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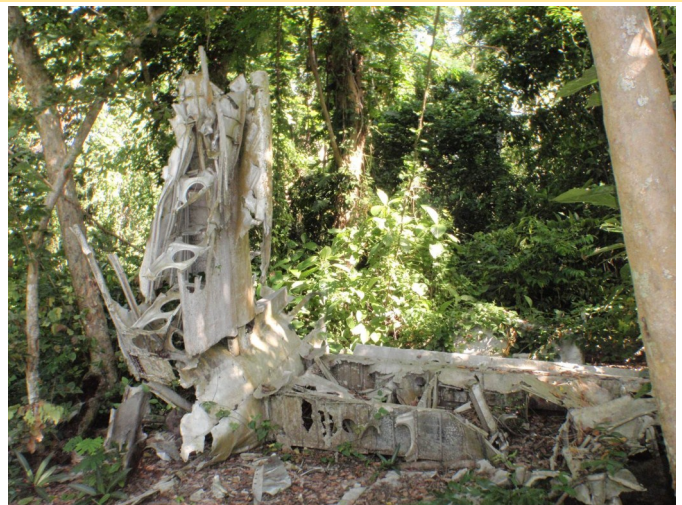
February 2017

### Tropical greetings from Espiritu Santo

In this edition we provide further updates of the museum development since after January's edition.

#### B-17 Wreckage

On a familiarization tour with the [Santo Heritage's Luganville WWII Tour](#) late January, we visited a B-17 wreck site 20 minutes' drive out of Luganville town and about 800 meters from the southern end of the Pallikulo Bay WWII Bomber01airstrip. Even though covered in light shrubs there appeared to be a fair bit of parts remaining on site. There were two large wing sections, 2 engine sections, a tail section, with many other smaller bits and pieces around the area. What's visibly missing is the fuselage and cockpit that may have been removed from past recovery attempts, or potentially destroyed on impact from crash. Out of curiosity, given the matching aircraft type, and proximity of its location to the end of the runway, one may wonder if this wreckage is linked to the August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1943 crash piloted by Lt Wesley Eugene (Gene) Roddenberry, or was it from one of the other B-17 Flying



*Image: Remaining aircraft tail section*

Fortresses that thought it made it home on returning from Solomon Islands but crashed into bushes due to low fuel . One can be sure that all the parts seen on site belong to one aircraft, as there were no visible remains of other materials different to the aircraft parts.

While the site had long been included in Espiritu Santo's WWII tours and visited on numerous occasions, the identify and nature of the wreckage is still unclear, which part of the Museum works will aim to unfold and help put together factual information relevant to the wreckage.



*Image: A B-17, similar to wrecked aircraft, taxis out to another mission during WWII (Photo: NARA, USA)*

## Local Government 10 Year plan supports WWII Museum Development

We are pleased to witness in mid-January the launching of a 10 years strategic development plan for the Sanma Provincial Government Council (SPGC) and Luganville Municipal Council (LMC), two of the local Government authorities on Espiritu Santo.

In this 10 years plan, was the recognition of the South Pacific WWII Museum Project as one of the four notable projects in Luganville town that will be beneficial to all citizens of Luganville and Sanma. This was further supported through its inclusion as a strategy aimed at achieving the goal for ‘a sustainable growing economy’ by way of promoting Espiritu Santo as a principal tourist destination. There is recognition from the local authorities to support the works of the museum through development of a policy to protect and preserve World War II relics on Espiritu Santo.

The Elwood J Euart Association, overseeing the development of the museum project, applauds both Government authorities and looks forward to working collaboratively with them to achieve the goals set out in the 10 years plan.



Image: Representatives of the local Government authorities at the launching of the Sanma Provincial Govt & Luganville Municipality 10 Years Strategic Development plan. Seated sixth from the right is the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Alfred Maoh, with SPGC President Hon. John Olo Aru to his right, and Hon. Onen Gaviga, Lord Mayor of Luganville Municipality to his left.

## VSA approves Museum volunteer request

Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA), New Zealand’s




largest and most experienced volunteering agency working in international development, has provided its approval for a volunteer placement with the South Pacific WWII Museum Project. The volunteer assignment aims to help the Museum achieve greater visibility and develop a strong brand that results in significant growth in donor-interest, pledges for support, and sponsorship. We are grateful for this support from VSA and the New Zealand Government through its Aid Programme together with its private and corporate partners.

The New Zealanders and the Australians were the first to arrive in New Hebrides to help guard the islands from possible opponent invasion after arrival in the Solomon Islands. In Lindstrom and Gwero’s book of the WWII stories of Vanuatu, a local tells his story of the arrival in the *HMS Achilles* and *HMS Leander*, both NZ warships. The Americans arrived a few months later, landing on Efate in May 1942.

## AVL approves setup of a ‘mini-popup museum’ at the Pekoa International Airport



Airports Vanuatu Ltd, the institution managing operations of Vanuatu’s three international gateway airports, Vanuatu’s Air Traffic services and Air Navigation Systems has provided approval for a ‘mini-popup museum’ setup at the Pekoa International Airport. Pekoa was constructed by the American Construction Battalions (CBs - “Seabees”) and referred to as Bomber02 during WWII. As similar to the first popup museum at the Espiritu Hotel, it is aimed to provide the public and visitors a taste of what the museum will offer when completed. We thank AVL management & board for its support.

 **PayPal** Help us build the South Pacific WWII Museum  
Online donations to [Elwood J Euart Association](#) Paypal account

*“We aim to inspire all to understand the sacrifice and achievement of others in defending freedom for all”*

For more information, donation and pledges of support  
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