



Harim Tok Tok

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Usually this is the busiest time of the year for the Association's activities, most of which have been cancelled up to the 30 June 2020 due to the Coronavirus and Government instructions. At this stage we will continue with our management meetings and the 1 July annual Montevideo Maru commemorative service. Of course these activities will be reviewed depending on the measures set by the Government. Unfortunately the first Saturday of the month Museum openings and our fund raising Bunnings sausage sizzle is included in these cancellations.

ANZAC Day is our most important annual activity which has been cancelled. Suggestions have been made for us to arrange our own ANZAC service but this is not considered to be in the spirit of the Government measures and, more particularly, given the high risk demographic of most of our members.

Sadly I advise the recent passing of member Kenneth Everard Peter Connelly 860331 (24 June 1927 -17 February 2020) aged 93. Paul Brown and Colin Gould represented our Association at Ken's funeral service held at the University Campus Church of Christ Chapel, Southport, Qld on Monday 9 March. Some 150 friends and relatives of Ken & wife Val were in attendance. Our PNGVR Poppy Parade, which was arranged by Paul Brown, was well received. It rained during the service, and no doubt due to Ken's sense of humour, the song at the start of the service was "Singing in the rain" by Gene Kelly. Paul also attended the post service wake. Hopefully Ken's eulogy will be included in the next issue of HTT.

I have been advised that Associate Member Agnes Carswell died Thursday 19 March in Cairns. Agnes was the wife of Member Stan Carswell 1/59730, formerly of B Company NGVR. Our thoughts are with Stan and his family.

Douglas Ng, our long serving Treasurer, had a home accident earlier this year and he remains unwell. Our Secretary Colin Gould is filling in while Doug is absent. We wish Doug a speedy recovery.

I was overseas for two months from mid-January, 6 weeks in Brooklyn, one in Canada and another in New Zealand and I am

presently in 2 weeks self-isolation in Sydney returning to Brisbane early April. I thank my fellow committee member for the ongoing management of the Association in my absence.

While I was in New York I visited the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum on the Hudson River. It is housed in the WW2 aircraft carrier USS Intrepid.

In WW2 the Intrepid survived bombing and kamikaze attacks. The museum



incorporates impressive inter-active displays and tells its story through videos, historical artefacts and knowledgeable guides. The flight deck features fighter aircraft of WW2 and later years. Moored nearby is the US submarine Growler, the first guided missile US submarine.

It is of diesel-electric and conventional in design with a large bulge on the front



to house four missiles which needed to be fired from the surface.

Our Patron's thoughtful address given at the 2018 Boer War Commemorative Day Service (see page 8 of this edition) at the foot of the Qld Mounted Infantryman statue in the entrance to Anzac Square could well serve as a behavioural guide today for Australians in this time of the Coronavirus threat. The address reflects on the concept of enlightened duty, collective service and lessons of conflict.

Such reflections may assist in our decisions to help ensure a better Australia and world.

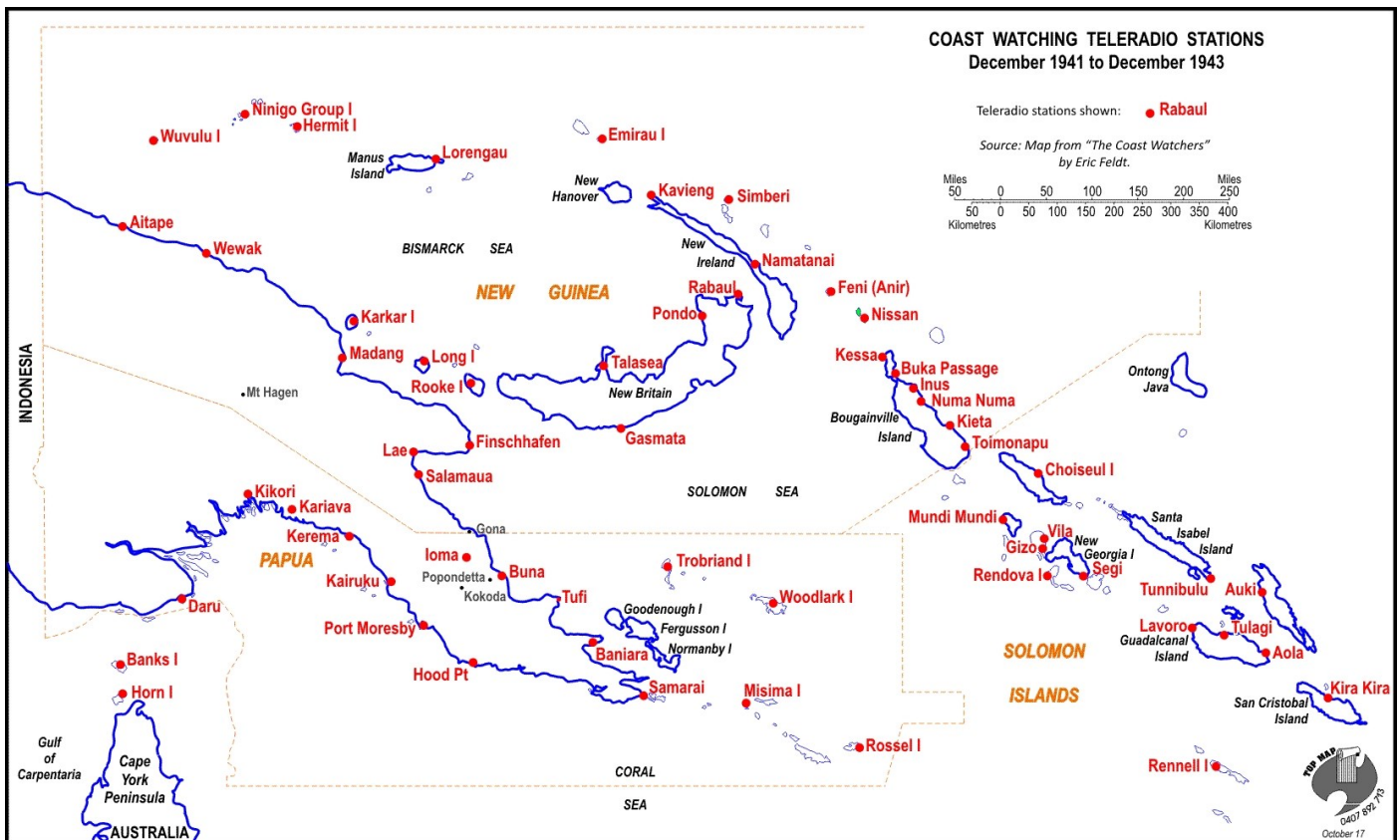
Other recent commemorative days include the fall of Rabaul and N G Islands on 23 January, the fall of Singapore on 15 February and the bombing of Darwin on 19 February. Eighty NGVR soldiers faced the Japanese at Rabaul on the morning of 23 January attached to A Company, 2/22 Battalion between Vulcan and Burma Road where one of the key thrusts was made by the invading force. NGVR withdrew when the Japanese outflanked them near Vulcan. Some died in the fighting, many were captured and massacred or died on the Montevideo Maru and others perished in the long westward withdrawal through New Britain. NGVR suffered 70% casualties. Our Military Museum is our Memorial to these men who served.

The Harim Tok Tok remains our most important means of communicating with our members and friends. Our facebook and website allows timely and historical information to be passed to those using electronic facilities. I hope this interesting issue of HTT helps to while away the time for those in isolation during this trying period.

Phil Ainsworth, March 2020

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Coastwatchers

The Coastwatchers, also known as the Coast Watch Organisation, Combined Field Intelligence Service or Section C, Allied Intelligence Bureau, were Allied military intelligence operatives stationed on remote Pacific islands during World War II to observe enemy movements and rescue stranded Allied personnel. They played a significant role in the Pacific Ocean theatre and South West Pacific theatre, particularly as an early warning network during the Guadalcanal campaign.

Overview

Captain Chapman James Clare, district naval officer of Western Australia, proposed a coastwatching programme in 1919. The Australian Commonwealth Naval Board first established the coastwatching organisation, operated through the Naval Intelligence Division, in 1922. Originally confined to Australia, it expanded after the outbreak of war in 1939 to New Guinea and to the Solomon Islands.

About 400 coastwatchers served in total, mostly Australian military officers, New Zealand servicemen, Pacific Islanders, or escaped Allied prisoners of war.

Lieutenant Commander Eric Feldt, based in Townsville, Queensland, led the Australian coastwatch organisation during much of World War II. Coastwatchers became particularly important in monitoring Japanese activity in the roughly one thousand islands that make up the New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

The Australian military commissioned many personnel who took part in coastwatcher operations behind enemy lines as officers of the Royal Australian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RANVR) to protect them in case of capture, although the Imperial Japanese Army did

not always recognise this status, and executed several such officers. Escaped Allied personnel and even civilians augmented the coastwatchers numbers. In one case, three German missionaries assisted the coastwatchers after escaping Japanese captivity, even though Nazi Germany had allied itself with the Empire of Japan during the war.

Feldt code-named his organisation "Ferdinand", taking the name from a popular children's book about a bull, *The Story of Ferdinand*. He explained this by saying: "*Ferdinand ... did not fight but sat under a tree and just smelled the flowers.*" It was meant as a reminder to coastwatchers that it was not their duty to fight and so draw attention to themselves, but to sit circumspectly and unobtrusively, gathering information. Of course, like their titular prototype, they could fight if they were stung.

In June 1942 "Ferdinand" became part of the Allied Intelligence Bureau, which came under the Allies' South West Pacific Area (command) (SWPA). However Feldt reported both to GHQ, SWPA, in Brisbane and to the United States-Australian-British Fleet Radio Unit in Melbourne (FRUMEL), which came under the Pacific Ocean Areas command.



Lt Comd A. Mackenzie,
Feldt's Second in Command

New Zealand developed its own coastwatching scheme from the 1930s. From the outbreak of war, the New Zealand Naval Board controlled coastwatching stations located around the New Zealand coastline and in the eastern Pacific. Stations were established in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Tokelau, Samoa, Islands, Fanning Island, the Cook Islands, Tonga, and Fiji. From 1942 to 1945, New Zealand scientists were stationed on sub-Antarctic islands during World War II (to prevent their use as refuges by German surface raiders).

Support

The Coastwatchers were supported by all three services. Aircraft dropped their supplies and submarines and PT boats landed them and removed them. The



Lt Comd Eric Feldt

assistance and loyalty of the local population was essential: they performed a vital role in guerrilla operations and intelligence gathering.

New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company

A small Australian army signals unit, the New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company (NGAWWC), also existed as a single entity between February 1942 and 1945. In October 1942, the unit was officially renamed 'New Guinea Air Warning Wireless (Independent) Company' as part of New Guinea Force and later, as part of the Corps of Signals in October 1943. These Army 'spotters' served in the valleys, highlands and around the coastline of New Guinea and nearby islands as signallers. All members of the unit were volunteers and their unit colour patch was a double diamond, being the 'independent' unit (later 'commando') insignia. By 1943-1944, the NGAWWC had 75 outposts in New Guinea and surrounding islands in the South-West Pacific Theatre of Operations. The unit was disbanded in 1945 and its members have been commemorated with a plaque in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Stan Burton, NGVR, was posted to NGAWWC from NGVR. He was actually posted without his knowledge whilst in the Highlands of New Guinea, having withdrawn there after carrying out Coastwatching duties overlooking Madang, and only found out about his posting when he eventually arrived in Port Moresby.

Statistics

More than 600 Coastwatchers served in Australia, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands during World War II. They included RAAF, AIF, RAN, 1 WRAN, (Women's Royal Australian Naval Officer) US Marines and US Army personnel, members of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Defence Force and 13 civilians.

The thirty eight Coastwatchers who died are not always identifiable on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial since their names are listed with their operational units and not as Coastwatchers.

Communications Equipment

The equipment used by the Coastwatchers were the AWA Teleradio 3A which was succeeded by the Radio transmitter and receiver 3B in 1940 and the 3BZ in 1942. Details of these teleradios and photos are contained in HTT Vol 101, December, 2016. A Teleradio 3A is held at your Museum at Wacol, Qld. It took 32 carriers to move the set—16 to carry the transmitter, receiver, battery, generator for charging the battery and fuel for the generator, and 16 to relieve the carriers on a journey of any distance.

Prelude to the Battle of the Coral Sea

In a postscript to his article "How the Coastwatchers Turned the Tide of the Pacific War" that appeared in Queensland RSL News Edition 06, 2016, James Burrowes identifies the Coastwatchers who spotted enemy ships on their way to Port Moresby in 1942.

In his book *War at the End of the World*, US historian James Duffy recorded, "An Australian Coastwatcher on the Solomon Island of Bougainville provided the first news of Japanese movements when he sent his message on May 2, 1942, that a large force of enemy ships was sailing south towards Tulagi.



Cap-
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centre), a
Coastwatch-
er on Gua-
dalcanal
provided
intelligence
to Allied
forces during
the battle for
the island
(August

1942—February 1943). The men with him were all members of the Solomon Islands police force.

A second, similar despatch was made later the same day by another Coastwatcher on New Georgia. Both Coastwatchers transmitted their sightings to headquarters at Port Moresby, which relayed the message."

First, the Australian Coastwatcher on the Solomon Island of Bougainville was District Officer RAN Lieutenant Jack Read. This has been noted by author Philip Selth OAM, who is writing a biography of Jack and wrote his entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography. The author noted, "It was Jack Read who sent the signal early on May 3, 1942. He had been told of the enemy ships anchored in Queen Carola Harbour by Lieutenant JM Mackie the previous day." This is also confirmed in RAN Commander Eric Feldt's book *The Coast Watchers* (p.131): "but it was not until early on the morning of May 3 that the clouds cleared just long enough for Read to spot the vessels preparing to put to sea and he immediately sent a message to that effect". Read was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (US) for his services. *Read's story has been covered in HTT Vol 104, June 2017.*

The second Coastwatcher mentioned by Duffy as "another Coastwatcher on New Georgia" was Major DG Kennedy, a New Zealander of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Defence Force, who was based at Segi, New Georgia (see Feldt, *The Coast Watchers* pp.108-110). The author writes, "Next day (that is, May 2, 1942) Kennedy reported two ships at anchor in Thousand Ships Bay at Isobel 60 miles away... The intelligence that Japanese ships were in Thousand Ships Bay had been passed to the US Naval Forces." Feldt notes, "The carriers hurried off to meet and defeat the forces moving to attack Port Moresby at the Battle of the Coral Sea..." Kennedy was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his services.

The Battle for Guadalcanal

In 1942, two coastwatchers on Bougainville Island, Read and Mason, radioed early warning of Japanese warship and air movement (citing the numbers, type, and speed of enemy units) to the United States Navy. Coastwatcher reports allowed US forces to launch aircraft in time to engage the attackers. Admiral William Halsey, Jr. was later to say that the two men had saved Guadalcanal.

Extract of Report of the tactical Capabilities of Henderson Field, Guadalcanal —

"Defensive Counter air

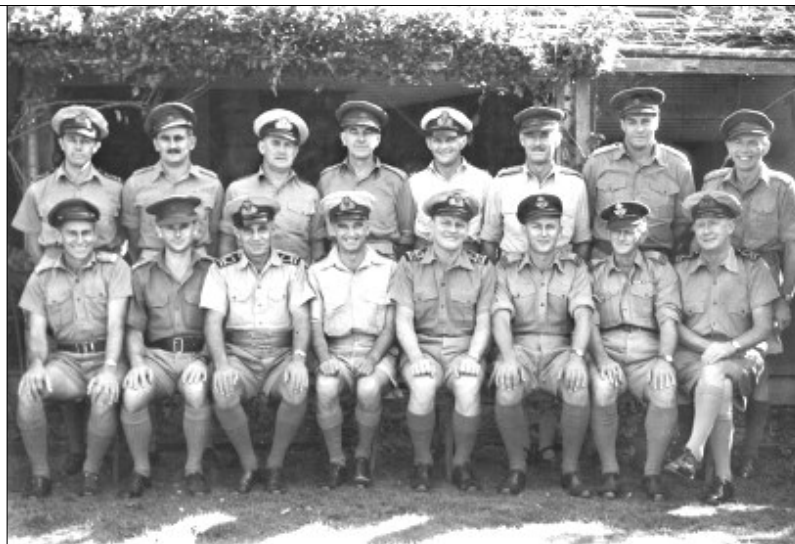
Henderson Field and the air power of the Cactus Air Force provided significant tactical advantages for the US forces fighting to maintain a foothold on Guadalcanal. During most of the campaign, the primary mission of the Cactus Air Force was to intercept Japanese bombers and fighters. The men of the Cactus force were fighting a defensive battle to protect their turf.



L. Lt. Jack
Read

R. Maj
Kennedy
with Vice
Admiral
Fitch, USN.





Coastwatcher Group. Front. Ashton, Noakes, Rhoades, Feldt, Mackenzie, Marsland, Koch, Campbell. Rear. Wright, Skinner, Bridge, Campbell, L.A. Walker, Robertson, Carden Seton, Williams.

They knew Henderson Field was a primary target for almost every Japanese bombing mission. The fighters would receive word of inbound enemy aircraft from their early warning radar or from forward observers called Coastwatchers. The Royal Australian Navy trained the coastwatchers prior to World War II, and they were located throughout the Solomon Islands.

Several of these observers were ideally situated along the flight route between Rabaul and Guadalcanal. With word from the coast watchers of "planes inbound your location," the F4Fs had just enough time to scramble and climb to an advantageous altitude above the enemy formations. The F4Fs had poor climb characteristics at high altitude, and the Cactus pilots needed all 30–40 minutes of warning to reach 28,000 feet. Without advanced warnings from radar and the coast watchers, the Cactus Air Force could have been easily destroyed on the ground like the ill-fated air forces in the Philippines."

Sgt Maj Sir Jacob C Vouza

One of the most highly decorated coastwatchers was Sergeant Major Sir Jacob C Vouza, who retired from the local constabulary in 1941, volunteered for coastwatcher duty, and was captured and interrogated brutally. The Japanese tied him to a tree and tortured him for information about Allied forces. Vouza was questioned for hours, but refused to talk. He was then bayoneted in both of his arms, throat, shoulder, face, and stomach, and left to die. After his captors departed, he freed himself by chewing through the ropes with his teeth, and made his way through the miles of jungle to American lines. Before accepting medical attention he gasped a warning to the Marines that held the defences at the Ilu River mouth that an estimated 250 to 500 Japanese soldiers were coming to attack the position in any minute. This warning gave the Marines brief but precious time of about 10 minutes to prepare their defences along the Ilu river. The subsequent battle was a clear victory for the Marines. After spending 12 days in the hospital and receiving 16 pints of blood, Vouza returned to duty as the chief scout for the Marines.



His awards were - George Medal, Silver Star (US), Leion

of Merit (US), and later MBE (1957) which was elevated to CBE in 1979.

Rescue of John F. Kennedy—later President Kennedy

In August 1943. LTJG John F. Kennedy of the United States Navy—a future President—and 10 fellow crew members were shipwrecked after the sinking of their boat, the PT-109. An Australian coastwatcher, Sub-Lt Arthur Reginald Evans, observed the explosion of the PT-109 when it was rammed by a Japanese destroyer. Despite US Navy crews' giving up the downed crew as a complete loss, Evans dispatched Solomon Islander scouts Biuku Gasa and Eroni Kumana in a dugout canoe to search for survivors. The two scouts found the men after searching for five days. Lacking paper Kennedy scratched a message on a coconut describing the plight and position of his crew; Gasa and Kumana then paddled 38 miles through Japanese held waters, at great personal risk, to deliver the message to Evans, who radioed the news to Kennedy's squadron commander. The future US President was rescued shortly afterward, and 20 years later welcomed Evans to the White House.

Gasa did not make the trip, later claiming he received the invitation to attend but was fooled into not attending by British colonial officials. Gasa left his village and arrived in Honiara, but was not allowed to leave in time for the ceremony. "After the rescue Kennedy said he would meet us again," Kumana says in *The Search for Kennedy's PT-109*. "When he became



A group of Coastwatchers about to be dropped off the coast of then Dutch New Guinea, near Hollandia, by the USN Submarine "Dace". Only two of this party survived.

President, he invited us to visit him. But when we got to the airport, we were met by a clerk, who said we couldn't go—Biuku and I spoke no English."

The Cape Expedition

From 1942 to 1945, New Zealand scientists were stationed on subantarctic islands during World War II (to prevent their use as refuges by German surface raiders). The idea was that scientists would not become bored and pursue their research. The stationing of the scientists was known for security reasons in scientific publications that ensued as the "Cape Expedition". The staff included Robert Falla, who later became an eminent New Zealand scientist.

Conclusion

Life for the Coastwatchers was a lonely, dangerous existence.

One was hunted down and killed on New Britain when the ABC announced in Australia that information had been received from a Coastwatcher in the area.

As the Japanese became aware of the Coastwatchers existence they carried out patrols specifically to find them and destroy their Teleradios. Japanese aircraft flew slowly over areas suspected to house a Coastwatcher looking for smoke from generators used to charge the batteries. Because of the way noise travels at night it was not always possible to charge the batteries then.

In addition, the longer the Japanese occupation lasted, the more support from the local population tended to waiver and a number of Coastwatcher positions were given to the Japanese by the locals.

Coastwatchers Memorial, Madang

On 15th August, 1959, a memorial to honour the Coastwatchers was opened in Madang, PNG. *The photo of the memorial taken a week after the official opening is by HTT Editor Bob Collins who was present at the opening as part of the PNGVR contingent.*

The following inscription is below the names of the fallen Coastwatchers on a plaque at the base of the memorial.

"They waited and warned and died that we might live"

The amazing story of the Coast Watchers is still all but unknown in the U.S.A. but as the famous US Admiral 'Bull' Halsey said "the Coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the Pacific."

Sources. Various sites on the Internet under the heading "Coastwatchers WW2" and photos from the AWM web site
Thank you Kerry Glover for the enhanced Coastwatcher's map.



THE PIONEER SERGEANT OF 4RAR

In 1966 the then Governor-General, Lord De Lisle, presented 4RAR with its colours and on this occasion he suggested that the battalion's pioneer sergeant should wear a beard and carry an axe as was the custom in his own regiment, the Grenadier Guards.

From 1973 to 1995 the battalion was linked with 2RAR and the tradition continued.

4RAR is the only unit within the Australian Army with a soldier who is officially authorised to wear a beard.

The tradition dates to the 18th century when each British infantry company had a pioneer who marched at the head of the regiment.

He wore a 'stout' apron and carried an axe, which was used to clear a path for all that followed. The pioneer sergeant was also the unit blacksmith and wore an apron to protect his uniform and a beard to protect his face from the heat and the slag of the forge.

His axe was also used to kill horses wounded in battle. The pioneer sergeant in 4RAR also carries a tomahawk on parade in lieu of a bayonet.

Outgoing pioneer sergeants have their beard removed, in front of the entire battalion, by the CO.

WOI C.J. Jobson, former RSM Ceremonial and Protocol, ADF

Back in the woods, a redneck's wife went into labour in the middle of the night and the doctor was called out to assist in the delivery. Since there was no electricity the doctor handed the father-to-be a lantern and said: Here hold this high so I can see what I am doing." Soon a baby boy was brought into the world. "Whoa there" said the doctor "Don't be in a rush to put the lantern downI think there's another one to come". Sure enough within minutes he had delivered a baby girl.

"No. No. Don't be in a hurry to put down the lantern. I think there's another one in there." cried the doctor.

The redneck scratched his head in bewilderment and asked the doctor "Do you think it's the light that's attractin' 'em?"

Kamikaze mystery

Not a single shot had been fired, nor had an aircraft attacked a Japanese bomber that plummeted to the ground in Port Moresby in 1942. The late Bob Piper found this new information which helps solve a most bewildering incident in aviation history.

While the Australian troops and airmen at Port Moresby watched in disbelief, the lone Japanese "Nell" bomber came out of a cloud, one wing broke off with an audible crack, and it plummeted to the ground. As dense black smoke drifted upwards from the impact site the severed wing continued to drift slowly down. It was one of the most bewildering incidents in aviation history during the Pacific War.

Not a shot had been fired and not a single Allied aircraft had attacked the enemy aircraft. The story becomes even more astounding when it was recently revealed, from Japanese records, that the crew of the Navy bomber had earlier been captured in the Philippines. Then, when liberated by its own invading forces, had been sent on a one-way mission to "self destruct" against Port Moresby defences.

Was this then the first kamikaze mission of World War II, but using a full crew and aircraft?

Perhaps it was just a prelude of things to come. Later, hundreds of young Japanese pilots would be asked to hurtle down, with devastating results, on American and Australian ships as the Allies edged closer to Japan.

Japanese records, obtained by American historian Henry Sakaida and recently shared with the writer, now not only tell the full story of that fateful day, but reveal for the first time the names of the men on board.

The incident is also recorded in the diaries of the Australian Air Force's No. 32 and No. 75 Squadrons and in a report by Flight Lieutenant S.H. Collie, a Melbourne barrister and Intelligence Officer based at Port Moresby in 1942. In late March, 1942, Japan ruled the skies over New Guinea. Australia had only a token squadron of Kittyhawk fighters as well as some Hudson bombers and long-range Catalinas to attempt to stem the tide.

Meanwhile, enemy fighters and bombers, in ever increasing numbers, continued regular raids from Lae and Rabaul against Port Moresby and Horn Island. The first report of the mystery



Painting of a Japanese "Nell" Bomber by Peter Connor

aircraft was a few minutes before one o'clock on March 31, 1942.

Some thought it was a lone reconnaissance aircraft as it hummed serenely along at 10,000ft, in and out of fair weather cumulus cloud, near Seven Mile Strip and some 16kms inland from Port Moresby town.

Australian P-40 Kittyhawk fighters were ordered to intercept but did not depart. Not a single Army antiaircraft gun fired. The "Nell" (the Allied code name for the Mitsubishi Type 96 bomber with two engines and twin tail) had approached from the north-west, hesitated and turned south-west, then resumed course from the north-west. Another unusual account of the bomber's last moments was later given by a 75SQN fighter pilot, Jack Pettett.



Pilot Peter Turnbull

He was off duty and with fellow pilot Peter Turnbull (killed in action at Milne Bay in August, 1942) viewed the whole action. He later recounted that Turnbull, who was a country boy with a sense of humour, performed an Aboriginal dance and pretended to "point the bone" (cast a spell) at the incoming bomber.

As the wing broke off and it came spinning down, Turnbull is remembered as turning to the others around him and exclaiming, "Got the bugger". The Japanese crew of the bomber had been involved in an attack on Clark Field, in the Philippines, on December 12, 1941. Its left

engine was hit by anti-aircraft fire and the aircraft forced to alight on the northwest side of Mount Arayat. Subsequently, the entire crew of eight was captured. Meanwhile, back at base, as the men had failed to return, they were listed as missing in action and according to naval custom given a one rank promotion.

As Japanese ground forces overran the Philippines, the men were discovered and released. This is when things began to become increasingly embarrassing. Officially, the men were dead, but here they were back like a proverbial bad penny with their promoted rank. Not the best example so early in the war to the rest of the services and an instruction of "no surrender".

Segregated from other aircrew, for morale purposes, this crew was continually placed in the most vulnerable position of bomber formations sent against Australian targets. But, despite the fury and danger of the battles in which it was embroiled, the crew just kept coming back.

Finally, when the matter could no longer be tolerated, Admiral Takajiro Onishi issued an instruction that the bomber crew was to fly over Port Moresby, with no escort, and a last order: "Do not return". It is said the crew shared a cigarette and drink before setting out from Lae on the morning of March 31, 1942.

At 12:45 (local time Moresby) a message was received from the bomber back at Rabaul: "Finished bombing. All bombs hit mark". Fifteen minutes later, another message came on the radio: "We will go in. All around is clear. Thank you for your

kindnesses during our lifetime. Banzai for the Emperor (Tenno heika)." It now appears that even though the aircraft was armed, those bombs – reported as released at 12:45 – were never dropped on Australian positions. Or were they in fact harmlessly salvoed, unarmed, when the aircraft deviated slightly over the swamps before entering Moresby airspace?

Meanwhile, it is reported, other Japanese airmen and ground-staff back at Rabaul and Lae were silently furious that the men were given the one-way flight – what a waste of men, training and equipment. The Japanese fighter ace Saburo Sakai confirms this in his book. The subject is also briefly depicted in the 1976 Japanese movie on Sakai's life story, though no names are given or the fact that the wing broke off before their mission could be completed. To this day, the Japanese believe the bomber crew really did complete their suicide mission. At the same time, the Australians think it was just another lightly built Mitsubishi bomber that, they recorded, fell apart because it was "Made in Japan". It has taken 62 years for the full story to be told. Nobody, even today, knows why the wing suddenly cracked and fell off. It was certainly not caused by mild atmospheric conditions on the day or enemy fire.

Was it sabotage? Were vital wing bolts removed or the main-spar partly sawn through, under orders, before the bomber departed? It would seem an engineering flaw with odds beyond comprehension that the wing in fact did break off just moments before the aircraft was due to self-destruct. Perhaps that part of the mystery will never be solved.

There has also been some mention in Japanese records that the crew in fact were not actually captured by the Americans but lived with Filipino village people before the area was taken by incoming Japanese forces. When this point was raised with their high command, however, it was apparently dismissed as being irrelevant.

Those aboard the bomber were:

Petty Officer 1/c Takeo Harada (captain); Hidetoshi Tokuda (co-pilot); Yoshitaka Shirai and Toshiho Nishida (observers);

Kanichi Shudoh and Sadakane Watanabe (radio); Goro Seino (Kiyono?) and Asakichi Miura (mechanics).

All eight crew, who carried out their instructions to the last, are believed to be buried somewhere beside the wreckage of their bomber in the Waigani area, outside Port Moresby. May they rest in peace. With acknowledgment to Henry Sakaida, in the US, Harumi Sakaguchi from New Guinea, and Professor Ikuhiko Hata in Japan.

Source—Air Force, The official newspaper of the RAAF 19.5.2005.

I want to be like a caterpillar—
Eat a lot, Sleep a bit
Wake up beautiful.

"Bad Angel". An interesting story

In 1942, the United States needed pilots for its war planes lots of war planes; lots of pilots. Lt. Louis Curdes was one. When he was 22 years old, he graduated flight training school and was shipped off to the Mediterranean to fight Nazis in the air over Southern Europe. He arrived at his 82nd Fighter Group, 95th Fighter Squadron in April 1943 and was assigned a P-38 Lightning. Ten days later he shot down three German Messerschmitt Bf-109 fighters. A few weeks later, he downed two more German Bf-109's. In less than a month of combat, Louis was an Ace. Then, during the next three months, Louis shot down an Italian Mc.202 fighter and two more Messerschmitts before his luck ran out.

A German fighter shot down Louis' plane on August 27, 1943 over Salerno, Italy. He was captured by the Italians, and was sent to a POW camp near Rome. No doubt this is where Louis thought he would spend the remaining years of the war. It wasn't to be. A few days later, the Italians surrendered. Louis

and a few other pilots escaped before the Nazis could take control of the camp.

He was then posted to the Philippines where he flew P-51 Mustangs. Soon after arriving in the Pacific Theater, Louis downed a Mitsubishi reconnaissance plane near Formosa. Now he was one of only three Americans to have kills against all three Axis Powers: Germany, Italy, and Japan.

While on a mission to attack the Japanese-held island of Bataan, one of Louis' wingmen was shot down. The pilot ditched in the ocean. While circling overhead, Louis could see that his wingman had survived, so he stayed in the area to guide a rescue plane and protect the downed pilot.

It wasn't long before he noticed another, larger airplane, wheels down, preparing to land at the Japanese-held airfield on Bataan. Louis moved in to investigate and much to his surprise the approaching plane was a Douglas C-47 transport with AMERICAN markings. The C-47 that was preparing to land on the Japanese-held strip on Bataan. Unable to veer the C-47 away, Curdes saw only two possibilities - first that it was a Japanese plane using US markings (the DC-3 was made under licence in Japan,) or it was a US plane truly lost.

He tried to make radio contact, but without success. So, he maneuvered his P51-Mustang in front of the big transport several times trying to wave it off. The C-47 kept to its landing target.

Lt. Curdes read the daily newspaper accounts of the war, including the viciousness of the Japanese soldiers toward their captives. He knew that whoever was in that American C-47, upon landing, would be either dead or wish they were. But what could he do?

Audaciously, he lined up his P-51 directly behind the transport, carefully sighted one of his .50-caliber machine guns and knocked out one of its two engines. Still the C-47 continued on toward the Bataan airfield. Lt. Curdes shifted his aim slightly and knocked out the remaining engine, leaving the baffled pilot with no choice but to ditch the C-47 in the ocean.

The big plane came down in one piece about 50 yards from his bobbing wingman. At this point, nightfall and low fuel forced Louis to return to his base.

The next morning, Louis flew cover for a rescuing PBY that picked up the downed Mustang pilot and the 12 passengers and crew, including two female nurses, from the C-47. All had survived. For shooting down an unarmed American transport plane and keeping it from landing at the Japanese controlled airfield, Lt. Louis Curdes became the only American pilot awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for shooting down an American plane. He later married one of the nurses that was aboard that C-47.

Thereafter, on the fuselage of his P-51 "Bad Angel", he proudly displayed the symbols of his kills: seven German, one Italian, one Japanese, and one American flag.

Snopes Tips Public Group. Thank you Assn Member Greg Shaw.



Mount Lamington

Mount Lamington is an andesitic stratovolcano in the Oro Province of Papua New Guinea. The forested peak of the volcano had not been recognised as such until its devastating eruption in 1951 that caused about 3,000 deaths.



The volcano rises to 1680 meters above the coastal plain north of the Owen Stanley Range. A summit complex of lava domes and crater remnants rises above a low-angle base of volcanoclastic deposits that are dissected by radial valleys. A prominent broad "avalanche valley" extends northward from the breached crater.

The mountain was named after Charles Cochrane-Baillie, 2nd Baron Lamington who was Governor of Queensland.

Mount Lamington began to erupt on the night of January 18, 1951. Three days later there was a violent eruption when a large part of the northern side of the mountain was blown away and devastating pyroclastic flows (steam and smoke) poured from the gap for a considerable time afterwards.

The area of extreme damage extended over a radius of about 12 km, while people near Higaturu, 14 km from the volcano, were killed by the blast or burned to death. The pyroclastic flows and subsequent eruptions of dust and ash which filled streams and tanks, caused the death of some 3,000 persons, and considerable damage. More than 5,000 people were made homeless.



Rescue parties which arrived on the scene were hampered by suffocating pumice dust and sulphurous fumes, and hot ashes on the ground. The advance post of relief workers at Popondetta was threatened with destruction by other eruptions during the several days following. Further tremors and explosions occurred during February. As late as 5 March a major eruption occurred which threw large pieces of the volcanic dome as far as three kilometres and caused a flow of pumice and rocks for a distance of 14km, the whole time being so hot as to set fire to every tree in its path.



Volcanologist and former Australian Army Warrant Officer, Tony Taylor, studied the volcano during the eruption cycle. His work is credited to saving lives by informing rescue parties when it was safe to go into the area. In 1952 he was awarded a George Cross for his efforts.

Wikipedia

PNGVR Regular Army personnel WO's Holding and Oldham were flown to Popondetta with 2 Army half-ton 4X4 trucks to provide support to the relief operation. Sub-Inspector Peter Harbeck was also flown in from Port Moresby. Peter joined PNGVR as a recruit in April 1951 and, as Maj Harbeck, later Commanded C Coy until the unit was disbanded.



1968,
PNGVR
Sgt Trevor
Webb on a
civil aid
project,
Kido
Village,
Gulf Dis-
trict, PNG.

The Trooper
Reflections on the Statue of the Qld Mounted Infantryman
The Boer War Memorial
Anzac Square, Adelaide St., Brisbane

Address given by Maj Gen John Pearn, AO, RFD, on the Annual Boer War Day Commemoration Service, May 2018.

We are all enjoined today in this memorial service, to reflect on an important event in our history.

Our heritage takes many forms; but in Anzac Square the statue of the Trooper on his horse, a symbol of service, and of skill, and of mateship, is there to remind us of what it is to be quintessentially Australian.

The Boer war, strictly the Second Anglo-Boer war, was an event which divided two centuries and two reigns. At Federation in 1901, it distinguished Queenslanders who had formerly been citizens of an imperial Colony, from those who, after the 1st January 1901, were Australian citizens of our federated statehood nation.

In this reflection this morning, in perhaps the safest, most privileged, and perhaps the personally richest of any nation, we note that our strength is our pride in our democracy; and in our multicultural nation. One in five Australians is not Australian born; and so to were many of the Troopers and servicemen and women symbolised in this statue of service, those who responded to our parliament's call to arms.

We are here, this morning, young and old, to reflect that same concept of enlightened duty. As in the Boer War, this morning we are those who have served in the Defence Reserve Forces of Australia, the regular Royal Australian Navy, the Army and the Royal Australian Air Force, the South African Military Veterans Organisation, the British South African Police, the Rhodesian Veterans' Association, the RSL, and Scouts Australia -all of whom are enjoined in the heritage symbolised in this memorial. Our Scouts identify with Colonel Baden-Powell's heroic defence in the 217 day Siege of Mafeking.

I mentioned, deliberately, the service of women in the Boer War. At the outbreak of the War, hundreds of Australian nurses offered to serve in South Africa. There was an initial reluctance to send nurses, all women in that era, to a warzone. It was recorded that, and I quote, "A war zone is not a proper place for a woman. And [even more dreadful] flirtation would occur". Twenty-six nurses served, six from here in Queensland.

On the mounted Trooper on this statue we see the proud emu feathers which adorn his slouch hat. The brim is turned up to allow for rifle drill. Emu feathers, as a military adornment, were a Queensland invention-first worn by troops during the Shearers' Strike of 1891. They were worn exclusively by the three Regiments of Queensland Mounted Infantry and the three Regiments of Imperial Bushmen prior to Federation. They were referred to as "kangaroo feathers" by one English lady, on her first sight of a mounted Australian Light Horseman, in London.

On a sombre note, for all of us who are animal lovers, 326,000 horses and 51,300 mules were killed or died of disease in the Boer War. They fell victims to glanders and to equine lymphangitis; or were killed after the War was over,

as their return to Australia was prohibited by quarantine. This Statue is also their memorial.

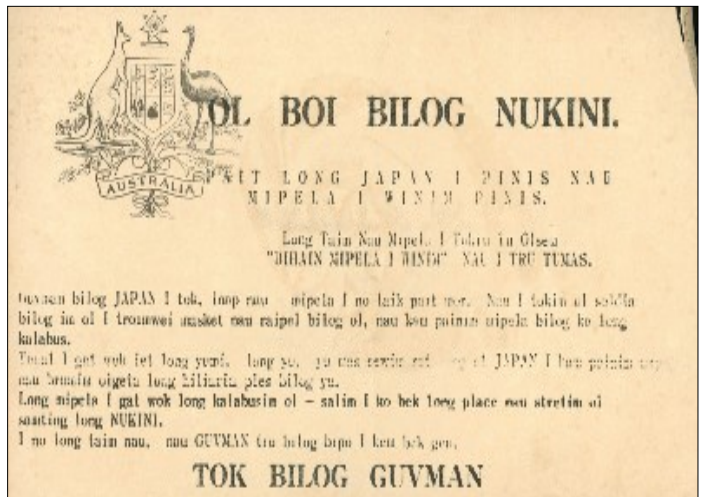
At this service, we reflect on the lessons of that War:

1. We note today that the Boers were, not unreasonably, defending their land. The genesis of the War was Imperial control and conquest, motivations which today enlightened nations reject. The moral lesson here, from the Comfortable perspective of 120 years, is that offensive warfare should be prosecuted only in extreme circumstances, and then to protect the innocent.

2. We note that disease and the loss of morale have been great determinants of victory and of its converse, defeat. The devastation by disease, especially typhoid and hepatitis, caused tens of thousands of deaths in that War.

Of the 16,175 Australians who served, 518 were killed or died of disease, and 882 were wounded. Fifty-two Queenslanders were killed and 37 died from disease. Prior to the Boer War, more combatants and enmeshed civilians died in campaigns as the result of disease rather than shot or shell. This was the first campaign in which that ratio was reversed. A loss of morale developed among the ranks of many Australian and South African units in the last year of the War. There developed a distaste for the British policy of enforced imprisonment of Boer women and children in concentration camps. Some 2600 Boer civilian women and children died from disease in those camps. Many here at this Memorial Service today bear proud Boer surnames. Today, we reflect again that war is always a terrible tragedy and we do not glorify it. One notes that the preservation of an honourable peace, in both our domestic and international relations, is something that the history of warfare teaches. One way to prevent war is to maintain a highly trained professional Defence Force, with its mission always to preserve an honourable peace. For belligerents or bullies will not attack a strong person or Nation.

The symbolism of the mounted Trooper and our acknowledgement of his and his mates' collective service, is there before us, whenever we pass this way. Give a thought to him and his family, also to the Boers and their families, who perished in that campaign. Such reflection may perhaps engender wisdom in our decisions of tomorrow to help ensure a better world.



Men of New Guinea.

We Have Already Won The War Against Japan. For a long time now we have been telling you that we will win and now that is very true. The Japanese Government has said they have had enough and no longer want to fight. Now they are telling their soldiers to throw down their weapons and rifles and find us so they can surrender and be locked up. But we still have work to do, and you must show the Japanese the way to us and bring them all to us to clear them from your area. Our job is to lock them up to send them back home and repair the damage to New Guinea. It won't be long now and the true government of New Guinea will be reinstated.

Government Announcement.

I sent that 'Ancestry' site
some information on my
Family Tree.

They sent me back a pack
of Seeds,
and suggested that I
just start Over.

"Daddy? Do all fairy
tales begin with 'once
upon a time'?"

"No, there are a whole
series of fairy tales
that begin with 'If
elected, I promise...'"

Holmes, William (1862–1917)

by B. H. Travers

William Holmes (1862-1917), soldier and civil servant, was born on 12 September 1862 in Sydney, son of Captain William Holmes, chief clerk at Headquarters, New South Wales Military Forces, who had come to Australia in 1845 as a private in the 11th Foot, and his Tasmanian-born wife Jane, daughter of Patrick Hackett, also from the 11th Foot. Young William lived in Victoria Barracks until his marriage and was educated at Paddington Public School and later at night school. Though he had always wanted to become a soldier his father considered that the New South Wales Public Service offered greater opportunities. After working at the Sydney Mint he joined the accounts branch of the Department of Public Works as a clerk on 24 June 1878. On 24 August 1887, at St Mathias Anglican Church, Paddington, he married Susan Ellen Green whose family also lived in Victoria Barracks. They had a son and a daughter.

On 20 April 1888 Holmes was appointed chief clerk and paymaster of the newly formed Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, Sydney. In 1895 he was promoted secretary and chief clerk, being the second person to hold the secretaryship which he retained until his death. During his term as chief executive of the board the Cataract, Cordeaux and Avon dams were built to provide water for the city. According to family tradition Holmes maintained that the board had built these dams in the wrong places and that the correct area would have been Warrangamba, where the large dam was later built. His administrative ability when so young and his leadership of the board during a period of great expansion were a remarkable achievement.

With his military background it was natural that Holmes should become a citizen soldier. He joined the 1st Infantry Regiment, New South Wales Military Forces, as a bugler at the age of 10 and served in almost every rank in the regiment until he commanded it in 1903. He was commissioned second lieutenant in 1886 and promoted lieutenant in 1890, captain in 1894 and major in 1900. For eighteen months, between his non-commissioned and commissioned service, he served in a company of submarine miners whose task was to mine Sydney Harbour in the event of enemy sea attack. In October 1899 Holmes volunteered for active service in the South African War with the New South Wales Infantry Contingent; although a captain at the time, he accepted a lieutenantancy in order to serve. On arrival in South Africa the unit was issued with horses and joined the Australian (Mounted Infantry) Regiment. Holmes was promoted captain commanding 'E' Squadron, 1st New South Wales Mounted Rifles, the new title of his original contingent. He saw action at Colesberg, Pretoria and Diamond Hill, and Australian newspapers praised his daring and courage; he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, mentioned in dispatches and promoted brevet lieutenant-colonel. Wounded at Diamond Hill in June 1900, he was invalided home in August and led the returned soldiers in the Federation procession in Sydney in January 1901. He had returned from South Africa with 'a record of good service, and a reputation for personal bravery, ability and capacity for command'.

Holmes resumed work as secretary of the M.B.W.S. & S. but continued his voluntary military service, first as lieutenant-colonel commanding the 1st Australian Infantry Regiment in 1902-11 and as colonel commanding the 6th Infantry Brigade from August 1912. After the beginning of compulsory military

training in 1910 he became well known for his conduct of rifle-shooting competitions and for his introduction of the first fire and movement competitions (under the title of The Governor's Cup) in the Australian Army. When war was declared in 1914 he was chosen to command the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force. Commenting later on his appointment, S. S. Mackenzie, author of *The Australians at Rabaul* (Sydney, 1927), wrote that he had 'a keen, practical brain, a quick grasp of essentials, a knowledge of men, and a capacity for organisation and administration'. The A.N. & M.E.F., consisting of 500 Royal Australian Naval reservists and a battalion of infantry and ancillary troops, was specially raised in the first week of the war. A volunteer force, it was recruited, equipped, trained and embarked within ten days to leave on H.M.A.S. *Berrima* on 19 August for a destination which was not revealed to Holmes until the convoy was off the Queensland coast. He then received a wireless message ordering him to 'seize all German Wireless Telegraph Stations in the Pacific and to occupy German Territory as soon as possible, hoist the British flag, and make suitable arrangements for temporary administration, but to make no formal proclamation of annexation', as Holmes wrote in his dispatch of 26 December.

After capturing Rabaul, German New Guinea, on 11 September 1914 Holmes accepted the governor's surrender of all German possessions in the Pacific except Kiaochao in China and Samoa (which a New Zealand force had already taken). In Australia some provisions of the terms of surrender were criticized, but the instructions given to Holmes specified that he was only to occupy the territory, not to annex it. This was not fully understood at the time and his claim that he had acted in strict accordance with international law was later conceded. That he had other views, however, is borne out by his blunt statement that his objective was to maintain military occupation until the end of the war and that 'the islands would be retained as valuable British possessions for colonizing territories'.

In January 1915 Holmes handed over the administration of German New Guinea to Colonel (Sir) Samuel Pethebridge and returned to Sydney, having asked for an appointment for active service with the Australian Imperial Force. His A.N. & M.E.F. appointment ended on 6 February 1915 and on 16 March he was given command of the 5th Brigade, with the rank of brigadier general. The brigade left Australia in May and landed at Gallipoli in August. Holmes commanded the Russell's Top-Monash Valley area during the holding action from September. At the evacuation in December he was temporarily in command of the 2nd Division, and the troops under his command were among the last off Anzac.

After the evacuation he resumed command of the 5th Brigade, took it to France in April 1916 and commanded it in all its fighting, notably in the battles of Pozières and Flers, until January 1917 when he was promoted major general and commander of the 4th Division. He was the third citizen-soldier after Sir J. W. McCay and Sir John Monash, to be given a divisional command. He remained the general officer commanding the division, through the battles of 1st Bullecourt and Messines, until



Before
Workplace
Health &
Safety.
Painting the
Brooklyn
Bridge 1914.



he was mortally wounded by a chance shell on 2 July while escorting the premier of New South Wales, W. A. Holman, to survey the Messines battlefield. He died on the way to a field hospital and was buried in Les Trois Arbres British cemetery near Armentières. He had been appointed C.M.G., awarded the Russian Order of St Anne and been mentioned in dispatches four times. He was survived by his son, Captain Basil Holmes, later a colonel in the Indian Army, and by his daughter. His wife had predeceased him in 1912.

Writing to Australian newspapers from France in 1917 Charles Bean commented: 'There is naturally a tendency to wonder how far citizen soldiers, who have been more or less complete amateurs until the war plunged them into soldiering as by far the most important business in their lives, could be suitable for high commands ... None will grudge it to General Holmes that he was, of all others, the Australian who first showed that it could be done with complete success'. He was 'an experienced administrator who possessed fine moral qualities, transparent sincerity, energy and great courage, and was one of Australia's most eminent citizen soldiers'. In appearance Holmes was, according to a Melbourne Punch article of February 1915, 'a dapper man, well-groomed, well-tailored, well-manicured ... His speech is accurately faultless. His manner is masterful but courteous. In everything he is meticulously correct. His moustache is symbolical of him. It is one of these faultless moustaches exactly suited to his face, beautifully curled, glossy, accurate ... Neatness and precision are the keynotes of his character'. His portrait, by Norman Carter is in the Australian War Memorial.

This article was published in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 9, (MUP), 1983

Four worms were placed in 4 test tubes.
1st in beer. 2nd in wine. 3rd in whisky. 4th in water
Next day the teacher shows the results.
1st worm in beer—dead. 2nd worm in wine—dead.
3rd worm in whisky—dead. 4th worm in water—alive and healthy.
The teacher asked the class "What do we learn from this experience?"
And a child responds. "Whoever drinks beer, wine or whisky does not have worms."

AHS Centaur

With the commencement of hostilities between Japan and the British Empire, it became clear that the three hospital ships currently serving Australia—*Manunda*, *Wanganella*, and *Oranje*—would not be able to operate in the shallow waters typical of Maritime Southeast Asia, so a new hospital ship was required. Of the Australian Merchant Navy vessels able to operate in this region, none were suitable for conversion to a hospital ship, and a request to the British Ministry of Shipping placed *Centaur* at the disposal of the Australian military on 4 January 1943. The conversion work began on 9 January and *Centaur* was commissioned as an Australian Hospital Ship on 1 March.

During her conversion, *Centaur* was painted with the markings of a hospital ship as detailed in Article 5 of the



tenth Hague Convention of 1907 ("Adaptation to Maritime War of the Principles of the Geneva Convention"); white hull with a green band interspersed by three red crosses on each flank of the hull, white superstructure, multiple large red crosses positioned so that the ship's status would be visible from both sea and air, and an identification number (for *Centaur*, 47) on her bows. At night, the markings were illuminated by a combination of internal and external lights. Data on the ship's markings and the layout of identifying structural features was provided to the International Committee of the Red Cross during the first week of February 1943, who passed this on to the Japanese on 5 February.

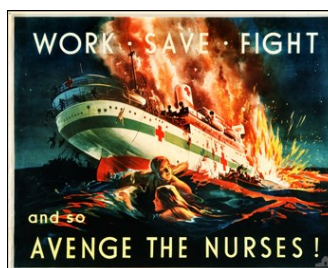
Centaur entered operation as a hospital ship on 12 March 1943. she conducted a test run, transporting wounded servicemen from Townsville to Brisbane to ensure that she was capable of fulfilling the role of a medical vessel. *Centaur* was then tasked with delivering medical personnel to Port Moresby, New Guinea, and returning to Brisbane with Australian and American wounded along with a small number of wounded Japanese prisoners of war.

At approximately 4:10 am on 14 May 1943, while on her second run from Sydney to Port Moresby, *Centaur* was torpedoed by an unsighted submarine. The torpedo struck the portside oil fuel tank approximately 2 metres (6 ft 7 in) below the waterline, creating a hole 8 to 10 metres (26 to 33 ft) across, igniting the fuel, and setting the ship on fire from the bridge aft. Many of those on board were immediately killed by concussion or perished in the inferno. *Centaur* quickly took on water through the impact site, rolled to port, then sank bow-first, submerging completely in less than three minutes. The rapid sinking prevented the deployment of lifeboats, although two broke off from *Centaur* as she sank, along with several damaged life rafts.

Of the 332 people on board, most from the 2/12th Field Ambulance, 64 were rescued. Most of the crew and passengers were asleep at the time of attack and had little chance to escape. It was estimated that up to 200 people may have been alive at the time *Centaur* submerged. Several who made it off the ship later died from shrapnel wounds or burns; others were unable to find support and drowned. It was the nurses though, who suffered the worst. Of the 12 nurses onboard only one, Sister Ellen Savage, survived. Although badly hurt herself, Sister Savage concealed her injuries and gave what help she could to the other survivors. For her actions she was awarded the George medal.



The survivors spent 36 hours in the water, using barrels, wreckage, and the two damaged lifeboats for flotation. During this time, they drifted approximately 19.6 nautical miles (36.3 km; 22.6 mi) north east of *Centaur*'s calculated point of sinking and spread out over an area of 2 nautical miles (3.7 km; 2.3 mi)



In December 1943, following official protests, the Japanese government issued a statement formally denying responsibility for the sinking of *Centaur*. Records provided by the Japanese following the war also did not acknowledge responsibility. Although *Centaur*'s sinking was a war crime, no one was

tried for sinking the hospital ship.

The initial public reaction to the attack on *Centaur* was one of outrage, significantly different from that displayed following the loss of Australian warships or merchant vessels. As a hospital ship, the attack was a breach of the tenth Hague Convention of 1907, and as such was a war crime.

Following World War II, several searches of the waters around North Stradbroke and Moreton Islands failed to reveal *Centaur's* location. It was believed that she had sunk off the edge of the continental shelf, to a depth at which the Royal Australian Navy did not have the capability to search for a vessel of *Centaur's* size.

A search team announced on 20 Dec 2009 that they had found *Centaur* that morning. The wreck was found 30 nautical miles (56 km; 35 mi) east of Moreton Island, resting 2,059 metres (6,755 ft) below sea level in a steep-walled gully, 150 metres (490 ft) wide and 90 metres (300 ft) deep. After returning to shore for Christmas and to install a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) aboard *Seahorse Spirit*, the search team commenced efforts to document the wreck, with the first photographs taken by the ROV in the early morning of 10 January 2010 confirming that the wreck is *Centaur*.

The *Centaur* wreck site has been marked as a war grave and protected with a navigational exclusion zone under the Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976.

Memorials

In 1948, Queensland nurses established the "Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses" which used the money raised to purchase an establishment and name it "Centaur House"; a facility supporting nurses by holding convivial meetings and providing inexpensive accommodation for out-of-town nurses.

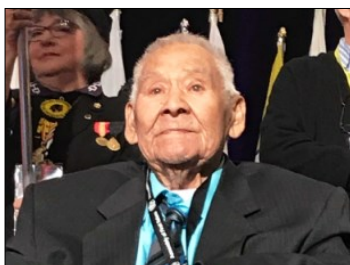
On 15 September 1968, a cairn was unveiled at Caloundra, Queensland, erected by the local Rotary International Club.

In 1990, a stained glass memorial window depicting *Centaur*, along with a plaque listing the names of those lost in the attack, was installed at Concord Repatriation General Hospital. A display about *Centaur* was placed at the Australian War Memorial. The centrepiece of the display was a scale model of *Centaur* presented to the Memorial by Blue Funnel Line, and the display included items that were donated by the survivors, such as a lifejacket, a signal flare, and a medical kit.

A memorial to *Centaur* was unveiled at Point Danger, Coolangatta, Queensland on 14 May 1993, the 50th anniversary of the sinking.

A memorial plaque was laid on the foredeck of *Centaur* on 12 January 2010.

Source Wikipedia



Last surviving Mohawk code talker from WWII, Louis Levi Oakes, dies at 94

Born in the Quebec part of the Akwesasne Mohawk reserve on Jan. 23, 1925, Louis Levi Oakes registered in the U.S. army at age 18, and served as a code talker in New Guinea and the Philippines until the

end of the war. But he kept his work secret for decades afterward, even from his family, only speaking openly about it in recent years after he and other code talkers began to receive national recognition on both sides of the border for their service.

Oakes received a Congressional Silver Medal in 2016. He was recognized at the Assembly of First Nations and in the House of Commons last year, and had a private meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"I feel great, happy," he told community TV station Akwesasne TV in April 2018, speaking about the recent acknowledgment of his contribution. "I was very proud of it."

Oakes passed away in Snyc, Que. on Tuesday of natural causes. He was 94 years old.

Though Oakes was born in Canada, the Akwesasne reserve stretches across parts of Quebec, Ontario and New York, and he was living in Buffalo when he registered to fight for the U.S. army.

Oakes was one of just 17 Akwesasne Mohawks recognized by the U.S. Congress as code talkers. He was sent to New Guinea and then on to the Philippines, where he transmitted coded messages translated from English to other Mohawk speakers. He often had bodyguards with him, as his language made him a valuable target.

He was in Tokyo for four months after the war ended in 1945, and was honourably discharged the following year.

Oakes went back to Buffalo and worked as a steelworker for the next 30 years, before retiring in Akwesasne. He married at 25 and had 10 children. But for most of his life, he never spoke about his work as a code talker, having sworn an oath of secrecy after he signed up.

National Post 29 May 2019.

C Coy members will recall that on Battalion exercises, and sometimes on Company exercises, we used to use Highlanders to speak "place talk" over the radio—with hundreds of different "place talks" in PNG it was effective— as above.

Ed comment. Interesting about not talking after having sworn an oath of secrecy. When I was interviewing Alan Dunwoodie, NGVR, who later went into Line of Communications Signals, and at one stage his Unit was right next to General Blamey's HQ, he would not speak about his work, and his reason—that he had signed a Declaration of Secrecy.



Sobering photos with Anzac Day drawing near.

Above is a battalion of the Cameron Highlanders in 1914, prior to being dispatched to the front line.

Below is the same battalion upon their return in 1918 after the Armistice

Lest we forget!



Gunner (dog)

Gunner (born c. August 1941) was a male kelpie dog who became notable for his reliability to accurately alert Allied air force personnel that Japanese military aircraft were approaching Darwin during the Second World War.



Gunner with Percy Westcott

The origins of the six-month-old black and white male kelpie have never been ascertained. He appears to have been a stray when was found on 19 February 1942, under the ruins of a mess hut at RAAF Darwin, following the first Japanese air raid on Darwin. He was found by personnel from No. 2 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) who heard the dog whimpering, as result of a broken front leg. The dog was taken to a field hospital, where a medical officer reportedly insisted that he could not treat a patient without knowing their name and number. After being informed that the patient's name was "Gunner" and his number was "0000", the doctor set and

plastered Gunner's leg. At that point, Gunner officially entered the records of the RAAF.

Leading Aircraftman Percy Westcott, one of the those who had found Gunner, assumed ownership of him and became his master and handler. The young dog was badly shaken by his experiences, but quickly responded to the attention of Westcott and other personnel from 2 Squadron.

About a week later, Gunner first demonstrated his remarkable hearing skills. As the RAAF personnel went about their daily routine at the airfield, Gunner became agitated and started to whine and jump. Not long afterwards, the sound of approaching aircraft engines was heard by the airmen. A few minutes later, a formation of Japanese raiders appeared above Darwin and began bombing and strafing the town. Two days later, Gunner again began whimpering and jumping, and not long afterwards came another air attack. This pattern was repeated over the weeks that followed. Long before the sirens sounded, Gunner would become agitated and head for shelter. Gunner's hearing was so acute he was able to warn RAAF personnel of approaching Japanese aircraft, up to 20 minutes before they arrived and before they were detected by the rudimentary radar systems available at the time. Gunner did not behave the same way when he heard Allied planes approaching; he could differentiate between the sounds of the engines used by Allied and Japanese aircraft. Gunner was so reliable that the commanding officer of 2 Squadron, Wing Commander A. B. "Tich" McFarlane, gave approval for Westcott to sound a portable air raid siren whenever Gunner's whining or jumping alerted him. Later, when a number of stray dogs were roaming the base and becoming a nuisance, McFarlane ordered that all dogs other than Gunner were to be shot.

Gunner became such a part of the air force that he slept under Westcott's bunk, showered with the men in the shower block, sat with the men at the outdoor movie pictures, and went up with the pilots during practice take-off and landings. When Westcott was posted to Melbourne 18 months later, Gunner stayed in Darwin, looked after by the RAAF butcher. Gunner's fate is undocumented.

Wikipedia.

There are also numerous similar stories about "Gunner" on the Web

Life is like a roll of toilet paper.....the closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes

ANZACS in Iraq

Gallipoli made ANZAC famous, but Australians and New Zealanders also fought side by side in the cradle of civilization.

In April, Australians and New Zealanders commemorate the birth of the ANZAC legend on a remote stretch of Turkish



Anzac Day, Theran, Iran, 2014. Brian Iselin, NZ Ambassador to Iran, HE Eamon O'Shaughnessy, and Australian Ambassador to Iran, HE Paul Foley, at the ANZAC Memorial Service at the Tehran War Cemetery where 5 Anzacs are buried.

coastline in 1915. At the same time that men of the Australian & New Zealand Army Corps were engaged in the grim campaign on Gallipoli, the tradition of Australian and New Zealand military co-operation was also being played out at a different point in the Middle East. Only this time the men involved were aviators, not foot soldiers.

A month after the Gallipoli landing, a detachment of the Australian Flying Corps arrived at Basra, on the Persian Gulf,

to join in efforts to secure Britain's oil interests in Mesopotamia (Iraq) from the threat posed by Turkish forces. On arrival the 45 Australians joined up with a smaller group of Indian Flying Corps personnel and also Lieutenant W.W.A. Burn, a New Zealand army pilot.

Merz was the first Australian military pilot to be killed in action.

Burn was the only trained airman his government had available when British authorities in India asked New Zealand and Australia to raise an air unit for the campaign. He was not the only New Zealander present. One of the Indian Army pilots, Captain H.L. Reilly, originally came from Hawke Bay. Promoted to the temporary rank of major, Reilly was made commander of what became known as the Mesopotamia Flight of the Royal Flying Corps.

Ground operations began at the end of May with an advance on Amara, halfway up the Tigris River towards Baghdad. The airmen flew reconnaissance missions in support. Their aircraft were frail, primitive biplanes which an Australian, Captain T.W. White (later to become a federal government minister), described as "mere toys more suitable for a flying school than for active service". The truth of this was shown by the frequency of forced landings caused by overheated engines.

Lt Merz and Lt W.W.A. Burn made a forced landing after their aircraft developed engine trouble. They were killed and their remains were never found.

In July, two aircraft from the flight took part in a secondary thrust up the Euphrates River, aimed at clearing opposing Turks from the marshlands before pressing on to Kut, the next major town towards Baghdad. After British forces captured Nasariyeh, the aircraft were ordered back to Basra.

The crews intended to fly together and took off at 6 am on 30 July. However, they were soon separated and engine trouble forced both aircraft to make forced landings. Major Reilly and his Australian co-pilot met friendly Arabs who assisted with repairs, enabling the plane to get airborne again. The other aircraft, crewed by Burn and Australian pilot Lieutenant G.P. Merz, was not so lucky.

Reilly discovered Burn and Merz's aircraft several days later. It had been "hacked to matchwood" by Arabs, leaving no doubt that the aircrew had met a grim end. Information later obtained indicated that Burn and Merz had made a safe land-

ing near several Arab camps and villages. These locals were hostile, however, and before the airmen could repair their engine, they were attacked.

A running fight over several kilometres had ensued as Merz and Burn fought off the tribesmen with revolvers until one of the pair was wounded. The other chose to remain with his fallen comrade and perished with him. Their remains were never recovered.

For Burn's family in Christchurch, there was more tragedy to come. The following month, Burn's brother was killed on Gallipoli.

In an odd twist to this tale, Burn was not a native New Zealander, but had been born in Melbourne. His Australian origins are not surprising when it is remembered that in 1911, five per cent of New Zealand's European population was Australian by birth.

While the Gallipoli campaign ended in evacuation at the end of 1915, the operations in Mesopotamia took a more disastrous turn. A large part of the British forces were besieged in Kut and forced to surrender in April 1916. Nine members of the Australian air detachment became prisoners of the Turks. Only two survived their captivity. By the time of Kut's fall, just one of the Mesopotamia Flight's eight original pilots was still in action.

Despite the setback at Kut, the campaign in Mesopotamia continued and gave rise to a further, little-known boost to the ANZAC tradition. The ANZAC Wireless Signal Squadron was formed in 1916 and continued until 1918, when the Kiwis were withdrawn due to manpower shortages in the New Zealand Division fighting on the Western Front. By then, of course, the ANZAC name was already famous throughout the empire.

By Chris Coulthard-Clark AWM Website



HMAS Hobart's first missile fire on home station

HMAS *Hobart* has become the first Hobart-class guided missile destroyer to fire a missile in Australian waters.

Hobart fired an SM-2 Standard Missile against an unmanned target during trials off the coast of New South Wales, achieving excellent results.

Hobart's Commanding Officer Commander Ryan Gaskin said the successful firing was a significant step in progressing Navy's high-end warfighting capability.

"The missile firing was an opportunity to test recent upgrades to the ship's Aegis combat system and prepare the ship's company for their upcoming deployment," Commander Gaskin said.

"Our advanced sensors provide a real-time picture of the tactical situation, which, when combined with our weapons systems, gives us a formidable defence capability."

Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said the successful missile firing demonstrates the capabilities of the Royal Australian Navy's most advanced warships.

"HMAS *Hobart* is the most sophisticated and lethal warship ever operated by the Royal Australian Navy, and this missile firing is a demonstration of how she can fight and win at sea," Minister

Reynolds said.

HMAS *Hobart* carries a range of weapon systems, including a Mk41 Vertical Launch System containing SM-2 Standard Missiles and Evolved Sea Sparrow missiles, a Mk 45 5-inch gun, Phalanx Close-In Weapons System, two 25mm Typhoon guns, and MU90 and Mk54 light-weight torpedoes.

HMAS *Hobart* is based at Garden Island in Sydney and will deploy for the first time next month as the lead ship in a task group deployment.

Contact Newsletter 100.



B-32 Bomber factory, Fort Worth, Texas 1944. The B-32 Dominator was a heavy bomber made for

US Army Air Forces during World War II, and had the distinction of being the last Allied aircraft to be engaged in combat during World War II.

Diplomat and soldier Matthew Anderson to take AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL reins

A career diplomat who faced death in Afghanistan and helped lead the response to the tragic downing of MH17 in Ukraine will become the next director of the Australian War Memorial.

Australia's deputy high commissioner to the UK and former ambassador to Afghanistan, Matthew Anderson, will succeed Brendan Nelson in the role in 2020 and is expected to start in March.

Before joining the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Anderson spent eight years as an Australian Army officer, including three as a troop commander in the Royal Australian Engineers in 1988-91. He has 32 years experience in government — including his army stint — and served as high commissioner to the Solomon Islands in 2011-13 and to Samoa in 2007-11.



Mr Anderson, who has three children with wife Lou, was awarded the Public Service Medal for his role in leading the humanitarian and consular response to the

2009 Pacific tsunami. He has also written three children's books on Australia's involvement in World Wars I and II.

Scott Morrison said Mr Anderson had demonstrated a "passion for military history and ensuring future generations are educated about the service and sacrifice of our personnel".

The Prime Minister also noted Mr Anderson had served as the Australian alternate on the board of trustees of the Imperial War Museum and Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

After finishing with the army in 1995, Mr Anderson joined DFAT as a graduate. Nearly 20 years later, he served as the head of the MH17 taskforce after the aircraft was downed in Ukrainian airspace in July 2014, killing 298 passengers, including 38 Australians.

Dr Nelson told The Australian Mr Anderson was one of three people he encouraged to apply for the job and described him as an outstanding appointment: "He's a man who wears humility more comfortably than any medals he's been awarded."

Weekend Australian 15 Dec 2019.



Warrant Officer Deb Butterworth, OAM, CSM and Bar, who has been promoted to Warrant Officer of Royal Australian Navy - the 9th sailor to hold this position, and 1st woman. Her service has spanned three decades, from Operation Catalyst in Iraq to Operation Southern Indian Ocean. She is with her predecessor WO Gary Wight.

Capability leap for Sniper Cell

School of Infantry's sniper cell will be tied into the heart of new equipment following the presentation of a new thermal imager by Socomd on August 16.

The imager, worth about \$280,000, is one of five procured under Project Greyfin – Socomd's \$3 billion, 20-year modernisation program.

It will allow the school's sniper cell to develop new tactics and advise procurement under Land 159, Defence's small arms replacement program, according to Sniper Instructor Sgt Ashley Moran. an "Having an enhanced thermal capability within the sniper community will be an absolute game changer, allowing us to conduct a greater range of mission profiles," Sgt Moran said.

"We'll be assessing the imager against current in-service optics to form a baseline of improvement we are looking for in new equipment, as well as employing it during our sniper team leader course to conduct night observation and long-range precision fires.

"Socomd is an important part of Army's sniper community and we look forward to continuing to work with them closely as we develop our requirements for future sniper capability under Land 159." SOCAust Maj-Gen Adam Findlay said the presentation of the imager was an example of the command working closely across Defence to share its skills and knowledge.

"Project Greyfin gives us the ability to rapidly acquire new equipment and take advantage of emerging technologies – which can be used by other parts of the organisation, so it's important we pass on that knowledge where we can," Maj-Gen Findlay said. "The presentation of this imager not only reinforces the relationship we have with the School of Infantry, but it recognises that a lot of our personnel come from

infantry and the importance of keeping the corps engaged. "We're looking forward to working with the school as they use this imager and further determine their requirements under Land 159."

Army Newspaper September 2019.



SOC Aust Maj Gen Findlay with CO Lt Col Flanagan and Sgt Moran before presenting the new Thermal Sight to the Sniper School.

The children were lined up in the cafeteria for lunch.
At the head of the table was a large pile of apples.
The nun made a note and posted it on the apple tray "Take only one—GOD is watching".
Further along the lunch line was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.
A child had written a note "Take all you want. GOD is watching the apples".

Gallipoli

17th December 1915

A game of cricket being played on Shell Green in an attempt to distract the Turks from the imminent departure of allied troops. Major George Macarthur Onslow of the Light Horse in batting, is being caught out. Shells were passing overhead all the time the game was in progress.

At the time the ANZACs were attempting to evacuate Gallipoli without alerting the Turkish forces to their intentions.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

G01289

The bloke who was killed by a shark whilst on honeymoon, didn't suffer for long, he was only married for 10 days.

Wife crashed the car again today. She told the police the man she collided with was on his mobile phone and drinking a can of beer! Police said he can do what he likes in his own living room!

7000 military now supporting the firefight

Nearly 7000 military personnel are now supporting the front lines of bushfire fighting efforts across Australia, mainly in the south-eastern states.

The bushfire crisis continues to be the Australian Defence Force's main effort – with more than a little help from some foreign friends.

More than 3500 full-time and 3000 reserve ADF personnel are providing direct support in the field, at sea, in the air and from Defence bases across fire-affected regions, with another 300+ personnel and some serious equipment from New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Japan and Fiji.

The New Zealand Defence Force sent 90 of its members and three NH90 helicopters, which are working across the south east, based out of HMAS Albatross and, sometimes, RAAF Base East Sale.

Around 80 military engineers plus a command and liaison element, totalling 100 personnel from the Papua New Guinea Defence Force arrived in Australia on Monday and are now at work in Victoria.

Almost 50 Republic of Singapore Air Force members and two CH-47 Chinook helicopters are current operating out of RAAF Base East Sale.

70 Japan Self Defense Force members with two C-130 Hercules aircraft arrived at RAAF Base Richmond yesterday.

The Republic of Fiji provided a platoon of around 50 engineers, who are now working alongside ADF personnel in East Gippsland.

Contact Newsletter 111

The compulsory callout was revoked on 7th Feb.



Private Jake Jubelin, an Army Reserve infantryman from the 2nd/17th Battalion, Royal NSW Regiment, chainsaws a fallen tree to restore access to a burnt-out property. The owner's home (background) was destroyed by bushfire, with the elderly couple forced to share a tent until access for a new caravan was restored by the Army.

National Emergency Medal (Australia)

The National Emergency Medal is an award of the Australian honours system given for sustained service during a nationally significant emergency; or to other persons who rendered significant service in response to such emergencies. The medal was established by Her Majesty The Queen in October 2011. The medal is awarded for events specifically set out by regulation or may be awarded upon the recommendation of the National Emergency Medal Committee for significant service.

It is a circular medal, ensigned with the Australian Coat of Arms. The obverse depicts a central image of a Golden Wattle branch. Surrounding the image at the edge is a further depiction of the flowering wattle. The centre of the reverse has the same border as the obverse, but in the centre it details by



inscription the award and the recipient.

The National Emergency Medal ribbon colours match the colours of the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal ribbon. The colours of the ribbon are gold and eucalyptus green. Gold symbolises the Australian sun, optimism and hope. Eucalyptus green complements the symbolism of the medal design. The seven gold coloured bands represent Australia's six states, with the seventh representing the territories.

Clasps

Vic Fires 09. Those who performed service during the Black Saturday bushfires and meet certain criteria are recognized with the "Vic Fires 09" clasp.

Qld 2010–11. Those who performed service during the Queensland Floods and Cyclone Yasi and met certain criteria.

More than 15,000 medals have been awarded to responders and volunteers involved in the above two events.

2019-20 bushfires Emergency services volunteers, as well as fire, police and ambulance workers, along with Defence Force personnel and reservists, are eligible to receive the medal, which recognises their efforts during the bushfire season and meet certain criteria.

Criticism. The criteria for award of the National Emergency Medal has been criticised as not honouring the efforts of many volunteers. Due to safety issues many volunteers were rotated out of disaster areas after a few days and unable to spend the required amount of time on the ground in the disaster area to qualify for the medal.

Governor General Website./ Wikipedia.

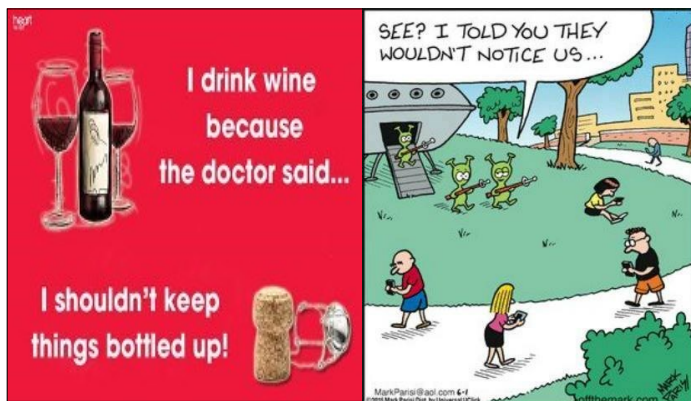
Canberra ex PNGVR Lunch

On 20th Feb a group of Canberra ex PNGVR members enjoyed an informal get-together for lunch at the Canberra Yacht Club. It had been some years since they had enjoyed any type of reunion and arrangements were made for Anzac Day and future get-togethers.

It was great to have the opportunity to swap stories of the PNGVR days and to reminisce about "taim bipo" in PNG.



L-R. Byron Sullivan, Bob Collins (Gold Coast), Michael White, Bill Moloney, Don Hook, Lorraine Moloney, Trevor Connell, Charles Nelson. The photo was taken by Chris Lawrey who served on Bougainville with the Peacekeepers.



Chaplain's Message

If it's true that the value of something is measured by what someone will pay for it, then we need to rethink our worth. Your value begins with the fact that you were made by the hand of the creator, in His very image. Genesis 1:27 says this: "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them".

In Romans 5:8 we see how much God values and loves us, for it says; "But God demonstrates his own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us". This is the creator of life, giving up His own son to die in our place, before we ever repented. That's how valuable we are to God. Of course it didn't stop there, because he rose again, conquering sin and death and darkness, making Himself available to all who accept Him as their lord and Saviour.

God tells us further, how much He values us and cares for us. In Matthew 6:26 He says "Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

God cares about everything that happens to you. He knows your name and exactly where you are in life. His promises are sure and He will not forget you.

As you go through this week I pray that you will experience God's presence, and acknowledge His provision, and the blessings He wants to give you. You are so valuable to Him.

God bless you and sustain you this week.

Ron MacDonald (Chaplain)

Webmaster Trevor Connell now has an assistant, thanks to LT Richard Muir's response to the request in our last newsletter. Trevor lives in Canberra and Richard in Bowen, Qld, but technology means that the web site can be successfully managed.

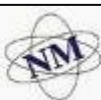
Receive Harim Tok Tok by email. Benefits.

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. If you wish hard copy you can print one in colour.
4. There is a distinct benefit to the Association by saving the cost of printing and postage. This is important given the growing cost to the Association of funding the Museum which is one of our major assets.

If you wish to do this contact Phil Ainsworth—details opposite.



NATIONAL MEDALS
Pty Ltd



REPLICA MEDALS OR MOUNTING OF MEDALS

A reliable 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 PIR, PIB and NGIB.

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 Paul Brown, Curator, email paulbrown475@gmail.com, Phone 0402 644 181 or

Colin Gould, Assistant Curator, email pngvr@optusnet.com.au, phone 0424 562 030

(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 back copies of HTT may be obtained from our website)

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

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

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)

Chaplain. Rev Ron MacDonald. Phone 0407 008 624 email ron.macdonald@aue.salvationarmy.org

NGVR/PNGVR service recollections are copyright.

FUNCTION DATES

Sat 4th Apr. Sat 2 May. Sat 6 Jun.

Museum open 10am—1pm. Book sales.

Sat 18 Apr. Sat 13 Jun.

Executive Committee Meeting Museum 10am.

Members always welcome.

Wed 1 Jul.

Montevideo Maru Memorial Service
9.45 for 10am. Anzac Square Shrine,
Brisbane.