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PT109 & JFK WWII links to Espiritu Santo

The famed Patrol Torpedo Boat, [PT109](#), did come through Espiritu Santo during WWII. PT109 and other convoy of PT boats arrived in Noumea, New Caledonia, on the 11th of November 1942 where they were unloaded, camouflaged in dark green paint, made combat-ready and then towed to Espiritu Santo, by [USS Manley](#) and [USS Mckean](#), and later departed on the 23rd of November 1942 for Tulagi in the Solomons Islands.

Another finding also confirmed that Lieutenant [John Fitzgerald "Jack" Kennedy](#) came through Espiritu Santo in April 1943. He sailed to Espiritu Santo on-board [USS Rochambeau](#) and from there transferred to [USS LST-449](#) and taken to the motor torpedo base at Tulagi, where he was then made skipper of PT109.

What made PT109 famous was from the incident of 1 August 1943 when it was struck by Japanese destroyer, [Amagiri](#), which got PT109 crew into dark water to then swim ashore and struggled to survive and finding help with fear of being caught by the Japanese, given their proximity from where they came ashore. The crew was later rescued on August 8th, with Kennedy later awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his courage and leadership. John F. Kennedy later became America's 35th President.

Image: JFK far right with his PT109 crew



Periscope Films grants worldwide release rights to the South Pacific WWII Museum

Last month's newsletter featured the story of the floating ABSD-1 Dry dock including a youtube link to a coloured and live [video](#) of the battleship USS Idaho in August 1944 being prepared for general maintenance, from when it approached the Drydock until when it was completely lifted onto the Dry dock here on Espiritu Santo.

After discussions with [Periscope Films LLC](#), the owner of this video material, we are pleased to announce of Periscope's permission to utilize the video to promote the South Pacific WWII Museum, as well as granting worldwide release rights in all media for advertising and publicity. The rights requested from Periscope covers the use for exhibitions, presentations and other forms of promotion and publicity.

The License agreement was signed by Bradley Wood, the Association's Chairman and Nicholas Spark representing Periscope Films. The term of this license is in perpetuity. We are grateful of the support from Periscope Films.

Business & Strategic Plan

The South Pacific WWII Museum is currently in the process of developing its Business and Strategic Plan. We are pleased of our recent engagement with Mr Jimmy Carter who is assisting with this work. Jimmy is currently employed at Australia's most awarded advertising agency Clemenger BBDO in Melbourne as the Creative Group Head. He has been recognized with many prestigious Australian and International awards for his work.

Visit to a WWII US Base - Espiritu Santo

As part of the work relating to documenting remains and history of where it all happened about 75 years ago, we visited what believed to be where the [13th Air Force](#) was stationed at Espiritu Santo, located inland from Simonsen Wharf and next to Bomber 02 airstrip, where also was the Base Hospital no.06 during WWII.

We are appreciative of the support from Peter Colmar for granting access to his property into inspecting, documenting and conducting other ongoing related activities to support the works of the museum. What visible there are largely concrete slabs, a bakery, a hospital and other building remnants.

Image below: 5m x 6m concrete bread ovens

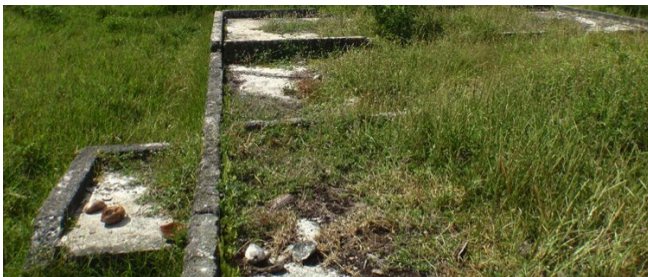


Image above: Remains of Base Hospital no.6

Image below: Base Hospital no.6 during WWII



Sponsorship, Donations & Supports


We are very pleased of the positive outcome and overwhelming support received from the following sponsors in response to our request for financial support towards early development stages of the museum project; [Tropex Exports Limited](#), [Carpenter Motors Vanuatu](#), [Henry Cumines Pty Limited](#), [NZ Pacific Direct Line](#), [CRC Industries \(NZ\)](#), [The Timber Barron](#), [Akzo Nobel Pty Limited](#) and [ITW Proline Hardware Solutions](#). Some sponsors have pledged for an ongoing commitment to provide funding for the coming years. Others have a set timeframe for funding support, some for a one time donation as well as in-kind services support. We thank all our sponsors for their generous offer and support.

We are thankful also of the support from the Vanuatu Government, with backing from the Luganville Municipal Council and Sanma Provincial Government Council, through its approval and granting of a 7,300m² land for the museum site.

We also thank [Arkitektika](#) who developed the conceptual plans, [ADCO Construction](#) for the budget estimates, Jimmy Carter of [Broken Wings](#) for the promotional [video](#) and his current work on the soon-to-launch museum's [website](#). We are grateful also of the approval for a [VSA](#) Volunteer placement, [AVL](#) for a mini popup museum spacing approval at [Pekoa Airport International Airport](#). We thank Santo Hardware also, a locally based hardware store, for supporting and hosting our current museum staff.

Honorary Member

NIGEL MORRISON, a senior legal counsel and partner at the Ridgeway Blake Lawyers, is the Elwood J Euart Association's honorary solicitor. Nigel has been assisting the Association since its setup in 2012. His honorary membership brings to the association invaluable experience and knowledge to support the works of the museum. The Elwood J Euart Association is pleased to have Nigel on-board and appreciates his 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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