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

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Fourteen NGVR/PNGVR members and several wives attended the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Papuan Infantry Battalion commemoration service held Saturday 20 June at the Kokoda Memorial Wall, Gold Coast followed by luncheon at the Surfers Paradise RSL. It was also a tribute to all who served in the disciplinary forces during the Pacific war. Colonel Maurie Pears, Patron of the PIB/NGIB/HQ PIR Association welcomed the 80 in attendance. Keith Payne VC, was a guest of honour. Keynote speaker Major General Michael Jeffrey spoke of PIB, the NGIB battalions and PIR and the Kokoda campaign. I responded confirming the strong links between the Police, PIB, NGVR, AN-GAU, AIB, the NGIB battalions and PIR. It is likely this service will become an annual event.



From left to right: Maurie Pears, Bill McGrath, Bob Collins, Jesse Chee, Barry Beaman, Doug Ng, Robert Cruickshank, Bruce Johnson, Kieran Nelson, Ken Connolly, Phil Ainsworth, Kerry Glover, Ralph Seeto, Des Pryde and Tony Boulter at Kokoda Memorial Wall, Gold Coast, 20 June 2015

Several members attended the 31st Battalion Association's dedication service to the Memorial of Trooper W E (Billy) Sing DCM Croix de Guerre at Lutwyche Cemetery on Tuesday 19th May 2015, the 100th Anniversary of Billy's arrival at ANZAC Cove with the 31st Battalion. Billy, a man of Chinese heritage, was known as the *Gallipoli Sniper*.



Doug Ng, Ralph Seeto, Paul Brown & Jesse Chee at the Billy Sing Memorial Dedication, 19/5/15

About 110 attended the NGAA Australian premier showing of the DVD *Kiap, the stories behind the medals* in Sydney on Sunday 14 June 2015. A Q and A with a panel of Kiaps, our member Ross Johnson as chair, Quentin Anthony and Mark Lynch followed. I took the opportunity of presenting a copy of our *PNGVR, A History* book to the former Commander of the PNGDF, Brigadier Francis Agwi, now the PNG High Commissioner to New Zealand. Charles Lepani, PNG High Commissioner

to Australia, and Sumasy Singin, PNG Consul General to NSW, and their wives also attended.



Right to left: Charles Lepani, Francis Agwi, Sumasy Singin & Phil Ainsworth, Sydney 14/6/15

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Commemorative Service at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra was held on Sunday 28 June followed by luncheon at a nearby Restaurant. About 30 attended with the keynote speaker being Salvation Army Captain K Delamore from Duntroon.



Members Don Hook, Charles Schuster and Phil Ainsworth, AWM, 28 June 2015. Member Ross Johnson not in photo

The Association's annual service for the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru victims including our NGVR men, was held in the forecourt of the Brisbane Cenotaph at 10 am Wednesday 1 July 2014. About 25 attended and the guest speaker the Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe spoke about the sad event and emphasised the long and close relationship between governments and peoples of Queensland and PNG. Phil Ainsworth also spoke in detail about the event. A delightful morning tea in the nearby Rendezvous Hotel followed. Channel 10 was present and a small segment was on that night's TV news and is now on our facebook.

The Surfers Paradise RSL has invited our Association members and partners to attend Saturday 8 August Kokoda Commemorative Service for 11am at Kododa Memorial Wall, Gold Coast followed by luncheon at the Surfers Paradise RSL. This is a yearly event and Gold Coast members are taking advantage of the opportunity of getting together. Please RSVP our Secretary and wear ANZAC dress

The Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL has invited our members and partners to attend its annual Kokoda Memorial Service at 11 am Sunday 9 August outside its premises adjacent to the Corinda Railway Station. The keynote speaker will be Briga-

dier Ross Grant. The service is followed by a light luncheon in the RSL. Please RSVP our Secretary and wear ANZAC dress

It is on again - the annual Fassifern Valley Light Horse Shoot on Sunday 30 August. Our Association, or rather our member Ian Thompson won the shoot last year. Ian tells me he has a new rifle and is keen to retain his number 1 position. Please diary this event even if you are not a serious shooter - rifles may be borrowed and it is a wonderful outing in lovely country. The coffee shops abound in Boonah for pre shoot drinks and the local Dugandan Pub is a delightful place for drinks afterwards. Our Association will be holding its annual AGM followed by a BBQ luncheon on Saturday morning 17 October so please diary this now - we need as many there as possible. Later on the same day, 17 October at 4pm, our Jimboomba mixed dinner will be held. More information will be sent about both events later. Sales of our history book has slowed; however, we are now listing institutions and organisations to launch a marketing effort for them to purchase the book rather than present for free. To date over 300 books have been sold.

The Museum Extension is progressing slowly due to the reasons previously canvassed. Now that the Certifier has been officially appointed, I expect to see steady progress.

The third project, the self publication of the book *NGVR, personal stories* is progressing but will take a little longer than first thought due to editing issues.

The number of our face book subscribers and interaction between members is growing. Our website is also receiving more attention. Please use these to stay in touch and be informed

Phil Ainsworth, July 2015

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NGVR AND ANGAU EXPERIENCES

JIM HUXLEY

NG 2161

NGX432

Distinctions

Two unique distinctions I had was that I was:-

- i. The last member of the mainland New Guinea Volunteer Rifles to go to Australia for leave. That was in April, 1943, after serving non-stop for 14 months.
- ii The last of the ANGAU people on the New Guinea mainland to go to Australia for discharge

Luck of the Draw

However I nearly didn't make it. Just before midday on 21 January, 1942, I was in the single men's quarters at Bulwa when three Japanese fighter planes came from nowhere, buzzed us several times at no more than 100 feet (30 metres) and elected not to fire a shot. They were so close I could see the pilots faces.

Prior to the Japanese Invasion of New Guinea

When war started on 3 Sep, 1939, I was working as a 16 year old copy boy on The Sun newspaper in Sydney. A year later a workmate, Neville Power, who was two years older than me decided he would enlist and asked me to enlist with him. My dad, Dick Huxley, was working at Bulolo in New Guinea, and, when I sought my mum's permission to join up (as a 17 year old) she said nothing but quickly wrote to my father with my request.

In no time the refusal came, along with the news that my father had obtained a job for me up there with him. Mum said I was too young to enlist and to ensure that I wouldn't sneak off and join up dad would keep an eye on me for a couple of years. After that I could please myself.

Arrival in New Guinea

I left for Salamaua in the Burns Philp vessel 'Neptuna' on 18 December, 1940, arrived at Salamaua on 29 December, and then flew to Wau in a tri-motor Ford freighter, and then to Bulolo in a Fox Moth. I worked on No 8 dredge in Bulwa, but there is not a lot to say about working on a dredge.

In mid January the Bulolo doctor, Carl Gunther, who ran the NGVR's medical detail section, invited me to join the NGVR and nominated his medical detail. This I did and later on I was delighted to have done so.

Training in NGVR

There were about 20 of us in the detail. I was, by far, the youngest at just 18 years (16 January), while the others were either in their 30's or 40's. We paraded Friday nights on the square outside the Company Mess, together with the fighting troops, and had to learn all the fundamentals, like how to use a rifle, with and without bayonet, how to use an old Vickers gun and how to toss a hand grenade. Why we did this I didn't know, as our job was to look after the wounded and sick.

Then on Sunday mornings we attended our medical parades at the native hospital where we learned a lot. We were taught how to use a stethoscope by Doc Gunther, and how to diagnose the various illnesses

we would or might have to diagnose should the need arise. Ailments such as malaria, dengue fever, hookworm, pneumonia, dysentery, diarrhoea, scrub typhus (Japanese river fever) and blackwater fever. We learned how to fix and tend to fractures and types of wounds we might face. It was interesting and then, fun. Believe me it all came in very handy later.

Full time service in NGVR

After working the night shift on Dredge 8 my three shift-mates and I and those from Dredges 3 and 4, which were also working in the Bulwa area, enjoyed breakfast and then chatted until late morning.

We were then on our way to our respective quarters, showered and prepared for a few hours sleep. In my case, I made it into bed but almost immediately I was out again and checking on the noise which had interrupted what was usually a quiet, sublime scene.

Noise emanating from aeroplane engines filled the air. I looked up and immediately above me a Jap aircraft was flying with its large red dots very visible. I could see the pilot's face clearly in the morning light. Then a second fighter flew over with the pilot just as prominent.

We were standing there to be plucked by a burst of machine gun fire.

I joined the NGVR fulltime that afternoon.

If the Japs had chosen to shoot us I would have died a civilian and been denied the chance to serve my time in the Australian Army.

I had been in the NGVR for just on a year, but only serving part time.

The aircraft left us in shock and flew on to Bulolo, 10 miles away, where they carried out their planned mission.

Members of the NGVR were signed up for fulltime duty that afternoon. Those not already in the unit were told to sit around and wait for instructions from the powers- that-be.

From being part-time soldiers we suddenly were on fulltime duty in Australia's front line.

Air Assaults on New Guinea Mainland

We knew the Japs were approaching our part of the world.

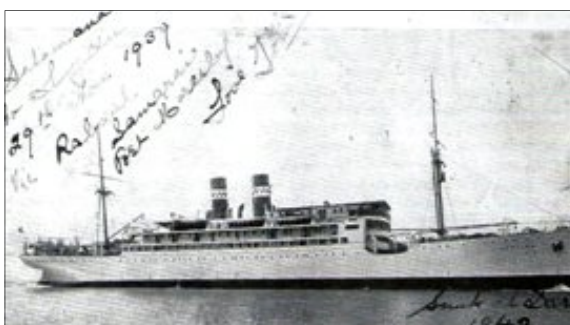
They were busy with an air assault followed by the landing of ground troops and the taking of Rabaul on 23 January.

On the morning of 21 January a flight of 60 Jap aircraft, made up of bombers and escorting fighters, attacked Lae and Salamaua, causing mayhem in both towns. A number of people were killed and much damage was done to property.

As the attack on the coastal towns continued five fighters peeled off and flew inland, tailing one of Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd's Junkers G31's, flown by veteran pilot Bert Heath with young Malcolm Goad as his engineer. Bertie was carrying a load of Fosters lager to Bulolo and, with no wireless on board, he had no idea that he was being followed by the Japanese aircraft. He had taken off just before the Nips reached Lae and knew nothing of the attack that was imminent.

The Japs in their fighters did their job well. They shot up Bertie's Junkers, luckily after both he and Goad disembarked and made it to a slit trench.

The attackers destroyed completely



MV 'Neptuna' This photo was sent home by brother Tom in 1939.



Jim with his mother—Irene

the other two Junkers G31's parked elsewhere on the Bulolo 'drome.

NGVR people fired a very much outdated Vickers machine gun as the Japs attacked, without scoring a hit.

Luckily none of our men were killed or wounded.

NGVR service with the Medical Detail

Over the next 14 months I served at Bulwa, the Upper Watut, Wau, The Black Cat, Skin Diwai, Mubo, the Buangs, The Markham, Wau, Skin Diwai and Wau again, this latter time during the Battle for Wau.

I served with the NGVR's medical detail, formed by Bulolo's

peacetime medico, Dr Carl Gunther. After Carl left to join the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) he served in Singapore where he was taken prisoner of war.

Capt Noel McKenna, the Administration's doctor at Wau, took over and later, after McKenna was transferred to Port Moresby, a young doctor from Sydney, Hugh Marsden, who had relieved Dr Gunther in Bulolo for a while before he went back to Sydney to enlist, was posted back to Wau as Kanga Force's medical officer. His staff consisted of the medical detail.

Hugh Marsden didn't get along very well with Kanga Force's Commanding Officer, Lt Col. Norman Fleahy. Lt Col Fleahy called the hospital at Wilde's upper coffee plantation 'Marsden's Farm' and ourselves as 'Marsden's Mob'.

NGVR's average age when the unit went on active service was 38 years. A considerable number of the 500 plus had served in the Great War (WW1) and were pushing 50 years of age.

NGVR Medical Problems

By July, 1942, after raids by the 2/5 Independent Coy and NGVR on Salamaua and Heath's Plantation which was along the Markham Road, many of the NGVR personnel were suffering health problems.

NGVR personnel were medically examined and a large majority of them were sent to Australia. Most of them would be discharged from the army and not many of them would return to New Guinea in any capacity.

The oldies had done a great job and earned their leave and discharge.

Field work with NGVR

After the Japs came I was sent to Mubo. I was listed as one of four medical detail people to work with our troops there, but, in fact, I was the only medic there – no doctor – just me. All the other medical detail people posted to Mubo and the other three of the four Companies there couldn't make it. They were too old and the walk over the mountains was too much for them and they returned to Wau.

I stayed at Mubo until after the 2/5 Independent Coy / NGVR raid on Salamaua (this incidentally, was the first Australian offensive in New Guinea), late July.

As I said, I was the only NGVR medic at Mubo, and, after being relieved by an old friend, Haydn Davies, returned to Bulwa for a spell. At the time I was nursing a badly swollen knee and a nasty attack of sinusitis. Within 24 hours, Capt Noel McKenna, who was running medical detail from Bulwa, sent for me, said he was sorry but there was a job to be done and I was the only one there who could do it, swollen knee, sinusitis and all. Sgt Terry Powell,



NGVR Medical personnel

L-R. Chris Lega, Jack Sherringham, Jim Huxlay, Carl Gunther, Frank Shaw, Harry Gardner, 'Scotty' Sutherland

McKenna said, was nursing a swollen knee and he felt he couldn't do justice to the planned patrol. It was a joke. My knee was as bad as his. The patrol, to the Buangs, was led by Lt Alf Boyland, and comprised a section of his 2/5 Independent Company plus NGVR's WO11 John Glover who acted as guide and interpreter, as well as myself as the medical man. Boyland and his men started off working with the NGVR and when the 2/5 Independent Company joined us they were officially linked with them. They were sent to New

Guinea as reinforcements for the 2/1 Independent Coy, whose personnel were spread throughout the Islands when they were attacked by the Japs.

We stayed at Mapos (Buangs) for six weeks until, on 1st September, Fleahy "scorched" the Bulolo Valley. I didn't know much about what was going on at the time, and the man to tell that story is Mal Bishop, then a 2/5 Sgt who was given the job of torching the Bulolo Valley.

There was still a job to be done, and we, the younger bracket carried on.

Over the following month, from the NGVR people remaining, men were sent out in dribs and drabs for leave.

Japanese Attack on Wau

Towards the end of 1943 the Japs became very active.

They attacked and took our base at Mubo and then, to everyone's surprise, they took an old miners track to Wau. This was by way of the Bitoi and The White Cat track to Wandumi village.

The old miner's track was overlooked by our people, but the Japs knew all about it, used it, and got to Wau through little opposition. Actually, when my platoon, led by Lt (Sir) Colman O'Loughlen and Sgt Lea Ashton, were at Skin Diwai, a few of the men cut their way through the bush and over the mountain and found the old miner's track and finished the job by edging their way through the underbrush for the last 50 yards or so to make sure they did not show they had been there. That was the last we heard of this track until the Japs used it.

A Swiss or German farmer called Hoffstettor, who grew sweet potato, or kau kau, is generally believed to have linked with the Japanese. He may have known about the old track, but also would some of the older natives on the coast who had linked up with their new mastas, the Japs.

While all this was going on, Capt Marsden asked me to take some medical supplies to Major Bill Refshauge, of the 2/2 Field Ambulance, who was conducting a Field Station at Skin Diwai. Skin Diwai was building up in preparation for a counter-attack on Mubo.

The 2/2 Field Ambulance was one of the Corps units attached to 17 Brigade, which became part of Kanga Force, led, at first, by the very disliked Lt Col Norman Fleahy, a 26 year old middle East veteran, who turned out to be a hopeless jungle fighter and a liar. Fleahy was awarded the DSO for leading the July raids on Salamaua and Heath's Farm in the Markham area simultaneously, although the raids were at least 30 miles apart. I have given Fleahy a nice old serve



Jim at the time of the
Battle for Wau

in my upcoming book. The piece is headed "The Man Who Wasn't There".

My instructions were to deliver my package to Major Refshauge and then return to Wau. However when I reached Skin Diwai I found Haydn Davies assisting Refshauge and he asked me to "hang around" for a few days and help him out. This I did.

After three days Haydn and I were told to return to Wau. We set out early in the morning and enjoyed a cup of tea with Capt. Bill Sherlock and some of his men from the 2/6 Battalion at Ballam's Camp. It was there that we learned that the Japs were already in the outskirts of Wau. They were in Wandumi village and surrounds in their hundreds, after having by-passed the majority of our troops who were stuck up on the main track – the Skin Diwai to Mubo track – where Haydn and I had just left.

Capt Sherlock wrote a message on a page from his note book and asked me to deliver, as quickly as possible, to Kanga Force Headquarters at Izzy-Dizzy, the former home of promi-

nent Wau resident Austin Ireland.

Haydn was to report to the Field Ambulance's Hospital on the Big Wau Creek and warn the C.O., Lt. Col. Dickie Smibert that the Japs were about to attack Wau in force.

Lt Col Smibert was Commanding Officer of the Field Ambulance with Maj Refshauge his 2 1/c. Refshauge stayed in the army and finished up a Major General in charge of the Aust Army Medical Services. He was a great bloke, lives in Canberra and is now 88 years old. I worked with him a lot and found him a top performer. He had a high regard for the NGVR medical detail people and also for Capt Hugh Marsden who took over from Capt McKenna when he was transferred to Port Moresby. Marsden was a terrific surgeon and I helped him on a number of operations, as did others of our "mob".

Haydn and I made our way from Ballams to the end of the Wau vehicle road at Crystal Creek, where we had a supply depot. Luckily we were able to by-pass the Japs, who were very active, and we made it to Wau in a very speedy jeep.

I spent the night at Izzy-Dizzy and, in the morning, was shown, through binoculars, the Japs, in their hundreds, very busy in and about Wandumi Village, obviously preparing for their assault on Wau.

Later that day we learnt that Capt. Sherlock and several of his men had been killed in

a bloody clash with a large Jap force.

This was the beginning of the Battle for Wau, which lasted through the end of December and well into January.

By the end of January most of the NGVR had been sent out on leave, and of those left, a half-dozen or so were medical people.

Disbanding of NGVR and transfer to Kanga Force

At the time we didn't know it but NGVR had been disbanded in October, and those of us soldiering on at Wau were officially attached to Kanga Force HQ and worked with the 2/2 Field Ambulance, responsible to Major Refshauge.

I was detailed to work with native labourers unloading and loading US Air Force C47 Dakotas (DC3's as we now know them) as they flew in and out of Wau in flights of nine, several times a day. I was, as well, detailed to fly with the "Biscuit Bombers" as a guide as we dropped supplies to our troops at Skin Diwai.

Leave and return to Australia

Early in April I was told that I would not be flying with the Yanks that day. We had returned to Wau after overnighting at Port Moresby and I was to go out on leave instead.

The aircraft I expected to fly in, the one I had flown in twice before, crashed into the trees near Skin Diwai and the seven men on board were killed instantly. Among them were two young Aussie Commandos who had volunteered to take my place when I missed the flight.

I then had a few matters to attend to prior to going out. One of my main duties was to ensure Inogu, my pre-war 'mangki masta' and wartime 'dokta boi', was looked after.

Inogu of Vanimo was left in Wau in good care, and, when I was later posted to Malahang Native Hospital he was there. I claimed him and he worked with me for the rest of the war while I was with ANGAU. He will appear again in my ANGAU experiences.

At the hospital Hugh Marsden told me that the last of the NGVR people attached to the hospital, fellow medics, Haydn Davies, Joe Brennan and Jack Chisholm, had already left for Moresby and I would catch up with them there, at Murray Barracks.

Capt Marsden gave me some quinine and aspirin to carry in my packet. He said Haydn had a touch of fever and I should "dose him up" if need be.

After arriving at Moresby I was driven to Murray Barracks where I learned that Haydn had been taken out to the 2/9 Australian General Hospital where he would be treated for malaria. This worried me because Haydn was a longtime friend and I felt I couldn't go to Australia and not see him first.

Although told that under no circumstances was I to leave the barracks, I ignored this order and thumbed a ride out

to the hospital some miles out of town. When I arrived at the AGH I was told that Haydn was on his way back to Murray Barracks for onward movement to Australia. I had missed him and, no doubt, was in serious trouble. Eventually I got a ride back to the



Medical personnel at Wau. Jim Huxley in front with dog.

barracks and found, on arrival, a very cranky young Lieutenant waiting for me. He bawled me out and then informed me my fellow NGVR people were on their way, in a flying boat, to Townsville.

After some time he simmered down somewhat and informed me I would be sent to Cairns in two days in the ship 'Katoomba'. He then told me that I was the last of the NGVR to be marked off his long list.

There were more than 500 names on that list and the notation against my name was the last entered.

Thus, by chance, I was the last of the mainlander NGVR to leave for Australia.

I spent 14 months serving in various parts of the Morobe District. At Wau I was given a paybook but didn't have a need to draw from it until I reached Murray Barracks.

There I withdrew a few quid and bought a beer at the barrack's canteen.

To be continued.

This is Jim's story as given to Bob Collins

THE LANYARD

The lanyard had a genuine purpose in war. It was originally a piece of cord, approximately one metre in length, used to secure a jackknife which was issued to both the artillery and the cavalry. The knife had a number of uses; the blade was for cutting loose horses that became entangled in the head and heel ropes of the picket lines, and the spike of the knife was used as a hoof pick for the removal of stones from horses; hooves. A fuze key was also attached to the lanyard.

Hanging loose, the lanyard soon became dirty and for the day-to-day barrack routine, it looked out of place on an otherwise smart uniform. So for peacetime purposes, the lanyard was plaited and blanched white to match both the white bandolier and the white waist belt worn by the gunners of the day. The lanyard was worn on the left shoulder, with the end that contained both the knife and fuze key, tucked into the left breast pocket.

In 1920, the lanyard was moved to the right shoulder, simply to solve the problem of trying to remove the knife from the pocket behind the bandolier. By now the bandolier and the belt, worn with battle dress, had long ceased to be white, but the lanyard remained so. The knife was removed in 1933 and the lanyard then became a straight cord, worn purely as an ornamental item of dress. In 1955 it was, for a short time, re-introduced in the plaited style but it reverted to the straight lanyard currently worn today.

All corps' wear the lanyard on the right shoulder. However, both A Field Battery of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, and the battalions of infantry regiments wear the lanyard on the left shoulder. A Field Battery just did not bother to change in 1920 (there is no truth in the story that the Prince of Wales authorised the Battery to wear the lanyard on the left shoulder for service to himself and the Empire), and the infantry regiments use different coloured lanyards on the left shoulder to identify their various battalions (for example, in the Royal Australian Regiment, the 1st Battalion wears a Garter Blue lanyard, the 2nd Battalion wears a Black lanyard).

As time has gone by, other corps' and units have adopted the lanyard as an item of dress, worn in their own appropriate corps colours. However, it is perhaps interesting to note that a good many gunners today still wear a lanyard in the field, to which is attached a modern version of the clasp knife.

There is another item of dress which is often confused with the lanyard, which is the aiguillette. The aiguillette was origi-

nally a piece of cord worn by the cavalry for the sole purpose of tying-up bundles of forage.

THE AIGUILLETTE

The aiguillette is a series of plaited cords worn over the shoulder and looped up to the breast with the ends capped by small metal tags. The origin was a piece of cord used for tying-up bundles of forage by cavalymen. In the course of time the aiguillette became increasingly decorative and decreasingly useful until they were worn only as a mark of distinction by officers on ceremonial occasions.

Today they are worn on ceremonial occasions by officers of the General Staff, their Military Assistants and Aides-de-Camp, and other selected officers such as escort officers for visiting foreign senior officers and military attaches.

Chris Jobson, former RSM Ceremonial ADHQ

These were extracted from NASHO NEWS, May 2015.

Wacol: A concept plan and a wish list is being prepared for grant application purposes.

There is still no decision on Metroplex's application to Council. Peter Dunn confirmed this on 28 May.

Membership: In the 12 months to March NSAAQ membership dropped by 137 due to 129 new members reduced by 74 deaths, 55 resignations and 129 being non financial.

The Chapel: Grants for air-conditioning the Chapel have been received and this will be installed soon.

The Gun: The artillery piece installed by NSAAQ earlier this year is a M2A2, a type which was not used in the Battle of Long Tan – it was the 105mm L5 Pack Howitzer that was used then. The 105mm M2A2 did not come into service in Vietnam till June 1967 some 10 months after the battle of Long Tan when the M2A2 replaced the L5 on active service. The installed gun has never fired a shot in anger.

A surprising fact is that M2A2s were ordered by Australia from US in 1958 and delivered in 1959.

Thank you Phil Ainsworth.

ANZAC DAY 2015, Kuranda, FNQ

The Dawn Service attracted nearly 700 persons earlier that day, and I was invited to read the Lesson during the commemoration service that followed the main parade through Kuranda.

Locals said it was the biggest turnout they had seen... a reflection echoed across our country, across New Zealand and wherever Aussies and Kiwis are buried around the world, and especially in PNG.

On Anzac Eve a number of people participated in a commemorative Dinner which was supported by members of Kuranda RSL Sub-Branch, Rotary, Lions, Rural Fires and the Anglican Church.

The Rev'd Mudge was Ordained on St Anrews's Day, 30 Nov 2013 at St George's Anglican Church, Mareeba, by the Bishop of NQ, The Right Rev's Bill Ray. Over 200 folk attended including family, friends and colleagues from around Australia.

For a number of years John was Vice-President of the Association.



The Rev'd John Mudge,
OL, MBE, CStJ. Dip
AO. CTM.



**Presentation of
PNGVR History to
Qld State Library.**

Association President Phil Ainsworth presents the legal deposit of our book, PNGVR, A History, 1950-1973 to the Qld State Librarian and CEO Janette Wright at the QANZAC 100 newest exhibition of Queenslanders in the First World War, Distant Lines, held in the Red Box at the Qld State Library, Southbank, Brisbane, on 4th June, 2015. The exhibition is well worth visiting and commended to all.

100th ANZAC DAY REVISITED

Opinion piece from Henry Sims ex 860700 PNGVR

For many years I had felt as being a bit remote here in WA from all the PNGVR "movers and shakers", and frequently thought of marching in one ANZAC day parade with the Ex-members Association in Brisbane, and to renew acquaintances before it was too late. The centennial commemoration was so significant that it prompted me to plan to attend this as a special, single occasion. As I am not a veteran of any conflict, I have never participated in an ANZAC parade, other than whilst being in uniform as a NZ Territorial or ARES member.

So the enabling steps were put into place. Along the way, I discussed the occasion with my Papuan mate, Ernie Awo, with whom I have a continuing communication and he too, embraced the idea of marching again with Brown, Mudge, Samin and others from his time in Support Company. To enable him to attend, membership fees were paid, jacket, pocket badge, tie, beret and badge were provided and he thought he could "manage" air fares from Moresby. Unfortunately he did not attend, as is the Papuan "way" of things.

It so happened that I was also infrequently in touch with Bob

Harvey-Hall, John Mudge, Bill Bickerton and the Association's President and Secretary, so the excitement grew just thinking about a reunion in real time. Some expressed their intention in attending, but alas, we expats also have a way of not doing things, learned possibly from our Papuan mates.

The flight over was long and uneventful. Brisbane has a transport system that works well and we were safely billeted in our CBD motel, right next door to ANZAC Square. The Dawn Service was the biggest I have ever attended, with an estimated crowd of 40,000 well behaved and mostly younger people. One chap behind me sang all the words of the Australian national anthem, plus those in Maori and pakeha of the NZ anthem, which I thought was well done. (A Kiwi abroad is generally very patriotic and in my experience were terrific soldiers.)

Then it was to find the FUP location and to greet the very few members whom I did remember from forty odd years ago. They have all grown OLD! It was interesting to note name badges on people that I had never met, them being active in other sub-units, but characters none the less. Major Bob H-H acknowledged my attendance and it was with much pride that I marched alongside this very professional soldier. Thanks Boss. Most of the other members I knew were up in front somewhere, on official business. What a pity so few (38?) were able to march, as I feel that it was an occasion not to be missed, especially if one was resident in Queensland. Two turned up from WA and others from the southern states, so why not the locals?

The reunion gathering after parade was good, but with so many having "official" duties to fill, some were too busy for a chat. Our volunteer vocalists were big and loud and quite entertaining with their rendition of their unit song and others from the misty past. What a pity there was no SP nor buai with lime, but.....

The book "PNGVR: A History" which was launched at the gathering, is a magnificent piece of work, written by Maj Bob H-H and as such will stand as a memorial to the activities and people of the Regiment (C), long after we have all gone. I do apologise for being one of the first to grab and pay for a copy, but as it was on a "first in best dressed situation", I was not going to miss out for anybody.

I am a bit sorry that I was not in the unit from the start and am very sorry to have been there for the end, but what an honour it is to have served. Bamahuta, haparua.

Ed note.

Thank you Henry, It is always great to see ex PNGVR members from Interstate and Country attend Anzac Day in Brisbane. However it must be remembered.

1 Many of our members live in south east Queensland , a large precinct which spreads from Noosa in the north , west to Toowoomba and south to the border and beyond, which can incur several hours travel to get to and from Brisbane.

2 Many of our members joined other CMF or regular Army units after leaving PNG and served in those units for a longer period than with PNGVR. Thus their allegiance is divided and other options are selected.

3 After so many years living in one location, many members have become immersed in RSL, NSAAQ and /or other Associations, all or most which have ANZAC Day activities. In many instances friendships formed in these local organisations are more recent , ongoing and relevant.

4 Many members are pensioners and travel /accommodation/ entertainment are relatively expensive and not affordable.

5 Additionally, age, ill health and growing fragility has taken its course which curtails activities such as active ANZAC Days.



Natives husking coconuts, Rabaul, 1915

THE COASTWATCHERS AND FERDINAND THE BULL

The Australian coastwatching network was established to provide information on the movements and disposition of enemy forces in the South Pacific during World War II, drawing upon the local knowledge of inhabitants throughout the area. Their operations were code-named FERDINAND, from the children's storybook character,

In The Story of Ferdinand the bull, the titular character, unlike all the other bulls, refused to fight. The code-name was selected as a reminder to the coastwatchers that it was not their job to fight, but rather to observe. The intelligence that they gathered played a significant part in the execution of the war in the Pacific.

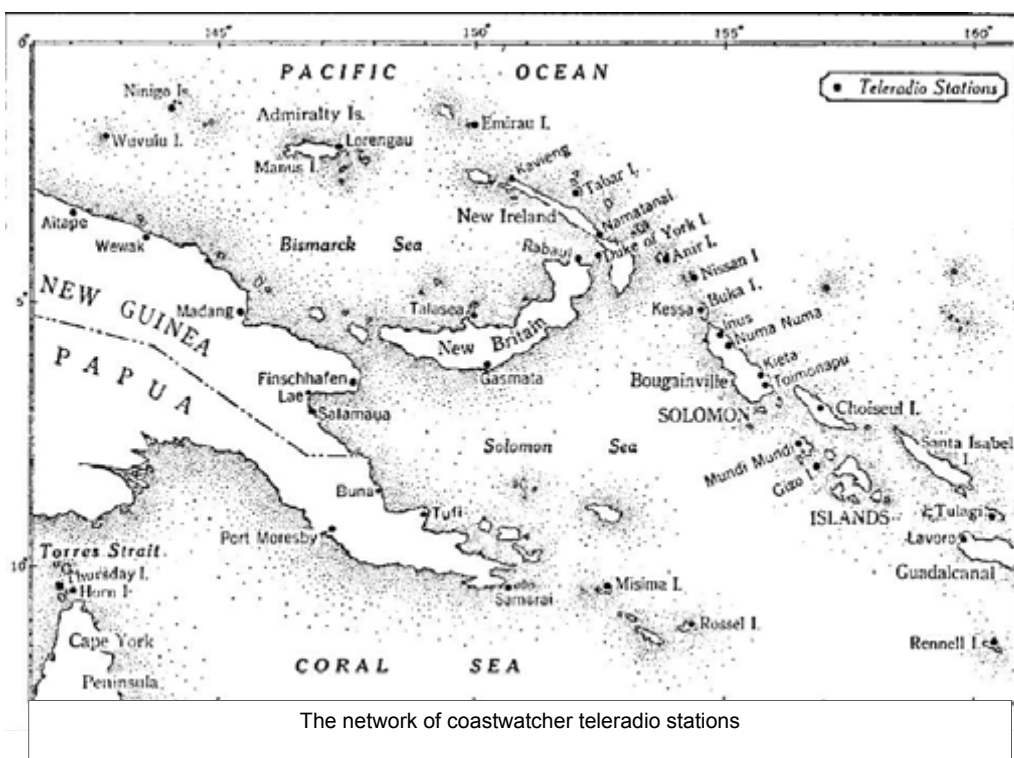
The establishment of a formal coastwatching network had been discussed as early as 1919. In March 1922, the three Services agreed that a coastwatching network in Australia was a necessity, but it was left to the Naval Board to establish and administer the network through the Naval Intelligence Division. By the outbreak of WWII, hundreds of coastwatchers had already

been recruited throughout Australia and the South Pacific. Responsibility for the network fell to Lieutenant Commander Eric Feldt, RAN, Staff Officer (Intelligence) Port Moresby. Feldt first joined the RAN as a cadet midshipman in 1912 and retired as a lieutenant in 1922 when he moved to New Guinea and became a local adminis-

trator. He re-joined when WWII began and was an excellent choice for the task assigned to him. Feldt toured the territories in 1939 recruiting additional coastwatchers and set about obtaining more teleradios to fill the gaps in the network. The additional coastwatchers and their teleradios were in place by August 1940, all of them civilians with the exception of one naval rating on Anir Island. Each coastwatching station sent its coded messages to receiving stations at larger centres such as Port Moresby and Rabaul, which, in turn, forwarded them on to the Naval Intelligence Division in Australia.

In 1941 FERDINAND started to become a more formal naval operation. Feldt moved to the new Area Combined Headquarters in Townsville that May while new Staff Officers (Intelligence) were appointed in Rabaul, Port Moresby, Thursday Island, Tulagi and Vila, each overseeing a network of civilian coastwatchers. Feldt maintained overall control with the new title Supervising Intelligence Officer, North Eastern Area. While the intelligence network became more structured, the sheer distances involved meant that decentralisation was equally essential so that individual coastwatchers could act on their own initiative. Feldt encouraged their autonomy for, 'alone in the jungle, they were the only competent judges of their own conditions.

Their operational area stretched from the border between New Guinea and Dutch New Guinea in the west to Vanuatu in the east. The coastwatchers themselves were all experienced islanders, mainly white Europeans who had settled in the territories. Tough and resolute; proud and independent; they were uniquely suited to the deprivations they would face in the coming years. Many spent months on end hiding in the jungle behind enemy lines while continuing to provide intelligence which often proved to be crucial to the execution of the war. All relied heavily on the support of the indigenous people. Most native islanders remained loyal even in Japanese occupied territory; many died carrying out their duties. Australian defences in the territories in 1939 were thin and were not expected to do more than delay the Japanese advance. The larger coastwatching stations such as Port Moresby and Rabaul had contingency plans to continue operating nearby in the event of Japanese occupation.



The network of coastwatcher teleradio stations

Japanese air raids in the Bismarck Archipelago began on 4 January 1942 when Rabaul was attacked by 22 heavy bombers. Advance warning from the coastwatcher on Tabar Island, Cornelius 'Con' Page, meant that casualties were comparatively light, but that was just a prelude to the Japanese invasion of New Britain and New Ireland later that month. On 24 January a coastwatcher

signal reported that Kavieng had been occupied. Contact with Rabaul, however, had been lost and two coastwatchers from Talasea, Keith McCarthy and George Marsland, began a 320km trek to report on the situation. At Pondo on Open Bay they met 12 soldiers who had evacuated from Rabaul and were told that some 700 people, including those from the coastwatcher station, were now scattered on both the north and south coasts of New Britain. What ensued was a remarkable search and rescue effort involving coastwatchers in New Britain and New Guinea in which more than 550 people, starving and beset by malaria, were rescued and ferried to safety.

As civilians, most coastwatchers were advised to cease their operations and evacuate as the Japanese advanced into their territory. However, the vast majority of them chose to continue their activities in the knowledge that capture could result in their execution as spies. In March 1942, following the execution of an elderly planter by the name of Percy Good, the coastwatchers were given ranks or ratings, mostly in the Volunteer Reserve, in the hope that this would provide them some protection in the event of capture. In many instances, it did not. On New Ireland, for instance, Lieutenant Alan 'Bill' Kyle, RANVR, and Sub-Lieutenant Gregory Benham, RANVR, led around 30 military and civilian personnel to safety before being captured and executed just 18 hours before they were due to be evacuated by submarine. They were both posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The rescue of stranded Allied servicemen became one of the coastwatchers primary responsibilities. In August 1943, Lieutenant Alan 'Reg' Evans, RANVR, initiated the search and rescue of the USN motor torpedo boat, PT109, when she collided with the Japanese destroyer, Amagiri, in Blackett Strait in the Solomon Islands. With the help of native Solomon Islanders, Evans organised the rescue of the crew including the future president of the United States, Lieutenant John F Kennedy, USN.

One of their most important contributions in the Pacific theatre was the intelligence provided during the Allied campaign at Guadalcanal, which involved some 16,000 US marines, 48 combat ships, 28 auxiliaries and 670 aircraft.⁶ The network on the Solomons, which uniquely included a female, Honorary Third Officer Ruby Boye, WRANS, continued to provide intelligence even as the Japanese occupied the islands, including information about the construction of a strategically important airstrip near Lunga Point on the north coast. Native Solomon Islanders took work in the Japanese camps and later related what they had seen to the coastwatchers. This intelligence was used in maps of Lunga, Tulagi and Gavutu, identifying the position of Japanese guns, defence works and other installations. Following the landing on 7 August 1942, coastwatchers on Buka, Bougainville and New Georgia Islands alerted the Allied forces on Guadalcanal to incoming Japanese air raids allowing them to prepare for, and repel, the enemy aircraft.

The landing did not, however, mean immediate victory for the Allies. The fight that ensued on the island over the next six months has been described as some of the most fierce and vicious in the Pacific theatre. Following the disastrous Battle of Savo Island on 9 August, Allied sea control was tenuous. However, the Allies did maintain air control, while coastwatchers continued to provide information about Japanese naval, air and troop dispositions. The Japanese were obliged to use destroyers to reinforce and re-supply their forces by night, dubbed the 'Tokyo Express', making a fast transit of New Georgia Sound, known as 'The Slot'. However, this method prevented the re-supply of heavy equipment, such as artillery and vehicles, and also drew the much



Former coastwatcher Arthur 'Reg' Evans meets with President John F Kennedy in the Oval Office on 1 May 1961. Evans was instrumental in rescuing Kennedy and the crew of PT109 in August 1943

needed destroyers away from other areas of the naval campaign.

Towards the end of October, the Japanese were preparing to mount a counter-attack on Guadalcanal. Japanese troops on Guadalcanal launched a determined but unsuccessful attempt to capture the airfield at Lunga Point and in early November, coastwatchers on Bougainville reported detailed information about the buildup of Japanese forces at Buin, as well as the passage of 11 large transports heading south towards Guadalcanal. Subsequent reports from the coastwatchers on Bougainville on 11 and 12 November prepared Allied forces for incoming air raids in which few of the Japanese aircraft survived. The Japanese transports came under air attack on 14 November; seven of them were sunk. The remaining four landed at Tassafaronga, with only 2000 of the original 10,000 embarked troops, where they came under Allied air attack the next morning.

The Japanese position had become untenable by the end of the year, and by 7 February 1943, some 11,000 Japanese troops had been evacuated from Guadalcanal.

Both sides had lost 24 warships in the battle for the island. Estimates of casualties vary but range as high as 7000 Allies and 30,000 Japanese killed. The intelligence provided by the coastwatchers was integral to the successful Allied campaign at Guadalcanal; providing information about Japanese naval, air and ground forces.

Such was the coastwatchers contribution to the campaign that Admiral of the Fleet, William F Halsey, USN, later said 'The coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific.'

More than 700 people served in FERDINAND during the course of the war, all making their own contribution to the war effort, and with their own stories to tell. It is impossible to do justice to their contribution here, but after the war, Feldt himself noted 'The Coast Watchers had done their job and, for their numbers, had made a contribution out of all proportion.... The team had won its game.' Halsey was rather more effusive when he said 'I could get down on my knees every night and thank God for Commander Eric Feldt.'

Petar Djokovic

From the Naval Newsletter 'Semaphore'.

THE BATTLE OF LONG TÂN – AN EXTRACT FROM THE D445 HISTORY

In the 1966 Wet Season, the headquarters of the 5th Division coordinated with the military headquarters of Bà Rịa - Long Khánh Province to direct a major destructive strike against the Australian forces on the Bà Rịa battleground. Comrades Năm

For all of you who frequent restaurants and understand the need for the Service to be faster, this short story is a timeless lesson on how consultants can make a difference to an organisation.

Last week, we took some friends out to a new restaurant and noticed that The waiter who took our order carried a spoon in his shirt pocket. It Seemed a little strange. When another waiter brought our water, I noticed he also had a spoon in his shirt pocket.

Then I looked around and saw that all the staff had spoons in their pockets.

When the waiter came back to serve our soup I asked, 'Why the spoon?'

'Well', he explained, 'the restaurant's owners hired Andersen Consulting to revamp all our processes. After several months of analysis, they concluded that the spoon was the most frequently dropped utensil.' It represents a drop frequency of approximately 3 spoons per table per hour. If our personnel are better prepared, we can reduce the number of trips back to the kitchen and save 15 man hours per shift.'

As luck would have it, I dropped my spoon and he was able to replace it with his spare. 'I'll get another spoon the next time I go to the kitchen, instead of making an extra trip to get it right now.' I was impressed. I also noticed that there was a string hanging out of the waiter's fly. Looking around, I noticed that all the waiters had the same string hanging from their flies. So before he walked off, I asked the waiter, 'Excuse me, but can you tell me why you have that string right there?' 'Oh, certainly!' then he lowered his voice. 'Not everyone is so observant. That consulting firm I mentioned also found out that we can save time in the restroom by tying this string to the tip of you know what and we can pull it out without touching it and eliminate the need to wash our hands, shortening the time spent in the restroom by 76.39 percent.'

I asked 'After you get it out, how do you put it back?'

'Well,' he whispered, 'I don't know about the others, but I use the spoon.'

Truyện, Năm Tâm (Sư Năm), Ba Út, Út Đặng6 (Bà Rịa - Long Khánh Provincial Unit) – together with the staff elements of the two units, held many meetings to carefully consider and assess the situation - while delegating Comrade Nguyễn Hữu Nghĩa - the second-in-command of the reconnaissance company of the 5th Division, and the 445 Battalion's reconnaissance element to go and examine the battlefield in the Long Tân and Long Phước region of Bà Rịa. After three days, the reconnaissance elements of the two units had completed their study of the battlefield. In the Lồ Ô stream base, the Province's military command section and the headquarters of the Division convened a conference of cadres comprising the platoon commanders and above of the two units - ie 445 Battalion and the 4th Regiment of the 5th Division, to thoroughly study the tactical outline of the ambush battle to destroy the Australians at Long Tân.

The forces to participate in the fighting comprised:-

- the 2nd Company of 445 Battalion with the responsibility of being the forward blocking force at Hamlet of Long Tân village – reinforced with one B40, a reconnaissance element from the 5th Division and a 57mm recoilless rifle from the Battalion.
- the 1st and 3rd Companies of 445 Battalion directly commanded by Comrade Sáu Thu (the Battalion second-in-command) – together with the 1st Battalion (4th Regiment of the 5th Division) as the rear blocking group.
- the 3rd Battalion16 (4th Regiment of the 5th Division) with the responsibility for the flanking thrust (the decisive point). We reinforced the area of the killing ground with a minefield comprising 12 DH5 and DH10 mines, and 42 American Mk1 mines.
- the 80-strong Vồ Thị Sáu civil labour company – comprised mainly of females from the Province and led by Chín Phương as company commander, to support the battle.
- a surgery element led by Dr Phong and Dr Kính.

- a forward command element was established two kilometres to the north of Long Tân by Comrades Út Đặng and Năm Tâm to directly command the battle.

The ambush configuration for the battle was almost three kilometers long.

At 10.15am on 18 August 1966, two Australian Battalions and an armoured vehicle squadron advanced in three columns (a main column and two subsidiary columns) that moved in parallel into our battle zone. The main column advanced along the dirt road to Long Tân with four tanks in the vanguard, followed by two Infantry Companies supported by two Armoured vehicles. The two subsidiary columns advanced as pincers = parallel with the main column and at a distance of 300 metres from it. Each of the pincers comprised a Battalion with two tanks in support. All three enemy columns fell into our encircling ambush.

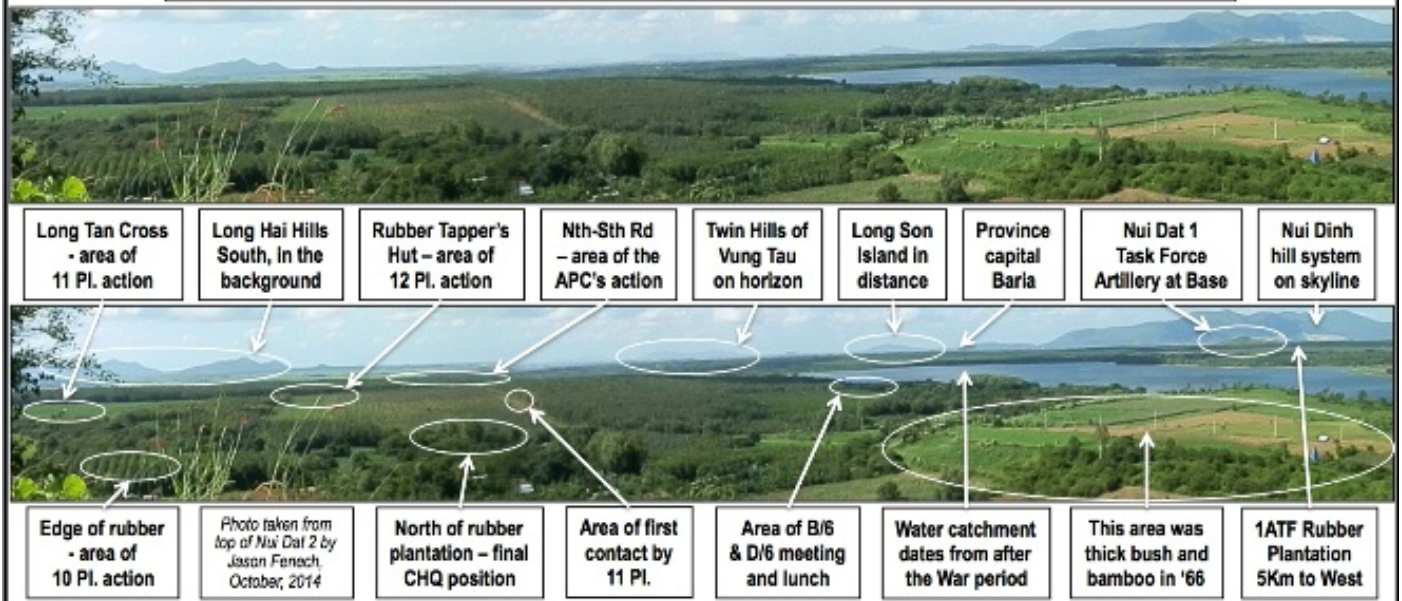
Nguyen Van Burong—The Commander of the observation post element reported the following to Headquarters.

"Report! The enemy has appeared 650 metres from the rear blocking position of our battle zone". After having confirmed the situation with the observation group, Ut Dang flicked the switchboard to another line and loudly and clearly ordered "Attention, forward blocking group. The enemy is advancing in three columns to the west-northwest straight into our battle zone. Comrades must strive to maintain complete secrecy. Wait until the enemy is truly close, and only open fire when the order is given by the headquarters.

Nam Tam picked up his communications device and added "Attention 'Tail', the enemy force is very long. If there are any difficulties with the command's communications system, then automatically open fire on the enemy when they are 30 metres from the battle zone's forward blocking position."

Everything went without a hitch until the last minute. When an enemy tank was 50 metres from the forward blocking position, the trigger was pulled on a recoilless rifle (RCL) - but the round misfired! The enemy then discovered our battle position. They fired thick-and-fast—while withdrawing and redeploying their formations. Comrade Le Thjanh Truong—a 5th Division reinforcement to D445 and armed with a B40, had just got up to fire on a tank when he was shot through the chest by a round from an enemy heavy machine gun. The hero Le Thanh Tring had fallen! Nguyen Hru Nghia—the commander of the reconnaissance element (from the 5th Division) came forward and grabbed the B40 and hit the leading armoured vehicle, setting it on fire. Comrade Vinh—the number two of a 57mm RCL crew, followed up by loading a second round for Comrade Tan to hit

Long Tan Battleground looking South from the top of Nui Dat 2



and set fire to the second armoured vehicle. The third armoured vehicle was destroyed by two B41 rounds fired by the reconnaissance elements from the 5th Division. The engagement at the forward blocking position became increasingly fierce. The situation was like a "Battle Royal" as the enemy massed quite close to our positions. The battle became close combat, fought in groups and by areas—it was difficult for our infantry and artillery to support one another. Rain began to come down in buckets. Our 57mm RCL was "nullified" at a tactical distance of a few tens of metres, and many of the comrades in the weapon crew were killed and the crew commander was captured. After the first few minutes of confusion, our forward position was still able to force the enemy into the killing zone. They fell into our minefield and were killed in large numbers. Our rear element also began to storm into the enemy in the killing zone—while at the same time our flank attacking group advanced. The enemy was in a miserable situation and surrounded, but the tanks and infantry in their subsidiary columns continued to press into our areas that lacked anti-tank firepower and counter-attacked us. Following this, the enemy regrouped and used coloured smoke to mark their positions and called in directed artillery fire. We were unable to move even a half-metre to finish off a number of the enemy because of their "rain of artillery" from the "New Zealand orchestra" (a term used by the enemy for their New Zealand artillery battalion in Ba Ria). Almost all out attacking elements suffered casualties to the enemy Artillery. Comrade Sau Thu—the commander of 445 Battalion's rear blocking group, was seriously wounded by an AR15 round that passed through one ear lobe to the other "Comrade Sau Chien—the Commander of the 1st Company was killed.

After about an hour of fighting, the headquarters ordered our elements to withdraw. Miss Chin Phurong and her comrades in the Vo Thi Sau civil labour company—unafraid of death, ran fearlessly through the enemy's falling artillery and—together with the troops, carried the wounded to safety.

In this large battle with the Australian forces, we wiped out an entire Company and inflicted heavy casualties on one of their battalions. COSVN Headquarters awarded the Liberation Combat Exploits Medal Third Class for the battle. However it was also a battle in which we suffered heavy casualties. In 445 Battalion's 2nd Company alone, there were 23

casualties—of whom three died. The 5th Division lost 30 comrades killed and over 50 wounded. Our casualties were mainly inflicted by the enemy's artillery. Once more 444 Battalion's cadre and soldiers again discovered dangerous trick—the use by the Australian forces of directed and counter-assault artillery fire.

Extract ends (The Viet Cong D445 Battalion: Their Story).

There are literally hundreds of references to Translator's notes, other reports of the Battle, INTSUMS, Author's books on the Battle, etc.

The official figures of the Australian Army are:-

18 Australians Killed (17 from D Coy 6 RAR and 1 from 3 Tp 1 APC Sqn. 21 wounded.

NVA/VC 245-800 killed. 245 bodies were buried and many more found during the weeks after the battle. More than 1,000 wounded (from captured documents).

The Japanese Aichi (Val) beachings in Table Bay in 1942. Maurice Nixon 24/1/83.

(An old boy's nostalgic musings after reading Robert Piper's article, published in August 1942.

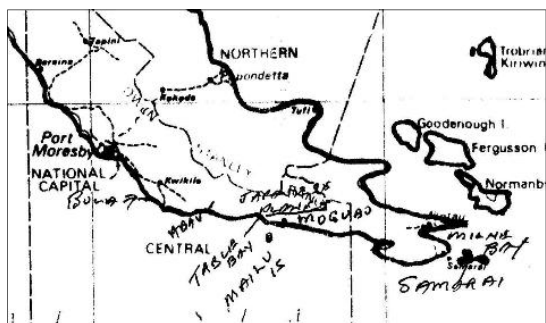
The first half of this story will be a long preamble, but this will turn out to be relevant to events in the Babble Bay and Amazon Bay area in the early days of Sep 1942. In particular the introductory paragraphs will provide something of the background of the London Missionary Society (LMS) pastor who seems to have had an active part in the lead up to the finals stage of the encounter.

Within ANGAU's area of responsibility based on Abau Island in 1942 was the LMS mission's local activity which for the previous four decades had been based on Mailu Island in Amazon Bay. Known in LMS circles as our "Mailu District" the mission's work thereabouts extended from the vicinity of Abau at the western end to Baibara (Granger's Bay) and inland among the Dimuga people. By 1941 the old mission "Headstation" property on the Island had deteriorated markedly and the replacement had to be considered. The missionary then in residence on the island was 28 years old New Zealander, John Gilkison, who successfully persuaded his colleagues that he could serve the district more efficiently if allowed to operate from a mainland base.

There was a good relationship with owners of a coconut plantation on the coast at Mogubo at the western end of Amazon Bay just east from Table Bay. I was a member of the prospecting party when the mission negotiated purchase of a small area—known as Truna—on the eastern fringe of the plantation and about half a km from Mogubo plantation residence. In 1941 management of the plantation was vacant and an agreement was negotiated whereby the Gilkisons would temporarily occupy the manager's residence and have some limited responsibility for maintenance of the plantation. This was pending the engaging of a new manager and while Gilkison was in the early stage of building a new mission station on the recently acquired land at Iruna. Any usable material from the old station had been dismantled and hauled by canoes from Mailu Island to Iruna, and new material was also on site towards the end of 1941. John Gilkison and his Papuan helpers had built a station store and were well advanced towards completing the erection of a building that would serve as a temporary residence.

This was the stage reached in Jan 1942 when the general evacuation of expatriate civilians was ordered following Pearl Harbour and Japan's thrust towards New Guinea and Papua. John and his wife and baby daughter were still living in the plantation residence.

At this time I was one of the LMS community at Lawes College, Fife Bay, about midway between Mogubu and Samarai—the Admin HQ for Eastern Division. One day in Jan a message was broadcast from Samarai instructing all European residents of the Division to proceed to Samarai. As we were the only people with a seagoing launch at the eastern end of the south coast apart from Kwato mission (which was just over a narrow stretch of water from Samarai) I decided to go to Mogubu to pick up the Gilkisons and any plantation neighbours along this stretch of coast. This I did and back at Fife Bay we picked up my wife and small daughter and my remaining senior colleagues who were in any case approaching retirement.



Arrived in Samarai we found customs officer Tom Grahamslaw and (ARM) Alan Timperly in charge of things. We gathered

that the most senior Govt officer had collapsed from frustration and nervous strain when unable to obtain any clear instructions from Port Moresby. Grahamslaw has assumed responsibility for giving directions to people arriving in Samarai and Alan Timperly held the keys of the town's sources of supply—the stores having been locked up following evacuation of staff. Gilkison and I were assured that people of our vocation could, if they so wished, continue with our occupations. Good. Our senior colleagues and our wives and children were given passage to Port Moresby on the last small vessel to leave Samarai. From Moresby they were flown South. John Gilkison and I—with the ready co-operation of Alan Timperly—loaded our launch with provisions procured, and faithfully recorded by Alan, from the several stores. Japanese reconnaissance planes were already in the area and activities were well advanced towards carrying out a scorched earth policy on Samarai.

John and I took leave of our families and, with thanks to Grahamslaw and Timperly, we headed back for Fife Bay. There I would resume duty with my Samoan colleague Ekeroma. There was the College—which would continue to operate with

the students already in residence, and the oversight of our Fife Bay mission district which extended from Orangerie Bay to South Cape.

I tried to persuade John to rest awhile at Fife Bay, but on the following day he insisted on returning to his job at Mogubo. So our launch "Ainauia" (which would later be given a number instead of a name) put to sea again. A day later we looked for the return of our boat. Eventually, though a day or two overdue, she came back into the Bay but our crew reported that they had left Mr Gilkison, as they believed, a very sick man. In an hour or so medical orderly Lameka and I boarded "Ainauia" and again headed for Mogubo. Only too true, John was indeed a very sick man—a far advanced case of the dreaded blackwaer fever. In spite of the best efforts of Lameka and myself, with text book to aid what knowledge we had of the course and treatment of the disease, John died in Mogubu plantation residence a few days later. All Papuan members of the mission staff—who had been on hand in conference with their missionary—were present for the funeral when we laid John to rest in a consecrated plot at Iruna near the new mission house which was in process of construction.

There was no alternative to my assuming mission responsibility in our Mailu district in addition to Fife Bay district and the college. My nearest remaining colleague on the south coast was Jim Short at Hula. He had no transport and was getting on in years.

John Gilkison had recently held staff meetings and pastors would be returning to the villages to which they had been appointed. Coastal people generally disliked being posted to inland villages. One such, Dauge, had been appointed to work at Nunumai among the Dimuga people inland from Amazon Bay. I seem to recall that as the war situation developed he was the one member of the staff who either got cold feet or for whatever other reason returned to the coast. On my next visit to Mogubo and Iruna I conferred with Dauge. After an amount of cajoling I persuaded him that he would be letting down the team and its skipper Mr Gilkison if he failed to return to the area to which he had been appointed. So Dauge resumed his inland posting.

How remarkable then, that in the first week of September he would be the member of our staff to become involved in the attempted overland crossing of a group of six armed Japanese naval dive-bombers crews whose three Aichi (Val) planes had beached at the western end of Table bay and who had struck inland from there. I had myself been involved in what followed the crash-landing of three American B26 bombers when they had ditched near the entrance to Mullens Harbour in our Fife Bay locality. They had lost their way to Port Moresby on the approach of nightfall. But I think the three Japanese Vals were the only enemy aircraft to come down on the stretch of south coast beach between Abau and Samarai.

My recollection of what happened following the landing of the six Japanese airmen is that by the afternoon of the day of their beaching (evidently mid-afternoon on Wed 2 Nov 1942) they had proceeded inland and reached the village where pastor Dauge was working. The (perhaps garbled) information I received some time later was that Dauge arranged overnight accommodation for his unexpected visitors. They had ordered him to act as their guide on the following morning to lead them over the hills towards the north coast where they would—hopefully and eventually—contact their compatriots. Having been saddled with this commitment, Dauge is believed to have written a note to ANGAU officers at Abau, informing them of the situation and saying something to the effect that if a police party could quickly proceed to point "A" on the coast and then strike inland to point "B" they should be able to catch up with the foot-slogging airmen. Speed would

be necessary because it would not be possible to hoodwink the men for very long. They would have to move further towards the north coast to allay suspicion of deception.

Eventually this note was delivered to an Abau search party on the beach not far from Mogubo and was successfully acted upon as indicated in Robert Piper's article in AOP. I'm curious to know what was in Dague's second note addressed to David Marsh of Abau, the delivery of which was delayed 18 years or so. I note that David passed this note on to Ivan Champion who in turn gave it to the PNG Historical Society.

After the Japanese tide receded from PNG in 1944 I thumbed a lift in an American plane from Milne Bay to Townsville after a relieving colleague had arrived to take over my job. I thankfully recall the ready and kind assistance of ANGAU's officers at Milne Bay.

On reading the results of Robert Piper's research I'm very interested in the point in his article where he mentions David Marsh's musing on the unsolved mystery of what might have been the purpose in the Val beachings. It is interesting to speculate, as evidently David did, on the overall strategy of the Japanese Command at that particular time. The sequence of key events was as follows:

- Coral Sea Battle 4—8 May
- Battle of Midway 3—6 June
- Milne Bay 24 Aug—5 Sep
- Kokoda Trail Japanese finally abandoned attempt via this route to Port Moresby late Sep

The Aichi (Val) planes landed in Table Bay on South Coast on 2 Sep.

When the Vals beached on the south coast of Papua the Milne Bay attempt had not yet been finally repulsed, though cleaning up operations were well advanced. Did Japanese operations HQ further north know this? Or were they still betting on establishing a Milne Bay bridgehead? If so, did they have in mind crossing to the south coast? And could the Vals possibly have been detailed as a reconnoitering party to attempt to discover and survey an easier Kokoda style route from the Milne Bay area to the south coast?

The Sagarai valley route through to Mullens Harbour would seem to be a less hazardous approach but would be 50 miles further east from Table Bay and Port Moresby.

Forty years after the events I guess this is all rather useless speculation. But simply as an old boy's exercise in curiosity it would be interesting to know whether David Marsh's musings could have been along similar lines. He could also correct any errors in my own recollections concerning the LMS pastor's role in the events of the first week of Sep 1942.

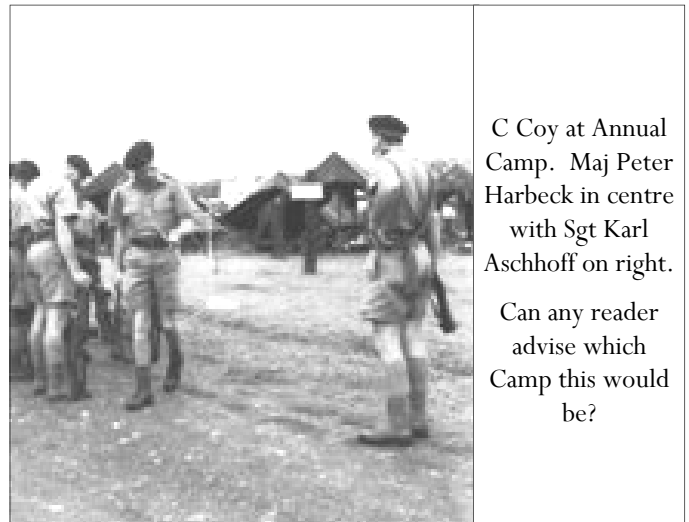
Maurice Nixon 24 Jan 1983

Note: David Marsh died 19 May 2015 aged 93 years

Thanks to Bill McGrath, Assn member, of Pacific Book House, for the two articles.



River of blood.
888, 246 red ceramic poppies flow from the Tower of London, one for each British or Colonial soldier who was lost in WW1.



C Coy at Annual Camp. Maj Peter Harbeck in centre with Sgt Karl Aschhoff on right.

Can any reader advise which Camp this would be?

*A bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman - "Which book has helped you most in your life?"
The woman replied - "My husband's cheque book !!"*

Japanese Intelligence in the Kokoda Campaign

From its inception Japanese Military Intelligence focused on Russia and China as priority targets for intelligence collection. However, in 1931 the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs embarked on a project to obtain intelligence on the 'southern area' - the region bounded in the north by the equator, west of Hawaii, east of India and as far south as Australia. Japan had identified Australia as a stepping stone, and decided to prevent its use as a foothold for American strategic resurgence. Japan instructed their consulates to gather useful information in case the IJA and IJN extended their operations there. Spies accompanied trade missions, even botanical expeditions. At first New Guinea was not of major interest but by the late 1930s Japanese trading vessels, with Imperial Japanese Army and Navy officers on board, were charting the New Guinea coast.

Japanese Intelligence Officers visited Port Moresby in March 1941, purchasing maps of Papua, taking notes, and photographing locations of military importance. Intelligence on Papua was also gathered by the Japanese consulate in Sydney. Considered to be of particular importance were maps made by Australian explorers, of the various tracks over the Owen Stanley Range.

In the pre-war years Papua had been visited by a number of scientific exploration groups, some of whom attempted to recoup their financial outlay by producing books which often included maps of the explored area.

One such book exploited by Japanese Army map makers was



3rd Bn AMF on the Kokoda Track 1942

an account of several months spent in the Eora Creek—Kokoda—Buna area by Evelyn Cheesman, entitled “Two Roads of Papua”. Cheesman, an entomologist, spent many years in the South Pacific. Her description of the tracks, local government infrastructure and productivity of local village gardens proved to be of tremendous value to Japanese planners.

Josef Anton Hoffman's contribution to Japanese Intelligence proved equally valuable. Hofstetter was born in St Gallen, Switzerland, and came to Australia in 1914. In the early 1920's he travelled to Papua and New Guinea where he worked at Port Moresby, Yodda, the Waria River, Wau and Bulolo. In January 1942, when the Japanese invaded Rabaul and the call came for all able-bodied men to enlist in the New Guinea Volunteer rifles or be sent south to Australia, Hofstetter disappeared. In March when the Japanese landed in Lae, he joined them.

A post-Kokoda campaign Australian study of two Hofstetter maps noted that the Wau—Nadzab map ‘carries a description of rivers (width, depth, rate of flow, composition of river bed), information on roads and trails (suitability for motor traffic, horse, foot, etc), details of airfields, bridges, anti British natives etc.

From the description it appears that all particulars have been supplied by Hofstetter and there is no indication that any of the information has been obtained by recce. The second map possessed similar annotations but covered Lae, Buna, Moresby Popondetta.

Aware of his contribution to Japanese intelligence, attempts were made to locate Hofstetter, holding officer status in the Japanese army, had made excellent maps and was a good guide according to his superior. However, a captured document examined by the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service (ATIS) in 1944 described how: ‘Josef Anton Hofstetter, a Swiss, was killed in action on Feb 6, 1943 by enemy automatic rifle fire one kilometer northwest of Wau stock farm”

Japanese Intelligence services had been actively gathering information in the South West Pacific region from the late 1940's. By 1941 their focus narrowed to eastern Papua and specifically on the Kokoda route, were underway. They drew on prewar work by IJA and IJN officers, intelligence gained in Australia, German and Dutch sources, and local information among whom Hofstetter was the most important.

The narrowing of focus presaged future Japanese intentions, as the subsequent Japanese invasion of Papua in July 1942 was to prove.

Source. Brochure from the Museum of Australian Military Intelligence, Canungra.

Several of the NGVR stories mention that Hofstetter was believed to have shown the Japanese force that attacked Wau in Jan/Feb 1943 the old track surveyed by the Germans which was unknown to the Australians, thus was not being guarded or watched, enabling the Japanese to get to Wau unobserved. After the Battle for Wau ANGAU personnel (NGVR had been officially disbanded by then) had orders to shoot Hofstetter on sight



Ka-pooka's first female RSM, WO1 Trudy Casey

OUR STORY

A new online multimedia documentary tells the story of our war in Afghanistan, enabling reflection on the past and insight to the future.

AN ONLINE multimedia documentary, “The Longest War: The Australian Army in Afghanistan”, was launched by Defence Minister Kevin Andrews at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on May 7.

The Longest War: The Australian Army in Afghanistan is the Army's story of our involvement in the 2001 to 2013 Operation Slipper mission.

In 2013, CA Lt-Gen David Morrison identified a need to tell the comprehensive story of Army's contribution to Operation Slipper.

The Longest War is an online multimedia documentary, which includes interviews with current and former Army members and their families, and tells the story of our Army's involvement in Afghanistan.

Well-known actor David Wenham was selected to narrate the production.

The Longest War is the story of our soldiers and our families. It is a story for the Australian public -- for the first time in our own words. It is a frank and open discussion. We address the highs and lows, the challenges, the set-backs and the achievements of our time in Afghanistan.

It took just under 18 months to produce The Longest War.

Army's hope is that this product is viewed and shared not only among our members, but also by the broader Australian community.

More than 26,000 Australian soldiers served in Afghanistan.

For these soldiers and their families, this was a time of joy and grief, pride and loss. In more than a decade of operations, we lost 41 Australian soldiers. Many more sustained physical and psychological wounds.

Our mission in Afghanistan tested the Australian Army. In more than a decade of combat operations, we learnt a great deal about our capabilities, but also our resilience.

Army's aspiration for The Longest War is to provide the Australian public with an insight into our work on combat operations in Afghanistan and, most importantly, a unique and intimate view of what it means to be an Australian soldier.

About 400 ADF members remain in Afghanistan under Operation Highroad. The Longest War is the Army's story of our contribution to combat operations in Afghanistan under Operation Slipper.

The story is structured into eight chapters, each with its own theme, and includes interviews with soldiers who served in Afghanistan and their families.

In chapter 3, Sgt S, of 1 Cdo Regt, talks about getting the job done. In some ways it could be seen that we were chasing a fight," Sgt S says.

"But we were chasing the bad guys, which is where we had to be." Meeting adversity is the chapter 5 theme and Army chaplain Capt Robert Sutherland shares his thoughts on soldiers' greatest fears.

"The fear of letting their mates down, the fear of shooting something they shouldn't, the fear of not achieving the task they've been sent over to do ... are greater for most than the fear of being shot, the fear of being injured, the fear of IEDs," he says.

"The greatest fears are of letting people down." In the final chapter, Cpl Mark Donaldson VC reflects on our involvement in Afghanistan.

"We gave our all," he says.

"We tested ourselves ... most of the time we came away on top.

"We outsmarted someone who was trying to outsmart us.

And that's all you can hope for." Visit www.army.gov.au/The-Longest-War to view the videos.



19 March 1945

USS Franklin, Aircraft Carrier, hit by Japanese dive-bomber during strikes on Japanese homeland in support of the allied landing at Okinawa. The carrier returned to USA

VALE CAPT BEDE TONGS OAM MM

Bede Tongs OAM MM, who passed away peacefully aged 94, was one of the heroes of the WWII Kokoda Campaign in PNG in 1942.



In recent years, as an Ambassador for the Kokoda Track Foundation (KTF), Bede worked ceaselessly to keep the Kokoda story alive and to improve the lives and futures of the descendants of his beloved Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, his comrades during the Kokoda campaign.

Bede spoke at schools, RSLs, clubs and functions around Australia – always accompanied by his beloved and devoted son Garry – and visited PNG many times,

always taking a keen interest in the work of the KTF and delighting in meeting Papua New Guineans of all ages.

In 2013, at the age of 93, Bede brilliantly delivered the Ralph Honner Leadership Oration in front of a 350-strong capacity dinner in Sydney.

Bede was a wise and compassionate man with a remarkably active and nimble mind right to his final days. I have never met a Digger to match Bede's extraordinarily detailed recall, not only of his time on the Kokoda Track - where he remembered actions down to the minute - but also right through his final years when he retained an amazing capacity to remember people's names and their personal stories.

Born Bede George Donald Tongs at Narrandera NSW on 27 June 1920, he worked as a burr cutter and rouseabout before completing an apprenticeship as a carpenter in Canberra. He joined the 3rd Militia Battalion in February 1940, the unit that spent the longest time serving on the Kokoda Track

As a 22-year-old sergeant during the Australian advance at Eora Creek-Templeton's Crossing, Bede took control of his platoon after its officer Lieutenant Colin Richardson was hit in the chest and was evacuated.

Bede positioned his men for an attack based on 'fire and movement' and ordered them to fix bayonets. Rather than expose his men to a frontal attack on the Japanese positions, Bede crawled along an enemy fire lane alone and destroyed a machine-gun position with grenades. His action opened the way for his men to take the Japanese position and earned him the Military Medal for bravery.

Bede led his men through to see the Australian flag flying again over Kokoda, arriving there on 4 November 1942. He served with the 3rd Battalion through the battles for Oivi and the beachheads before Bede was evacuated from the beachheads back to Moresby suffering from malaria, scrub typhus and yellow fever. He recovered and, after the 3rd Battalion was disbanded in 1943, Bede joined the 2/3rd Battalion, being commissioned in the field in the Aitape-Wewak Campaign. He went to Korea in 1953 as a frontline observer for Eastern Command.

In his Ralph Honner Oration Bede said: "I landed in PNG on 27th May 1942. I met these lovely Papuan people. There has been an evolution in the meantime, but all the time to me they are such lovely people and we can never thank them for how they helped us and died for us in those grim days of the Kokoda track campaign and beyond."



Bede was an accomplished poet and wrote many poems

Two blokes in their 20's are sitting at a bar and one said to the other "Man, you look tired".

The other young man replied "Mate I'm exhausted. My girl friend and I have sex all the time – sex before breakfast, sex before I go to work, when I come home in the evening she's tearing my shirt off as I come through the door. She even joins me in the shower every night. I don't know what to do."

A chap in his 70's sitting nearby overheard the conversation. He looked over at the two young men and with the wisdom of years said: "Marry her. That'll put a stop to all that".

ems commemorating the sacrifices of his comrades and the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels who fought and died alongside them.

He will long be remembered for his many kindnesses and his great understanding of the needs of the people of PNG. The Kokoda Track Foundation will name a wing of the Kokoda College Teaching College after him

First Marines in New South Wales - 1788

In 1788, a detachment of four companies of marines, under Major Robert Ross, accompanied the First Fleet to protect a new colony at Botany Bay (New South Wales). Due to an unknown error the Fleet left Portsmouth without its main supply of ammunition, cartridge paper and tools to repair their flintlocks. The omission was noted early during the voyage and, in July 1787, a request was sent back to the British Home Office from Santa Cruz that the missing supplies be sent out in William Bligh's ship HMS Bounty. As Christopher Warren noted, this expected resupply meant that the voyage could still continue to its final destination - Botany Bay in New South Wales. However, despite the Home Office receiving the request, the resupply was never sent and consequently, after 12 months, the marines ended up in dire circumstances. Ten thousand musket balls were obtained when the Fleet called into Rio de Janeiro.

The First Fleet detachment had a strength of 212 including 160 privates. This relatively small force was arranged on the advice of Joseph Banks who advised the British government that local Aborigines were few and retiring. On arrival in New South Wales the Governor of the new colony, naval Captain Arthur Phillip,

found that the natives were vastly more numerous than expected and also that they soon started resisting the settlers. Within 12 months, natives killed 5 or 6 First Fleeters and wounded many more. The marines also found that their single shot muskets could not compete against native weapons, apart from an initial period of shock and awe. To further aggravate their predicament, around a dozen marines had died and over a dozen were typically on the unfit list. Finally, in October 1788, the marines were tasked to expand the initial settlement at Sydney Cove to commence farming more fertile land at Parramatta.

Courtesy of Royal Marines Assn Qld Newsletter



Anzac Day Port Moresby, 1969. Photo courtesy Noel Kenna who is at front, left.



Lambom Island. New Ireland, Anzac Day, 1964. Kiap John Brady officiates. The immense responsibility heaped on Kiaps was unbelievable. Especially for those so young; John is just 20 years of age here.

Kiaps were - the district administrator, patrol officer, commissioned policeman, magistrate and gaoler, they conducted elections, were basic (sometimes emergency) medical and dental men and conducted surveys.

They built roads, aerodromes and bridges. To John's left (in peaked cap) is the Luluai, Tondabe, who was the most feared, most powerful man around this area. He was a puripuri man (traditional magic) and his word was final.

Brady said the Luluai really listened to the Kiaps and Tondabe was totally on Australia's side. The Luluai remembered the atrocities of the Japanese military in WW2 all too vividly.

Photo John Brady.



The Sepik River and Manam Island, the volcano smoking

away. The Ramu River empties at the coast, just to the RH side of Manum.
Photo: Mike Condon



D Day then and now



Table Bay Airstrip

This is a follow up on the HTT 92 (June 2015) article by Robert Piper about finding 3 Japanese Val Bombers on Table Beach , south coast of Papua in early September 1942 when the Kokoda and Milne Bay Battles were being fought.. It is extracted from Lt Clarrie James's book ANGAU, ONE MAN LAW published in 1999. Early 1943 Clarrie was a Warrant Officer patrol officer in ANGAU and was posted to the Abau area east of Port Moresby. In mid 1943 he was instructed to build an airstrip on the beach at Table Bay as an emergency landing strip for aircraft flying out of Milne Bay. Some concern was shown for returning aircraft when the weather was bad or the Milne Bay area was being attacked by Japanese aircraft. Although being across the island and some way towards Port Moresby it was considered suitable for this purpose .It was to be 2,300m long but 500 coconut palms needed to be removed to allow safer landings and take offs. Perhaps the finding of the Val Bombers on this part of the beach prompted the Air Force to make this request for the airstrip? Interestingly, WO2 James went on leave in August 1943 before the project was completed . He did not say whether the airstrip was ever completed. It is known that at least one Mitchell Bomber safely used the airstrip late 1943.

Phil Ainsworth June, 2015

*Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down
the street with a bald head and a beer gut
and still think they are sexy.*

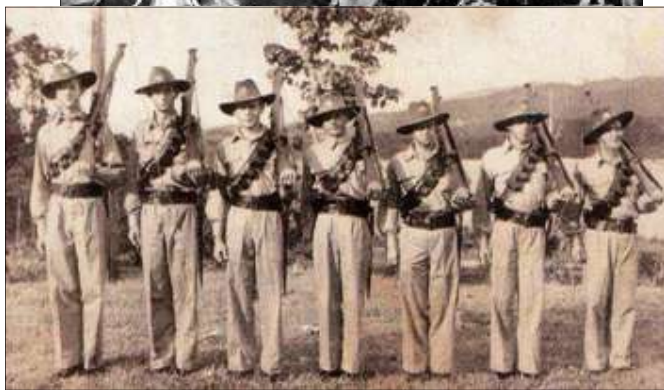
BE AN EXPERT ON PNGVR!

Read Bob Harvey-Hall's book *PNGVR, A History*

Price: \$50 + \$20 postage

Where: order thru our Assoc. Secretary

When: Immediately



1940 NGVR Bulolo

L-R Peter Dennis, Bill Smith, ? Lloyd, ? Lloyd, Jack Shay, Bill Cootes, ?. Photo from your Museum.

FUNCTION DATES

Saturday 8th Aug Kokoda Service, Gold Coast

Sunday 9th Aug Kokoda Service, Corinda

Sunday 30th Aug Light Horse Shoot, Boonah

Association Committee Meetings

Saturday 19th September

Saturday 17th October AGM

Meetings commence 10am and all members are welcome to attend. Come along to see your Museum and meet old mates.

Mixed Dining Night Jimboomba

Saturday 17th October.

Conviviality commences 4.00pm.

Sit down 7.00pm.

Contact Bob Collins 5526 8396
or Barry Wright 5546 9865

Come along and see old friends.



NATIONAL MEDALS
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REPLICA MEDALS OR MOUNTING OF MEDALS

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 Bn.

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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/ngvrandpngvrmilitarymuseum/>

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