



HARIM TOK TOK

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

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Saturday 17th October was a busy day for Association members and friends. The AGM was held at 10.30 am followed by a bar-b-que luncheon and reunion and at 4 pm the more social members and friends assembled for the Association's mixed dining evening at Jimboomba.

A very good attendance of 56 attended the AGM including our Patron and many out of town members and friends whom we have not seen for some time. The minutes will be circulated in due course. However the main activities were the re-election of the Committee, with the exception of Mal Zimmermann and Frank Perkins who did not stand, the re-appointment of our Patron Major General John Pearn by meeting resolution to be Patron for year 2016, the presentation of two life memberships to Paul Brown and John Batze and two Patrons' Awards by our Patron to Major Peter Rogers and Bill McGrath.

The President thanked the outgoing committee, particularly the two who elected not to stand, for their work and outlined the activities of the Association for the past year. He also wished the incoming meeting the very best for the coming year.

Mal Zimmermann stood down after many years on the Committee because of his relocation to the Northern Tableland of NSW. Mal was unstinting in providing his services to the Association. After one year, Frank Perkins decided he could not devote himself sufficiently to the Committee to meet its strong expectations. Both men have said they will continue to assist the Association as required, but not as committee men. On behalf of Association members I thank both for their past work and look forward to working with you in the future.



Your 2016 Committee, rear L to R Mike Griffin, Patron Maj Gen John Pearn, Leigh Eastwood. Front L to R V/Pres. Bob Collins; Secretary Colin Gould; Pres. Phil Ainsworth; Treasurer Doug Ng & Curator John Holland at AGM Wacol. Absent: Paul Brown, Kieran Nelson, Tony Boulter, Peter Rogers

The granting of Life membership is the most significant way that an Association may recognise and award excellent and exceptional service by members to the Association.

Paul Brown, who is the Association's welfare officer performs his duties in many ways, as welfare officer, our armaments' officer, our resident fitter and turner and you name it, he has done it. John Batze is always there, if work is to be done he is there, if money needs collecting call in John. Associations cannot operate without people like this, thank you Gentlemen. The Patron's award is a special award for those who have not only provided exceptional service to the Association, but also to those who have contributed to the good standing of it now or in the past. Major Peter Rogers was one of the founding members who at the time was an Army pilot and through his good offices provided the facilities for earlier opportunities and functions for ex-NGVR and PNGVR folk to get together. He has also contributed in many other ways through his stature in the community. Bill McGrath through his exception historical knowledge of the Pacific, PNG and military matters has provided the historical input necessary to sustain an Association such as ours: Bill published the history of NGVR and has stamped his mark on many other of our ventures through his advice and standing. Thank you Gentlemen, you are deserving of the award.

The bar-b-q and reunion after the AGM was a resounding success. Thank you to John Holland and his assistants for arranging the premises and food so well. A special thank you to Brian Collin from the Greenbank RSL for handling the cooking and food preparation – great fillet steak cooked to perfection and garnished superbly with complementary dishes and condiments. All this mixed with the company present and the wonderful sunny weather made this an event to be remembered.

And to top the day off, we had the mixed dining night at Heather and Ted's house outside Jimboomba. Thirty five hardy party goers were present including our Patron and his wife. The usual well catered baked dinner and desert were appreciated by all. Mr Vice was very well behaved as were the other guests as no fines or penalties were made. Our Patron gave a well received talk about Service and I gave a brief summary where we as an Association were heading. Again a wonderful night. Next year best endeavours will be made to prevent clashes with other Association events. Thank you Ted and Heather for once again allowing us to use your house in its wonderful bushland setting.

The publication of the *Keepers of the*

Gate book is progressing as schedule.

The corrected first printers draft should be with the editor/facilitator by 10 November and we would expect to launch the book no later than the next Anzac Day Reunion, if not sooner. The book will be about the same size, format, look and feel as our PNGVR history book. Again we will sell it before the launch for a discounted price to members and friends. If able, a flyer advertising the book with a pre purchase coupon will be attached to this edition of Harim Tok Tok.

The Museum extension has run into a few unexpected issues, not of our making and quite out of our control, which is delaying the start. I cannot see how these cannot be resolved quickly but it is out of our hands. The planner, assessor and builder are on side and ready to go as soon as the essential signatures are received. The Association has the funding and the will to complete. Fortunately the construction of the extension is only a ten week build so hopefully it will be completed prior to next Anzac Day. Although this issue will be published early, it is the last issue before Christmas. Therefore I take this opportunity to wish one and all the very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Phil Ainsworth
November, 2015**

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NGVR / SMALL SHIPS SERVICE

DOUGLAS MALCOLM (MAL) GOAD
NG 22918 NX 167143

I was born on 7th March, 1924, in Subiaco, Western Australia my father had served in the British Army in WW1 in the British Army Medical Corps, first of all in France and then in the Dardanelles. He developed malaria in Salonika and was invalided home from there.

I had two older brothers, both born in England, Jack in 1918 and Bruce in 1920. My parents emigrated to Australia in 1922 with my two older brothers and took up a Soldier settlement block which he did not develop as a farm, but worked as a stained glass artist at Sedgwicks.

It was while we were in Belmont that Jack Thurston, a resident of Rabaul, visited Sedgwicks and met my father, telling him that there was a need for medical personnel to join the Department of Health in New Guinea. As he was a Returned Soldier dad was able to obtain a position and he sailed for Rabaul on the ship 'Masima'. His first posting was to Kieta.

The Family move to New Guinea

We first of all boarded a train which took a week for the family to get from Perth to Sydney. Then we boarded the ship 'Masima' which stopped at many plantations in New Guinea before it arrived at Keita.

When we arrived in Kieta the house which we were to have was still being constructed, naturally enough for those times, of native materials.

My father had a bout of blackwater fever in 1928. This was brought about by recurring malaria which he had first caught in the Dardanelles during WW1 and took my two brothers to England to attend school.

By this time he had been transferred to Kavieng on New Ireland and had purchased a property out of town which he named 'Kaut'. The idea was to clear the bush and develop a plantation of coconuts and cocoa, but the place was just bush when we arrived.

At the time our schooling consisted of a Sister from a nearby Mission who used to be rowed over daily to Kavieng in the Government whaleboat to teach the 3 of us and 3 other expatriate children in the district. When a school was eventually established in Kavieng there was quite a problem with the teacher who used to get on the grog regularly and, naturally enough, was not very reliable. He eventually left the Education Dept to work on schooners sailing around the Islands collecting copra, but it took some time before another teacher arrived.

I recall Lord Gowrie, the Governor General of Australia, arriving in Kavieng for an inspection. All of us children were dressed up for the occasion, I even had been given a new pair of sandshoes. He stopped and spoke to me and I was so excited I replied to him in Pidgin English.

Lord Gowrie suggested to dad that I should come south for an education and the next time dad was down on leave he found a spot for me with a family who had no children of their own in Coogee, Sydney, so I could attend school. School in Australia was difficult for me as I was so far behind it took me a lot to catch up.

I only spent a year in Coogee as the couple I was staying

with adopted a child and I returned to Kavieng and completed my education by correspondence. The correspondence papers used to arrive at irregular intervals by ship and it was quite a turnaround time before I got any of the papers I sent away back and corrected.

I start work

My first job was working on a nearby plantation planting cocoa between the coconut trees. This only lasted about six months and I went back to 'Kaut' where I worked on the place planting trees and assisting a chap Saunders, who was the local tradesman, in any work he had available.

We used to plant the cocoa seeds in a piece of bamboo cutting for them to shoot. They had to be placed in such a way that the shoot came straight up, not shoot down and have to curl around to come out of the earth. I was living at home at 'Kaut' when this was going on. We had a little schooner by that time and could travel to Kavieng easily.

When I was about 15 brother Jack got me a job in Lae with Guinea Airways. Jack was working with Burns Philp as their Shipping Manager in Lae at the time. This was in late 1939.

During 1939 my other brother Bruce was killed on New Ireland. He was working at Medina Plantation, owned by Burns Philp, and was in charge of planting of copra and cocoa on the plantation. Bruce had a glass eye as a result of an accident while he was at school in Australia and used to tell how he would take out his glass eye and leave it on a stump or log when he had to leave the labour line. They would continue to work thinking that

they were still being observed. He had come into Kavieng for the Anzac Day Ball and went home to Medina that night. The next morning he was found dead at the side of the road

My job with Guinea Airways was to fly with the pilots. I was supposed to be an apprentice and had to check fuel and tire pressure etc. Condensation was a problem in the fuel tanks and I had to drain them of water regularly. When we were flying and about to land in Wau or Bulolo part of my job was to operate the gas bottles as we were coming in to land and pump air into the brakes so that the pilot had enough air pressure in the brakes for them to work. I also used to hand pump fuel from the lower tanks into the overhead tank when we were landing as the pilots preferred excess fuel in the overhead tank. The first motors in the Junk-

ers aircraft were air cooled motors and these were changed to Pratt & Whitney motors which the pilots did not want excess fuel in the carburetors when landing, so I had to pump into the overhead tank.

Other duties carried out were the dismantling and assembling of aircraft for either repairs or for their Certificate of Airworthiness inspections.

I join the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles

Even though I was under age I joined the New Guinea Volunteer rifles. We did not do a lot of training although we had days where we fired our weapons on the local rifle range which was situated facing the hill behind Chinatown.

I nearly knocked my shoulder off when I first fired the .303. It was a rifle borrowed from one of the Native Police and I had not fired a rifle before. Obviously I did not hold it strongly enough into my shoulder as I fired as I still remember the kickback.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour on 7th December,



The Goad family in Kavieng.
The boys in the rear L-R. Bruce, Jack, Malcolm.

1941, we had a permanent lookout and guard on the Vacuum Oil fuel depot at Voco Point. Each night some of us used to sleep there, going to work during the day, but leaving a lookout at all times. An Officer would come around each morning and stand us down to go back to work.

Fairly obviously, working for Guinea Airways, I spent most of my time in the NGVR at Voco Point.

The Japanese air attack on Lae/ Bulolo/ Wau

In January, 1942, the Japanese launched air attacks simultaneously on Lae, Bulolo and Wau. I happened to be in a Junkers 31 aircraft flown by Bertie Heath which had flown from Lae to Bulolo with a load of beer for the town.

Unknown to us five Japanese Zeros had followed us up from Lae and the first we knew about it was when we landed and were told to get out of the plane as the Japs were coming. I raced for the edge of the strip where there was a cutting and took cover in that while the Zeros machine gunned the Junkers. The three motors and the tail fell off but the rest of the Junkers was destroyed.

Off to one side of the airfield was a small drain with a small creek running through it and I bolted out of the Junkers and hid there in a newly made bomb crater. Another bomb landed not too far from me and, although I was not physically injured, I could not hear for a week.

It was the practice for a spare aircraft to be kept at the airstrip, so that when one aircraft was being loaded or unloaded we could take off in the other aircraft for another load of supplies. The Zeros also destroyed the other Junkers on Bulolo airstrip that day.

Guinea Airways had a 2 story mess in Wau so Bertie Heath and I went there.

Restoring the Faith in Australia

Another aircraft, the Faith in Australia, a tri-motored aircraft which looked like a Ford Aircraft was, at the time, stripped down at Wau airstrip workshops undergoing a full Certificate of Airworthiness check. As I regularly worked on dismantling and assembling aircraft for this and other tasks I assisted in putting her back together again.

A group of us got stuck into her and the airworthiness check was cut back to a cursory inspection, and we had her back and running in 9 days.

The pilot who flew her out, Stevens by name, had a heart problem and used to start dozing off at about 6,000 ft height so a chap by the name of Arthur Collins assisted in flying her out.

When she was assembled she flew some groups of gold miners from Wau to Port Moresby. Stevens was then advised not to go back to Wau as the Anti-aircraft gun crews around Port Moresby were pretty trigger happy and likely to open up on anyone, so he then flew the Faith down to Horn Island and then on to Cairns, where she was grounded as not being up to being airworthy. On the flight out of Port Moresby he made sure he had some aircraft engineers with him. There was no radio and no life-rafts on the aircraft so when it started losing height near Horn Island everything, including tools and even boots, was thrown overboard to lighten the load.

I left Port Moresby in a Fox Moth. It was a tiny aircraft and we filled up some cans with petrol and I carried them with me and rigged up an overhead pump for refuelling in flight on the way. We reached Horn Island and the Fox Moth was ordered back to Port Moresby where it had to fly out to pick up someone high up in the Administration.

I stayed on Horn Island and eventually got a lift to Cairns.

Out of the Army but not Officially Discharged

From Cairns I came to Sydney by troop train together with two of Stevens' chaps, Bob Boram and Ikey Blake. They had helped me in Wau so I stayed with them. We were actually classed as refugees. I had been flown out from Wau as someone had told Stevens that I was under age and should not be in the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles.

When I arrived in Sydney I attempted to join up but was refused on the grounds of my age – at this stage I was not yet 18.

For this reason I was never officially discharged from the NGVR as it was claimed that, because I was under age, I should never have been enlisted.

I obtained a job at Clyde Aircraft Industries in Sydney assembling American aeroplanes that had been shipped to Australia and I remained there for about a year.

I join the Australian Imperial Force (AIF)

The job at Clyde Aircraft Industries was a protected industry so when I eventually received my call-up I could have stayed in Australia. However my father was still missing in New Guinea as he was in Kavieng when the Japanese occupied New Ireland and I was keen to get back to New Guinea.

I told my story to a sympathetic foreman who understood my position and he allowed my release from Clyde Industries and joined the Army.

My induction into the Army was pretty swift. I completed a basic training course and was transferred to 14th Company, 2nd Australian Water Transport Group, Small Craft. They were based at Clifton Gardens in Sydney and, at the time, had appropriated a number of civilian vessels for use in the war effort.

After about 6/7 months at Clifton Gardens I was posted to an ex-civilian trawler the 'Marlin Star' under the command of Captain Bob Horsfield. He had been a solicitor in Sydney and knew sailing vessels well. He was a good sailor and excellent navigator.

Move to Merauke, Dutch New Guinea

We left Clifton Gardens and had a very slow cooks tour up the coast of Queensland. The 'Marlin Star' was not a fast boat and we must have pulled into just about every harbour on the way.

At the time the Battle of the Coral Sea had been fought and the Japanese attempt to take Port Moresby had failed. It was thought that the Japanese may try and come around the Western part of New Guinea to Australia so a number of what I could only describe as outposts or listening posts were being established in what had been Dutch New Guinea.

One of our tasks from Merauke was to supply these posts. Merauke is located on the South Coast of Dutch New Guinea, relatively close to the Papua New Guinea border. There were only about 10 of us Small Ships people posted there and we had the 'Marlin Star' and a few of the smaller landing craft.

However there was a large airfield at Merauke which was situated some distance from the wharves and there was little mingling between the airforce people situated at the airstrip and ourselves who were sleeping on our boats at the wharves. The airstrip was not used by bombing aircraft but was being maintained as an emergency airstrip, and possibly for future use by bombers if required. As it happened this was not required as the War was fought further North.

From time to time, depending on the requirements of the outposts we would load up one of the landing craft with a few troops and supplies and drop them off to where they were going. We were not used as labourers to load and unload the landing boats as the troops did this themselves, we would only get them to their destination and leave them, possibly coming back in the future to resupply them. From time to time the Japanese came over and bombed Merauke, but they concentrated on bombing the airfield. I cannot recall being bombed at the wharves. There were a number of raids carried out and I can also recall hearing

from some of the outposts that, on an irregular basis, small parties of Japanese would be landed from probably submarines and they would be subjected to raids. However we did not have any land attacks at Merauke.

I fall sick and am flown back to Australia

I was in Merauke for about 8 months all up and at some stage was promoted to Corporal. Early in 1944 I fell sick and had to be flown home to Australia for treatment.

I eventually ended up in Hospital in Goulburn, NSW from where I was discharged on 15th July, 1944.

Not long after I left Merauke the 'Marlin Star' broke down and had to be towed back to Australia. She had been suffering from a leak through the gland of the propeller shaft for some time, but the leak became worse and the propeller shaft began to wobble. It could not be repaired in Merauke and the ship was being towed back to Thursday Island when it sank on the way. There was no loss of life and all crew were rescued by the towing boat.

My Discharge Certificate No 48254 shows:-

Total days service 605

In Australia 396

Overseas 209

Civilian Life

After my discharge I had a number of different jobs – mainly



Malcolm and Nora in Adelaide

in assembly work, although I never had a Trade Certificate.

At one stage my wife and I managed a cake shop in Adelaide for 10 years.

I married Nora Kathleen Magill, whom I had met in Sydney, on 23rd September, 1946 in Tamworth, N.S.W.

We had three children:

1
Narelle Mary,
born in Sydney
in 1948

2.

Bruce, born in Adelaide in 195

3. David, born in Adelaide, in 1954.

We spent 4 years in Queensland, living at Fortitude Valley and left Queensland in 1980 and spent 7 1/2 years wandering around in our caravan before settling in Adelaide where we now live.

Malcolm's story was told to Bob Collins in 2004. He died some years later. His brother Jack Goad was also in NGVR and Jack's story has already appeared in HTT.

THE SAM BROWNE BELT

A new book "Fremantle's Submarines" by Michael Sturma, published by the Naval Institute Press has just been released.

Thank you Bruce Petty - voicesfromthepacificwar.com.

The Sam Browne belt was invented by General Sir Samuel Browne, VC. When he was a lieutenant colonel serving in India in 1858. During an action, Browne received two sword cuts; one was across the knees and the other severed his left arm.

From that time on, Browne had difficulty drawing his sword from the (then) in service belt due to the loss of his arm, so he devised a belt which had a supporting shoulder strap. The belt also had a second shoulder strap for wearing a pistol. His design was eventually adopted by the British Army during the South African (Second Boer) War, and later by other countries (apart from the countries of Empire it was also worn by numerous armies and police forces around the world, including the United States, Germany and France).

The black Sam Browne worn by armoured units (and the Aviation Corps, who see themselves as the cavalry of the air) is purely an Australian tradition, in line with the black beret. However, members of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps also wear the black Sam Browne.

Today, in the Australian Army, the belt is worn by officers and warrant officers class one on ceremonial occasion and it is also worn daily by both the adjutants and RSMs (except when wearing the combat uniform)

THE INFANTRY SCARLET SASH

The infantry in the Australian Army adopted the scarlet sash worn by warrant officers class two and senior NCOs, from the British Army, which has been wearing it since the 17th century. At that time some were worn around the waist whilst others were worn over the shoulder. At one stage the sashes were used as badges of rank. However, it is said they also had a practical purpose, namely carrying the wounded from the battlefield. Legend also has it that because they became blood-stained it was decided that they would be coloured red to 'hide' the blood.

The British Regiments of Foot had officers wearing silken sashes over the left shoulder and senior NCOs wore worsted sashes over the right shoulder. Today, in the Australian Army, general officers and officers holding certain appointments wear sashes around their waists when dressed in ceremonial dress. Infantry warrant officers (class two) and senior NCOs and senior cadets at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, wear the red sash when on parade, in mess dress and when carrying out regimental duties.

There are many tall stories told in messes about the scarlet sash and its cords (or tassels); stories of the cords range from their representing British Army campaigns and Army line regiments, to their use for counting casualties on the battlefield. None of these is true and they are often used to leg-pull the newly promoted sergeant.

Chris Jobson, former RSM Ceremonial, ADHQ

A rare smile out of the Brisbane Floods.

During the Brisbane flood a young girl was perched on top of a house with a little boy. As they sat watching articles float by in the water, they noticed an old hat go past.

Suddenly, the hat turned and came back, then turned around and went downstream. After it had gone some distance, again it turned and came back. They watched as it did this a number of times.

"Do you see that hat?" said the girl in amazement. "First it goes downstream, then turns around and comes back, then it goes back downstream and then it comes back again."

"Oh, that's nothing, it's only my dad," replied the boy. "This morning my Mum said that come hell or high water, he had to mow the lawn today."



Native Police, Rabaul, 1915.

National Anthem of Papua New Guinea O' Arise all ye sons

O' Arise all ye sons of this land

Let us sing of our joy to be free

Praising God and rejoicing to be

Papua New Guinea

Shout our name from the mountains to seas, Papua New Guinea;

Let us raise our voice and proclaim; Papua New Guinea

Now give thanks to the good Lord above

For his kindness, his wisdom and love

For this land of our fathers so free

Papua New Guinea

Shout again for the whole world to hear, Papua New Guinea;

We are Independent and we're free; Papua New Guinea.

1942 A YEAR TO REMEMBER

The fall of Rabaul on January 23, 1942, will forever be linked with two tragedies, the massacres at Tol and Waitavalo that claimed at least 158 lives on February 4 that year, and the loss of 1053 soldiers and civilians aboard the Montevideo Maru on June 30. A catastrophe that scarred the lives of thousands of Australian families, the fall of Rabaul has special meaning for - among others - Australia's ambassador to the United States Kim Beazley and cabinet minister and former Midnight Oil lead singer, Peter Garrett.

Garrett's grandfather, Tom, was a copra and cocoa planter on New Britain when the Japanese attacked. Beazley's uncle, Sydney Beazley, had been a builder and technical teacher at the Methodist mission. Both men were aboard the Montevideo Maru when she went down after being torpedoed by the USS Sturgeon, an American submarine, off the Philippines coast on July 1. Only 18 people, all members of the Japanese crew, survived. The ship's commander, Captain Kasahara, made it ashore but was killed - along with most of his remaining crew - by guerrilla fighters.

To be marked by a special service at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance, the Rabaul anniversary is a reminder of the horrors an earlier generation of Australian soldiers and civilians faced with resolution and resilience. It is also the beginning of a succession of anniversaries and commemorations that mark 1942 as the most desperate year in Australia's history. These include the fall of Singapore on February 15, the bombing of Darwin on February 19, the fall of Timor on February 23, the Battle of Sunda Strait in which the cruisers HMAS Perth and the USS Houston were lost on March 1, the air raid on Broome on March 3, the midjet submarine attack on Syd-



ney Harbour on May 31 and the shelling of Sydney and Newcastle on June 7.

Australian morale lifted for the first time when General Douglas MacArthur and his entourage arrived in Melbourne on March 21. The first real glimmer of hope appeared when, between May 4 and 8, American and Australian naval forces turned back a Japanese invasion fleet on its way to Port Moresby in the Battle of the Coral Sea. This was quickly followed by the American victory in the Battle of Midway from June 3 to 6 that ended Japanese naval supremacy in the Pacific just seven months after Pearl Harbour.

Then, on the night of July 21 and 22, the Japanese landed 3100 soldiers, engineers and press-ganged native carriers near Buna on Papua's north coast. The first of many thousands of Japanese soldiers and marines, their task was to cross the Owen Stanley Ranges and take Port Moresby from the landward side. Thus began the epic battle for control of the Kokoda Track, a desperate struggle, marked by atrocities and fought across absolutely unforgiving mountainous jungle terrain. Kokoda was one of the Pacific war's great turning points; by mid-November Japanese land forces had been fought to a standstill for the first time. The Americans became the masters of the game but the much-derided Australian militia had shown them the way. In 1941 Australia was responsible for two territories in what is now Papua New Guinea - Papua and New Guinea. The Territory of Papua, formerly British New Guinea, had been taken over by the Australian Government in 1906. Its capital was Port Moresby. The Territory of New Guinea, the north-eastern part of the main island together with the Admiralty Islands, New Ireland, New Britain and Bougainville, was formerly German New Guinea. It passed to Australian control under a League of Nations mandate following the Treaty of Versailles. Rabaul was the capital.

Now largely abandoned since the catastrophic volcanic eruption in 1994, the old town nestled on the shore of Simpson Harbour. It was flanked by The Mother and The North Daughter, two of the seven volcanoes in the Rabaul caldera. Its picture-postcard setting and tree-lined streets, repeatedly memorialised by Japanese amateur photographers and aspiring artists during the three-and-a-half year occupation, belied the dark events of 1942-45. In addition to those massacred at Tol and killed in the sinking of the Montevideo Maru, at least 1000 American, New Zealand, British, Chinese, Malay and Indian prisoners and forced labourers were murdered.

Strategically located and with excellent port facilities, Rabaul was seen by Japanese generals as the key to a successful attack on mainland Papua and New Guinea. The Port Moresby assault force turned back by Rear Admiral Crace's cruisers during the Battle of the Coral Sea embarked its troops from there. At the height of the occupation Rabaul was home to up to 100,000 Japanese soldiers and support staff. These included an estimated 2000 "comfort women" conscripted into sexual slavery in military brothels where NCOs could pay four



US
Marines
land at
Cape
Gloucester,
New
Britain,
1944,
Neville
Swanson,
NGVR,
landed
with them



NGVR 1939

yen for an hour's diversion and poor sailors were charged a more affordable 3.5 yen for the same period. The women, many of whom came from poor families in Japan, Korea and China and had no idea of what awaited them, were also euphemistically known as "special necessary personnel" or SNPs.

When New Guinea's German population was repatriated after World War I, their places had been taken by Australians, many of whom were veterans. Peter Garrett's grandfather, for example, had served with the 6th Light Horse Regiment. Rabaul's European population totalled about 1000 souls when war broke out in 1939. Both Papua and New Guinea were undefended at this time. Rabaul could not have been fortified in any case under the terms of the League mandate.

In February 1941, recognising the threat of war with Japan, Australia dispatched Lark Force - the 2/22nd Battalion of the 8th Division AIF - to the island. The unit had a watching brief and was charged with monitoring Japanese activity in the Bismarck Archipelago. The soldiers arrived in March and were soon joined by 2/10th Field Ambulance, a unit whose members included six nursing sisters. Lark Force was also supported by members of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles.

"Bird forces" were also dispatched to other outposts to Australia's north in the path of the anticipated Japanese onslaught. On December 8, 1941, the 1090 strong Gull Force went to Ambon and the 1400 men of Sparrow Force to Timor. Gull Force commander Lieutenant Colonel Roach was relieved of his command on January 14, 1942, after complaining his mission was hopeless and his men were being sacrificed.

Although almost all European women, children and men over military age had been evacuated from Papua by the end of December, 1941, the process was much slower in the Territory of New Guinea. Australian authorities opposed compulsory evacuation of Rabaul as late as December 11. They only changed their minds on December 12 after the War Cabinet voted to abandon Lark Force to its fate. The belated evacuation took time to organise. Substantial numbers of women and children finally sailed on December 22, 1941.

The nurses at the civilian hospital volunteered to stay. The army nurses weren't given any choice. They, and the defenders, were left to await the inevitable end: "... it is better to maintain Rabaul only as an advanced air operational base, its present small garrison (1450 men plus civilians and the nursing staff) being regarded as hostages to fortune," a telegram from prime minister John Curtin's office to Washington on December 12 said.

Lorna Johnston, now 96, (Lorna died in 2013) was one of the army nurses. She has recently returned from a trip to Japan where she received a formal apology for her three years as a prisoner of war. When the Japanese landed, Johnston, her five

colleagues, seven civilian nurses from the town hospital and their patients were taken to the Catholic Mission in Vunapope. When the Japanese arrived the bishop told them it was a German mission. "They swallowed it and let us go," Johnston said. The cover story did not hold for long and in July, 1942, the nurses were shipped to Japan. Despite being initially mistaken for Australian "comfort women" they were spared rape. "We weren't their type," Johnston said. "They never broke our spirit."

Rabaul was first bombed on January 4, 1942 - more than a month before the first raid on Darwin. The initial air attacks destroyed three of the four Hudson Bombers sent north to help defend the town. The actual invasion, which took just hours to seize the land around the harbour, began in the early hours of January 23, 1942. It followed a "full-scale" air raid, consisting of 100 Japanese planes, on January 20 that had already caused immense damage. The RAAF's 24 Squadron, led by Wing Commander John Lerew, had arrived at Rabaul's Vunakanau airfield in mid-December. It put up a gallant, but hopeless, defence with eight Wirraway armed trainers. Four of the planes were destroyed in the first 10 minutes of the unequal air battle. Two made it back but with major damage. The surviving planes were too slow, too lightly armed and could not climb fast enough to be effective as interceptors. The Japanese air raid had been led by Commander Mitsuo Fuchida, the officer who had organised the attack on Pearl Harbour just weeks before.

The invasion fleet, which carried an army of 5000 men, was spotted by an Allied flying boat the following day. Lerew was told to attack with "all available aircraft". As the Wirraways did not have bomb racks he was left with the one surviving Hudson. Lerew rounded up 100 locals to push the plane through the mud to the runway. From there the crew of four took off to attack two aircraft carriers, three or four cruisers, a flotilla of destroyers and between five and seven transport ships. The Allied flying boat that had sighted the fleet was shot down shortly after calling in the report. Night fell before the Hudson's crew could locate the fleet and they returned to base.

Lerew, meanwhile, had thrown his Australian high command into confusion when, on being ordered to keep his airfield "open", he replied: "Morituri vos salutamus". It took some time before a Latin-educated desk jockey realised it was the salute of the ancient gladiators: "We who are about to die salute you."

The Japanese landed about 2.45am. Attacking in overwhelming force they had driven the Lark Force defenders back into the jungle by 9am. Organised resistance ceased by that afternoon when the order "every man for himself" was given. Only about 400 diggers survived the fighting retreat to make their way back to Australia. One was Sergeant S. Costello, a member of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and an accountant in Rabaul, who was evacuated aboard HMAS Laurabada on April 12. A picture taken aboard the ship shows a gaunt and

malnourished figure in a tattered uniform who has looked into the abyss and seen the abyss look back.

Another 1000 Australian soldiers were captured. About 150 of these, along with a small number of civilians, were massacred at the Tol rubber plantation on February 4. A further 849 diggers died when the Montevideo Maru went down claiming a total of 1050 Australian lives. The ship's dead included Acting Corporal Albert Cooper, a ruggedly good looking 24-year-old whose devil-may-care grin beams out at you from a hand-coloured studio portrait now in the collection of the Australian War Memorial.

The horror of Tol was such the Australian Government suppressed the findings of its inquiry into the atrocity until 1988 - 47 years after it took place. The Australians had retreated into the jungle with the intention of making their way to Wide Bay about 90km south of Rabaul. Five barge loads of Japanese troops disembarked there on February 3 and immediately set about rounding up the exhausted and starving Australians. The first 10 taken prisoner were bayoneted to death on the spot. The remainder surrendered.

The Japanese took their dog tags and personal property before marching the men into the jungle in groups of 10 or 12 where - their hands bound behind their backs - they were either bayoneted, shot or burnt to death depending on the whims of the killers. Another 11 Australians were machine-gunned from behind at the nearby Waitavalo plantation.

None of the Tol bodies were buried, just covered with palm leaves. When diggers from the 14/32nd Australian Infantry Battalion recaptured the area in April 1945 they discovered the bones of 158 people scattered across the ground. The murders had been carried out by the 3rd Battalion of Japan's 144th Infantry Regiment under the command of Colonel Masao



Kusunose. He was tracked down by Occupation Forces in Japan in December 1946 but managed to cheat the hangman by starving himself to death over nine days near Mt Fuji. At least two Australians, Billy Cook and W.D. Collins, survived the slaughter at Tol. Both were members of the 2/10th Field Ambulance. With the aid of natives they linked up with 150 other members of Lark Force and were among those evacuated on HMAS Laurabada in April. The two men gave eye-witness accounts of the massacres on their return to Australia.

David Ellery is The Canberra Times' Defence reporter.

Police are called to an apartment where they find a woman standing over a lifeless man with a 5 iron in her hand.

The detective asks "Ma'am! Is that your husband?"

"Yes! It is". Says the woman.

"Did you hit him with that golf club?"

"Yes! I did" says the woman. With that she drops the golf club, starts to cry, and puts her face in her hands.

"Just how many time did you hit him?" asks the detective. "About six or seven times" responds the woman, "But put me down for a five"



Amphibious Assault Vehicles

This article was written in January, 2012.

Cpl Leslie "Bull" Allen. M.M. US Silver Star

2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion



The exploits of Corporal Leslie 'Bull' Allen, of the 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion, produced one of the most remarkable photographs of the Wau-Salamaua campaign. On 30 July 1943, during an attack by American troops on Japanese positions up Mount Tambu, Allen carried to safety twelve wounded Americans.

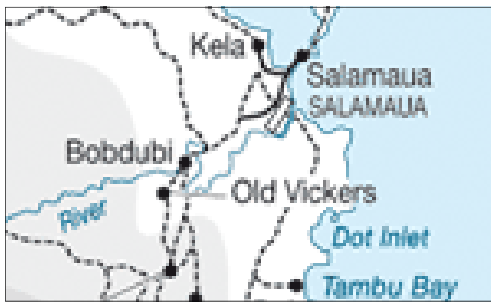
The man he was photographed carrying had been knocked unconscious by a mortar bomb.

Like many men in the veteran 17th Australian Infantry Brigade, of which the 2/5th Battalion was part, 'Bull' had earlier served in the Middle East. He had come to notice there for determination and bravery as a stretcher-bearer, recovering wounded men during battles in Libya and Syria. Later, after being sent to New Guinea, during the defence of Wau in January 1943 he had rescued men under intense fire, and was awarded the Military Medal.

Born at Ballarat, Victoria, in 1918, Les had a tough childhood - he and his sister were raised in an orphanage, and at about the age of 12 the boy had to start earning a living. By the outbreak of war in September 1939, he had been in the work force, mostly farm labouring, for almost a decade. Then in April 1940, aged 21, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force. He was a reinforcement to the 2/5th Battalion, which was training in Palestine, and was made a stretcher-bearer in 'D' Company. Les acquired the nickname of 'Bull' in Palestine. A keen sportsman, with an imposing physical stature - 5 feet 11 inches (180cm) tall, solid and strong - he would charge down the opposition while playing Aussie Rules, hence 'Bull'. He also had a wicked sense of humour and a booming voice and laugh - one of his mates recalled, 'You could hear him a mile off!' 'Bull' was thus one of the battalion's most recognisable, and one of its most popular characters.



'Bull' was revered by the men he served alongside. He was said to be one of the very few who never showed fear. The citation for his Military Medal pointed to 'courage and



Mount Tambu like he was on a Sunday jaunt', describing Allen as 'a huge man with obvious physical and emotional strength, perhaps borne of a difficult childhood'. But this was an incomplete picture of the man. While he did not display his fears, 'Bull' was inclined to bottle them up.

Shortly after his first campaign, in Libya, in early 1941, 'Bull' had been admitted to hospital suffering from 'anxiety neurosis'. After treatment and rest, he returned to his battalion, and performed admirably in Syria and then at Wau, and throughout the Wau-Salamaua campaign that followed. Time and again, he gave his all to bring in wounded men. Mount Tambu was merely another episode.

The strain began to show only when 'Bull' was out of the battle area. In late 1943, at the conclusion of the Wau-Salamaua campaign, the survivors of the 17th Infantry Brigade were withdrawn to Australia for recuperation, much needed leave, and the rebuilding of their units. Allen had always been in trouble in one way or another and he exhibited a certain disdain of authority. But now, while training in Queensland, his behaviour became erratic, and he ended up punching an officer. He was court martialled, and medically discharged in September 1944.

So traumatised was this decorated veteran of three campaigns by the experience of war, he retreated to an uncle's farm, having lost his power of speech, and took many months to start returning to 'normal'. It was during this time that the Army posted Leslie 'Bull' Allen a second medal, the US Silver Star, awarded for his actions on that day up Mount Tambu.

From AWM website :Bull" Allen.

255 CONFIRMED KILLS: NAVY SEAL CHRIS KYLE... The deadliest sniper in US history!

Chris Kyle hesitated the first time he killed a person at long range with a rifle. It was a woman who was about to attack a group of US Marines with a hand grenade.

The US Navy SEAL was overlooking an Iraqi town from a shabby building as US forces were still invading the country, before Saddam Hussein had been ousted. The Marines didn't see the woman coming.

'Take a shot,' Mr Kyle's chief told him. Mr Kyle stammered: 'But...'

'Shoot!' the chief told him again.

When Mr Kyle finally pulled the trigger, the woman dropped the grenade. He shot her again as it exploded.

But after four deployments to Iraq, he learned to stop hesitating and start shooting straight. With 255 kills, 160 of them officially confirmed by the Pentagon, the retired Navy SEAL sniper is the deadliest marksman in US military history. During the Second Battle of Fallujah alone, when US Marines fought running battles in the streets with several thousand insurgents, he killed 40 people. His feat blows away the previous American record of 109, set by Army Staff Sgt. Adelbert F. Waldron during the Vietnam War.

untiring efforts'. Bill Carty, a cameraman who later witnessed 'Bull's rescue of the Americans recalled a 'gigantic man striding up



Carlos Hathcock, the famed Marine sniper who was the subject of the book 'One Shot, One Kill,' killed 93 people as a long-range sniper in Vietnam.

Despite the incredible number, Mr Kyle is still far from being the deadliest marksman in the world. That distinction goes to Simo Häyhä, a Finnish soldier who killed 542 Soviet soldiers during World War II. While neither the Pentagon, Navy nor SOC have challenged the claim of Kyle being the current top sniper, the exact number of sniper kills is obscure. To be counted as confirmed "They basically had to see the person fall and be clearly dead".

Mr Kyle was a cowboy from

Odessa, Texas, who was a professional bronco rider before he joined the Navy. He grew up hunting deer and pheasant with a rifle and a shotgun his dad bought him.

He never realized he was a good shot until he joined the Navy and got into the prestigious SEAL special operations unit.

For his deadly track record as a marksman during his deployment to Ramadi, the insurgents named him 'Al-Shaitan Ramad' - the Devil of Ramadi -- and put a \$20,000 bounty on his head. 'I thought to myself, "Oh, hell yeah!" It was an honour,' he told Texas Monthly magazine when Army intelligence told him about his infamy.

But his Navy SEAL companions gave him a different name 'the Legend.' His most legendary shot came outside Sadr City in 2008 when he spotted an insurgent with a rocket launcher near an Army convoy -- 2,100 yards away.

At that distance, 1.2 miles, he fired a shot from his .338 Lapua Magnum rifle. It struck home, knocking the man over dead. 'God blew that bullet and hit him,' Mr Kyle told the New York Post. Mr Kyle, who retired from the Navy after 10 years of service, was telling his remarkable story as a deadly marksman in his new book, 'American Sniper'.

For his valour, he received three Silver Stars and five Bronze Stars with Valour, according to his book publisher, Harper Collins.

Additionally, he was shot twice and was in six separate IED explosions as his unit, Charlie company of SEAL Team Three, saw significant combat across the country. Despite the astonishing number of people he has shot, Mr Kyle says he has never second-guessed himself since the first time he had to pull the trigger on the grenade-wielding woman in Iraq. For him, the enemy was a 'savage,' he told the Post.

*Chris Kyle was awarded:-
2 Silver Stars*

*5 Bronze Stars with Valour,
2 Navy & Marine Corps Achievement medals
1 Navy & Marine Corps Commendation.*

Prior to leaving the service he was Chief Instructor for Training Navy Special Warfare & Counter-sniping teams.

On 2nd Feb, 2013 Chris Kyle was shot and killed at a shooting range in Texas, USA while assisting a troubled veteran. His killer was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment. The book "American Sniper" is written by Chris Kyle and the movie "American Sniper" is about him.

DEADLY HALL OF FAME

Chris Kyle's 255 kills set a record among American marksmen and his 2,100-yard shot is unbelievable. But snipers around the world have surpassed him in other ways.

The most kills: Simo Häyhä, a Finnish sniper, holds the record with 542 Soviet soldiers shot during the Russian invasion of Finland in World War II. Numerous Soviet snipers killed more than 400 soldiers while fighting the Germans.

Longest shot: Corporal of Horse Craig Harrison, a British marksman, killed two Taliban machine gunners in Afghanistan in 2009 from 2,700 yards with a .338 Lapua Magnum rifle.

Most innovative: Legendary U.S. Marine sniper Carlos Hathcock made a 2,000-yard shot in 1967 during the Vietnam War with a .50-caliber Browning machine gun fitted with a scope mount of Mr Hathcock's own design. It was a record that stood for 35 years. Once he put a round through a Viet Cong's sniper scope while the two men were looking at each other, several hundred yards apart. The bullet went through the enemy's scope and into the sniper's head.

Previous record: Adelbert F. Waldron, a U.S. Army marksman in the Vietnam War, held the previous American record with 109 kills. Mr Hathcock had 93 kills

AATTV (AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM)

The AATTV was a special Unit created during the Vietnam War initially to provide Advisors in a training role in 1962 to support the South Vietnamese Army. This role changed in 1964 when members accompanied South Vietnamese Forces on operations, and in many cases—led them as commanders. "The Team" consisted of WO2s, Capt's and Maj's, with Cpl's being added in the 1970's.

Generally volunteers were requested from Units (with the occasional 'tap on the shoulder'), with members put through advanced training at Infantry Centre, JTC (Jungle Training Centre, Canungra), and Intelligence Centre before being accepted and taken on strength. Sgt's were often accepted and, if successful, were given temporary WO2 rank. This was necessary to enable them to have "Officer" status in US facilities/advisory teams, with whom all Team members were attached.

The Team was in the "Order of Battle" and was 'non-Corps', so on completion of a usual 12 month tour/deployment members went back to a posting pool—waiting for, say, the Director of Infantry/Armour/Artillery etc, or the Military Secretary, to advise their new posting—they did not necessarily return to unit of origin.

There were some Cpls from 1ATF (1st Australian Task Force) who assisted in mobile training teams under the supervision of AATTV in Phuoc Tuy Province in 71/72 but were not "Posted" on the strength of AATTV. This caused some angst with a few who believed they should have had the status of being a member of AATTV—unfortunate or slack thinking at the time!

The team was unique in that it was disbanded on return in 1972 and not be re-created. It was the longest serving Unit and the highest decorated Unit in the Vietnam War, including four Victoria Crosses—two Posthumous.

Later AATT's in Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Samoa, Iraq and Afghanistan were limited to training roles only.

Mike Wells (Capt AATTV)

*A woman finds Aladdin's magic lamp.
She starts rubbing it and a Genie comes out as usual.
The woman looks at the Genie and asks him to grant her the following wishes:*

- 1. I want my husband to have eyes only for me*
 - 2. I want to be the only one in his life*
 - 3. I want that when he gets up in the morning I'm the first thing he grabs and takes me everywhere he goes."*
- The Genie then turned the lady into an iPhone 6*



Tracer fire
Yontan Airfield,
Okinawa,
WW2
during a
Japanese
air raid.

RATION PACKS I HAVE COME ACROSS

By Trevor Connell

First in a series of articles re Ration Packs

This article is not a history of army ration packs but simply the writer's experience with them. You will undoubtedly have your own stories and recollections. There are several sites on the internet where you can read more, particularly the US site where that author has done a lot of research. http://www.qmfound.com/army_rations_historical_background.htm

Another interesting document is the official view <http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA525497>

1965 – 1970

When I left Senior Scouts to join the CMF in 1965, it was very exciting with so many new experiences that the mind had trouble keeping up... steel on the heel and toe of boots, gaiters, polishing brass, 37 pat webbing, the SLR, Owen gun and M60. One of the new experiences was ration packs.

Nobody back then considered that you needed a lesson on ration packs in your recruit course (they do now! No kidding!), so on my first annual camp in FNQ we were given our radio batteries and rations, loaded onto trucks (US Studebakers) and sent into the jungle.

Well, by about 1300 hrs I was feeling a bit hungry but weren't open it until instructed to (Boy, was I green!). Of course no one did, so, I opened and ate it anyway. Doesn't seem a big deal now but it was then. It had an instruction sheet which gave adequate guidance in what to eat and when. (Picture 1, 2)

Hardly a menu to create excitement. The cereal block, which persisted even into the 1970s was hard, dry and unappetising. I never did get the time to try soaking it in water/milk to see if it got any better. The breakfast tins defied heating in the can unless you burnt the bottom layer of food. To put it into a mess tin and heat it that way took too long and then you had to wash the mess tin, a sometimes huge "embuggerance."

Lunch was fine cold except for the camp pie which was a challenge to improve on. Later on when they added flavour satchels like curry powder, or you had Tabasco, you could make it taste better.

Dinner was always enjoyable. As soon as the harbour was in place and the clearing patrols back, you could then work on some gourmet delight so long as it included corned beef and completed with biscuits and cheese or perhaps the rice which

they added a bit later. Sometimes they supplemented them with the hard tack biscuits. These came in a 5 gallon tin and each packet was 10 biscuits wrapped in a waxed paper. From what I can read, they were better than the WWII biscuits but only just. I remember them as being hard and crunchy but better than the ones in the ration pack which tasted like cardboard. Salt tablets, blue and white water sterilizing tablet packs and the little piece of cardboard that had 6 or 8 matches in it, all completed the food for a soldier. The chocolate was always popular. I learnt how to use the can opener. Another memory is the toilet paper. It was that shiny stuff (waxed?) and often, never enough. The old stories about using a leaf could be true. Later, with Vietnam under way, more improved ration packs were issued. One variety had a can of tuna in oil. Mostly we ate cold meals and so everyone ate the tuna cold. That was not good! Before moving out of a harbour position, we would dig a hole and bury the rubbish. There were so many unopened tins of tuna! I discovered that if mixed with the beef soup satchel, the tuna was quite palatable and so I would collect the tins and always ate well. Even today, I like canned tuna with beef stock cubes. Before moving to PNG, we acted as enemy for a Battalion going to Vietnam and we sat in various locations in the jungle (complete with black pyjamas, .303 and blanks) waiting to be discovered. This gave us a lot of time to experiment with the packs that you would not normally get. I made rice pudding with the tube of condensed milk, cordial by dissolving those square hard lollies in water (usually overnight), every way possible with soup powder and chocolate drinks by scraping the chocolate into flakes. Even so, they became monotonous. In those days, it was common for most of us to

1965

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

COMBAT RATION (ONE MAN)

24 Hr.

Contents and Instruction Sheet

This Ration Pack is available in three varieties — A, B and C. The contents of each variety differing to the extent shown in the following lists. You should endeavour to have a different variety each day.

A	B	C
BREAKFAST —		
Cereal Block 1 x 2 oz	Cereal Block 1 x 2 oz	Cereal Block 1 x 2 oz
Streak and Egg 1 x 4 oz	Ham Omelette 1 x 4 oz	Bacon and Beans 1 x 4 oz
Biscuits 1 x 14 oz	Biscuits 1 x 14 oz	Biscuits 1 x 14 oz
Margarine 1 x 1 oz	Margarine 1 x 1 oz	Margarine 1 x 1 oz
LUNCH —		
Vienna Sausages 1 x 4 oz	Sausages and Vegetables 1 x 4 oz	Camp Pie 1 x 4 oz
Fruit Slice 1 x 2 oz	Fruit Slice 1 x 2 oz	Fruit Slice 1 x 2 oz
Biscuits 1 x 14 oz	Biscuits 1 x 14 oz	Biscuits 1 x 14 oz
Jam 1 x 1 oz	Jam 1 x 1 oz	Jam 1 x 1 oz
TEA —		
Soup Powder 1 x 1 oz	Soup Powder 1 x 1 oz	Soup Powder 1 x 1 oz
Corned Beef 1 x 4 oz	Corned Mutton 1 x 4 oz	Luncheon Meat 1 x 4 oz
Biscuits 1 x 24 oz	Biscuits 1 x 24 oz	Biscuits 1 x 24 oz
Cheese or Cheese Spread 1 x 1 oz	Cheese or Cheese Spread 1 x 1 oz	Cheese or Cheese Spread 1 x 1 oz
SUNDRIES —		
Chocolate, fruit candies, sweetened condensed milk, sugar, tea, coffee soluble, salt tablets, water-sterilizing tablets, matches, spoon-opener, reclosure lid, resealing band and toilet paper.		

Combat Ration One Man Circa 1965

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

GENERAL

- Each pack contains three meals and a number of sundry items. The jam, fruit slice and soup powder are provided in several varieties. The commodities intended for each meal are listed on the other side of this sheet.
- It is generally desirable that the whole of the food in this pack be consumed. If the pack contains too much food, it is better to consume a portion of each commodity rather than leave some untouched.
- There are a number of pieces of litter in each ration pack, any one of which may give your position to the enemy. Keep all litter from foods consumed between meals and, after each meal, bury it with all other litter.
- Some items, such as a small can with reclosure lid, the plastic bag with rubber band, the intermediate tie-plate container and the fibreboard carton should be retained, if possible, as they have secondary uses as waterproof containers.

MAIN COMPONENTS

- The main components may be consumed hot or cold, although some will be much more appetizing if heated. This may be done by piercing the top of the can, placing it in a mess tin of water so that it is three-quarters submerged and heating for ten minutes, or by tipping the contents of the can into a mess tin, or other container, and heating.

SOUPS/SAUCE

- Soup may be prepared by adding half a pannikin of hot water to the soup powder and stirring. By using a much smaller quantity of water, the powder can be used to prepare a savoury sauce or gravy. It can also be used to flavour a stew.

INSTANT COFFEE

- Unless water has been previously sterilized by boiling or the use of water sterilizing tablets, it must be boiled during the preparation of instant coffee. If it has already been sterilized, it need only be warmed and, if a fire cannot be lit, water can sometimes be heated by placing it in a mess tin and leaving it in the sun.

FRUIT CANDIES

- A pleasant drink may be prepared by crushing one roll of candies and dissolving them in a pannikin of drinking water.

CONDENSED MILK

- After a few months in a tropical climate, the condensed milk may become brownish in appearance, but it is none the worse for this and may be consumed with a fear of any ill effects.

CHOCOLATE

- Under some conditions the chocolate may develop a light-coloured film on the surface. It is none the worse for this and may be consumed with confidence. A chocolate beverage may be prepared by dissolving a portion of the chocolate in hot water and adding milk and sugar to taste. The chocolate may also be flaked onto biscuits.

SALT TABLETS

- The salt tablets are intended for those engaged in strenuous activity in very hot conditions and who are, as a result, sweating heavily. The tablets should be taken dissolved in a plentiful quantity of drinking water (not more than two tablets to a full water bottle). Break up or crush the tablets before adding them to the water. Alternatively the tablets can be crushed and sprinkled on the food though this already contains sufficient salt for most cases. **THE TABLETS MUST NEVER BE SWALLOWED WHOLE. DO NOT TAKE EXTRA SALT UNLESS YOU HAVE A PLentiful SUPPLY OF WATER. IT IS HARMFUL TO TAKE EXTRA SALT WITHOUT ALSO TAKING EXTRA WATER.**

SPOON-OPENER

- The spoon-opener should be cleaned after each meal and sterilized frequently. To sterilize, thread a piece of string through the hole provided and suspend the spoon-opener in boiling water for a few minutes.

STERILIZING TABLETS

- These contain WHITE water sterilizing tablets and BLUE taste removing tablets. To sterilize water, place a crushed WHITE tablet in an empty water bottle and then fill the bottle to the shoulder with water. Shake the bottle vigorously. Wait 30 minutes and then add the BLUE tablet and shake again. The water is then fit for use.

WATER STERILIZATION

- All water supplies in the field must be regarded as contaminated and all water sterilized before drinking by —
(a) Boiling, or
(b) Use of water sterilizing tablets.

I B F Corp—191/63—424a

Combat Ration One Man Instruction Sheet

carry a bottle of rum or whiskey. This livened up the coffee of a morning or evening. Wouldn't happen today! You would be hung, drawn and quartered.

Training Ration Pack 2 Man

I encountered these in the late 1960s. The menu was more varied than the CR1M and in theory, it was a good idea as the doctrine then was that each section had 10 men and you were in pairs eg, 2 scouts, 2 in the gun group, 2 scouts etc. To carry these packs, we would divide up the items between the section. That worked fine but failed when you weren't all together for the meal or someone moved elsewhere and took the components with him. We only had these for one camp and were never seen again.

I noticed that they still included the corned beef for lunch with some imagination being used for the other meals. I could never quite get used to eating the rice for breakfast though. I wonder who decided that was when it should be consumed. Dessert was introduced. The pack still assumed that you liked beef. Were there any vegetarians in those days?

To be continued

Trevor also hosts our web site www.pngvr.weebly.com

His military history

1965—Joined 31 RQR at Ayr, Qld

1967 -Prom Cpl.

1970 -Tfr PNGVR, initially Port Moresby then 12 PI D Coy Madang

1972- Prom Sgt

1975 -Discharged

1978 - Moved Darwin and enlist 7 IRC as Sig Sgt

1980 - 7 IRC ceased and became NORFORCE

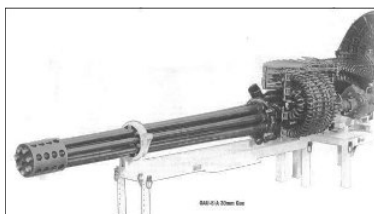
2000 - Inactive

2001 - Joined Cadets and posted HQ NT AACC Bn as Trg Sgt

2015 - After two age extensions past 65 years old, retired from Defence after 44 years service.

FAIRCHILD A10 THUNDERBOLT

First there was this gun—the GAU-8 Avenger.



It was developed by General Electric people. It's one of the modern day Gatling guns.

It shoots very big bullets; it shoots them very quickly;



and the Fairchild-Republic aeroplane people built an aeroplane around it the AIO. They were the people who built the P-47 Thunderbolt in WW2, and decided to call this one the P10 Thunderbolt.



It was made to fly low and slow and because of that it had to be almost bulletproof.



It's not sleek and sexy like an F-18 or the stealth Raptors, but it is a great aeroplane because it does what it does better than any other plane in the world.

It was designed solely for close air support, including attacking tanks, armored vehicles, and other ground targets with limited air defenses.

It can fly on only one engine and the pilot sits in a very thick titanium 'bathtub'. Each part is the same, whether mounted on the right or left of the plane, e.g. the landing gear. The engines are mounted high (away from ground debris) and the landing gear uses very low pressure tires so that it can operate from a damaged airport, major highway, plowed field or dirt road. Almost everything is duplicated and the flight controls have a triple redundancy. Even if there is a total failure of the double hydraulic system there is set of manual flying controls.

This damage was sustained over Bagdad and the aircraft flew for an hour before returning to base.



The gun fires a 30mm (an inch is 25mm) round which has an aluminum jacket around a spent uranium core. It weighs 6560 grains (over 100 times as heavy as the M16 round) and travels at 3500 feet per second, which is faster than the M16 as well, and fires at a rate

of 4,200 rounds per minute. The empty shells are not ejected but are run back into the storage drum to ensure that, with so many flying out, they do not damage the aircraft.



The second round at top left in the photo is the 7.62 round and the 3rd from right at the bottom is the .50 cal round, so the 30mm is a *big* round.

The photo at left shows just how big the gun itself is—19.5

feet long and has 7 barrels.

The A10 aircraft is more commonly know by its nicknames "Warthog" or "Hog". Its secondary mission is to provide forward air control, directing other aircraft in attacks on ground targets.

All in all a remarkable aircraft which has seen operational

From a US Navy Pilot.

'The three best things in life are:

A good landing,

A good orgasm,

A good bowel movement.

And a night carrier landing is one of the few opportunities in life where you get to experience all three at the same time'.

service in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya.

SURRENDER CEREMONY CAPE WOM, WEWAK, 13 SEP 1945

On 13 Sep. 1945, at Cape Wom, Wewak, New Guinea, Lt Gen Hatazo Adachi, commander of the Japanese XV111 Army, surrendered his sword to Maj Gen HCH Robertson (Red Robbie) GOC 6 Aust Div as part of the surrender ceremony.

Lt Tom Lega, MM, (dec'd), who was with ANGAU in Wewak at the time of the surrender told the editor that several days prior to the surrender Maj Gen Robertson issued an order that at least 3,000 Australian soldiers, minimum height 6ft. with slouch hat, .303 rifle and long bayonet, were to line the air-strip while Adachi, who was only short, walked the length of the strip between them.

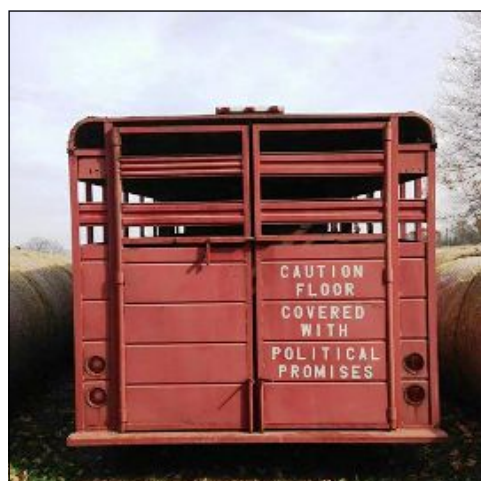
The sword given to Maj Gen Robertson has been dated to 1511 and is currently in the Australian War Memorial.





Adachi, who had been born into a Samarai family, had lost at least 110,000 of the 130,000 soldiers and sailors under his command. He was convicted of War crimes and sentenced to life imprisonment, but committed suicide in Rabaul on 10 Sep 1945.

Photo at top of page shows Adachi at Kiaruvu, arriving on a litter for the ceremony at C Coy, 2/7 Bn. From where he was escorted on foot to Bn HQ. He was then put into a Jeep and driven to Cape Wom for the ceremony where he was forced to walk the length of the strip.



PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT

It was one of the most extraordinary actions of the Pacific War: a company of barefoot troops from the Pacific Islands Regiment and a platoon of Australians routing an entire Japanese marine battalion without a shot being fired. It was also one of the final actions of the war in Papua New Guinea.

The raid on Kiaruvu airport, one of many exploits by men of the Pacific Islands Regiment, is a tale well worth telling, for its own sake, a superb illustration of the calibre of the force that had its genesis in the anxious days of June, 1940, and which now provides the backbone of Papua New Guinea's defence.

Kiaruvu was deep within enemy territory, near Yangoru station on the southern side of 1200 metre Mount Turu which forms part of the mountain barrier separating the Sepik River region from the Bismarck sea to the north.

It was listed on old maps as an emergency landing ground. The Allies needed it as a base to establish a perimeter within the underbelly of the Japanese defences in the Aitape-Wewak area.

Allied Command planned to occupy the airstrip with the 2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion, but first it needed to be taken by stealth. That is where the PIR came in. A Company of the 2nd

New Guinea Infantry Battalion was assigned to the job, backed up by a platoon of 2/7th Bn. To reach the airstrip meant an advance across many miles of unmapped country from Hayfield airstrip south of Maprik.

But let the man who commanded the operation take up the story – Colonel Ron Garland, MC and Bar, who was later a full-time official of the Australian Returned Services League in Sydney.

Men of the PIR were chosen because of their ability to penetrate enemy positions and to operate behind enemy lines, their bushcraft, their skill in ambush and silent operations. The trek to Kiaruvu took us four days and we had to cover our tracks by repeated ambush. I think we set up as many as eight ambush positions on the way in.

To make it more difficult, the Japanese knew we were in the area – news of our coming had been passed on from village to village by garamut (a hollow-log, talking drum of the Sepik) and the Japanese had local people with them, who were translating the drum messages.

To confuse the issue we had to change direction several times on route. By the time we got close to Kiaruvu we reasoned that the Japanese knew of our objective. We knew full well they'd be waiting to ambush us.

There were two ways in – one down a creek bed that offered good cover. That was the most likely spot for an ambush because it was the logical approach. The other was over kunai (tall grass) ridges which would leave us partly exposed. We decided to try the ridges and to go for the element of surprise.

Sure enough, the Japanese were concentrated in force down by the creek bed and when they saw us coming over the ridges, silhouetted against the skyline, they must have thought a whole army had been sent against them. They got out fast, without firing a shot.

It was a full Japanese marine battalion which pulled out – part of the 18th Japanese Army commanded by Lt Gen Adachi – leaving the small force of New Guinea and Australian infantry to seize all their major objectives – the airstrip itself and key positions in the surrounding hills.

The men feasted on the rations the Japanese left behind and waited for the main body of the Australian 2/7th Bn, a day's march behind, to join them.

But the story didn't end there. Kiaruvu's capture had cut the main Japanese line of communications between the inland and the coast. Adachi, understandably was furious that one of his crack battalions had been cleared out of such a strategic objective by a force of little more than 100 men – and without a fight.

He began moving up heavy reinforcements to surround the airstrip, the Australian Battalion, and the men of the NGIB who'd captured it. Meanwhile an airdrop supplied the surrounded Australian battalion with artillery. After 10 days of perimeter skirmishing the stage was set for a major, and certainly bloody battle in which a concentrated Japanese force was to make every effort to win back the airstrip.

Then, far away in Japan itself, the sky exploded over the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the war in the Pacific came to an abrupt end.

According to Ron Garland it took the Japanese surrounding Kiaruvu a few days to realise the war was over. Then the resistance around the perimeter gradually melted away as the Japanese marched into Wewak to lay down their arms.

For Ron Garland the action meant a Bar to the Military Cross he'd earned as a Commando in the Wau-Salamaua campaign. For the New Guinea Infantry Battalion it was the climax of a bitter war that gave the people pride in their own ability and fighting spirit.

At war's end the record showed that units of the PIR killed 2,209 enemy for the loss of only 63 of their own troops. Three PIR troops had won the Distinguished Conduct Medal, one the George Medal, 12 the Military Medal and seven were Mentioned in Dispatches.

The Pacific Islands Regiment was born in June, 1940 when the first Company of the Papuan Infantry Battalion was raised with volunteers from the Royal Papuan Constabulary and from men recruited from Kokoda and other districts in Papua. By the time Japan entered the war the unit had expanded to a Battalion HQ, a HQ Company and two rifle Companies with a strength of more than 300.

But habits die hard. It was probably the only Infantry unit in WW11 whose members preferred to go into action barefoot. In July 1942 the infant fighting force received its baptism of fire. It harassed the flanks and rear of Japanese troops advancing up the Kokoda Trail from Awala. Then, after a short respite, the battalion advanced with the Australians back up the Kokoda Trail, providing reconnaissance and deep penetration patrolling.

The PIR had an active life of 5 1/2 years, operating almost constantly in support of Australian and American troops in all but one of the PNG campaigns, serving with particular distinction in Bougainville.

The distinguished history of the PIR was vividly recalled in 1977 during a visit to Papua New Guinea by Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. One of the highlights of the Royal tour was the ceremony at Sir Hubert Murray Stadium, Port Moresby, in which Queen Elizabeth presented a new Queen's Colour to the First Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment. It was symbolic of the PIR's new status since Papua New Guinea achieved independence in September, 1975.

The PIR passed from Australian to PNG command as part of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force under Brigadier General E.R. Diro, OBE. As Brig Gen Diro and the Queen sat side by side, troops of the First Battalion marched by in proud review. The old Queen's Colour, presented in March, 1973 by Lt Gen Sir Thomas Daly to replace original colours presented in 1956 by Field Marshall Sir William Slim, was trooped slowly from the parade ground to the tune of Auld Lang Syne.

The new Queen's Colour was draped over the drums of the Regiment, consecrated, blessed and dedicated. Then, men of the First Bn marched past in slow and quick time, advanced in review order and came to the salute with a precision that would have done credit to one of the Queen's own Guards Regiment's.

The history of the Pacific Islands Regiment very nearly ended with the close of WW11. The unit was disbanded in 1946. But then, in 1951, it had its revival. The PIR was reactivated with one Battalion to become the Australian Regular Army component in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. A second Battalion was added in 1965.

In 1962 the Australian Army command began to see the inevitable shape of the future. The then commander, Lt Col (later Maj Gen) J.W. Norrie, began a selection programme looking for the men who would become the Officers of tomorrow, against the time when the people of Papua New Guinea would take command of their own army.

The PIR now play an integral role within the Defence Force. Its units are engaged in constant patrol activities in which they pro-

vide an important link between people in extremely remote areas and the government in Port Moresby.

Gone are the days of the barefoot soldier of WW11. Today the better-armed, better-equipped and better educated soldiers of the PIR are providing the nucleus of a defence force of the future.

Gary Scully, journalist with the ABC.



A WW2
Quonset Hut
still in use in
the Solomon

PNGVR: A History 1950-1973 by Major Bob Harvey-Hall RFD, ED (Retd)

Only some one with the discipline and determination of Bob Harvey-Hall could have written the history of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (PNGVR).

His seven years of research culminated in the bringing together of a wealth of material and data from this cosmopolitan Australian CMF infantry battalion which was raised in PNG, served in PNG, and was disbanded in PNG without ever putting foot in Australia.

The PNGVR was formed in 1950 and in March 1951 began enlisting mostly WW2 veterans. Initially, the unit was made up of Australian, British and Dutch volunteers. In 1964 the first PNG nationals were enlisted along with Chinese and Malay members. They came from government offices and



Presentation of PNGVR
Colours, Igam Barracks,
Lae, 1969. Above
A. Coy led by Maj. Bob
Harvey-Hall.

L. Padre blessing colours
Photos courtesy Noel Kenna

private enterprise, from
plantations, banks, and
later from university.

The role of PNGVR was to maintain in some 11 sub-units an organisation for reporting military intelligence, acting as guides and interpreters, advising on local customs, and assistance in the training of indigenous and irregular forces, if required.

During the lifetime of the PNGVR sub-units operated in Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Bulolo/Wau, Madang, Samarai, Kainantu, Mt Hagen, Goroka, Banz and Wewak.

Bob Harvey-Hall was born in Charters Towers in December 1929 and after serving his apprenticeship as a toolmaker, he joined 25 Battalion Darling Downs Regiment in 1949. Three years later he joined Qantas Engineering in Lae and transferred to the PNGVR in 1952 and became CSM of A Company. He was Battalion second in charge during the PNG's final four years.

Bob also served in Singapore/Malaya and on active service in Vietnam with 5RAR.

The book will be of interest to people with a PNG background, especially those who served in the PNGVR.

A review of our PNGVR History book by Don Hook, Association member



US Marines landing at Cape Gloucester, New Britain, during WW2. Neville Swanson, NGVR was with them. It

was here that he learned not to wear his Australian slouch hat, as it made him a target for Japanese snipers.

US Marines on operations at Cape Gloucester. The photo shows the rugged country in which they had to operate,



Extracts from the Museum Curators Report to the AGM

Unfortunately I have had a few health issues this year so I have not been able to give my full attention to the job. We have not had as many visitors through as in previous years (this year about 500), about half. Also volunteers to assist at the museum are in short supply.

The main fund raiser, sausage sizzles at Greenbank RSL, have been discontinued with takings too low for the time spent in the wee hours of the morning. However we could still raise money by having our sausage sizzles at Bunnings at Oxley or Browns Plains, which would be less demanding as these are done during daylight hours. All we need is a



MORSE CODE KEY THIS WAS USED TO SEND MESSAGES BY A SERIES OF DOTS AND DASHES. IT WAS FOUND IN A BUILDING THAT HAD BEEN BOMBED DURING THE WAR IN RABAU. DONATED BY BRIAN BENNETT.



29/08/2009



29/08/2009



Greenbank RSL for his help in computerisation of signs and photography work, Bob Collins for the Newsletter, Paul Brown who makes the drive from Redcliffe when the setting up of weapons is required, and Phil Ainsworth and King & Co for the production of the Museum Brochures.

Thank you John Holland for the time and effort you have put into making our museum such a great venue to visit,

The other day I went over to a nearby Chemist. When I got there, I went straight to the back of the store to where the Pharmacists' Counter is located I took out my little brown bottle along with a teaspoon and laid them both onto the counter. The pharmacist came over smiled and asked if he could help me. I said, "Yes! Could you please taste this for me?" Being a senior citizen... I guess the Pharmacist just went along with me. He picked up the spoon and put a tiny bit of the liquid on his tongue and swilled it around. Then with a stomach-churning look on his face he spit it out on the floor and began coughing. When he finally was finished, I looked him right in the eye and asked, "Now, does that taste sweet to you?" The pharmacist, shaking his head back and forth with a venomous look in his eyes yelled, "HELL NO!!!" So I said, "Oh thank God! That's a real relief! My doctor told me to get a pharmacist to test my urine for sugar!" "Well, I can never go back to that Chemist, but I really don't care, because they aren't very friendly there anyway!"

VALE Stanley Lionel BURTON
NG 2116 NGX 652

18.5.1916—21.10.2015 Aged 98 years.

Stan moved from the Atherton Tableland in Qld to Misima Island in Papua shortly after his marriage to Daphne on 1.3.1937, to work in a gold mine there. After the mine in which he was working collapsed he moved to Bulolo to work with company Bulolo Gold Dredging.



Stan on the steps of his Bulolo house, 1941. The house was destroyed with all they owned.

He joined the NGVR and trained as a wireless operator. When the Japanese occupied Rabaul he moved to Sugarloaf, overlooking Lae, and transmitted details of the Japanese occupation of Lae and Salamaua to HQ 8MD in Port Moresby. He witnessed the Allied Air Force attack on the Japanese ships between Lae and Salamaua after the landing. Many of the 23 ships were sunk or damaged.

Driven out of Sugarloaf by the Japanese who bombed his former transmitting position the day after he moved to the reverse side of Sugarloaf, he moved to Nadzab and Camp Diddy, the latter also overlooking Japanese positions at Heaths Plantation. He then moved to Markham Point, overlooking Lae.



Stan & Daphne when Stan was on leave in Australia

From there he went to Nobonob, overlooking Madang. Stan used to conduct up to 16 skeds daily to Port Moresby at all these places. To prepare for their evacuation from Nobonob the NGVR there boiled sea water in coppers to obtain salt with which they could pay carriers when needed.

When the post at Nobonob had to be evacuated Stan moved to Mingende in the Highlands to report in the event of Japanese penetration into the Highlands. By now, without his knowledge at the time, he had been transferred to New Guinea Air Warning Wireless, which was part of New Guinea Line of Communications, Signals. He then moved to Bena Bena in the Highlands and on 10th October, 1943 finally obtained leave in Australia.

Stan was one of the few NGVR who did not suffer badly from malaria and was transferred to Allied Intelligence Bureau, working at General MacArthur's HQ in Brisbane where he stayed until the end of the war. His knowledge of New Guinea was utilized in the updating of maps and other data required



Stan & Daphne on their 75th wedding anniversary at Buderim

for MacArthur's island hopping campaign. He was in AIB when the war finished.

Post war Stan and Daphne moved to North Qld and established a transport business which he sold and then worked for Retravision in Brisbane. He registered the first road train vehicle in Australia while in the transport business in North Queensland.

He retired in 1984 and moved to Buderim on Qld's Sunshine Coast. He was in the same retirement village on his death.

Stan's wife, Daphne, died last year at the age of 103 and at the time of her death they had been married for 76 years.

VALE Roderick Graham HARVEY-HALL
159470

Rod Harvey-Hall died in the Wollongong Hospital on 7 October 2015. He was a member of A Company PNGVR at Lae where he served with brothers Bob and John. Before he was discharged as a Corporal he volunteered to train some of the first National Servicemen. He was an excellent cricketer and whilst in PNG he also played Baseball and Rugby. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, daughter Letitia, son Roderick, a Flight Sergeant in the RAAF and grandsons Daniel and Jordan.

VALE John HARVEY-HALL
159451

John died in the Yurana Aged Care facility in Springwood on 26th October. John paraded with A Coy PNGVR at Lae in the 1950's. He was one of the A Coy members along with brothers Rod and Bob, under WO2 Ron Shillaker, who fired the 3 inch mortar on the Salamaua Isthmus in 1954 over a period of four days over Easter

VALE Graham J. JONES.
860248

Graham was a member of C Coy PNGVR. He died late September. More details next issue.

VALE Brian COSTELLO (Cozzie)
21.6.1930 - 13.10.2015

Brian was educated and worked in Manilla, NSW, before going to Sydney. He was a grade Rugby League player and excellent amateur boxer. In Sydney he played grade Rugby League with Guildford and Canterbury.

He lived in Perth and Sydney again before going to PNG with Australian Petroleum Coy and worked for Steamships and Ansett in Port Moresby, Lae, Madang and Port Moresby again, all in very senior positions. He played Rugby League with Maganis in Port Moresby and represented Papua 8 times against New Guinea, 5 times in the firsts and 3 times in the seconds, twice as captain.

In 1974 he walked the Kokoda Trail covering the distance in 4 days, walking up to 12 hours each day.

After 22 years in PNG Brian transferred with Ansett to Melbourne. He was then seconded to Air Niugini in Sydney to set up their Sydney operations. After two years he joined Air Niugini where he worked for 14 years. He was a delegate to the International Airlines Transport Association.

He took early retirement from Air Niugini to join Compass Airlines and, after its demise, joined Flight West, owned by the then Association Patron, Sir Denis Buchanan. On its demise he stayed with Alliance Airlines, who took over the operation.

In all Brian had 43 years in the airline industry.

Brian was not a member of PNGVR but was a long time friend and supporter of our Association. He was the one who arranged for members of the Committee to visit Townsville complements of Flight West, for an Association presentation to 31 RQR in the 1990's and also arranged a trip to Norfolk Island as the prize for one of our early raffles.

He was proud to be the third Honorary Member of our Association alongside the Commander of the Defence Forces in PNG and the Police Commissioner in PNG.



LEST WE FORGET



Fiji's only ever Victoria Cross winner is buried at Bitu Paka Cemetery, Rabaul, PNG, along with 35 other Fijians killed on Bougainville in WW2.

Thank you Max Hayes

FUNCTION DATES

Association Committee Meetings

Saturday 21st November
Saturday 23rd January, 2016.

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

Mixed Dining Night Jimboomba

Saturday 19th March, 2016
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
Pty Ltd



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.

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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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 kieran.nelson@bigpond.com, phone 0412 236 013

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

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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Keepers OF THE GATE

Personal Stories by NGVR Soldiers



NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES 1939-43

Major Francis James 'Bob' Collins
RFD (Rtd)

Who were the Keepers of the Gate?

The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR)—one of the few Allied military units engaging the Japanese in New Guinea in early 1942. With aggressive patrolling and reconnaissance the gate to the New Guinea Goldfields and central range south to Port Moresby and Australia remained closed to the enemy.

Armed with WWI light infantry weapons, no air or artillery support, few rations, minimal ammunition supply, meagre medical services and limited communications, this poorly-trained force was used to exhaustion and disbanded.

Many of the men never served again due to the deprivations suffered; others, after rest returned to New Guinea and served in the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) and units which needed their PNG knowledge and experience.

This is not a history of NGVR. These are the stories of thirty-seven NGVR soldiers—stories which reveal why they were in New Guinea as civilians at that fateful time, their wartime and postwar experiences and the effect on them and their families.

The stories were written as told to Bob Collins, who served in PNGVR, the postwar CMF unit in Papua New Guinea. He met many ex-NGVR men and saw many areas where NGVR operated on the frontline. We are grateful to this small band of courageous and adventurous men, the Keepers of the Gate—our front line of the Pacific War—and these stories are a legacy these outstanding men deserve.



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

Prepurchase before 1 March 2016 at the discounted price of \$45.00 per copy

(Retail price after the book launch will be \$50.00)

After the launch, please send me copies of **KEEPERS OF THE GATE** at the prepurchase price of \$45.00 plus \$20.00 p&h each (more if overseas)

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