

2/1 FIELD REGIMENT CLUB

KIBBLES POST

ANZAC DAY 2005

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VALE

W Wales	R Haig	J N Robson
A Barnison	L Frankford	S Crowley
T Roberts	T K Hutchings	R L Danna
J W Wilkes	R V Palmer	
W Prudius	W R Cansdell	

FROM HON. SECRETARY

"V A L E"

Once again names and faces evoke not only memories but sadness and gladness.

Sadness because they have "marched out" for the last time.

Gladness{ for one knew them once when they were young warriors who strode the world with pride - even a touch of arrogance for they were good and they knew it.

KEITH BROWN

Known throughout the Regiment as "Ab" or "Abby" - I always claimed his parents left him in the sun too long. An original with 2nd and 51st Batteries. One of the best "gun layers" in the Regiment but remembered particularly for his ever present "grin" his good humour and his always helpful attitude.

In and out of action he was a calm cheerful gun crew member who could be

relied on at all times (post-war a strong and devoted committee man).

BRUCE BRYANT

Ken Kell has contributed an obituary for Bruce. My initial memory was of a youD9 somewhat bewildered ~g bloke who was picked up by one of our signals trucks not far from Owers Corner (the start of the Kokoda Track)4I.. 'os

How he managed to wrangle a transfer to the Regiment remains a mystery.

J

From the Hon Secretary

1. Some random memories occasioned by a few of the names in the current "Vale".
2. J.W. ("Jackie") Wilkes (an original) was an O.P. member with John ("Jack") Fairleigh & Bernie Anley in a Bren carrier, commanded by Captain Norm Vickery (later Major-General), driven by a chap from the Queens Own Regiment ("Q P R"_.

Norm Vickery charged and received the surrender of four medium guns and a large number of Italians (gunners and infantry).

Norm received a Military Cross and the English driver a Military Medal. "Jackie", John and Bernie shared the reflected glory!!

3. T. ("Tom") Roberts was an original who missed the boat at Freemantle but went on to serve in other units in Australia. He contacted us only in recent years and was a generous donor.
4. W. "Bill" Prudius, a Novacastrian original was one of a number (including "cheese" Muir) who went to the ski school in Syria never having seen snow or indeed a pair of skis. It was a good break however from normal regimental duties.
5. R. ("Bob") Haig was one of a number of senior N.C.O's (in his case W.O.2) who came to the Regiment late in the show much to the chagrin of our vastly more experienced ranks. Bob was a sensible man however who understood the situation and "trod lightly". In our last New Guinea effort he demonstrated his efficiency in gun-position defence by blowing himself up (not seriously).

6. R.V. "Karumba" Palmer joined the Regiment in the Middle East and subsequently performed well as a driver/gun number in our two New Guinea/Papua efforts. Always cheerful "Karumba" was so named after Cingalese for "coconut" allegedly the shape of his head.

Space does not permit reference to the remaining names but all listed served their regiment, their country, their family and their comrades with courage and loyalty. We remember them with pride.

J.J. Hynes

ANZAC DAY MARCH AND REUNION

Major Rex Olsson AM MID will lead the Regiment

Assemble at the usual spot at the corner of King and Castlereagh Streets at 9 to 9.30am where Admittance Tickets for the Reunion will be on sale at **\$30 for members and \$45 for visitors**. Tickets will also be on sale at the reunion site.

The reunion will be held in the restaurant on the ground floor of the Country Comfort Hotel on the north-west corner of George Street and Quay Street the site of the old Saunders Jewellery shop. For those coming by train, take the Devonshire Street subway and go the full length to the escalator which will lead to the footpath near the entrance to the Hotel. Cars, can set down and pick up passengers in Quay Street. Since the restaurant is on the ground floor there will be no steps or stairs to navigate.

The bar will open at 11.00am and will close at 4.00pm and we are assured that the food will be of the usual good quality. Male relatives and friends are welcome.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the 2/1Field Regiment Club will be held on the 25th April 2005 at the Country Comfort Hotel, George Street corner of Quay Street, Railway Square, commencing at 12.30pm.

Business

- 1 Apologies
- 2 To adopt the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
- 3 Correspondence relative to the AGM
- 4 Annual report
- 5 Treasurer's report and balance sheet (as advised in Kibble's Post October 2004)
- 6 Election of
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary

- Treasurer
Committee (5)
- 7 Appoint an Auditor
 - 8 Vote of thanks to outgoing executive and committee
 - 9 General business relative to the Annual General Meeting

From Ossie Pearce

Unit Delegate to 6 Division Association

Reports on Battlefield Memorials. In response to a request from the o Officer of Australian War Graves, the Minister of Veteran Affairs accepts responsibility for the maintenance of the Battlefield Memorials at Gona and

Reports on Veterans and War Widows. A booklet titled "Veterans and War Widows --- Your lives--your needs 2003 summarizes some key findings from the 2003 survey of Veterans and War Widows and their carers. This booklet is available from D V A or on line at www.dva.gov.au

Two booklets are available from D V A, "You and Your Pension" and "Fringe Benefits". Members are advised to obtain both publications.

Memorial Luncheon, Victoria Barracks, Paddington Thursday 30th October 2005

At the old 9th Field Brigade area. Assemble at 11am for Service at 11.30am
Lunch at at the Paddington R S L Club 12.00/12.30 Admission by ticket only. Tickets cost \$30.00. Available from John Hynes or Ossie Pearce, and in advance fop Catering reasons.

Greek Week The usual visitors from Greece will arrive on Friday 20thMay 2005.
Memorial Service at the Cenotaph Saturday 21/05/05 at 2.00pm. Church Service at the Garrison Church at the Rocks 11.00am.

From Ossie Pearce

as Club Treasurer

Advises that donations have been received from, Mrs. P Fairleigh.
K Godfree, E Haigh, D Nix, T Roberts, W H Wade, R Judd B Kennedy
R Barlett D Morrow Other donations mentioned in mailbag

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Mail Bag

Audrey Mascord

Wyee NSW

Dear John,

Doug regrets that he will be unable to attend the Newcastle Luncheon this year due to poor health

Encl. is a small donation for "Kibble's" Post" which is always read with interest.

Douglas Nix

Cremorne NSW

Dear John,

Please find enclosed donation, being for your kindness in forwarding me Kibble's Post which I look forward to receiving.

I am keeping reasonable health both knees TKR and deafness mostly my disability. Hoping one time to attend Anzac Day in Sydney next year.

In relation to the issue of the Greek Cross as requested , my credentials are NX3365 original member driver of C Troop.

Trusting you are keeping good health. And hullo to old friends.

P S I am a recipient of the Greek Medal.

Keith Godfree

Brighton Vic.

Dear John,

Should have written to you ages ago, enclosed cheque, a donation for postage of News Letter which is greatly appreciated

Anzac Day is down to three of us, we meet in the drill hall at Parhan, nobody is fit enough to march. the other two are Harry Pike and Ernie Jollet

George Quinn

Liverpool NSW

Dear John

Received the "Kibble's Post" and sorry to hear about Ken Jorgenson's health, as well as Marshal Curie and Steve Jack. My sympathy to any others who are not feeling good these days, wishing you all a speedy recovery, take care.

As you can see I now have a new address and phone number which is

G Quinn

Unit 14/25 Goulburn Street

Liverpool NSW 2170

Phone # 02 9600 6925

Eillen Haig

Port Melbourne

Dear Mr. Hynes

To-day I Received a copy of your news letter addressed to my late husband Robert Arthur Haig. I advise that he died on November 7th 2003 and apologize that you were not notified before.

Thanking you for support in the past and wishing you well for the future. A small cheque enclosed for Kibble's Post.

Tom Roberts

Cesnock

Dear John,

(Written and received a month before Tom passed away on the 23/9/04.) Enclosed find a money order, a small sub that may help the Regiment.

It is 65 years since the forming on 23/10/39, most of the originals have passed on, God bless them, and all did their bit one way or another.

At present I am not in the best of health, having treatment for a tumor in the neck. All the best to the survivors.

Ken Kell,

Port Maquarie NSW

Ken wrote at length about Rex Vivien Palmer's funeral which he and his wife Jean attended. Ken spoke of the high regard for Rex by the local community of Laureton. Rex passed away on 11/10/2004, sadly missed by all.

On the personal side Ken Wrote. "I feel as fit as a fiddle, the old 'pig valve' is working well and I have a great appetite, Jean and I share a bottle of "white" every night. I have just installed an above ground pool to get a little summer exercise. I also peddle the exercise bike daily.

Bernadette Kennedy

Randwick NSW

Bernadette Writes of Dicks health which is not too good these days with his Asthma and slight Parkinson's disease, but looks on the bright side of life.

Ray Judd

Wodonga Viv

Dear John.

Enclosed is a cheque for dues. I wont be able to make the reunion this year as I am now in Wodonga. Regards Ray

Rod Barlett George's Hall NSW

Rod writes for his father John (Splinter Barlitt's brother) . John has not enjoyed the best of health of late and misses his wife who passed away 2 years ago. John enjoys Kibbles Post as it keeps him in touch with the Regiment. Rod enclosed a donation for Kibble's Post

Jody Parker Mildura Vic.

Jody the Grandson of Harry Parker wrote on behalf of Harry with regard to claiming the Greek Meda

Jack Sewart Warwick Qld.

Jack also wrote to Ossie Pearce with regard to the Greek Cross

LANDING AT AITAPE

Ted Fulton

In our last ANAZAC Day edition we ended with Ted being transferred from the Regiment to ANGAU and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant because of his pre-war experience in parts of New Guinea now in the hands of the enemy. Some of his experiences follow:-

In early April 1944 I reported to Lieutenant Colonel Jones who informed me that I was on stand-by to be attached to a US Task Force for an invasion of the north east coast of New Guinea. The location was not disclosed by the Americans but as the Force was to sail from Finschhafen it was thought to be at Hansa Bay between Madang and Wewak.

I was flown by US Dakota to Finschhafen which had been captured by the Australian 9th Division and now transformed by the US Navy from a quiet Lutheran Mission Station to a base for full scale operations.

Captain Niall had come from Wau and was in charge of ANGAU with Lieutenant Boyan, who had been transferred from Bena Bena , as his assistant. Other ANGAU

personnel on various assignments were Ken McMullen, Bill Dishon and “Katie” (K.T.) Allan. Jack Thurston with RAAF Intelligence was also there.

Horrie Niall took me to US Intelligence and I was asked about the Aitape beach and the depth of water. When I said it was deep, the officers indicated that their information showed it to flat and shallow. I repeated that I had walked the 90 miles of coast between Wewak and Aitape on pre-war prospecting and recruiting trips a number of times and each time I had cooled off, the water was several feet as the beach shelved a few feet from the shore.

Horrie Niall and I were now sure the landing was to at Aitape as it was essential that the landing craft could reach the beach and not be stranded in shallow water off the shore.

Jack Milligan, Dave Fienberg, Gus O'Donnell and Alan Gow had now arrived at Finschhafen to join the Task Force. We were all issued with US .30 carbines to supplement our revolvers and placed on standby. So on the morning of 17/4/1944 we received our orders to embark. We made a final examination of equipment and after a short snort of whiskey with Ken McMullen, Horrie Naill, Gus O'Donnell and John Milligan and I went aboard US Liberty Ship AK. We were accompanied by Warrant Officer Stan Bartlett and Sergeant Bill Coutts. Lieutenant Harry Aitken and Lieutenant Pendlebury of the AIB also came aboard in the evening.

It was a case of sleep where you can and while the Yanks chased stretchers, I staked out a position on top of a rope locker which I shared with a pilot having his first sea voyage as he had flown across the Pacific in a Liberator Bomber.

We sailed next morning in heavy rain with everyone more or less wet, slowly heading north in a smooth sea. Meals were served at 9 am and 4 pm in queue ration on deck and John Mulligan and I were getting along with the Americans. The four ANGAU and two AIB were the only Australians aboard plus two native Police.

The convoy comprised. Aircraft-carriers, Cruisers, Destroyers, Motor Torpedo Boats, LSD, LCM and all types of invasion vessels. On the 19 April we were joined by two more convoys. It was impossible to estimate the number of vessels in the whole convoy which was now colossal. The movie and still photographers were busy recording the activity.

We cruised around Manus Island during the night and daylight on the 20th revealed the sea full of ships with Navy planes flying overhead, a magnificent spectacle which was beyond description. The sea was like glass. Hot with light cloud. We learnt that the Task Force was to divide and make two separate landings. One at Aitape and the other at Hollandia

On the 24th of April a last message to all ranks from the Task Force Commander General Doe, was broadcast over the ship's address system:

“You are part of Persecution Task Force, about to strike the biggest blow yet made in the South Pacific. Good luck. Good hunting.”

There was much activity in cleaning of weapons, study of maps and final instructions. In the evening officers and men were sitting around chatting, playing cards or quietly smoking. It was the calm before the storm. There was a quiet confidence supported by the array of aircraft carriers and war ships with Navy planes in the air all day.

On the morning of the 20th at 3.30 am we moved into the ship's hold in the dark to await dawn. At 6am the warships commenced shelling the shore and Navy planes were bombing and raking the beach with machine gun fire.

The din was terrific as we clambered over the side by rope net in full equipment and dropped into the invasion barge. John Mulligan and I with the two NCOs were in the first wave from the ship and the fifth wave of the invasion.

On reaching the beach we dropped onto the sand but after the intense bombing and shelling there was little opposition from the shore. There was much rifle fire with no apparent target in the jungle growth which came to within a few yards of the beach. The troops we were with stormed towards a large native material building.

In the confusion and urgency to establish the beach head, the building was raided and many inside killed or wounded before it was realised they were Javanese prisoners of war.

The Javanese looked like Japanese and as the troops were new and entirely lacked fire discipline, it was a case of shooting first. It was some time before it could be controlled and the terrified children protected from fresh troops storming ashore. They were young Javanese boys and numbered about one hundred of which possibly about half were killed or wounded.

With no opposition, progress was rapid but I was cautious and aware of the tendency of the US troops to fire at any movement. The US casualties I saw at the beach waiting to be transported back to the ships had been caused by our own troops.

The township and the airstrip were occupied before noon and the beach a scene of activity as the LSDs dropped their ramps at the water's edge. The flow of heavy and light vehicles and DWKS (amphibious "Ducks") continued all day.

The Japanese had evacuated Aitape before we landed and the massive invasion force met with no resistance. It was a tribute to General McArthur's strategy as the main Japanese at Wewak, with no Naval or Air support, was cut off from supply.

John Milligan and I contacted some local natives. They were confused and dazed after the bombing and shelling and were too incoherent to supply any details of Japanese activity . We slept on the beach with the other troops but were cautious of any unnecessary movement as it could attract indiscriminate shooting in the dark by US personnel.

Next day more ships carrying troops and equipment were anchored off shore. I saw a five star General dressed in US green on the beach and recognised General McArthur who had come ashore to see the troops and monitor progress of the operation.

We were joined by more ANGAU officers, Lieutenants Dave Feinberg, Alan Gow, Joe Searson, Gus O'Donnell, Ted Eglinton with Sergeants Bill Murcutt and Wally Doe.

I was detailed to take a US patrol with Sergeant Murcutt and police of ANGAU to follow the tracks south for signs of enemy dispersal. In a heavily timbered clearing we discovered a newly constructed Japanese headquarters which had recently been occupied..

My detachment which comprised Sergeant Murcutt and six native constabulary was leading the patrol when Bill Murcutt saw a Japanese moving among the trees. He shot and killed him.

The dead Japanese was found to be unarmed and apparently alone. He had probably come out of hiding in search of food. We searched his body for intelligence information and then realised we were alone. We were obscured by the jungle from the US members of the patrol following who, on hearing the rifle shots, ran back down the track out of sight. They were raw troops who had seen no previous action.

My native troops, who had always shown calm and control in previous situations, became alarmed at this display of panic. They knew they were being deserted and there were indications they all so may run.

We returned down the track to where the US troops were hiding behind trees. I had words with the officer in charge of the patrol. He stated that he would not proceed further unless my detachment did all reconnaissance to ensure there were no Japanese ahead. The patrol then returned to base.

Next morning I withdrew my detachment, returned to Aitape and reported to John Milligan. It was vital to restore the morale of my native troops. They were our ears and eyes in the jungle and they relied on us for leadership and action.

Aitape was in the process of transformation with heavy vehicles moving equipment and building materials in all directions for the rapid erection of a large base. Roads were being made and coral from an outcrop on the St Anna mission was being transported to the grass drome on Taji plantation for the construction of a bomber airstrip. Generators were set up and work proceeded day and night. The American recourses in equipment seemed endless.

With the base being organised, US Infantry patrols were detailed to move out of the perimeter to locate the enemy disposition. I was attached with Sergeant Doe to a patrol of Lieutenant Kreiger of Dallas. We moved along the coast and past an abandoned Japanese camp at Tepler Plantation. Here we saw movement in a shed and surprised a Japanese soldier. He immediately put up his arms in surrender and as a precaution against concealed hand grenades, was told to remove his clothes

When stripped to his brief underwear, he knelt and kissed the ground three times and remained kneeling. He probably expected to be shot and it was some time before our signals to stand and dress were understood. He was then sent to Aitape, without footwear, in the unlikely event of attempted escape, for interrogation by intelligence; he was escorted by two US privates.

The Patrol continued along the coast and at a place where Sergeant Doe and I took a halt he spotted two Japanese in the bushes near by. I had not seen them and the first thing I knew was the sound of two shots as he dispatched them.

No further enemy contact was made and the patrol camped at Malol. We stayed in the village for a few days and the natives returned from hiding in the bush. They were able to supply useful information and the patrol returned to Aitape to report the situation.

There was every indication that the Japanese had evacuated the coast and moved inland. I was now attached to the 3rd Battalion, 128th Rifle Regiment and was sent by barge up the coast to Serra north of Aitape. Joe Searson and Alan Gow went with the force south and Dave Fienberg accompanied a force to the mountains west.

Reconnaissance was carried out from these bases and I accompanied a patrol led by US Lieutenant Lambert of "N" Company 13/3/1944 to 21/5/1944.

His report includes the following extracts:-

COMPANY "M" 126TH REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

APO 32

24 MAY 44

Subject. Report of LAMBERT PATROL
To CAMMANDING OFFICER, 3RD Battalion

Designation and Size

Combat and Reconnaissance Composed of two Officers from 3rd Battalion, Lieutenant Fulton, ANGAU, 32 EM of the Battalion Assault Platoon, 5 Native Constables from the Royal Papuan Constabulary and 50 native carriers.

Mission

To reconnoitre trails inland from Serra (See overlay #2)to determine enemy routes of evacuation and to destroy any enemy encountered.

Results

Mission accomplished, killed 19 enemy, found 18 dead along trail. Enemy generally in small groups, unarmed and in poor physical condition. Determined route of enemy evacuation to be through Nengian-Walwali #2 –Ramu-Sumu and over a unmarked trail to Mori #2. It is estimated that approximately 300 enemy followed that trail in the past month. Enemy have seriously depleted native gardens along the route having relied principally on native foods.

Comments and Recommendations

ANGAU and native police personnel Lieutenant Fulton ANGAU furnished valuable advice and definitely enabled the mission to be successfully completed by his efforts beyond his actual duties as liaison officer with the natives. Through him native information was received which materially aided the patrol. He also made tactical suggestions based on his experience in jungle fighting which were employed and proved successful.

Native Constables Turu Kaman, Aya Armo and ex-police Sergeant Pogwe of the Royal Papuan Constabulary performed commendable service killing a number of the enemy and aiding in tracking and scouting.

Recommend that ANGAU be informed of these services.

William G. Lambert
1st Lieutenant 126th Inf.
Patrol Leader

In my Report of the same Patrol stated:

“ Too much praise cannot be given to the work performed by the police and ex-police who accompanied the patrol. Native Constable Kaman in particular being outstanding. His eagerness to act as forward scout aroused a sense of rivalry among the others. The example set by the native police had a direct bearing on the morale of both troops and native carriers and was to a large extent responsible for the success of the patrol, each sharing the hardships and danger”

In one ambush Kamen and Taru killed two of the enemy and I chased and despatched a third. In later years I have recalled the tightly closed eyes and clenched teeth of this Japanese soldier as I pulled the trigger. My only thoughts then were to kill or be killed. We had no way of keeping prisoners and their escape would endanger the surprise element and safety of the patrol. It was routine to search bodies for evidence that would assist intelligence of the enemy strength and disposition. I have seen gold teeth removed from dead Japanese soldiers by Allied troops with pliers or a kick with an Army boot but there were isolated instances and not general practice.

Day to day survival influenced our thinking and actions and we thought we were normal. It is obvious that we, after long periods, even years, of the pressure of survival dulls the senses. Our reactions were governed by instinct and vastly different to a person watching TV in the security and comfort of a home. We have taken prisoners in the African Desert and New Guinea and treated them with humanity and observed their relief as they were, no doubt, apprehensive of their fate if captured.

I have seen action against the Italians in the North African Desert, the Germans in Greece and Crete and the Japanese in New Guinea and Borneo. Two of my brothers were in Japanese prison camps – Jack on the Burma Railway and Henry on the ship “Montevideo Maru” taking prisoners from Rabaul to Japan and sunk by US torpedoes off the Philippines. I have received threats from the Japanese through the native “grapevine” of my fate when caught but have never felt the “hate” expressed by some – usually non-combatants or civilians. I have not thought of them as “enemies” but as adversaries from another Nation.

I was recalled to Aitape at the end of September 1944 to help with target spotting. The Royal Australian Air Force now had Beaufort light bombers operating from Aitape and I was sent out on two missions to identify targets in the mountains.

The first mission was with Squadron Leader Kessey of No 8 Squadron on a single plain strike on a village in an area I had been in. The similarity of the mountains tops villages and coconut groves without any distinguishing features made it difficult to identify the target accurately. We would not take the risk of killing innocent natives so our pilot dropped our bombs in an uninhabited gully and returned to base.

The second mission was with Gus O'Donnell and we reported to No 100 Squadron before dawn for the briefing and take-off in order to be overview the target at daylight. It was a three Beaufort bomber flight and I was assigned to accompany P/O Polkinghorne.

One target was a village occupied by a party of Japanese reported from Tong by Dave Fienberg and calling for an air strike. The village was bombed and machine gunned from a low level but we could not observe any activity. However, on our return to base an examination of the fuselage by the pilot and crew revealed bullet holes in the wings. This would have been caused by rifle fire from the ground. Later in the day a signal from Dave reported many Japanese casualties.

On 28th October 1944, I was sent by LCM up the coast and landed at Vaimo. I had with me six natives from the Royal Papuan Constabulary and my orders were to patrol the coast to Bougainville Bay, near the village of Wulong, on the border of Dutch New Guinea. Here, I was to rendezvous with Lieutenant Gardner of the US Navy who was coming by barge from the US Base at Hollandia to establish a saw milling site for the supply of timber from the area. Lieutenant Gardner and I were in accord on the decisions affecting location and operations of the site. He controlled the running and I took care of security and patrols.

On 6th November 1944 I went to Hollandia by barge with Ted Gardner to make contact with the Naval Base Commander and there I met Gus O'Donnell who had come by air from Aitape and was now attached to the US Navy there.

It was six months since Persecution Task Force had landed at Aitape and Hollandia and both bases now resembled townships. Hollandia was under US Navy control and with Humbolt Bay a good harbour it had become the Headquarters of the US Fleet. We stayed there three days, during which time Ted Gardner and I met the Base Commander, Captain King, and discussed the ANGAU involvement with the US Navy.

Ted Gardner took me to the Naval Officers Mess situated by the sea. Because I was the only Australian, I received too much hospitality and beer which I had not seen since leaving Australia a year before. When I was awakened by "The Star Spangled Banner" next morning I found myself sharing my mosquito net with dozens of blood-filled mosquitoes. I hadn't noticed the large tear in one side.

The US Navy soon had things moving and barges from Hollandia brought personnel of the 113 Construction Battalion – "Sea Bees" - to Bougainville Bay. They numbered over two hundred and approximately half were Black Americans and it was not long before buildings were erected and conditions made comfortable. I established the ANGAU post with bush materials on the other side of the Bay but kept in close touch with Ted Gardner and used the Navy facilities.

With Bougainville Bay now established I left in Mid November to patrol the coastal villages. These were scattered and sparsely populated. The tracks were rough in parts with sharp limestone points and where possible we sailed along the coast in outrigger canoe.

There were no Japanese in the area and the patrol was a routine one to re establish contact with the natives. Fortunately they could now return to their villages and replant their gardens. A semblance of normality was coming back into their lives.

The village of Yao was in bad shape and L/Cpl Kaman and N/C Tawai were left to supervise its restoration while the patrol returned to Bougainville Bay.

One morning shortly after our return Kaman came to my hut and unnoticed by me, was reaching for my carbine standing by my table where I was seated. N/C Aimo, who had followed him rush in and grabbed it saying "Look out Master! Kaman is "Long Long"

I had learnt that the word had come from Yako and that a Meri (Native woman) had died and she had made poison against Kaman. Aimo told me he and the other native police had hidden all the firearms as Kaman wished to kill himself and was a danger to all. I immediately informed Ted Gardner to make sure all Navy arms were safeguarded.

Kaman seemed dazed, he had a glazed look in his eyes and I sat with him on a fallen tree trunk. I tried to reason with him that sorcery was only for "bush kanakas" but not for him. I assured him that he had many years in the police force pre-war and he knew all about firearms and civilised customs.

He savagely retorted "Massa you no savee! Skin belong you white! Skin belong me black!

I knew then that after all his years of service and contact with Europeans Kaman had not changed his beliefs and superstitions. Unless the "poison" was broken by "one talk" – someone in the same tribe – he would surely die. Even after 40 years in New Guinea I came to realise how little we really knew of another person's culture.

Kaman was a Sepik River man and the poison could only be broken by another "Sepik River". As he was a danger to himself and others I reluctantly handcuffed him and told him how sorry I was to do so. Kaman was an outstanding member of the police with a gallant military record. He had been one of my greatest assets on patrol.

Lieutenant Gardner arranged for me to take Kaman to Hollandia where I handed him over to Gus O'Donnell to be flown by the Air Force to Wewak. At Wewak John Milligan had him with Corporal Kuvimiera, who was a "Sepik River" from the same village and Kaman trusted him to "break the poison".

Some years after the war I saw John Milligan in Melbourne and asked him about Kaman. He said "Old Kuvimiere rubbed a special vine into Kaman's back which broke the poison and after that he was all right."

Bougainville Bay was the best posting I had been given. Life was much easier beside the sea and with good food, no Japanese and with good light to play cards in the evening.

Early in December 1944 a signal came from John Milligan to return to Aitape. I was then to report to Lae where our operations were now controlled and I would then proceed on leave.

The Americans, now having control of the Sea and Air in the South West Pacific, were preparing for an attack on the Philippines and an Australian Army Headquarters was being established at Hollandia. When I arrived there to catch an Air Force plane to Aitape it was not long before I experienced the Headquarters mentality. I was told to sleep overnight in one of a number of newly erected tents. I then enquired about mess facilities and saw a Warrant Officer unpacking cases of beer. I asked if any was available and he informed me that it was only for Headquarters Staff. Eventually and reluctantly he gave me a bottle.

When I went back to my tent I found my pack and equipment had been put out into the open and two "officers" (clerks in uniform) told me it was their tent. I had slept in the open too often to be worried and drank my bottle of beer seated on the grass before finding another tent. The same atmosphere existed when I went to the Mess. I felt an intruder in my jungle greens among the smart khaki dressed Captains and Lieutenants and was not included in their conversation. I was thinking of leaving when a voice at the end of the long table called out "Ted! What are you doing here?"

It was Major Ted Wood who had been my Gun Position Officer with the Regiment in Greece and we had not seen each other since I was transferred to ANGAU in 1942. There was silence at the table when Ted said "Hans Andersen is here. He is in the Colonel's Mess and will be pleased to see you".

I had also served under Colonel Andersen in Libya and Greece and had taken him on patrol at Bena Bena. We went to his tent where he produced a bottle of whiskey and we caught up with our news.

I encountered more red tape before I could travel on to Aitape. There was now Movement Control and I was asked for a "Mob 3" (Movement Control Order). I had never heard of one as in forward areas it had always been a matter of acting on the spot and both US and RAAF pilots were not concerned with "Movement Orders".

However, everything was sorted out by the appearance of Major Crawford who had also been in 2/1 Field Regiment as Battery Commander in Libya. He was now with Movement Control.

I made a brief stay in Aitape where Gus O'Donnel was relieving John Milligan as OIC and I went on to Lae where I reported to Major Neal to await a Leave Draft..

Back in 1943 , on my return from leave and after the Mosstroops Operation, I had time to do some thinking during the comparative peace of my post at Ilibu in the Highlands. I thought it might be a good idea for Gwen and I to marry but I was not sure that she would feel the same. I gave myself no more than a 50/50 chance and decided to find out. After all, I was far away and letters were so irregular that were Gwen to say no neither of us would be embarrassed. After much writing and scrutiny the letter was sealed and sent.

When I was recalled to Port Moresby to be seconded to the US Navy, Colonel Jones had handed me a telegram. The only telegram I had previously received in the Army was in Palestine in 1940 informing me of my mother's sudden death so I was not expecting the contents to be one of good news. I was overjoyed at Gwen's acceptance and it was Bert Jones who was the first to share my pleasure.

We decided to marry when I was next given home leave. Having had little leave in five years of service I had accumulated a sizeable credit and was expecting a reasonable entitlement. I told Horrie Niall that it was my intention to marry but he said that fourteen days was all that could be approved from New Guinea. He told me to make application for an extension while I was in Melbourne

Very Early Regimental History

Newcastle Marched in Ingleburn 4/11/39 1st Convoy 10/1/40

<u>Army #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Army #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>
N X 86	Kelly L. C.	Lt. Col.	NX 843	1Bty Miles J.	
NX133	Howard J. F	Major	NX844	Fisher L.	
NX138	D'Archy R.S.	Capt.	NX848	Christie W.A.	
NX139	Kibble R.E.	Lieut	NX850	Webb H.	
NX159	Hangury W.J.	Capt.	NX 851	Weeks J.	
NX765 RHQ	Stanley J.D.	Sgt.	NX853	Whalan R.	
NX785	Smith C.W.		NX708 2Bty	Ashton F.	
NX789	Anderson R		NX710	Best W.E.	
NX794	Chipperfield N.		NX716	Burford E.	
NX804	Grimshaw A.		NX717	Burke J.	
NX808	Harrison G.L.		NX718	Davies D	
NX811	Howard H.J.		NX722	Harper J.	

Nx816	Lindeman Y.S.	Sgt.	NX723	Higgs J.A.	
NX817	Moore J.C.		NX727	Hyland J.G.	
NX818	Moss V.A.		NX728	Keene E.	
NX821	Parker H.W.		NX729	LEW R.J.	
NX822	Powell E.K.	Bdr.	NX733	McMillan K.	
Nx828	Thompson G.		NX739	Mulhearn	
NX731 1Bty	Lynch J.		NX743	Stephen E.	
NX732	McCelland A.C.		NX756	Hourigan J.	
Nx790	Arnold B.T.	Sgt.	NX758	Blackwell F.	
NX791	Bertram R.A.	L/Sgt.	NX759	Scott T.	
NX795	Clarke E.		NX762	Green S.	
NX796	Croudice M.		NX763	Harris P.J.	
NX805	Greenwood	Sgt.	NX764	Laman N.J.	
Nx809	Hewit E.J.		NX793	Black F.	
Nx823	Prudius W.		NX800	Duncan J.	
NX824	Russell I.	Bdr.	NX805	Eustard R.E.	
NX828	Thwaites W.H.		NX812	Howie J.	
NX830	Vidal B.	Bdr.	NX831	Wade E.	Sgt.
NX838	Dee E.		NX837	Slade R.J	
NX841	Buckley H				
NX843	Hartley L.				

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