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## The Development of a WWII Museum

This news letter reveals information about a future development in Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu (New Hebrides during WWII) regarding a World War Two Museum. The museum will be an interactive archive filled with historical information revealing to the public the history of the largest Allie military base outside mainland USA and Hawaii during Second World War. A charity foundation, Elwood J. Euart Association, was created in order to attract awareness and enable individuals from the public to donate any artefacts and donations to the museum. It is named after Captain Elwood Joseph Euart who died at the sinking of the SS President Coolidge after saving his comrades from the sinking ship. This self-funded foundation requires donations from a wider community to enable the project to become successful.



An artist impression of the South Pacific WWII Museum taking form of the Quonset Huts

### DID YOU KNOW?

"The name 'Quonset' came from Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island where this type of structure was first built, 1941. The place name is from a southern new England Algonquian language and perhaps means "small, long place".

## Key Achievements

- Registration of Elwood J Euart Association
- Land identified, acquired and lease signed
- Conceptual design & architectural modeling
- Budget estimates
- Employment of a full-time museum development manager

## MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN



"We acknowledge and thank those who share in what we envisioned and have supported through donations thus far to what we've achieved. There remains a lot more work to get done, and we are hopeful that many more will contribute towards development of this exciting project". Mr Bradley Wood

## What's Ahead

- Setup mini-exhibition centers
- Website launch
- Fundraising launch

## INSIDE STORY

- Recovery of a P38 lightning WW2 wreckage
- Memorial Service of Capt. Elwood Joseph Euart
- Museum conceptual plans
- Signing of land lease

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

For more information, donations and pledges of support  
**CONTACT: Elwood J Euart Association**  
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 PO Box 850 Luganville Espiritu Santo Vanuatu

## P38 Lightning Wreckage

The remains of a P38 Lightning World War II wreckage was removed on the 29th of October from Milai plantation, approximately 9 kilometres from Luganville, to a safe storage awaiting completion of the museum. These heavy fighter and bomber WWII aircrafts were the first fighters to fly faster than 400mph, and the only American fighter aircraft in production throughout WWII.



Recovered P38 wreckage remains

An ID plate containing a serial number was spotted among a pile of debris and remains from what appeared to be a piece of the cockpit section could be the best piece of what's left towards unfolding the untold stories of this wreckage. We are seeking assistance from historians and other experts to identify and relate history of this P38 wreckage. Those who may assist to link up the aircraft's serial information with obtaining its Missing Air Crew Report (MACR) are encouraged to contact us.

The aircraft had been moved out from its original crash site believed to be beneath the edge of Bomber 3 Airfield, one of the three bomber airfields on Santo, and had been stored at the plantation for more than 16 years.

**"We are seeking assistance from historians and other experts to identify and relate history of this P38 wreckage"**



Image to the left: Member pointing to ID plate of cockpit section of the P38 lightning aircraft. (S/N: 1911940, LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORP, BURBANK CALIFORNIA)

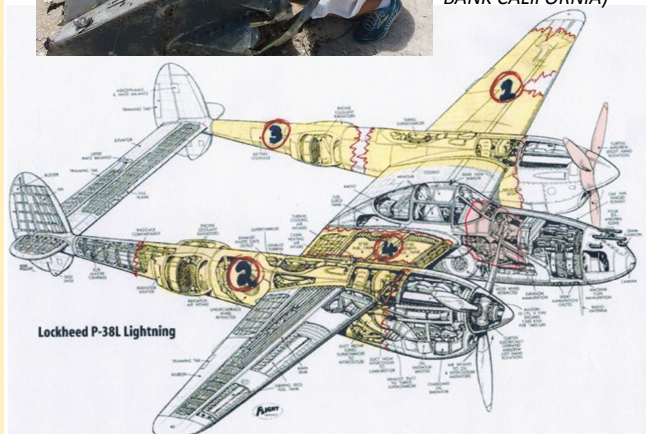


Image above: Assessment of remaining wrecks

## Capt. Elwood J Euart finally home



Monument of Capt. Euart at Espiritu Santo (Photo Daily Post)

Capt. Elwood J Euart was finally laid to rest on the 31st of August 2016 at his hometown Pawtucket, Rhode Island, after almost 74 years. His remains were recovered from the sunken SS President Coolidge in Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, by a local diver in 2015 and was conclusively confirmed to be of the late heroic army captain. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Purple Heart and the Rhode Island Cross after losing his life saving his comrades in the sinking of the SS President Coolidge in Espiritu Santo after it sank from hitting an underwater mine during World War II in October 26th 1942.

The founding organization leading the development of the South Pacific WWII Museum in Luganville, Espiritu Santo, is named after Captain Euart. The Elwood J.Euart Association also held a memorial service in Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, on the day of his burial.

## Museum site lease acquired



Association members with Vanuatu Minister of Lands and Luganville Lord Mayor after signing of lease (Photo Daily Post)

The special lease for the museum site in Luganville was signed on the 20th of May 2016 by the Elwood J Euart Association and the Minister of Lands Ralph Regenvanu following the approval of the Council of Ministers late 2015. The museum site is located at the Unity Park within the main CBD area, next to the Luganville town hall and the main market. The west side of the building edges with the Sarakata river which also contains remains of the first bridge built by the American troops during WWII.

## WWII Museum Concept plans

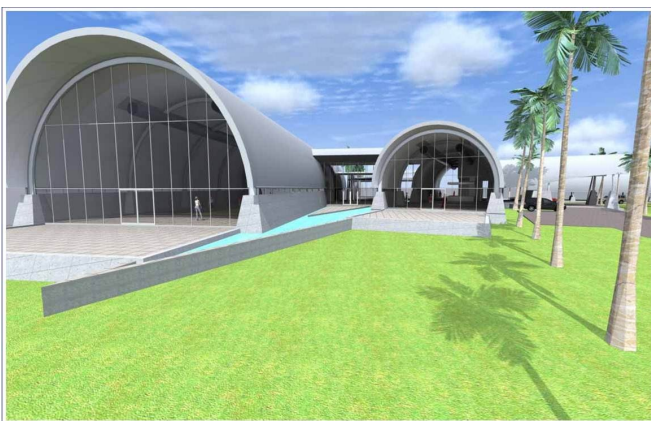
Arkitektika, a professional and internationally recognized architectural and designing company, developed the conceptual plans and designs for the south Pacific World War II Museum with the objective to construct a signature building icon for Luganville, conforming to world class museum and building standards. The buildings shape and form will resemble the Quonset huts widely built during WW2, and can still be seen around Santo today.

The design had three secondary Quonsets of two floor heights consisting of large two gallery display areas, a theatre, library, tours & information desk, gift shop, outer restaurant/café, internet café, office space and a pavilion. Incorporated to the main display centres are the other services to assist with maintaining the museum operations after its completion. The Museum will form part of the towns beautification, which will promote tourism with unquestionable benefits to the wider community. While tourism is some aspect of this project, a major aspect is to protect, preserve and educate the children of Vanuatu of what Santo, Vanuatu and the South Pacific is once part of—an important chapter of the world’s historical heritage.

**“We aim to construct a world-class signature building icon for Luganville”**

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ADCO Construction, a professional and internationally recognized construction company with over 40 years of building experience, has developed a budget estimate based on the conceptual designs and the requirements set by the Elwood J Euart Association. The estimated figure forms the basis to kick-start fundraising efforts. The association is now preparing towards raising funds required to construct the museum of world class standards. A fundraising launch date is soon to be announced.



Arkitektika’s artist impression of the Museum showing platforms for external display at Gallery 1 and 2 looking from east to west

## War in the Pacific

Constructing a museum in Espiritu Santo will enable the perseverance of history to remain as we remember those who fought for the freedom and independence of others. The construction of the museum will create a historical archive where people are able to interact and be educated about the value for history and appreciating and remembering those who sacrificed their lives during World War to defend the freedom of others. We aim to inspire all to understand the sacrifice and achievement of others in defending freedom for all.

The war in the Pacific was a huge conflict spread over a massive area. Strategy and logistics played a critical factor in each success and failure. The US was stinging from the attack on Pearl Harbour and they decided to setup a new base for operations in the Pacific. They selected the island of Espiritu Santo for this facility. Santo grew into the second largest US base in the Pacific after Hawaii and had over 40,000 troops stationed permanently on base.

There were 3 bomber and 2 fighter airbases and massive aircraft and ship repair facilities. The importance of Santo during the war can still be seen in the infrastructure that is left behind. Many buildings and facilities built during the war are still used today. The pekoa airport was an airport which the military built and it is currently still used this present day.

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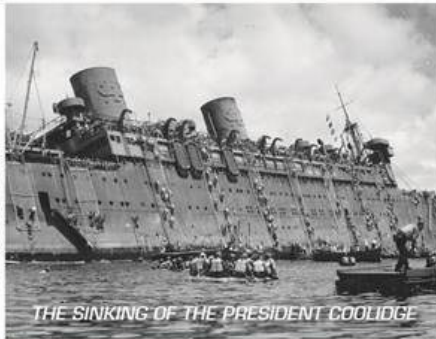


Image above: American Soldier learning how to weave with local citizen .  
Image below: Sinking of SS President Coolidge, 26th Oct 1942 in Santo



# SOUTH PACIFIC WWII MUSEUM

## ESPIRITU SANTO VANUATU



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