



Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
P.O. Box 199, MOSMAN, N.S.W. 2088

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBH 2559

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2/1987 -- June

Dear Member--

Greetings and salutations to all readers -- I hope you are all happy, wealthy and well prepared for winter - or for summer for our European members! Don't worry, I know it's not Christmas nor my birthday - I just wanted to say hello!

* * *

Consumer Price Indexation. The rise in the C.P.I. for March was 2%, making a total of 9.4% from 1 April 1986 to 31 March 1987, the period on which any rise in our superannuation is based. This means that your superannuation as from July 1987 should rise by 9.4%. We do not think that the new Government will repeat last year's mistake and discount the rise this year - but one never can be sure.

* * *

Donations. A total of \$210 has been received since 1 January over and above the usual subscriptions. Your Committee is very grateful, especially to the Life Members who have sent in further contributions as technically they are paid up. Although our investments produce income this is taxed (!!!) and we are largely dependent on subscription income, so any extra really does help.

* * *

Learn from the mistakes of others - life is not long enough for you to make them all yourself.

Latest news on the Discounting of our C.P.I adjustment:

The Government reduced our superannuation pension by 2% last October. The efforts of the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association, the Regular Defence Force Welfare Association and this Association, strongly supported by Sir William Keys, National President of the R.S.L., have persuaded the Government to rethink it's policy. For this turnabout we also have to thank those individual members of these Associations who helped by sending letters to parliamentarians complaining about the discounting

We believe that superannuitants will receive the full 9.4% C.P.I. increase as from 1st July and we do not expect that there will be any discounting of this increase - but again let's wait for the August Budget.

The Government has accepted the principle that the effect of the pension discounting should be limited to 1986/87 and not be perpetual, but believes it would be premature to do so immediately. "However I should emphasise that as economic conditions permit, the Government will legislate to restore pension levels " -- Lionel Bowen, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister.

Your Committee will not be satisfied until our pensions are restored.

* * *

Taxation

We had intended publishing details of the Government's proposed tax reforms BUT as there's an election on who knows which party will be in power after July 11? In any case there's the Budget in August which may bring another change. To avoid any confusion it seems better to hold our tax segment until later.

U R G E N T L Y N E E D E D !

A volunteer to take over the publication of UNA VOCE. About 24-30 hours every three months, mainly arranging the printing with your local printer, then wrapping, sorting, coding and posting copies to all members.

Written instructions on every step to be taken and personal tuition the first time from our present publisher, Les Clout.

Would those interested in this job, which is very important to the Association, please ring Les on 419-8357 for further information.

MINUTES OF 36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT NEW TAI YUEN RESTAURANT ON 29 MARCH 1987

Meeting opened at 11.15 a.m. with 72 members present.

Apologies:

Minutes of the 35th AGM having been published and circulated to members it was moved by Mr West, seconded by Mr Burfoot that they be accepted. (Matters arising from the Minutes were dealt with later).

The President gave his report -- as follows:

"The past year has been one of great uncertainty. There has been a significant deterioration in the economy, with the consequent fall in the Aussie Dollar, high interest rates and a decline in our standard of living. With respect to our political situation, I think the least said the better.

This does not auger well for the majority of us here today who are super-annuitants. Our incomes are predetermined and there is very little we ourselves can do about them. We have, however, in recent years been protected by legislation and its value has to a great extent been maintained because each year it has been indexed in keeping with increases in the cost of living.

Therefore it came as a very rude shock last year when in the last Commonwealth Budget there was an erosion of these benefits with the current government discounting by 2% the cost of living increases due to us. This subject is an agenda item for later in the meeting and at this stage all I want to say is that your Committee has worked very hard during the past year to protect your interests in this and other matters. I thank all the members of the Committee for their co-operation and hard work on your behalf during the year.

I regret to report that last August Gabriel Keleny resigned as Treasurer because of eyesight problems. During his term of office Gabriel fulfilled his role in a most dedicated, effective and efficient manner. In fact, our stable financial situation is in a large measure due to Gabriel's untiring efforts. Bill Johnston took over from Gabriel as Treasurer and has very ably carried on the good work.

One of the most important duties of your Committee, I am sure you will all agree, is the production and despatch to all our members the Association Newsletter, Una Voce. The person wholly responsible for this task over the past eight years has been Les Clout, very ably assisted by his wife Doreen. A great deal of time and effort is involved in producing Una Voce and Les has always performed this task most efficiently on schedule. He and Doreen are now overseas and I would like placed on record our deep appreciation of their great work.

Whilst I am dealing with Una Voce - a newsletter, irrespective of how well it is produced, is no good unless the content is pertinent and of interest to our members. The person responsible for this side of the operation over recent years, as you would all know, has been Fred Kaad. Fred has continued with the good work and very effectively carried out his duties as Editor during the past year. Fred has an Editorial Committee consisting of Bill Kelly and Bob Pulsford and I would like to thank them for the excellent work they have performed. The person who keeps Freddie on his toes, does all his typing and works hard to see that he meets deadlines is our very efficient Assistant Secretary, Mrs Pamela Foley. She also does all the Association typing, production of Minutes etc. and carries out a myriad of administrative tasks in assisting our Secretary, Harry West, with the administration of the Association. Pam is also a member of our Social Committee. I don't know how we would get on without her, so many many thanks Pamela for all your efforts.

Our Secretary, Harry West, has continued to work tirelessly during the year in carrying out his duties and I regret to report that he will be standing down as Secretary, but would like to continue on the Committee. Harry has, in addition, been responsible for organising our social functions as Chairman of our Social Committee and in this work he has been very ably assisted by Chris Downie, Pam Foley and Roma Bates. Many thanks Harry for all your efforts on our behalf and thanks to your Social Committee for their good work.

The work of another committee very much appreciated by our members, particularly those who are sick, lonely or bereaved, is that of the Keep in Touch or Caring Committee. During the year this work has been very caringly performed by Mrs Candy Parrish assisted by Dave Marsh, Christina Grant and Joe Nitsche. 35 members and associate members were contacted by the committee. Cards were sent in the case of sickness and grief and to some of our elderly for Christmas and birthdays. Visits were also made to some of our members who were sick in hospital. This Committee, however, cannot be fully effective unless members generally let the committee know the names of members who are sick, lonely or in grief so that the committee can contact them. Great work Candy and helpers.

Another committee which must be commended for its work is the Membership Committee under the direction of Geoff Burfoot assisted by Marcia Lightfoot and Jim Rudge. A membership drive during the year resulted in the Association gaining some forty new members. Excellent work folks!

Geoff, unfortunately for us, is moving north to take up residence near Tyalgum in the Tweed area. We wish him well and hope that he enjoys his new home. He does not know it yet, but he is going to be appointed as our representative on the far north coast where a number of our members are located. He does not get away from us that easily!

The last of our committees, the Legal and Administrative Committee, for which I have been responsible assisted by Dr. Stan Wigley and Bill Johnston, has devised and implemented a new application form and dealt with any legal matters raised by members.

I would now like to place on record our great appreciation of the fine gesture by Air Niugini, through our very good friend Brian Costello, in donating to the Association two airfares Sydney/Papua New Guinea/Sydney for use by the Association in a manner it saw fit. You will remember we asked our members through Una Voce for suggestions as to how these tickets should be allocated. The Committee finally decided that they should be given to two university students writing theses on PNG topics. The students have been to Papua New Guinea and they have written and told us that their visits were most worthwhile and assisted them greatly in their work. Many thanks to you, Brian Costello, and to Air Niugini for making this exercise possible.

I now regret to advise that we have a problem which I hope some member will help us resolve. Les Clout, because he and his wife contemplate doing a lot more travel, is unable to continue with the production of Una Voce and we would be most grateful if someone could undertake this task. Please let me know if anyone is interested.

It is most unfortunate that we have had to change our venue for this meeting and luncheon. The Mandarin Club is no longer catering for functions on a Sunday and we received very short notice of their change in policy, hence the current venue. The Committee is searching for a new, and hopefully, a permanent venue for our functions but this is proving a most difficult task. Because of the very high penalty rates prevailing for weekend work in restaurants and clubs. It is very hard to find a suitable venue at a reasonable price. We shall keep searching!

Finally, I believe it has been another successful year for the Association and I wish the incoming Committee every success in its endeavours.

Doug Parrish
President.

The Treasurer presented his Report (copy attached) and this was adopted on the Motion proposed by Mr Johnston seconded by Mr Speer. Carried.

Following the tabling of correspondence the office bearers and Committee were elected, and are as follows:

President: Doug Parrish

Vice President: Fred Kaad

Secretary: Joe Nitsche

Treasurer: Bill Johnston

Asst. Secretary: Pamela Foley

Committee: David Marsh
Marcia Lightfoot
Harry West
Chris Grant

Stan Wigley
Roma Bates
Chris Downie

Auditor:
Tom Aitchison.

The President then resumed the chair and reported on the 2% discounting of pensions. The Association had contacted other groups affected by the discounting i.e. the Commonwealth Superannuated Officers Association and the Regular Defence Force Welfare Association, and was working in cooperation with them. Mr Parrish said he had had discussions with individual Members of the House of Representatives and had been advised that the best time for presentation of protests would be late March or early April. Possibly a deputation could be formed to approach the Minister for Finance.

Letters from the Association had been sent to the Prime Minister, the Treasurer and the leader of the Liberals, the Country Party and the Democrats. Individual Committee members had written to their Members in the Senate and House of Representatives.

Letters from the Minister for Finance in reply to that sent from this Assocn, also to and from S.C.O.A, were also read to the Meeting.

The President said that the gist of letters received from Parliamentarians was that it was felt that superannuitants had fared better in recent years than some other bodies. The consensus seemed to be "Times were hard". He regretted not having better results to report, but assured the meeting that the Committee would continue to press on.

Mr Williams commended the authors of the letters sent on behalf of the Association - but felt the Government was not likely to alter its position..

Mr Parrish said that the many members who had taken the Association's advice and written to their parliamentarians should be thanked for their efforts.

General Business

Mr Speer urged that Mr Doug Joyce's publication "Recollections" be reviewed in the near future. The President agreed, paid tribute to Mr Joyce for his long service to Papua New Guinea and said that the book would be reviewed.

Mr West advised that Mr Aitchison will not be available for the position of Hon. Auditor after the end of 1987.

Discussion followed on finding an alternative time and venue for the AGM. Members were asked to forward suggestions.

New Member Nan Watkins was welcomed to the meeting, also visitor Mrs Janet Robertson who had accompanied her mother, Mrs Mona Normoyle.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 12.38 p.m.

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Waverers never succeed in what they try to do ** ** *

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V A L E

With deep regret we record the passing of the following members and friends. On behalf of the Association the Committee extends our sympathy to their families.

Mrs Della Hogan 24/1/87, aged 99	Widow of Gerald Hogan who was Crown Law Officer in Rabaul pre-war and lost on the "Montevideo Maru".
Mrs Mary Burke 18/2/87, aged 88	Widow of John Burke who was in the Titles Office in Rabaul pre-war.
Raymond Daly 9/3/87	Retired 1973 as Health Inspector.
Florenz Allan Bensted 15/3/87, aged 84	Son of a Director of Works in Papua and born in Moresby, Allan returned to become a pre-war Patrol Officer, then served in ANGAU and later became a D.C, retiring in 1969. Leaves widow Phyllis at Redcliffe.
Mrs Teresa (Terry) Larkin 17/4/87	Widow of Patrick (Paddy) Larkin, former Deputy Commissioner of Police at Moresby.
Mrs Phyllis Gow 21/4/87	Wife of Alan Gow, former D.C., now living at Clareville, Sydney.
Ken Searle 26/4/87	Senior Radiologist at Moresby and later adviser to United Nations. Ken started training of local men as assistant radiographers. He worked on the first mass X-Ray anti-TB campaign along the Sepik and is remembered for his dedicated work in both clinical and preventive areas. Leaves widow Dorothy at Southport.
James Peter Burke 19/5/87	Pre-war Treasury officer Rabaul and post-war senior officer Moresby, retiring 1953. Leaves widow Nancy, son Peter and family, all in Mosman, Sydney.

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V A L E (continued)

Sir Pita Simogun 11/4/87	At 87+ in Boram Hospital. Policeman, wartime leader, pioneer politician and statesman.
Mrs Elizabeth (Bess) Brady 1/5/87	Wife of Les Brady, coffee planter near Kainantu in the fifties. Killed in a car accident.
Alfred Brinkley -/5/87	Formerly of Moresby before retiring to Kadanga, Qld.
Jack Wilkinson -/3/87	Born at Misima and worked in Milne Bay District all his life. Was in 39th Bn on the Kokoda Trail and went to Ferguson Island sawmilling after the war.
James (Davo) Davidson /4/87	Came to Moresby late 40s and worked with Gunner Anderson at 17 Mile quarry then later as PNG Manager for Monier.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Mr J.E.RITCHIE -	6 Mace Drive, BUDERIM QLD 4556.
Mr C.F.BERESFORD	Kibblekrift, Lake Barrine RD. MSI 1575 MALAMBA Q 4885
MR R.P.LAYBUTT,	25 Swordfish Court, PALM BEACH QLD 4221
Mr H.WALSH,	P.O.Box 789, ATHERTON LQD 4883
Mr D.BELL,	81 Boundary Street, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069
Mr L.A.AUCHETTL,	C/- Cisa Servei, La Massana, ANDORRA Europe.
Dr K.FISCHER,	22/9 Princess Street, ROSE BAY NSW 2029
Miss J.M.COLEMAN	Maple Avenue, MAPLETON QLD 4560

NEW MEMBERS - W E L C O M E

Mr C.LEVY,	P.O.Box 154, ALBION PARK NSW 2527
Mr F.E.HAVILAND,	41 Loquat Valley Road, BAYVIEW NSW 2104
Mr J.BEST,	549 Grose Valley Road, KURRAJONG NSW 2758
Mr J.BENSON,	30 Aylmer Street, NORTH BALWYN VIC 3104
Miss L.BINNIE,	50 Dolphin Drive, BRIBIE ISLAND QLD 4507
Mr J.F.REILLY,	538 Wardell Road, ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477
Mr D.R.DYSON,	5 Nioka Street, CHADSTONE VIC 3148
Mr G.L.PARKER,	P.O.Box 332, GYMPIE QLD 4570
Mrs B.HURREY,	96 Broadwater Street,
Mr W.J.HIBBERD,	P.O.Box 120, NYAH VIC 3594
Miss J.HUDSON,	12 Tivoli Street, MOSMAN NSW 2088
MR J.W.WARNER,	29 Barrallier Street, GRIFFITH A.C.T. 2603

HAVE YOU HEARD.....?

Archbishop George Bernarding, SVD, has now retired from Mount Hagen and is staying temporarily at the Divine Word headquarters at Epping, Sydney.

* * *

Jack Bell, radio officer with APC early post-war and then with Posts and Telegraphs, is now living in Cairns.

* * *

Hans Groenhuijzen, formerly OIC OTC Lae, is still with the Commission but now at Thursday Island.

* * *

Which reminds me that Geoff Masters of Bribie Island has made another Cairns-Thursday Island trip on the M.V. Noel Buxton (See December '86 issue of Una Voce). He enjoyed the first so much that he decided to do the trip twice a year in future. It must be worthwhile! Plenty of stops for fantastic fishing and snorkelling, good food, a three-day trip each way and only \$150. One of the crew was Col Farmer, son-in-law of Gill Renton ex Duropa Plantation. Among the passengers was Joe Bell, a miner in Wau-Bulolo in the 30s. Also Roy and Joyce See (nee McDonald of Comworks Moresby) - Roy was Caltex supervisor at Lae for some years.

* * *

1987 is the 45th anniversary of the battle of Milne Bay and Geoff M. is the prime mover in a project to take a group of 30 (5 from each of the main Army units there) to the Bay for a week in August/September, which is the period the action took place.

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Talair, the major private PNG airline, has sold its Solomon Islands connection and has begun operating from Brisbane to Birdsville and Winton and Townsville to Mount Isa.

* * *

John Best who will be remembered as the Vulcanologist at Rabaul is now inhaling the pristine air of Kurradjong on the lower Blue Mountains. Another geologist, Norm McKay, who was in Wau in the mid-50s then went to Darwin where he and Millie had a son - young Roger, who won the last Victorian Open Golf Championship, beating Greg Norman to do so.

* * *

Father Ray Quirk, who will be remembered as a chaplain of the Pacific Islands Regiment, is now at the Church of St. Brigid, 53 Great Northern Highway, Midland W.A.6056, where I understand he is busy converting the gamblers and drinkers into upright citizens!

* * *

HAVE YOU HEARD.....?

Roy Eisman, who was pre- and post-war hardware manager for Steamships Moresby, and wife Mary are living at Bowen. Unfortunately they lost son Paul from a heart attack before Christmas.

During the war Roy was with ANGAU and arrived in Sohano just as the Yanks were pulling out and dumping equipment. He arranged for items such as Gray Marine engines and spares, refrigerators and so on to be sent by trawler to the Catholic Mission at Buin. A few weeks later Roy met the Bishop who thanked him for all his help and said that one of the engines was giving trouble and they had no spare parts. Ray replied that boxes of Gray spares had been sent but marked 'picks and shovels' for safety. "Oh," said the Bishop "We had plenty of picks and shovels - I have no idea where they are now." However a great hunt ensued, the parts found and Roy next saw the Grays pushing a work-boat. There must be dozens of stories like that one !

* * *

Bette McLaughlin, widow of Gerald, has been holidaying in N.Z. where the smell of Rotorua reminds her of Rabaul's sulphur air and flying over the mountains in a light plane recalled memories of the Highlands - only these mountains were snow-capped. Bette also says the local CAE is offering a trip to the Highlands and Sepik in July at a cost of \$3,560, which is really expensive! [Couldn't agree more, no wonder so few Australian tourists go. Maybe they're beginning to wake up, because Air Niugini has just reduced some of its fares. Ed.]

* * *

Also having a wonderful time travelling around recently was Margaret Ekeberg, formerly of Goroka and Mt. Hagen. On the way back to her home in Brisbane after visiting family and friends in various parts of Victoria she spent the Easter week staying with Pamela Foley and exploring Sydney.

* * *

Some people keep coming back for more! Alan Ross had just finished a contract with Forests in Moresby and has now signed up again. His neighbours are Des and Vivienne Fitzer.

* * *

George Harrington has been in hospital in Newcastle after a stroke, but I hear he's recovering well.

* * *

Also on the sick list is Ian Lightfoot, whose wife Marcia tells me that he's still got a smile on his face. [Must be the pretty nurses in hospital??]

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RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

PERIOD: 1st JANUARY 1986 to 31st DECEMBER 1986

NOTES

RECEIPTS

* The interest shown does not include interest on \$4000.00 on a 15 month Term Deposit with the National Australia Bank maturing January 1987. This will increase the interest by at least another \$750.00

PAYMENTS

** Petty Cash is mainly postage costs incurred by the President, Secretary and Treasurer. A similar situation applies to the Keep in Touch Committee

*** There were 112 people at the luncheon including two official guests. Payments were received from 112 people but two subsequently cancelled their cheque which was a duplication. This left 110 paying guests, we were charged for 111 guests. There was a subsequent misplaced late receipt which was counteracted by a refund to a guest who, due to illness was unable to attend at the last moment. This receipt and payment will appear in next year's accounts.

(W.J. Johnston)
Honorary Treasurer.

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

PERIOD: 1st JANUARY 1986 to 31st DECEMBER, 1986

1985	RECEIPTS	1986	1985	PAYMENTS	1986
1264.50	Subscriptions	1915.38	957.73	Printing: Una Voce	1394.34
1604.50..	Life Members	190.00..	638.85	Postage : Una Voce	694.62
147.00	Donations		220.00**	Petty Cash	250.10
	Aircrash Memorial			Printing Cards	118.02
	Postage Advance	6.00		Presentations	
	Exchange	.20	175.00	Taxation	282.15
199.95	Postal Handling Exchange	50.00		Post Office Box Rent	23.00
920.00	A.G.M.Lunch	1365.00	21.00	Postal Registration	36.00
1454.00	***Christmas Lunch	1680.00	30.00	50.00**Keep in Touch Committee	106.00
	*Interest		950.00	A.G.M.Lunch	1425.00
	Pipeline Authority		1607.08	Christman Lunch	1665.00
134.00	State Bank			Rent Meeting Room	20.00
23.50	State Building Society	621.77		***Cancelled Cheque	30.00
304.11	B.A.Cash Management			F.I.D & F.T.D. Charges	8.38
373.59	Commonwealth Bonds	324.50	14.35	Sundries	46.25
324.50	C.S.B.	49.92	116.14	Letterhead Paper	30.00
114.33	United Perm.Bd.Soc.	449.07		Total	\$ 6129.47
1456.71		1445.26		Credit Balance Transferred	
				to accumulated funds	778.37
\$5782.16	TOTAL	\$ 6907.84	\$5782.16		\$ 6907.84

(W.J.Johnston)
Honorary Treasurer

RETRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUIN...

BALANCE SHEET

PERIOD: 1st JANUARY, 1986 to 31st DECEMBER, 1986.

1985		1986
14148.08		15149.69
1001.61		778.37
15149.59		15928.06

ACCUMULATED FUNDS.

Balance 1st January 1986
Credit Balance carried forward 31st December 1986

REPRESENTED BY:

LIQUID FUNDS

Commonwealth Savings Bank	956.46
United Permanent Building Society	490.04
	1446.50

INVESTMENTS.

Australian Savings Bonds	2200.00
National Australia Bank	4000.00
B.A.Cash Management	4507.00
United Permanent Building Society	2147.21
United Permanent Building Society	1447.35
	14301.56

EQUIPMENT.

Typewriters	180.00
	\$ 15928.06

(W.J.Johnston)
Honorary Treasurer.

Checked and is a true statement based on documents examined and information provided

5/3/87 (T.G.Aitchison) Hon.Auditor

(N.B. Members should note that, whilst it might appear that we are in a very healthy financial position the only income received was from subscriptions and interest on our investments with the latter being taxed. Our investments represent subscriptions paid by life members. With rapidly increasing cost of postage, printing etc., the only way we keep in front is with all the work which is performed voluntarily in producing "UNA VOCE" and running the Association. As we get older this could change and a diminishing membership will mean a decrease in subscriptions whilst costs will keep rising. Ultimately we shall have to start using our capital, but we should defer that as long as possible. PRESIDENT.)

Sir Peta Simogun

Most in the Association will know the post-war work in political and economic development carried out by this great Papua New Guinean. The following letter to the South Pacific Post is printed as a tribute to his wartime work:

"On behalf of a group of Australians, I would like to record our high regard for, and express our appreciation of, Sir Peta Simogun who died recently.

I first met Sir Peta in 1935 when, as a lance-corporal of police, he was assigned to my patrol to re-open the post in Central Nakanai, New Britain. We became friends and I was aware even then of the great potential of this man. His influence with the local people was, from the start, very strong and although, as a Sepik man, he was a stranger, their acceptance of him as a friend and adviser was quick. He was promoted to corporal on my recommendation.

In 1943 I was in Port Moresby forming a party to carry out coastwatching operations on the south coast of New Britain which was then occupied by Japanese forces in strength. The purpose was to cover air and sea movement to the south-west of Rabaul. Leslie Williams and Peter Figgis, both A.I.F. officers, had joined my party and when I heard that Sergeant Simogun was at the R.P.C. training depot at Hanuabada, I approached him with A.N.G.A.U. approval. He immediately agreed to go with us and in reply to my saying that there was a risk of our being killed, he responded in those now well-known words, "Mi dai, mi dai. Mi got pikininni man belong karim nem belong mi."

With three more New Guinea men, all from New Britain, we landed from a U.S. submarine at Baien on the night of 30th April 1943, and immediately began moving our equipment and six months' supplies into the bush. Not wishing to involve the beach people in the event of Japanese inquiries, we carried our own cargo, the great bulk of it by Sergeant Simogun. With the assistance of some bush people we built a post overlooking the coast. In these very difficult times, Sergeant Simogun's personality never flagged and he inspired everyone with his energy and optimism.

In October 1943 after receiving reinforcements by submarine, Leslie Williams, Lou Searle, Sergeant Simogun and Sergeant Marsh and I, with three New Guinea men recruited locally, moved across New Britain in a very difficult march to take up a new position in Central Nakanai. In this operation Paramount Luluai Golpaik of Pomio was superb in his organisation of the carriers and warning of the approach of Japanese patrols in the area. Our welcome by the Nakanai people was tremendous and Simogun in particular was received with enthusiasm and a great show of friendship.

As the Allies moved towards Rabaul, our coastwatching functions were reduced and G.H.Q. approved our operating as guerillas against the Japanese troops retreating towards Rabaul. There was an indication that the hungry forces would move into the huge food area in the Central Nakanai mountains. We armed 200 Nakanai men with rifles and shotguns and after a short course in handling the weapons from Lou Searle and (now) Sergeant Major Simogun they began attacking the retreating enemy. Simogun was in command of the main group and his courage, tactics and great leadership brought them immediate success. In less than two months the Nakanai groups killed 256 Japanese and wounded many more; two Nakanai men were lost. Sergeant Major Simogun's personal score was 31.

In April 1944 we were relieved and Les Williams, Sergeant Major Simogun and I with twelve Nakanai men were taken off the beach by U.S.P.T. boats and the entire party brought to Australia. For his services in New Britain Simogun was awarded the British Empire Medal.

After the war Simogun served in the R.P.N.G. Constabulary for a short time then he saw the possibility of development among his own people and worked with them. His influence, ability and reputation became widely known and so great that he was selected by the Minister for Territories to be one of the three indigenous members in the new Legislative Council. His career from then on is well known and his knighthood was an honourable and fitting recognition of his work. After meeting in PNG Lord Casey, the Governor General of Australia, described him to me as "a man of consequence".

Leslie Williams, Peter Figgis, Lou Searle and I wish to record our high regard for this great New Guinean, great man and great friend.

Yoko, friend Peta Simogun.

MALCOLM WRIGHT.

* * * * *

HERE'S A SNIPPET OF NEWS FOR THE 'BEFORES' of the THIRTIES :-

Sister Field of Namanula Hospital, who married Dick Forsyth, lost on the "Montevideo Maru", settled in Brisbane with daughter Beatrice, recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She came to Sydney a short time ago to visit her old friend Sister Nagel who was married to Dr. "Squizzy" Watch. Although Glad Forsyth has reached the age of veneration, she can still walk the legs off Roma Bates. Roma recalls an anecdote which illustrates the high spirits of this remarkable lady, when some years ago the Brisbane Blind Society offered her one of their special walking sticks. She thanked them saying "I am not blind". Shortly afterwards she took herself off again to visit the English County where she grew up. It is interesting to note that Glad's father was a Q.C., to Queen Victoria and she recalled that Disraeli and Gladstone were social guests to their family home. An interesting lady indeed.

HAVE YOU HEARD.....?

Mrs Freda Hawken who went to PNG in 1944 with the Forces and then operated the P.O. at Wau/Bulolo, later becoming senior monitor on the Lae exchange, was recently in Sydney from her hometown Cairns to see daughter Lesley, married to John Grumberg and proud mother of twins.

* * *

Reg Collins, ex kiap, recently spent three months in Asia including four days housebound by riots in Bangalore, a very enjoyable month in Nepal where among others he met Kevin White - formerly of Forestry in PNG and now consultant to the Nepalese Government. Reg, who was a POW of the Japanese, also visited the River Kwai and other camps. I hear that after all that travel - and some fairly common dietary problems - Reg was very happy to settle back into the quiet of Dalby.

* * *

Frank Cross, formerly C.O. of the Goldie River training battalion of the Pacific Islands Regiment, is now a Brigadier at Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

* * *

REMEMBER --- Your friend is the one who knows everything about you -----
-- and still likes you !

THATS ALL - REGARDS

Fredie K
(F.P.Kaad)
Editor.

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ARE YOU IN THE RED ???????????????

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