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VOLUME 96 DATE FEBRIARY. 2016.

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

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Welcome to our first edition for 2016, another active and challenging year for the Association.

Our Association congratulates former army chief David Morrison who has



Lt Gen David Morrison and Phillip Ainsworth

30 June 2012 Canberra

been named 2016 Australian of the Year.

General Morrison was keynote speaker at the 70th Anniversary Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Commemorative Luncheon in Canberra on 30 June 2012, prior to the dedication of the Rabaul and Montevideo National Memorial at the Australian War Memorial . The highlight of General Morrison's speech to the 640 people attending the luncheon was his statement:

'It was folly to send token forces to Rabaul to wave the flag and far too many brave young Australians paid the ultimate price for it. The dead of the Montevideo Maru silently rebuke Australia and remind us some 70 years later of the consequences of neglect of the nation's Defence - that paramount obligation of the state to its people.'

To read his full speech at the 70th Anniversary Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Commemorative Luncheon in Canberra in 2012, please see:

http://www.memorial.org.au/About/

MorrisonSpeech.htm

General Morrison, 59, was deployed to Bougainville in 1994. He is now the chair of the Diversity Council Australia will put gender equality and workplace diversity at the top of the national agenda.

Just prior to Christmas the owner of the former Wacol Barracks approved our Museum Extension proposal for submission to the Brisbane City Council. Mid January our Town Planner advised our proposal was lodged with Council. Allowing for the extended Christmas/ New Year break we would expect to receive the building approval within the next two months. The extension would then be completed by the end of June 2016. This fortunate change in events means completion will be achieved within the six months extension period we received from the State Gaming Fund to expend the grant received last year. The builder has been kind to hold his price so the delayed project should still be completed within budget. None the less this project and the publication and launching of the Keepers of the Gate book will tax the Association's finances and we will be relying on sales of the PNGVR History and The Keepers of the Gate books to revitalise our treasury.

The preparation of The Keepers of the Gate book remains on track for publication and launching at our Reunion on Anzac Day 2016. If you order your copy of the book now you will receive it early and achieve a sigprelaunch discount. Atnificant tached/ inserted in this newsletter are descriptive flyers and coupons for ordering either or both of the publications, the PNGVR History and The **Keepers of the Gate.** A review of the PNGVR History book by member Don Lawie can be found on page 12 of this newsletter.

Your executive committee has decided the recent 40% postal price increase will be absorbed by the As-

sociation rather than increase the annual subscription to meet the rising cost for publishing and distributing our newsletter Harim Tok Tok. This six times per year publication is vital to our Australasian wide membership; in many cases it is the only means of communicating with them. Recognising its importance, the editor continues to refine and improve its content; your constructive comment/opinion about it is sought.

You are reminded of the opportunity to obtain your newsletter early if you receive it electronically by email. Other advantages of email is that you may increase the point size of the text to suit your vision and see the photographs and drawings in colour and discover detail which you cannot in hardcopy. Additionally, a real benefit to the Association would be a significant saving in cost than when you receive a hard copy. Please contact Phil Ainsworth by email p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au is you wish to avail yourself of this opportunity.

The upcoming events of the Association are shown on page 16. All are invited to attend Executive Committee Meetings, bring your lunch

| Inside this issue: | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| HEDLEY CRISP, NGVR | 2 |
| INSPECTIONS | 5 |
| KIWIS DEMOLITIONS | 5 |
| E.A. COREY MM & 3 BARS | 5 |
| INDESTRUCTIBLE DC3 | 6 |
| RATION PACKS | 6 |
| JAMES B McADAM NGVR | 7 |
| 2/22nd Bn BAND | 9 |
| 50 YRS DECIMAL CURRENCY | 9 |
| SNIPERS (continued) | 10 |
| REVIEW PNGVR HISTORY BOOK | 12 |
| MUSEUM STAMP | 14 |
| NGVR / ANGAU PAVERS | 15 |
| VALE NOTICES | 14 - 16 |

N.G.V.R. AND ARTILLERY SERVICE RICHARD HEDLEY CRISP

(HEDLEY)

NG 604

NX 94498

I was born at Bondi, NSW, about 200 yards from Bondi Beach on 4th October, 1916. My father, Richard Henry Crisp, was a dentist at Bondi, having been born at Millparinka in the country in 1885 – he was called Richard so, even though I was christened Richard Hedley, I was always called Hedley. I was the eldest of 6 with my sister Joy being two years younger, Jack four years younger, sister Berenice six years younger, then a gap to brother Bill born in 1928 and then brother Brian who turned 75 just recently (2006). My mother's name was Edith Annie Sky, who had lived in Bellevue Hill. Her father had been a Polish immigrant and his name had ended in 'ski', as many Polish names do, so he had changed the surname to Sky.

We moved from Bondi to Taree in NSW country in 1918, when I was very young, as I was asthmatic and the Doctor advised my mother that I had to get away from the salt air and into the country. My father commenced a dental practice in Taree and I went to the primary school there and to Taree High School. I used to suffer from what was called 'catarrh' in those days and when I was about 11 years old I recall going to the doctor with mum. I was about as thin as my little finger and I was wheezing away when the doc had finished examining me and he said "Put your shirt on Hedley" and then went outside and I heard him say to mum "I'm afraid you have an undeveloped weed as a son. You have to get him out to the dry west. Failing that he has to sleep outside on the verandah in the drier air and do some swimming". So I started swimming and the more I swam the better I felt. By the time I was 14 I had swum myself out of the asthma and was Junior swimming champion of the Taree swimming club and Junior swimming champion of Taree High School. I also played fullback for Taree High at rugby league for three years.

I also obtained my Bronze medallion with the Black Head surf life saving club, on the coast near Foster Beach and was Junior Surf champion there also.

I leave School and join the Bank of New South Wales

In 1933 I graduated with the Leaving Certificate but did not get a sufficiently high pass to obtain a scholarship. Australia was then in a depression and things were very tough all round – my father did a lot of dental work on the barter system as many of the locals could not afford to pay cash.

One of the chaps in the Surf Club at Black Head, Earl Bender, worked in the Commonwealth Bank, and told a mate of mine, Ronnie Wilson, and me that they were putting staff on coming out of the depression.

So we decided to apply to join the Commonwealth Bank, and, as we were walking down the street, we passed the Bank of New South Wales so I commented "We should try here too" and we did. We went in and had an interview with the Manager, filled out all the necessary application forms, and within a week had both been accepted. Ronnie was sent to Parkes and I went to Garrah, 30 miles west of Moree, on the way to Mungindi, in north western NSW. We had to take out an Insurance policy for 100 pounds (\$200) and my father said to me "By jees you are expensive".

When I found out where I was to start I did not know where Garrah was, so I got out a map and saw that it was on a

creek. I immediately thought 'This is good. I will be able to swim in the creek". Little did I know until I got there that the creek only flowed after rain, and for most of the year was a series of nonflowing pools. The only place you could swim at Garrah was the railway dam, used for filling up steam locomotives, and this was strictly out of bounds. However I taught every child in Garrah, including the Station Master's son, to swim in it, even though there was a sign up saying "Trespassers will be prosecuted". As it happened the Station Master copped myself and the Second Officer in the Bank, Bob McEwan, swimming in it one night and I was taken to court and fined 5/- (50c) with 8/- (80c) court costs, in default two days hard labour.

My salary at the time was 68 pounds (\$136) p.a. with a 30 pounds (\$60) living away from home allowance. Not long after my arrival we all received a 10 pounds (\$20) p.a. climate allowance. I used to supplement that by shooting rabbits with a .22 Winchester rifle my father had given me. I could get at least 45 rabbits out of a packet of 50 rounds.

I had only been there for a few weeks when I obtained my prize as the winner of the Junior Surf Life Saving championships for the Black Head district – a train ticket to the Australian Surf Life Saving championships at Bondi and an invitation to compete. I was second going around the buoys and thought to myself 'This is a chap I have beaten before, so I will take him on the way home'. As it happened I had not been able to train for some time and I ran out of steam.

I spent a couple of years at Garrah, carrying out some relieving duties in the vicinity, and then went to Parkes in August 1936. When I arrived in Parkes they had some 7 paid players in their Rugby League football team, and the locals jacked up about the payments, so the club was just about defunct. However they had a great 50 yard swimming pool, but I couldn't help but think "I just can't win" one posting with a football team and no pool and here I am with a pool and no football team". Anyway we reorganised the team again in 1937 and I played as five-eight for them

Later I was transferred to Warren where I also carried out relief duties in such places as Forbes, Collarenabri, Eugowra, Peak Hill, Condobolin and Trundle.

Transfer to Wau, New Guinea

While I was at Garrah an auditor came around – he was an ex WW 1 chap and had a good sense of humour- and I said to him "If I stay here I will end up marrying the baker's daughter – she is the only girl in town". He advised me to apply to go to New Guinea, which I did.

I was in Warren when my transfer to Wau New Guinea came through, and I went down to Sydney and boarded the 'Machdui'. I shared a cabin with a chap who was going to Samarai. On board we were often mistaken for twins as we looked very much alike. The 'Machdui' called at Brisbane, Cairns, Port Moresby, Samarai, Rabaul, Kavieng, Madang, Finschhafen and then at Salamaua. In Port Moresby I met the chap I was taking over from. He had caught Japanese river fever and was on the 'Bulolo' on his way South to recover. If I recall correctly this was the maiden voyage of the 'Bulolo'.

At Salamaua we had to disembark in lighters as the water was too shallow for the ship to get closer than about 400 yards from the beach. All cargo for Salamaua and the mining townships of Wau and Bulolo had also to be unloaded by lighter.

To get to Wau one had to fly – there were no roads from Salamaua or Lae, as there is today. This was my first time in an aeroplane. I had seen Charles Kingsford-Smith fly past when I was at school – I rode my bicycle out from Taree to Old Bar, on the coast, and watched his aircraft fly past, but I had never actually flown. I was to fly up in a tri-motor Fokker, and my first thought when I saw it was "Hell! I am actually going to fly in the

Southern Cross". The flight lasted about ½ hour and we flew up to about 10,000 ft coming over the Gap and then dropped down to Wau airstrip, which has a very steep gradient on the strip itself.

Life in Wau

There were 7 on the staff at Wau. The staff had been decreased by the time I got there from 9 to 8 as there had been a bit of an exodus from the town because WW 11 had started. The Manager was named Shaw, but Bobbie Burns took over from him after my arrival. Col Lees came from somewhere back of Noosa in Qld, and I shared a room at the staff quarters with Col. Dudley Blyton was the Accountant. Alan Aubrey was also there and I learned after the War was over that he had caught malaria and gone deaf. Horace (Horrie) Harris arrived after myself and was on the staff. The Manager Bobby (Bossie) Burns used to love boxing and had a couple of sets of gloves and it was a regular occurrence on a Saturday night for Bossie and me to go a few rounds.

When I first arrived in Rabaul on the 'Machdui' the Accountant took me to a Chinese tailor and said "Right! You will want 6 white shirts, 6 pairs of shorts, a white coat etc". I thought this was going to cost me a fortune, and, anyway, how could they get all that to the ship as we were sailing in a couple of days. The tailor made it to the ship of course, and it was not that expensive.

Much of our work was to do with the collection and export of gold. The gold came in from Edie Creek in big ingots and the first time I saw them come in they were being carried by large natives and being stacked with two down, two across the top, and another two across the top again etc. I thought "This is alright" and went across to pick two ingots up, one in each hand. I could not even lift one in one hand and realised just how heavy the gold was. The gold from Edie Creek was full of silver but this was just smelted off, as silver was not worth anything the same as the gold. However the gold coming in from the Bitoi was of a higher quality than the standard gold accepted standard. At the time Bulolo Gold Dredging were taking out something like 1,500 oz of gold per day with the price of gold at about 15 pounds (\$30) per standard ounce. When I left Wau there were 5 gold dredges working in the Valley and one at Bulwa, down towards the Watut river.

There were two hotels, the 'haus drink' on top, owned by a character called Ma Stewart, and the 'haus drink' down below.

I can recall Gordon Humphries, who was one of our staff members, and responsible for the issue of rations to our house bois deciding one day to have a 'short arm' inspection to ensure the servants had no disease. Well you never have seen someone open and close his lap-lap as fast as these 10 or so bois – they were so shy.

Doctor Giblin called me in one day just after I had arrived, together with Col Lees. He was an authority on tropical diseases, such as blackwater fever, Japanese river fever and dengue etc. He claimed that the only way to avoid all these diseases was to keep fit and to perspire every day. On the opposite side of the airstrip to the town someone had commenced a plantation and had dammed the stream to create an excellent swimming pool. By this time I had written down to Sydney and asked one of my brothers to send me up two bicycles – racing Speedwells. When these arrived Col and I used to race these down the side of the airstrip and then go for a swim.

Col and I also taught ourselves to touch type. We used to sit in the office after the Bank had closed and practice touch typing and eventually became very good at it. It was very handy in the office where most of the staff were two fingered typists.

Wau was at about 4,500 ft above sea level, but Edie Creek, where a lot of the gold was mined, was about 7,500 ft, and Mount Kaindi was about the same height. I climbed Mt Kaindi one day with a mate and this was the first time I was able to sit down and watch aeroplanes fly below me. When we had come down I made the

comment "If this is mountain climbing they can have it - I am not climbing any more",

The road from Wau to Edie Creek was narrow and went around the side of Mt Kaindi and was about one vehicle wide. With the native drivers driving the way they did I vowed never to drive with one.

Wau had a 6 hole golf course and I played regularly – my lowest handicap was 10, I could never get down to single figures.

There was a thing called the Levine Trophy which was competed for between Lae, Salamaua and Wau. We played tennis, cricket and golf (and got nicely, nicely afterwards also). Down at Salamaua I was beaten at tennis one day and I said to the barman "Give me something that will get me so-so quickly". He gave some type of liqueur and that was the end of me. I got my nickname "Cruncher" during a Levine Trophy match between Salamaua and Wau. We were in Salamaua playing cricket. I had a pretty heavy night before and was starving hungry by lunch time — I was wicket keeper for Wau. I was devouring a sandwich when Reg Plumb, the team captain, commented "Get on old cruncher here!" and the nickname stuck.

I brought home with me 12 King Edward pennies from Wau. They would be worth a lot now but somewhere along the line I lost them – I think my wife gave them to a friend, who was a coin collector, at one stage.

I join the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR)

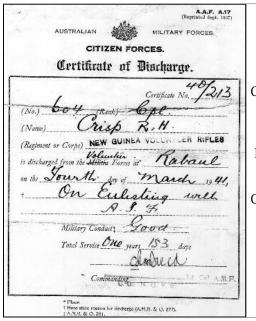
Shortly after my arrival War broke out and the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles were formed. When War broke out there were 8 on the staff at Wau and 7 of us applied to come South to join the Services. Of course the Bank said "No" as we were all required in our civilian capacity so we all joined the NGVR.

We were sworn in at the 'haus moni gammon' the Administration headquarters and were issued with all our gear shirts, shorts, bandolier, socks and puttees etc.

Our training was at least once a fortnight, and we often went either to the rifle range or out on an exercise. We used to meet at different venues, sometimes at the Bank staff quarters, which were quite large and had a big verandah and huge living rooms. Other places were the Treasury building at the top of town. As I understood it the aim of the exercises was to familiarise ourselves with both the weapons we had and the country we were in. I was in the Machine Gun Platoon, which had a Vickers Machine Gun and a Lewis Gun, both of WW 1 vintage. Carrying the tripod of the Vickers was the hardest job in the NGVR at the time. We would set up positions, have scouts and lookouts out and practice contact drills.

One of my jobs in the NGVR was to go out with a Patrol Officer and bring in a number of Italians. These were mainly North Queenslanders, sons of cane farmers, who had moved to New Guinea seeking gold, but who had never taken out Australian Citizenship. By this time all Germans had been interned and, when Italy entered the War on the side of Germany, the Italians had to be rounded up. The Germans had been interned in the "haus moni gammon" on top (the official office of the Administration). The Patrol Officer came to the Bank, saw the Manager, and asked for me to go out to the Watut with him to arrest these Italians. As it happened we used to mix and drink with them every Saturday night when they came to town. So off I went, got dressed up in uniform, took my rifle and bayonet and off we went in a small Cessna. From where we landed it was about a mile (1,500m) to their camp and we had to struggle through the kunai to get to the mine. The Patrol Officer gave his spiel about how sorry he was but they had to come in, and off we went, the two of us with about 6/8 of them. On the way back the sweat was pouring out of me, dressed in uniform and carrying a rifle and pack so one of them said "Carry your rifle for you Cruncher" and I gave it to him. They were all flown back to Wau and put in the "haus moni gammon".

I sat for a number of Examinations and qualified as a Corporal and was duly promoted. However I did not carry on the duties of a Section Commander as we know it today but was a Corporal in the Machine Gun Platoon.



Hadley's Discharge Certificate from the NGVR.

He was unable to find his Discharge Certificate from the AIF.

To be continued.
This is Hedley's story as told to Bob Collins.

INSPECTIONS

The ceremony of inspecting troops originated in circumstances which compelled the inspecting officer not only to make a close scrutiny of every man's face, but to be ready for an attempt on his life at any moment as he passed along the lined up ranks.

When King Charles 11 returned to England to claim the Throne in 1660, one of the late Cromwell's superb cavalry regiments decided to switch its allegiance to the King. The Regiment was encamped at Reading and, on hearing that 'His Majesty had landed, the Commanding Officer dispatched one of his squadrons to meet the King to beg leave to serve under the crown.

In a desolate, uninhabited stretch of country, one of the royal courtiers, riding alongside the coach, observed a body of strange troops approaching and at once told the King. As the King was not yet sure of the reception he would receive from the population he instructed a number of his suite to ride forward and ascertain the intentions of the column.

When contact was made the Squadron Commander explained the purpose of his mission. The King was not a little suspicious, but lack of courage was not one of his faults. Leaving his coach, and accompanied by only one attendant, he strode forward to the Squadron drawn up on the side of the road. Charles passed slowly along the ranks, keenly scrutinising each man's face to determine his attitude from his facial expression. Satisfied with his inspection, Charles accepted the Squadron Commander's offer of allegiance and ordered him to act as his escort on the journey to London.

A little later another unit of ex-Cromwellian troops, Colonel George Monk's Coldstream Regiment, begged permission to enter the King's service. On Blackheath Common, Charles subjected them to the same close scrutiny before accepting them as members of the Royalist Army (the two Units mentioned passed into the King's service and in time became known as the Royal Horse Guards and the Coldstream Guards.

WO1 C.J. Jobson, former RSM Ceremonial ADHQ

My first drink with my son.

I was reading an article last night about fathers and sons and memories came flooding back of the time I took my son out for his first beer.

Off we went to our local pub which is only two blocks from the house.

I got him a Fosters. He didn't like it – so I had it.
Then I got him a XXXX, he didn't like it, so I had it.
It was the same with the Tooheys and the Boags..
By the time we got down to the whisky I could hardly push the stroller back home.

KIWIS DESTROY WW2 BOMBS IN BOUGAINVILLE



A US soldier uses a flame thrower on Bougainville .

New Zealand soldiers have been working to destroy bombs left in Bougainville from World War II.

The Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron have made a significant contribution to the safety of the people of Bougainville, the Defence Force says. The international operation ran through October and November.

Eight bomb disposal technicians and two medics from New Zealand worked on unexploded ordnance in Torokina where grounds, villages and community gardens remain contaminated by unexploded ordnance from the war.

Soldiers from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Solomon Islands destroyed 16 tonnes of explosive, ranging from air-dropped bombs to antipersonnel mines. The NZ teams cleared 2228kg.

Teams asked village leadership to prioritise explosive hazards, which allowed them to "greatly improve public safety and quality of life in Torokina", a squadron spokesman said

Ernest Albert COREY MM and 3 Bars

1891-1972

The only person to be awarded the Military Medal 4 times.

He was a distinguished Australian soldier who served as a stretcher bearer during the First World War. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 13 January 1916 and was allocated to the 55th Battalion, where he was initially posted to a grenade section before volunteering for stretcher bearing duties. In 1917 he was twice awarded the Military Medal for his devotion to duty in aiding wounded soldiers, and twice again in 1918; becoming the only person to be awarded the Military Medal four times.

Born in New South Wales, Corey was employed as a black-



smith's striker upon leaving school. In January 1916, he became a member of the "Men from Snowy River" recruiting march, enlisting in Goulburn. Returning to Australia after the Armistice, he was discharged on medical grounds in 1919 and was employed in a number of jobs before re-enlisting in a militia battalion for service in the Second World War. He died in 1972 and was buried with full military hon-

ours in the Ex-Servicemen's section of Woden Cemetery, Australian Capital Territory.

Corey was born on 20 December 1891 in Numeralla New South Wales, the eighth child of Thomas Corey and his wife Ellen, née Burke. He was educated at Thubergal Lake Public School,[1] before leaving to become a blacksmith's striker at Martin's Smithy in Cooma. In January 1916, Corey marched from Cooma to Goulburn as a member of the "Men from Snowy River" recruiting march, and enlisted on 13 January. Along with the majority of other members of the march, he was allotted to the 55th Battalion.

Following training at Goulburn camp, he embarked for overseas on 4 September aboard HMAT Port Sydney with the 4th Reinforcements for the 55th Battalion. Arriving in England, he spent three months with the 14th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, before joining the 55th Battalion on 8 February 1917 at Montauban, France. Posted to the grenade section of "C" Company, he took part in the capture of Doignies in April.

On 15 May, Corey's brigade was in action near Quéant. Suffering heavy losses, the Commanding Officer of the 55th called for volunteers to assist the stretcher bearers; Corey was one of thirty men who volunteered. For seventeen hours, he assisted in carrying the wounded approximately 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) back to the dressing station; he was awarded the Military Medal for this action.

Following engagements at Bullecourt, the 5th Division—of which the 55th Battalion was part—spent four months in reserve, before moving into the Ypres sector in Belgium. Made a regular stretcher bearer, Corey was decorated with a bar to his Military Medal for his actions on the 26th September during the Battle of Polygon Wood. While subject to heavy artillery and machine gun fire, he frequently ventured out into noman's-land to tend to the wounded. He was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal for this action.

During the winter of 1917–1918, the 55th Battalion was posted to the Messines sector, where Corey was granted leave to the United Kingdom in February 1918. While on leave he became ill and spent ninety days in hospital before rejoining his battalion in July. Shortly after, the Allies launched an offensive against the Germans in August along the Somme, where the 55th Battalion became involved in the capture of Péronne in September. It was here where Corey received the second bar to his Military Medal; between 1–2 September, while subject to heavy machine gun and artillery fire, he continually assisted the wounded with first aid. He was again recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal for this action.

Promoted to corporal on 21 September, he was placed in charge of the battalion's stretcher bearers, whom he led during the battle north of Bullecourt on 30 September. Corey

attended to the wounded while exposed to fire, and continued to direct other bearer parties throughout the action until wounded himself, receiving wounds in the right groin and thigh. It was during this engagement that he was awarded a third bar to his Military Medal. Evacuated to a casualty station, Corey was operated on before receiving a transfer to a general hospital at Le Havre. Operated on again, he was sent to a hospital in Bristol, England. Repatriated to Australia on 30 April 1919, he was medically discharged in June.

Returning to Cooma, Corey was employed as a contract rabbiter before moving to Canberra in 1922, where he was employed as a camp caretaker. On 23 September 1924, at St Gregory's Catholic Church, Queanbeyan, he married Sarah Jane Fisher; the pair later had a daughter, Patricia, before the marriage was dissolved in 1935. Between 1927 and 1940, Corey worked for the Department of the Interior as an office cleaner. He re-enlisted for service in the Second World War with the Australian Military Forces on 23 September 1941, and was posted to the 2nd Garrison Battalion for two years before he was medically discharged as a private on 11 October 1943.

He then went through a series of jobs, including employment as a caretaker, a cook for a departmental survey party and as a leading hand at the Canberra incinerator. By 1951 he was almost crippled with osteoarthritis, and soon after was admitted to the Queanbeyan Private Nursing Home, where he died on 25 August 1972; he was buried with full military honours in the Ex-Servicemen's section of Woden Cemetery.

His medals are displayed in the Hall of Valour at the Australian



War Memorial,[3] and replicas of his medals and copies of the citations for the Military Medal and three bars can be viewed in the Canberra Services Club, of which he was a member for many years

Following several donations by the people of Cooma and the Monaro District, a Memorial Plaque to Corey was erected in Centennial Park, Cooma in 1979. In 1995, the plaque was moved to the Cooma Memorial and the committee involved with the relocation decided to erect a diorama based on a painting in the Australian War Memorial depicting stretcher bearers bringing in wounded soldiers under heavy shell fire at Mont St Quentin during the First World War. A local artist and sculptor, Chris Graham,

was commissioned to undertake the project which was constructed from steel and concrete. It was erected in the Cooma War Memorial area on 23 April 1996.

The inscription on the memorial reads-

IN HONOUR OF
2143 CORPORAL
ERNEST ALBERT COREY
MILITARY MEDAL AND 3 BARS
55TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
1ST A.I.F.
A MEMBER OF THE MEN FROM
SNOWY RIVER MARCH DELEGATE TO
GOULBURN
THE ONLY SOLDIER EVER TO HAVE
BEEN AWARDED A
MILITARY MEDAL AND 3 BARS
1891–1972
ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF MONARO 1979

Source. AWM web site E.A. Corey MM and Bars.



INDESTRUCTIBLE DC3

On 1 May 1986, a C 47 Dakota (DC3) while on a flight to Ondangwa (Northern South West Africa) was flying at about 8000 ft, when it was hit with a soviet SA-7 missile (surface to air missile fired by SWAPO terrorists).

The explosion ripped off most of the planes tail. To add additional pressure, the Dakota was full of military VIP passengers including the Chief of the SA Army.

The pilot, Captain Colin Green, slowed the Dak down to 100 knots in order to keep it under control and called for help. There was a chopper in the area which formatted along side of him and relayed the rear damage to him. The chopper also took these photos.

Captain Green, along with the loadmaster, apparently moved the passengers around within the aircraft in order to regulate the centre of gravity before going into land. Using flaps and power to control the pitch, he greased it onto the tarmac. Captain Colin Green was later awarded The Chief of the SADF Commendation medal for his exceptional flying skills



HTT Vol 91 carried an article on the grounding of DC3's in the European Union due EU health and safety rules. Few aircraft could do this.

RATION PACKS I HAVE COME ACROSS

BY Trevor Connell (Continued)

CR10M - Combat Ration 10 Man

Along came the 10 man packs. These were probably an answer to the prayers of any WO Caterer. It must have simplified their meal preparation because to feed 100 soldiers you just needed 10 of these boxes, opened a couple of hundred cans (they had industrial openers), tipped it all into a big tub, heated it up and spooned it into mess tins as you filed past.

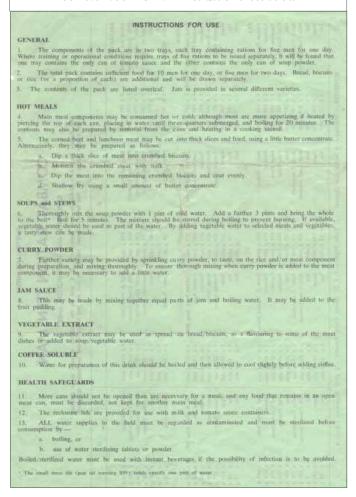
We had several names for this type of meal (and the cooks) none of which can be printed here. The metal tins that contained the condiments came in handy though and later, in the 80s and 90s, these were replaced by plastic ones. My pantry still has a good number of the plastic ones.

You will notice that the main meal items hadn't improved all

that much still.

| COMBAT RATION (TEN MAN) | | | | | | | Nº 1 |
|--|-------------------|---|------------------|--|------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| This Ration Park is available in tone means—A, R, C and D, the contents of each news differing to the calcus those in the list-below. Breach therein is rice as as an included and are insend separately | | | | | | | |
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Combat Ration 10 Man - Instruction sheet below



1970 - 1975

I moved to PNGVR in 1970 ending up in Madang. We would get the usual ration packs and for some reason I didn't keep any of the menu sheets. There were still 3 meal tins, a tin of cheese, tinned fruits, chocolate, rice and condiments. On bivouacs and camps you could always supplement these with local vegetables and usually make up a reasonable meal.

In those days, I recall that the Q system was anal about accounting for rations with much paperwork involved and making Ration States correlate with the Roll Books. Some creative accounting was occasionally necessary.

PR1M (Patrol Ration One Man, though they weren't called that then)

Then, the Patrol Ration Pack appeared. This was more interesting. A much larger bag of rice and a tin of fish and/or corned beef. They were obviously designed for PNG use. The menu instructions were in English on one side and Pidgin on the other, simple and to the point.

Supplemented by kau kau, taro etc, they were a good pack given some time at last light to prepare it. Boiling the kau kau

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

PATROL RATION PACK

- 1. This ration is produced in four varieties as shown by the figures A B C or D on the polythene bag containing each ration.
- The ration contains pre-cooked rice, biscuits, canned ment, curry powder, chocolate, sugar, coffee, tea, salt, matches, spoon-opener, toilet paper and a rubber band. Two types of the ration contain a dried mixed vogetable block and a tube of sweetcaned condensed milk. The other two types of the ration contain butter concentrate and fruit candies.
- In each pack there is sufficient fund for one day for one man on normal patrol activities.
- Fach pack, whether A B C or D is a complete ration and you could live on it alone for long periods. However, whenever there is fresh fruit available it should be used to supplement the ration.
- If the ration contains too much food it is better to use a portion of each item rather than leave some items untouched,
- After breakfast or lunch the unused items should be replaced in the polythene bag which should be fastened with the rubber band.
- Water is required for the preparation of rice and the mixed vegetable block, as well as for tea and coffee. This important fact should not be everlooked.
- 8. The salt should not be used unless there is ample water available.

KAIKAI BELONG PATROL

ARMI BILONG AUSTRALIA

- Dispela skel i gat rais i kuk pinis, biskit, tin mit, kari paura, chocolate, suga, kopi, ti, sol, mashis, optin na spun, hap pepa, na wanpela liklik gumi bilong pasim samting. Long sampela karamap i gat sayor i drai pinis na susu wantaim. Long arapela i gat bata na loli.
- Insait long olgera karamap i gat kaikai inap long wanpela man long wanpela de.
- Maski yu stap long bus longpela taim, dispela kaikai em i ken inap long yu. Sapos yu ken painim, yu ken helpim dispela kaikai long sampela prut, olsem banana, melon samting. Em i gutpela.
- Sapos yu no hangre tumas, i moa gut yu kaikai hap long olgera samting insait long karamap. I no gut yu kaikai rais na mit tasol, na arapela samting yu larim i stap. Kaikai hap long olgera samting.
- Sapos yu kaikai pinis na hap kaikai i stap, putim dispela kaikai insait long bek na pasim long liklik gumi.
- 6. Yu no ken kaikai nating rais na sayor, na ti na kopi. Yu mas putim wara wantaim. Lukaut gut olgera taim yu holim sampela wara.
- 7. Yu no ken kaikai sol, sapos i no gat wara. Nogut yu traut.

712459—136m

Previous page. Instructions in English and Pidgin PR1M.

with the curry powder and then squeezing some butter over it was delicious.

The Menu/Instruction sheet was much simplified.

One interesting thing occurred while in the DJ (Dense Jungle) out from Finschhafen. One of the soldiers came up to me with his biscuit packet. On it was written a name and address in Melbourne!

I told him I would attend to that and wrote to the address. When I went on leave next, I went to Melbourne and met her but alas, nothing came of it. She told me her Aunty worked in the Brockoff Biscuit factory and she wrote her address on it just for fun. An interesting way to meet people.

1980 - Present

Ration Packs settled down to steady improvement. I have included some examples of their evolution which you might find interesting. (Pictures next page)

To be continued.

I was sent to prison and I said to my cell mate, I won't be in here long.

He replied, "Well the judge did give you 6 years."

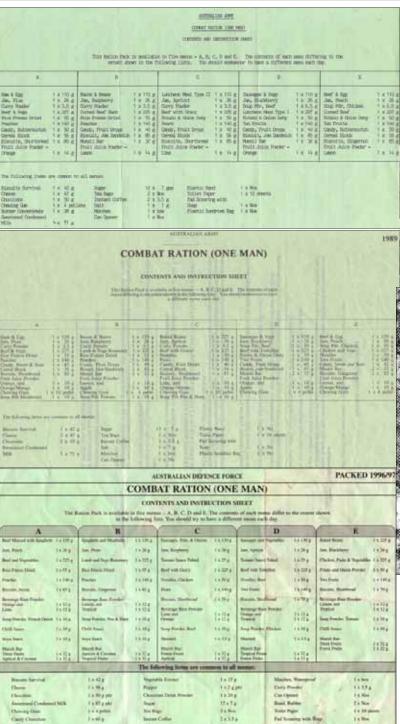
"Yeah I know, but I think my wife will break me out, she's never let me finish a sentence yet."

James Bannister McAdam (Jim) NG 2191 NGX 431

James Bannister McAdam, forester and soldier, was born on 6 Feb 1910 at Preesall with Hackinsall, Lancashier, England, son of John George McAdam, railway cashier, and his wife Elizabeth Ann, nee Bannister. The family emigrated to Queensland. James was sent to state schools and to Toowoomba Grammar School. In 1929 he joined the Qld Forest Service as a cadet. He proceeded to the University of Queensland, Brisbane, and the Australian Forestry School, Canberra (Dip.For.,1934), where he was awarded the Schlich medal as the outstanding student in his final year. Athletic and of robust build, he excelled at sport, particularly Rugby Union football. From 1934 he undertook field-work in Qld. At St Paul's Anglican Church, Maryborough, on 19 Jan 1938 he married Eileen Alexandra Ewing, a schoolteacher. month he was appointed a forest officer in the public service of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

With the treat of war in the Pacific, McAdam enlisted in the Australian military Forces on 16 Sept 1940 at Wau. He began full-time duty with the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles on 22 Jan 1942 and was promoted Sergeant within a fortnight. After the Japanese invaded Salamaua in March, he led a party of scouts which established an observation post within a mile (1.6km) of enemy positions. The intelligence which the team gathered was crucial to the success of the Australian raid on the town in June. McAdam acted as a guide in the foray. Transferred to the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit in Sep , he was awarded the Military Medal for his outstanding service at Salamaua. In April 1943 he was commissioned Lieutenant.

Promoted Temporary Major, McAdam was appointed Commander, Royal Australian Engineers (New Guinea Forests), in Feb 1944. His unit's task was to assess and map the forest resources of Papua, New Guinea, Bougainville and Manus



Island for war needs and for future management in peacetime. He relinquished the appointment in Sept 1945. Following a brief attachment to Army HQ, Melbourne, he transferred to the Reserve of Officers on 8 Feb 1946 and settled in Port Moresby as Acting Secretary (later Director) of the Dept of Forests, Territory of PNG. Keen and industrious, he has a 'passion for protecting the trees'. In 1949 he visited Australia to give evidence to the Royal Commission into timber rights. He was a member (1949-50) of the Territory's Executive Council and an official member (1951-59) of its Legislative Council.

McAdam was active in the affairs of the PNG Scientific Society (President 1951). His main hobby was woodcraft. While on leave, he died of hypertensive coronary vascular disease on 27 Feb 1959 at Margate, Qld, and was cremated. His wife, son and two daughters survived him. In 1963 a mag-

nificent park of some 5000 acres (2024 ha) near Wau in the Bulolo Gorge was named after him' it included outstanding forests of hoop and klinki pines in which he had shown particular interest.

By L.T. Carron

This article was published in Australian Directory of Biography, Vol 15, (MUP), 2000.



NGVR Scouts Jim Cavanaugh, Geoff Archer and Sgt Jim McAdam Photo by

Damien Parer

Jim McAdam and Damien Parer observe Japanese positions from the Nuk Nuk observation tree



A bunch of bananas grown in Mendi, PNG

This nails it!

Are you confused by what is going on in the Middle East?

Let me explain.

We support the Iraqi government in the fight against ISIS.

We don't like ISIS, but ISIS is supported by Saudi Arabia who we do like.

We don't like Iran, but Iran supports the Iraqi government in its fight against ISIS.

So some of our friends support our enemies, some enemies are now our friends.

And some of our enemies are fighting against our other enemies, who we want to lose, but we don't want our enemies who are fighting our enemies to win.

If the people we want to defeat are defeated, they could be replaced by people we like even less.

And all this was started by us invading a country to drive out terrorists who were not actually there until we went in to drive them out.

It's quite simple, really.



2/22nd Battalion Band

Group portrait of 25 members of the 2/22nd Battalion Regimental Band, 23 of whom were originally members of the Brunswick, Victoria, Salvation Band who had enlisted in 1940. The Battalion served as a garrison force at Rabaul, New Britain, until 23 Jan 1942 when Japanese troops with air and naval support stormed ashore in the early hours of the morning. The vastly superior Japanese forces overran the underpowered defenders (about 1,400 in all, and included about 80 NGVR).

The defenders withdrew and split into small groups. Whilst some managed to escape by sea, a great many were killed or captured. Of the Salvation Band members who enlisted VX29061 Pte Frederick William Kollmorgen was the only who survived the deployment to New Britain. Most of the Band died at sea on 1 July 1942 when the "Montivideo Maru" carrying an estimated 845 POWs and 208 civilians from Rabaul was sunk off Luzon in the South China Sea by the US Navy submarine USS Sturgeon.

From the AWM Website

February, 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the introduction of Decimal Currency into Australia and PNG.

A few things you never knew (or had forgotten) about our Aussie Dollar

Money is an intricate part of our daily lives. We touch it, withdraw it, spend it, save it and plan how to get more of it – and quite a few of our Westpac Retired Officers Club members



spent hours in their days counting it. Yet regardless of how involved we are with money, there are a few money facts that most of us don't know – or may have just forgotten about. Some of you might remember the 'Royal Controversy' when it came to the naming of the

new currency unit in 1963... Imagine paying for something in Roo's? What ever happened to 1 & 2 cent coins? While most of our WROC members should remember the 1 & 2 cent coins and recall them with fondness, we all know people who may not even remember them at all. Made of bronze and ever the pain to carry around, bronze coins were removed from circulation in 1992. Once collected, the coins were melted down to create the bronze medals awarded in



the Sydney Olympics of 2000.

Australia developed the first ever plastic bank note

Due to paper money forever needing to be reprinted due to

damage, Australia was the first country to pioneer plastic money. To many countries, having money made of plastic is almost surreal and unimaginable.

The notes in turn now live 4x longer than their paper counterparts. Pair this with the fact they are harder to counterfeit, our polymer invention is the future of printed money. It even withstands the old washing machine, notorious for destroying currency worldwide.

As the notes are made of plastic, people often wonder whether they are capable of withstanding the heat of an iron – the answer is yes, though only at a mild temperature. As with any plastic, it definitely has a melting point and is sure a fine way to burn through your money (pun intended).

We nearly had a currency called 'royals'

In the 1960's, Sir Robert Menzies was the Prime Minister and Australia was in the process of switching from the English pound to its own national currency.

Views varied widely from traditional labels such as 'pound' and 'dollar' to more distinctively Australian names such as 'Austral'. A public naming competition seeking suggestions 'with an Australian flavour' added nearly 1,000 names to this list including such exotic suggestions as 'Oz', 'Boomer', 'Roo', 'Kanga', 'Emu', 'Koala', 'Digger', 'Zac', 'Kwid', 'Dinkum' and 'Ming' (the nickname of Prime Minister Menzies).



In June 1963, with no clear consensus having emerged on a name, Sir Robert Menzies suggested the new currency be called 'royals' – further showing his

loyalty to the monarch. Treasurer Harold Holt explained that the Government saw this name as 'emphasising our link with the Crown' and as being 'a dignified word with a pleasing sound.'





Between June and September 1963, the Bank's Note Printing Branch developed a variety of design concepts for the Royal notes. Some of the designs were simple adaptations of the existing 1953/54 10 shilling note. Most of the notes were not developed beyond the stage of sketches, stylised images and basic colour schemes.

An interesting feature of some of these note designs is that they were labelled as Reserve Bank of Australia notes, rather than Commonwealth of Australia notes. The Royal designs were not completed because of widespread opposition to the name 'Royal' for the new currency.

Just three months after announcing the 'Royal' decision the Government conceded on 19 September 1963 that the name of the currency unit would be the 'Dollar'. This decision won quick and general public approval.

The decision to adopt the dollar made necessary the design and production of a new series of notes with a fairly short lead time. Preliminary designs by four artists, under the general artistic direction of noted artist Russell Drysdale, were completed by March 1964. The new \$1, \$2, \$10 and \$20 notes were issued on 14 February 1966 in line with the timetable set back in 1963. A \$5 note was issued the following year. Compared to the previous currency note series, the decimal notes were more clearly 'Australian'. This was the key criterion in the brief given to the designers.

The new notes captured the country's history and its contribution to the wider world. There was by now less attention on people who had explored Australia and on Australia's economic development.

The notes gave more prominent recognition to Aboriginal culture; women; Australia's unique environment; architecture and the arts; and Australia's contribution to aeronautics. In the lead up to the introduction of decimal currency there was a concerted program to educate the public. This included extensive media coverage, including the famous Dollar Bill campaign.

Some of you might remember the Dollar Bill decimal currency jingle, circa 1965, sung to the tune of 'Click go the Shears.

'.In come the dollars and in come the cents to replace the pounds and the shillings and the pence. Be prepared folks when the coins begin to mix on the 14th of February 1966.

Clink go the cents folks clink, clink, clink. Changeover day is closer than you think.

Learn the value of the coins and the way that they appear and things will be much smoother when the decimal point is here.

In come the dollars and in come the cents to replace the pounds and the shillings and the pence. Be prepared folks when the coins begin to mix on the 14th of February 1966.

Other educational material included games and play money in schools... and a wide range of brochures was issued explaining the conversion of pounds, shillings and pence into dollars and cents and the effects of this on prices of various goods and services

Fake \$50 notes have flooded the market

Polymer plastic are reputed as impossible to counterfeit. However, some crafty individuals out there have still managed to copy the \$50 note making it the most frequently copied note. Police have worked tirelessly to shut down these illegal operations and have since slowed the distribution of the illegitimate notes.

To spot a fake \$50 note, the police have noted you should scratch a coin across the see-through windows of the bank note and see if the printed star comes off. If it does, it is fake. The real notes have a star that is unable to be removed as it is within the polymer itself.

Other security measures found on Australian bank notes include; micro printing, raised ink (you can actually feel the texture on the note), fluorescent ink (you will see the number '50' on \$20, \$50 and \$100 notes along with a square shape on \$5 notes) and more. You simply need an ultraviolet light to view

Money is not that dirty

When you think about it, you can imagine the germs we pass along to each other on our money. But new research sheds information about that very thing that might gross you out. By analysing genetic material on currency, 3,000 types of bacteria in all have been identified – however, only about 20 percent of the non-human DNA found are identifiable because so many micro-organisms haven't yet been catalogued in genetic data banks.

The bacteria found on bank notes is often believed to be extraordinary – however research conducted indicates that coins and bank notes do indeed contain bacteria, though not on a scale that is seen as overwhelming or deadly. Easily the most abundant species found is one that causes acne.

Like anything, germs are present (surprisingly salmonella was high) though still shouldn't pose a concern to anyone

Thanks to the Westpac Retired Officers Club.



SNIPERS (continued) Liudmyla Mykhailivna Pavlichenko

She was a Russian-Ukrainian Soviet sniper during World War II. Credited with 309 kills, who is regarded as the most successful female sniper in history.

In June 1941, 24-year old Pavlichenko was in her fourth year of studying history at the Kiev University when Germany began its invasion of the Soviet Union. Pavlichenko was among the first round of volunteers at the recruiting office, where she requested to join the infantry and subsequently she was assigned to the Red Army's 25th Rifle Division. Pavlichenko had the option of becoming a nurse but refused; "I joined the army when women were not yet accepted". There she became one of 2,000 female snipers in the Red Army, of whom about 500 survived the war. She made her first two kills as a sniper near Belyayevka, using a Tokarev SVT-40 semi-automatic rifle with 3.5X telescopic sight.

Private Pavlichenko fought for about two and a half months near Odessa where she recorded 187 kills. When the Romanians gained control of Odessa her unit was sent to Sevastopol on the Crimean Peninsula, where she fought for more than eight



months. In May 1942, Lieutenant Pavlichenko was cited by the Southern Army Council for killing 257 German soldiers. Her total of confirmed kills during World War II was 309, including 36 enemy snipers.

In June 1942, Pavlichenko was wounded by mortar fire. Because of her growing status she was withdrawn from combat less than a month after recovering from her wound.

Pavlichenko was sent to Canada and the United States for a publicity visit and became the first Soviet citizen to be received by a US President when Franklin Roosevelt welcomed her to the White House/ Pavlichenko appeared before the International Student Assembly being held in Washington, D.C., and later attended CIO meetings and made appearances and speeches in New York City and Chicago. In Chicago, she stood before large crowds, chiding the men to support the second front. "Gentlemen," she said, "I am 25 years old and I have killed 309 fascist occupants by now. Don't you think, gentlemen, that you have been hiding behind my back for too long?" Her words settled on the crowd, then caused a surging roar of support. The United States gave her a Colt automatic pistol. In Canada she was presented with a sighted Winchester rifle now on display at the Central Armed Forces Museum in Moscow. While visiting in Canada along with Vladimir Pchelintsev (fellow sniper) and Nikolai Krasavchenko (Moscow fuel commissioner) they were greeted by thousands of people at Toronto's Union Station.

On Friday November 21, 1942, Lieutenant Pavlichenko visited Coventry, UK, and accepted donations of £4,516 from Coventry workers to pay for three X-ray units for the Red Army. She also visited Coventry Cathedral ruins, then the Alfred Herbert works and Standard Car Factory from where most funds had been raised. She had earlier in the day inspected a Birmingham factory.

Having attained the rank of major, Pavlichenko never returned to combat but became an instructor and trained Soviet snipers



until the war's end. In 1943, she was awarded the Gold Star of the Hero of the Soviet Union, and was commemorated on a Soviet postage stamp.

After the war, she finished her education at Kiev University and began a career as a historian. From 1945 to 1953, she was a re-

to 1953, she was a research assistant of the Chief HQ of the Soviet Navy. She was later active in the Soviet Committee of the Veterans of War. Pavlichenko died on October 10, 1974 at age 58, and was buried in the Novodevichye Cemetery in Moscow.

A second Soviet commemorative stamp featuring Lyudmila Pavlichenko's portrait was issued in 1976.

Source Wikipedia.

Other Sniper feats

Thomas Plunkett was a Irishman fighting for the British with



the 95th Rifles who was raised to specialize in the new Baker rifle. At the Battle of Cacobelo in 1809 Plunkett shot a French General from 200 metres and then the Trumpet Major (the General's ADC) attending to the mortally wounded General to prove it wasn't a fluke. When you consider the average effective range for the smooth bore musket of this day was 50 metres Plunkett's kills were extraordinary.

Carlos Norman Hatchcock had 93 confirmed kills. A North



Vietnamese sniper was sent in to hunt Hatchcock. After seeing a flash of light in the jungle he took aim and fired. The shot went through the NVA's telescopic sight and hit him in the eye. Hatchcock calculated that for this to happen the NVA sniper would have been just about to pull the trigger on him.

Francis Pegahmagabow was three times awarded the Mili-



tary Medal and twice seriously wounded. He was an expert marksman and scout, credited with 378 German kills and capturing 300+ more. He was an Ojibwa warrior with the Canadians in battles like those at Mount Sorrel. As if killing nearly 400 Germans wasn't enough, he was also awarded medals for running messages through very heavy enemy fire, for directing a crucial relief effort when his commanding officer was incapacitated and for running through enemy fire to get more ammo when his unit was running low

Though a hero among his fellow soldier, he was virtually forgotten once he returned home to Canada. Regardless he was one of the most effective snipers of world war 1.



Charles 'Chuck' Mawhinney

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during Vietnam and holds the record for number of confirmed kills for Marine snipers, exceeding that of legendary Marine

rine sniper Carlos Hathcock. In just 16 months he killed 103 enemies and another 216 kills were listed as probable's by the military, only because it was too risky at the time to search the bodies for documents.

A REVIEW: PNGVR: A HISTORY 1950-1973



While going through an airport during one of his many trips, a former US President encountered a man with long grey hair and beard, wearing a white robe and sandals, holding a staff. Mr. Bush went up to the man and said, 'Has anyone told you that you look like Moses?'

The man didn't answer, and just kept staring straight ahead. Then Bush said, 'Moses!' in a loud voice.

The man just stared ahead, never acknowledging the president.

Mr. Bush pulled a Secret Service agent aside and pointing to the robed man asked him, 'Am I crazy or does that man not look like Moses to you?

The Secret Service agent looked at the man and agreed, 'Well,' said Mr. Bush, 'every time I say his name he ignores me and stares straight ahead, refusing to speak watch this'.

Mr. Bush yelled, 'Moses!' and again the man ignored him. The Secret Service agent went up to the man in the white robe and whispered, 'You know you do look just like Moses'.

The man leaned over and whispered back, 'Shhhh. Yes, I am Moses. The last time I talked to a Bush, I spent 40 years wandering in the desert and ended up leading my people to the only spot in the entire Middle East with no oil'

Reviewed by Donald Lawie

The Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles – PNGVR – was a one Battalion Regiment of the Australian Army. A scion of the renowned wartime militia unit, the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, PNGVR was raised in 1950 and at the time was the only resident military unit in the then Territories of Papua and New Guinea (TPNG). Membership was restricted to European (white) male volunteers and service was part time in the Australian Civilian Military Forces (CMF). Major Bob Harvey-Hall RFD, ED, was the last Battalion Second-in-Command and the longest serving officer of PNGVR. He has written the defining history of the unit in a large, copiously illustrated and meticulously researched book which will be treasured by ex-members and their families. PNGVR: A History is also an important piece of the history of Australia's armed forces, since it describes a Battalion unlike any other.

The term "unique" is woefully overused but PNGVR has claims for use of the word in describing itself: Along with its parent Battalion, (the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles) PNGVR was the only Australian CMF Battalion which was raised, served and disbanded overseas and never served in Australia. It was always commanded by an Australian Regular Army Officer and was always on Australia's Order of Battle. From its inception as a whites-only unit, PNGVR moved with the times and from 1964 onwards opened its ranks to all races.

PNGVR fostered the establishment of the regular army unit, the Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR) and for a time the PNGVR Commander was also C.O. PIR. PNGVR had sub-units in most of the larger settlements of the TPNG. They all came together for the annual camp of continuous training where full Battalion parades and operations were carried out. The training regime comprised a weekly night parade, a monthly weekend bivouac and the yearly 16 day Camp. Recruits were trained in drill, weaponry, small-unit tactics and jungle craft.

In compiling PNGVR: A History Bob Harvey-Hall contacted as many ex-PNGVR members as possible, asking them to relate their impressions of the unit and the highlights of their service. He has seamlessly incorporated these reminiscences into the history to lighten and illustrate the bare facts of the unit's progress.

Life in the TPNG was quite different from life in Australia; recovery from World War Two took a long time and the Territory attracted a particular type of person. Those who chose to join



Museum Curator John Holland as a Bren Gunner in the 1960's

the PNGVR tended to have similar characters and this facilitated the military bonding process. Friendships were forged and they still endure.

Being a Battalion of civilians had some advantages: when "A" company was being established in Lae in 1951 there was a communication problem: no telephone. This was swiftly fixed by the installation of a telephone in the Company office, per courtesy of the Company O.C.'s civilian employment with the Department of Post and Tele-

graphs (33). Much later in the life of the Battalion, some unregulated high-spirited horseplay by junior officers resulted in extensive damage to the wall of the officers' Mess at Igam Barracks, outside Lae. Severe disciplinary action threatened but was rapidly averted by a co-operative effort by the personnel involved. They combined their civilian skills to not only repair but to improve the Mess, bringing plaudits instead of penalties to themselves (333).

By the end of the 1950s social life was changing. The peoples of the Territory were determined to take a greater part in both the administration and defence of their country. Agitation, particularly on the part of citizens of Chinese descent, led to calls to change PNGVR into an all-races unit.

Political events accelerated this call for change; Indonesian President Sukarno's sabre-rattling had led to his country's annexation of the complete western part of the island of New Guinea. Dutch New Guinea was no more, and became known as West Irian. Indonesian maps then named the TPNG as "East Irian" and Australia as "South Irian". TPNG nationals wanted to defend their country from what was seen as imminent invasion (165).

After much dithering, membership of PNGVR was opened to all races in 1964, subject only to health and minimum education requirements ."The reaction in PNG to the expansion of PNGVR was like a fireball" (194). The first indigenous recruit was Private Mas Weweong, whom Harvey-Hall describes as "a storeman for PNGVR" (209), but my recollection is that Mas, a cheerful and likeable man, was Sir Donald Cleland's (The Administrator of the Territory) driver.

Other potential recruits were notable: three respected Rabaul Chinese businessmen, who had served in the wartime Chinese Auxiliary Ambulance Detachment, were regretfully declined due to their age (194). In Port Moresby, a former PIB (Pacific Island Battalion) soldier who had fought on the Kokoda Trail, Ben Moide, was also over-age, but both the C.O., Major Newman and the Company O.C., Major Clarke "moved a few goal posts and Ben was recruited. With him he brought half the young men from Hanuabada and surrounding villages" (195). Ben was a notable character who brought much wisdom to his fellow soldiers and who in later life was deservedly feted as one of the Grand Old Men of Papua New Guinea.

Racial integration in an infantry unit posed some difficulties; there was a discrepancy in pay rates that was an unsolved problem, and initially the Army insisted that Pacific Islanders could not wear boots. That was sorted with a dose of common

sense and one of Harvey-Hall's respondents is quoted as writing "When one eats the same food, wears the same uniform and sleeps in the same muddy hole as one's comrade, one tends to not notice whether he is black, white or brindle" (210).

The first Annual Camp after racial integration was held in November 1964 at a newly built establishment at Mount Ambra in the Western Highlands District. All units were concentrated via Mount Hagen Airport in "the largest peacetime troop movement since World War Two" (209). Travel was via a chartered fleet of ex-wartime Douglas DC3 cargo planes with side-saddle seating and no insulation which the coastal troops found to be very cold. These troops also suffered from the increased UV radiation of the apparently weak sunshine at the camp's altitude; numerous severe sunburn cases resulted in pale brown men becoming an alarming pink colour. The C.O., Major Newman consulted urgently with the Queensland Radium Institute and obtained a large supply of a newly formulated sunblock which solved the problem.

"The 1964 camp of continuous training ushered in a new PNGVR" (216). Guerrilla Warfare training was taught, platoons and sections went on realistic patrols and the men fell into the soldiering routine at the same time as they became accustomed to the fact that they were members of a Battalion, not just a Company.

PNGVR was supplied with the same weapons as CMF troops in Australia. The trusty .303 Lee-Enfield rifle had served all British Empire troops in two world wars but was no longer seen as appropriate to the evolving infantry needs. PNGVR was among the first CMF units to be equipped with the new Self Loading Rifle (SLR) in 1960 (127), and later the M60 General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) took the place of the Bren Gun (179). This change of weaponry was not popular with the Old Hands – the Bren was deadly accurate – a boast was that a good Bren Gunner could fire his initials on a wall at 400 yards – whereas the GPMG laid down an area of fire similar to a garden hose

Further annual camps were held at Mt Ambra, Lae Showgrounds and then at the new Igam Barracks. Each camp added a layer of new learning. The 1967 camp was noted for its six day exercise as the Battalion made a tactical advance down the road from the Bulolo Valley, encountering PIR soldiers acting as Enemy and setting up various harassing and ambush actions for the PNGVR to combat (265). The advance concluded with a long forced march designed to surprise the PIR known to be lurking in ambush at the long bridge over the Markham River approaching Lae. Alas, heavy rain had convinced the PIR that the PNGVR would not arrive, they went back to a dry bed at Lae, PNGVR crept across the bridge in silence and pitch darkness and collapsed exhausted into the roadside mud.

The 1969 camp, at Igam Barracks, saw the Battalion concentrated via a new type of aircraft. No longer the venerable DC3, Caribous transported smaller units and giant Hercules lifted many more troops than the old "3" but without the sense of adventure. The 1967 camp saw the "Presentation of the Colours", a notable event in the life of every Battalion. Rigorous training by patient drill instructors and troops who were determined to master the new drill movements resulted in a creditable performance on "the day", watched and approved by an invited group of ex-New Guinea Volunteer Rifles soldiers (289).

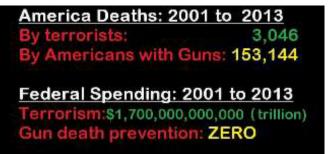
Politics at World, Australia and TPNG level resulted in a push for independence for the Territory. There was no place in the new nation for an Australian CMF Unit and the Budget could not accommodate an indigenous version. PNGVR was disbanded in 1973, the Colours were laid up in Canberra's War Memorial and only memories remained.

Reading Bob's book and writing this review has brought back many memories. I served in PNGVR, Mostly as a Lance Corporal, from 1964 until 1969. Those fifty year old memories are nearly all good and the comradeship continues with a strong ex-Members' Association based in Brisbane. We parade as a unit on Anzac Day, and members operate a first class museum in the Brisbane suburb of Wacol. Old soldiers are fading away but PNGVR: A History will keep the memories alive for our descendants and show that some of our stories were really true!

PNGVR: A HISTORY 1950 – 1973 By Major Bob Harvey-Hall RFD, ED (Rtd) Published by NGVR and PNGVR Ex-Members' Assn inc P O Box 885, Park Ridge Qld 4125 www.pngvr.weebly.com

Thanks Don.

The above is portion of an email received recently. This caused me to check the facts on the Internet on reliable sources such as Wikipedia.



The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention web site shows that in 2013 in the USA there were 33,636 deaths from firearms in the USA. In 2010 there were 19,392 suicides and 11,078 homicides from firearms. In 2010 gun violence cost the USA taxpayer \$516m in direct hospital costs.

The Congressional Research Service states that more than 30,000 people are now killed by firearms each year. There are 310 million firearms in the USA, not including military, 114 million handguns, 110 million rifles and 86 million shot-guns.

In 2009 the population of the USA was 306 million.

Gun deaths each year in other countries are:-

Japan 50
Germany, Italy and France 250
Canada 200

There may be something to be said for Australia's gun laws



Stan Carswell MBE at the VP 70th anniversary commemorations, Rocky Creek Memorial Park, Tolga. 16th August, 2015. The service included a flypast by a RAAF C17A Globemaster.

Rare PNG Stamp in your Museum



In May 1964 in the then Territory of Papua and

New Guinea a new post office was established at Wapenamanda (correct spelling) but actually pronounced Wapenamunda. A postage stamp cancelling post marker was issued with the incorrect spelling, Wapenamunda The error was not noticed until the post marker was in use for about 10 days when it was withdrawn.

A relief post marker was issued and used until a unit with the correct spelling i.e. Wapenamanda was delivered from the manufacturers .

It is understood that only a few of the misspelt impressions remain in existence or in the hands of collectors.

The museum has been fortunate to have one of them

John Holland

9 RQR Regimental Cup Competition

The presentation from NGVR/PNGVR took place at Gallipoli Barracks on Sunday 17 October. Other regimental awards were also made on the day to the winners by the CO 9 RQR Lt. Colonel L G Hughes.

Representing our Association were Colin Gould, John Holland and Mike Griffin. Everyone present enjoyed a great BBQ in the Mess.

Col Gould presented the CO 9RQR with a copy of Bob Harvey-Hall's history of the PNGVR which was warmly received and would be made available to Members of 9 RQR.

Details of the winning section are:

8258409 Cpl D. Robinson 8513190 LCpl E. Redmond 8542181 Pte J. Roberts 8609339 Pte S. Windham 8538848 Pte X. Pike 8608747 Pte N. De March 8568207 Pte S. Boyle 8606629 Pte M. Godden

KOKODA MEMORIAL CASCADE GARDENS, BROADBEACH, QLD

At the rear of the Kokoda Memorial is a paved area with two types of pavers:

- Unit pavers for those units who served in New Guinea
- Individual pavers for those who lost their lives in the conflict.

Your Association has had two pavers - NGVR and ANGAU, which have been laid at the Memorial The photos on the next page show :

- i) Cascade Gardens Kokoda Memorial
- ii) The two pavers to be laid at the rear of the Memorial
- lii) Rear of the memorial where the pavers will be laid.

VALE: Lt James Arthur BIRRELL MC



Members of the NGVR/PNGVR Association who require jeep or buggy transport for the Brisbane march on ANZAC Day, are requested to contact the Secretary Col Gould ASAP as the Association is required to give advance notice of transport requests to the parade organizers.

The demand for jeep transport is increasing each year with the aging and disabilities of our Veterans, it is important hat we get our transport requests lodged as soon as possible.

Contact Col Gould on O42 456 2030 or email pngvr@optusnet.com.au or write to the Association at PO Box 885 Park Ridge Q, 4125

Don't leave this until the day before the parade.

NGVR / ANGAU NG 2201 NGX 355 12.12.1920 - 28.11.2015

Jim was born in Tenterfield, NSW, the youngest of 3 children. His father William was Headmaster of a school just outside Tenterfield and his mother Ada also taught at the same school.

In 1927 the family moved to Huskisson where the boys trapped rabbits both for sale of the skins and also for "chicken" casserole for the dining table.

On leaving school in 1936 Jim joined the Studebaker Car Coy, but on failing to gain an apprenticeship joined the Bank of New South Wales at Maitland NSW.

In 1940 Jim was posted to Wau, New Guinea, and joined 3 Pl, B Coy NGVR and underwent training.

He was in Salamaua when the Japanese landed on 8 Mar, 1942, and 3 PI torched the fuel dump and put the wireless station out of commission before evacuating to Mubo, cutting the wire suspension bridge spanning the Frisco River as they left.

Jim took part in the NGVR / 2/5th Independent Coy attack on Salamaua and also in the defence of Mubo when the Japanese attacked it after the Salamaua raid. He is in the photo of NGVR

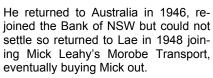


Jim, bottom Left, lying on ground.

members with the Japanese flag captured at Mubo.

After his evacuation from Wau, Jim joined AN-GAU and took part in campaigns in the Markham valley, Shaggy Ridge, Cape Gloucester, Aitape, and Wewak. He was awarded the Mili-

tary Cross for his actions during the advance from Suan to Wewak when he was in charge of all ANGAU activities. He led a number of patrols into territory occupied by the Japanese and obtained valuable information for the advancing Australians



In 1951 he married Ela Gofton, Flora Stewart's daughter, and then built Century Motors in Lae, also having the dealership for Holden Motors. He was co-founder of the Lae Golf Club, President of the Cricket Club and a member of the Town Advisory Council. He sold Century Motors in 1972 to Repco and in 1974 moved to Plant and Transport Authority until 1979 - then to Ela Motors for 5 years, then Toba Motors until

1989 when he retired and left New Guinea to settle on the Gold Coast where Ela passed away in 2002. Jim died on sister Jean's 100th birthday.

A more comprehensive story of Jim's life will be incorporated in a later issue of Harim Tok Tok.



Jim and Bob Collins at a display featuring NGVR in Brisbane by John Holland in 1998. It was displays such as this by John that led to the formation of your museum.



VALE: Peter RYAN MM MID ANGAU 4.9.1923 - 13.12.2015

As an 18 year old Warrant Officer Peter Ryan carried out patrols into the Wain country north of Lae during the Japanese occupation. In all he spent 18 months behind enemy lines and his patrols were commenced and completed by passing through the NGVR camps Bobs and Kirklands on the Markham River. On his last journey out of the Wain Country his travelling companion was killed by the

Japanese and Ryan only escaped by covering himself with mud in a pig pen. He was in a wretched pitiful state when he finally arrived in Port Moresby to be indignantly admonished for having lost his paybook.

He wrote of his remarkable experiences in a book "Fear Drive my Feet", which was such a best seller that it has been reproduced on a number of occasions.

After the war he taught Pidgin at Duntroon, joined the Directorate of Research and Civil Affairs, which provided policy advice out of Melbourne's Victoria Barracks, was a journalist, publisher of Melbourne University Press and Public Relations Officer for ICI

VALE: Peter Gabriel PNGVR 870256

Peter Anthony Gabriel was born in Port Moresby on 3 April 1950 and died on 30 October 2015. He joined PNGVR in 1970 and in June 1971 transferred to the RAE in Australia where he served for a total of nine years. He attained the rank of Sqt.

I attended the funeral this morning and was able to say a few words at the internment on behalf of PNGVR. I made a wreath early this morning from our Flame of the Forest vine – long new tendrils with leaves curled into a wreath. Flowering



has been intermittent this year (still searching for seed) and there was just one small truss up high in the host tree. I used 4 No.4 shot .410 cartridges and all I got was a few loose flowers, so put them in a plastic bag and

attached it to wreath with a hand-printed card. The family was impressed with the "Bahmahuta" farewell. At the interment all the commercial wreaths were removed and an Auntie spread a tapa-type cloth on the casket, then I laid my wreath and it and the cloth went down into the ground with him.

It was an almost wholly Papuan lot of mourners, complete with beautiful harmonised singing. Babinda RSL performed their ceremony but I no longer play bagpipes – I have played many an old Digger into the next world, but no more... The grave was filled in by hand and shovel immediately after while the Ladies sang and the men took turns on the shovels. I was proud to be able to do a bit of shovelling and was welcomed by the rellies.

Thank you Don Lawie LEST WE FORGET



VALE: Graham J. JONES. 860248 16.8.1939 - 21.8.2015

Graham was born in Mt Morgan and went to Banz in PNG in 1962 as a Primary A teacher. He was a member of PNGVR in Banz, leaving there for Daru Secondary Boarding School in 1965, then to Lae Technical College from 1969-72.

He and Kathy had three children born in PNG - Nicholas, 1964 at Yagaum hospital Madang, Lisa, 1965 at Daru Hospital and Michael, 1969 at Lae Hospital.

He returned in 2010 to Madang and in 2012 to Rabaul. As a visitor he brought with him gifts for the local people - clothing, books, educational material etc. In 2012 he was responsible

for transferring a 20ft container containing 53 bales of donated clothing to Simbu Lutheran Woman's Assn and in 2015 assisted in the collection and transferring of clothing to Church Mission at Kundiawa.

LEST WE FORGET

Top L. Graham at Banz, 1963 L. Graham and Kathy at Armstrong Beach, 2015.



When I was in the pub I heard a bloke saying that he wouldn't feel safe on an aircraft if he knew the pilot was a woman. What a sexist twit. I mean, it's not as if she'd have to reverse the bloody thing.







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)

For Military Museum enquires contact Curator John Holland, email rabaul42@gmail.com, phone 0449 504 058

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

Membership fee payments to Treasurer, Doug Ng, email douglasng@iinet.net.au, phone 0413 014 422

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

Website Master: Trevor Connell email

trevor.connell@internode.on.net , phone 0409 690 590

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

Facebook Master: Kieran Nelson,

email kierannelson@bigpond.com , phone 0412 236 013

https://www.facebook.com/groups/ngvrandpngvrmilitarymuseum/

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

President: Email <u>p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au</u> 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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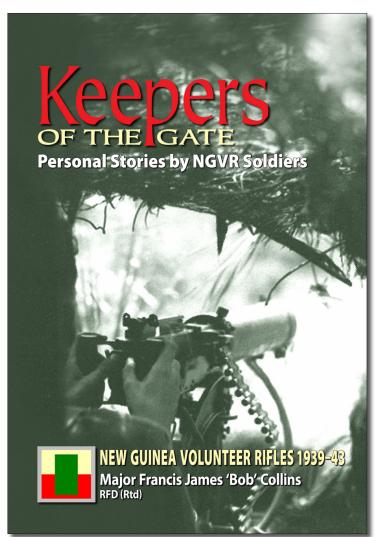
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Who were the Keepers of the Gate?

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 poorlytrained 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

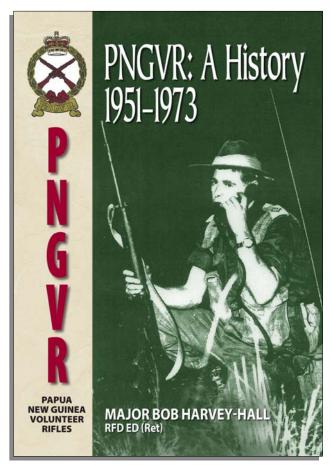
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PUBLISHED APRIL 2105 - AN OFFER TO PURCHASE THE HISTORY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES



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

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

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

The story reveals how expatriates thought and lived in PNG from the early 1950s just after the war; how the battalion provided the initial defence of the country and assisted to re-establish the Pacific Island Regiment. As the country's development

process increased, the battalion's role was expanded and Papua New Guineans were welcomed enlistments into the PNGVR military community.

The battalion played an important role during the anxious time the governing of West Papua was transferred to Indonesia from the Dutch. As the country rapidly moved towards its own independence there was no need for an Australian CMF unit in PNG and the unit was disbanded. Many of the expatriate Australians remained in PNG after independence and further assisted the country in its development. Read how the bonding created by the unique shared experiences within PNGVR remains strong today and is exemplified whenever a group of former PNGVR soldiers meet.

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Note: Overseas purchasers should include sufficient to cover the postage costs to their selected destination. As a guide, the book is A4 size 20mm thick and weighs 1318 grams.

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