



## 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

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