



Volume 04 Number 09

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## 10,000 visitors and counting!

We are very proud to have hit a milestone in August, with our 10,000th visitor to our project office and mini museum.

The office is open five days a week, and when cruise ships come in. We keep records on who is visiting, because that is useful information for when the large museum is built.

It also shows that even our current mini-museum is already a tourism attraction, and that there is a definite appetite from local and international visitors to learn more about our remarkable wartime history.

Everyone of those visitors gets a warm welcome from our staff, and so a big thank you to Marina and Melody who are doing the job every day. Let's see you soon.

**Our office and mini museum in Luganville**



## LCM are the latest to join our Navara Fund



**Chair Brad Wood & Matthew Lo**

Our new Navara Fund supporter is very familiar to the people of Espiritu Santo.

Rosemary and Richard Lo, the directors of LCM Limited, have joined the Fund, which helps support the Museum project office and team. LCM is the premier supermarket retailer in Luganville, Espiritu Santo.

Rosemary and Richard have already been supporting the Museum through another of their well-known businesses in Luganville, Santo Hardware. Rosemary Lo says they are delighted to join the Navara Fund and give additional support over the next three years to the project.

***Want to join us? Email [info@southpacificwwiimuseum.com](mailto:info@southpacificwwiimuseum.com)***



# Joseph Kaminski was watching

It's very exciting for us when we discover new information from the wartime history of Espiritu Santo – and especially so when it comes from a museum member.

The father of US member Bob Kaminski was serving in 1943 on the island as a radar scope operator. Private First Class Joseph Kaminski was on duty the night of September 15th, when a long-range Japanese aircraft approached the island, intent on bombing part of the base.

What Bob has discovered is that his father helped avert what could have been a much more deadly attack, thanks to his alertness.

He's unearthed a letter of commendation to his father, that said he "permitted ample early warning to personnel of the base in which to properly prepare for its defense".

Army Air Corps commander Colonel Henry Baxter commends Joseph Kaminski for "this extremely efficient manner of performance of official duty".

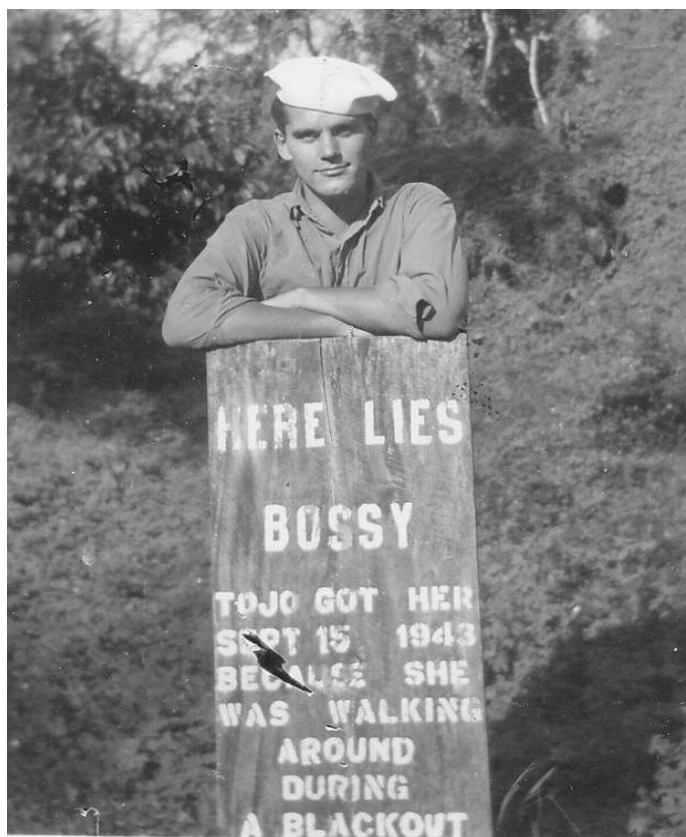
It's a matter of record that the only casualty from combat over Espiritu Santo during the war occurred that night – the death of Bossy the Cow.

But further research by our museum team shows that on that night, the Second Channel was packed with US warships – including the Saratoga. The "Sara" was at the time the only operational American fleet aircraft carrier in the entire South Pacific.

Thanks to the prompt warning, the harbor defences swung into action just around quarter past midnight, with shore batteries opening fire on a target at around 2000 feet altitude. Searchlights tried to illuminate the raider, which in turn dropped two sets of cluster flares over the fleet. Five minutes later, the searchlights turned off and the all clear sounded at 40 minutes past midnight.

In the end, thanks to Joseph Kaminski, we only remember the death of Bossy, on a night when much worse could have happened. Bob Kaminski is thrilled with the commendation.

"What amazes me is that my dad had only been at Espiritu Santo about a month when the air raid event took place and he was doing the job he had been trained to do and appears to have saved lives that night by issuing the proper warning, I could not be more PROUD of him so it is an honor to share this document. What is ironic my dad was operating basically the same type of radar that was at Pearl Harbor on Dec 7th but they ignored the warning the radar operators gave."



The night that claimed the life of Bossy—but it could have been much worse.

## A video reminder

*Our website is sporting a great new look, thanks to project manager James Carter.*

*So go and check it out, and remember in particular to go to our video gallery where there are currently eight "short tour" videos shot to give people a taste of the wartime history on Espiritu Santo.*

*If you are not on our Facebook page, then join up!*

*It's where the videos first appear before then finding a permanent home on our website.*

# Jeepers

We're just going to tease you with some talk of a collection of jeeps. One is in the proud possession of New Zealand High Commissioner, Jonathan Schwass (pictured right).

Another is our museum's own Nellie, bequeathed to us by the Sheen family. Nellie is undergoing a restoration back to driving order so it can be a centrepiece of Museum visits and a cruise ship attraction.

And finally there is Rosie, named after the famous Rosie the Riveter of WWII. Rosie has been purchased by Elwood J Euart trust chairman Bradley Wood and is in very good condition. Rosie is still currently in the United States but will be making her way to Espiritu Santo in due course.

If you'd like to learn about Jonathan's jeep, you can see more in The Santonian. It's our exclusive quarterly newsletter for full members of the Museum. If you'd like to become a full member, see here:

<https://southpacificwwiimuseum.com/membership-2/>



# Inspiring Everyday Heroes



**Winners! The Vanuatu cricket team over Malaysia. Picture courtesy Vanuatu Daily Post.**

## This month in military history

Between September 12 and 14, 1942, the Japanese Army came the closest to recapturing their airfield on Guadalcanal. In the Battle of Bloody Ridge and other actions, the 1st Marine Division held the line and repelled the attacks. A narrow supply line back to Espiritu Santo was just enough.

Our heroes this month are the Vanuatu national men's cricket team, who made history by defeating Malaysia.

The two sides were part of a qualifying tournament towards the sport's World Cup. The event was in Malaysia. The Holiday Inn Resort Vanuatu team have never won what is called an A-List match, but pulled off the feat in a nailbiter against the home side.

Vanuatu looked unlikely to win after managing to score just 65 runs, but some great bowling and fielding, defeated Malaysia by 13 runs

For our readers who aren't familiar with cricket, it's a sport played around the world but with strongholds in former parts of the British Empire. It has a world cup every four years, and this year, England narrowly defeated New Zealand to become champions.

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