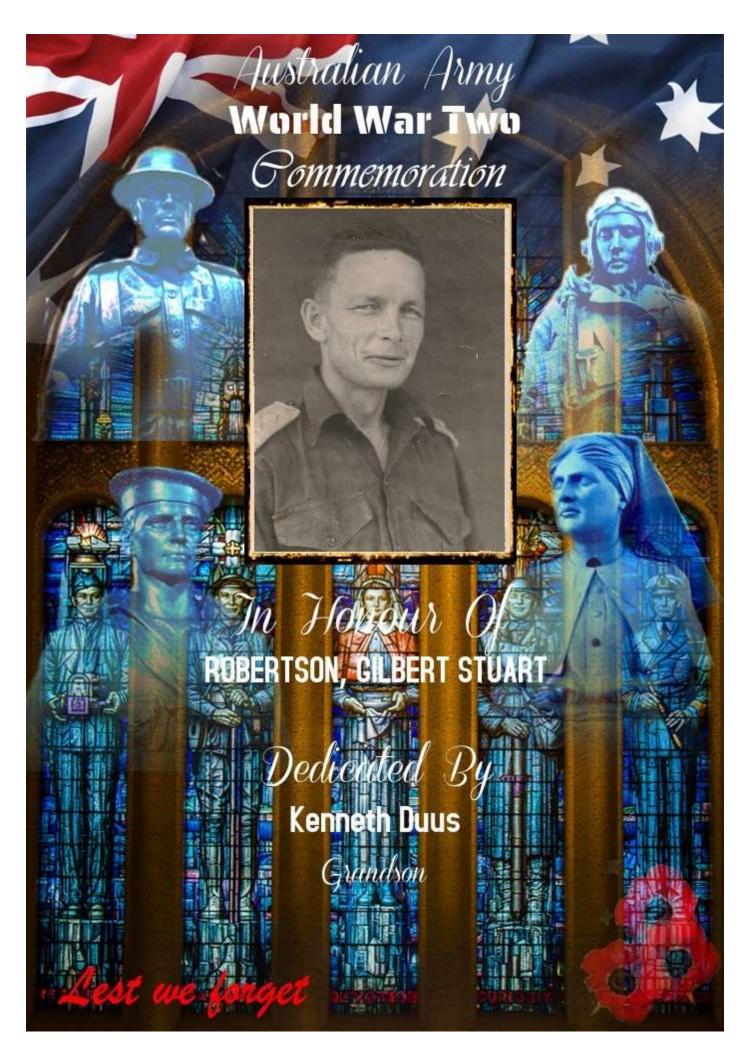
Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Robertson 07/03/1907 ~ 27/04/1989





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Gilbert Stuart Tasma (Gil or Robbie) Robertson

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Gilbert Stuart Tasma (known as Gil or Robbie) Robertson was born on 7th March 1907 in Jeppestown, Johannesburg, South Africa, a son of William Erin Robertson (Carpenter and Miner) and Mary Ann (Ella) Robertson (née Leitch). Gil (named after his maternal uncle Gilbert Leitch) married Elvy Ada Crane, born on 30th September 1905 in Zeehan, a daughter of John Isaac (Jack) Crane and Ada Sarah Crane (née Maudsley). Gil and Elvy's daughters were:

Wilma Jean (Billie), born 25th April 1934 in *St. Stephen's Private Hospital*, Hobart, Bonnie Lynne, born 31st July 1935 in *St. Stephen's Private Hospital*, Hobart, Heather Gaye, born 10th December 1936 in *Lyell District Hospital*, Queenstown, and Fern Brae, born 10th December 1936 in *Lyell District Hospital*, Queenstown.

Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson was born in the newly-built 40-bed *Queen Victoria Maternity Home* in Johannesburg on the corner of Joubert Street and Sam Hancock Street.

Because of its female connection, Gil disliked (and whenever possible didn't use) his name "Tasma" which was chosen for him by his mother Mary Ann (Ella) Robertson. "Tasma" was the pseudonym of famous Australian novelist, correspondent and journalist Madame Jessie Catherine Couvreur who had verses accepted by *The Australian Journal* magazine. She contributed essays and short stories to *The Australasian* and *The Melbourne Review* newspapers and wrote seven novels in nine years under her "*Tasma*" pseudonym.

Gil attended *Albuera Street State School* at Battery Point in Tasmania when it was overcrowded to twice its capacity. With over 1,250 students enrolled in 1920, children were "*seated three to a desk and the teachers overworked and crabby*". Parents wrote letters to newspapers demanding action to ensure students weren't forced to endure Tasmanian winter conditions in open sheds being used as temporary classrooms. Gil was still at primary school when his father William Erin Robertson died at Taroona on 20th April 1921.

Errol Flynn also attended *Albuera Street State School* – for one year only in 1918 when he was nine, two years younger than Gil, and this is probably where Gil and Errol first met.

Gil was fifteen years old when he passed his 1922 examinations for his *Qualifying Certificate* from *Albuera Street State School* at the end of Grade 6. His results were posted in *The Hobart Mercury* newspaper on 15th January 1923, giving instructions of when to attend his first day of high school. Gil was one of just 32 students to graduate for high school from *Albuera Street State School* in 1922.

Gil was one of 331 students (159 boys, 172 girls) who started attending *Hobart State High School* at 71 Letitia Street, North Hobart, Tasmania's first state high school, on Tuesday 30th January 1923. Gil was soon proving both his academic and his sporting abilities during his four-year high school course.

Elvy Ada Crane had already been at *Hobart State High School* for three years when Gil arrived. Elvy, who was eighteen months older than Gil, had passed her 1919 examinations at *Strahan State School* for her *Qualifying Certificate* with passes in English, Modern History, Ancient History, Geography, Latin, German, Algebra and Geometry. Elvy also gained *Junior Honours* with a score of 80 in the *Trinity College of Music* examinations under the auspices of the *London Trinity College of Music*.

Elvy left her Meredith Street home in Strahan on the west coast of Tasmania and studied *"A course for pupils preparing for the teachers' profession"* at *Hobart State High School* from 1920. Violet Curnow, Gil's teacher in 1925, started teacher training with Elvy in 1920.

Elvy's studies at *Hobart State High School* to become a school teacher included *Junior Teacher* study in 1920 and 1921 and a further two years of *Teacher Training* in 1922 in *Class B1* and 1923 which included teaching junior students at the school, among them Gil – and this would have been where Gil and Elvy first met, in 1923 as teacher and student!

Elvy's remaining three years of studies to become a state school teacher included a further two years Assistant Teaching as an *Ex-student* at *Hobart State High School* in 1924 and 1925 followed by a final year posting to be responsible for a class at a country state school to complete the seven-year qualification for a *Teaching Certificate* in 1926 at *Queenstown Central State School*.

Gil, weighing 9 stone 7 pounds (just over 60kg), was in the *Hobart State High School No. 2 Team* of coxed quads representing the school in the one-mile rowing *Bourke Challenge Cup* race held on the Tamar River in Launceston on Sunday 25th March 1923. Gil was in Third seat, immediately behind the Stroke. The report in *The Launceston Examiner* newspaper listed seven crews involved in the race with *Launceston State High School No. 1 Team* taking first place, *Launceston Junior Technical School* in second and *Devonport State High School No. 1 Team* finishing third. *Hobart State High School No. 2 Team* finished in fifth place ahead of their *No. 1 Team*, even after stopping to lodge an appeal which was promptly disallowed.

Gil added membership of the *Hobart Surf Life-Saving Club* to his activities during his first year at high school in 1923, patrolling beaches on summer Saturday afternoons, on Sundays and during holidays. The *Royal Life-Saving Society* held its annual *Proficiency Examinations* at the *Sandy Bay Baths* on the afternoon of Saturday 21st April 1923. On a busy day, Gil successfully passed all the examination requirements to earn his *Elementary Certificate*, his *Proficiency Certificate* and the *Royal Life-Saving Bronze Medallion* which he passed with Honours.

Gil attended the *Royal Life-Saving Society Annual Meeting* at the *Hobart Town Hall* on Thursday 11th October 1923 where he was presented with his certificates and medallion and a *Hobart Surf Life-Saving Club Award*.

Gil was a member of the eight-man *Hobart Surf Life-Saving Club Team No. 2* in 1923 who had demonstrated their skills including life-belt and reel use and the *Schaeffer Method of Resuscitation* at events at Long Beach, Brown's River and South Arm in Tasmania. Gil participated in other surf life-saving demonstrations with *Team No. 2* at Roaring Beach on Sunday 2nd March 1924 and the *Kingston Beach Carnival* on Saturday 24th January 1925.

Gil also joined the *Royal Australian Naval Cadets* as a 16-year-old in 1923 at *HMAS Huon Naval Base* on the Derwent River in Hobart and he was discharged in 1924 as he concentrated on his schooling, Surf Life-Saving, diving and rowing for school and club.

Clearly at home both in and on the water, Gil was the Stroke on the *Hobart State High School* coxed quad rowing team which won the 1924 *Clarke Challenge Shield* race on the Derwent River in Hobart by two lengths against expectations. It was the first competition for that rowing crew with Gil as Stroke and they broke the *Launceston State High School* four-year winning streak. The rowing regatta results were reported in *The Launceston* *Examiner* newspaper on 17th April 1924 and *The Melbourne Sporting Globe* newspaper on 23rd April 1924.

Gil was Stroke when his rowing team won again in the 1925 *Clarke Challenge Shield* race in Hobart and were second in the 1925 *Bourke Challenge Cup* race held on the Tamar River in Launceston. State schools were not eligible to enter the annual *Head of the River* rowing competitions so they held their own rowing competitions.

The Stroke is the rower closest to the stern of the boat, the most important person who sets the stroke rate and rhythm for the rest of the crew to follow. The Stroke has to be a very calm and very competitive individual who will lead a team by bringing the best out of every rower in the boat. Gil was clearly strong despite weighing only 9 stone 10 pounds (61.7kg) as a 17-year-old in 1924 and only 10 stone (63.5kg) as an 18-year-old.

Gilbert Robertson passed his 1924 *Proficiency Examination* after his first two years of high school at *Hobart State High School* with the results reported in *The Advocate* newspaper on 24th December 1924 of: *English- Pass; Geography- Pass; Latin- Pass; French- Pass; Arithmetic- Credit; Algebra- Credit; Geometry- Credit; Physics- Pass; Chemistry- Pass.*

Gil's Hobart State High School Class D1 teacher in 1925 was Miss Violet Curnow who had satisfied all the requirements of the regulations in 1924 to be promoted to Teacher at that school. Gil's Hobart State High School September 1925 quarterly examination results were: English- 50; History- 63; Geography- 54; Latin- 51; French- 47; Arithmetic- 80; Algebra- 56; Geometry- 44; Physics- 60; Total- 506; Average- 56.2; Position in Class- 6.

Also attending *Hobart State High School* in the same class as Gil was the world famous (and infamous) actor Errol Flynn whose exam results show he wasn't particularly interested in academic study. Gil often brought Errol home to *Bonnie Brae*, the family farm at Bonnet Hill, on weekends and was warned by his mother, "*No good will ever come from hanging about with that reprobate Flynn!*" Errol was expelled from *Hobart State High School* shortly after he failed his September 1925 quarterly examinations at the age of 16.

At the end of 1925, Elvy returned to her family home in Strahan to prepare for her posting to be attached to the teaching staff of *Queenstown Central State School* starting on Monday 1st February 1926. Elvy travelled by train up and over the mountain range to visit Strahan to be with her family several times during the year on holidays. Elvy attended the *Queenstown Tennis Ball* at the *Queenstown Metropole Theatre* on 10th June 1926 wearing a frock of henna crepe-de-chine beaded with an all-over design in crystal. In July 1926, Elvy delighted the crowd singing "*In The Springtime*" for the *Wesley Guild Shakespearian Programme* at the *Methodist School Hall* and sang "*I Love You Truly*" for the school Christmas break-up and farewell at the end of 1926.

Gil, far away from Elvy for all of 1926, completed his four years at *Hobart State High School* at the end of 1926 and was enrolled in 1927 for "practical training" at the *Zeehan School of Mines and Metallurgy* in Zeehan ("*Silver City*") on the west coast of Tasmania.

Gil's 1927 annual Technical School examination results from the Zeehan School of Mines and Metallurgy, conducted by the Technical Branch of the Education Department of Tasmania and reported in The Launceston Examiner newspaper on 9th January 1928, were: Chemistry Grade I Theory Certificate- Pass; Chemistry Grade I Practical Certificate Part I- Pass; Chemistry Grade I Practical Certificate Part II- Pass; Fire Assaying Theory Certificate- Pass; Fire Assaying Practical Certificate- Pass. Elvy was appointed to the teaching staff of *West Zeehan State School* starting on Monday 28th February 1927, notified in *The Advocate* newspaper on Saturday 5th March 1927, and 21-year-old Elvy was close to 19-year-old Gil again. Listed as an *Ex-teacher*, Elvy had transferred to her first full teacher role having received her *Teaching Certificate*.

Elvy was one of 23 staff teaching 220 students in nine classes from Prep to Grade 6. Elvy was responsible for teaching writing, mapping, drawing, brush-work, pastel-work, basket-work using raffia, cane and plywood and teaching manual-work to the senior boys in 1927.

Elvy spent her 1927 Easter holidays in Queenstown and later travelled 42 kilometres south on the narrow-gauge meandering railway from Zeehan to Strahan to spend the June 1927 school holidays at Meredith Street in Strahan with her mum Ada, the dairy cows which had a habit of straying and creating dramas with the council, horses and homing pigeons.

When Gil arrived in Zeehan in 1927, his uncle John Stanley Leitch, a prominent local businessman and former *Zeehan Registrar of Mines*, suggested Gil team up with the new young local teacher Elvy Crane as his playing partner in the *Zeehan National Bridge Club*.

Gil's 1928 annual Technical School examination results from Zeehan School of Mines and Metallurgy, conducted by the Technical Branch of the Education Department of Tasmania and reported in The Burnie Advocate newspaper on 10th January 1929, were: Chemistry Grade II Practical Certificate Part II- Credit; Metallurgy Grade I- Pass.

Elvy was teaching some of the 191 students at *West Zeehan State School* in 1928 and would have been able to regularly spend time with Gil when he wasn't studying. With only 25 cars in Zeehan in 1928, the train was still the only practical way for her to get from Zeehan to Strahan for the August school holidays. Elvy was present at the October 1928 *Monthly Meeting* of the *Zeehan Parents' Association* and provided musical arrangement and accompaniment for the school Christmas break-up. Elvy was presented with a box of handkerchiefs to thank her for her time teaching at *West Zeehan State School*.

Gil's 1929 annual Technical School examination results from Zeehan School of Mines and Metallurgy, conducted by the Technical Branch of the Education Department of Tasmania and reported in The Launceston Examiner newspaper on 8th January 1930, were: Chemistry Grade II Part I Practical Certificate- Pass; Geology and Mineralogy Grade I Theory Certificate- Pass; Geology and Mineralogy Grade I Practical Certificate- Pass.

Gil started putting his schooling to use and was employed in 1929 as an Assayer in Zeehan as he continued his evening class studies. Elvy visited from Strahan to Zeehan to see Gil several times during 1929 including in January, May and September. In July 1929, Elvy's homing pigeon "*Cyclon*" took second place in the *Strahan Homing Society* single-out race from Queenstown to Strahan in 31 minutes 46 seconds in appalling weather.

Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson aged 22 married state school teacher Elvy Ada Crane aged 24 on Saturday 2nd November 1929 in Zeehan, almost seven years after they first met. Regulations meant this immediately ended Elvy's school teaching career. Elvy listed her father Jack Crane as deceased on her marriage record but he died on 5th June 1948.

In 1930, newly-married Gil and Elvy lived in Queenstown where Gil worked as a Miner and studied at the *Mt Lyell School of Mines and Industries* (**Scientas Potestas Est*), built in 1913 in Queenstown to offer certificate courses in *Mechanical Engineering, Metallurgy, Assaying, Electrical Engineering and Mine Management.* *(*Knowledge Is Power*)

Gil's 1930 annual Technical School examination results from the Queenstown Mt Lyell School of Mines and Industries, conducted by the Technical Branch of the Education Department of Tasmania and reported in The Launceston Examiner newspaper on 8th January 1931, were: Mining Grade I- Pass; Mining Surveying Part I Certificate- Pass.

Gil's 1931 annual Technical School examination results from the *Queenstown Mt Lyell School of Mines and Industries*, conducted by the *Technical Branch of the Education Department of Tasmania* and reported in *The Launceston Examiner* newspaper on 9th January 1932, were: *Geology Applied to Mining Grade- Pass; Mining Grade II- Pass.*

Gil's 1932 annual Technical School examination result from the Queenstown Mt Lyell School of Mines and Industries, conducted by the Technical Branch of the Education Department of Tasmania and reported in The Burnie Advocate newspaper on 11th January 1933, was: Mining Acts- Pass.

Gil and Elvy were living at Peters Street in Queenstown when they were expecting their first child, Wilma Jean (Billie), who was born on 25th April 1934 at *St. Stephen's Private Hospital* in Hobart. Gil and Elvy were still living in Queenstown when they were expecting their second child, Bonnie Lynne, who was born on 31st July 1935 in *St. Stephen's Private Hospital* in Hobart. Gil and Elvy's twins Heather Gaye and Fern Brae were born on 10th December 1936 in the *Lyell District Hospital* in Queenstown.

Gil's 1936 annual Technical School examination result from the Queenstown Mt Lyell School of Mines and Industries, conducted by the Technical Branch of the Education Department of Tasmania and reported in The Burnie Advocate newspaper on 8th May 1937, was: Mining Management Certificate- Pass.

Gil completed his formal education having been awarded a *Mine Manager's Certificate* and a *Mining Engineering Certificate* from the Tasmanian Government at the *Queenstown Mt Lyell School of Mines and Industries*.

Gil paid his bond and sailed on the *Burns Philp (South Sea) Co. Ltd. MV Montoro* to work in New Guinea in 1937. Gil returned to Australia and sailed back from Melbourne to Salamaua in 1939 with Elvy and daughters on the *MV Neptuna*. Gil worked in Bulolo, New Guinea as a Mine Engineer with *Bulolo Gold Dredging Company*. The *New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR)* was raised on 4th September 1939 as an Australian Militia unit in New Guinea on the outbreak of World War II. Gil was an early volunteer, enlisting for two years as NGVR Rifleman Army Number 823 on 7th October 1939 aged 32 years 9 months.

Volunteers between the age of eighteen and fifty who had completed twenty full days of training and qualified in handling small arms were entitled to *Volunteer Pay* which was the 'princely' sum of one pound per year allowance!

The first supplies from Australia was whatever was available at the time including far-toofew World War I *Lee Enfield .303* rifles, too little ammunition for proper training and woollen greatcoats which were more useful for bedding than as clothing in New Guinea. Many of those greatcoats were returned to Australia as "*surplus to requirements*".

NGVR uniforms consisted of khaki shirts, shorts and trousers made from material sent from Australia. A token was given to each man to get two sets of uniforms made by local Chinese tailors – and Gil's were adjusted to fit properly by his wife, Elvy. While slouch hats were standard fare when they were finally supplied, Gil was also known to be one of the

very few to wear a 'Glengarry', the Australian Army-issue woollen sidecap. NGVR was also supplied with World War I surplus water bottles, bandoliers, leather belts, boots and putties and brass "NGVR" shoulder patches were issued and worn.

At enlistment with NGVR, Gil was 5 feet 10 inches tall with brown hair, weighing 130 pounds (59kg), 6/6 eyesight in both eyes and with normal hearing in both ears.

The entire NGVR battalion numbered 20 officers and 400 other ranks until June 1940 when numbers briefly increased to 23 officers and 482 other ranks in groups at Rabaul, the original NGVR headquarters, Wau, Bulolo, Salamaua and at Madang. Only 100 of these men were actually fit and trained. Training initially consisted of parading by the *Bulwa Golf Clubhouse* for two hours each Thursday night and four hours every fourth Sunday, evening lectures, five-mile-long marches on weekends, exercises and night manoeuvres. They were taught how to patrol, move silently through the bush and give hand signals.

Military records show Gil took his first leave from NGVR on 21st January 1940. In an attempt to confuse the enemy regarding personnel numbers, NGVR service had renumbered, starting with Lieutenant Colonel William Manning Edwards, from NG2000 instead of at NG1 – so Gil was officially renumbered from Army Number 823 to NG2243.

In 1941, a reconnaissance 'march' was made by two volunteers (Gil and an unknown Australian soldier) from the NGVR Coy to find (or take) the easiest way from the coast to the highlands. This trip proved to be extremely hazardous and exhausting. In his wife Elvy's words, "Don't know how many days it took but do remember there being some slight (?) concern when they became overdue back". The trip in a catamaran manned by native 'boys' was an attempt to find the quickest supply route for the Bulldog Track. Bulldog Track was deemed to be more difficult, longer, steeper, higher elevation and rougher than Kokoda Track 100 kilometres to the east. While the voyage up-river proved difficult, they 'flew' back to the coast.

The headquarters of NGVR was moved to Bulolo under the command of Captain Edwards in August 1941 when Lark Force arrived to defend Rabaul and Warrant-Officer Umphelby, who was one of the regular NGVR instructors, was promoted to Lieutenant. Within a month of this and having sat NCO promotion exams at Bulwa, Gil was appointed Corporal Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 with NGVR on 18th September 1941, almost two years after his voluntary enlistment and when there were less than 180 NGVR troops left in New Guinea.

In December 1941, a full civilian evacuation was ordered by the Australian Government, fearing an imminent Japanese attack. Gil's family, wife Elvy Ada Robertson and young children Wilma Jean, Bonnie Lynne, Heather Gaye and Fern Brae flew out from Bulolo on 21st December 1941 to Brisbane aboard *RAAF Douglas DC-3 "VH-UZJ Kyilla*" piloted by Captain P.T.L. (Lyn) Taylor, heading for Gil's mother's "*Bonnie Brae*" farm on Bonnet Hill, Taroona via Cairns, the closest airport in Australia able to accommodate the arrivals. Records show Elvy and her daughters had £4 and evacuated with only two packages. Fern recalled having to remove all the stuffing from her teddy bear for compact packing.

Elvy went back to teaching, appointed as a Temporary Assistant in July 1942 at the North Hobart *Elizabeth Street Primary School* and the Sandy Bay *Princes Street Primary School* in August to December 1942. Elvy later returned to Sandy Bay as a Teacher in July 1949.

On 21st January 1942, a month after the evacuation, Rabaul and Bulolo were bombed by the Japanese. The NGVR had been placed on full-time duty on 8th December 1941, the

day after war began in the Pacific with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, and were officially mobilized on 22nd January 1942. The Japanese invaded Rabaul in overwhelming numbers in the early hours of 23rd January 1942 and had captured the town by nightfall with NGVR losing 74 men either Killed In Action or taken captive as Prisoners Of War.

Corporal Gil's records show he officially commenced his full-time service by attesting in the Citizen Military Forces (Militia) with the NGVR in Bulolo on 22nd January 1942. These original attestation papers, completed the same day the NGVR was mobilised, were recorded as being later destroyed by enemy action. A tetanus injection soon followed.

On 23rd March 1942, Elvy Ada Robertson lodged a Statutory Declaration regarding Gil's call-up to full-time duty with the Australian Military Forces to claim the relevant Allotment and Dependants' Allowance. On 10th April 1942 by Memo, an Allotment of 3/6 (three shillings and six pence) per day and a Dependants' Allowance of 11/- (eleven shillings) per day was approved for payment from 22nd January 1942. Payments finally commenced on 19th June 1942 and the Dependants' Allowance was increased to 12/6 (twelve shillings and six pence) from 14th August 1942.

With his family safely back in Australia, Gil became part of the "*Keepers Of The Gate*", a team of only 180 NGVR who patrolled sparsely inhabited and little known areas of New Guinea to maintain friendly relations with the natives in isolated villages and to watch the movements of the Japanese and stand guard between them and Port Moresby.

A proposal on 30th January 1942 was for NGVR to have a Headquarters with Signals, Intelligence, Pioneers, Transport, Medical, a Medium Machine Gun Platoon and two Rifle Platoons and to also have three Rifle Companies with three Rifle Platoons each. Limited reinforcements meant NGVR never had sufficient fit personnel for this structure.

NGVR *A Company* was stationed on the coast of the Huon Gulf near the mouth of the crocodile infested Markham River at Lae and *B Company*, which included Gil, was spread across the region from Salamaua on the coast and fifty kilometres inland to Wau where the Bulolo River meets Edie Creek – at least 33 hours hard walk on the Buisaval Track taking five to eight days to complete. Bulolo is a further twenty kilometres north from Wau.

This country consisted of rugged mountains covered with dense, almost impenetrable jungle and with moss forest in the higher areas. Gloom and eerie stillness, clouds which frequently descended upon the mountains, rain, towering trees and drooping vines which shut off the sunshine when it did eventually break through the clouds, sodden earth and rotting vegetation all combined to add a touch of the primeval to this part of New Guinea.

In February 1942, most of NGVR *B Company* moved to high ground around Mubo. Gil was among a fifteen man *B Platoon Lae Detachment* of *B Company* who received orders from Captain J.D. Simpson on 5th February 1942 to move to the coast at Buang River, an arduous six-day walk from Wau which was high ground adjacent to the Bulolo Valley. Their instructions were to take a wireless transmitter to Sugarloaf, set up a watching station and immediately report any Japanese air or sea movement to HQ. They were also to pick up any survivors from Rabaul and be ready in case the Japanese should attempt to land.

The NGVR *B Company Lae Detachment B Platoon* included Gil Robertson, Albert Lee, William (Bill) Grant, Sergeant Richard (Dick) McGlynn, Fredrick (Fred) Hockey, Alfred (Alf) Lane who had just been appointed Lieutenant on 4th February 1942, Sergeant Christian Lega, Corporal Mick Rich, Thomas Monteith, Ronald (Bert) Wakefield, Dudley (Doug) Mitchell, James (Jim) Goodwin, Leslie (Les) Shutt, Frank Anderson and Stanley Burton. They moved north from Bulolo to Sunshine on 7th February 1942 where they camped before moving to Mapos where NGVR had a store. Captain John Drysdale Simpson left them at Mapos, returning to Wau and then Mubo, leaving Lieutenant Alf Lane in charge.

Lieutenant Lane's NGVR *B Platoon* with Gil travelled over timbered ranges, up and down steep gorges to where they stayed at Mapos for a few days and then had a hard climb over the Buang Mountains and then a steep decline to pass through Liga Village before descending to the mouth of the Buang River, a beautiful spot despite a huge number of mosquitos and regular torrential rain, with a long sandy beach and good surf.

The NGVR *B Company B Platoon Lae Detachment* set up shelters and all took turns at two-to-five day patrols of the beach and coastal track. Sergeant Doug Mitchell, an amateur wireless operator, Jim Goodwin and Les Shutt set up a lookout and radio post on top of Sugarloaf Mountain, a conical hill 150 metres above sea level overlooking the Huon Gulf.

While at the Observation Post at the mouth of the Buang River, Corporal Gil Robertson sent a handwritten report by native runner Maen to Lieutenant Robert Henry Duthie Phillips NG2296, Officer In Charge at Lae which was recorded in the official NGVR War Diary.

Lieut. R.H.R. Phillips O.C. (*Officer in Charge*) Lae M. of B. (*Mouth of the Buang River*) Friday 13 February 1942

Could you give this boy, Maen, some "fracture" for fishing? Say, 1 packet of gelignite, 1/2 box of caps and 1 coil of fuse? Less would be appreciated.

Your stuff arrived okay less 2 tins plaster and $\frac{1}{3}$ bottle Whiskey (which can (and maybe even <u>will</u>) be accounted for!).

If the launch is working will try and make for Salamaua tomorrow otherwise this 'boy' Maen had best be entrusted with the equipment for Observation Post. I have no carriers.

G.S. Robertson Cpl (Corporal)

P.S. Is Charlie Carpenter (*Charles Miliham Carpenter NG2276*) 'doing a line' with the lu-luai's (*village chief*) daughter? The 'scanties' might complicate matters. Rob

Many years later, Staff Sergeant Albert Ernest Lee NG2086 documented an incident he recalled which concerned Gil Robertson. Gil had just come off guard and was sitting on his folded blanket and greatcoat, cleaning his rifle as were others in the shelter, when one of them who was about to unload accidentally fired his *.303*. The bullet went between Gil and the ground and Albert couldn't understand how it missed him. When they had all cooled down, Gil unfolded his blanket and there were bullet holes. *"Gil really said a few words"*.

At dawn on 8th March 1942, Japanese warships bombarded the beaches at Lae (ten kilometres north of where Gil was situated) and Salamaua (fifteen kilometres south) before a Japanese invasion fleet landed in torrential rain with plans to begin the construction of large bases and airfields.

NGVR A Company troops at Lae immediately withdraw west towards Nadzab. RAAF and NGVR B Company signalmen at the Salamaua signals station sent news of the landing to the Australian headquarters at Port Moresby before attempting to demolish the airfield and

withdrawing across the Francisco River, destroying the bridge across the river mouth as they withdrew into the mountains where observation posts and supply dumps had been prepared. Outnumbered and only lightly armed, the NGVR could only observe the enemy from the Nuk Nuk lookout, send reports and engage in guerrilla warfare with most retreating over the Bulldog Track.

At noon on 8th March 1942, five Australian *RAAF Hudson* bombers attacked Japanese shipping in Huon Harbour, damaging the transport *Yokohama Maru*. Later that day, *American B-17* bombers from Horn Island at the tip of Queensland attacked the Japanese at Lae and at Salamaua where they damaged two hangars at the airstrip.

Gil and the others watched the Japanese transports land at Lae and saw troops being transported from ship to shore. They should have got off the beach but instead kept watching and cheering the *RAAF Hudson* bombing runs. Lieutenant Alf Lane ordered them all off the beach and to get under cover so the Japanese wouldn't know they were there but no-one moved. From where they were stationed, they could see the fires, explosions and the ship that was bombed and sunk at Lae and see the flashes from Salamaua.

A Japanese gunboat anchored off Sugarloaf, forcing Gil and the other NGVR troops at Buang River to take care and keep under the trees to not give their position away, particularly with a small Japanese plane flying numerous patrols up and down the coast at treetop level. Their radio transmissions to Wau and Port Moresby from on top of Sugarloaf Mountain had to stop abruptly by 10:00am with the Japanese gunboat patrolling near them, probably using direction-finding apparatus to pin-point their exact radio position.

Gil and the other NGVR troops watched as a total of 104 Allied aircraft attacked the landing beaches at Lae and Salamaua early in the morning on 10th March 1942. This included *SBD Dauntless* dive bombers and *Douglas TBD Devastators* from the American aircraft carriers *USS Lexington* and *USS Yorktown*, followed by bombing runs of eight *American B-17* bombers and eight *RAAF Hudson* bombers sinking three ships including *Kongō Maru* and damaged several others. US President Franklin D. Roosevelt told Britain's Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, this was "*the best day's work we have had*".

On 16th March 1942, a runner reached Captain Edwards with news from the coast that the Japanese invaders were preparing to move out from Lae up the Markham and that *B Platoon Lae Detachment* of *B Company* including Gil, which had previously been sent from Lae to the mouth of the Buang River to cover that line of advance, had been surprised by Japanese raiders and either taken captive or killed. This 'news' turned out to be incorrect.

With the Japanese increasing their patrols from Lae, Gil would have been relieved when Lieutenant Keith Norbett arrived in late March 1942 searching for the missing platoon with orders for any survivors of the *B Company B Platoon Lae Detachment* to move 45 kilometres north-west with him beyond the Markham River to Camp Diddy where Major Edwards was gathering men of the NGVR to forward headquarters. With their rations running low, they packed what they could, including haversacks full of *Thompson Sub-Machine Gun (Tommy Gun)* ammunition and magazines, and set out. They carried eight of only seventeen *Tommy Guns* that all of NGVR had for use at the time.

Gil's uneventful north-westward trek to Camp Diddy climbed upwards following a track through Lega and through Mapos to Mumeng where they met with Lieutenant Phillips and his party before a stay at Blake's Camp on Snake River, through Gurukor where George Cox was stationed to a stop at Wampit Camp on the Wampit River where mosquito netting was absolutely necessary. They followed the track through Bob's Camp to Old Mari Village where they stayed overnight before trekking to Kirklands to be ferried over the Markham River near where it joined the Erap River. They then stayed a night at the Lutheran Mission at Gabmatzung near Nadzab before completing their journey to Camp Diddy.

On 1st April 1942, Gil had arrived at Camp Diddy and was appointed Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 with NGVR after six months of being a Corporal.

On one of his patrols from Camp Diddy, Gil was resting on the bank of the Markham River late in the afternoon and sent a police boi to fill a billy with water. The police boi jumped down and jumped straight back up again and yelled, "*Pukpuk istap!*" (*Crocodile here*). The following day, the crocodile which was over four metres long was located and shot.

With the NGVR observing and reporting on the Japanese at Lae and Salamaua, General Blamey took the opportunity to use independent troops with the NGVR as commandos. The "*very heavily armed*" Australian 2/5th Independent Company, commanded by Major Thomas Kneen, departed Townsville on 13th April 1942 on the *SS Taroona* and arrived in Port Moresby on 17th April 1942 during a Japanese air raid.

On 30th April 1942, all *B Company* platoons were sent forward to the new HQ set up by Lieutenant Hitchcock at Mubo, south-west from Salamaua.

Controversial Colonel Norman Fleay deployed his headquarters and his mortar detachment to Wau in a valley south-west of Salamaua on 24th May 1942 to form Kanga Force, grouping the 2/5th Independent Company with troops of the NGVR and a platoon of the 2/1st Independent Company.

With instructions to keep close to the Japanese in the Markham Valley and to raid the Japanese installations to hinder air operations from the local aerodromes, Kanga Force conducted their famous Salamaua Raid on 29th June 1942, commanded by Captain Norman Winning, planned with NGVR Captain Douglas Umphelby and using NGVR reconnaissance and expertise – the first Allied ground attack on Japanese land forces.

Many more raids in New Guinea would follow and Gil would be involved in some of them. A Kanga Force raid on Heath's Plantation delayed to 30th June 1942 was not as successful as the Salamaua raid the day before because the element of surprise was now lost. Major Kneen was Killed In Action and Captain Patrick Lang assumed control of the unit.

Despite appalling conditions, enduring soaking rain, pests, diseases and a lack of supplies including weapons, food and medication and with no air, sea or artillery support, Kanga Force harassed the Japanese in the area from the Markham River to the Bitoi River for a whole year until it was finally disbanded and what was left of the individual Kanga Force units became part of the Australian 3rd Division in 1943.

Damien Parer was one of Australia's most famous war photographers. He was the first official Australian photographer of World War II, working for the *Department of Information*. The famous "*Australian ace war correspondent*" Damien Parer had flown from Australia and departed from Port Moresby on the schooner *Royal Endeavour* on 2nd June 1942 to film the local carriers on the extraordinary Bulldog Track supply route for Kanga Force.

The native carriers arrived on 4th June 1942 at the mouth of the Lakekamu River to unload supplies. From 8th to 14th June, they canoed up the Lakekamu River to Bulldog. Stores

were broken into cartable packs and they slogged over difficult terrain for two weeks from Bulldog, following the Eloa River to its end and then up along Bulldog Track to its finish at Kudjiru. Parer filmed their incredible journey and called it "*The Most Amazing Supply Route*" but it was never released as a newsreel. Bulldog Track, crossing the Owen Stanley Ranges from the south coast, was the main supply line for Kanga Force for most of 1942.

Parer then spend six weeks with Kanga Force in the Wau-Salamaua-Bulolo region having arrived one week after the famous commando raid at Salamaua. His 35mm cinematic footage included a re-creation of the Salamaua raid, filmed at Winima Camp, and Salamaua viewed from the Nuk Nuk lookout. Soon after this footage was made public, NGVR troops at Nuk Nuk lookout were forced to escape for their lives after a Japanese patrol was informed of the view of Salamaua in the footage which allowed them to pinpoint the exact location of the lookout.

Parer then flew from Wau to Port Moresby in mid-August to film his journey along part of Kokoda Track. Selected footage was included in the newsreels "*Road To Kokoda*" and "*Assault on Salamaua*" and the full-length edition of the *Cinesound Review* newsreel, "*Kokoda – Front Line!*" which won an Academy Award in 1943 for documentary films. It was the first ever Australian film to win an Oscar; "*For its effectiveness in portraying, simply and yet forcibly, the scene of War in New Guinea and for its moving presentation of the bravery and fortitude of our Australian comrades in arms*".

Fleay ordered Kanga Force to restrict actions to extensive patrolling and observation, except when Japanese patrols were met – but his men didn't have to patrol to find action because it was coming to them. His troops, and particularly the NGVR, were tired and sick and their health had declined markedly after many weeks living and patrolling in the mountains at the end of tenuous supply lines. The only army-issue food reaching forward posts was tins of bully beef and M&V (meat and vegetables) and rice. Dietary deficiency diseases were common and, because it was impossible to stay dry, boots and clothing rotted and an epidemic of contagious skin diseases broke out and malaria was rife even when atebrin and quinine was available.

On 16th August 1942, Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson was officially transferred from NGVR into Kanga Force in the New Guinea Lines of Communication area.

Almost two weeks later, Gil met Damien Parer for the first time on 28th August 1942 at NGVR Skindiwai Camp, inland from Mubo on the Bui Saval River. Parer photographed four Kanga Force troops inspecting their rifles in that camp including Stanley Joseph Tomkinson 2/5th Independent Company NX53323, Stuart Sutherland Munro NGVR NG2030, Private Roy Oswald Warren 2/5th Independent Company NX49995 and Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGVR NG2243.

On 30th August 1942, as the Japanese pushed inland from Salamaua towards Wau and took Mubo, Lieutenant Colonel Norman Fleay decided to abandon and destroy the buildings and infrastructure of both Wau and the Bulolo Valley to prevent the Japanese using them and to withdraw south-east to Winima and Kudjeru. His plan was to form a Kaisenik–Winima defensive line to hold Bulldog Track.

Captain Patrick Lang delegated the orders he had received directly from Fleay and commenced the demolitions at Bulolo and Wau before marching for five hours to Kaisenik and then a further two hour's march to Winima, half way between Salamaua and Bulldog, after giving his own detailed instructions for troops and stores movement.

Lieutenant Colonel Fleay arrived at Kaisenik on the afternoon of 1st September 1942 to set up his new headquarters. The following morning, Fleay went to Winima, giving further orders to Captain Lang to organise defensive positions. Captain Lang delegated and distributed orders and gave Acting Sergeant Gil Robertson full responsibility for organising all Native Labour at Winima – a difficult task given the rushed abandonment of Wau and Bulolo, the desertion of native carriers and the massive shortage of stores.

Gil was named in the Kanga Force Headquarters diary as one of 52 troops reporting directly to Fleay and narrowly avoided being part of a "less than successful" raid on Mubo which Fleay joined as an observer – Fleay going missing for several days in the process!

Urgently needing the Wau landing strip to receive stores and evacuate the sick and wounded on return trips to Port Moresby, it was being repaired so it could be used again just two weeks after Fleay deliberately damaged it. Repairs wouldn't be completed until 1st October 1942 but planes were able to land and take off again by 21st September 1942.

On 15th September 1942, exhausted, ill and no longer fit for duty, Acting Sergeant Gil Robertson NG2243 was transferred to be sent to Port Moresby for evacuation. Together with three other NGVR soldiers, Warrant Officer Class II George Cockram NG2246, Rifleman James Keenan NG2011 and Staff Sergeant Albert Lee NG2056, Gil moved to Wau to be flown to Port Moresby.

After several days' wait at Wau while enough repairs were made to allow planes to land and take-off safely, *USAF Douglas C-53 Skytrooper VH-CCB* "*Foitle Moitle*" landed, unloaded very quickly and the four NGVR soldiers heading for Port Moresby boarded. The US airmen were keeping a constant lookout for a reported flight of Japanese planes.

The C-53 Skytrooper they boarded was 41-20053 radio call-sign VH-CCB named "Foitle Moitle". It had been damaged at Port Moresby on 17th August 1942 and sent to Australia for repairs before resuming duty transporting troops to Port Moresby. Five planes had been completely destroyed in that 112th air raid on Port Moresby and a further seven including "Foitle Moitle" were damaged when they were bombed on the ground by the Japanese.

As "*Foitle Moitle*" started moving down the landing strip at Wau, Damien Parer threw his gear into the plane and was helped aboard. "*Foitle Moitle*" flew to Port Moresby with an open doorway at treetop level down gullies and gorges. Parer sat cross-legged in front of the open doorway, filming the flight with his movie camera.

Selected sections of Parer's 35mm cinematic footage was incorporated into the famous newsreels "*Road To Kokoda*" and the Australian Academy Award winning "*Kokoda – Front Line!*" This was at least the second time that Gil had met Damien Parer in a month.

Parer got out first at Port Moresby and panned his camera to film Gil and the other three NGVR soldiers – and a few seconds of that section of film is included in the final footage of both newsreels which were shown in packed cinemas right throughout Australia.

A week after being declared unfit, Gil was transferred on 22nd September 1942 through the 1st Australian Corps Receiving Centre (1 ACRC) for medical transfer to Brisbane. On 2nd October 1942, Gil was taken by ambulance from Murray Barracks to the wharf, with the three other sick NGVR soldiers who had flown from Wau, where they embarked on the *Australian Hospital Ship HMAHS Manunda*. Corporal Henry McCauley NG2366 also sailed with them, headed for hospital in Australia.

On their arrival at Brisbane five days later, the NGVR soldiers were taken into a long wharf building where tables were set up with a meal for them all. Red Cross ladies visited each of them with Telegram forms for them to fill in which were then dispatched. Gil, suffering from malaria, was admitted on 6th October 1942 to 112th Australian General Hospital (112 AGH) which had been built earlier that year at Greenslopes in Brisbane. George Cockram travelled with Gil from New Guinea and was also admitted to 112 AGH.

Two months later, on 1st December 1942, Gil's health was assessed as A1 and on 2nd December 1942 Gil was discharged to 101st Australian Convalescent Depot (101 ACD) in Queensland to complete his recovery. Gil was 'marched in' to a Conference Board on 10th December 1942 and was 'marched out' from 101 ACD to the Leave and Transit Depot (L&TD) at Ascot for 24 days Voluntary Health Leave (V.H.L).

Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 'marched in' to Redbank Reinforcement Depot (RRD) on 29th January 1943 when his Kanga Force unit was disbanded. Several days later, on 2nd February 1943, Gil re-attested at the *Brisbane Exhibition Grounds*, listing his home address as the 1915-built 7 Ashfield Street, Sandy Bay where Elvy was living.

On 17th February 1943, Gil was 'marched out' to the 4th Royal Australian Engineers Training Centre (4 RAE TC) in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales. The engineers training course at Kapooka Army Camp was a complete and realistic war training including squad and rifle drill, marching and physical training, bayonet practice and complete small arms training. This was followed by demolition work, mine laying and detection, bridge building and a very severe "*assault course*". The full course took fourteen weeks and Gil completed it to 'march in' on 11th May 1943.

On 31st May 1943, Gil 'marched in' to the 1st Army Personnel Staging Camp (1 APSC) in Tennyson, Queensland for deployment.

Acting Sergeant Gil's service in the Citizen Military Forces (Militia) with Kanga Force ended on 4th June 1943 when Kanga Force was formally disbanded and he officially commenced full-time service in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on 5th June 1943 when he attested in Brisbane as Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359, enlisting with the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) Native Labour Section. NGVR enlistment numbers were changed from NG to NGX when they joined the AIF. The *NGVR Nominal Roll* showed Gil as one of only ten to have two NG numbers and an NGX number.

ANGAU, which was formed on 10th April 1942, undertook civil administration tasks of maintaining law and medical services in areas not occupied by the Imperial Japanese and was answerable to New Guinea Force. The major responsibility of ANGAU was to organise the resources of land and labour for the war effort, recruiting, organising and supervising local labour for the Australian and American armed forces in New Guinea until after the end of World War II – and they needed Gil's New Guinea knowledge and skills.

On 6th March 1943, Gil 'marched out' to the New Guinea Force Advanced Reinforcement Depot (NGFARD) in Sellheim, Queensland. Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 of ANGAU Native Labour Section embarked in Townsville to sail back to New Guinea on *His Majesty's Australian Troopship HMAT Duntroon* on 16th June 1943, sailed on 17th June 1943 and disembarked on 20th June 1943 in Port Moresby. The following day, Gil was 'Taken On Strength' from the 2/1st Australian Corps Reception Camp (2/1 ACRC) for service with ANGAU. It was estimated there were 20,000 Japanese soldiers in Wewak and ANGAU was employing 24,132 natives. On 30th August 1943, after sixteen months as Acting Sergeant, Gil was officially appointed Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 with the ANGAU Native Labour Section as a Native Labour Overseer. On 15th October 1943, he was appointed Acting Warrant Officer Class II (A/WOII) Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359. By this time, the New Guinea native labour force had expanded to 34,045 men and ANGAU needed every man with New Guinea experience they could get.

On 20th June 1944, Gil emplaned from Nadzab Airstrip, New Guinea to fly to Port Moresby heading to Townsville for leave, a little over twelve months after enlisting with the AIF.

On 29th August 1944, Gil embarked from Townsville on *SS Taroona* with a total of 646 personnel, returning to New Guinea after having two months leave and disembarking in Milne Bay on 31st August 1944.

On 1st September 1944, the day after arriving back in New Guinea, Gil was admitted to 2nd Medical Receiving Station (2 MRS) in Milne Bay suffering from '*Pyrexia of Unknown Origin*' (PUO – Malaria) and was transferred to the 'X List' to remove him from the list of active ANGAU unit members.

On 12th September 1944, Gil was discharged from 2 MRS having recovered sufficiently from another bout of 'Malaria Benign Tertian' (MBT) and he rejoined his ANGAU unit at the Song River base at Finschhafen, eighty kilometres east of Lae on the Huon Peninsula.

On 13th October 1944, after twelve months as Acting Warrant Officer Class II (A/WOII), Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 was discharged from service under *Australian Military Regulations and Orders (AMR&O 253 VIII(a))* – to receive a commissioned rank.

On 14th October 1944, Gil was appointed Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Robertson ANGAU Native Labour Section NGX359. Gil was then transferred from Finschhafen to Lae Base Sub-Area on 27th October 1944 to be Officer In Charge.

ANGAU Northern Region at Lae had been established nine months earlier and was running smoothly which allowed Gil to be transferred 650 kilometres north-west to Aitape on 19th December 1944 to support the Australian 2/6th Division who had recently taken over from the Americans for their Aitape–Wewak campaign against the Japanese.

Conditions were harsh at Aitape in December 1944 with the north-west monsoon having just begun – it would continue until April. The anchorage offered practically no protection from the strong winds with a heavy swell offshore and surf that was sometimes six feet high. The lack of jetties to offload supplies led to shortages in rations at Aitape. The swampy coastal plain was either loose sand or muddy quagmire and the many rivers flooded swiftly and violently in the heavy rain.

The Australian 2/6th Division 19th Brigade pushed across the Danmap River and had finally reached the outskirts of Wewak by 11th May 1945 in preparation for an amphibious assault on Sandy Beach, thirteen kilometres from the centre of Wewak. The Australians finally captured Wewak from the Japanese forces on 25th May 1945.

While fighting against the Japanese would continue elsewhere in New Guinea for another three months until August 1945, Gil was able to be relieved from his active duties with the ANGAU Native Labour Section in Aitape and sent for Officer's Regimental Training shortly after Wewak was captured from the Japanese.

Gil flew from the Tadji airstrip at Aitape to Port Moresby to attend 24 days Officer's Regimental Training School at the ANGAU Northern Regional New Guinea Training School at Sogeri from 4th June 1945 – and qualified. The recommendation was for Gil to remain with ANGAU at Lae Base Sub-Area and not be transferred to a direct combat role.

School: New Guinea Training School.

Title and number of course: ANGAU Officer's Regimental Training Course No. 1. No: NGX359 Rank: Lt Name: G S Robertson Unit: ANGAU (Northern Regional) Formation ANGAU. Examination Written: 47.8% Examination Practical: 49.2% Examination Oral: 65% Examination Classification: Qualified. Recommendation as to future employment: ANGAU. Instructional ability: Fair. Does not inspire confidence as an instructor nor handle weapons well. Rigid and uneasy when instructing and sequence is not good. Not suitable to instruct at an army school.

Personal characteristics: Eager to learn. Thoughtful, dependable. Intelligent. Neatly turned out. Serious minded and sensitive. Has gained self confidence but still requires to be more forceful.

General remarks: By hard work made very fair progress. Need to be more flexible of mind and less hesitant of manner. Acquired a good general knowledge.

On 16th July 1945, just over a fortnight after completing the training course at Sogeri, Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 was given leave and sailed from Lae, New Guinea to Brisbane on the *SS Van Outhoorn*, disembarking on 18th July 1945.

On 15th August 1945, *Victory Over Japan Day* (*VJ Day*), the Empire of Japan unconditionally surrendered. The official *Instrument of Surrender* was signed on behalf of Emperor Hirohito on 2nd September 1945 while Gil was still on leave in Australia.

The appointment of Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 with the AIF was officially terminated on 13th December 1945, ending his full-time war service, and he was transferred to the Reserve of Officers (ANGAU) in Tasmania on 14th December 1945.

When discharged, the total military service Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 was 1,422 days; 402 days in Australia and 1,020 days overseas – *Certificate of Service No. 21092* and *War Badge Class A174173*. For his military service, Gil was awarded: the *1939–1945 Star*, the *Pacific Star*, the *War Medal 1939–1945*; and the *Australian Service Medal 1939–1945*.

By July 1946, Gil was back working for *BGD* in Bulolo. A proud *Returned and Services League of Australia Member No.* 9775, Gil was initiated into *Herberton-Corrie Masonic Lodge No.* 39 in 1959 while a Mines Inspector at the *Herberton Mine Warden's Residence*, moved to No. 15 Ninth Avenue in Mount Isa and worked for *Mount Isa City Council*, was a *Mount Isa Matthew Crawford Masonic Lodge No.* 499 member, a *Mount Isa Services Bowling Club* committee member and a *Mossman Memorial Bowls Club* member.

Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson died on 27th April 1989, aged 82, in *Mossman District Hospital* and was buried on 2nd May 1989 at the *Mossman Lawn Cemetery* in Queensland.



Gilbert Stuart Tasma (Gil or Robbie) Robertson 07/03/1907 ~ 27/04/1989 20 months old, at Johannesburg, South Africa



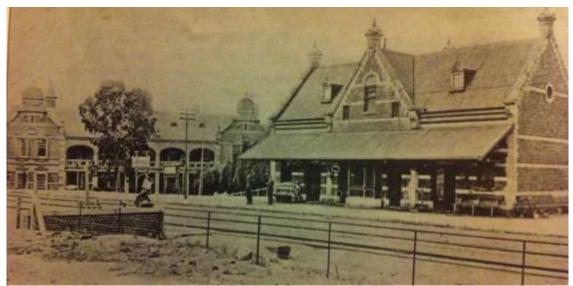
William Erin Robertson in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Mary Ann (Ella) Robertson (née Leitch) in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital in Jeppestown, Johannesburg in 1907.



Jeppestown Railway Station and Grand Central Hotel.



Commissioner Street in Jeppestown, Johannesburg.



Natives pulling carts in South Africa with Mary Ann (Ella) Robertson (née Leitch), Annie Lilian Robertson, Bonnie Jean Robertson and Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson.



(L to R) Bonnie Jean Robertson born 8 August 1900 in Zeehan, Annie Lilian Robertson born 13 October 1897 in Zeehan, William Erin Robertson born 9 November 1868 in Honeywood (Geeveston), Mary Ann (Ella) Robertson (née Leitch) born 2 September 1874 in Hobart and Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson born 7 March 1907 in Jeppestown.



Mary Ann (Ella) Robertson (née Leitch), seated, third from left, around 1910 where she worked at the *Kensington Sanatorium* in Jeppestown, Johannesburg, South Africa.



Kensington Sanatorium ('Pink Fairy Castle') in Jeppestown in 1910.







Albuera Street State School, Hobart.

HOBART, MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1923. The

TASMANIAN SCHOOLS.

Qualifying Certificate.

Results of the Examinations.

As a result of the examination held on the 21st of November last, the under-mentioned pupils of State-schools have qualified for admission to the State High Schools at Hobart Launceston and De-vonport, the intermediate High School at Burnie, the District School at Scotta-dale, and the Junior Technical Schools at Hobart, Launceston, and Queenstown.

The successful candidates who desire to attend should present themselves at the State High Schools, Hobart, Laun-ceston, and Devonport, and the Inter-mediate High School at Burnie, and the District School at Scottsdale on Tues-District School at Scottsdale on Tues-day, 30th January, or at the Junior Tech-nical School, Hobart, on Wednesday, 7th February, or at the Junior Technical School, Launceston, on Monday, 5th February, and at the Junior Tech-nical School, Queenatown, on Monday, 12th February.
Ine courses at the High Schools are: -(a) A course for pulpits preparing for the teacher's profession.
(b) A general course of five years' work leading to the University.
(c) A commercial course for pupils preparing for business careers. Domestic science is compulsory for girls.

girls. Pupils should be prepared to state on entry which course they desire to fei-low.

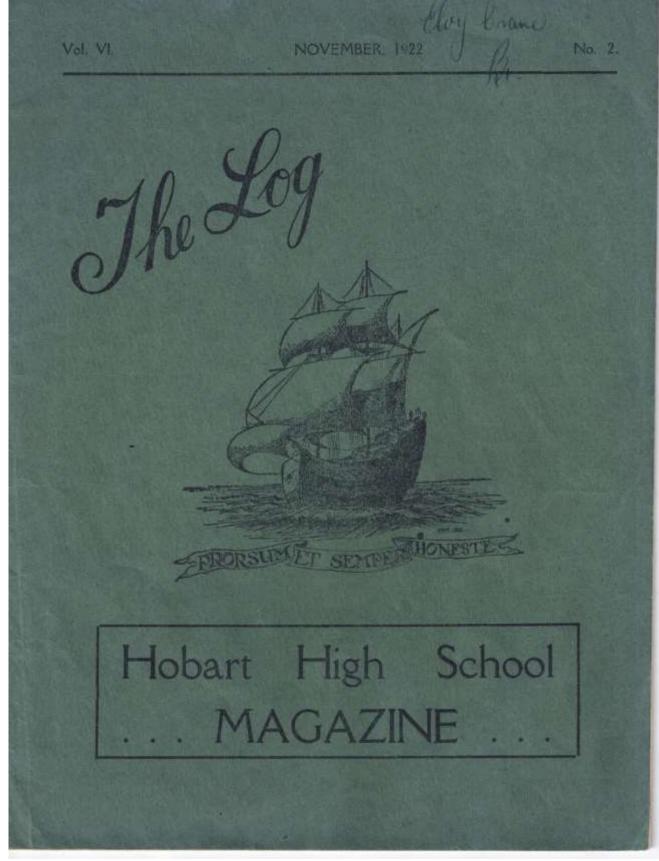
A-STATE SCHOOLS.

A-STATE SCHOOLS. Albuera-street. - Aitken. Royden: Brown, Maida V.; Cadle, Ian C.; Clarke, Frederick J.; Connor, Alan F.; Cox, Jean-nette A.; Dalco, William G.; Feather-stone, Richard; Fisher, Clair M.; Glus-kie, Harold C.; Grange, Sidney, Gribbin, James; Hall, Beatrice J.; Harper, Val-erie E. S.; Jacobs, Greta C.; Jones, Cle-ment A.; Monks, Ronald J.; Oldham, Leonard L.; Piggott, Russell G.; Pip-kin, Theo. A.; Robertson, Gilbert S.;



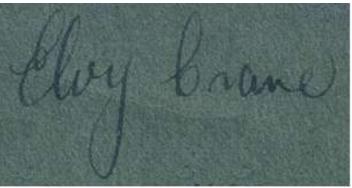


Hobart State High School.



"The Log" November 1922, Volume VI, Number 2 Hobart State High School Magazine owned by and personally signed by Elvy Robertson (née Crane), student teacher from Class B1. A copy of The Log was presented to every student at the final assembly of each year.

(*Elvy's copy was not in family possession from the 1930s until I got it in 2023.)



HOBART HIGH SCHOOL. SCHOOL.

Teacher of Class N. burn

Quarterly Examination of ______ Class.

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in Jepter bel 1925.

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Hobart State High School quarterly exam results of Gil Robertson from September 1925 also showing Errol Flynn's failing results. Gil was warned by his mother Mary Ann (Ella) Robertson, "No good will ever come from hanging about with that reprobate Flynn!"

English- 50, History- 63, Geography- 54, Latin- 51, French- 47, Arithmetic- 80, Algebra- 56, Geometry- 44, Physics- 60, Total- 506, Average- 56.2, Position in Class- 6.



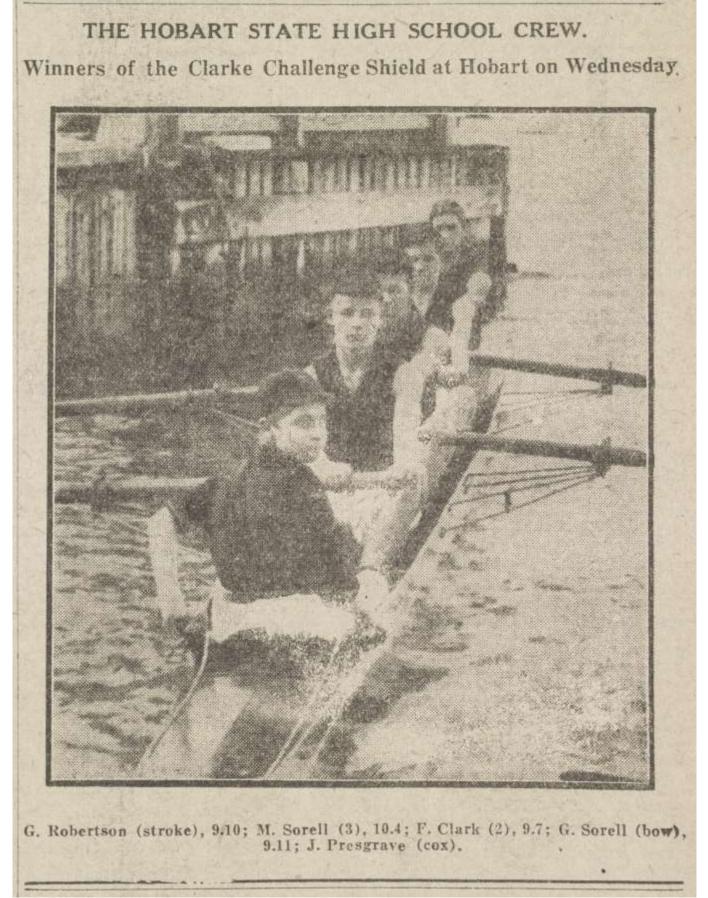
*Hobart State High School (*Prorsum et Semper Honeste)* 1925 boys. Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson, back row, far right, pens in jacket pocket. Errol Flynn, back row, 4th from right. (**Always Be Straight Forward And Honest*)







HOBART: SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1924.



Gil Robertson (second from left, facing the camera) rowing as Stroke to win the 1924 *Clarke Challenge Shield* in Hobart.

TY. IM	•						
The Ex	aminer.						
LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA, MONDAY, MARCH 26. 1923.							
BOURKE CUP SCHOOLS' RACE. One mile. Launceston State High School. No. 1-H. Wardley (bow), 10.12; G. Ec- cleston (2), 10.11; T. Barclay (3), 10.0; C. Adams (stroke), 10.9; N. Chick (cox.) 1 Launceston Junior Technical School- B. Kitto (bow), 9.6; T. Rowland (2), 8.6; D. Tattersall (3), 9.6; T. Kitto (stroke), 10.12; C. Peacock (cox.) 2 Devonport State High School, No. 1- C. C. Lawrence (bow), 7.12; D. J. Barrett (2), 10.6; W. Rundle (3), 8.7; L. B. Sims (stroke), 10.0; T. Lawrence (bow), 0.0; T.	On the next occasion all the crews, with the exception of Launceston, No. 1, were stretched out some distance from the western shore into the bay off Haystack Point. The crews on the eastern shore therefore had to come around a point, and this fact spoilt the next race to some extent. Launceston, No. 4, on the western shore, again went to the front as soon as the gun fired, and appeared to be well out in front of Devonport, No. 1, Launceston, No. 2, and Hobart. No. 2, who were close together, with Technical School (on the eastern shore) last but one, but handy. At this stage the Hobart, No. 2 crew, appealed for a foul, the stroke holding up his hand.						
Launceston State High School, No 2C. Ingles (bow), 9.5; C. Reeves (2), 10.0; G. Briggs (3), 10.2; R. Broomby (stroke), 10.7; G. James (cox.) Hobart State High School, No. 2T. Daleo (bow), 10.0; G. Anderson (2), 9.9; G. Robertson (3), 9.7; D. Casey (stroke), 10.0; S. Smith (cox.) 5 Hobart State High School, No. 1 R. D. Cramp (bow), 9.8; K. McNeil (2), 9.3; E. A. Cannell (3), 10.0; K. Rule (stroke), 10.0; E. Moore (cox.) 5 Devonport State High School, No. 2-E. Groom (bow), 8.13; N. W. Palmer (2), 9.4; N. Von Bibra, (3), 8.3; E. W. Eastman (stroke), 8.1; M. Wilson (cox.) 7 The schoolboys were eager to get going but they did not give the starter a great deal of trouble. Lanceston, No. 1. were first to break the line, and after going about 200 yards they were	but the umpire disallowed it, and after dropping back a little they continued in the race. From this point Technical School began to draw up to the leaders, and half a mile from home were about half a length behind Launceston, No. 1. A length and a half away came Devon- port, No. 1, half a length in front of Launceston, No. 2, with the two Hobart crews together, just astern, and Devon- port, No. 2, last. Technical School. rowing a long telling stroke, gradually drew up to Launceston, No. 1, and at the yacht anchorage were on terms with them. Devonport, No. 1, were a couple of lengths away, just ahead of Launces- ton. No. 2, and the two southern crews next. A little further on Technical School held a lead of half a canvas, and looled certain to win. However, they were unable to sprint, and Launceston, No. 1, sprinted 100 yards from the post, and won a most exciting race, the judge's verdict being half a length. Devon- port, No. 1, were three lengths further						
ahead of Technical School. At this stage Devonpert, No. 1, and Hobart, No. 1. came together in racing to the point, and the umpire stopped the race, and the crews went back for a fresh start.							

Gil in *The Launceston Examiner* newspaper article for 1923 *Clarke Challenge Shield* rowing competition in Launceston.



HOBART: THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1924.

RACE FOR CLARKE SHIELD. Won by Hobart State High School.

Cheered enthusiastically by several hundreds of their supporters, the Ho-bart State High School crew vesterday atternoon passed the finishing line comfortable winners of the race for the Clarke Shield. The result came as a surprise even to their most optimistic followers, for the winning onew had not previously been tried. Its members, however, had been well coached and were quietly confident of success. Their victory was well-deserved, for they showed the best form and rowed magnificently all the way. Devonport High School, who had won the Bourke Cup at Launces-ton some weeks before, proved the Hobart boys' most serious opponents, and the greater part of the course had been covered before the home crew looked likely to beat them. It was an excellent race, and there was not a great deal between the boats. The conditions on the Lower Derwent course, where the race was decided, could not have been more favourable. There was a light northerly breeze to help the crews, and the surface of the water was comparatively smooth. The sun shining in their eyes was the only disability the boys had to encounter, but this did not appear to effect them in the slightest.

The course was from off Government House Point to opposite the judge's stand on the regatta ground—a distance of about a mile. When they lined up at the start, Launceston High School were nearest the western shore, with Launceston Junior Technical School next to them, and then Devonport State High School, with Hobart State High School on the extreme outside. Mr. J. G. Turner sent the four crews away to a splendid start. Launceston Junior Technical appeared to hit the water first, but the crews kept almost in line for the first half of the journey. It was a great race, with all doing their utmost to gain an advantage, Hobart State High School were the first to draw ahead, their rapid rate of striking and fine swing, combined with evenness enabling them to do this. They were rowing very powerfully and covering a lot of water.

- E. Eastman (stroke), 9.5; G. Groom (S), 10.0; A. Thorne (2), 9.0; C. Lawrence (bow), 8.12; T. Lawrence (cox) A Scott, coach Launceston Junior Technical School. -T. Kitto (stroke), 10.8; A. Wise (3), 10.8; A Clark (2), 9.0; T. Row-
- Iands (bow), 9.0; R. Tabart (cox)
 J. Artis, coach
 Launceston State High School. -A.
 Wadley (strike), 11.0; R. Broomby (d), 10.6; M. Weston (2), 10.6; C.
 Ingles (bow), 10.4; R. Solomon (cox). C. Pattison, coach
 The race was rowed under the race

Gil in *The Hobart Mercury* newspaper article for the 1924 *Clarke Challenge Shield* rowing competition in Hobart.



HOBART: THURSDAY, MARCH, 12, 1925.

BOURKE CUP RACE.

HOBART HIGH SCHOOL COMPETING.

Boys of the Hobart High School left for Launceston yesterday morning for the purpose the Bourke Challenge competing Cup. in is schools being heid on event mar on Saturday next in conjunction with Northern Association championships. course selected being Stephenson's Bend at the rendezvous of the Tamar regatts The southern boys have had a steady preparation, and three of the crew were members of last year's Challenge successful Clark Shield crew good showing hoped th t will made be is attracting rood deal race in Northern rowing circles. rtten tion and Technical the Launceston High Schools we boated good crews, while the Devomport gh is also sending a strong combination to defend its title last year. won

following The ate the names of the southern representatives :--G. S. R F. Ford. son, 10.0 (stroke): 10.10 (3) A. Clark, 10.0 R. Douglas, 9.8 (2): (bow): E. Cox (cox.); Mr. A. Scott (coach).

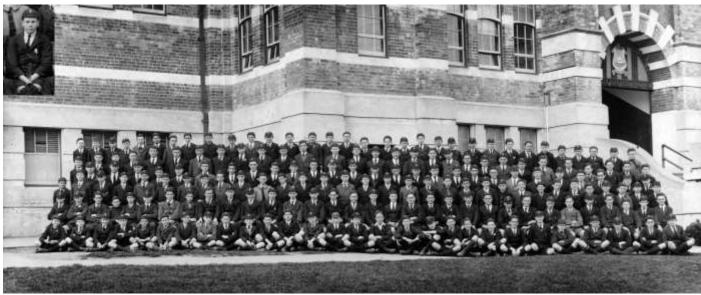
Gil Robertson in *The Hobart Mercury* newspaper article for the 1925 *Bourke Challenge Shield* rowing competition held in Launceston.



HMAS Huon Naval Base where Gil Robertson served in the Royal Australian Naval Cadets as a 16 year old from 1923 to 1924.



Hobart Regatta rowing on the Derwent River in 1924.



Hobart State High School boys of 1926 including Gil Robertson (insert) in the second row from the front and twelfth from the left, with pens in his jacket pocket.



Sandy Bay Baths in Hobart.



Swimming competition at Sandy Bay Baths in Hobart.



Zeehan School of Mines and Mineralogy.



Main Street including Zeehan School of Mines and Mineralogy.



Elvy's 1927 class of students at West Zeehan State School.



Frederick Street in Central Zeehan and Zeehan Railway Station in 1920s.



Zeehan Hospital in 1905.



Queenstown Mt Lyell School of Mines and Industries (Scientas Potestas Est).



Queenstown Metropole Theatre in 1926.



Mossman District Hospital in Queensland.

dvocate The ESTABLISHED 1842 LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA. WEDNENDAY JANUARY 8, 1880.

NORTH-WESTERN TASMAMLA'S ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1929

THE TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. Examination Results. WEST COAST AWARDS.

HOBART, Wednesday .-- The following are the results obtained by West Const candidates in the 1928 examina-tions conducted by the Technical Branch of the Education Department: Chemistry, Grade L., Practical Certificate: Miller, R. (Zeehan), pass.

Preparatory Chemistry, Theory: Fla-herty, E. W. (Zeehan), pass; Rown-tree, G. H. (Zeehan), pass.

Preliminary Chemistry, Practical: Burke, J. (Queenstown), credit; Chaperon, P. (Queenstown), pass; Hill, C. (Queenstown), pass.

Chemistry, Grade II., Part II., Practical Certificate: Robertson, G. S. T. (Zeehan), credit.

90th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1932.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Technical Branch

Annual Examinations

The pars list a the annual examina-tions in degree subjects conducted in conjunction with the University of Tasmania, and in applied science, that, art, commercial, and junior technical certificate subjects, conducted by constrained of lasmania and been re-ceived. (H.D.) indicates night dis-tinction, (D.) distinction, (C.) credit, the list is as follows;--

Degree subjects conducted in con-necton with the University of Tasmanua:--

APPLIED SCIENCE SUBJECTS Geology Applied to Mining, Queenstown-Robertson, C. S. T. Mining Grade II., Queenstown-Robertson, G. H. T.

Technical Education

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS

THE DETAILED PASS LIST

The following is the pass list at the annual examinations in applied scence, trade, art, commer-cial, and junior technical certificate subjects, conducted by the Technical Eranch of the Education Department of Tasmania. H.D. indicates High Distinction, D. indicates Distinction, and C. indicates Credit.

APPLIED SCIENCE SUBJECTS

Chemistry Grade II. Part I., Practical Certificate .- Hobart .-- Quarmby, R. N. (C.). Zeehan-Flaherty, W. E.; Miller, R.; Robertson, G. S. T.; Rowntree, G. H.

Geology and Mineralogy, Grade I., Theory Certificate-Hobart-Corney, L. J. Launceston-Tyson, T. J. (C.). Zee-han-Flaherty, W. E.; Robertson, G. . 24

Geology and Mineralogy, Grade I., Practical Certificate.-Launceston -Tyson, T. J. Zeehan-Flaherty, W w. L.; Robertson, G. S. T.



NORTH-WESTERN TASMANIA'S ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1933

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS.

Queenstown Technical School.

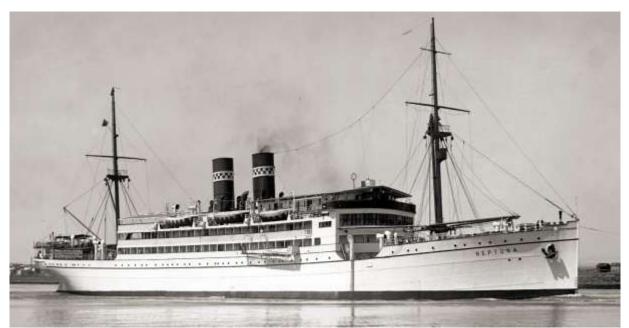
Following is the list of candidates from the Queenstown Technical School, who were successful at the recent publie examinations:---

APPLIED SCIENCE SUBJECTS. Mining Acts: G. S. T. Robertson.

Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson's examination results from the Zeehan School of Mines for 1928 and 1929 and from the Queenstown Mt Lyell School of Mines for 1931 and 1932.



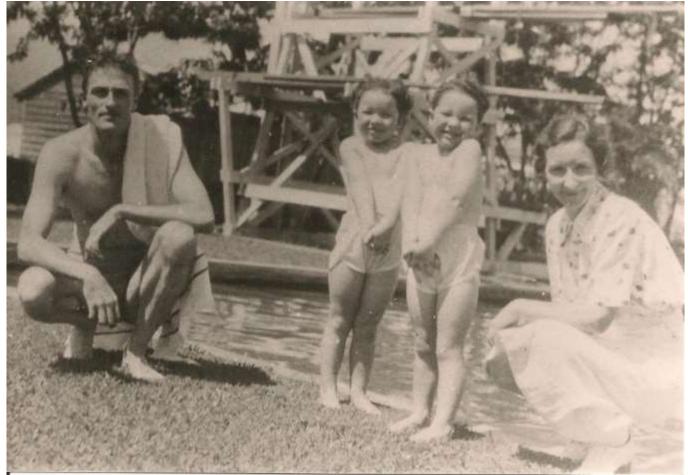
MV Montoro, built in 1911 by *Clyde Shipbuilding Company* in Glasgow, Scotland, a 4,507 ton passenger-cargo ship run by *Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd.*



MV Neptuna, built in 1924 by *Friedrich Krupp Germaniawerft* in Kiel Harbour, Germany, a 5,952 ton passenger-cargo ship run by *Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd.*



MV Neptuna exploded and sank at *Stokes Hill Wharf* on 19 February 1942 in the *Battle of Darwin*, the largest single attack on Australia. 242 Japanese aircraft bombed Darwin in two raids on that day and 100 depth-charges on the *MV Neptuna* were detonated.



Bulolo Gold Dredging Company employee Frank Reginald Shaw (NG 2159 and NGX 438 NGVR Medical Staff) and Elvy Ada Robertson at the *Bulwa Swimming Baths* in New Guinea in 1939 with identical twins Fern and Heather Robertson.



(L to R) Heather, Wilma, Bonnie and Fern Robertson in Bulwa, New Guinea in 1939.



Bulolo Gold Dredging Company employee watching Fern Robertson jump into the Bulwa Swimming Baths in New Guinea.

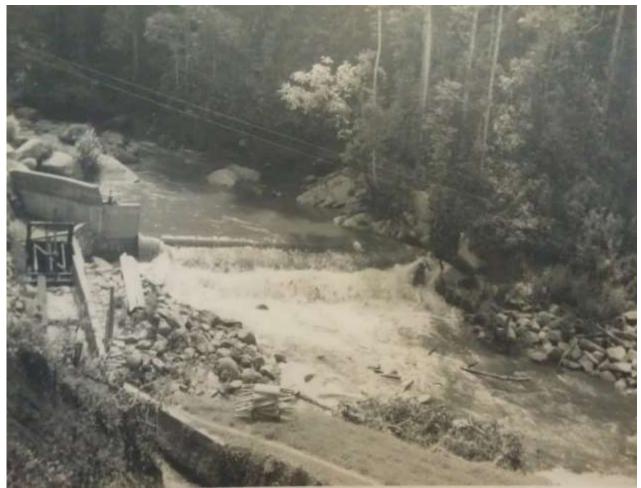


Swimming carnival for *Bulolo Gold Dredging Company* employees at the *Bulwa Swimming Baths*. The concrete-lined freshwater pool, which opened in September 1936, was 85-feet long, 40-feet wide with a shallow end four-feet deep and the other end nine-feet deep.



Elvy Ada Robertson in New Guinea with children Bonnie, Fern, Heather and Billie in 1939.





A water race being used for gold mining on the Bulolo River in 1938.



A *Bulolo Gold Dredging Company* gold mining dredge on the Bulolo River, two kilometres south of the Watut River junction.



Two Buong natives working for Bulolo Gold Dredging Company on the Bulolo River.



Bulolo Gold Dredging Company gold mining No. 4 Dredge.



Portrait of Rifleman Gilbert Stuart (Gil or Robbie) Robertson in 1939, recently enlisted and dressed in NGVR service uniform and slouch hat with Rising Sun badge.



Rifleman Gilbert Stuart Robertson (front right) in 1939, just enlisted with partly kitted NGVR volunteers with a new *Guinea Airways 1939 T-Series Dodge Pickup Truck*.



Lieutenant Gil Robertson (standing 4th from left) with ANGAU in Port Moresby in 1945.





NGVR Rifleman Gilbert Robertson in 1939, ANGAU Lieutenant Gilbert Robertson in 1944.



- Guinea Airways 1939 T-Series Dodge Truck and 1 = NG2238 Albert Evans
- 2 = NG2240 Keith Roy Woodman
- 3 = NG2247 George Ťuckey
- 4 = NG2239 Richard John Ashwell
- 5 = NG2244 Thomas Lega
- 6 = NG2249 Edmund Herald
- 7 = NG2245 Neville Bensley
- 8 = NG2248 Alfred Veal
- 9 = NG2242 Phillip Tuckey
- 10 = NG2243 Gilbert Robertson



"Spello. Even the carriers look glum! Leeches were bad". Gil Robertson NG2243 (centre) and Neville Bensley NG2245 (left). (Notes on photos handwritten by Elvy Robertson.)



1941 A reconnaissance 'march' by two volunteers (Gil and NGVR unknown) from the NGVR Coy to find (or take) the easiest way from the coast to the highlands. Proved to be extremely hazardous and exhausting. Don't know how many days it took but do remember there being some slight (?) concern when they became overdue back.



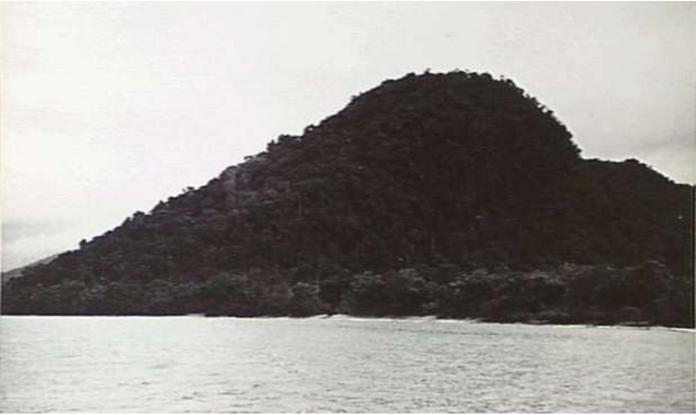
1941 Reconnaissance 'march'. *The catamaran manned by native boys. Gil in foreground wearing 'Glengarry'* (an Australian army woollen sidecap) and unknown NGVR soldier.



1941 Reconnaissance 'march'. They 'flew' down to the coast. Gil and NGVR unknown.

Leint RHD Phillips O.C. fac Could you give This boy, Maen, some "fracture" for fishing ? "Say, I pht gelignite 5 box cope a I coil of fuse? Less would be appreciated. your stuff arrived O'kny less 2 Time plaster + 5 battle Whiskey [which can (+ maybe even will be accounted fordil. It the launch is working will tryy make Sal. tomorrow atherwise This boy Maen had best be entrusted with the equipment for O.P. I have not corriers. Ps Is Charlie Corporter doing a line with the bolais daughter? The seantice might Complicate matters

Friday 13 February 1942 handwritten Report from Corporal Gil Robertson to Lieutenant Robert Henry Duthie Phillips NG2296 sent by native runner Maen from the Observation Post at the mouth of the Buong River, recorded in the official NGVR War Diary.



Sugarloaf Mountain at the Buang River mouth in the Huon Gulf where NGVR *B Company B Platoon Lae Detachment* maintained a Wireless Transmitter and observed and reported on Japanese air and sea activities.



1935-built Japanese armed merchant cruiser *Kongō Maru* bombed and sinking near Lae on 10 March 1942.

DIARY OF CAPT PS.LANG. AS FROM 304 AUG 42 bol. Fleay, bpt west & cipher Sqt. 0745. hrs. It WINING Instructed me to to defensive pacifions + not to rations + laboury. laral WINIMA makeres * to cant or sat Robertaon to abile labor S.C. man to dump & eleck A. H brought from CRYSTAL CK. by ood he have been

Sergeant Robertson listed in 2/5th Independent Company 1942 *Kanga Force War Diary*. Orders from Captain P.S. Lang dated 2 September 1942 to take charge of Native Labour at Winima.



NGVR "B" Company Q Store (Quartermaster's Store) sign. Staff Sergeant Albert Lee NG2056, who had flown to Port Moresby with Gil on 22 September 1942, was NGVR's Quartermaster in January 1941, responsible for administering barracks, laying out the camp and looking after supplies.



USAF Douglas C-53 Skytrooper 41-20053, radio call-sign VH-CCB named "Foitle Moitle" landing at Wau, filmed by Damien Parer on 22 September 1942.



Douglas C-53 Skytrooper VH-CCB "Foitle Moitle" unloaded and preparing for take-off.



Australian Newsreels "*The Road To Kokoda*" and "*Kokoda – Front Line*!", shown in Australian cinemas in 1942, produced using film footage shot by famous Australian war correspondent Damien Parer.



Screenshot of Acting Sergeant Gil Robertson wearing his hessian camouflage-covered *Tin Hat*, an Australian *Brodie Mk. II* steel helmet, in *Academy Award* winning documentary *"Kokoda – Front Line!"*. Panned footage of four NGVR soldiers after landing at Port Moresby was filmed by Damien Parer on 22 September 1942. Damien Parer almost always avoided doing panned footage.



Damien Parer filming through the door of a North American B-25 Mitchell Bomber in 1942.



Screenshots of Gil Robertson in "*Kokoda – Front Line!*" Australian *Academy Award* winning documentary with footage filmed by Damien Parer. Gil Robertson at Port Moresby on 22 September 1942 with Malaria ready for transfer to 112th AGH Greenslopes Hospital.



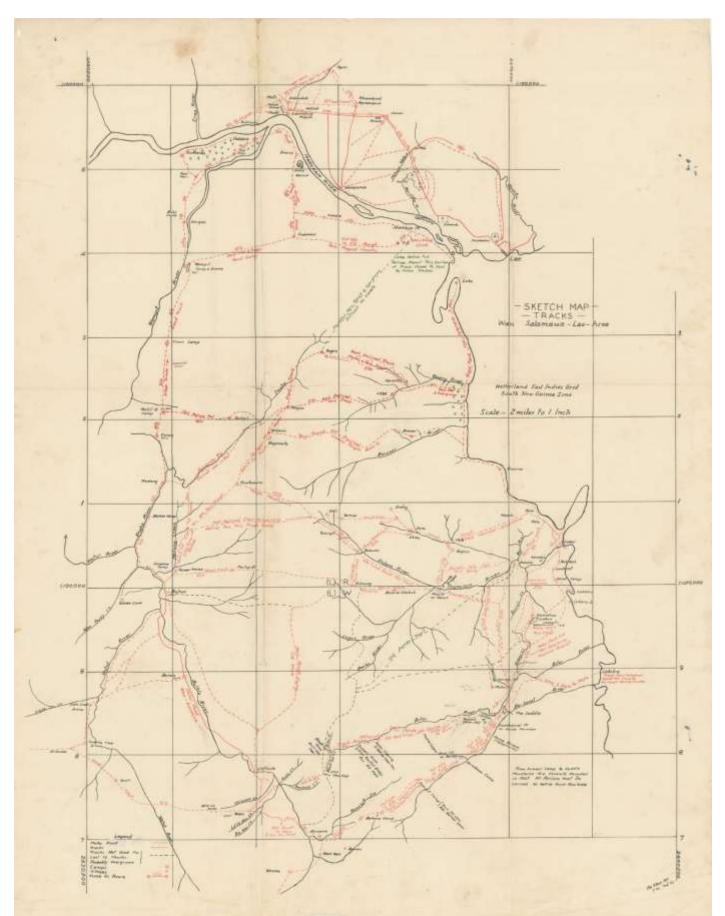
Gil Robertson NG2243, George Cockram NG2246, James Keenan NG2011, Albert Lee NG2056.

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NG 2275 AVE PROSS		Maj EDWARDS N.M.
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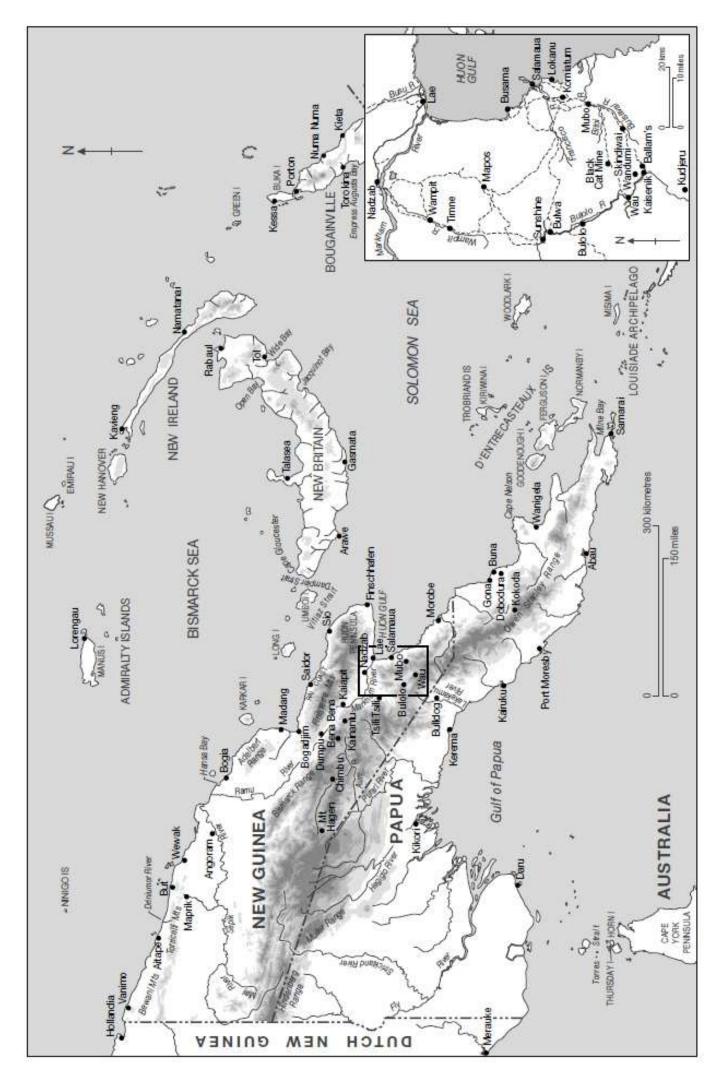
Lieutenant Colonel Norman Lawrence Fleay's team of 52, including 37 men of NGVR and Sergeant G.S. Robertson NG2243, listed in the official *Kanga Force War Diary* for 30 August 1942 to 7 October 1942.



NGVR Guard Hut at Winima where Gil Robertson was in charge of Native Labour in 1942.



Sketch map by Lieutenant (then Private) Roy Frederick Stein (2/5th Independent Company NX80593) showing tracks in Wau-Lae-Salamaua area of New Guinea.



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

"A" BRANCH ANGAU MONTHLY REPORT.

1: 6

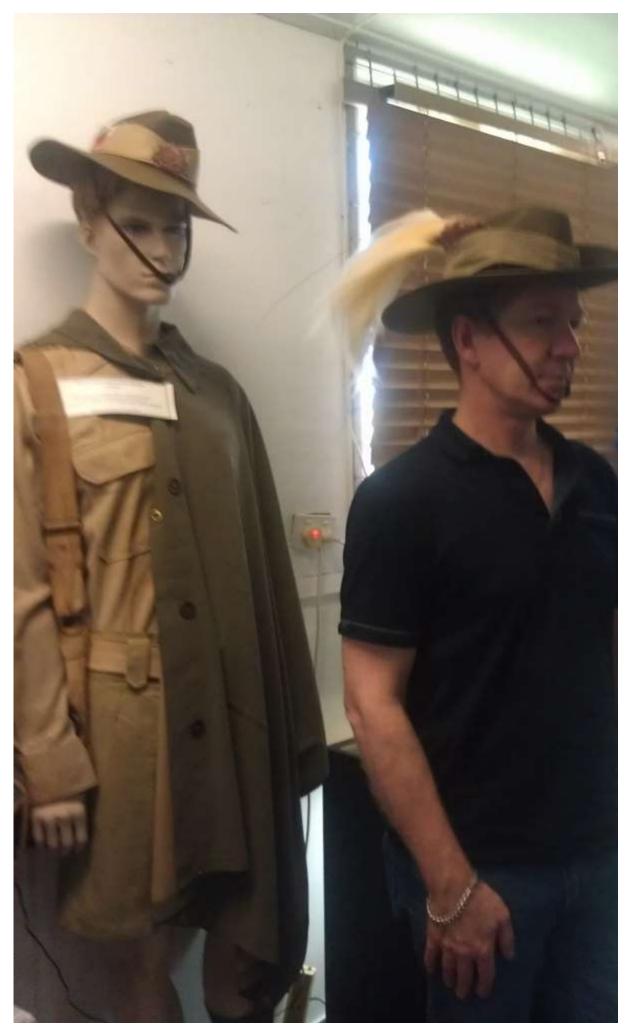
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Official appointment of Gilbert Stuart Robertson to commissioned rank of Lieutenant on 14 October 1944.



Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart (Gil or Robbie) Robertson after October 1944, dressed in ANGAU service uniform with embroidered Lieutenant pips on his epaulettes.



Gil's grandson Kenneth Duus wearing a slouch hat embellished with a *Bird of Paradise* (yes, the whole bird!) and a dummy in full NGVR uniform including rain cape.

MOTICE.

It is promulasted for the information of the public that the Commonwealth Rovernment has decided that women and children, other than fomale missioneries and nurses who may elect to remain, are to be evacuated from New Guines compulsorily. The cost of fares will be borne by the Commonwealth Government.

Les and Selahaus have been fixed as embarkation points in the Morobe District, and billating arrangements will be made at those points. In order that arrangements may proceed with expedition it is requested that all concerned make the following preparations immediately:-

1. Pack personal clothing, sufficient blankets, pillows and mosquito nets for use of themselves and children while swaiting embarkation at Salamsus or Las. It is essential that you provide for all contingencies in regard to hygienic requirements.

2. Mothers should bring with them food requirements for bebies.

At the moment it is not possible to inform you of the date you will be required to embark or to leave your home, but as soon as information has been received you will be advised, either by the District Officer, Salamsus, the Assistant District Officer, way, the Patrol Officer, Utibands, the Petrol Officer, Pinschhafen, or the Assistant District Officer, Lse, as the case may be. Until further notice of movements has been communicated to you it is requested that you remain as near as possible to your homes.

District Off loer. Selemaus, 15th December, 1941.

Order for *Compulsory Evacuation of Women and Children* from New Guinea dated 15 December 1941.



RAAF Douglas DC-3 VH-UZJ "Kyilla" emergency evacuation from Bulolo, New Guinea, on 21 December 1941. Evacuee 131. Robertson, Elvy Ada, D.O.B. 30 Sep 1906 Evacuee 131a. Robertson, Wilma Jean, D.O.B. 25 Apr 1934 Evacuee 131b. Robertson, Bonnie Lynn, D.O.B. 31 Jul 1935 Evacuee 131c. Robertson, Heather Gaye, D.O.B. 10 Dec 1936 Evacuee 131d. Robertson, Fern Brae, D.O.B. 10 Dec 1936 Wife and Children of NGX359 Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson.



Pilot Captain P.T.L. (Lyn) Taylor flew three flights per day in *Douglas DC3 VH-UZJ "Kyilla*" from New Guinea to Cairns (the closest suitable airport) to evacuate civilians.



John Holland (Curator of the *NGVR Museum*, Boundary Rd, Wacol, Queensland) presenting Kenneth Duus (grandson of Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Robertson) with his late father's framed photo of *Douglas DC3 VH-UZJ "Kyilla*" at the museum.



Douglas DC3 VH-UZJ "Kyilla" photo from John Holland (Rabaul emergency evacuee). This framed photo belonged to "Z" Special Force Lieutenant Frank Holland, MBE.

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PARTICULARS REQUIRED OF PASSENGERS ENTERING AUSTRALIA
             UZJ "KYILLA"
Aircraft:
                                      Date: 21st December 1941
Fort of disembarkation: Cairns
Full name of passenger: Mrs. Elvy Ada Robertson
Late and place of birth: 30th September 1906 Zeehan, Tasmania
                                       ) Married
Nationality:
               British
Name and address of next of kin: Gilbert Stuart Tasman Tobertson
     Bulwa, T.N.G.
Relationship to passenger: Husband
Port of embarkation:
                       Bulolo
Final destination in Australia: Bonny Brae, Taroona, Tasmania
Have you any funds?
                      Yes
If so, what amount? £4
Will you he in receipt of a regular remittance? Yes
If so, state particulars: Sufficient for support
What baggage have you in your possession? 2 packages
                   PARTICULARS OF HUSBAND
Fill name: Gilbert Stuart Tasman Robertson
Date and place of birth: 7/3/1907 Johannesburg, Transvaal, S. Africa
Nationality:
               British
Occupation: Metallurgist
          PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING PASSENGER
Wilma Jean Roberts ch
Late and place of birth: 25/4/1934, Hobart, Tasmania
Fill name: Bonnie Lynn Robertson
Late and place of birth: 31/7/1935 Hobart, Tasmania
Full name: Heath or Gaye Robertson
Inte and place of birth: 10/12/1936 Queenstown, Tasmania
Fill name: Fern Brae Robertson
Late and place of birth: 10/12/1936 Queenstown, Tasmania
Signature of passenger: (sgd) E.A. Robertson
21st December, 1941
```

Draft particulars for compulsory emergency evacuation flight from Bulolo, New Guinea to Cairns, Queensland on 21 December 1941 on *Douglas DC3 VH-UZJ "Kyilla*" – heading for Mary Ann (Ella) Robertson's "*Bonnie Brae*" farm on Bonnet Hill, Taroona, Tasmania with £4 and two suitcases. Bulolo was bombed on 21 January 1942.

Passengers: Elvy Ada Robertson Wilma Jean Robertson Bonnie Lynn Robertson Heather Gaye Robertson Fern Brae Robertson

Particulars Required of Passengers Entering Australia

Aircraft UZJa "KYILLA		Date 21/11	/1941.
Port of Disembarkation	Cairns.	*****	
Full Name of PassengerM	TS: ELVY ADA	ROBERTSON.	
Date and Place of Birth	0/9/1906. Ze	ehan. Tasma	nia.
Nationality Brittle	h	Mai	ried
Name and Address of Next of	of Kin GILBERT	STUART TAS	MANROBERTSON
Bulwa, T.N.G.		*****	******
Relationship to Passenger			
Port of Embarkation	Bulolo.		
Final Destination in Austral	ia Bonny Bra	e, Taroona,	Tasmania.
Have you any funds ?	tx Yes.		
If so, what amount ?	4.		
Will you be in receipt of a re			
If so, state particulars Su:	ficient for	support.	
What baggage have you in yo	our possession ?	2.Packages.	•

Particulars of Husband

Full Name GII	BERT STURRT TASMAN ROBERTSON.		
Date and Place	of Birth 7/3/1907. JOHANNESBURG.	Transvaal.	S.Africa
Nationality	British.		
Occupation	Mattal Metallureist.		

Particulars of Children Accompanying Passenger

Wilma Jean Robertson. Full Name Date and Place of Birth 25/4/1934. Hobart. Tasmania. Bonnie Lynn.Robertson. Full Name Date and Place of Birth 31/7/1935, Hobart, Tasmania. Full Name Heather Gaye Robertson. Date and Place of Birth 10/12/1936. Queenstwon, Tasmania. Full Name Fern Brae Robertson. Date and Place of Birth 10/12/1936. Queans town. Tasmania. Signature of Passenger EaRoberkon. Date 21/12/41.

Final particulars signed by Elvy Ada Robertson for entry into Australia from emergency evacuation flight on 21 December 1941 from Bulolo, New Guinea to Cairns, Queensland on *Douglas DC3 VH-UZJ "Kyilla" – "No further baggage as far as known"*.



Destruction of Bulolo 21 January 1942. Corporal Gilbert Stuart Robertson commenced full-time war service in Citizen Military Forces (Militia) on 22 January 1942, attested at Bulolo, Territory New Guinea. Attestation documents later destroyed by enemy action.



First emergency landing by "*Moth*" at Bulolo since reconstruction to evacuate a serious accident case. *deHavilland DH83 Fox Moth VH-UQP* "*Jacqueline*" (*Certificate of Airworthiness No. 3623*) was built for *W. R. Carpenter & Co Ltd* in 1932 which became *Mandated Airlines Ltd* from September 1936. "*Jacqueline*" was damaged in a crash on a mountain spur near Golden Ridges in New Guinea on 15 March 1940, then reconstructed and later destroyed in a crash in Bitoi Valley, New Guinea on 30 October 1941.



Australians filmed by Damien Parer inspecting their rifles in camp at Skindiwai. Left to right: Stanley Joseph Tomkinson 2/5th Independent Company NX53323, Stuart Sutherland Munro NGVR NG2030, Private Roy Oswald Warren 2/5th Independent Company NX49995 and Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGVR NG2243.





New Guinea Kanga Force Lines of Communication area. Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 commenced service with Kanga Force at Lines of Communication area on 16 August 1942, transferred in from New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR).



Kanga Force camp, filmed by Damien Parer at Winima in 1942. Formed on 23 April 1942 from NGVR and elements of 2/1st and 2/5th Independent Companies of the AIF, Kanga Force conducted small-scale raids and reconnaissance operations throughout New Guinea as a guerrilla force until it was disbanded in 1943. Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 served with Kanga Force from 16 August 1942 until attestation into the AIF with ANGAU on 5 June 1943.



Kanga Force preparing to move out for a raid on Mubo, filmed by Damien Parer.



1st Australian Corps Receiving Camp (1 ACRC). Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 of Kanga Force evacuated from Wau on 22 September 1942, suffering from malaria, to 1st Australian Corps Receiving Camp (1 ACRC) in Port Moresby for transfer to *His Majesty's Australian Hospital Ship HMAHS Manunda* in Port Moresby harbour for the voyage to Brisbane.



1927 built Adelaide Steamship Company hospital troopship HMAHS Manunda. Requisitioned as 2/1st Hospital Ship in May 1940, HMAHS Manunda was Australia's first hospital ship in WWII, fitted out to carry 322 patients and 80 medical personnel.

Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson (Kanga Force NG2243) sailed from Port Moresby on 2 October 1942 on *HMAHS Manunda*, disembarking in Brisbane on 6 October 1942 for admission to 112th Australian General Hospital at Greenslopes with malaria.

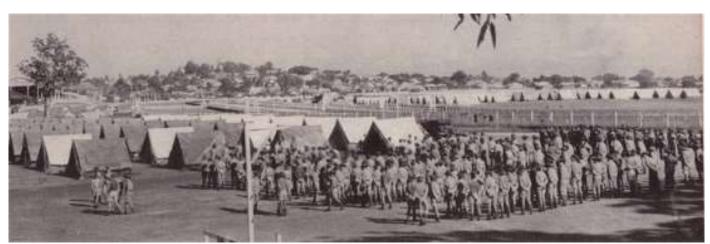


112th Australian General Hospital (112 AGH) opened at Greenslopes, Brisbane on 2 February 1942.

Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 admitted on 6 October 1942 with malaria. Medical classification assessed Class A1 on 1 December 1942 and discharged on 2 December 1942 to 101st Australian Convalescent Depot (101 ACD) in Brisbane.



101st Australian Convalescent Depot (101 ACD), Loreto College, Coorparoo, Brisbane. Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 of Kanga Force transferred in to 101 ACD from 112th Australian General Hospital (112 AGH) on 2 December 1942.

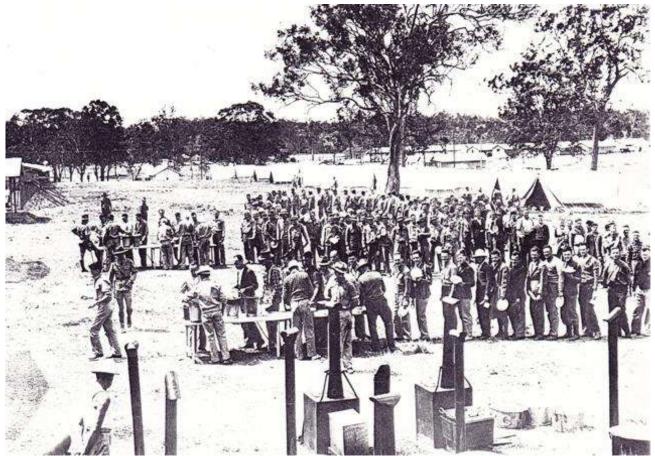


Leave and Transit Depot (L&TD) Camp Ascot, established in Brisbane in 1942. Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson (Kanga Force NG2243) marched in to L&TD Camp Ascot on 19 December 1942 from 101 Australian Convalescent Depot (101 ACD) for 24 days Voluntary Health Leave (V.H.L.) and marched out from L&TD Camp Ascot to Redbank Reinforcement Depot (RRD) on 29 January 1943 after Kanga Force disbanded.





Camp Ascot at the Eagle Farm Race Track in Brisbane.



Redbank Reinforcement Depot (RRD) established in Brisbane in 1939. Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 formerly of Kanga Force marched in to Redbank Reinforcement Depot (RRD) on 29 January 1943 following Voluntary Health Leave at Leave and Transit Depot Camp Ascot after Kanga Force disbanded.



AIF Attestation Centre at the *Brisbane Exhibition Grounds*, now *Brisbane Showgrounds*. Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 of disbanded Kanga Force attested at *Brisbane Exhibition Grounds* on 2 February 1943.



4th Royal Australian Engineers Training Centre (4 RAETC).
 Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 of disbanded Kanga Force marched out on 17 February 1943 from Redbank Reinforcement Depot to 4th Royal Australian Engineers Training Centre (4 RAETC), established at Kapooka in Wagga Wagga, NSW in 1941. Gil completed the intensive course to 'march in' on 11 May 1943.





1st Australian Staging Camp (1 APSC) Tennyson, Queensland. Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 / NGX359 of disbanded Kanga Force marched out from 4th Royal Engineers Training Centre (4 RAETC) on 31 May 1943 and marched in to 1st Army Personnel Staging Camp (1 APSC) Tennyson, Queensland.



Australian New Guinea Administration Unit (ANGAU) Native Labour Section Camp.

Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 attested in Brisbane on 5 June 1943, enlisting with Australian New Guinea Administration Unit (ANGAU) Native Labour Section, ceasing service in Citizen Military Forces (Militia) with the disbanded Kanga Force and commencing service in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) with ANGAU as NGX359.



New Guinea Force Advanced Reinforcement Depot (NGFARD). Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 marched in to New Guinea Force Advanced Reinforcement Depot (NGFARD) in Sellheim, Queensland on 6 June 1943 after enlistment into the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) with the Australian New Guinea Administration Unit (ANGAU) Native Labour Section.



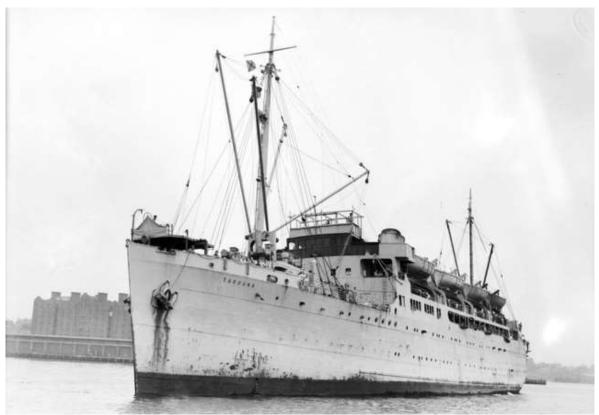
1935 built *Melbourne Steamship Company* Troopship *HMAT Duntroon*, requisitioned by the Australian Army in 1942.

Acting Sergeant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 of ANGAU Native Labour Section sailed from Townsville on His Majesty's Australian Troopship *HMAT Duntroon* on 16 June 1943, disembarking on 20 June 1943 in Port Moresby. *HMAT Duntroon* sailed with 1,027 personnel, two motor transports, 3,244 Australian mail bags and 159 U.S. mail bags.



Nadzab Airstrip in the Markham Valley north-west of Lae, New Guinea. Acting Warrant Officer Class II Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 of ANGAU N

Acting Warrant Officer Class II Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 of ANGAU Native Labour Section emplaned at Nadzab Airstrip on 20 June 1944 for transfer to Townsville for two months leave, twelve months after disembarking from *HMAT Duntroon* at Port Moresby.



1934 built *Tasmanian Steamers P/L* Troopship *SS Taroona*, requisitioned as a fast troop carrier by the Australian Army in March 1942, made 94 trips and carried 93,432 troops.

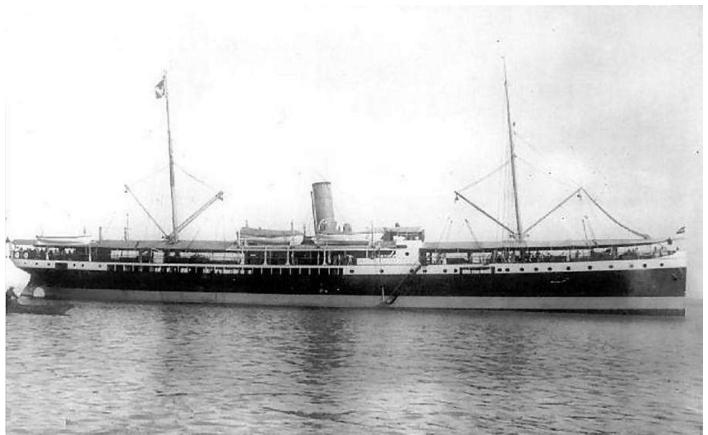
Acting Warrant Officer Class II Gilbert Stuart Robertson (ANGAU Native Labour Section NGX359) returned from 20 June 1944 leave, He embarked with 646 troops on *SS Taroona* at Townsville on 29 August 1944, disembarking at Milne Bay on 31 August 1944.



RAAF 2nd Medical Receiving Station (2 MRS) in Milne Bay, New Guinea. Acting Warrant Officer Class II Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 of ANGAU Native Labour Section admitted to 2 MRS with '*Pyrexia of Unknown Origin*' (P.U.O.) and transferred to X-List on 1 September 1944. Discharged from 2 MRS on 12 September 1944 to ANGAU.



ANGAU Northern Regional New Guinea Training School at Sogeri. Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 of ANGAU Native Labour Section attended 24 days *Officer's Regimental Training School* in Sogeri, New Guinea from 4 June 1945.

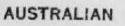


1927 built Dutch transport *SS Van Outhoorn* under charter to the *British Ministry of War Transport* from 1940 to November 1945. *SS Van Outhoorn* escaped from Dutch East Indies in February 1942 and was involved in "*Operation Lilliput*" in 1943 and was damaged in bombing at Milne Bay in April 1943.

Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 sailed from Lae, New Guinea to Brisbane on the SS Van Outhoorn, disembarking on 18 July 1945.



NGVR and ANGAU emblems, flags and colours, NGVR and HMAT Duntroon pennants.





MILITARY FORCES

ORDER OF THE DAY

by GENERAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY, Commander-in-Chief

> Advanced LHQ, Borneo, 15th August, 1945.

SURRENDER OF JAPANESE.

The Japanese have surrendered. Our long and arduous struggle has ended in complete victory.

The climax has come at the time when all six Australian Divisions are fighting strenuously, each on its own area, in the far flung battle lines. No divisions amongst the Allies have contributed more to the downfall of our enemies than ours.

Our general officers and our commanders of all grades, our regimental officers and our warrant and non-commissioned officers have led you unfalteringly to victory. Under their guidance, the troops have been formed into a magnificent army to the pride and glory of Australia.

We have fought through the burning days and freezing nights of the desert. We have fought through the ooze and sweat of tropical jungles. We have defeated the Italians and the Germans and we would soon have destroyed completely the Japanese before us.

We are now to go to our homes, having done our part in ensuring freedom for all peoples. We will not forget this freedom, for which we have fought so long and successfully, and so let us stand together in future years to ensure that it remains the crowning heritage of Australian people. Above all, we give thanks to the Almighty for His greatest and crowning mercy that marks for all people the total downfall of tyranny.

41.8287/45.

General, Commander-in-Chief, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

General Sir Thomas Blamey's *World War II Victory Letter* on *VJ Day*, 15 August 1945. *"No more ooze and sweat of tropical jungles"*.



SURRENDER OF JAPANESE FORCES

Address Delivered by

COMMANDER-in-CHIEF, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES GENERAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY

ta

Lt - General Teshima, Commander Second Japanese Army On the occasion of the signing of their Surrender

MOROTAI, 9th SEPTEMBER, 1945

LIEUT-GENERAL TESHIMA, COMMANDER, SECOND JAPANESE ARMY :

"The Japanese Navy has been destroyed. The Japanese Marchant Fleet has been reduced to a mere fraction. The Japanese Air Force has been driven from the sky. The Japanese armies have been defeated everywhere and all that remained for them was to await their inevitable total destruction. Japanese cities lie in waste and Japanese industry has been destroyed. Never before in history has so numerous a nation been so completely defeated.

"To escape the complete destruction of the nation, the Emperor of Japan has yielded to the Allied Forces and an instrument of total surrender has been aigned in his name. He has charged you to obey the orders which I shall give you.

I shall give you. "In carrying out these orders, the Japanese Army and Navy organisation will be retained for convenience. Instructions will be issued by the designated Australian Commanders to the Commanders of the respective Japanese Forces, placing upon you and your subordinate Commanders the responsibility for carrying out your Emperor's direction to obey all orders given to you by me.

"You will ensure that all Allied personnel, prisoners of war or internees in Japanese hands are safeguarded and nourished and delivered over to the Allied Commanders.

"You will collect, lay down and safeguard all arms, ammunition and instruments of war until such time as they are taken over by the designated Commanders. You will be given adequate time to carry this out. An official date will be named and any Japanese found in possession after that date of any arms, ammunition or instrument of war of any kind will be dealt with summarily by the Australian Commander on the spot.

"Orders will be given for these and other matters as I consider necessary and you will ensure the obedience to all such orders without delay.

"In receiving your surrender I do not recognise you as an honourable and gallant foe, but you will be treated with due but severe courtesy in all matters.

"I recall the trencherous attack upon our ally, China, in 1938. I recall the treacherous attack made upon the British Empire and upon the United States of America in December, 1941, at a time when your authorities were making the pretence of ensuring peace. "I recall the atrocities inflicted upon the persons of our nationals as

"I recall the atrocities inflicted upon the persons of our nationals as prisoners of war and internees, designed to reduce them by punishment and starvation to slavery.

"In the light of these evils, I will enforce most rigorously all orders issued to you, so let there be no delay or hesitation in their fulfilment at your peril."

General Sir Thomas Blamey's address at Morotai on 9 September 1945.

INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER

2.50,51



E, acting by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters, hereby accept the provisions set forth in the declaration issued by the heads of the Governments of the United States, Chino and Great Britain an 26 July 1945, at Potsdam, and subsequently adhered to by the Union of Saviet Socialist Republics, which four powers are kereafter referred to as the Allied Powers.

We hereby proclaim the unconditional surrander to the dilled Powers of the Japanese Imperial Ganaral Headquarters and of all Japanese armed forces and all armed forces under Japanese control wherever situated.

We hereby command all Japanese forces wherever situated and the Japanese people to cease hostilities forthwith, to preserve and save from damage all ships, aircraft, and military and civit property and to comply with all requirements which may be imposed by the Supreme Commander for the Alired Pawers or by agencies of the Japanese Government at his direction.

We hereby command the Japanese imperial General Headquarters to issue at once orders to the Commanders of all Japanese forces and all forces under Japanese control wherever situated to surrender unconditionally themselves and all forces under their control.

We hereby command all civil, military and naval afficials to aboy and enforce ull proclamations, orders and directives deemed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to be proper to effectuate this surrender and issued by him of under his authority and we direct all such officials to remain at their posts and to continue to perform their non-combatant duties unless specifically telleved by him or under his authority.

We hereby undertake for the Emperar, the Japanese Government and their successors to carry out the provisions at the Possdam Declaration in good faith, and to is sue whatever orders and take whatever action may be required by the Supreme Commonder for the Allied Powers or by any other designated representative of the Allied Powers for the purpose of giving effect to that Declaration.

We hereby command the Jopanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters at ance to liberate all effied prisoners of wor and clivilian interees now under Japanese control and to provide for their protection, care, maintenance and immediate transportation to places as directed.

The authority of the Emperor and the Japonese Government to rule the state shall be subject to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers who will take such steps as he deems proper to affectuate these terms of surrender.

> The Instrument of surrender document, page 1. [item 181S, B6121, NAA]

11



By Command and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan and the Japamese Government.

梅祥美流科

By Command and in behalf of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters.

Accepted of TOKYO BAY, JAPAN of 0908

on the <u>SECOND</u> day of <u>SEPTEMBER</u>, 1945, for the United States, Republic of China, United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and in the interests of the other United Nations at war with Japan.

Supering Commonda tor the Allies Formers.

United States Ropedsentalive

Ampublic of China Representative

Bree Raser.

Jeneyay - unit error 1: Dylants Union at gevier Socialies Republics Representative

Commonwooll of Arstrolio Repréfenderies 1

bommion of Canada Representative

Le _ cli Provisional Sovernment of the French

Republic Representative

Kingdom of the Netherlands Representative

Jeman K. Antt Dominion of New Zealand Representative

The Instrument of surrender document, page 2. [Item 181S, B6121, NAA]

PROCLAMATION

*

Accepting the terms set forth in Declaration issued by the basis of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and China on July 26th, 1945 at Potsdam and submequently adhered to by the Union of Soviet Socialist Hepablics, We have commanded the Japaness Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Hesdquarters to sign on Our behalf the Instrument of Surrender presented by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers and to issue General Orders to the Military and Naval Porces in accordance with the direction of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. We command all Our people forthwith to cease hostilities, to lay down their arms and faithfully to carry out all the provisions of Instrument of Surrender and the General Orders Issued by the Japanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters hereunder.

This second day of the minth month of the twentieth year of Syowa.

Seal of the Emperor

Signed: HIROHITO

Countersigned: Naruhiko-5 Prime Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu Minister for Foreign Affairs

19. 20

At Law

Iwao Yanaishi Minister for Home Affairs

Juichi Tsushime Minister of Finance

Sadasu Shisosura Minister of War

Mitsumasa Tonai Minister of Navy

Chuso Iwata Minister of Justice

Tanon Marda Minister of Education

Henno Matsumura Minister of Welfare

Kotaro Sengoku Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

Chikubel Nekajima Minister of Commerce and Industry

Naoto Kobiyana Minister of Transportation

Punimaro Ecnos Minister without Portofolio

Taketora Ogata Minister without Portofolio

Einehiro Obata Ministar without Portofolio

> The Proclamation of surrender document. [Item 181S, B6121, NAA]

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Translation.

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HIRCHITO,

By the Grace of Heaven, Emperor of Japan, seated on the Throne occupied by the same Dynasty changeless through ages eternal,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting! We do hereby authorise Masoru Shigemitsu, Zyosanmi, Pirst Class of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun to attach his signature by command and in behalf of Ourselves and Our Government unto the Instrument of Surrender which is required by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to be signed.

In witness whereof, We have bereunto set Our signature and caused the Great Seal of the Empire to be affixed.

Given at Our Palace in Tōkyō, this first day of the ainth month of the twentieth year of Syōwa, being the two thousand six hundred and fifth year from the Accession of the imperor Zinmu.

Seal of the Empire

Signed: HIROHITO.

Countersigned: Naruhiko-ö Prime Minister

The translation of Emperor Hirohito's authorisation to General Mamoru to surrender to the Allied commanders on his behalf. [Item 181S, B6121, NAA]

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surrender to the Allied commanders on his behalf, [Item 181S, B6121, NAA]

1.1

Translation.

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HIROHITO,

By the Grace of Heaven, Emperor of Japan, seated on the Throne occupied by the same Dynasty changeless through ages eternal,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

We do hereby authorize Yoshijiro Umszu, Zyosanni, First Class of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun, Second Class of the Imperial Military Order of the Golden Kite, to attach his signature by command and in behalf of Ourselves and Our Imperial General Headquarters unto the Instrument of Surrender which is required by the Suprese Commander for the Allied Powers to be signed.

In witness whereof, We have hereunto set Our signature and caused the Great Seal of the Espire to be affixed.

Given at Our Falace in Pokyo, this first day of the ninth month of the twentieth year of Syowa, being the two thousand six hundred and fifth year from the Accession of the Emperor Zinnu.

Seal of the

Empire

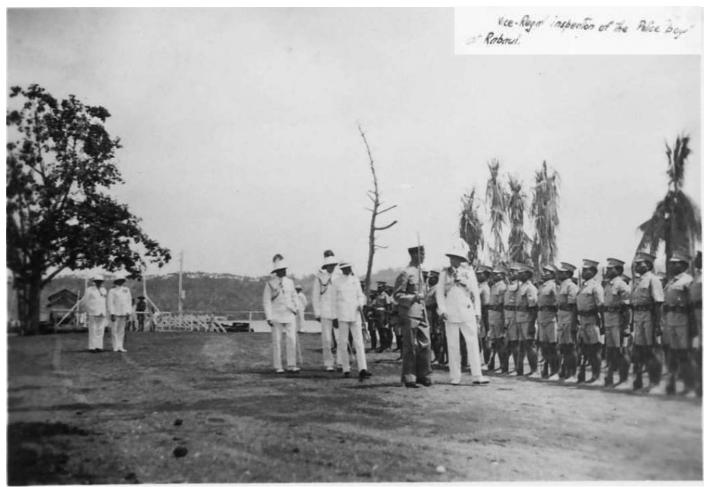
Signed: HIROHITO.

Countersigned: Yoshijiro Umezu Chief of the General Staff of the Imperial Japanese Army

Scemu Toyoda Chief of the General Staff of the Imperial Japanese Navy

The translation of Emperor Hirohito's authorisation to General Umezu to surrender to the Allied commanders on his behalf. [Item 181S, B6121, NAA]

Japanese Unconditional Surrender by Emperor Hirohito on 2 September 1945.



Vice-Regal inspection of the Police 'Boys' at Rabaul.



Bulolo, New Guinea in 1948. Twins (Heather & Fern Robertson) at top right. The school bell was rung for classes by either the Headmistress teacher Dorothy (Dottie) Frazer or one of the pupils.

Cagrabulations	No. 26 6. 5719 Received from 2 Reber lars the sum of Pounting Pounds
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11-55A HP	<u>E 17:1480</u>

Gil's 1959 Herberton Masonic Lodge No. 39 Telegram and £17.14.0 Initiation Fees receipt.

T. Robertson initiated into the Herberton-Corrie Lo Lodge Herberton 3 9 No BYLAWS BY-LAWS OF THE District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria

G.S.T. Robertson initiated into the Herberton-Corrie Lodge No. 39 on 6 June 1959.



Gil's Life Patron, Aged Masons Homes Medal, Life Saving Bronze Medallion and badges.



Gilbert Stuart Robertson and his 1953 *Peugeot 203 Estate* in outback Queensland in the early 1960s. No, he is not about to call the Royal Automobile Club on a mobile phone!



Gilbert Stuart Robertson's Australian-assembled 1953 *Peugeot 203 Estate* broken down in outback Queensland in the early 1960s. The bowls will have to wait...



William Eustace (Bill) Robertson, younger brother of Gilbert Stuart Robertson, in 1963 working barefoot in a Queensland pineapple plantation.



William Eustace (Bill) Robertson, younger brother of Gilbert Stuart Robertson, in 1963 cutting sugar cane with a machete in Queensland.



Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson 1966 in Mount Isa, Queensland with daughter Fern Duus and grandchildren Malcolm and Rosemary Duus.



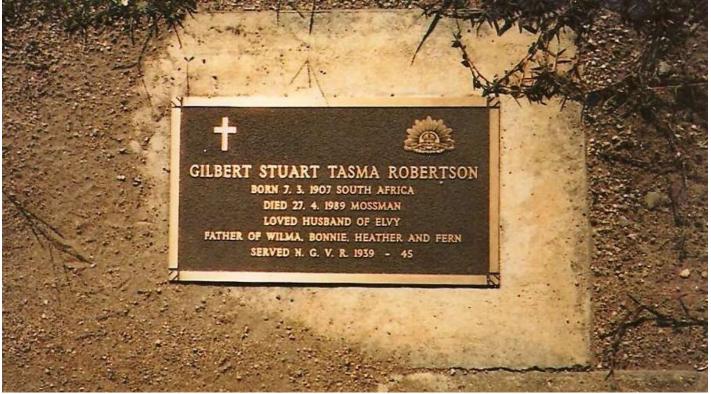
Gilbert Stuart Robertson 1967 in Mount Isa, Queensland with grandson Kenneth Duus.



Medals awarded to Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 Certificate of Service No. 21092, War Badge Class A174173. The 1939 – 1945 Star The Pacific Star The War Medal 1939 – 1945 The Australian Service Medal 1939 – 1945



Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Robertson NGX359 World War II Service Certificate.



Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson Born 7.3.1907 South Africa Died 27.4.1989 Mossman Loved husband of Elvy Father of Wilma, Bonnie, Heather and Fern Served N.G.V.R. 1939 – 45





NGVR Memorial Plaque.

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL JEFFERY AC CVO MC GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA ON THE OCCASION OF NGVR / ANGAU AND PIR PLAQUE UNVEILING WESTERN COURTYARD, AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA 15 MAY 2007

MAJGEN Gower and Mrs Gower

. LTGEN Peter Leahy and Mrs Leahy

. HE Mr Charles Lepani

. The Hon Bronwyn Bishop, MP

. Mr Keith Payne and Mrs Payne

Association Presidents

. Veterans

. Ladies and Gentlemen

Boys and Girls

Thank you for the very warm welcome.

I am delighted to be here for the official unveiling and dedication of the Pacific Islands Regiment plaque, together with the dedication of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles/Australia New Guinea Administrative Unit plaque, both of which honour a truly special group of people. May I also mention the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Association for its splendid work in running the NGVR / PNGVR Museum at Wacol, for agreeing to absorb the PIR Association and for sending three of their representatives to PNG last year to distribute ADF medals to former indigenous members.

As with many of you present, Papua New Guinea holds many wonderful memories for me, both personal and military. Marlena and I were married in the 'Haus Lotu' at Taurama Barracks nearly forty years ago, and after a very happy three years in 1PIR, I was further privileged to command 700 very fine soldiers of the Second Battalion the Pacific Islands Regiment in Wewak at Independence.

My unit successfully conducted battalion border operations on the PNG/Irian Jaya border and I would have been proud to take it anywhere. It was a very fine combat battalion; and as former commanding officers Donald Ramsay, Jack Stewart, Russ Lloyd and Laurie Lewis would no doubt testify, it was a bit like being the Mayor of a beautiful tropical coastal town, in which the CO and his wife were responsible for all aspects of life within it; and what a wonderfully rewarding life it was.

I believe Australia's relationship with Papua New Guinea is one of our deepest and most important. At its core is our close geographic proximity and shared history, of which the gallant defence of New Guinea during World War Two was the most defining moment. Some 200,000 Australian servicemen and women participated in that arduous campaign supported in both a combat and logistic sense by our Papua New Guinean friends.

At the outbreak of the war, the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) was formed as a militia battalion. They earned distinction through their efforts to resist the Japanese invaders in 1942 with approximately 80 members of the NGVR supporting the Australian troops of Lark Force on New Britain. Only 21 of these men are known to have escaped to the mainland after the capitulation, with the remainder being taken prisoner. The surviving soldiers were incorporated into the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit in early 1943. ANGAU, on the other hand, was formed in Port Moresby on 10 April 1942 as a result of military control replacing the civil authority in Papua, and of the hitherto separate administrations in Papua and in New Guinea being amalgamated. Thus, the origins of Papua New Guinea as a nation arguably lie in this combined administration.

ANGAU areas of responsibility included maintaining law and order, providing health and education services, arranging recruitment for the indigenous infantry battalions, and gathering information on the enemy's dispositions. However ANGAU is best known for having recruited and managed the indigenous labourers, who in continually supporting allied troops in action, acted as carriers on various supply lines throughout Papua and New Guinea, and in evacuating the wounded. Many of us knew Bert Kienzle, the plantation owner and highly efficient wartime commander of ANGAU during our post-war service in Port Moresby.

In 2005, I was present at the Bomana War Cemetery for a ceremony commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the final Pacific campaign. A beautiful and deeply spiritual place, it is the final resting place of more than 3,000 Australian sailors, soldiers and airmen, who died on war service in Papua New Guinea and on Bougainville.

Bomana also serves as a monument to the more than 700 Australians and Papua-New Guineans who fell and have no known graves - their final resting place known only to God.

I think it appropriate at this service to reflect for a moment on the vital campaign of the New Guinea experience - Kokoda. You will recall that the Japanese had not lost a battle in their strike south though Malaya, Singapore and the Philippines. Their invasion of Papua New Guinea in July 1942 initiated one of the bloodiest campaigns of World War Two, when a 4000 advance party of MAJGEN Tomitaro Horii's 13,500 force landed by surprise near Gona on the north coast of New Guinea with 1000 mainly Tolais from the Gazelle Peninsula as carriers.

Their intent was to advance quickly across the Owen Stanley ranges along the Kokoda Track to capture Port Moresby.

Once Port Moresby with its airfield and port was secured, along with the airfields in Milne Bay, northern Australia's shipping lanes and potentially its northern land mass would be at the mercy of the enemy.

But the Japanese did not make it. A gallant Australian militia battalion, the 39th, its sister battalion the 53rd, three superb AIF battalions of the 21st Brigade, the Papuan Infantry Battalion, along with members of other local units including ANGAU, slowed, blunted, finally halted and then defeated the furious Japanese assaults along the track.

As an aside, I remember my own personal experiences in Papua New Guinea, commanding C Company of 1PIR in the 1960's; exercising along the Kokoda Track, with full equipment, simulating the battle actions of August/September 1942, confronting the extraordinary physical conditions of the track, the heat and rain, the unforgiving terrain, re-using weapon pits from the war, finding the bones of the dead, old munitions, weaponry and other remnants of military hardware.

I can't begin to tell you the effect on my company and me of that experience, just twenty or so years after the events of Kokoda; every moment on the track reinforcing to us the incredible bravery, the difficulties and the deprivation faced by Australian and PNG soldiers and their native carriers in that pivotal campaign.

For the foot soldiers and the ANGAU carriers in particular, movement became an endurance test of an individual's ability to operate in steaming rain forests and up mud-drenched mountain slopes. Soldiers were sometimes exhausted by the terrain before they even reached the enemy.

Tropical disease added to everyone's misery. Malaria, Dengue Fever and Scrub Typhus were common

in New Guinea and all were potentially fatal. Soldiers who survived these diseases were left badly weakened and often suffered permanent ill health as a result.

Sixty years later, the trauma of those times still resonates deeply in both our countries.

After the war, our military ties continued throughout the uncertain times of the 1950s, 60s and 70s until the rapid drawing down of our Australian Defence Force personnel after Independence in 1975.

The Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR) was formed in November 1944 from an amalgamation of the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB) and the 1st and 2nd New Guinea Infantry Battalions (NGIB). It was awarded 1 Australian battle honours, the first of which was the Kokoda Track. It fought in 10 of the 11 PNG campaigns; the exception being Milne Bay.

The new post-war role was essentially one of nation building - of proving by military example that a diverse, tribally-based people with hundreds of different languages could come together as one cohesive nation. This was achieved by long duration normally company-sized patrolling throughout PNG, including its islands. For much of the time there were no reliable maps; and as late as 1966 I can recall personally meeting villagers who had never seen a white man before. We had some interesting experiences.

On the 15th of September 1975, the Australian flag was lowered in Papua New Guinea. The first Governor-General of PNG, Sir John Guise, noted poignantly "that the Australian flag was being lowered, not torn down." Prince Charles attended an equivalent ceremony in Wewak. Some 30,000 tribal warriors in all their magnificent finery were on display that day. As CO of 2PIR I had the privilege of being present with Marlena.

Today, Australia remains committed to the significant, strategic bilateral defence relationship that we have maintained with Papua New Guinea since our united defence of it over 65 years ago, and it is this legacy that we celebrate today.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is both timely and fitting that we record and commemorate the tremendous history of the Pacific Islands Regiment and their forebears; the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit. We honour those who did not return and those who returned hurt in body or mind. None should ever be forgotten, none will be forgotten; nor indeed will the families and loved ones who supported them throughout the decades.

To the veterans here this morning, well done. Be proud of what you achieved in PNG, in war and peace, and in playing your part to bring a warm and friendly people to independent nationhood. The plaques dedicated here today will bear permanent and important testament to service gladly and faithfully given by those of us privileged to have belonged to ANGAU, NGVR and the battalions of the Pacific Islands Regiment.

Thank you.

NGVR Plaque Unveiling address 15 May 2007.

Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson NGX359 - Certificate of Service No. 21092, War Badge No. A174173

7 March 1907 Born, Johannesburg, South Africa 1923 - 1924 Naval Cadets Mining Engineering, Mt Lyell School Of Mines Tasmanian Government Mine Manager's Certicate 7 October 1939 Enlisted for 2 years, Bulolo, New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) - Rifleman NG823 21 January 1940 Leave 18 September 1941 Appointed Corporal NGVR - Corporal NG2243 Civilian evacuation - RAAF Douglas DC-3 "VH-UZI Kyilla" from Rabaul, New Guinea 21 December 1941 22 January 1942 Commence Full Time War Service in Citizen Military Forces (Militia) with NGVR in Bulolo 22 January 1942 Attestation, Bulolo, Territory New Guinea - Attestation documentation later destroyed by enemy action 1 April 1942 Appointed Acting Sergeant NGVR - Sergeant NG2243 Commence service with Kanga Force in New Guinea Lines of Communication (L/C) Area 16 August 1942 16 August 1942 March in transferred from NGVR to Kanga Force 15 September 1942 Transferred to Port Moresby for duty 22 September 1942 Evacuated to Australian Corps Receiving Centre (1 ACRC) from Port Moresby for medical transfer to Brisbane 2 October 1942 Embarked on "HMAHS Manunda" hospital ship to Brisbane 6 October 1942 Admitted to 112 Australian General Hospital (112 AGH), Brisbane - Malaria 1 December 1942 Medical Classification Assessed Class A1, Queensland Discharged to 101 Australian Convalescent Depot (101 ACD), Queensland 2 December 1942 10 December 1942 March in ex 101 ACD for Conference Board 19 December 1942 March out to Leave and Transit Depot (L&TD) Ascot for 24 days Voluntary Health Leave (V.H.L.) 29 January 1943 March in Redbank Reinforcement Depot (RRD) - unit disbanded 2 February 1943 Attestation, Exhibition Grounds Brisbane, Queensland - NG2243 17 February 1943 March out from RRD to Royal Australian Engineers Training Centre (4 RAE T.C.), Wagga 11 May 1943 March in to Royal Australian Engineers Training Centre (4 RAE T.C.) ex Redbank Reinforcement Depot (RRD) Queensland March out to NGFARD via 1st Army Personnel Staging Camp (1 APSC), Tennyson, Queensland from 4 RAE TC 31 May 1943 4 June 1943 End of service in Citizen Military Forces (Militia) with Kanga Force 5 June 1943 Commence service in Australian Imperial Force (AIF) with ANGAU 5 June 1943 Attestation into Australian Imperial Force (AIF), Brisbane, Queensland - NGX359 5 June 1943 Enlisted with Australian New Guinea Administration Unit, Native Labour Section (ANGAU) March out to New Guinea Force Advanced Reinforcement Depot (NGFARD) from 1 APSC Tennyson, Queensland 6 June 1943 16 June 1943 Embarked from Townsville on "HMAT Duntroon" "HMAT Duntroon" sailed with 1,077 personnel, 2 motor transports, 3,244 Australian mail bags, 159 US mail bags (Page 94) 17 June 1943 20 June 1943 Disembarked "HMAT Duntroon" at Port Moresby, New Guinea 21 June 1943 Taken On Strength from 2/1 Australian Corps Reception Centre (2/1 ACRC) 30 August 1943 Appointed Sergeant, Australian New Guinea Administration Unit (ANGAU), Native Labour Section - Sergeant NGX359 15 October 1943 Appointed Acting Warrant Officer Class II, Australian New Guinea Administration Unit (ANGAU), Native Labour Section - A/WOII NGX359 20 June 1944 Emplaned at Nadzab, New Guinea, to fly to Townsville on leave 29 August 1944 Embarked from Townsville on "SS Taroona", returning to New Guinea from leave 29 August 1944 "SS Taroona" sailed with 646 personnel, Order 296 (Page 158) 31 August 1944 Disembarked "SS Taroona" in Milne Bay, New Guinea returning from leave 1 September 1944 Admitted to 2 Medical Receiving Station (2 MRS) in Milne Bay- Pyrexia of Unknown Origin (P.U.O.) & Transferred to X List Discharged from 2 MRS, Malaria benign tertian (MBT), at Milne Bay, New Guinea 12 September 1944 12 September 1944 Strength increase, Rejoined ANGAU unit from 2 MRS Discharged from service under Australian Military Regulations & Orders (AMR&O 253 VIII(a)) to receive Commissioned Rank 13 October 1944 Appointed Lieutenant, Australian New Guinea Administration Unit (ANGAU), Native Labour Section - Lieutenant NGX359 14 October 1944 4 June 1945 New Guinea Training School, ANGAU Officer's Regimental Training Course (24 days) - ANGAU Northern Regional 16 July 1945 Embarked from Lae, New Guinea on "SS Van Outhoorn" 18 July 1945 Disembark "SS Van Outhoorn" in Brisbane from Lae 13 December 1945 Appointment with AIF Terminated 14 December 1945 Transferred to the Reserve of Officers (ANGAU) Tasmania 27 April 1989 Died, Mossman Hospital, Mossman, Queensland 2 May 1989 Buried, Mossman Lawn Cemetary, Queensland

Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Robertson War Service History (compiled from extracted official records from *National Archives of Australia*).

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Gilbert Stuart Robertson War Service History records copies. Advice of Delivery card for letter sent on 4 November 1947 to G S Robertson C/- *Bulolo Gold Dredging* at Bulolo from Northern Command Army Records Office.

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(Signature of addressee)
(Signature of officer by whom delivery is made) To be forwarded to sender by first mail after delivery.
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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Attestation Army Number 823 on 7 October 1939 while living at Bulwa, New Guinea.

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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Attestation Army Number 823 on 7 October 1939.

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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Attestation Army Number 823 on 7 October 1939.

NTEER FORCES.	STATEMENT OF SERVICES.					
ame)	15			10	tability of our	
g endiated on (date) re-engage and will well and traly serve Our Commonwealth of Australia for the term of	Said or Goys.	Promotions, Balantinos, Transfers, Cartificates, Cassailties, &c.	Date.	Authority.	Initials of Officer Certifying Correctness of Entry,	
(dato), or until sooner lawfully discharged, in Majesty's enomies and ernse III's Majesty's noters appertaining in my service, faithfully er	N.G. V.R.	Enlit Balolo. Jeave 235/100 Prove ted bafael	1/10/39 31/1/40 18-9-41	Rozino ROJE Rozini	Red W	
gauture). Commanding Officer,						
NTEER FORCES.	1825					
Nemer) , having previously re-engaged desiring to re-engage, do borshy declars that rough Lord the King is the Volunteer Forces of years from (date), therefrom; and that I will resist His Majesty's sized; and shat I will in all matters apportaining law.						
gnature) Orsemanding Officer.						
NTEER FORCES.						
Name) , baring proviously re-engaged d again desiring to re-engage, do hereby declare Dur Sovoreign Lord and King in the Volunteer yours from (dute), herefrom; and that I will main His Majosty's ment) and that I will in all matters appertaining two.						
ere of Noklier						
gasture) Commanding Officer.	8					
<i>L</i> .						
 ⁶⁰⁰. Vear ended. Signature of C0. or Adpt. 20/6/29. 20/6/29. 20/6/29. 20/6/29. 						
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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Attestation Army Number 823 on 7 October 1939.

6629-41†	
	A.A. Form Mob. (Revised December, 194
AUSTRALIAN	MILITARY FORCES.
	Contractor of the second se
MOBILIZATION	ATTESTATION FORM
	of Assembly when called out under Parts III. or IV.
of the	e Defence Act.
Army No. NC-2243	
Surname ROBERTSON	Christion Names Gilbert Stuart
Unit (BLOCH CAPITALS)	Christion Warnes
	hase
Enlisted for war service at More	M/1/42 DAAC (Place)
	(State) 1 15 Eno 85294 (Date,
Questions to be put to persons called out or presenting themsel	A
Questions to be put to persona contex out or presenting member	1. Surname ROBERTSON
1. What is your name?	O. O BLOCK PAPITALS)
	Other names illest stuart
	2. In or near the town of Johannesburg
2. Where were you born?	In the state or country of Africa
An and a David C. Lt. a S	2 Les
3. Are you a British Subject?	
4. What is your age and date of birth ?	4. Age 35 12 1900
•. what is your age and date of offin ?	Date of Birth Y/3/04
5. (a) What is your normal trade or occupation? Grade if any?	in 1 inona Encine
20000	101 1051 0 0
(b) Present occupation ?	" (1) · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
6. (a) Are you married, single or widower?	6. (a) barrien (toing 1)
(b) If married state date of marriage?	(6)(6)(6)(6)(6)(6)_
7. (a) Have you had previous naval, military or Air Force service in peace or war? If so, where and in what arm?	either 7. (a) N.G. 2243. N.G. V.R.
(b) What was the reason for your discharge?	
(a) what was the reach for your discharger	" flage Ada pho tam
	8. Narte roy what he was we
 Who is your actual next of kin? (Order of relationship.—wife, son, eldest daughter, father, mother, eldest brother, eldest s 	eldest Address 7 Ashfrelk M.
eldest half-brother, eldest half-sister)	and bohart Inc. "
	Relationship Wife
sections 4	Jack Ball & l. t.
9. What is your permanent address?	sunning gray about
	A A
What is your religious denomination? (This question need answered if the man has a conscientious objection to doing so)	not be 10. Tree
mucho maria	
	I. Certificate for entry to Secondary School
1. Which, if any, of the following Educational Qualifications d	2. Intermediate
possess?	. 3. Leaving
To prove it was	4. Leaving Honoura
	5. Technical
are rear	
Fleer Maary Pr	6. University Degree
A CONTRACTOR	7. Other Diplomas
2. Have you ever been convicted by a Civil Court ?	12. A. Ask -
If so-(a) What Court?) (a)
(b) For what offence?	(b)
Filter smart Robe	do solemnly declare that th
above answers made by me to the above questions are true,	a pipit
Witnessed by J. Hollingworth 5/3	gr- Monerton
(Signature of Atlesting or Witnessing Officer.)	(Signature)

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Mobilisation Attestation NG2243 on 2 February 1943.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

B

In have made full and careful examination of the abovenamed person in accordance with the instructions contained in the Standing Orders
 Australian Army Medical Services. In my opinion he is—*

 Fit for Class I.

 Temporarily unfit for Class I †

 Temporarily unfit for Class II †

 Temporarily unfit for Class II †

 Sunfit for military service †

 Date

 Signature of Examining Medical Officer

 * Quantificationi, which are implicible to be struct out.

 * Reason for unfitnees to be stated.

OATH OF ENLISTMENT 1

C

For persons enlisted or called upon under Part III. or Part IV. of the Defence Act, and not being members of the Active Citizen Military Forces to serve in the Citizen Forces in time of war. Not compulsory for serving members of the Forces or those allotted to the Citizen Forces under Part XII. of the Act, but unless in any case an objection is raised, the oath should be administered to them as part of the ceremony of attestation.

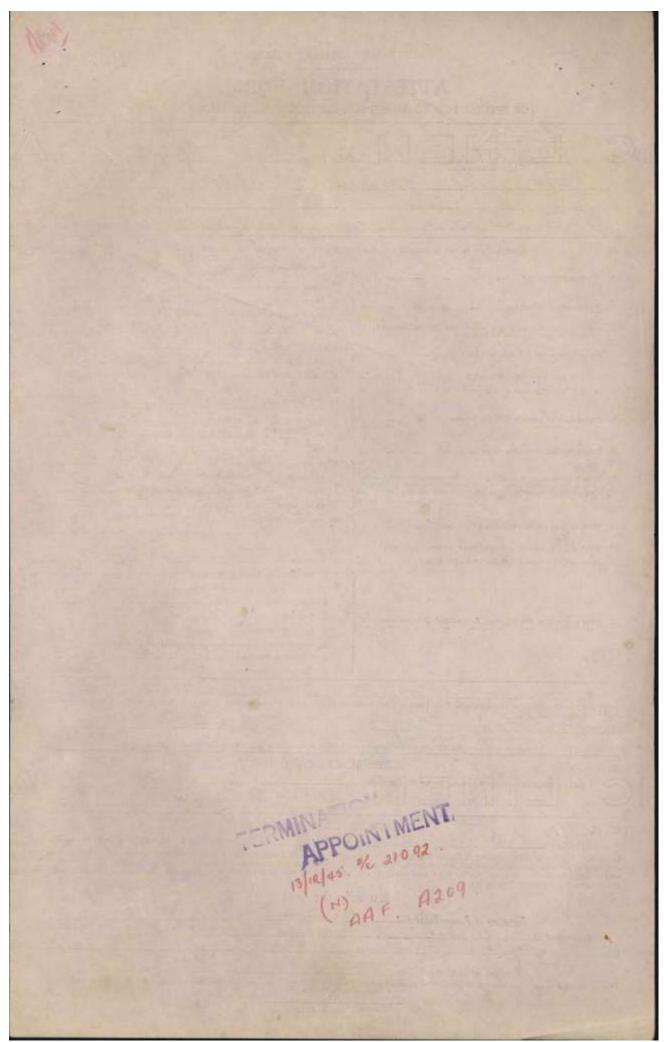
ber Ŧ swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord, the King, in the Citizen Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia for the duration of the present time of war, or until sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed, or removed, and that I will resist His Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and maintained, and that I will in all matters, appertaining to my service faithfully discharge my duty according to law.

30 Delp Me God! Person Enlisted Subscribed at in the State of day of 42 this Before me-Signature of Attesting Offic V. Llau O in ‡ Persons who object to take an oath may make an affirmation in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Defence Act. In such case the above form will be amended accordingly and initialled by the Attesting Officer. ike ord to Action TAL Gost. Printer, Brithane, supplier u.gen. der

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Mobilisation Attestation NG2243 on 2 February 1943.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES. A.A. Form A.200. (Revised April, 1941.) -ATTESTATION FORM. FOR SPECIAL FORCES RAISED FOR SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA OR ABROAD. Army No. NO 2243 Gilbert Stuart Surname BOBERTSO Other Names Transfer NGV.R. proceeding on Unit Bulo Enlisted for service at (Place) Territory. New OUTREA _(State) (Date) A. Questions to be put to persons called out or presenting themselves for voluntary enlistment. OBER TSON BLOCK CAPITALS I. What is your name? m Stual EREL town of Jehannesburg ar the town of ... 2. Where were you born ! barn B.S. Are you a natural born or a naturalized British Subject 7 the hitter, papers are to be produced If atural Age What he brint age and dute id hirts t March 1907 Date of Birth What is your tender or equipation ! Are you murried, each or withour? DEFACES. Mining 80 ۵. IV1 ε. 1. A.M.F. 2243 Bank Alleft Dun M. G. V.R Give details of provisus Military Service OTHER MILITARY SERVICE. Rank Bfory No. 523 Thit If now serving, give particulars __ A No. Name Elley Ada Robertson, Adama 7 Ashticka SI, Sandy Bary 9. Who is your actual ment of his f (Order of relationship)-wife, eldest son, oldest daughter, fuller, mother, silost brother, edgest siter, sident half bencher, withen half-sizer.) Tesman Hebart Relationship Jandy Bay Hoba 7 Astrick S What is your permanent address? 10. aswant What is your religious decomination ! (Answer optional.) 11. No Have you ever here convicted by a sivil court? 12. L. Certificate for Entry to Sconndary School 13. Have you any of the following Educational Qualifications? If 3. Leaving-4. Leaving Bonours Vinge's TAS. Gov. Time Technical .. 6. University Degrees. Other Diplomas Fining Engineering 6464 2. M 3. Gilbert Stuart ROBERTSON do solemnly declare that the above answers made by see to the above questions are true and that I am willing to serve in the Australian Military Forces within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth. ahm al Witness I fee (Signalize) as under the Defaute Air. MEDICAL EXAMINATION R Tomoorneity unfit. I certify the above-named person to be fit for Class Al Unite vollay. Ellos .(Signature) OATH OF ENLISTMENT † C 3. Gilbert, Stuart Nobertson swear that I will well and truly serve our swear that I will well and truly serve our Severeign Lord, the King, in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia until the cessation of the present time of war and twelve months thereafter or until sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed or removed, and that I will resist His Majorty's enemies and cause His Majorty's prace to be kept and maintained, and that I will in all matters appertaining to my service faithfully discharge my duty according to law. Bo Help ille God Ataka Signature of Person Enlisted Brisbane in the State of ucens/and Subscribed at. 14.43 5 this. -10 day of Before mn-Signature of Attesting Officer ... such may make an efformation in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Delesses Act. In well often the above form will be amounted according officer. ? Persons who object to take an Defence Print, Sydney

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Attestation NGX359 on 5 June 1943.



Gilbert Stuart Robertson Attestation NGX359 on 5 June 1943.

	A. Form B.199 (e). (Adapted). (Beprinted Oct., 1941) Other Names ASLM-10/42-0001 Personal Particul Address Date of Birth Civilian Employ	OFFICE	R'S R	NEW Su	egt. or Co rname Guin Place	orps ANG RBBA (BLOCH	ICE NGX3 AU Jako ERTS CAPITALO 4/1/46 Au	109. ild
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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Officer's Record of Service.

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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Officer's Record of Service.

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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Service & Casualty Form.

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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Service & Casualty Form.

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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Officer's Record of Service.

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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Officer's Record of Service.

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BART A - Foundation Date Line 7	OR TERMINATION OF AN A.A.F. A. 209. (Introduced July, 1945)
Authority Reason for AMILS 0.253A1111 Unit PARA	Army No. NGX 359 Rank AT
Termination Store in which terminution desired. Normally State in which name Day's housed. TAS Other Names G14.8 F.	RT STUART Surname RUSERTSON
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4. Non-effective Service:*	Date / S. 12 - 45 Signature of Officer / Reference Place Officer Signature of Witness Reference - "Effective Period" means the period of service, less pairy consecutive 21 days or more which the solidier was not entitled to pay. 1 Australia means the mainland of Australia and Tasmania.
	Does not include War Medaja.

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Proceedings for Termination of an Officer's Appointment.

	DETERMINATION OF DEA	ADBILIZATION PRIORITY	DEMOB. INDICATOR
			7 202
	RMY NO NGY 359 RANK AT	UNIT ANGAU	003
	SURNAME ROBERTSON	9111	
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	ote of Commencement of Full War Time War Service		ull Time War Service 3.44. yea
B. /	SSESSMENT OF NORMAL PRIORITY.		Points
	1. Length of Service in months # 5× 2 (moles) or 3	< 1 (females)	90
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	3. Dependancy Status Imales only1-one point for each r		Normal Priority/ 203
2	4. Dependancy Status (females only)-insert "A" )		terman Priority)
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	6. Records and assessment checked.	Allen II	
	7. I desire discharge in the State of Jacobs	kina	Signature of Officer,
	8. I intend to apply-	Date 8/11/45	
	#11) Far service in the Permanent Military Forces.		
	* (ii) For service throughout the Demoh, period.	white	Signature of Membe
C. 1	CO For service throughout the Denote period.	ENTATIVE OF SERVICE ON F	
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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Determination of Demobilization Priority.

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(Revise	d	Jan.	, 1	944)

## AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

# COURSES OF INSTRUCTION

### CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

1. SCHOOL New Guinea Training School

Title and number of course ANGAU Officers Regimental Training Course No 1

- 2. No. NGX359 UNIT ANGAU (Northern Regional) RANK Lt UNIT ANGAU (Northern Regional) RANK Lt CONTRACTOR ANGAU CONTRACTOR ANGAU
- **3. EXAMINATIONS.**

Written 47.8 % Practical 49.2 % Oral 65 % Classification Qualified

4. RECOMMENDATION AS TO FUTURE EMPLOYMENT.

ANGAU

5. INSTRUCTIONAL ABILITY (if applicable) FAIR

-Doss not inspite confidence as an instructor nor handle weapons well.

Rigid and uneasy when instructing and sequence is NOT good. NOT Recommended as suitable for instructional duties at

* (..... refers.).

- 6. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS. Eager to learn. Thoughtful, dependable. Intelligent. Neatly turned out. Serious minded and sensitive. Has gained in self confidence but still requires to be more forceful.
- 7. GENERAL REMARKS. By hard work made very fair progress. Need to be more flexible of mind and less hesitant of manner. Acquired a good

general knowledge. Senior Instructor Werdundy My Chief Instructo. Date 30 Jun 45 *If applicable, insert reference number of communication to higher formation (LHQ refers). of

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Courses of Instruction Confidential Report.

## SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS OF AWARD AND NOTES FOR GUIDANCE IN THE WEARING OF CAMPAIGN STARS, DEFENCE AND WAR MEDALS

Members, to be eligible for awards, must normally have been taken on the strength of a unit in a qualifying area through Routine Orders Part II.

Order of Wearing	Description of Ribbon	Clasp or Emblem Worn (If awarded)	Conditions of Award
1. 1939/45 Star	Dark blue, red and light blue in three equivalent vertical stripes. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	Battle of Britain	Six (6) month's operational service during period 3 Sep 39 to 2 Sep 45, also by entry into campaign in Greece, Crete, Syria, Java, Sumatra, Malaya Timor, Burma, Assam and NW Frontier qualifies The 6 months' qualifying areas are Middle Eas (West of Suez Canal), New Guinea and othe areas of SWPA. Operational service brought to an end by death, wounds, or other disability, due to service, qualifies. Service in Palestine, Sinai, and India (excluding NW Frontier) does not qualify Service as air crew of fighter aircraft engaged in the Battle of Britain. Members of AMF, as such are not eligible for this clasp.
2. Africa Star	Pale buff, with a central vertical red stripe and two narrower stripes, one dark blue and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	8th Army or 1st Army, Air Force, Navy, 18th Army Group HQ	Entry into operational service with a unit performin operational functions west of Suez Canal. Member of units who were stationed in Palestine and called forward to Alexandria area in Egypt with a view to embarkation for Greece and spent 3 days or more in the qualifying area in March and April 1941, are eligible for the award. Members of units who were staging in the qualifying area, not for the purpose of embarking for Greece are deemed not to have been "in operational service" in the area, and do not qualify. The First and Eighth Army Clasps to this sta are granted for service with the First and Eight
3. Pacific Star	Dark green, with red edges, a central yellow stripe and two narrow stripes, one dark blue and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	Burma	Armies, respectively from 23 Oct 42 to 12 May 43 Entry into operational service in the Pacific theatre This award cannot be earned in addition to th Burma Star.
4. Burma Star	Dark blue with a central red stripe, and in addition two orange stripes.	Pacific	Entry into operational service in the Burma cam paign and for service in Bengal, Assam, China an Malaya, in specified areas and between certai dates. This award cannot be earned in addition to the Pacific Star. If both Pacific and Burm Stars have been earned, the award first earned will be granted with a clasp for the other award.
5. Defence Medal	Flame coloured with green edge upon each of which is a thin black stripe.		Six (6) months' service in non-operational area subjected to air attack, or closely threatened, an for twelve months' non-operational service oversea from, or outside Australia. Service in eligibl categories brought to an end before the qualifyin period has been completed either by death due t enemy action on duty or by injuries inflicted b enemy action, will qualify.
6. War Medal 1939/45	A narrow central red stripe with a narrow white stripe on either side. A broad red stripe at either edge, and two intervening stripes in blue.	Mentioned in Despatches	Full-time duty personnel of the armed forces for a total of not less than 28 days operational or nor operational service wherever rendered not necess sarily continuous.
7. Australia Service Medal	A khaki ribbon edged dark blue and light blue respectively with two intervening red stripes.		Full-time duty of not less than 18 months or par- time duty of not less than 3 years providing that a least 60 days defence duty was performed during th part-time service, and providing also that when full-time duty of less than 18 months was rendered it shall count double towards the part-time service qualification.
Definition of	tes for qualifying service for an of Operational Service — a spent on the posted strength of		European and Middle East theatre — 8 May 4 SWPA — 2 Sep 4

Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 Awarded Medals list.

Fonm W.F. 4. (Reprinted March, 1941).

## AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

## MEMBER'S FOLDER

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Gilbert Stuart Robertson NG2243 Personnel Records copies (compiled from extracted official records from National Archives of Australia Members Folder).

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Gilbert Stuart Robertson Members Folder Extracts Summary.

EC.HGB.

27th March, 1942.

District Finance Officer, 1st Military District, National House, 157-163 Ann Street, Brisbane, OUEANSLAND.

## Re ALLOTHENT & DEPENDANTS' ALLOWANCE

WIVES OF NEW GUINEA MEMBERS.

Further to my telegrams herewith please find copies of Statutory Declarations, and Forms W.F.7A in support of claims by the dependents of the undermentioned members .

N. G. 2243.

will you please authorise payments as soon as possible.

Lincoln John BELL Ernest Wilfred PEARCE. Gilbert Stuart ROBERTSON Raymond Charles HUTCHINSON.

Enclosures (8)

FOR C.S.PARRY, Lt. Col. DISTRICT FINANCE OFFICER 6th Military District.

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Memo to District Finance Officer 1st Military District Brisbane re Allotment & Dependants' Allowance Wives of New Guinea Members.

1. What relation are you to th		lifles.	Paybook	No		
	e above-named member	?Wife		1		
2. Give particulars and extent						
				0.000000	x.001112	
						*
	(In the case of a wife this question	need not be answered.)				
3. What is your present addre	ss) "Bonnie Brae	TAROONA. 3	'ASMAN	IA.		
						elevent.
4. State particulars of children	dependent upon the me	ember for support—				
Name		Address	Age	Day	Date of Bir Month	th   Year
	Mono			-	1000	-
Wilma Jean Robertson Bonnie Lynn "	Taro	ona		25 31	4	193
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5. Has the allotment been ma	de to you for the purpo	se of your own				
maintenance or personal	SARAN PC	,				
<ol> <li>Has the allotment been ma the amount in trust for</li> </ol>	the member or for appl	ose of holding	1011071071			
definite use indicated by	him?	]				
A Plan Ido Doboutoo						
<b>1</b> , Elvy Ada Robertson allottee of the person whose n	ulitary particulars are sh	own above, and that	y declar t the inf	e that forma	tion giv	the ven
is true and correct.	12 20	20				
Witness R.E.Bal	ker					
13	Allottee's Signa	ture E.A.I	lobert	son	)	
	i marite o Digna			- Continue		- (****)
		Date 23	13/42			

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Allottee's Identification Form WF7A.

	<b>Statutory Declaration.</b>	
4		

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Statutory Declaration.

# STATUTORY DECLARATION.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

(1) Here insert name, address, and occupation of series I, " Elvy ada Roberton

, do solemnly and sincerely

N.G. 2243

incertance declare (2) that I am the wife of learporal Silbert Stuart Robertson No. M. S. 823. New Suinen & Volunteen Rifles and that my husband has been called up for full time duty with the twethalian Mulitary Forces.

And 1 make this solemn declaration by virtue of the *Statutory Declarations Act* 1911 conscientiously believing the statements contained therein to be true in every particular.

3) Signature of parama

" LaRobertson

Declared at 23m day of March

Stabart

19 4 2, before me,

the

R. Jutleune

(5) Here insert title of person before whom the (5)

3411.

NOTE.—Any person who wilfally makes a false statement in a Statutory Declaration is guilty of an indictable offence, and is liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for four years.

By Authority: L. F. Jouxavox, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra,

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Statutory Declaration.

#### TELEGRAM

NG 838 NG 2243.

FONILITARY. BRISBANE

REFERENE 838 CORPORAL F.12 N.G. ROBERTSON G.S. ISSUE TAROONA INSTRUCTION POST OFFICE PAY ALLOTMENT AND DEPENDANTS ALLOWANCE WIFE AND POUR CHILDREN Hop ALLOTTEE ELVY ROBERTSON ADD RESS BONNIE BRAE TASMANIA. TAROONA



FOMILITARY.

1 and Scabled Ne this methy on \$14142 Nolopy 13/4/4

DESPATCHED: 31/3/42.

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Telegram re Allotment & Dependants' Allowance.

TELEPHONE-		Forces-Nort	hern Comm Army Pay Off	
N.G.2243	 5.	Address	Ann Street, BRISBANE.	-
MEMORANI		Date	10th April,	1942

RE N.G.2243 - Corporal ROBERTSON Gilbert Stuart

With reference to your telegram No.F.13 of 7/2/42 regarding the above-named soldier, you are advised that on and from 22/1/42 an allotment of 3/6 per day in favour of his wife (Elvy Ada ROBERTSON, Bonnibrae, Taroona,) has been put into operation. This, together with Dependants Allowance of 11/- per day on and from that date, has been made available for the allottee's collection at the Tarcona Post Office.

Please note that the member's correct Number is N.G.2243 and not N.G.838.

Major Act TOT FINANCE OFFICER 1 M.D.

District Finance Officer, 6th Military District, Anglesea Barracks, <u>HOBART</u>, TASMANIA. DISTRICT FINANCE OFFICE REC'D 1 6 APR 1942 To _______

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Memo re Allotment & Dependants' Allowance.



13th July, 1942.

EJ/FC

District Finance Officer, Queensland L. of C. Area, National House, 157 - 163 Ann Street, BRISBANE.

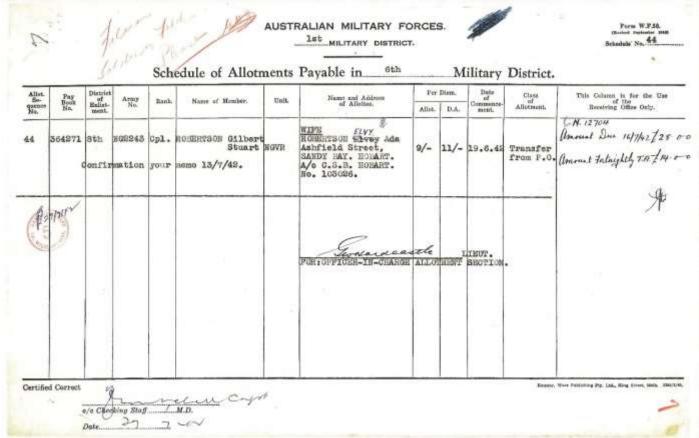
#### NG 2243 - ROBERTSON G.S.

Herewith W.F. 30, W.F. 31 and W.F. 76 concerning Allotment of abovenamed soldier.

Payment has been made to the Bank from 19/6/42 at rates 9/- Allotment 11/- D.A. in anticipation of your W.F. 50 confirmation.

ASST. DISTRICT FINANCE OFFICER, Tas. Force.

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Memo from Australian Military Forces – Northern Command to District Finance Officer 6th Military District Hobart re Allotment & Dependants' Allowance.



Gilbert Stuart Robertson Schedule of Allotments Payable in 6th Military District Form WF50.

_				Sch	edule of Allott	nents	Payable in TAS.L.O.	u paritan	· M		District.	
ABet. 80- gsride Na,	Pay Book No.	filstrict of Enlist- meon.	Army No.	Bank,	Name of Member.	Unit.	Name and Address of ADsites.	Per Allet.	Dism. D.A.	Date of Commence- ment.	Class of Allaiment,	This Column is for the Use of the Reserving Offics Only.
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50		8	1633171		PERRERTON R.G.1 SPER T.P.50 34/2 T.P.50 40/4	4	PEMMERTON A. (WIFE)	5/6 5/6 5/6	3/-6-	27/2/4 13/6/4 14/6/4	2 OLD RATES 2 DEOREASE 2 NEW RATES	V.
1		8	P.284	W.O. 11. REF	WITCHICKNER AND AND AND	A.N.O.	. MAHH E. (WIFE)	10/-	6/- 7/6	5/5/42 14/8/4	OLD HATES 2 HEN "	
40429	AUCHO	RISES	INCREAS	ND D.	A. TO ABOVE ALLO	TEES		P			RECH LIEUT. TMENTS 5807	

Gilbert Stuart Robertson Schedule of Allotments Payable in Tasmania Lines of Command Area Military District Form WF50.

Schedule 8, 59 Vict. No. 23. In the Bfate of 1710 Eaninania. CERTIFICATE MARRIAGE. OF 376 Register No. DISTRICT, on (') according to the (3) celebr Marriage by 12.20 Name (in full) Usual Residence, Present 9.22 Age (last Birthday) Profession or Occupation , 22224 BRIDEGROOM. elon Condition (Bachelor or Willower) (Former Wife deceased in year 1 If Widower Children living. dead Birth-place____ suuro Father's Name (in full) 0-21 Occupation ara Mother's Name (in full) ellen rance Name in full 7 Usual-Residence, Present-23 Age (last Birthday)_ Profession or Occupation 2 pores Condition (Spinster or Widow)___ BRIDE. Former Husband deceased in year 1 If Widow ; dead, Children living, ance 2m Birth-place RE Futher's Name (iu full) Occapation. and 11 Lda Mother's Nume (in full) EXTRACT The details above have been extracted from a record kept in the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the State of Tasmania. Michael Dixon REGISTRAR-GENERAL

Queensland								
DEATH	CERTIFICATE							

DECEASED Name and sumame	Gilbert Stuart Tasma Robertson
Occupation	Male 82 years
Date of Death	27 April 1989 Mossman Hospital, Mossman
Where born and, if not born in Australia, period of residence in Australia.	-, South Africa 75 years
PARENTS Name and surname of father	William Erin Robertson
Occupation,	Carpenter
Name and maiden surname of mother	Mary Ella Leitch
MARRIAGE(S) Where, at what age and to whom deceased was married.	Zeehan, Tasmania, 22 years, Elvy Ada Crane
CHILDREN	
Names and ages	Wilma Jean 55 years Bonnie Lynne 53 years Heather Gay 52 years Fern Brae 52 years
MEDICAL Cause of death	I (a) Fulminant left ventricular failure (b) Pancytopaenia (idiopathic) 2 Korsakoff's psychosis
Duration of last illness	1(a) 12 hours (b) 2 months 2 longstanding
Medical attendant by whom certified When he/she last saw deceased	G. King 28 April 1989
BURIAL or CREMATION When and where buried or cremated	2 May 1989 Mossman Lawn Cemetery
By whom certified Name and religion of minister and/or names of two witnesses of burlal or cremation	R.W. Crimmins E.F. Peachey, Uniting Church
INFORMANT	Wilma J. Bester, Daughter, 31 Hinsby Road, Taroona, Tasmania
Name, description or relationship, and residence	and the second

Whoseever shall unlawfully after any Certified Copy of an entry in any Register of Births, Marriages, or Deaths, whether by stasure, obliteration, removal, addition or otherwise is guilty of a CRIME, and liable to the punishment by law provided in that behall. [See Sections 488 and 488 of the "Criminal Code".) CAUTION:



I, David John, Registrar-General, certify that the above is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register kept in the General Registry at Brisbane

Dated: 22 October 2013

11 Registrar-General

N.B. Not Valid Unless Bearing the Authorised Seal and Signature of the Registrar-General