



A sincere thank you to all our supporters and friends

This month's museum fundraiser was a great success. Over the three weeks of the campaign we raised US\$2,690, thanks to you.

The money will help keep our doors open until tourists finally return to Espiritu 'mSanto some time in 2021.

We couldn't have raised the money without the support of some wonderful people. It means so much to us knowing we have friends around the world who share our dream of seeing history remembered.

Official Navara Sponsors

Air Vanuatu



Bob Hill



Art from behind the barbed wire



Figure viewing Mt Fuji, 1943-1945, colour on wood. Courtesy Featherston Heritage Museum.

For a short time early in the war, around 100 Japanese prisoners of war captured during the United States' offensive in the Solomons were bought to Espiritu Santo.

They were kept in a makeshift temporary camp, but their final destination was very much further away – in New Zealand.

There, near the lower North Island town of Featherston, they and hundreds of others of POWs were interned at a former World War I training camp. Others were sent to Cowra, a country town in New South Wales, Australia and other locations.

Now university researchers in both countries have made a study of the art created by nearly 5,000 prisoners during the war.

University of Canterbury and Flinders University art historians Richard Bullen and Tets Kimura have examined some exquisite Japanese artworks.

As the University of Canterbury website puts it, "the artworks give a fascinating insight into the lives of these ethnic and part-Japanese POWs and civilians.

"Although there were some very crudely made items made by the Japanese held in Australasia, many of the works are of surprising quality and suggest a level of artistic confidence and training."

In the largely all-male camp environment, many of the works depict alluring female figures, with the cultural symbols of kimono,

geisha and umbrella depicted in various ways.

It's a new twist on the historical record of the POW camps – because Cowra and Featherston both saw prisoners attempt breakouts, with particularly deadly consequences at the Australian camp.

We don't know if any art was created by prisoners while on Espiritu Santo, but we would love to find out about any. You can read more (including a link to a radio interview) at:

<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/news/2020/japanese-war-art-uncovered-by-experts.html>

Joining up history

We're very proud of the terrific photo collection we've managed to build so far at the South Pacific World II Museum in Espiritu Santo.

So it's exciting for us to also look in a new initiative from Australia and New Zealand to build cultural knowledge across the Pacific.

The Pacific Virtual Museum is a collaboration between the national libraries of New Zealand and Australia, and showcases Pacific-related items from around the world.

Only just launched, it currently holds over 68,000 items, including, images, videos, maps, sound recordings and artefacts.

The Records Manager at the University of the South Pacific, Opeta Alefaio, told Radio New Zealand that is hoped to a more complete historical picture will be provided through the site.



Hurley, Frank (1921). Scenes at Ononge [Looking down to a collection of buildings and a church overlooking a valley]. One of the thousands of photographs in the collection.

Items often left in storage are now able to be viewed through the site. One of the advantages of the site is that items are being stored at very small data amounts, so that parts of the Pacific with poor internet can still access material.

The pilot programme is funded for two years by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

We've already made some very preliminary queries to the National Library in New Zealand to explain who

we are and what we might be able to contribute.

You can check out the site at <https://natlib.govt.nz/about-us/collaborative-projects/pacific-virtual-museum>

And you can listen to a radio interview at:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/audio/2018775327/virtual-pasifika-museum-aims-to-share-cultural-heritage>



Hurley, Frank 1885-1962. Scene on Mailu Island [men in a fishing boat] [picture] National Library of Australia.



Hurley, Frank 1885-1962. Singing competition, Mekeo [picture] / Frank Hurley National Library of Australia.

The forgotten draftees

Earlier this year, the Museum took possession of some WWII dog tags from Espiritu Santo. As we have previously reported, World War II Historian Donna Esposito has done a remarkable job tracing the families of the original 'owners' so that we may return the tags to them.

In this very special story from Donna, she traces the story behind one of those dog tags, that of Joseph Hairychin, one of over 40,000 Native Americans who served in the US military during WWII.



The USS California, the ship upon which Joseph Hairychin served.

Joseph Hairychin was born on 20 October 1925 to Joachim and Victoria (née DeRockbraine) Hairychin in Kenel, South Dakota, a district of the Standing Rock Reservation.

Joseph was one of nine children in the family. He had an older half-brother, two older brothers, two older sisters, two younger sisters, and a younger brother. His father was born in North Dakota and was a member of the Sioux Tribe.

He was a blacksmith according to the 1930 census. His mother, born in South Dakota, was also a member of the Sioux. By 1940 the family was living in Bullhead, South Dakota within the Standing Rock Reservation.

Joseph registered for the draft on February 10, 1943, listing his birth year as 1924 instead of 1925, perhaps intentionally or perhaps by accident, as there were some discrepancies on earlier documents. So, he was still just 17 when enlisted in the US Navy on 17 April 1943 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

After just 3 months of training, Joseph was received aboard the battleship USS California (BB-44) as a Seaman, Second

Class (S2c) on 17 July 1943 at Bremerton, Washington.

The California had been badly damaged by torpedoes and bombs in the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. The ship was salvaged and repaired. It was not ready for sea duty again until January of 1944.



The California following the attack at Pearl Harbour.

Joseph served aboard the California for his entire time in the Navy. On 1 March 1944 he was promoted to Seaman, First Class (S1c). The California entered combat for the first time in the invasion of the Marianas, participating in the assaults on Saipan, Guam, and Tinian in June and July of 1944.

After almost two months of action, the California left the Marianas on 9 August 1944 and went to Eniwetok to refuel and replenish supplies. The battleship began sailing south to Espiritu Santo, crossing the equator on 21 August 1944. Joseph would have been one of the "pollywogs" who became "shellbacks" in a wild "King Neptune" ceremony that day.



The California undergoes repairs in the dry dock at Espiritu Santo.

Deceased KIA-8-44

FORM APPROVED
Budget Bureau No. 10-1003-41

REGISTRATION CARD (Men born on or after July 1, 1924, and on or before December 31, 1924)
(Also for the registration of men as they reach the 18th anniversary of the date of their birth on or after January 1, 1923.)

SERIAL NUMBER 1. NAME (Print) ORDER NUMBER
W-17-A Joseph (None) Hairychin 10.522-A

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) Bullhead Corson South Dakota

3. MAILING ADDRESS Same

4. TELEPHONE None 5. AGE IN YEARS 18 6. PLACE OF BIRTH Kenel

DATE OF BIRTH October 20, 1924 South Dakota

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS
Mr. Joachim Hairychin, Bullhead, South Dakota

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS None

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS None

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

DOSS FORM 1 (Rev. 11-10-43) 615-61600-4 (OVER) *Joseph Hairychin*

Joseph Hairychin's draft card.

Two days later tragedy struck. On 23 August 1944, the battleship USS Tennessee suffered a steering malfunction and accidentally rammed into the hull of the California. While there were no fatalities aboard the Tennessee, seven crewmen of the California were killed. Joseph Hairychin was one of those seven men. The California continued on to Espiritu Santo and entered the floating dry dock, ABSD-1, for repairs the following day.

The bodies of Joseph and the six other sailors were buried at the Espiritu Santo Military Cemetery. They would have rested there until the end of August 1945, when all the burials at the cemetery were disinterred and reburied at a larger, though still temporary, cemetery on Guadalcanal.

Joseph was memorialized in two 1945 publications, the "Homeward Bound Edition" of The Cub, the newspaper

of the USS California and Indians in the War: Burial of a Brave, a publication of the Department of the Interior's Office of Indian Affairs.

In 1948, all overseas burials, including Joseph and the other California sailors, were disinterred yet again for reburial at a permanent overseas American cemetery such as the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines, or in a cemetery back in the U.S., according to the wishes of the next of kin.

Joseph's parents chose to have him come home. He was reburied for the final time at St. Aloysius Cemetery in Bullhead, South Dakota, where he rests today.

More than 44,000 Native Americans served in all branches of the military during World War II, and Joseph Hairychin was one of almost 500 Native Americans to make the ultimate sacrifice.

06. USM next to 30 July 47 + 29342 (B)

ORIGINAL

CHECK TYPE REQUIRED (See instructions attached)
 BRASS OR METAL HEADSTONE
 FLAT MARBLE HEADSTONE
 FLAT GRANITE HEADSTONE
 BRONZE HEADSTONE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

WV II APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER
 ENLISTMENT DATE 82698570
 DISCHARGE DATE
 GRADE S 1C
 BRANCH USN
 STATUS 3. War
 RANK SEAMAN
 H. H. REBURIAL, STATE ORGANIZATION, AND DIVISION USRR

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) HAIRYCHIN, JOSEPH
 GRADE S 1C
 BRANCH USN
 DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) 20 October 1925
 DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) Aug. 23 1944
 PLACE OF BIRTH Kenel, S. Dak.
 PLACE OF DEATH Bullhead, S. Dak.

LOCATION (City and State) Bullhead, S. Dak.
 NEAREST PRESENT LOCATION (City and State) Bullhead, S. Dak.

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) Mrs. Victoria Hairychin
 ADDRESS (Street, City, State) Bullhead, South Dakota

DO NOT WRITE HERE
 FOR VERIFICATION APR 12 1948
 GREEN MOUNTAIN, VT. 26 MAY 1948
 SHIPPED 30421

I certify this application is submitted for a stone for the interment grave of a veteran.
 I hereby agree to assume all responsibility for the removal of the stone promptly upon arrival at destination, and properly place it at the decedent's grave at my expense.

DDMS FORM 623 REV. 8 APR 46 IMPORTANT—Complete Reverse Side 16-51483-4 GPO

The application form for Joseph Hairychin's grave marker.

Sweet dreams

In 2020, we were delighted to have two new additions join the Museum family.

Museum board members Rayman Leung and Mary O'Reilly welcomed Charles "Charlie" Leung into the world on March 24 in Christchurch, New Zealand. Charlie weighed in at 3.8kg and following a period of lockdown in New Zealand, finally made it home to Luganville with mum and dad in June.



Charlie Leung soon after his arrival in Christchurch.



Lola Tokon just hours after her arrival in Luganville.

Then on November 30 Museum Project Office Manager Lengkon Tokon and his partner Kayline announced the arrival of Loloaca Ledwina Vevoraebulutahi Woi-Natu Tokon, or Lola for short, who was born in Luganville at 2.44 kg.

Her parents found out they were pregnant the day after TC Harold swept through Luganville.

A huge congratulations to both families and we wish them all the very best for their first Christmas with their new little ones.



Charlie Leung March 24, 2020



Lola Tokon November 30, 2020

A letter from the Chairman



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<https://southpacificwwiimuseum.com>

December 31, 2020

Dear Friends,

2020 was the year I think we'd all rather forget. Covid-19 has done untold damage to Vanuatu's tourism industry and we still have no idea when the borders will reopen to international visitors.

On top of that, the strongest cyclone ever recorded in the northern islands - Tropical Cyclone Harold - struck Espiritu Santo in April causing unimaginable devastation to over 90% of homes on the island.

Fortunately for the South Pacific WWII Museum, it escaped unscathed. However, the combined effects of Harold and Covid-19 left us, like many of the tourism reliant businesses on Santo, somewhat marooned.

Yet, we pressed on. And through the generosity of a couple of key supporters and members of the Museum Board, we kept our doors open.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our board members Bill Widup, Mayumi Green, Rayman Leung, Mary O'Reilly and James Carter for all their efforts this year.

Additionally, I would like to express my gratitude to Project Office Manager Lengkon Tokon - who joined us earlier this year - for all the hard work he put in looking after the Museum during difficult circumstances. Of course assisting Lengkon was the ever-enthusiastic Marina Moli, who did a wonderful job hosting school groups and greeting those visitors we did have come through our doors in 2020. Thank you Marina for being such a wonderful part of the Museum team.

Lastly, I would like to thank Steve Turner for all he did for the Museum, following his retirement from the Board earlier in the year.

However, we certainly couldn't have got through this year without the support of all of you - our amazing followers and supporters all over the world who have taken an incredible interest in the Museum project. I'm continually amazed by all your posts, tweets, emails and offers of historic photographs and items from Santo's wartime past. It's wonderful to know we have so many people who share our passion of seeing the project to fruition.

On behalf of everyone at the South Pacific WWII Museum, I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year. Let's hope 2021 proves to be a year we can really celebrate this time next year.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bradley Wood".

Bradley Wood
Chairman
South Pacific WWII Museum

Inspiring everyday heroes

Our heroes this month come from diverse backgrounds, but share a passion for one thing - cricket.

Vanuatu's national women's cricket team first participated in an international tournament at the 2012 ICC East Asia-Pacific regional qualifiers for the World Twenty20, winning two matches and placing fourth out of the six participating teams.



The cricket team enjoyed looking at the Museum's displays.

promote general health and also spread awareness about violence against women.

Of course a trip to Santo wouldn't be complete without a cricket match. The team participated in a cricket



Since then, they have been building their skills and going from one success to another.

Recently the team travelled to Espiritu Santo to support the wonderful work of Santo Rotary Club with their efforts to ensure the public maintain Covid-19 isolation,

tournament to raise awareness and promote cricket as a sport here in Northern Vanuatu, particularly in Espiritu Santo.

While in Santo, they dropped by the Museum to learn about some of the island's history.

In the team photo are the Vanuatu National Women's cricket team in yellow and the Malampa Eagle's women's team in blue with our

Museum Project Office Manager Lengkon Tokon..

Inspiring Everyday Heroes is our Museum brand and means how the stories of yesteryear and our project can inspire today's new generation.



South Pacific WWII Museum
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Vanuatu

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