

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

This is our Anzac Day issue. I am sure that our out of Brisbane members and friends have their Anzac Day arrangements in place and in Brisbane we will be thinking of you and our past shared experiences and friendships. Where ever you are, have a good one!

Our Brisbane Anzac day events start with the march. This year the Air Force is leading followed by the Navy and Army. We are placed 106 so our march off should be around 11am, giving us plenty of time for a chat over coffee prior. So please form up about 9.30am in the usual place: dress will be our usual Anzac Day dress with full medals. For those without this dress the minimum is smart casual with slacks, covered shoes and full sleeve shirts and hat.

Immediately after the march we move to the Hall of Memories at the Brisbane Cenotaph to hold our NGVR commemoration service, the commencement of which will be about 30 minutes after completion of our march – just follow Paul Brown or Phil Ainsworth after the march.

This service is then followed by our Regimental Reunion at the Exchange Hotel, corner Elizabeth and Edward Streets. The location is at ground level, spacious and food and drinks will be provided for an entry fee of \$20. Remember annual subscriptions are due 1 July so Anzac Day is a convenient time to pay: \$25 member,\$20 associate and \$15 friend. Check out your store re-

quirements prior and bring your shopping list on the day as NG Enterprises will be open for business. Two new items are shown in the photos on this page, a PNGVR shield and an entity presentation board.



At our reunion this year the official launch of the book *Keepers of the Gate* will occur, with copies available for purchase. The book is a companion book to our PNGVR, *A History* - in size , colour and feel. This is Bob Collins' collection of 37 stories as told to him by ex-NGVR soldiers: an excellent and a must read for our members. Readers will develop a better understanding of the motivation of those who went to NG pre-war, their war-time and post war experiences, all told with humour. There are maps and a covering piece which will assist the reader to place the stories in context. The book is available at a pre-launch price of \$45 , a discount of \$5 from the post-Anzac day price of \$50. An Anzac Day special offer is our two books PNGVR, *A History* and *Keepers of the Gate* for \$90.

The 14 week building contract for our Military Museum extension has been executed with commencement due 23 March. This will add a much needed 65m² of space to accommodate and appropriately present our exhibits. The delay in the start, which was not of our making, has added costs which the Association must absorb, so if any member or friend wishes to make a donation towards the Museum, Anzac Day is a fine time to do so - just

see Treasurer Doug. Unless requested not to do so, acknowledgement of all donations will be made in our newsletter and on the Museum extension. Thank you for your response to the floor tile appeal. The photo shows the board to be hung in the Museum acknowledging the generosity of the donors.

Our delightful Spring Jimboomba mixed dinner was held at Heather's and Ted's home on Saturday 19 March. Our patron Major General John Pearn spoke to the 31 in the dining party how the role of organisations such as ours, the PNGAA and Qld government agencies including medicine and foster, maintain Australian relations with PNG. As this was the penultimate Jimboomba dinner President Phil acknowledged those who have been involved with the 33 Jimboomba dinners undertaken to date and briefly summarised the Association's key activities. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, warmed by the weather and hospitality. The photo shows Mr Vice, S/Sgt Barry Wright holding court. A more detailed report will be in HTT 98.

I have just heard that member Allan Tronson turned 90 on 24 March – Happy Birthday Allan!

Everyone is invited to attend the Association's committee meetings which start at 10am on Saturdays on the dates advertised on the rear page of our newsletter. Bring your lunch and enjoy a chat over lunch - the meetings are as much social as they are business.

I do hope you like our fresh newsletter head, curtesy of Dragonwick.

Phil Ainsworth, March 2016

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**N.G.V.R. AND ARTILLERY SERVICE
RICHARD HEDLEY (HEDLEY) CRISP
NG 604 NX 94498**

I am Transferred out of Wau to Australia

I departed Wau in March, 1941, and flew all the way to Sydney. I flew from Wau to Salamaua in a Cessna, from Salamaua in another Cessna to Port Moresby. It was very cloudy and raining when we left Salamaua and we immediately climbed to about 10,000 ft (3,000m). The aircraft was a bit sluggish and the pilot said to me "Chuncher! Shift those bags forward a bit". I couldn't see what difference that would make but leaned over to move them. and discovered that they were bags of gold and I had to move them with both hands. It made a great deal of difference to the way the plane flew. From Port Moresby I took off in a Fokker and we had to land at Cooktown to refuel because of bad weather. From Cooktown we flew to Townsville, and later from Townsville to Brisbane and eventually from Brisbane to Sydney. I believe the reason I flew was because of the shortage of ships which had been appropriated by the Government for war duties.

I was married in April 1941. My wife was Elma Townswell whom I had met in 1936 when I went to Parkes. This was 1941 and things were going pretty well so I decided I would not join the Army at this stage and was posted to Lismore. My son, John Richard George Crisp, was born in Lismore Base Hospital in February, 1942, and he is today a farmer at Parkes.

The Japanese enter the War and I rejoin the Army

When the Japs came into the War I moved Elma and Richard back to Parkes to stay with her parents and I went off to join the Army. Australia had absolutely nothing with which to defend itself and I saw this as important at that stage.

I enlisted in Sydney at Sydney Showgrounds and found myself sleeping in the pig pens. I had all my records and, having been a Corporal in a machine gun platoon, expected to be posted to a Machine Gun Battalion. As it happened the more I tried to do so the further behind I got. I finished up in a camp at Bathurst in NSW where it was freezing cold. One morning the Sgt Major came along and called out "Righto! Everybody out! It's time for PT". There were about 200 of us and all wondering what this 'PT' was. We were in great-coats, long johns and a various assortment of clothing, standing there, and along came this chap dressed in white shorts, white shirt and sandals. Out from the back came this voice "Get on the fairy", which we all thought was funny until this 'PT' started.

As I have already mentioned I used to do a lot of shooting when I was at Garrah, and also while I was in Wau with the NGVR. One day while we were out at rifle practice I put my magazine either into the bullseye or just beside it and was asked by the instructor where I learned to shoot. I told him and he asked "Well what the bloody hell are you doing here?" to which I replied "You tell me".

One day while we were on parade the question was asked "Is there anyone here with the leaving certificate in Maths?" to which I automatically put my hand up. There were three of us did that, Tommy Roberts, Arthur (Urger) Burge and myself who were sent straight away to Warwick Farm in Sydney to a Survey Regiment where I found I knew a couple of the chaps (I had gone to school with one). I was at Warwick Farm the night the Japanese midget submarines entered Sydney Harbour and you have never seen such panic in all your life. One of our Lieutenants led the charge to the slit trenches, and when he got there, discovered he had his boots on the wrong feet.

I Join the Artillery Corps

One day the Commanding Officer (CO) Colonel Doig (nickname hot doig) lined three of us up and told us that we were to commence training as cooks. We told him what he could do with his cooks and immediately went across to an adjoining unit, the 1st Medium Regiment, an Artillery unit, which, we had heard, was to go away. They were equipped with 6" (15cm) Howitzers and we were accepted.

I then did an Artillery course and graduated as an OP (Artillery Observation Post Operator). At this stage the Bank was making up my pay and I was receiving something like 2/- (20c) per day made up pay. I was posted to the 1st Medium Regiment, expecting to go overseas and where did we end up? – Darwin!

Thanks to Frankie Foord's (the Australian Minister for the Army) 'Brisbane Line' I reckon I dug up about half of Australia. The Brisbane Line was a decision taken by the Australian Government that they did not have the resources to defend all of Australia and decided to defend a line roughly drawn from north of Brisbane to between Melbourne and Adelaide. The Minister for the Army Mr Francis Michael Foord told the War Cabinet "The consideration put forward by the GOC Home Forces and the Chief of the General staff, concentrating on the defence of the vital Melbourne – Brisbane line, leaving the balance of Australia more or less to depend upon its meager existing defences without reinforcement against whatever attack might be opposed to it - a deeply disturbing situation".

We first went to Caloundra beach where we calibrated our guns and then went on to Noosa. At Tewantin we corduroyed about 2 miles (3km) of swamp to get the guns to the beach. We finally got them to where we could get a field of fire when someone called out "Look!" and, sure enough, there was a Japanese submarine off the beach. Naturally enough we had the guns with us at the time but did not have any ammunition for them so we could not fire.

In about March, 1943, we were deployed to Toowoomba, on the Darling Downs in Qld, where we were trained in 'fire and movement'. Now with 6" Howitzers, fire and movement is a joke – you need a tractor or truck to move the gun itself. We had a number of big 'shoots' there and were made to feel by visiting Officers that we were the best Medium Regiment in Australia. This made us feel good and we felt that we would soon be getting a guernsey to go overseas when what happened – Our guns were taken off us and shipped to Port Moresby and the 500 of us were sent to Melbourne on 3rd June, 1943, to be retrained on 3.7" (60mm) Ack Ack (Anti Aircraft) weapons. We were reposted to the 55th Composite Ack Ack Regiment.

While we were in Melbourne I was sent out to Preston to do a Radar course. We stayed in Melbourne until October, 1943, and one of the courses I did was on how to operate a 10 line telephone switchboard. I had topped the Artillery School and was a fully qualified Radar Operator.

We Move to Darwin

From Melbourne we went by troop train to Townsville. What a trip! It lasted about 8/9 days and I learned to eat sausages and potatoes. When we eventually got to Townsville we were sent to Garbutt airstrip and finally received our complement of 3.7" guns. A few of us spent time on the Radar in Townsville and then we were put on a train to Mt Isa with our guns.

We arrived in Mt Isa on Melbourne Cup day, 1943. I believe it was the first time in Australia that the Melbourne Cup was not run on the first Tuesday in November, but on the second Tuesday. As we were marching from the station to our camp I heard a voice call out "Hey Cruncher!" and looked up to see Horrie Harris (the Accountant in the Bank at Wau) on the verandah of a Hotel. Naturally enough we ended up having a beer or three that night. From Mt Isa we towed our guns by truck to Tennant Creek, up through Katherine, almost to Darwin. The trip was incredibly dusty – you have never seen such bulldust and we had a pretty long convoy. The Americans had built two airstrips south of Dar-

win, Long Strip, about 100 miles (160km) south and another strip about 120 miles (176km) south (probably Fenton Strip), both south of Adelaide River, so they could land the B24 Liberators. We actually got there about a week after the rainy season started. We had 8 guns, two troops of 4 deployed around the airstrip, all Radar operated, and searchlight assisted. The range of a 3.7" AA gun is about 25,000 ft (8,000+m) and could reach all but the very high flying Japanese bombers. When Darwin was raided on 19th February, the Artillery was all fixed guns, with no Radar. We had the first 3.7" guns with Radar in Australia.

Living 120miles south of Darwin was a pretty miserable existence. We did not think highly of our officers, as, where they sited their Headquarters Camp, any dunce could have told them that it would be under water when the wet season started. Sure enough when the wet started it was chaos. We had an old Blitz truck with a winch on the back which had to be used to move anything at all.

The Regiment had a pretty good football (rugby league) team we named the 'Spas' from our days at Helidon Spa outside Toowoomba. We were never beaten in a game in the area. We even beat Ray Stehr's, the Eastern Suburbs Captain, team from a Transport Company. I was playing 5/8 and was Captain, the full-back was Howard Hallett, one of the centres was Normie Rogers. After the War Howard Hallett captained South Sydney 1948-49 and Normie Rogers captained Eastern Suburbs.

I was fed up with not having seen any action, and never likely to, at this stage so I got my father-in-law, who had a property outside Parkes, to apply for a manpower release for me. It was granted and the last person who had to give his approval was the CO (Commanding Officer) of the Unit. He called me in and told me he was refusing to let me go, so I told him what he could do with his unit. He then sent me out to a Radar Unit at Parap, about 6 miles (9km) south of Darwin. I used to sit in the Radar room at night plotting aircraft coming and going around Darwin. On a number of occasions I had duty Spitfires sent up to intercept an aircraft I could not identify.

Leave and Riding the Ghan

I went on leave a couple of times from Darwin and, believe me, it was an experience riding the Ghan in those days. It commenced at Terowie, outside Adelaide, and you had to catch a train from Adelaide to Terowie to catch the Ghan. At times you could get outside the carriage (or more likely the cattle truck you were riding in) and jog alongside the train as it went up a small hill for exercise. You could not drop anything in the cattle trucks as what you dropped would have gone straight through the slats in the floor.

I Leave Darwin and the War Finishes

In August 1945, we were on our way south for reposting. The Atom Bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima, Darwin was in no danger anymore and our unit had been disbanded. We were in a troop train at Mataranka when we got the news that the War was over. The Army, in celebration, gave everyone on the train a bottle of beer.

When I got back to Sydney, I had to wait for my points, and, because I had not served overseas, did not have sufficient to be discharged early.

Back in Sydney a mate, Jack Fallick and myself were sent out to the Army Pay section at Sydney Show Grounds. All bank clerks and other clerical people waiting for their discharge were sent there to work out the hundreds of thousands of soldiers due to be discharged pay and allowances. Jack and I were both living at Manly and used to catch the ferry across in the morning and back in the afternoon. I was there from September, 1945, until March, 1946, when I was finally discharged. We used to have a ledger each and a comptometer (early adding machine) for calculations. Being ex bank ledgerkeepers where you had to add pages of figures in your head both Jack and I had no trouble with the ledgers and used to finish our workload early and sit outside in the sun. The Warrant Officer in charge, Jackson, used to go crook on us and ask why we were not inside helping the others, to which we

would reply "Bugger them! They can help themselves".

We were sitting outside the front one day when a group of ex-POWs walked past. One chap I used to work with Eric Mitchell (nickname Mitch the Bitch) came past. I had heard that he had been killed in Singapore and did not at first recognise him. However something about the way he walked caught my eye and I went up to him to say hello. He was as thin as a rake and had almost gone blind as a POW.

Hedley could not find his AIF Discharge Certificate. In a letter to Bob Collins he states "Herewith my NGVR Discharge Certificate but I cannot find my AIF Discharge Certificate. I had it a few months ago and have apparently put in in a safe place some-bloody-where."

Anyhow—particulars

Discharged 12/3/1946.

Bdr (Bombardier) R.H. Crisp

NX94498

1st Medium Regt

55 Composite A.A. Regt.

My Return to Civilian Life

On my return to the Bank they wanted to shift me to Lismore again, but I had previously been flooded out and declined that. They then suggested I go to Woodburn and my reply was along the lines that Woodburn was worse than Lismore. However I was told that it was the only place they had a house for me.

We were living in a one bedroom unit in Manly at the time, had a daughter on the way, and had to vacate. I managed to get half a house at Parkes and the Bank agreed to my going there. Our daughter Dianne Helen was born in Parkes in 1947.

In my earlier days I had met a chap in the Bank who used to buy a house in every town he was posted to and sell it when he moved. Instead of paying rent to the Bank he used to make quite a good amount of money by owning his own home. I thought this was a good idea at the time and borrowed 1,000 pounds from the Bank to build a house in Parkes. The idea was that, when I got shifted, I would sell the house and buy another one where I was posted to. While I was at Parkes, I was relieving in a higher position than my official one (the Security Clerk being ill and having to go to Sydney).

I was then posted to Inverell in October, 1948, and the Bank expected me to sell my house to them so that the incoming security clerk could live in it. It was about this time that my daughter became ill and we had to take her to the Children's Hospital at Camperdown in Sydney. While we were in Sydney I saw an ad for a mixed business for sale in Randwick, opposite the old golf course. I was pretty disenchanted with the Bank over the house business in Parkes, so I resigned from the Bank to take over the mixed business.

After two years in the shop, and doing very well, my father-in-law in Parkes announced that, if we didn't move out to the property he would sell it. From the time my son, Richard, was 5 years old he had the idea that he would move into farming (he is still a farmer), so we sold the mixed business and moved back to Parkes, to 'Glenara', about 15 miles (24km) North East of Parkes.

The farm was 1860 acres and ran crossbred lambs – Dorset rams and Corriedale ewes and had a sharefarmer growing 300 acres of wheat. It also had about 4 million rabbits – I know because I counted every one of them, lots of Bathurst burrs (we would have been world champion burr growers) and saffron thistles. My father in law had been ill for some years before he died and the farm had run down. Richard went to Hawkesbury Agricultural college and came back to the farm in 1963 when he graduated at

age 21 and things moved in a positive way. We purchased some plant and started to grow our own crops. We improved pastures and generally put into place practices he had learned at the Ag college. We pulled down the old shearing shed and built a new one, I obtained my wool classer's certificate and generally things were on the improve.

My wife, Elma, having been a farmer's daughter hated the bush, so we moved back to Sydney to Dee Why. When we sold the business and moved back to Parkes we had built a house at 92 Howard Ave, Dee Why and moved back there. In 1969 we did a round the world trip by ship and in 1970 I obtained a job with the CSIRO wool research dept at Ryde, Sydney. I used to listen to the 'Country Hour' at lunch time and often went to sleep. At one stage a chap came over and tapped me on the shoulder – he mentioned that he had come over an hour ago but I was asleep and he didn't want to wake me, so I felt it was time to get out of that job.

While I was working at CSIRO I did an Accountancy course at TAFE and was offered a job as Office Manager/Bookkeeper at Mona Vale for a Company who made fibre glass boats etc. The owner sold after I was there for a couple of years so I was out of a job again.

However the owner of the ship chandlery at Mona Vale offered me a job. I had had a lot to do with him, going into his shop regularly to get parts for the boats. I was 60 at this time and was going to retire but I said I would take the job for a while. I worked there for some 10 years and saved him a lot of money over the time as he never used to check his invoices.

I retired in 1986, aged 70, and moved from the house in Howard Avenue to my present address in Monash Parade, Dee Why, as I felt I was going to be built out. Units were springing up all around Dee Why and Howard Avenue had only a few houses left. I still swim with the Dee Why RSL swimming club and belong to the Dee Why Icepicks who swim in winter.

In 1988, the same year World Expo was on, I swam in a big Veterans swimming carnival at Chandler pool in Brisbane with some success. In 1990 I also competed in a World Swimming Championship with the Manly Aussies Swimming Team. We competed in Argentina, Maimi and Orlando in Florida USA, then to New Orleans and Honolulu, away for about 5 weeks in all.

When I was 75 I often used to go down to Dee Why beach and catch a few waves off the rocky point. I used to swim out and then say to the surfboard riders "Righto – give me an alley!" One day one of the youngsters on his board looked at me and said "What are you doing here grandfather – you're way out of your depth".

My wife Elma passed away in 1981, through blood poisoning, and I remarried in 1982 to Shirley Burquist who lives with me now. We did not know each other prior to Elma passing on but met at the Dee Why RSL.

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

When I called at his address two years after this story had been given, he and Shirley were no longer there and the current inhabitants of the house had no idea where he was or what had happened to him.

ARMY CUSTOMS THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY'S BIRTHDAY

With the coming of Federation on 1st January, 1901, the armies of the various Australian Colonies became one. However, the Commonwealth did not officially assume control of these forces until 1st March, hence the birth date of the Army some two months after Federation. The Australian Army was proclaimed as such under Section 69 of the Constitution.

The new Army was made up of three different types of soldiers. There were 1,500 permanent soldiers, 18,000 militia and 9,000 volunteers, a total Army of 28,500. The actual term for the regular soldiers, the Australian Regular Army, was approved by the then Minister for the Army on 30th September, 1947.

COMMISSION

A commission, from a military point of view, is a document authorising the holder to perform duties in the service of the State. Commissions are granted by the Governor-General on behalf of the Sovereign and the recipient, in the military sense, is ranked as an officer.

An officer cannot have his Commission taken away from him except by authority from the Sovereign, or the Sovereign's representative (i.e. the Governor-General). Once commissioned, he holds it for life, which constitutes the reason for a retired officer retaining it (technically, officers retire, although they may resign their commissions, and soldiers take discharge).

AIDE-DE-CAMP

Aide-de-camp is a French term that originally denoted a military officer attached to a commander as a carrier of his orders to his subordinates. Today the military side of his work has been taken over by staff officers (see Adjutant) but he comes into his own in peacetime at social functions, where he has to see that official parties and such go off without any of the guests thinking that their social status has been ruined by being placed in the wrong position. He is, in reality, a private adjutant to a general officer commanding troops. More junior commanders (for example brigade commanders) have a liaison officer, who perform the same duties.

BATMAN

A batman (originally pronounced "bawman") was a person, not necessarily a soldier, paid by the government and allocated to each company when on foreign service to look after the cooking utensils.

Each company was also allowed a bathorse ("bawhorse") to carry the utensils and the cost of its fodder was also paid for by the government.

When the army was stationed at home the men were billeted at inns, beer-houses and public houses so the need for the bathorse disappeared. However, the batmen were often retained as personal servants.

Bathorses were discontinued sometime in the 18th century and in time the batman evolved into the soldier he is today.

The role of a batman is an important one in the life of a commander in barracks but especially in the field. He is extremely busy and he does not have the time to look after himself. Rest periods, when grabbed, must be made the most of to clear the mind and recharge the body, for the decisions of a commander will determine victory or defeat and the lives of his men hang in the balance.

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

Good news and Bad news

The lawyer: "I have some good news and some bad news"

The CEO: "I have had an awful day, let's hear the good news first."

The lawyer: "Your wife invested \$20,000 in five pictures that she reckons are worth at least \$2 million ..."

The CEO enthusiastically: "Well.. that is very good news indeed .

You've made my day;.. now what is the bad news?"

Lawyer: "These pictures are of you in bed with your secretary".

RATION PACKS I HAVE COME ACROSS

BY Trevor Connell (Continued)

CR5M Combat Ration Five Man

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE									
COMBAT RATION (FIVE MAN)									
PACKED 2008/2009 Phase 1									
CONTENTS AND INSTRUCTION SHEET									
This Ration Pack is available in the five menus shown below. Occasionally, due to unavoidable circumstances, items may be substituted.									
A	B	C	D	E					
Beef, Mince, with Spag	2 x 500g	Beef, Mince, Sav with Veg	2 x 500g	Beef & Pasta	2 x 500g	Beef & Blackbean	2 x 500g	Chicken Curry	2 x 500g
Lamb & Rosemary	2 x 500g	Chicken Curry	2 x 500g	Chicken BBQ	2 x 500g	Chicken BBQ	2 x 500g	Chicken BBQ	2 x 500g
Baked Beans	2 x 500g	Baked Beans	2 x 500g	Baked Beans	2 x 500g	Baked Beans	2 x 500g	Baked Beans	2 x 500g
Beverage Powder, Sport - Orange	5 x 70g	Beverage Powder, Sport - Tropical	5 x 70g	Beverage Powder, Sport - Mixed Berry	5 x 70g	Beverage Powder, Sport - Raspberry	5 x 70g	Beverage Powder, Sport - Tropical	5 x 70g
Biscuit - Biscuits	5 x 47g	Biscuit - Biscuits	5 x 47g	Biscuit - Biscuits	5 x 47g	Biscuit - Biscuits	5 x 47g	Biscuit - Biscuits	5 x 47g
Fruit, Dried, Two Fruits	5 x 140g	Fruit, Dried, Peaches	5 x 140g	Fruit, Dried, Pears	5 x 140g	Fruit, Dried, Two Fruits	5 x 140g	Fruit, Dried, Peaches	5 x 140g
Fruit Spread - Raspberry	1 x 85g	Fruit Spread - Raspberry	1 x 85g	Fruit Spread - Blackcurrant	1 x 85g	Fruit Spread - Marmalade	1 x 85g	Fruit Spread - Marmalade	1 x 85g
Fruit Spread - Marmalade	1 x 85g	Fruit Spread - Blackcurrant	1 x 85g	Fruit Spread - Plum	1 x 85g	Fruit Spread - Raspberry	1 x 85g	Fruit Spread - Plum	1 x 85g
Pudding, Fruit	1 x 350g	Pudding, Chocolate	1 x 350g	Pudding, Fruit	1 x 350g	Pudding, Golden	1 x 350g	Pudding, Chocolate	1 x 350g
Soup Powder, Chicken	5 x 30g	Soup Powder, Beef	5 x 30g	Soup Powder, Sav Veg	5 x 30g	Soup Powder, Chicken	5 x 30g	Soup Powder, Tomato	5 x 30g
Additional food items common to all CR5M menus					Non-food items common to all CR5M menus				
Bev, Chocolate, Pdr	5 x 40g	Salt	5 x 2g	Rice	1 x 400g	Can Opener	2 only	Directions for Butter Concentrate	
Bev, Coffee, Instant	10 x 3.5g	Pepper, Black	5 x 2g	Potatoes, Sliced	1 x 500g	Container, with lid	4 only	To reconstitute the contents, first	
Beverage, Tea Bags	10 x 2.5g	Curry Powder	5 x 3.5g	Peas Green	1 x 200g	Matches	2 x Box	heat into a smooth paste, then add	
Sugar	5 x 34g	Sauce, Tomato Ketchup	3 x 15g	Carrots Sliced	1 x 250g	Packs, Scouring with Soap	2 only	an amount of water or milk	
Milk, Con, Sweetened	5 x 85g	Sauce, Sweet Chili	3 x 10g	Corn, Sweet, Whole Kernel	1 x 250g	Rubber Bands	3 only	equivalent to one-sixth of the	
Butter Concentrate	2 x 85g	Sauce, Soy	3 x 10g	MB - Apricot & Coconut	5 x 32g	Spoons, Dessert	5 only	volume of butter and continue	
Cherries, Chopped	5 x 160g	Biscuit - Biscuits	5 x 34g	MB - Tropical Fruits	5 x 32g	Toilet Paper, 10 Sheets	5 x Pk	heating until the liquid is fully	
Chocolate Ration	5 x 50g	Vegetable Extract	1 x 85g	MB - Forest Fruits	5 x 32g	Menu Sheet		absorbed.	
Confectionery Cream	5 x 85g	Chewing gum 4 pellet	5 x pkt	Saltines	5 x ?				

in an emergency, you can eat the meal dry! You can only imagine what that would be like.

The Current Ration Pack

I am sure the diggers of WWII would be very envious of the rations issued today not to mention showering us with scorn compared with what they were forced to eat! Anyone who complains about CRPs being boring or dull is just too hard to please. They read like something from business class on QANTAS... Lamb with rosemary, Beef and Blackbean, Chicken BBQ, Beef Teriyaki and the list goes on. Note that the modern soldier cannot be without his/her vegemite! When overseas, it must be like a piece of home.

It seems they have responded to the suggestions of soldiers (Isn't that a new concept), particularly with the additional items that are so necessary to munch on during the day or when sitting interminably in some remote location. An interesting point – there is still one tin left in the pack, the canned fruit. This requires a can opener and so, the can opener remains. Some have suggested this is because of tradition, but I can imagine the bean-counters wanting to save money and get rid of it. The writer still derives a certain something in opening the pack and seeing that wonderful little tool. I taught my wife to use it and, for the past 30 years, it is the only opener we have had in the kitchen!

The other thing that was always a point for debate is the small coloured patch of paper found in the condiments pack. We always wondered what it was and why the Army, in its wisdom,

The writer has only seen or used these packs in static situations, e.g. a unit firing on the range, having a central preparation area. It would appear to be unsuitable for any serious combat situation. It contains an improved menu far superior to the old 10 man pack.

PR1M Dehydrated version

AUSTRALIAN ARMY

PATROL RATION (ONE MAN)

CONTENTS AND INSTRUCTION SHEET

This ration pack is available in three menus: A, B and C. The contents of each menu differ to the extent shown in the following list, and you should try to have a different menu each day.

MENU A	MENU B	MENU C			
Lamb and Vegetable Curry	1 x 110 g pkt	Beef and Onions	1 x 110 g pkt	Spaghetti Bolognese	1 x 110 g pkt
Beef and Beans	1 x 110 g pkt	Roast Stewed Pork	1 x 110 g pkt	Savory Steak Fingers	1 x 110 g pkt
Fruit Juice Powder - Orange	1 x 14 g pkt	Fruit Juice Powder - Lemon	1 x 14 g pkt	Fruit Juice Powder - Lime	1 x 14 g pkt
Biscuits, Jam Sandwich	1 x 85 g pkt	Biscuits, Jam Sandwich	1 x 85 g pkt	Biscuits, Jam Sandwich	1 x 85 g pkt
Biscuits Shortbread	1 x 85 g pkt	Biscuits Shortbread	1 x 85 g pkt	Biscuits Shortbread	1 x 85 g pkt

The following items are common to all three menus:

Processed Cheese Sticks	2 x 20 g Sticks	Instant Coffee	2 x 3.5 g pkt	Plastic Spoon	1 x Non
Milk Skin Dried	4 x 7 g pks	Tea Bags	2 x Non	Water Measure	1 x Non
Crunchy Chocolate	1 x 50 g tin	Salt	1 x 7 g pkt	Toilet Paper	1 x 10 Sheet
Rice Flavour Dried	1 x 95 g pkt	Chewing Gum	1 x pkt of 4	Rubber Band	1 x Non
Sugar	1 x 85 g pkt	Matches	1 x box		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

1. Each pack contains sufficient food for one day for a man engaged in normal patrolling activities.
2. No menu may be prepared in advance and no other menu. Menus may be prepared, heated and eaten from the pouches in which they are packed. A special pouch is provided to ease use of the food pouches is damaged and for heating water for hot drinks. A plastic spoon is included for eating from the pouches and stirring hot drinks.
3. The menu must have been cooked before being heated again. Should they can be prepared by the addition of water and application of heat.
4. When it is water measuring pouch is each pack, and when filled to one quarter of its full from the top, will measure sufficient water to rehydrate one meal.
5. With the exception of salt, coffee, tea and salt, all the edible items in the pack may, in an emergency, be eaten without any preparation. It is again safe to drink unfiltered water, or very dried, small items, or the water itself.
6. It is suggested that the two menu and components be kept in separate bags and the remaining water, and that the food items and water be kept in a separate bag.
7. If any other items are used, do not contaminate the menu items or the above water. You need for water will be less if you use water from the menu and not from the pouch.
8. It is a good practice to eat the food in the pouches in the order in which it is contained. This can be done by boiling the pouches for the use of the menu and not from the pouch.
9. All items should be used, and not lost, as they are a small amount of foodstuffs for the mission.

SIMPLE DIRECTIONS

- (1) Open the food pouch by carefully tearing or cutting from the outside at the top of the pouch.
- (2) Remove the paper insert.
- (3) Fold about one half of the top upward edge inward to prevent a scorching fire.
- (4) Place the bottom of the pouch in or will stand upright of its own accord.
- (5) Place the correct amount of water in the measuring pouch and add this to the food pouch. Be well to first use food of previous meals with plastic spoon. After about five minutes the food is ready to be eaten.
- (6) If the meal is to be heated, add the correct quantity of water (the bag has a heating instruction label, see also for the amount, sitting or standing in or prevent scorching and heating).
- (7) Rice is prepared according to the instructions on the rice pouch.
- (8) After a meal has been prepared it should be eaten as soon as possible, and not stored for consumption later.

This pack made it lighter to carry more rations but it required much more water and unless you had access to that, it was a bit counterproductive. In their day, they had what appeared to be a good menu which was easy to prepare - boil the water and tip it in up to a clever little mark, let it sit for 15 mins and eat it with the supplied spoon.

They were quite edible but did play havoc with the writer's tummy after a few days. The instruction sheet suggests that,

COLOURED TAGS
Different coloured paper tags are contained in all ration packs. The coloured paper tags have been included as a quality control measure during packaging. The tags are useful in the field as markers and model items. Please dispose of in a thoughtful manner.
DISPOSAL OF LITTER

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

1. Check pack contents with list on back of pack against your own list of contents.
2. The items are arranged in groups and are numbered. Items are arranged in groups and are numbered. Items are arranged in groups and are numbered.
3. The items are arranged in groups and are numbered. Items are arranged in groups and are numbered. Items are arranged in groups and are numbered.
4. The items are arranged in groups and are numbered. Items are arranged in groups and are numbered. Items are arranged in groups and are numbered.
5. The items are arranged in groups and are numbered. Items are arranged in groups and are numbered. Items are arranged in groups and are numbered.
6. The items are arranged in groups and are numbered. Items are arranged in groups and are numbered. Items are arranged in groups and are numbered.

SAMPLE PREPARATION

1. Check the mark on the back of the pack and the mark on the back of the pack.
2. Remove the paper from the back of the pack.
3. Fold over one half of the back of the pack and the mark on the back of the pack.
4. Place the correct amount of water in the measuring glass and add it to the mark on the back of the pack.
5. If the mark is not visible, add the correct amount of water to the mark on the back of the pack.
6. If the mark is not visible, add the correct amount of water to the mark on the back of the pack.

put it in there. They must have got tired of enquiries coming in because the reason featured in the instruction sheet sometime in the mid 2000s. The official reason is that it is a quality control measure during packaging, however, you can use them as markers and model items, presumably in an Orders Group. Isn't initiative great?

Ration pack items are no longer in

green packaging. They are now a tan colour to suit the current AO's. The writer has always thought that if the enemy are close enough to see the packaging on your ration pack, then you are in serious trouble! Also note the number of pages included in the pack. Only three have been shown due to space. Once again, it provides reading material and even additional toilet paper!

The last word on these rations. Almost every item is manufactured in NZ. Isn't that sad! We can't even produce our own ration packs. The writer can only recall one or two items still made by that fellow Bell in Melbourne, who used to make so much for the packs.

sation (DMO) accepted NUSHIP Canberra from BAE Systems in October 2014 and she sailed to her home port at Fleet Base East, Garden Island, Sydney later that month.

Canberra will be able to conduct amphibious operations and land a force of over 1,000 embarked personnel along with all their weapons, ammunition, vehicles and stores by LCM-1E landing craft, helicopters or a combination of both.

Canberra is capable of conducting large-scale humanitarian and disaster relief missions. The medical facility is of a size and scope of which would rival some regional hospitals equipped with two operating theatres, an eight bed Critical Care Unit, and a variety of low and medium dependency beds. In addition, the medical facility has dedicated areas to accommodate pathology and radiology services, x-ray, pharmacy and dental facilities.

Canberra carries the pennant number L02 and not L01, even though it was the first of its class to be built. Adelaide will carry pennant number L01. This is so the two ships' pennant numbers will conform to the convention adopted with their namesakes in the Adelaide class.

HMAS Canberra was commissioned and joined the Royal Australian Navy fleet in an official ceremony at Fleet Base East, Sydney on 28 November 2014. In March 2015, HMAS Canberra was formally designated the flagship of the Royal Australian Navy



Payne made the announcement at a test facility at Monegeetta, north of Melbourne on Monday morning.

Mr Turnbull said the investment will generate 170 jobs in technology manufacturing and provide soldiers with the best equipment available.

"This \$1.3 billion investment will mean greater capability for Defence, around 170 more jobs in the innovative frontier of technology manufacturing in Victoria, and will consolidate Australia's position as a world leader in military transport technology," he said.

"The men and women of our armed services are entitled to the best equipment we can provide them to do their job and do it well, to faithfully defend our nation and our national interests.

"It's been designed with the future in mind so that as new technology becomes available it can be engineered into the vehicle to give our soldiers the best available tools in the most dangerous situations."

Ms Payne said the Australian-made vehicle would be a world leader and said there was "enormous potential" for it to be sold internationally.

"The fact that it is a lighter vehicle than the traditional Bushmaster, the fact that it has a degree of mobility in very high-risk areas, and has a significant degree of blast and ballistic protection for our serving members means that it should be very attractive on the international market," she said.

"We will work closely with Australian defence industries to make the most of those opportunities wherever and whenever we can.

"As well as Victoria there's obviously support and sustainment activities that occur elsewhere in Australia as well, so it does have a positive and very beneficial effect for Australian industry elsewhere."

The Government estimates the project will keep 170 jobs in the region and sustain another 60 in wider Victoria.



One morning a blind bunny was hopping down the bunny trail and tripped over a large snake and fell, kerplop right on his twitchy little nose. 'Oh please excuse me,' said the bunny. 'I didn't mean to trip over you, but I'm blind and can't see.'
'That's perfectly all right,' replied the snake. 'To be sure, it was my fault. I didn't mean to trip you, but I'm blind too, and I didn't see you coming. By the way, what kind of animal are you?'
'Well, I really don't know,' said the bunny.. 'I'm blind, and I've never seen myself. Maybe you could examine me and find out.'
So the snake felt the bunny all over, and he said, 'Well, you're soft, and cuddly, and you have long silky ears, and a little fluffy tail and a dear twitchy little nose. You must be a bunny rabbit!'
The bunny said, 'I can't thank you enough. But by the way, what kind of animal are you?'
The snake replied that he didn't know either, and the bunny agreed to examine him, and when the bunny was finished, the snake asked, 'Well, what kind of an animal am I?'
The bunny had felt the snake all over, and he replied, 'You're cold, you're slippery, and you have no balls... You must be a "POLITICIAN"'

HAWKEI

THE NEW ARMY REPLACEMENT VEHICLE

The Federal Government has announced it will spend \$1.3 billion on new light armoured personnel carriers for the Army.

The Hawkei vehicles will be manufactured by Thales Australia, which also makes the Bushmaster armoured personnel carrier, in Bendigo.

They will replace part of the Army's ageing Land Rover fleet.

The Australian Army will order 1,100 Hawkeis, which are classed as "light protected mobility vehicles".

Equipped with a V-shaped hull which Thales says will help deflect IED blasts, the vehicles can be armed with weapons including heavy machine guns and grenade launchers, and is light enough to be carried by a Chinook helicopter.

PHOTO: Thales also makes the Bushmaster Infantry Mobility Vehicle, seen here in Afghanistan (Corporal Hamish Paterson, file photo: Australian Defence Force)

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Defence Minister Marise



The Hawkei will follow the widely-praised Bushmaster armoured personnel carrier off the production line in Bendigo.

Thales was identified in December 2011 as the Federal Government's preferred bidder, and prototypes of the Hawkei have undergone a testing process since.

Member for Bendigo Lisa Chester said it was an exciting day for the region.

"It is so needed to be able to lock in the jobs," she said.

"We have got a great team out there that have been working there for many years on developing the Hawkei prototype, so the first thing is it locks in manufacturing jobs in Bendigo.

"It is very exciting news that we are finally at the point where we are going to have the contract locked in and secured to be able to manufacture and continue to manufacture these vehicles here in Bendigo."

Melbourne-based backbencher Kevin Andrews — removed as defence minister in the ministerial reshuffle — has emphasised his role in the awarding of the contract.

"This is the culmination of years of work, capably led by the Department of Defence and the Australian Army," he wrote on Facebook.

"I was pleased to take the Hawkei submission to the NSC [National Security Committee of Cabinet] some months back, at which point it was approved.

"The Hawkei purchase is also great news for Victoria, with an investment of over \$1 billion in the local economy."



What are the odds of this occurring?

These two bullets are in the Museum at the entrance to Gallipoli in Turkey.

The collision of the two bullets happened during the Gallipoli campaign.

B-17 "All American" (414th Squadron, 97Bomber Group)

In 1943 a mid-air collision on February 1, 1943, between a B-17 and a German fighter over the Tunis dock area, became the subject of one of the most famous photographs of WW II. An enemy fighter attacking a 97th Bomb Group for-



mation went out of control, probably with a wounded pilot, then continued its crashing descent into the rear of the fuselage of a

Fortress named "All American", piloted by Lt. Kendrick R. Bragg, of the 414th Bomb Squadron. When it struck, the fighter broke apart, but left some pieces in the B-17. The left horizontal stabilizer of the Fortress and left elevator were completely torn away. The two right engines were out and one on the left had a serious oil pump leak. The vertical fin and the rudder had been damaged, the fuselage had been cut almost completely through connected only at two small parts of the frame, and the radios, electrical and oxygen systems were damaged. There was also a hole in the top that was over 16 feet long and 4 feet wide at its widest; the split in the fuselage went all the way to the top gunner's turret.



Although the tail actually bounced and swayed in the wind and twisted when the plane turned and all the control cables were severed, ex-

cept one single elevator cable still worked, and the aircraft miraculously still flew! The tail gunner was trapped because there was no floor connecting the tail to the rest of the plane. The waist and tail gunners used parts of the German fighter and their own parachute harnesses in an attempt to keep the tail from ripping off and the two sides of the fuselage from splitting apart. While the crew was trying to keep the bomber from coming apart, the pilot continued on his bomb run and released his bombs over the target.

When the bomb bay doors were opened, the wind turbulence



was so great that it blew one of the waist gunners into the broken tail section. It took several minutes and four crew members to pass him ropes from parachutes and haul him back into the forward part of the plane. When they tried to do the same for the tail gunner, the tail began flapping so hard that it began to break off. The weight of the gunner was adding some stability to the tail section, so he went back to his position. The turn back toward England had to be very

slow to keep the tail from twisting off. They actually covered almost 70 miles to make the turn home. The bomber was so badly damaged that it was losing altitude and speed and was soon alone in the sky.

For a brief time, two more Me-109 German fighters attacked the All American. Despite the extensive damage, all of the machine gunners were able to respond to these attacks and soon drove off the fighters. The two waist gunners stood up with their heads sticking out through the hole in the top of the fuselage to aim and fire their machine guns. The tail gunner had to shoot in short bursts because the recoil was actually causing the plane to turn.

Allied P-51 fighters intercepted the All American as it crossed over the Channel and took one of the pictures shown. They also radioed to the base describing that the appendage was waving like a fish tail and that the plane would not make it and to send out boats to rescue the crew when they bailed out. The fighters stayed with the Fortress, taking hand signals from Lt. Bragg and relaying them to the base. Lt. Bragg signaled that 5 parachutes and the spare had been "used" so five of the crew could not bail out. He made the decision that if they could not bail out safely, then he would stay with the plane to land it.

When the ambulance pulled alongside, it was waved off because not a single member of the crew had been injured. No one could believe that the aircraft could still fly in such a condition. The Fortress sat placidly until the crew all exited through the door in the fuselage and the tail gunner had climbed down a ladder, at which time the entire rear section of the aircraft collapsed

I love these old war stories, especially the ones with a happy ending !



An incredible photo. The men on the right are about to drop into France on D Day. The men on the left are the same men today. More incredible it is the same plane. God bless our heroes.

In a dark and hazy room, peering intently into a crystal ball, the Gypsy Mystic delivered extremely grave news: "There's no easy way to tell you this, so I'll just be blunt. Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year."

Visibly shaken and with tears starting to appear in the corners of her eyes, The wife stared at the woman's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She brushed away the tears, took a few deep breaths to compose herself and stop her mind from racing. She simply had to know.

She met the fortune teller's gaze, steadied her voice and asked, "Will I be acquitted?"

For some reason, wives tend to like this joke!



Coconut trees were common in the coastal areas of PNG, however few grew like this.

Climbing Mount Wilhelm in Papua New Guinea

Story and photos by Bernard Arnold

Mount Wilhelm is situated in the Enga Province of Papua New Guinea. Its height has now been accurately established at 4,509 metres or in the former measure, 14,793 feet. Until a revised survey was made in the 1960s the

height of Mt Wilhelm was shown on all maps to be 15,400 feet. It is the highest peak in Papua New Guinea but on the western half of the island of New Guinea, in Irian Jaya, lie a number of higher peaks with the highest, Puncak Jaya (formerly known as Carstensz Peak), being 5,030 metres or 16,503 feet.

In 1962/63 when I was stationed at Goroka for over four months as relieving Regional Clerk in the Department of Public Works, the Enga Province was the Chimbu Sub-District of the Eastern Highlands District and Goroka was the administrative centre of the district.

My work took me on tours of inspection to the Southern and Western Highlands Districts as well as to some of the outstations of the Eastern Highlands. During my flights to the various centres, I was impressed by the mountainous landscape and the remoteness of its peaks. I was also at that time a member of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, and was used to bushwalking.

At Goroka, the reasonably easy access to the slopes of Mt Wilhelm presented an opportunity too good to be missed. The road to Keglsugl on the slopes of Mt Wilhelm was at that time a long and arduous one, especially where it winds along the Chimbu valley. It was certainly going to be quicker and cheaper to fly in. I learned that there were only two pilots authorised to land on the small Keglsugl airstrip, the Territory's highest at 2,530m. One of these pilots was a missionary and the other was a pilot of the small civil airline and charter operator, *Territory Airlines* at Goroka. TAL was able to provide me with the charter of a single-engine Cessna capable of carrying four passengers.

To share the cost of the charter, I needed to find three companions on my planned expedition. When I approached the obvious pool of prospects, all of the local members of the PNGVR declined to come along. Mentioning my disappointment in the office, our recently married typist Margaret said she would come if I went ahead with the trip. Not surprisingly her intention of heading off into the bush with a young bachelor colleague, induced her husband Mal to come along too. The last seat was taken by a colleague of Mal's, Bob.

We agreed that a normal week-end would not give us enough time for an ascent in the event of clouds preventing a landing at Keglsugl or rain making the climb too hazardous. The New Year holidays would give us the best chance of success.

Flying in Papua New Guinea was controlled by the strict Department of Civil Aviation. Pilots had to see where they were going—flying by instruments posed too great a risk because of the mountainous terrain and treacherous air currents. Many an aircraft had been lost by flying into a 'stuffed cloud,' the local euphemism for flying into cloud and colliding with an unseen mountain. This was also to be the fate some years later of

the highly experienced missionary pilot, Father Joe Wallachy, who was famed for his take-offs from Keglsugl with considerably more cabbages than the rules permitted. In 1944 an American bomber, flying through cloud at what its pilot thought was a safe height for the Bundi gap, drifted off course and crashed into the mountain at cruising speed. The largest pieces of the wreckage, a hatch and a propeller, were encountered on our climb. For these reasons air travel in Papua New Guinea, especially to the small inland out-stations could not be to strict schedule and there were no guarantees that our pilot could land us at Keglsugl or that he could collect us several days later as arranged. This made chartering a bit of a financial gamble.

We took off from Goroka airstrip early on Saturday morning. After about half an hour's flight we made a bumpy landing on Keglsugl airstrip, a grass strip on a ridge overlooking Toromambuno Catholic Mission. This is a short one-way landing ground because the sloping ridge rises abruptly at the high end and falls away steeply into the river valley at its low end. The landings are necessarily uphill and the take-offs downhill. We unloaded our backpacks and within a few minutes, the aircraft took off even as clouds began to rise from the valley. Weather permitting, the pilot was to pick us up again early on Wednesday morning.

We were met by a reception committee of one—a Chimbu tribesman with a large key to the lone shed at the airstrip, suspended about his neck. I guess he had been alerted to our intended landing and was there to ensure the strip was clear of roaming village pigs and people.

My parents had written to me that two priests, acquaintances of theirs, were stationed at Toromambuno and had suggested that I look them up. I also needed to arrange guides because the track to Mt Wilhelm was not a well-trodden one and we could not afford to waste time by going up the wrong creek. We left our packs at the airstrip and walked down a steep foot-track to the mission.

Toromambuno mission was very neatly laid out on the banks of a fast mountain stream. Its dark stained timber buildings reminiscent of a European alpine village. There were extensive vegetable gardens from which coastal mission stations were supplied. As it happened, only one of the two acquaintances was at the station and he soon got us organised with guides who had been up the mountain a number of times, in fact, the older one said he had been with the party which had recovered the remains of the American crew from the crashed bomber in 1944.

We set off, climbing back up to the airstrip. From there, the track took us through forest and up watercourses. At one spot in the forest, much to our surprise, we found a patch of wild strawberries. After several hours of steady uphill walking, we reached a grassy platform overlooking the Chimbu valley with Keglsugl airstrip 2,000 feet below us. We paused and had a crude picnic lunch.

The forest had an extensive understorey of mosses draped over fallen timber and aerial roots. I had read somewhere that the vegetation on the upper regions of Mt Wilhelm was a unique remnant from the brown coal age. Certainly, the numerous tree



Keglsugl strip with Toromambuno Mission

ferns gave the landscape, particularly where it changed to alpine grassland, a unique aspect. The tree line ended at about 10,000 feet elevation and dense tussocky grasses covered the valley leading to the 'chalet' at lake Aunde. Along the way we admired several beautiful waterfalls.

It was early afternoon when we reached the huts. They were situated on a rise overlooking the lake and the huge amphitheatre rising to Little Mt Wilhelm. The two huts were of typical New Guinea Highlands construction—a grass thatch over a bush timber frame with low walls no more than a metre high. There was dry grass strewn on the floor. In the middle of each hut within a protective circle of stones was a fireplace without any form of chimney.

Feeling hot and sweaty, the beautiful sheet of water of the lake looked inviting for a dip. I cautiously tested the water with a bare foot and quickly changed my mind—it was positively icy! We explored around the lake and then settled into the huts for the night. The guides had settled themselves into one of the huts and we three 'mastas' and the 'missis' settled into the other. Just before dark, one of the priests from Toromambuno who had gone up the mountain with two guides that day, returned to camp and settled in with the guides.

The huts were reasonably comfortable provided one kept one's head low to the ground, because the smoke from the fire made the air two feet above the ground un-breathable. One also had to mind one did not kick any of the dry grass on the floor toward the fire. I have seen a grass hut go up in flames on two occasions—they were like a torch in seconds!

Sunday morning was cloudy. The priest celebrated mass in the open—the most inspiring setting that I have ever attended a mass in. The guides and I were the congregation. Afterwards, the priest headed back to Toromambuno with his guides, wishing us luck with our climb as the weather was closing in and a light drizzle began to fall. Our guides said that it was too dangerous to go higher up the mountain while it was raining because the water would send stones tumbling down with it. We spent most of that day in the shelter of the huts.

The nights at over 11,000 feet even in the tropics can get pretty cold. I awoke shivering and realised that it was more than just the chill of the night—I was experiencing a bout of malaria. On the coast I had always taken my suppressant tablets but, after three months in the Highlands had stopped taking them in keeping with medical advice. I had nevertheless brought some tablets along, half expecting one of my companions to contract malaria because I suspected they had not been as disciplined in their precautions. It was well known that stress and high altitude could bring on an attack. So it was as well that I had brought the vital medicine, I was the only one who had need of it!

Monday was another gloomy day and with time running out, it looked as if we were not going to be able to get to the summit, which was somewhere up there in the clouds. My fever had left me however, and we went exploring around the lakes. Whilst walking through a patch of marshy ground near Lake Aunde, I dropped my Voigtlander camera into a puddle of water. This resulted in some water damage to the black and white film I had in it at the time.



'The Chalet' at 3260m.

A glorious sunrise blessed us on Tuesday, New Year's Day. The sun cast a red glow on the cliffs and made the white of the waterfalls and patches of limestone stand out brightly. We were determined to start the ascent at 7 am if the weather

held. The plan was to climb until 12 noon and then head back regardless, to avoid being caught on the mountain in bad weather. We set out after breakfast carrying a minimum of gear. Frost made the grass sparkle. Our barefooted guides stopped from time to time to set some dry grass alight so that they could warm the soles of their feet over the flames.

Climbing up from Lake Aunde beside the waterfall that tumbles from Lake Pinde, we had a brief glimpse of the north coast before clouds blocked any distant view. Up the grassy slope from that lake, we encountered the debris from the crashed WW2 aircraft and above that, crossing several saddles, we had views of valleys falling away south of Mt Wilhelm with several small lakes. At about 13,000 feet the sparse grass petered out and the rest of the way to the summit was bare rock. At about this level we found a large tin which contained messages from previous climbers written on various slips of paper in anything from charcoal to lipstick. Several messages mentioned having to turn back due to the weather becoming bad with lightning, hail and icing.

With unpractised walkers in our group and the thinner atmosphere, progress was slow. I had doubts whether we would get to the summit before having to turn back. I had brought a supply of glucose to boost energy levels and everybody was glad of it although earlier they had politely refused offers of cheese and pumpernickel which I thought was pretty good mountain climbing fare. 12 o'clock came and we were still not in sight of the summit. The feeling became very strong in me that I wasn't going to turn back now that I was so close. I said: 'let's go until 1 pm since the weather seems to be holding.' By 1 o'clock we were just below the summit but nobody wanted to turn back now!

Just after 1 pm we reached the summit after edging along a bit of a ledge. The rope I had brought along just in case, was not needed. The recent survey party had built a large cairn with a trig-point marker. Clouds were swirling about us so the view was only as far as the next razorback. After taking a few photographs and briefly enjoying the achievement of our goal, we descended without difficulty in what seemed like 'double quick time.' We were back at the huts by about 4 pm. Our guides meanwhile had been collecting the flowering stems of a particular type of fern which grew only among the higher alpine grasses. These were prized for head dress decorations and could be traded with the villages further down the valley at a profit. This was why we had three guides although one would have been enough. The villagers didn't like to venture too far up the mountain out of fear of the evil spirits they believed inhabited the place. In the company of whites they felt safe and so there was mutual benefit. We also shared our rations with them which was an added attraction for them.

We headed straight back to Toromambuno where we spent the night in a fairly bare and cold guest house. Bob, Mal and Margaret just wanted to lie down and sleep but I spent some of the evening chatting and drinking coffee with the missionaries.

Early next morning we climbed up the hill to the airstrip and waited anxiously for our pick-up while watching the mist swirl up the valley, hoping the aircraft would come before Keglsugl became cloud-bound because we were due to get back to work at Goroka that morning. We didn't have to wait long however, before the reassuring purr of the Cessna's engine was heard coming up the valley and soon the little aircraft bumped to a halt at the modest terminal building.



A guide at 3,960m

Because engines de-

velop less power at 8,300 feet, the payload at take-off was less than what could be landed. I volunteered to remain behind while my companions were taken down to Kerowagi in the lower Chimbu valley. The pilot then came back for me and took me back to Goroka while my companions had preceded me in another aircraft out of Kerowagi.

In later years, when I was stationed at Madang on the North Coast, there were occasions early in the morning when I was able to see the summit of Mt Wilhelm from my first floor office. On a couple of occasions it was glistening with snow. By 9am at the very latest, the daily cloud cover would ensure that the range was hidden from view. That the mountain could be treacherous was reinforced several years later when a regular army sergeant vanished without trace after attempting a solo ascent.

I have since seen the Swiss Alps and looked down from the summit of the Eiger (after an ascent by cog railway within the mountain) and whilst the views were great, they were nowhere as spectacular as the wild, untouched beauty found on Mt Wilhelm.

Thank you Bernard

Aitape Memorial

A memorial at Aitape was dedicated on Saturday 9th May 2015 for an Australian Coastwatcher & his two team members who were executed on the beach at Aitape on 24th Oct 1943.

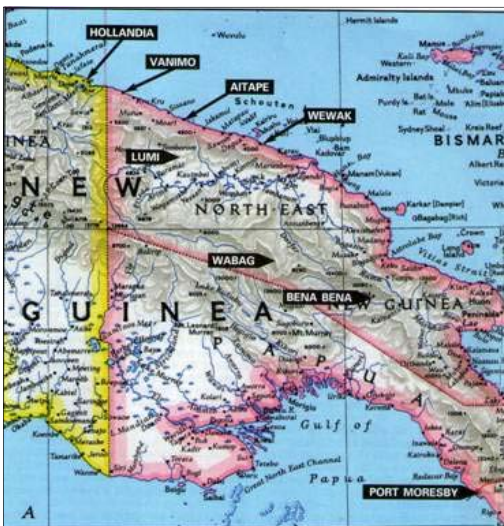


Leonard George (Len) Siffleet
 Born 14 January 1916
 Gunnedah, New South Wales
 Died 24 October 1943 (aged 27)
 Aitape, Papua New Guinea
 Service/branch - Australian Army
 Years of service 1940–43
 He joined the Second Australian Imperial Force in 1941, and by 1943 had reached the rank of sergeant. Posted to

M Special Unit of the Services Reconnaissance Department, Siffleet was on a mission in Papua New Guinea when he and two Ambonese companions were captured by partisan tribesmen and handed over to the Japanese. All three men were interrogated, tortured and later beheaded. A photograph of Siffleet's impending execution became an enduring image of the War.

Previously he had moved across to M Special Unit to take part in a mission to set up a coastwatching station in the hills behind Hollandia in Papua New Guinea. Siffleet joined a party led by Sergeant H. N. Staverman of the Royal Netherlands Navy, which included two Ambonese privates, H. Pattiwal and M. Reharing. This team was to work in concert with another group known as "Locust", led by Lieutenant Jack Fryer. Staverman's reconnaissance group commenced its mission in north-east New Guinea in July, trekking across mountainous terrain through August and September.

The party was flown into Bena Bena on 21st January, 1943. In February they were resupplied at Wabag but after that resupply was by airdrop. By 14th June they had reached the airstrip at Lumi in the foothills of the Torricelli Mountains, just inland from Aitape. During that 6 months they had covered a distance of 514 miles by foot and 230 miles by boat. At some



point Staverman and Pattiwal separated from the others to undertake further exploration of the countryside, and were ambushed by a group of natives. Both were captured and reported as killed, but

Pattiwal later escaped and rejoined Siffleet and Reharing. Siffleet signalled Fryer to warn him of the hostile natives and of Japanese Patrols.

The photograph of Siffleet's execution was discovered on the body of a dead Japanese major near Hollandia by American troops in April 1944. It is believed to be the only surviving depiction of a western prisoner of war being executed by a Japanese soldier. After Pattiwal rejoined Siffleet and Reharing, they attempted to make their way to the Dutch border. They were ambushed by a hundred native villagers near Aitape and, after a brief melée during which Siffleet shot and wounded one of their attackers, the group was captured and handed over to the Japanese. Interrogated and tortured, the team was confined for approximately two weeks before being taken down to Aitape Beach on the afternoon of 24 October 1943. Bound and blindfolded surrounded by Japanese and native onlookers, they were forced to the ground and executed by beheading, on the

orders of Vice-Admiral Michiaki Kamada of the Imperial Japanese Navy. The officer who executed Siffleet, Yasuno Chikao, detailed a private to photograph him in the act. Chikao has been variously reported as having died before the end of the war, and as having been captured and sentenced to be hanged, with his sentence subsequently commuted to 10 years' imprisonment.



Previous Page Anzac Day, Goroka, 1968
7 Pl C Coy, led by WO2 Des Pryde, followed by Dave Olley (L), Rick Giddings, R, Mal King (L) . Sgt Bob Sears 2nd from rear, R. The Goroka Cadet Unit, led by Lt John Paynter (ex Platoon Sgt 7 Pl



John Batze being congratulated on receiving Life Membership to the Association at the AGM in October, 2015 AGM

Museum Received Donation from APNG Assn.



Museum curator John Holland and Assn Secretary Colin Gould, MBE, pictured receiving a cheque for \$1,000 from the President of the Australian PNG Association Inc, Gayle Carrick.

The donation was for our Museum Extensions project



One of Germany's experimental aircraft captured after WW2. A Heinkel He162 "Volksjaeger" propelled by a turbo-jet unit mounted above the fuselage.

Two nuns are ordered to paint a room in the convent, with a warning from the Mother Superior not to get even a drop of paint on their habits.

After conferring about this, the two nuns decide to lock the door of the room, strip off their habits, and paint naked... In the middle of the project, there's a knock at the door.

"Who is it?" calls one of the nuns.

"Blind man," replies a voice from the other side of the door. The two nuns look at each other and shrug, both deciding that no harm can come from letting a blind man into the room. They open the door.

"Nice boobs," says the man. "Where do you want the blinds?"



A box of matches with the PNGVR badge held in your museum. Its size is demonstrated by being held in Museum Curator John Holland's hand.

Presentation of the PNGVR History to the AAIM

On 7 Oct, 2015, on behalf of our Assn. with my wife Dawn and Lt Col Laurie Kelly and his wife Barbara, I presented a copy of *PNGVR: A History 1950-1973* to the Australian Army Infantry Museum (AAIM) at Lone Pine Barracks in Singleton NSW. The visit was organised by Laurie Kelly with the assistant manager WO1 Warren Barnes OAM who accepted the book on the history of the PNGVR. The manager of the museum Maj Marty Paul was also in attendance. Both men are full time Army Reservists. The book, signed by the author, has an inscription on the inside cover indicating that the history came from the Assn.

This Book was presented to
the Royal Australian Infatry Museum
Lone Pine Barracks, Singleton.



Presented by
Major Bob Harvey-Hall RFD ED (Retd)
on behalf of
New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and
The Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles
Ex Members Association
7 October 2015.

General David Hurley, then Defence Chief, opened the museum, which cost \$10m, in 2012. The AAIM is the custodian of Infantry Corps history, its customs and traditions. The first entity towards achieving this was the formation of the School of Musketry in 1911. Although Australia had honours from Suakin (Sudan's Red Sea port) 1885 and South Africa 1899-1902, there was no museum in which to preserve the infantry experience of war. The School of Musketry's first commandant donated a portion of his collection of firearms to the school which formed the foundation of the school's arms collection. Subsequent commandants contributed to the collection. In 1921 a quantity of weapons from the Australian War Museum was received; only a few additions were made during WW2, mostly from the United Kingdom.

After 1945 the collection started to grow with pistols, rifles, bayonets, light, medium and heavy machine guns, mortars and

some prototype weapons. In 1965 the collection was redesignated the Royal Australian Infantry Corps Museum when the patron, Maj Gen T Daly CBE officially opened the museum at Ingleburn in NSW. In 1973 the museum, along with the Infantry Centre, was relocated to Singleton and in 1998 the AAIM became part of the Army History Unit.

It is said the museum is a mirror of the Corps where young soldiers can learn about the history behind such battlefields as Gallipoli, Passchendale, Kokoda, Long Tan and other more recent conflicts, including peacekeeping operations. At the time of the book presentation there were about fifteen men and women servicemen there. The museum layout and display is superb, with the lower floor featuring the history of operations from Sudan in 1885 through to Afghanistan. The mezzanine level covers the tools of trade, such as small arms and associated training aids, showing how they have changed and developed and how these changes have influenced tactics, techniques and procedures of those military units which form the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. A small neat and instructive exhibition featuring the Pacific Islands Regiment is included.

Warren Barnes is keen to receive clothing equipment and other items related to PNGVR and to this aim we, as a significant ex-service group, should be contributing. It is my intention to do so. Whilst our association has a significant museum, looking to the future, the AAIM is perhaps the place for some of our museum collection which would preserve the iconic PNGVR name.



Major Bruce Johnson as a National Serviceman 1954. Bruce has not been in the greatest of health lately. His military history:-
1954-11 National Service Bn, Wacol, Qld.
1954-58
9RQR
1958-1963
PNGVR. Commissioned 1960.
Maj Newman was then CO.
1963-1983 40th Bn Royal Tasmanian Regiment



2014. Bruce, (centre) with walking stick, Kokoda Memorial.

A prospective husband in a book store "Do you have a book called, 'Husband - the Master of the House'?
Sales Girl : "Sir, Fiction and Comics are on the 1st floor!".



A recent photograph of a memorial in Chatham Square, Chinatown, New York, USA which reads "In memory of the Americans of Chinese Ancestry who lost their lives in defense of Freedom and Democracy". Our Association members have been involved in the installation of a similar memorial at the Salisbury RSL in Brisbane in memory Of Australians of Chinese Heritage who served in WW 2.

Thank you Phil Ainsworth

Bob Harvey-Hall

3 Japanese dive Bombers at Table Bay, Papua. 1942.

Recently I was reading "Eagles of the Southern Sky" written by Michael Claringbould and Luca Ruffato and on page 262/3 I came across the following story which are in my words. I was given the clue for this find by Japanese researcher Harumi Sakaguchi.

On 2 September 1942, the Japanese flew an afternoon mission to Milne Bay to destroy allied ships, an Australian Cruiser and destroyer. The mission comprised 8 Val bombers and 1 flying boat supported by 8 Zero fighters, all from Rabaul. The 8 Val bombers comprised two flights, one of 3 and the other of 5. By the time the aircraft arrived at Milne Bay the ships had departed for Port Moresby and the weather was deteriorating. The mission was aborted due to the poor intelligence and weather and the aircraft returned to Rabaul except for the flight of 3 Val bombers.

Late that afternoon a RAAF Kittyhawk F40 fighter pilot en route to Port Moresby sighted 3 unidentified aircraft on a beach in Table Bay, Papua. A Tiger Moth from Gurney Strip at Milne Bay reconnoitred the area and reported no sign of the crew and an attempt had been made to burn the aircraft. Over the next eight days the six Japanese crewmen, apparently making their way towards Buna, were hunted down and killed by ANGAU.

The writers of the book, who are considered experts on the Japanese air war in the Pacific, believe the Japanese Flight Commander continued to pursue the target ships south across the central range but with evening approaching, heavy cloud covering the central mountain range, the poor weather for visual navigation, and shortage of fuel, he decided to land his flight of aircraft on the beach at Table Bay, and the crew walk north west to the Japanese beachhead at Buna.

The three Val Bombers were later recovered by the Allies and shipped to Brisbane for intelligence gathering

Thank you Phil Ainsworth.

A Pommy bloke calls at Australia House in London to get a visa to visit family in Australia.
Bloke behind the counter asks, "Do you have a criminal record?"
Pommy bloke sighs and asks, "Is that STILL a requirement?"



The lectern built by the Greenbank RSL Men's Shed under instruction from Col Gould and presented to your museum.

Over many years the Greenbank RSL has been a generous contributor to the museum. One of their early donations was a Japanese sniper rifle captured at Tol Plantation in 1944.

PNG Patrol Reports

Papua New Guinea patrol reports are now available on line in PDF format which would be of interest to many of our members who worked in PNG over the years.

Reports from government patrols are a major source of primary information on Papua New Guinea's colonial-era history. Patrol officers and other officials wrote detailed documents reporting on all aspects of the work carried out by the patrols.



The reports give first-hand accounts on many topics, from first contact with remote Highland villages, to c e n s u s counts, tax collection, health care, justice, labor recruiting, plantations,

missionaries, anthropological descriptions, tribal warfare, languages, and more. The reports in this collection date primarily from the post-World War II era of Papua New Guinea, up through 1975, when PNG gained independence from Australia; a few pre-war reports are also included. The documents in this collection were digitized from microforms held at the University of California, with the permission of the National Archives of Papua New Guinea. The reports are organized by Districts which generally correspond to the boundaries of Papua New Guinea's Provinces in 1975. The reports are further divided by Sub-district or Patrol Post, and finally into chronological volumes (usually corresponding to an administrative calendar running from 1 July through 30 June of the following year). Reports are cataloged by the name of the district as it was known when the report was created. To find reports within a geographical area, search by keyword, such as a district or sub-district name

<http://library.ucsd.edu/dc/collection/bb30391860>

Thank you Kieran Nelson, our Association Facebook Master for this information.

Obtain your Harim Tok Tok by email. Benefits:-

1. You obtain a colour copy
2. You can adjust the font size of the print to suit your vision and give you a clearer read.
3. There is a distinct benefit to the Association by saving the cost of printing and postage.
4. Capable of printing a hard copy in colour.

The Remarkable DC3

HTT has run a number of articles on the sturdy workhorse DC3 aircraft. This is another example of what a remarkable aircraft it really is. This is a story of how a wrecked DC3 in the Antarctic, was fixed, and then flown out.

A 1943 DC3, used as a tour plane, ran into a hole while skiing atop snow on take off.

The engines were damaged, as was the cockpit and landing gear. The worst part was that this occurred in Dec 2012 near a glacier in Antarctica. It sat for a year before a rescue and repair team showed up to fix and fly her out. It took them two months working in unbelievable conditions. They succeeded and now the old plane is back to work

The video shows how things went! What a fantastic accomplishment! They don't teach this in flight school!!

Click on

www.youtube.com/embed/9ruArctYYbM?feature=player_detailpage <http://www.youtube.com/embed/9ruArctYYbM?feature=player_detailpage>



Members of A Coy, PNGVR, Lae War Cemetery, Anzac Day 1954



Colin Gould, Jesse Chee, Mike Griffin. Vivienne Rogers and John Holland were also present.

Association members at the Bunnings sausage sizzle which raised almost \$800. for extensions to your museum.

From L.
Doug Ng,
Bob Collins,
Peter Rogers,

Vale: Cpl Geoffrey Alan Kenney.
860151
27.10.1941 - 24.1.2016



Geoff was born in Canberra. The family moved to Sydney and Geoff played in the 61/2 stone rugby league team at Brookvale Oval. The family returned to Canberra where he attended high school before moving again, this time to England for a few years. He then returned to Canberra to complete high school.

Geoff commenced work with the Dept of Customs and Excise in Canberra before moving to Port Moresby in 1961 with the Dept of Public Health.

Geoff joined the PNGVR in 1962 and attended the Annual Camp at Taurama Barracks that year. He went on bivouacs to Goldie River and Sogeri, obtained his Military driver's licence and was promoted to Cpl before taking his discharge in 1964. He joined the Association during its' early days and recalled attending a social night at Enogerra Sgts Mess, taking up the offer of sleeping facilities which consisted of sleeping on army blankets on the floor. He stated he felt no pain at the time but the next day was a different matter. He was for many years a regular attendee at the Anzac Day march in Brisbane.

He met and married Lucy Chow in Port Moresby and they had two children, Simone and Justin, both born in Port Moresby.



PNGVR Taurama Barracks 1962. Geoff circled.

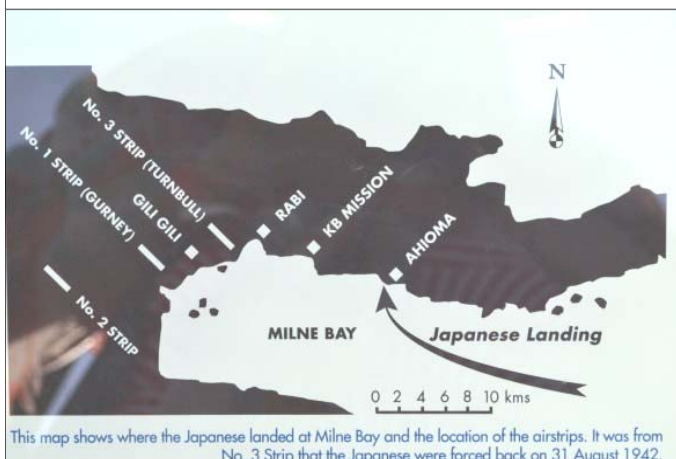
In 1975 Geoff took a voluntary separation package and left PNG for Qld's Gold Coast where he set up his own business before joining the Association of Professional Engineers industrial relations sector in Brisbane. His house was on a canal waterway and Geoff was a keen fisherman.

In 1988 Geoff and Lucy moved to Brisbane and in 1991 joined the Qld Public Service. He loved travel and had many overseas trips during his days. He was also keen on genealogy and documented both his family history and that of the Chow family in Rabaul.

LEST WE FORGET



Milne Bay Memorial, near Alotau PNG.



Anzac Cove 1915

FUNCTION DATES

ANZAC DAY

Form up by 9.00 am. **March commences 9.30am**, as will all future marches. Those travelling in Jeeps **MUST** be there by 9.00am

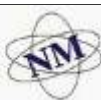
Association Committee Meetings

Saturday 21st May
Saturday 16th July

Meetings commence 10am at your museum. Come along, see the latest exhibits at your museum and catch up with old mates.



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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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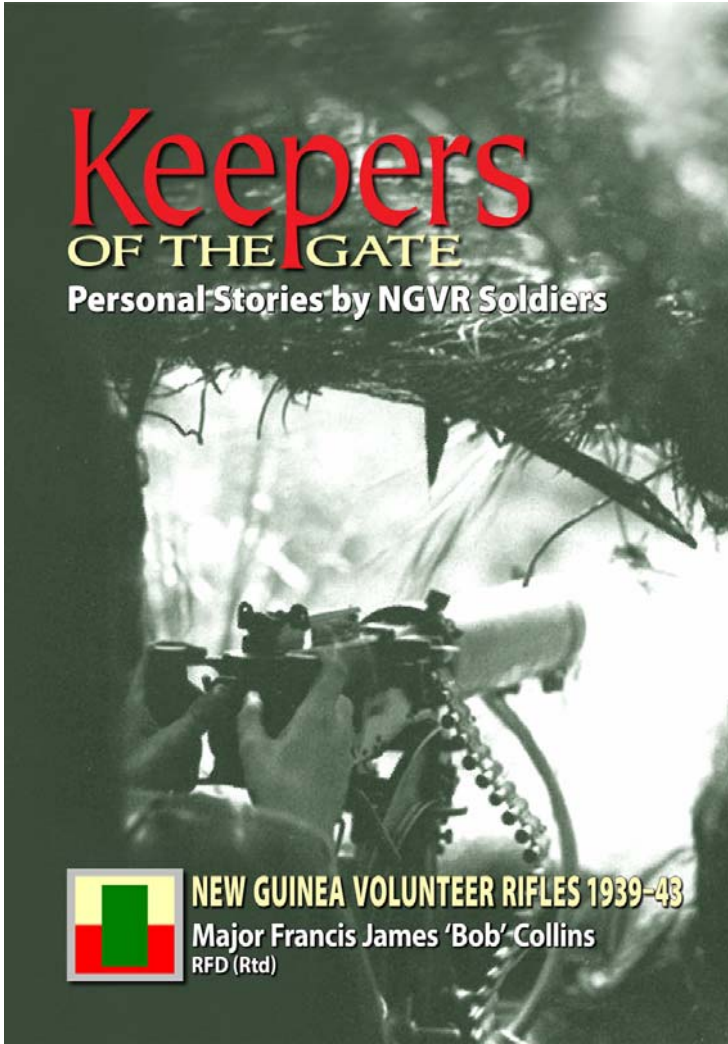
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SPECIAL BOOK OFFER...

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**

Purchase before 25 April 2016 at the discounted price of \$45.00 per copy

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

Please send me copies of **KEEPERS OF THE GATE** at the pre purchase price of \$45.00/\$50.00 plus \$20.00 p&h each (more if overseas)

If you also buy the companion book "PNGVR: A HISTORY" the price is \$90 for both plus postage of \$35

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

☐ I have transferred \$..... to NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association, BSB: 064006 A/C: 10001126

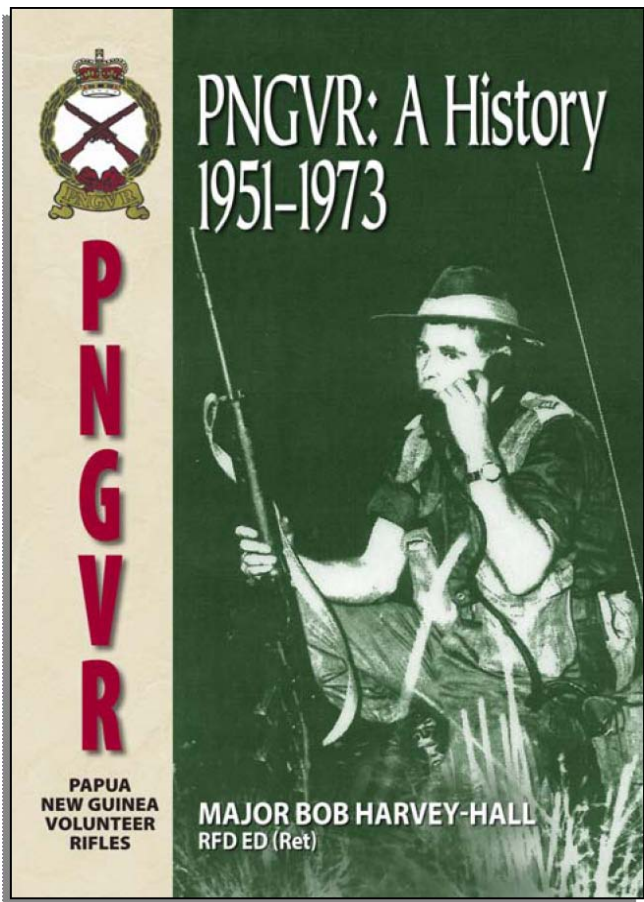
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then either post this form or email details of your order**

For more information, please contact Phillip Ainsworth—p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au (email)—0418 730 348 (mob.)
Kieran Nelson: kierannelson@bigpond.com (email)—0412 236 013 (mob.)



BOOK 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.

PURCHASE ORDER

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

Please send me copies of **PNGVR: A History 1951-1973** at the purchase price of \$50.00 per copy Plus \$20.00 for postage and handling for any purchase in Australia 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.

If you also buy the companion book "KEEPERS OF THE GATE" the price of \$90 for both plus postage of \$35

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

☐ I have transferred \$..... to NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association, Commonwealth Bank of Australia BSB:064006 A/C:10001126

Name: Email or Phone No.:.....

Delivery Address:

..... P/Code

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

For more information, please contact Phillip Ainsworth—p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au (email)—0418 730 348 (mob.) Kieran Nelson: kierannelson@bigpond.com (email)—0412 236 013 (mob.) #



Commemorating the 75th Anniversary 2017 Montevideo Maru and the New Guinea Islands

WE NEED YOUR STORIES! STORIES ABOUT THE 'LOST BATTALION', STORIES ABOUT CIVILIANS WHO REMAINED BEHIND AND WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN. STORIES ABOUT ESCAPE, STORIES ABOUT EVACUATION, STORIES ABOUT THOSE WHO LATER RETURNED TO NEW GUINEA ISLANDS AND STORIES ABOUT HOW WWII IN THE NEW GUINEA ISLANDS AFFECTED YOUR FAMILY AND LIVES DURING AND AFTER WWII.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

To acknowledge the '75th Commemorative Anniversary of the sinking of the Montevideo Maru and the fall of the New Guinea islands', we are collecting short stories including photographs, by the families & friends of the men, which will be published as a book for the 75th Anniversary in 2017. The book will be about both the soldiers of the 2/22nd Battalion - Lark Force & the 1st Independent Company as well as the Civilians at Rabaul and New Guinea islands during WW2. We are looking for engaging and well-researched stories using a creative non-fiction technique rather than a 'facts and figures' story that links to the soldiers and civilians to their home communities, including their family life prior.

We want to get a picture about these men that were essentially deemed 'lost' by our Government for more than three years; we want to know how their families survived during this unknown time - did they go to the marches in the capital cities? Did they receive help from Legacy? Did the family visit the camps at Trawool or Bonegilla before they departed? Did they knit socks for the Red Cross? Did they attend the Christmas parties or Fete arranged by 2/22nd Welfare Auxiliary? Were any of your family members part of the 2/22nd Welfare Auxiliary and what was their role? Or did they just not talk about the missing family members? Do you have any special items at home that were sent back from Rabaul? Did your family member escape and how? Was your family member listed in the massacres at either Tol or Kavieng and how did your family handle this tragic news? What happened after the War if they were one of the few that escaped? Did they befriend any special Papua New Guineans whilst escaping? Were they a POW in Japan and how did they survive that? With civilians - what happened when they were evacuated? Did they have a home to go to? How did they manage for food and winter clothing? What support did they receive? How did losing their homes and nearly all they knew - affect them and their children? How did they find out what happened to their men? The variables are endless.

The book is to give families the opportunity to tell their story and to let others know the tragic loss that both Australia and the New Guinea Islands suffered by the disappearance of these special men onboard the Montevideo Maru as well as those that never left the New Guinea islands, and those that managed to make extraordinary escapes home.

SUBMISSION CONDITIONS

Email entry is preferred. Email: stories@memorial.org.au or Dropbox : Gayle Thwaites Postal Address: Mrs G. Thwaites, PO Box 153, Lilydale, Victoria, 3140

- Please register your subject interest and Soldier's /Rabaul Civilian name with our Project Manager - Gayle Thwaites via email : stories@memorial.org.au
- Submissions are due 30 July, 2016 @ 5.00pm; they must include a Submission Form and Release Forms (photos) if applicable
- There is no entry fee
- Submission is not a guarantee of publication
- Open to age 14 and over
- Limit of two stories per person
- Stories must be the author's own work
- Stories must not exceed the word limit of 3000 words
- You are encouraged to include photographs with your story. These must be in JPG format and scanned at least to 300 dpi. A release form will be required for each individual photograph.
- Photos should not be embedded in the text file. Please submit images as separate files from the written work
- Hard copies of photos can be scanned and returned to you by arrangement
- Stories should include a list of sources at the end
- Entries must be typed on A4 paper, single sided in 12pt font double- spaced, with page numbers; no other formatting please
- By submitting a story, the author grants the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group/Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA) the rights to publish the story in print and online.
- Once published, the rights revert back to the author.
- Stories will NOT be returned
- Publication is scheduled for Mid - 2017

FURTHER ENQUIRIES

Project Team Manager – Gayle Thwaites:
Email - stories@memorial.org.au or Mobile: 0477 000 771
PNGAA President – Andrea Williams: Email - president@pngaa.net
Stay up to date with the project via Facebook at
www.facebook.com/RabaulandMontevideoMaruSociety