kudgeru, and then to Bulldog and down the Lakekamu River to Terapo on the Gulf of Papua. The NGVR from Wau and Bulolo were being evacuated to Winima and Kudgeru in early/mid March, after orders had been received from 8 Military District on 8th March, 1942, to 'destroy Wau airfield and carry out general demolitions in the Wau/Bulolo Valley'.

I did not get as far as Winima, but stayed in a native village for a while, with about 15 other NGVR; the natives moving to an alternative village they had. Then we went back to Wau, after all the fuss was over.

It was while I was in this area that a mate and I were out on a short patrol one day when a small native, whom I believe to be a Kukukuku (very fierce tribe of pygmies) suddenly stepped out from nowhere and fired an arrow which glanced off a tree beside us. My mate was just about to shoot him, when I stopped him and said "Don't shoot him mate! If he had been serious one of us would be dead by now. He's just letting us know they are here and we are getting into some pretty dangerous territory". The black palm bow was bigger than him but he fired it with ease – I could hardly pull one of those bows back. I saw a demonstration of how deadly the natives were with their bows one day. A group of women and children were trying to drive a wild pig out of some kunai, and a native was just standing there, casually waiting with his bow and arrow by his side. We all thought he would have no chance as the pig would come flying out. It did eventually and he nonchalantly swung the bow up, fitted the arrow, pulled back and let go – it got the pig right where he wanted – just behind the front leg and probably pierced the heart. Whatever – the pig just dropped like a log.

At one stage my father Sgt Jim Barker, NGVR, went across to the Bogadjim area, south of Madang, and, together with one of our former neighbours who had also had a dairy farm near us, drove up to Wau a mob of wild cattle from Bogadjim. They had to go up the Ramu Valley along precipitous tracks which were only wide enough for one beast at a time. They were away for a couple of months and these were some of the cattle which the Army lived on in the Wau/Bulolo valley for some time.

I am recognised as being under age and flown out

In May, 1942, the 2/5th Independent Company commenced to fly into Wau, the commencement of the build up for what was to become 'Kanga Force'.

By this time my father had blown the whistle on my age and I was only carrying out routine duties in and around Wau. I was flown out to Port Moresby on one of the DC3s returning after flying a group of the 2/5th Ind Coy in. My father had been ordered out and he insisted on taking me with him. My father was medically discharged from the Army then and came down to Sydney and purchased a Hotel at Pyrmont which he ran for many years.

In Port Moresby the Army authorities tried to discharge me – this was about the end May/early June, 1942 - but I insisted "No! I've been in the Army for 6 months and I'm going to stay in the Army". Eventually they agreed that I would come down to Australia for at least a year's training and then could come back to New Guinea.

I was flown to Townsville, where I was immediately claimed by the American Medical staff. By this time there were not many people coming down from New Guinea who had malaria and they were anxious to know as much as they could about the disease. I was not in hospital, but had to attend their medical facilities on a daily basis for them to examine me. I was probably in Townsville for 5/6 weeks. For some reason my father did not have to put up with this and he came South almost immediately for discharge.

I then traveled by troop train to Brisbane and Sydney. It was a trip and a half – this coming down. Priority was being given to troops going North and it was not uncommon to spend hours at a siding somewhere waiting for a train travelling North to pass. Most of the troops going north were Yanks.

Training in Australia

In Sydney I reported to the Sydney Showgrounds, and was immediately posted to the 1st Machine Gun Training Battalion at Cowra, in the Central West of NSW. There were several camps at Cowra, including ours and the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion. The Japanese Prisoner of War Camp was just being established, with a few Japanese starting to drift down, having been captured in New Guinea. There were several thousand soldiers in Cowra at the time and, I can tell you, it made Cowra as a town, even though

we were well out of town. We were on the opposite side of town to the Japanese POW Camp. Our leave was spent in town and there was no beer shortage at the time.

I quite enjoyed Cowra for the six months I was there, and then was claimed by one of my relatives and was sent to 1st Independent Water Transport Training Unit at Chowder Bay, Clifton Gardens in Sydney – it was a lovely place on Sydney Harbour. The Water Transport Unit had just started and they were pretty desperate for people who had some experience in small ships, and this is where my experience on the coastal vessels in New Guinea came in handy. Naturally enough my having small ships experience in New Guinea itself was even better.

Training was of a general nature and we did signaling, mechanical work, navigation, and anything else you could think of that was needed to run a small ship. I actually ended up a skipper of one when I eventually went back to New Guinea. Again I was at Chowder Bay for about 6 months when I was sent to a Small Ships Training Depot in Melbourne.

The Depot in Melbourne was on the Mornington Peninsula, at Cape Shank, close to Flinders Naval Depot. We were not part of Flinders Naval Depot, but used to row against them in whalers on a monthly basis. I must have shown some ability there, as I was promoted to Corporal and then to Sergeant. Our leave was usually spent in Mornington – it had the closest Hotel and we usually spent our spare time there – got the bus over – went to the hotel – and got the bus back to camp. Training went on all the time but the Army was so short of ships at the time that, both at Chowder Bay and at Cape Shank, we did not have our own boats to train on.

Posting back to New Guinea

I was then posted to the 12th Water Transport Company, based in Lae. A group of us from Cape Shank got the train to Brisbane, and then went by ship to Lae. By this time Lae had been retaken by the Australian 7th and 9th Divisions and we were based around from the town near the mouth of the Markham River. I would have arrived in Lae late 1943, or early 1944 as, by then, Finschhafen had also been taken by the 9th Australian Division.

I was given command of a small vessel, a 29ft (9.5m) ex trawler, double ender, with a crew of a Corporal signalman, a diesel mechanic, a couple of deckhands and a cook. They were all Australians and we had no native crew at all. Our armament on the trawler was a twin .50 cal machine gun on the rear of the boat and a single .50 cal machine gun on the front, both of which could be used for ground and anti-aircraft fire. We also had a 3 inch mortar on deck, but, because of the roll of the boat it was quite unstable and we did not fire it unless necessary. Ammunition for the .50 Cals could be obtained from the Americans at Finschhafen, or by sending out natives to collect it from the occasional crashed American bomber. The belts of ammunition were loaded with, in sequence, an incendiary, an armour piercing, an ordinary round and a tracer round.

On the way around from Lae, the motor wasn't going too well, so I called into Finschhafen, where the Americans were developing a huge base, and asked a Yank if they had a mechanic who could manage to get it running better. A Captain came down, had a look and exclaimed "God dam man! That motor won't last you too long. I'll send someone down to fix it up". The next thing a truck arrived with a brand new motor on board – they pulled the old motor out, put the new one in, and said "Sign here!" and I was away.

Our task was to go around to the North of New Guinea and insert groups of Australian soldiers up the Ramu River. At that stage the Australians held the eastern bank of the Ramu but had not pushed across in strength to the western side, which was held by the Japanese. The Australians would patrol out for a week or so and then we would come back and pick them up, mostly putting in another patrol, and then picking them up etc. I don't know if these were fighting patrols or reconnaissance patrols, but they were pretty tough troops. Our camp was at the mouth of the Ramu.

It was while I was on the trawler that I ended up with appendicitis. We were up river at the time and I was really sick for a week – at one stage I was drinking salt water to make me sick. I then went by boat to Finschhafen, where I was diagnosed with appendicitis and told I would have to be operated on in Lae. Arrangements were made for me to be flown to Lae where I was operated on successfully.

The Convalescent Hospital in Lae was one of the worst times of my Military career. Obviously its aim was to get all inmates fit to return to their Units, so they worked us hard with drill etc – I did not enjoy this at all.

To be continued

This is Adrian's story as told to Bob Collins

A man and his ever-nagging wife went on holidays in Jerusalem While they were there the wife passed away. The undertaker told the husband "You can have her buried here in the holy land for \$150 or we can have her shipped back home for \$5000" The husband thought about it for a while and then told the undertaker he would have her shipped back home. The undertaker asked him "Why would you spend \$5000 to have her shipped home when you could have a beautiful burial here in the Holy Land and it would only cost \$150?" The husband replied "Long ago a man died here was buried here and three days later rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance!"

Father John Glover NGVR

Following on from the article on Father John Glover in the preceding two issues of HTT, John McInerney has given the following information.

I have found a bit more about Father Glover, pre-WW2. John Corbett Glover was more than likely born in 1909 in the Wangaratta area of Vic. (although his war service record - yet to be sighted - says he was born in Perth, WA?) His family lived at Whorouly, a small settlement on the Ovens River between Myrtleford and Wangaratta. His mother was Mary Ann "May" Corbett. Mary Ann's parents were James Corbett and Johanna Carmody whose family came from Bunratty in Co. Clare. Co-incidentally Bunratty is very close to Ballycally, the Irish home of our McInerney (and Carmody) ancestors, but there is no connection that I am aware of yet. In 1916 John's father, William Hyde Glover, took over the licence of the Bull's Head Inn at Wangaratta. This was about 2 months before Mary Ann's brother Daniel and a cousin, Walter "Daniel" Carmody, went off to the War in France. Walter was the son of Jeremiah Carmody, Johanna's brother.

Daniel Corbett returned home the next year, in August, having been discharged as unfit for service due to a ruptured muscle in his right thigh effected by rheumatism (caused by

an old football injury). Daniel died in St. Kilda, Vic on 27 November, 1942.

Walter Carmody was promoted to L/Cpl on 19 September, 1917. He was severely wounded on 23 May 1918 with a large wound to the right thigh caused by shrapnel from an artillery shell. He was returned to Australia on 6 November, 1918 aboard the hospital ship "Marathon" and arrived there on 1 January, 1919. He died sometime before 1933. Sometime between the first war and the 1930s the Glover family, along with some of their Corbett relatives moved to Albury. John Glover received his primary education at Albury Christian Brothers College and later went to the Ecclesiastical College, at Manly. He was ordained to the priesthood at St Patrick's Church, Albury, by Bishop J. W. Dwyer of Wagga on 6 January 1932. John had at least two brothers and three sisters: Elizabeth "Mary" married Noel Barnett at Albury in 1940; Maude Agnes married John Fallon (1938) and after John Fallon died in 1939 she married William Grigg in 1944; Desmond James - died 1969; Kevin William Carmel Veronica - married James Quinlan at Albury in 1941.

Fr. Glover's youngest brother Kevin also became a priest. The Rev. Father Kevin Glover obtained the degree of Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Catholic University of Washington, USA in 1947. He remained at the University in order to take out a Doctorate of theology. Father Kevin Glover was a member of the Marist Brothers. He served at Hunters Hill, Toongabbie, NSW; West Sunshine, Vic; Gladstone, Qld. He then worked in the Bunbury diocese in Western Australia from 1959 to 1979 (including parishes at Esperance in the 1970s and Margaret River in the 1980s). In the 1990s he worked at a Catholic Mission on the Pacific Island of Niue, situated to the north of New Zealand. He was asked to leave there by its Govt and featured on the 60 Minutes programme a few years ago. He was also mentioned in the WA Parliament in 1998, in glowing terms, but in the past tense, so I presume he had died by then. I have paid the National Archives to scan in John's war service record, so I can see if he served in the Middle East with the 6th Division - I don't think he did, but the ANU site, I sent you, says that he did. I'll let you know when it becomes available. I asked my aunt about the photo she gave me and she said it was on the memorial card handed out at his funeral.

Thanks John

THE UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER

The Unknown Warrior was buried in Westminster Abbey, London, on 11th November, 1920. He was intended to represent all of those who died for "Home and Empire". The idea of burying an unknown soldier as a memorial to the dead was conceived by a British Army chaplain, the Reverend David Railton. During the Great War (WW1) whilst at Armentieres, he had noticed a grave which bore a pencilled inscription, "An unknown soldier of the Black Watch". It was not until 1920, some two years after the War, that he was able to put forward his plan for a national memorial for an unknown soldier.

The bodies of six unknown British soldiers from the battlefields of Aisne, Marne, Cambrai, the Somme, Arras and Ypres were brought together at the chapel at Saint Pol. A blindfolded brigadier general selected a body that was to become the Unknown Warrior. The body was placed in a coffin of British Hampton Court oak and, with a bearer party of five British soldiers, two Canadian soldiers and an Australian from the Light Horse, it commenced its journey home. The five remaining bodies were reburied in the Military Cemetery at Saint Pol. When reburied at the Abbey, the body was laid to its final rest in soil from Ypres, soil on which so many of his fellow troops had both fought and



Tomb of
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AWM in
Canberra

died.

Since that time there had been a call for Australia to have a separate tomb for its unknown soldier, and it was finally decided in 1991 to bring an Australian Digger back from the battlefields of Europe. It was planned that the entombment at the Australian War Memorial would coincide with the 75th anniversary of the Armistice in November, 1918. It was then decided that the soldier chosen should come from France or Belgium, as it was in those countries during the Great War that Australia suffered its greatest losses in war. After negotiations between the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Australian War Memorial, and with support from the Federal Government, permission was granted for a body to be removed from French soil.

The body was selected from the Adelaide Cemetery at Villers-Bretonneux in northern France. This cemetery was chosen because 54 percent of the graves there are Australian and 117 of those are of unknown soldier. Ninety percent of the bodies in Adelaide Cemetery were brought from small graveyards and isolated positions on the boundary of the town. Meticulous records kept by the Commission, with notes clearly detailing clothing and equipment buried on the bodies some 75 years earlier, ensured that the body selected was an Australian Soldier.

There exists a close link between the town of Villers-Bretonneux and Australia. The town was the scene of bitter fighting in 1918 and the Australians made a significant contribution to its recapture and defence. In 1938 Australia erected its national memorial near the village to commemorate all Australians who died during the War, and ANZA Day services have been held there every year since. The Memorial stands on a hill at the rear of the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and on its walls are inscribed the names of 11,000 dead Australians whose bodies were never found.

The Unknown Soldier was selected from Grave 13, Row M in Plot 111 of Adelaide Cemetery. The remains were exhumed at 8 o'clock on the morning of 2nd November, 1993. A police cordon was placed around the cemetery and 20 graves were shielded by a three metre high cloth screen. The intact skeletal remains were placed in a copper casket which was then sealed. The casket was placed in a coffin constructed from Australian timber and which was, in turn, encased in an outer coffin of Tasmanian blackwood.

At 10 o'clock the coffin was transported four kilometres in a specially prepared vehicle, with a French Military Escort to the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux. Here a French bearer party, led by a French piper. Carried the coffin up to the Memorial itself. The coffin was flanked by six ceremonial pallbearers. These were the Military and Defence Attaches representing Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United Kingdom, India and South Africa. The coffin was placed upon a catafalque and here His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, as President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, accepted the body from the French on behalf of the Commission. The coffin was then officially delivered to the guardianship of the Australian Ambassador.

A new bearer party, consisting of two warrant officers class one from the Australian Army and two warrant officers each from the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force, now took charge of the coffin. This party would now accompany the soldier all the way home to his final resting place in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The coffin was now adorned with the Australian National Flag, a bayonet and a slouch hat. It was carried to a room at the base of the Memorial Tower where it was protected by an Australian Army Guard of Honour. Later the coffin was moved to the Menin Gate at Ypres, for a short ceremony to commemorate the role that Australia played in the defence of Belgium during the Great War. On 5th November, aboard a Qantas 747 aircraft especially re-named Spirit of Remembrance, the Unknown Soldier commenced his final trip home after 75 years.

He arrived at Sydney on the morning of 7th November and the coffin was transferred to an RAAF C-130 aircraft for transportation to Canberra. In Canberra the soldier was laid in state for four days in King's Hall, Parliament House, and here, for the first time, the Australian public were able to pay their respects.

On the morning of 11th November (Remembrance Day – the anniversary of the Armistice (Ceasefire) that was called for by the Germans to end the War in 1918) the Unknown Soldier commenced the final leg of his long journey. The bearer party, flanked by 13 Great War veterans, carried the coffin from King's Hall to a 15 pounder BL gun carriage. The cortege then moved along King George Terrace, across Commonwealth Avenue Bridge over Lake Burley Griffin, along Parkes Way and up towards Anzac Parade. The bells of St John's Church pealed, along with church bells across the country from Broome to Byron Bay, and a Field Marshal's compliment of 19 minute guns sounded out across the national capital. The procession moved up Anzac Parade to the Australian War Memorial, accompanied by the combined bands of the Royal Military College and the Australian Army Band Kapooka which played Chopin's "Funeral March", the "Dead March" from "Saul" by Handel and "Flowers of the Forest".

The Chief Mourner was the Governor General and the Chief Pallbearer was the Prime Minister. The official pallbearers were the Leader of the Opposition, the Vice-Chief of the Defence Force, the Chief of the Naval Staff, the Chief of the General Staff, the Chief of the Air Staff, the National President of the Returned and Services League, and the Vice-Chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Altogether there were 32 official mourners, including the Mayors of Villers-Bretonneux and Ypres.

The route from Old Parliament House to the War Memorial was lined by thousands of people, with over 25,000 more at the Memorial itself. Millions of Australians across the country followed the proceedings on either TV or radio.

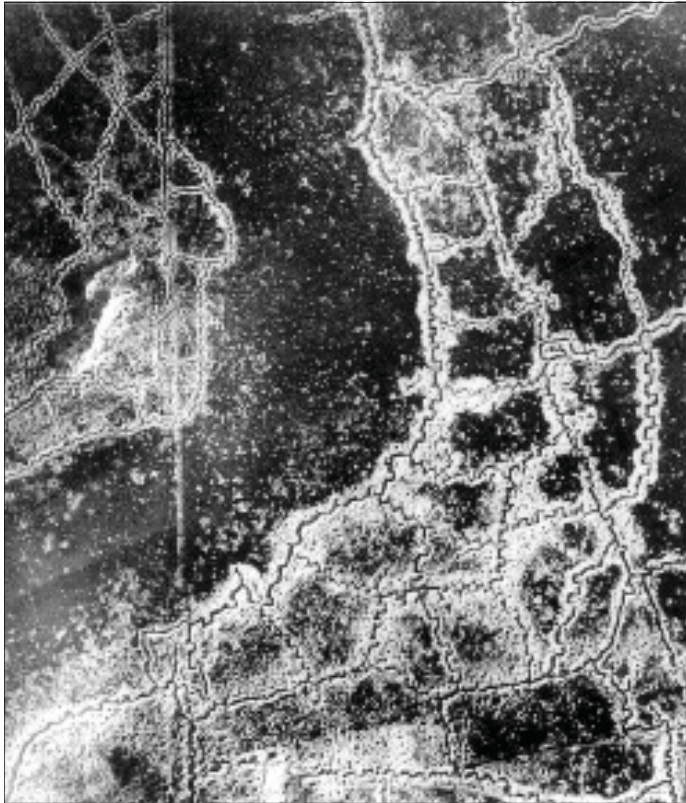
Upon reaching the War Memorial, the coffin was placed on the Stone of Remembrance and the Commemorative Service commenced. During the service the Chairman of the Australian War Memorial Council accepted the remains and the, after the catafalque party withdrew, the soldier was carried into the War Memorial, past the Pool of Reflection and into the Hall of Memory. The Principal Chaplain for the Army read the Prayer of Committal and the coffin was lowered into the tomb by the same bearer party that had accompanied it through France.

Three rifle volleys were fired, and after the prayer of dedication, the Governor-General placed a sprig of wattle on the casket. A 93 year old veteran of The Great War then sprinkled soil from the battlefields of Pozieres over the casket, the Ode was read, followed by the Last Post, and two minutes silence. Finally, at the completion of the ceremony, the Australian National Anthem was played.

The tomb remained open for three days, so the public could again pay their respect to the Unknown Soldier. They were invited to lay flowers including poppies on the coffin (the poppy is recognised as a symbol representing the fallen, they were in

abundance within the war cemeteries of Flanders). Then the tomb was sealed with a huge slab of Turkish marble. The inscription on the face of the slab reads, "AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER KILLED IN THE WAR OF 1914-1918". The sloping glacis around the tomb bears the legend, "HE SYMBOLISES ALL AUSTRALIANS WHO HAVE DIED IN WAR"

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



An aerial view of the WWI Loos-Hulluch trench system in France. British trenches are situated on the left of the photo, and German trenches on the right – in the middle of the two is no man's land. July 1917



B Coy PNGVR members boarding an Administration vessel at Rabaul Wharf circa 1965 en route to a bivouac on Watom Island, approx 5 km off the North Coast of Rabaul.

Photo courtesy your Museum at Wacol.

UNIVERSAL LAWS

1. *Law of Mechanical Repair* - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.
2. *Law of Gravity* - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped will roll to the least accessible corner.
3. *Law of Probability* - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
4. *Law of Random Numbers* - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.
5. *Law of the Alibi* - If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.
6. *Variation Law* - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).
7. *Law of the Bath* - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.
8. *Law of Close Encounters* - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.
9. *Law of the Result* - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.
10. *Law of Biomechanics* - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.
11. *Law of the Theatre and Hockey Arena* - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last and they are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. Those in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance and beyond. The aisle people also are very surly folk.
12. *The Starbucks Law* - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.
13. *Murphy's Law of Lockers* - If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.
14. *Law of Physical Surfaces* - The chances of an open-faced jam sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/ rug.
15. *Law of Logical Argument* - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.
16. *Brown's Law of Physical Appearance* - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.
17. *Oliver's Law of Public Speaking* - A closed mouth gathers no feet.
18. *Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy* - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.
19. *Doctors' Law* - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor; by the time you get there you'll feel better. Don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick



Squadrons of the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade in formation at Gaza

Picture: Frank Hurley,



The Bofors being lowered into place at Wacol.

NAVAL GUN INSTALLED AT WACOL

The Bofors anti-aircraft weapon came from the Cairns Naval Base where it was salvaged from an Australian Navy Patrol boat before scrapping. It had been stored at Wacol pending permanent placement.

This one is adapted for sea duty with a single firing seat.

The Navy donated the Bofors to the National Servicemen's Assn in recognition of the 6,862 young Nashos called up for that Service in the 1950's.

The Swedish designed gun was developed for land use against aircraft and was adopted by many countries

including Australia. It was a very effective weapon during WW2 and the Korean and Vietnam wars. The Bofors had a rapid rate of fire with a small crew.

The Naval version was designed to equip smaller coastal patrol craft and fast attack craft. The gun usually was controlled by a fire control computer but the crew also could train and aim in manually. The weapon has been replaced in most Navies by missiles.

This gun, a Mark 1 from 1955, was decommissioned in 2008. It was placed as a ceremonial piece at the main entrance to the National Service Heritage Precinct at 1001 Boundary Road, Wacol. Hymix Concrete donated the concrete pad for it and L.C.H. Lindores cranes donated the crane that transported and lowered it into position.

The precinct houses a group of historical buildings used during the National service era from 1951 to 1972 including the Chapel, Everyman's Hut, now the National Service Museum, and several old barracks huts, one of which is the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Museum.

The Naval Bofors will be joined next year by an M2A2 howitzer that was used in Vietnam. The NSAA has been given one of the 38 guns made redundant by the Army.

From Nasho News Nov. 2012.



JAPANESE BATTLE FLAG

In a ceremony held on Friday, July 11th, 2014, at the Japanese embassy in the Solomon Islands, the flag pictured, obtained by Leonard Skinner during WW2, was

passed by Steve Goodhew to embassy staff. The original owner of the flag was identified by the embassy as a Japanese Navy officer - the flag will be sent to the headquarters of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan where it will be delivered to the surviving family. After the ceremony, Leonard received a certificate of appreciation from the Japanese embassy.

The flag was special for Len, a former 2nd Marine Division US serviceman. He obtained it on 8th August, 1942, the second day of the Guadalcanal campaign and makes it one of the first, if not the first, such flag taken by US Forces during WW2.

Steve Goodhew served with the RAN and took his discharge in the Solomon Islands. He planned to open a resort on the island of Gavutu which would include a small museum. Len



Len with the Certificate of Appreciation which reads.
Mr Leonard Skinner

On behalf of the Government of Japan I would like to express our sincere gratitude and hereby award you this Certificate of Appreciation for your long safe keeping and returning of the Japanese flag that belongs to the former Japanese Navy Officer who died during

WW2 in Tulagi, Solomon Islands
(Sgd) Kenichi Kimiya, Ambassador,
Embassy of Japan in Solomon Islands.

had intended that the flag be in the museum, however, when Steve was forced to give up the project because of conflicting regulations, he opened a mambo juice bar and coffee shop in downtown Honiara.

The owner of the flag, a former Japanese Naval Officer has been identified but his family has asked that his name not be revealed.

To date "Harim Tok Tok" has carried articles on our three Regional Force Surveillance Units—Norforce, 51 Far North Qld Regiment and the Pilbara Regiment—all Reserve Units.



However what is considered by most to be the fore-runner of these units was formed during WW2—

The 2/1st North Australia Observer Unit (NAOU)

- at the time a unit unique in Australia's military history.

NAOU was a 'phantom unit' specially raised to deal with the immense problem of reconnaissance and surveillance across the north of Australia. It was raised at a time when a Japanese invasion seemed likely, and served with operational status during the war, although it never left Australian shores.

With the rapid fall of Allied bases to the north, suddenly Darwin was the front line. In one day two savage Japanese

bomber and fighter attacks by 188 aircraft, including carrier-borne aircraft which had blasted Pearl Harbour, just about wiped Darwin out. There were about 700 casualties—243 killed. Twelve days later Broome was attacked. Seventy people were killed and 25 aircraft destroyed. Tens of thousands of troops were rushed north and Darwin became a fortress.

However most of these units had very limited mobility. There were thousands of kms of uninhabited, undefended northern coastline.

Realising the predicament of having no early warning system, the Commander of Northern Territory Force, Maj Gen Herring, recommended that a Northern Australia Observer organisation be formed. They would operate north of a line running from Normanton, Qld, in the Gulf, sweeping down to Alice Springs then across to Yampie Sound in Western Australia—almost a million square kms with a seaboard of about 5,500 kms.

The person chosen to raise and command this unit was an anthropologist with limited military experience, W.E. Stanner who had travelled widely over Northern Australia and had lived for 5 years among the aborigines.

Influenced by the tactics of the Boer War commandos, Stanner visualized a highly mobile Unit (horsed rather than wheeled), with good radio links, light weapons and made up of men with a bush background and adventurous spirit who could live outdoors for months at a time, operating in small groups, on their own initiative.



Troopers of NAOU on morning parade in October, 1943.

Equipment, in addition to conventional military weapons, included .22 caliber rifles and shot guns to provide themselves with tucker.

Stanner's plan was to set up five screens

through which the enemy would have to pass unseen if they were to surprise Northern Territory Force.

NAOU was raised on 23 May 1942 and its role was to:-

- i. Patrol the northern areas of Australia on the lookout for possible Japanese invasions.
- II. Operate from secret hideouts behind enemy lines in the event of a Japanese invasion.
- lii Identify possible emergency airfields.
- Iv Map topographical areas of interest.
- v. Search and rescue of downed planes and crews.

It had an establishment of 450—29 Officers and 421 ORs and was equipped with over 1,000 horses, donkeys and mules, some of which were rounded up in the wild and broken in. It also had a small motley fleet of offshore vessels, none more than 15 metres in length and of shallow draught, and made extensive use of the Royal Flying Doctor Service pedal wireless network. It also had an assortment of vehicles, including a few trucks, cars, motor bikes and bicycles.

Three or four aborigines were allocated to each platoon and their local knowledge was valued.

- Headquarters and HQ Coy were located at Katherine N.T.

- A Coy was headquartered at Roper Bar and was responsible for patrolling the Roper River and Limmen Bight region of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

- B Coy was headquartered near Ivanhoe and was responsible for the western Northern Territory and Kimberley area, including the Victoria and Ord Rivers.

- C Coy was headquartered at Gregory Downs Station on the Gregory River in Qld and was tasked with the reconnaissance and surveillance of the Gulf country from Borroloola to Norman-ton.

- D Coy was a reinforcement and training company.



A NAOU camp in the Northern Territory



pography which was meticulously documented.

One such patrol in Sep '43 led by Lt Anderson went from Mount Joshua, just north of the Roper mouth, northwards to Minnie Creek, patrolling some 120 kms to reconnoitre 110 kms of coastline. His patrol report detailed the topography, previously unrecorded, the availability of feed for the horses, and sources of fresh water, wildlife and natives. He recorded "*Two unmapped rivers were found in the area between the Hart River and Minnie Creek*". At Mee-All Waterhole, a source of permanent water, the patrol found a dozen empty 44 gallon drums discarded on the beach. This waterhole was known to have been used by the Japanese as a source of water prior to the outbreak of war. Findings such as this, footprints found in the mud and the occasional unidentified lights in the Gulf maintained the awareness that the Japanese could enter the Gulf of Carpentaria and that any day a patrol could discover a covert Japanese landing.

At the end of 1943, with the threat of invasion significantly reduced, Stanner was recalled to Melbourne and the unit commenced reducing in size. A total of 11 Officers and 195 ORs stayed on with the new Headquarters at Manton Dam, manning coastal Observation Posts in the Daly River-Adelaide River area, and carrying out occasional horse patrol patrols.



An NAOU butcher cutting up a bullock with an axe

During its stay in Northern Australia elements of the Unit had many incidents including:-

- Near starvation and lack of water due to supplies not being able to get through.

- Floods and droughts

- Brushes with crocodiles

- A number of incidents with their watercraft, given the differences between high and low tides in the area.

Every patrol brought back information on infrastructure and to-

NAOU was officially disbanded on 20 Jan 1945.

The unit was referred to as "**The Nackeroos**" or, at other times as "**Curtain's Cowboys**".

The importance of NAOU's wartime role cannot be doubted, and as a pilot for the development of the modern land reconnaissance surveillance screen in Northern Australia it is ideally suited.

References. "Ever Vigilant" The Regt History of NOR-
FORCE by P. Rosenzweig

Internet references AWM. 2/1 NAOU "The Nackerroos"

WHAT A LOSS



Papua New Guinea Construction Troop RAE, at Cape Moem while building Moem Barracks, 1959. Photo courtesy Sgt Brian Jones, 4th from left, front row.

DC3s GROUNDED IN EUROPE BY EU

We members of the over-the-hill lot can still well remember when the gooney-bird was considered to be high tech.....Now the DC3 has been grounded by EU health and safety rules.

'It groaned, it protested, it rattled, it ran hot, it ran cold, it ran rough, it staggered along on hot days and scared you half to death. Its wings flexed and twisted in a horrifying manner, it sank back to earth with a great sigh of relief. But it flew and it flew and it flew.'

This is the memorable description by Captain Len Morgan, a former pilot with Braniff Airways, of the unique challenge of flying a Douglas DC-3.

The engines spew smoke and oil as they shudder into life with what DC-3 fans describe as 'music', but to me sounded like the hammering of a thousand pneumatic-drills

It's carried more passengers than any plane in history, but - Now the DC-3 has been grounded in Europe by EU health and safety rules.



The DC-3 served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, and was a favourite among pilots!

For more than 70 years, the aircraft known through a

variety of nicknames --- the Doug, the Dizzy, Old Methuselah, the Gooney Bird, the Grand Old Lady --- the Dakota --- but which to most of us is simply the DC3 --- has been the workhorse of the skies.

With its distinctive nose-up profile when on the ground and extraordinary capabilities in the air, it transformed passenger travel, and served in just about every military conflict from World War II onwards.



Now the Douglas DC-3 --- the most successful plane ever made, which first took to the skies just over 30 years after the Wright Brothers' historic first flight --- is to carry passengers in Britain for the last time

Romeo Alpha and Papa Yankee, the last two passenger-carrying Dakotas in the UK, are being forced into retirement because of --- yes, you've guessed it --- health & safety rules.

Their owner, Coventry-based Air Atlantique, has reluctantly decided it would be too expensive to fit the required emergency- escape slides and weather-radar systems required by new European rules for their 65-year-old planes, which served with the RAF during the war.

It has been a luxury airliner, transport plane, bomber, fighter and flying hospital, and introduced millions of people to the concept of air travel.

It has flown more miles, broken more records, carried more passengers and cargo, accumulated more flying time and performed more 'impossible' feats than any other plane in history, even in these days of super-jumbos that can circle the world non-stop.

Indeed, at one point, 90 percent of the world's air traffic was operated by DC-3s. More than 10,500 DC-3s have been built since the prototype was rolled out to astonished onlookers at Douglas's Santa Monica factory in 1935.



D Coy PNGVR emplaning in a DC3 at Port Moresby for Annual Camp, Mt Ambra, 1964

The design had one vital feature, ordered by pioneering aviator Charles Lindbergh, who was a director of TWA, which placed the first order for the plane. The DC-3 should always, Lindbergh directed, be able to fly on one- engine.

But it is for heroic feats in military service that the legendary plane is most distinguished. It played a major role in the invasion of Sicily, the D-Day landings, the Berlin Airlift, and the Korean & Vietnam wars, performing astonishing feats along the way.

During the evacuation of Saigon in 1975, a Dakota crew managed to cram aboard 98 Vietnamese orphans, although the plane was supposed to carry no more than 30 passengers

In addition to its rugged military service, it was the DC-3 which transformed commercial -passenger flying in the post-war years. Easily converted to a passenger plane, it introduced the idea of affordable air travel to a world which had previously seen it as exclusively for the rich.

Today, many DC-3s live-on throughout the world as crop-sprayers, surveillance patrols, air freighters in forgotten African states, and even luxury executive transports.

The DC3 was surely one of the safest aircraft ever built.



DC3's on Goroka airstrip during the Goroka Show 1960. Many of these would have carried out two or three trips to Goroka that morning.



Madang PI, PNGVR, in a DC3 headed to a bivouac, in the 1960s. Note side saddle seating.

THE SOLOMON ISLANDERS WHO SAVED JFK

By Bob Brown
BBC World Service. 6 Aug 14.

One of two Solomon Islanders who saved

the life of John F. Kennedy during WW2 in the Pacific died on Saturday at the age of 93. Eroni Kumana never forgot the man who would become President of the USA and regarded him as his "honorary chief".

"Words can't really describe what a remarkable man he was," says local historian and dive school owner Danny Kennedy, an American now living in the Solomon Islands - and no relation to JFK.

"Every time we saw him, he was just the most animated, energetic little guy - bouncing around with all this energy, even at 93 years old. But I still don't think he ever realised what a brave guy he was."

Kumana's grandson, Rellysdom Malakana, says: "He did not feel like he was someone special. But people from overseas,

Ralph and Edna were both patients in a mental hospital. One day while they were walking past the hospital swimming pool, Edna suddenly jumped into the deep end. She sank to the bottom of the pool and stayed there.

Ralph promptly jumped in to save her. He swam to the bottom and pulled her out. When the Head Nurse Director became aware of Ralph's heroic act she immediately ordered him to be discharged from the hospital, as she now considers him to be mentally stable.

When she went to tell Ralph the news she said, 'Ralph, I have good news and bad news. The good news is you're being discharged, since you were able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of the person you love.... I have concluded that your act displays sound mindedness.

The bad news is, Edna hung herself in the bathroom with a bathrobe belt right after you saved her. I am so sorry, but she's dead.'

Ralph replied, "She didn't hang herself, I put her there to dry. How soon can I go home?"



people from America, they are the ones who told my grandfather that he was a special man - that he was the hero who rescued John F Kennedy."

In the early hours of 2 August 1943 several US Navy "patrol torpedo" boats were positioned off the coast of the Solomon Islands - then known as the British Solomon Islands Protectorate - not far from Papua New Guinea. Their mission was to intercept a convoy of Japanese ships that were regularly transporting soldiers further south to join the fight against US forces in the Pacific.

In command of one of them, PT-109, was Lt John F Kennedy - a 26-year-old from Massachusetts who had joined the navy two years earlier.

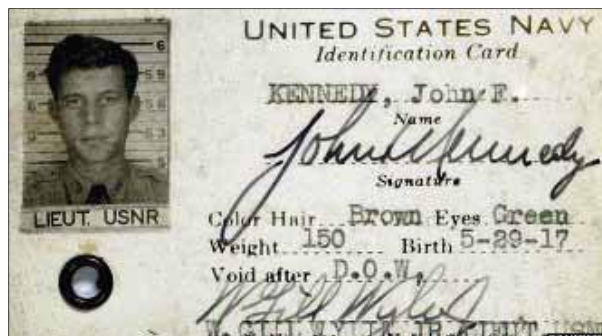


Kennedy aboard the PT 109 in the South Pacific 1943

As the Japanese ships came into view - the US boats fired their torpedoes, but none hit their target. The American boats that ran out of ammunition were sent back to base, but PT-109 was one of those that stayed behind.

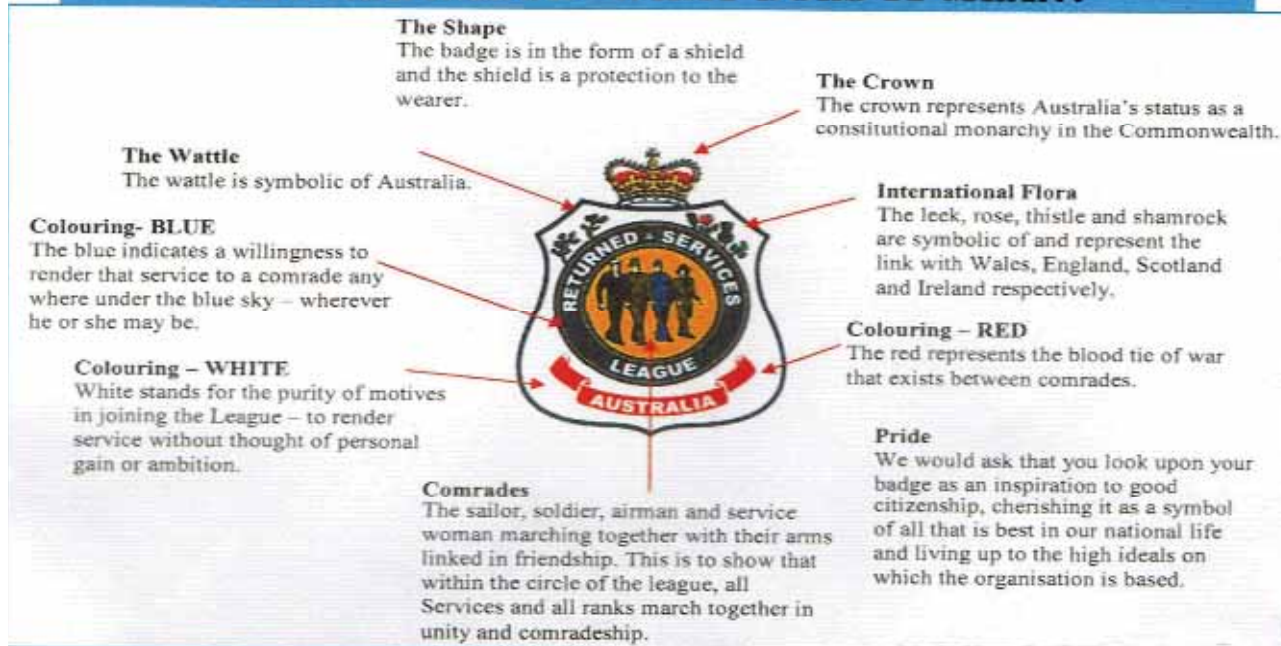
Archive reports from the JFK Library in Boston describe the night as having an "inky blackness" - there was no moonlight, making the task of spotting the enemy ships all the more difficult.

At 02:30 a Japanese destroyer, travelling at high speed, rammed into the side of Kennedy's boat, ripping a hole in its side. Ken-



Kennedy's Navy I.D. Card

THE RSL BADGE—WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



Courtesy
"The Sea
& Land"
The
Royal
Marines
Assn.
Qld.

nedy and most of his men were thrown into the water by the force of the impact - two were killed in the collision and one was badly burned.

The survivors spent a few hours on or around the wreck of the wooden boat, then swam three-and-a-half miles to the nearest island. Accounts from the time say Kennedy towed one of his injured crewmates along, swimming with the strap of his life-jacket between his teeth.

For two days the men stayed on this small unoccupied island, living off coconuts - but the prospect of a rescue was looking



Crew of the PT 108 1943

Kennedy on Right

increasingly remote and food was running out.

Hoping to improve their chances of rescue and in the search of fresh water, Kennedy took his crew back into the ocean, undertaking a grueling swim to a larger island further south. It was this decision that most likely saved the men's lives and led to their eventual rescue.

On 5 August, Kennedy and his colleague George Ross left the other men on this new island and set out again in search of food and water. As they made their way along the beach on another nearby island, they spotted two men in a canoe - it was Kumana and his friend Biuku Gasa.

At first, the two Solomon Islanders were frightened of Kennedy and Ross, says Kumana's grandson, Malakana.

"They saw these people and they thought they were Japanese - so they paddled away in their canoe. Fortunately they came across the rest of Kennedy's crew mates at the other island, who told them they were from America."

In an interview in 2002 with the National Geographic, Kumana himself recalled the moment he met the survivors: "Some of them cried and some of them came and shook our hands. When Kennedy saw us... he ran and embraced us."

Kumana and Gasa worked with the Coastwatchers, a network of agents based across the Pacific islands during WWII, tasked with keeping an eye on the enemy and reporting back to Allied forces.

Kennedy knew he somehow needed to get a message back to base if a rescue was to be organised, so he wrote a message on a coconut

NAURO ISL COMMANDER

NATIVE KNOWS POSIT

HE CAN PILOT

11 ALIVE NEED SMALL BOAT

KENNEDY

Kumana and Gasa, took the coconut, got into their small, dug-out canoe and at great risk to themselves took to the sea. Their destination was another island, 35 miles (55km) away, where an allied Australian Coastwatcher was stationed - but to get there they had to paddle through waters patrolled by Japanese ships.

The Japanese were notorious for using the locals as "target practice" says Danny Kennedy - and if they had been caught with such a message it could have been a death sentence. But Kumana and Gasa passed on the message successfully and a rescue mission was launched for the injured, exhausted and hungry US sailors, who many assumed were already dead.

The events of that week in August 1943 were to have a profound impact on the life of Kennedy - he was hailed a hero for his efforts in saving the lives of his crew and was awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Medal and a Purple Heart. His ac-

tions in the war are seen as central to his success in the 1960 presidential election.

"It was a crucial moment in his life," says Tom Putnam, director of the John F Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. "But he was always somewhat self-deprecating about being called a hero. People used to ask him how he became a war hero, and he would reply: 'It was involuntary. They sank my boat.'"

Despite Kennedy's rise through the ranks of American political life, he didn't forget about Kumana and Gasa. Kumana's grandson Malakana says the two men were invited to Kennedy's inauguration, but were "not allowed" to go. "My grandfather told me it was because they didn't speak English, they were told to stay away and another person replaced them," he says.

Danny Kennedy understands it was a British colonial officer in the Solomon Islands at the time who decided the men didn't speak English well enough and another Solomon Islands scout was sent to Washington DC in their place.

Although the three men were never to meet again, there are records of letters exchanged between Kennedy and Gasa in Kennedy's first year as president - they were translated by a Methodist minister from New Zealand.

In Kumana's interview in 2002, he spoke of the moment he heard that Kennedy had been assassinated, "My sadness was great," he said. "I would never meet him [again]." But Kumana and Gasa did meet one member of the Kennedy family again. Max Kennedy, son of Robert Kennedy and nephew of President Kennedy travelled to the Solomon Islands in 2002

"It's a custom in the Solomon Islands to cry openly," says Danny Kennedy. "When Kumana and Gasa saw Max, both of them broke out in tears and there was a big hugging session for quite some time. It was quite an emotional event. They dug out canoes, they paddled together and I think they really enjoyed their time with Max."

In 2008, Kumana wanted to pay his respects to Kennedy. He asked that a prized piece of bakia or "shell money", a traditional form of currency made of giant clam shells, be sent to the US as a tribute.

"It had been passed down from generation to generation in Kumana's family and it was always given to the chief," says Putnam. "Kumana said since President Kennedy was his chief, he wanted it be placed on his grave." At a private ceremony in Arlington cemetery, members of the Kennedy family carried out his wish.

Kumana and Gasa may have never made it to the US to see Kennedy again, but the memory of those two men lives on there - in the engraved coconut husk and shell money tribute

Three Aussie blokes , Charlie, Bert and Bluey are working high up on an outback mobile phone tower.

As they start their descent, Charlie slips, falls off the tower and is killed instantly..

As the ambulance takes the body away, Bert says, ' Well, bugger me, someone's gotta go and tell Bert's wife '

Bluey says, ' OK, I'm pretty good at that sensitive stuff, I'll do it'

Two hours later, he comes back carrying a case of beer.

Bert says, ' Where'd you get the grog, Bluey? '

'Charles' widow gave it to me,' Bluey replies.

'That's unbelievable.. you told the Missus her husband was dead and she gave you a case of beer?'

'Well, not exactly', Bluey says.

'When she answered the door, I said to her, "you must be Charlie's widow."

She said, 'You must be mistaken.. I'm not a widow.'

Then I said, 'I'll betcha a case of beer you are..'

Aussie men are good at that sensitive stuff...

that are both now on display at the John F Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

In the Solomon Islands, Kennedy is also remembered - the small island where he and his men initially swam to is now called Kennedy island and a shrine, created by Kumana, now stands as a memorial to the president he once rescued.



Bombing Rabaul WW2

THE YOUNGEST BATTALION COMMANDER IN THE AIF: THE BOY COLONEL

Lt Col Douglas Gray MARKS, DCM. MC

Born in 1895, Douglas Marks went to Fort St High School in Sydney where he served in its Cadet Corps.

He joined the Citizens Military Force in June 1914 and was commissioned a 2nd Lt in the 29th Infantry (Australian Rifles).

On 15th Aug, 1914, 10 days after the declaration of war with Germany, he was mobilized and sent to Bobbin Head, on the Hawkesbury River, Sydney.

He was then attached to the 13th Bn, 4th Infantry Brigade, under Col John Monash, and sailed on the *ULYSSES* via Melbourne to Albany, WA. A convoy sailed on 31 Dec 1914 via Colombo, Aden, Suez to Alexandria. The 4th Bde carried out training in Egypt prior to boarding *HMAT ASCOT*.

The 13th Bn landed on Gallipoli on 26 April, 1915, and served during its time on the Peninsula at Quinn's Post, Popes Hill, and Monash Valley.

Marks was wounded at Abdel Rahman Bahr and evacuated to Lemnos Island. He recovered and was sent back to Gallipoli where he took part in the attack on Hill 60.



The inscription on the back of this photo simply says "No 2 Machine Gun has killed hundreds of Turks"

After the Allied withdrawal from the Gallipoli Peninsula in December 1915, the most successful Allied action of the campaign, the 4th Bde returned to Egypt for re-equipment and training. Lt Marks was promoted to Captain on 20 Jan, 1916.

On 12 Jul 1916 the need to increase the number of Australian Divisions and spread battle experience resulted in the 4 Gallipoli Brigades of 16 Battalions being



Members of the 13th Bn at Ascension Farm,
near Le Verguier, 18 Sep 1918

formed into 32 Battalions. Capt Marks stayed with 13 Bn as Adjutant.

13 Bn arrived in Marseilles, France on 7 June, 1916 and from there carried out further training and then served at Pozieres, where, on 19 Sept 1916 Capt Marks was awarded the Military Cross.

13 Bn then served at Mouquet Farm, Picadilly Farm, The Bluff, Goodwin's Post, alternating between spells in the line and in the rear for rest and recovery.

Capt Marks was promoted Major in Dec, 1916 and on 23 Feb, 1917 "*Assumed Command*" of 13 Bn. At Bullecourt Maj Marks was seriously wounded and evacuated to the UK.

On 22 Aug, 1917 Maj Marks had returned to France and was promoted Temporary Lt. Col. **At age 22 he was the "youngest Colonel in the AIF"**.

The 13th Bn then served at Polygon Wood in the 3rd Battle of Ypres and on 5 Dec, 1917, Marks was formally promoted to Lt. Col.

In Jan 1918, after the Russian withdrawal from WW1 following the Revolution of 1917, Germany moved an estimated 50 Divisions to the Western Front. Intelligence reports then gave 192 German Divisions opposed to 175 Allied Divisions.

The Germans launched a number of offensives and the 13th Bn served during Mar/Apr 1918 at Hebeturne where the Australians held the offensive. At the end of April they were at Villers-Bretonneux.

Lt Col Marks was awarded the DSO (Distinguished Service Order) on 3 Jun 1918 and in July the 13th Bn was at Hamel Wood and Le Hamel.

It then took part in the great Australian offensive under Gen Monash in which the 5 Australian Divisions operated together for the first time in WW1. Their offensive was from the Somme River to Amiens.

Then in Sep 1918 the 13th Bn took part in the attack on the Hindenburg Line, which turned out to be their last battle of the war.



On 5 Oct 1918 Lt Col Marks left France for Australia arriving on 13 Dec. For much of his latter service in France he was known (fondly) as "*The Boy Colonel*".

Lt Col Douglas Marks DSO. MC. White Eagle of Serbia.

On his shoulder note the brass A signifying Gallipoli veteran and the rosette noting he was part of the original landing force.

Even given his wartime experiences, his decorations and his close association with Generals Birdwood and Brand, his goal of remaining in the Army proved elusive as he was not a graduate of RMC (Royal Military College), Duntroon. He studied Law at Sydney University.

On 25 Jan, 1920 Marks was at Palm Beach, Sydney and, although a weak swimmer and with reduced lung functions after his severe wounding at Bullecourt, he unhesitatingly went into the surf attempting to rescue a lady in distress, but was drowned himself. His body was never recovered.

Extracted from the book
"The Youngest Battalion Commander in the AIF. The Boy Colonel"
by Will Davies.

Email received from Derek Baldwin—Assn member

I read with interest the above article in Volume 87 dated August 2014 by Robert Hastings of Gabutu. The first signature in the Bank's book is that of my grandfather Charles Robert Baldwin, a Master Mariner who went to the Territory in the mid 1890's. He later set up a successful trading business CR Baldwin and Co in Moresby and became a well known Territory citizen.

In 1960 I was playing golf on Badilli Golf Course with the then Manager of the Bank of NSW, a Mr Glasson I think his name was, who said that he shortly would be hosting a function to celebrate the Bank's 50 years in PNG. I told him that I believed my Grandfather's name was the first in the Bank's "Book". I assume that he, along with other Territory business enterprises, including no doubt Burns Philp, were instrumental in convincing the Bank of New South Wales to come to Moresby.

He contacted me later and confirmed that it was and invited me to the the function in question. I duly attended a most enjoyable engagement.

Thank you Robert Hastings.

Sincerely - Derek Baldwin

OWEN GUN By Don Hook

The Owen sub-machine gun, highly acclaimed by Australian Diggers in World War Two, was initially rejected by the Army's "top brass".

The reason? Australian generals believed Australian technology could not match British standards.

According to an authoritative new book, the generals, including Blamey, Northcott and Sturdee, did everything in their power to frustrate and delay manufacture of the Owen gun, even to the extent of suppressing test results which showed the weapon was far superior to the British Sten gun,

The book, *Armed and Ready* by Dr Andrew Ross*, covers the industrial development and defence of Australia from 1900 to 1945. It will be published in August by the Department of Industry, Science and Technology, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Before the war, Evelyn Owen, a young inventor from Wollongong (NSW), twice presented a crude prototype of the gun to the Army. On both occasions it was rejected.

In 1940, a .32" calibre prototype was produced by Lysaghts at Port Kembla and submitted to the Army. But the generals were not interested. They had just received news that the British were developing the Sten gun to replace the U.S.-made Thompson sub-machine gun.

In fact, the generals did not take the Owen seriously as an option. Fortunately, the War Cabinet found out about the gun and ordered its mass production. The Army, however, continued to try to frustrate production by tactics such as insisting the gun should be made in .38" calibre, which was unsuitable and presented engineering difficulties.

A veteran of the Papua New Guinea campaigns, Bede Tongs, of Oaks Estate in the Australian Capital Territory, is a great admirer of the Owen gun and its inventor. He believes the late Evelyn Owen has not been given due recognition for his contribution to the Australian war effort.

Some years ago, Mr Tongs wrote a poem in tribute to Evelyn Owen and later visited Owen's sister at Burradoo in NSW.

"She told me that she and her brother had taken the gun to politicians and those who made armaments but it was rejected tune after time. When it was finally manufactured, Evelyn Owen did not receive recognition. After his death, his sister tried to gain some recognition for him but without success."

Bede Tongs, who won a Military Medal at Templeton's Crossing on the Kokoda Track in 1942, was a sergeant in the 3rd Battalion (Militia) which was part of Maroubra Force. He claims the Australian troops were disadvantaged by not having the Owen gun at that stage of the war.

"We should have had the Owen earlier, certainly by the start of the Pacific war. It's criminal that we didn't.

"In 1942 we used the Thompson, or Tommy gun. Its Winchester ammunition often misfired and it was no where near as good a gun as the Owen."

Mr Tongs first used the Owen in North Queensland as a member of the 2/3rd Infantry Battalion training for the Wewak-Aitape campaign.

"It was a great gun. It was light, simple in its design, and most reliable. Its 9mm calibre produced a good punch and it was ideal for close quarter fighting in jungle areas where most contacts were at about 25 paces."

He said the early Owen guns had problems with their safety mechanisms, often discharging if the butt were bumped on the ground. However, this was corrected and further modifications made with the result that the Owen was used in Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam. Bede Tongs was commissioned in the field during the Wewak-Aitape campaign. After the war he joined the CMF and, as a captain, went to Korea as an observer.

In 1983 he returned to Papua New Guinea and, at the age of 63, he walked the Kokoda Track with his son, Garry, and grandson, David, then aged 11.

The author of Armed and Ready, Dr Andrew Ross, spent thousands of hours investigating original documents in libraries and archives throughout Australia, and interviewing key figures in Australian industry and the military. He started the book as a PhD project in the early 1980s, when he was a postgraduate student at the University of NSW while working as a military analyst in the Department of Defence, Canberra.

OWEN SUB-MACHINE GUN - A TRIBUTE TO EVELYN OWEN

This is in memory of an Australian son, Evelyn Owen is his name, inventor of that famous gun that servicemen acclaim.

Firepower, not men's bodies was an axiom of the Second World War; a light machine gun was needed fast to help free our Nation's shores.

The Lee Enfield.303, Bren also the Vickers MMG, all played

their part and did it well, as did the Thompson SMG. Un

daunted by an expert's spiel of no place for a new gun, Evelyn Owen showed his invention, until his perseverance won, and soldiers in the battle field, gave thanks to this Australian son.

The Australian Front Line fighting man now had another weapon true, with fire power sight, calibre light, it was a match for a ruthless foe. In jungle slush and desert dust in the hands of gallant men firing single shots, short bursts or devastating blasts until when victory at last won was won.

Please keep Evelyn Owen's name foremost amongst Australia's greatest sons, We owe this to the inventor of Australia's own great Owen Gun.

Don Hook was the specialist writer for the 1995 Australia Remembers Program.

He spent more than 10 years in PNG as an ABC journalist. He also covered Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos from February 1968 to November 1970, and the Indo Pakistan War of 1971.

DH was a member of the PNGVR in the 1960s. and is a member of the Association He now lives in Canberra. He intends to march in Brisbane this ANZAC Day.

FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO 3 BDE.

More than 1500 soldiers marched through Townsville when 3 Bde became the first Brigade in Australian History to be granted the Freedom of Entry to a City on 30th August, 2014.

A parade was conducted at the historic Jezzine Barracks followed by a march along The Strand where 3 Bde was challenged by Qld Police before being allowed to pass.

Comd 3 Bde, Brig Roger Noble, said "In 1913 3 Bde was known as the "All Australian Brigade" because its troops were drawn from all across the land. The original soldiers of 3 Bde were the first Australian soldiers ashore at Gallipoli in WW1 and troops from 3 Bde are deployed in Afghanistan today".



WO1 Richard Jones now on HQ 3 Bde with his wife, Elizabeth, after the parade. Richard is the son of Brian Jones, Association member, and took part in the parade.

Searchlights over Gibraltar during WW2



29/9/40
NGVR
Rabaul
being in-
spected by
Sir Walter
McNicol,
Adminis-
trator of
New
Guinea.
Photo from
your
Museum.



An early
Association
Banner.

John Hol-
land and
Ken
MacGowan
(decd)

Letter from a Gallipoli Soldier

June 2nd, 1915

My Loved Mother,

Just a few scrawly lines to let you know I'm doing splendidly.

By now, no doubt, you have had news of the great work that the NZ boys & our fellows did on Gallipoli Peninsula. It is nice to hear our praises sung by British generals and admirals and to read the splendid reports the English papers give us. Now, what of the people in Australia think of the men who were "only good enough to drink and debauch in Cairo". I should think that the dirty minded hounds who ran us down would now feel rather small.

To give you a few facts re myself.

Our Battalion had the job of landing first, that is we were selected from the 24 Battalions which comprise the Aust & NZ Army Corps, to get ashore somehow, clear the beach & adjacent ridges of the Turks and make possible the landing of the rest of our Army.

It was uncanny, that job. We crept ashore on Torpedo Boat Destroyers: as we got closer the speed increased and we must have surged along at a good 20 knots an hour.

Then we saw the hills of Gallipoli looming up under the dim light of the morning star. Presently clang clang goes the engine-room bells & the T.B.D. stops almost in her own length. There is absolute silence amongst the men, no confusion anywhere. Each man is opposite his allotted boat, which has been towed alongside, and in we get. Our boat gets away quickly. Unfortunately, suddenly the Destroyer Commander decided to take us in closer before casting off the row boats. By this time we are clear, and are rowing like demons for the shore so the T.B.D. goes on without us. Thus giving the other row boats a good start on us.

As we draw up to where the T.B.D. is we hear plick-plock from the shore, and a bullet hums over us – some sentry has at last woke up to the fact that the dammed Britishers are really going to try & land on their said-to-be impregnable coast.

Then it comes fast and furious, the rattle of the Mausers & Peabody Martinis merge into a roar & directly after their machine guns chip in. Our fellows cannot reply as they are still in the boats, but one of the Naval pinnaces sneaks in & pasted their M-guns to such purpose, using her own guns to that end, that



Assn
member
Don Lawie
(L) at the
Rocky Creek
Memorial
September
2014

we hear no more from Mr Turk's deadly machine guns, for which we are devoutly thankful. Now we can hear our chaps ashore. They are using the bayonet to some purpose & are pushing the Turks back everywhere. The bullets are cracking all round the boat which we are in, & suddenly I think I'm deafened as a bullet cracks past my left ear & the Naval man who is steering our boat, & who, so far, has been standing up, sits down with much suddenness.

His language is a revelation, even to a soldier. Our oars-men are working like Trojans & everyone is cracking jokes & so, presently, we reach the beach, or near enough to splash into two feet of water & carry our guns, ammunition, tools, water etc. ashore. We have just completed assembling the M.G. Section, a few minutes work only, when "Whee-ee-ee- Bang" & a shrapnel shell from Kapu Tepe (pronounced Karpoo Teepee) Fort bursts with a vivid red flash, fully 500 feet above the water, & the shrapnel falls harmlessly in front of the next relay of boats. A dozen more fall short, or go over, with tremendous squeals & roars & then the Fort gets the range & we would be losing heavily but for the fact that the Fleet steps in. With a roar like thunder the "Triumph" & "Bachante" get into action with 10 inch & 12 inch guns & soon Kapu Tepe Fort is in ruins. The "Queen Elizabeth" fired one 15 inch shell at the Fort & is thought she had knocked half the Gallipoli Peninsula to pot. We heard that there were 34 guns on Kapu Tepe, which is a little Promontory jutting into the sea, & that the ships knocked out 33 of them that morning.

I must condense else I shall tire you, & make my scrawl overweight too.

We go forward & presently the Turks reinforcements attack us heavily.

Battery after battery of Field Artillery open on us with shrapnel, & the bullets are like bees & crackers mixed up.

We are losing heavily but still push on & some of ours get two miles inland, in fact they see the wonderful Narrows of the Dardanelles. The section, or what is left of it, get into action but we soon lose 13 out of our 15, three of whom are killed, & so I have to get into a Turkish trench amongst some field guns we have captured & start to use a rifle. We are stuck there all day & I got three or four Turks off my own rifle at ranges under 600 yds.

One man spotted with a telescope while I dropped 'em. They attacked us heavily at dusk & I got two more at 200 yds, we then got orders to fall back to the main line which was fairly well entrenched by this. We were nearly a mile ahead of this line & were in great danger of being cut off. I mounted the remaining gun & have hardly anyone left of the section, called for three volunteers to help me. (The other gun of the section had been knocked out by a shell) I covered the retirement & collection of wounded & must have got many Turks as I didn't spare the ammunition & they were very close. We took nearly 3 hrs to fall back to the main line so you see Mr Turk didn't flurry us. I stuck the firing line for 31/2 days & was ordered back by General Bridges himself to refit.

We then went up on the extreme right & dug ourselves in well & had no difficulty in keeping the Turks at a distance. By this

time I made up a section. In fact I got a new section made up of reserve men we'd trained in half a day. Got hit on the 19th May, 3 weeks, 4 days after landing, so I had a good run for my money. My two guns fired just on 3,000 rounds that morning at never more than 400 yds, so I guess the Turks knew all about it. We had a beautiful position & simply couldn't miss. I got hit at 5.30am two hrs after the action commenced. An expanding bullet (Dum Dum) came from behind, grazed my cheek &, as I happened to have my arm up taking a belt out of the gun at the time, it went through my forearm, just above the wrist & left a nasty hole where it spread on coming out. Fortunately it missed the sinews & bone, although it exposed the Ulna. Fancy, Mums, Major Jermyu patched me up on the beach. He was looking well. Then it took us nine days to get here – where I'm in splendid hands. By the time you get this I hope to have cabled you that I'm back at the front. You've got the news of my promotion now I suppose.

I have excellent prospects too.

Must close. May God bless you all.

Much love from your loving son, Alex.

P/S. I'm sending this by a fellow officer who has been inva-
lided home in the "Kyarra",

Written down the side of the front page. You will be pleased to know that our Brigadier Col. McLagan personally praised me for the work I did on the first day & night. Alex.

Thank you Assn Committee member Tony Boulter for this letter.

Maj Alexander Steele, DSO. DCM. MID. Was born in 1888
He enlisted in 25.8.14 in the 11th Bn but most of his service was
with 10th Bn.

On 3 Jun 1915 was awarded the DCM.

On 5.8.15 awarded an MID.

On 11.1.17 awarded a DSO.



A view of Bomana War Cemetery, Port Moresby.

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

**Association Committee Meet-
ings Saturday 21st March
Saturday 16th May
Saturday 18th July**

**Meetings commence 10am and
all members are welcome to at-
tend. Come along to see your
Museum and meet old mates.**

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

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

For correspondence contact Secretary, Colin Gould,
email pngvr@optusnet.com.au , phone 0424 562 030

(The Secretary, P O Box 885, Park Ridge, Qld, 4125)

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email rabaul42@gmail.com , phone 0449 504 058

(NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum, Corner Boundary Road & Fulcrum Street, Wacol, Qld, 4076)

Membership fee payments to Treasurer, Doug Ng, email doug-lasng@inet.net.au , phone 0413 014 422

(NGVR & PNGVR Ex-members Association : BSB: 064006 - A/C: 10001126)

Website Master: Trevor Connell email trevor.connell@internode.on.net , phone 0409 690 590

www.pngvr.weebly.com (all backcopies of HTT may be obtained from our website)

Facebook Master: Kieran Nelson ,
email kierannelson@bigpond.com , phone 0412 236 013

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ngvrandonpgvrarmilitarymuseum/>

Harim Tok Tok Editor: Bob Collins, email bob-collins@bigpond.com ,
phone 0413 831 397

President: Email p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au to get on members electronic distribution including Harim Tok Tok (you will receive it in colour, earlier and can adjust the print size to suit)



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HELP URGENTLY WANTED



"BUY A TILE, OR TWO, OR ...!"

The construction of the Military Museum extension is about to commence. Completion is scheduled to allow an official opening in September, the 40th Anniversary of PNG's Independence

Funds are required to refurbish the extension and enhance the existing premises.

You may help by purchasing floor tiles at \$5 each donation. All tile purchasers will be acknowledged in a framed roll in the extension.

Please use this coupon for your donation

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

I wish to purchase tiles for \$5 each to help refurbish our Military Museum

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

OR

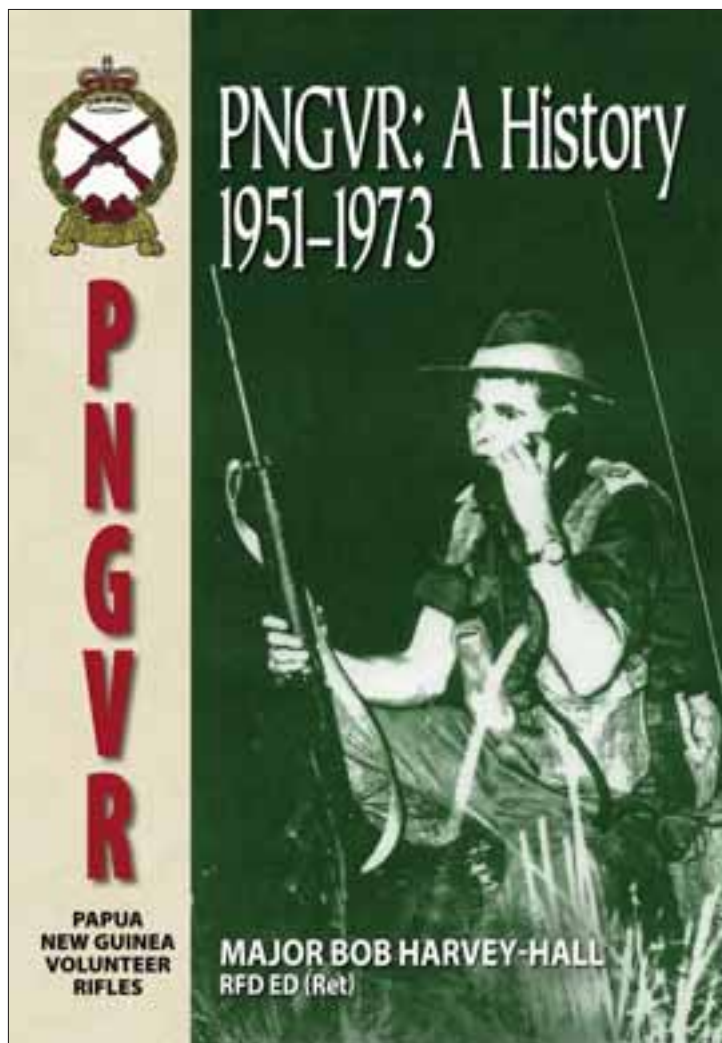
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Email or Phone No.:

If transferring funds electronically, please be sure to include your name with your transfer, then either post this form or email details of your order

**For more information, please contact Phillip Ainsworth—
p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au (email)—0418 730 348 (mob.)**



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 commanded 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)

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