

Igam Barracks Lae



The First Chalkie

- 1) The PNG government decided to have an army presence in Lae and the 1st Battalion was ordered to send a company. This role fell to B Company.
- 2) The education sergeant attached to B Company had been a badminton player in NSW before Nasho and wanted to stay in Port Moresby so we were allowed to swap and I joined B Company.
- 3) In April 1968 we flew to Lae and took up residence at Igam Barracks.
- 4) Igam had a headquarters section which included a headquarters, transport, medical centre and us.
- 5) The sergeant's mess had 1 chalkieme. I was also the only nasho in the barracks.
- 6) The sergeants' quarters were brand new with no cracks on the veranda concrete. This changed after the first shake. The louvres in the concrete wall rattled. We got used to this happening every now and then.
- 7) As time passed, more units were sent...a helicopter unit, a service unit and thankfully the Officer Cadet School with a number of Nasho Education sergeants.

CHQ. NO	RANK	NAME	NO	RANK	NAME
28361	MAJ	K.E. STICPEWICH	82197	LCPL	BULIO WAWIA
235284	CAPT	R.K. PETERSWALD	82467	LCPL	ONA BANAS
847	WO2	H.T. MARIKA	82511	LCPL	DODONGO TEKO
81975	S/SGT	THESTERE POPO	82148	EXCEPT	KAMIT PURUAT
813066	SGT	D.C. OTTWAY	82301	PTE	ROBULUS TOKULAU
1732675	SGT	G.W. GARNES	82325	PTE	DISE SALE
82561	CPL	WANKANA PANEKIN	82378	PTE	MILTAHDE KONDOM
82482	PTE	TOPAAX LEVI	82419	PTE	KARE AISA
82532	PTE	FAPICU TOMPI	82539	PTE	TOVUALILIU.K
84			82595	PTE	HOVI BUTE
	<u>ATTACHMENTS</u>		82710	PTE	BULIYA DUKAWA
1732675	SGT	G.W. GARNES	83000	PTE	TONGUNIA ILIAS
81674	CPL	TORUHI WAKANGA	83162	PTE	RIVAN. J
81338	PTE	MILS KISIP	83204	PTE	JANGA. A
81745	PTE	MAUWO KAPINA	83355	PTE	ORERE TASMAN
81810	PTE	NURUVO SENGAGA	83369	PTE	WOI. W
82014	PTE	TETANGA. T	83374	PTE	NGALIA. G
82050	INCL	MUSIM. L	83514	PTE	KOIM. J
82509	PTE	MENG MEPL	83519	PTE	NAMUNI. G
82525	PTE	OPINI. M	83528	PTE	MUGU
	<u>4 PLATOON</u>		83542	PTE	BIRI TOM
82036	SGT	MALEKI JENKI	83596	PTE	SIVIO SAREA
81080	CPL	KALIA HAMAIA	83897	PTE	BUTANA ERIC
81839	CPL	GALONG PAP	83906	PTE	SAREKE. B
82875	CPL	SUVA MOPOP	83934	PTE	LULUFELE. P
81434	LCPL	OMAS AKUMI	83940	PTE	NAMANHO. J
82486	LCPL	MAK. CH	83941	PTE	FOVE. B
82689	LCPL	MASALIK KIPANG	83447	PTE	MOSUP. K
81438	PTE	KAMUSAP ALAS		<u>6 PLATOON</u>	
82100	PTE	TSANI USUMESIP	43949	2LT	S.G. THORNTON
82135	PTE	GUMIO LAPEIT	81831	SGT	PEKOT. J
82735	PTE	TOVUAI TOVUAI	82160	CPL	ALISI JACONUS
82822	PTE	BEGA AIZO	82228	CPL	GHEDA JACK
83148	PTE	BRA LONIAVA	82303	LCPL	LOKOS MANGILANG
83129	PTE	MACHE MAREKO	82316	LCPL	DINZI WAKRA
82272	PTE	KAUPA. A	82920	PTE	TOKA WURISA
83298	PTE	TRI. THOMAS	83067	PTE	SIE. J
83301	PTE	KIRONA	83205	PTE	DOPIALA ROMBO
83396	PTE	MALAIHE. C	83228	PTE	ARARUK. R
83494	PTE	BINGUA MICHAEL	83264	PTE	KALINA
83523	PTE	KAKINI	83296	PTE	KODORU PAULUS
83531	PTE	RUT PAULUS	83338	PTE	PEROPA WISUA
83539	PTE	TIKARI WELLINGTON	83343	PTE	MAI
83621	PTE	JEFFERS MISIA	83380	PTE	PUIPUI. A
83623	PTE	POKOM	83391	PTE	BOMBEI. J
83632	PTE	SOLPUL. B	83414	PTE	VITATA. M
83646	PTE	SOGON. A	83476	PTE	KOGLI. T
83702	PTE	NUPA. J	83470	PTE	RIAN. M
83817	PTE	NGY. B	83507	PTE	KAMBA
83836	PTE	UNNE. E	83520	PTE	MEK
83876	PTE	SAKAIHI	83525	PTE	MEPTAN
83882	PTE	JINAPA. J	83523	PTE	KUNDIL. M
83922	PTE	WAMUGL. J	83557	PTE	MAVIOT. R
83961	PTE	APA. P	83607	PTE	MAINEM. E
83254	PTE	GENA.	83361	PTE	UNG HUAFE
	<u>5 PLATOON</u>		83660	PTE	PABET. A
1732757	2LT	R.B. MORTON	83633	PTE	AIMO. M
8871	SGT	SUKU TUTUMAN	83711	PTE	RUDE. P
81673	CPL	TOVUE TOKINKAWA	83785	PTE	LAKIHI. F
82081	CPL	GIRORO GIRORO	83904	PTE	SAHE. R
81998	LCPL	GEROTA WAGWUA	82686	PTE	TURUMANU TELAGA
			82346	PTE	TEPORA KAKA
			82269	PTE	DANAGI BOLANA

The First Anzac Day.

- 1) B company marched to show our presence.
- 2) The RSL in town was visited first.
- 3) The Indigenous RSL on the road home was visited second. How we got back to the barracks is a mystery as the locals were very pleased to have us visit their RSL.



My father's friend

- Igam
- From
- Sergeant's
- Accommodation



Igam Barracks 1968



Igam Barracks 1968



Igam Pool opposite the Sergeant's Quarters



Married quarters for PNG soldiers. Sergeant Harold H ara and the black pap snake.



Major Stipwich, commander of B Company, took his whole company on patrol. The Education sergeant was expected to play a normal infantry role as the Major used his headquarters staff as the enemy rain or not.



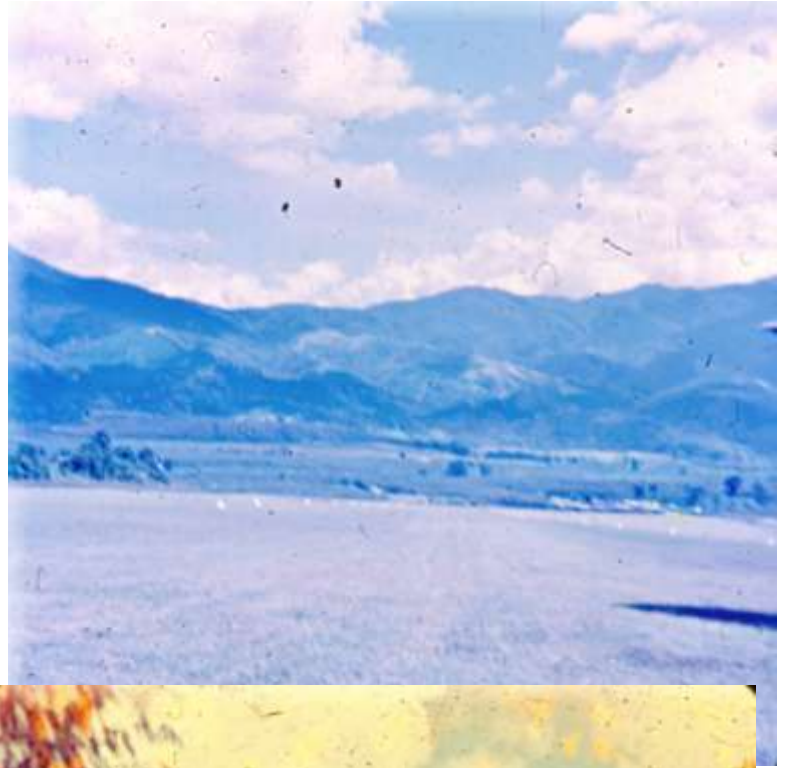
Rugby Connection

A support captain asked the Major for the education sergeant's help (he knew I played League before Nasho) to mark out a rugby field in Lae as the army was going to introduce a rugby union competition to the Morobe district.

The two of us marked out the field and started a rugby competition. I broke my nose twice in the first few weeks and the army doctor banned me from playing. I was the only white on the field. We did do a bus trip to Goroka.

The captain and his committee then decided to host the PNG district rugby union championships at the local showgrounds. The education sergeant of course was made organiser. A teacher in Goroka (later a chalkie himself) played. I was also given the job of the rugby union reporter for the district in the Port Moresby paper.

When more units came to Lae, we had more Aussie players and next time flew to Goroka in a caribou as the bus's brakes failed on the last turn of a descent in a gorge where the bus had to do 2 or 3 nudges to get around some bends on the previous trip.





A helicopter captain who had an award for rescuing a platoon in Vietnam from a minefield was my duty captain one weekend. He agreed to take me up with him.



Transport

Pre OCS Days

- _. Hitch a ride in an army vehicle going into Lae.
- . Get a ride with one of the support people who may have had a car.
- . Take a local bus from the entrance gate into town. It was old, most of the road was dirt and bumpy and you were likely to be the only non PNG person on the bus.

Post OCS Days

- _. All of the above plus
- . A ride in a chalkie car as some had cars.
- . A ride on a motor scooter as a passenger. Very interesting on a dirt road with the holes full of water

Officer Cadet School comes to Lae.

Captain Dale, a lieutenant and education sergeants were transferred to Lae.

I remained with B Company until an officer and some OCS cadets had a dispute in town. Within a week, he was transferred to B Company and I was moved to OCS.

My protests of being a primary trained teacher were not heard.

“Here is the textbook. See you on Monday morning. You will be teaching geography and social studies. If the PNG act of 1949 comes up, call me and I’ll handle it.”(*This act joined Papua to New Guinea and some new Guineans thought Papua was getting a free ride.*)

I learnt Geography with the help of the Secondary trained education sergeants and then taught the lesson.



The Paludrine Experiment

The Medical Officer wanted to know if 2 paludrine tablets a day would be more effective than 1.

The education sergeants were the trialists.

We had 2 tablets a day and had our blood taken from a pinprick in the top of your finger for 14 days.

The 1st 10 days was a different finger each day but some were done again on the last 4 days.

I believe we stayed on the 2 tablets a day after that.

Spare time pursuits



Taking a trip to Mt Hagen

Collecting holey coins



Peter Darmody with a holey shilling

Visiting old war sites



Village near the Markham River

Taking a trip on a locally organised excursion



A village on a peninsula near Lae

Going to the movies or dances in town.

Babysitting for one of the Aussie officers with children in exchange for a home cooked meal.

Sergeant mess evenings

Going to the Lae show where the surrounding areas had singing/dancing in traditional dress

Shopping in town

Dates if you found a single attractive Australian female. RARELY.