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Acquisition of a LCVP Landing Craft

One of the museum's major exhibit will be the Higgins Boat LCVP Landing Craft, acquired in 2014, after tireless efforts and coordination by the Elwood J Ewart Association's Chairman and its members. This war craft was referred to by many as the 'Little boat that won the war'. It was commonly used in the Pacific Theatre during WWII, for landing of men, machinery and supplies across enemy beaches which allowed entire armies to meet the enemy on its own terrain. This always proved to be the greatest challenge to any war front and crafts such as the Higgins Boat ultimately exemplified their worth in such circumstances. The Supreme Allied Commander which later became United States 34th President, Dwight Eisenhower, himself praised the critical role of the Higgins Boat, citing that the war would have turned into a different scenario without the ability to land men on enemy beaches.

Not only could the craft carry a full combat ready infantry and supplies, it could also transport a JEEP along with troops, hence the name Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel (LCVP).

Image: Jeep drives off a LCVP Landing Craft



This major acquisition would not have been possible without the support of the museum's friends, supporters and sponsors. We thank Paul Paturel, Stephen Quinto and NISCOL, the Northern Islands Stevedoring Company Limited, for their generous support.

A special restoration project will be setup to fully restore the LCVP. Potential sponsors have shown interest in this project, particularly for the supply of hardware and paint products to fix it up. This is aimed to be fully restored in time for display at the museum after its completion.



Image above: LCVP at the museum storage

Image below: Troops in a LCVP Landing Craft (Photo: US National Archives)



Tracing Father's WWII footprints

Anne Moebes visited Espiritu Santo in late April 2017 to trace her father's war history, who spend most of his time during the war time on Espiritu Santo. With information from her father's photos and letters she was able to locate her father's base camp on a private property located next to Bomber02 airstrip (today's [Pekoa International Airport](#)).

The base was believed to be of the 13th Army Air Force. There is high possibility of the entire area being jointly occupied by the Air Force and the Navy due to its proximity to the bomber02 airstrip and the Simonsen wharf. The southern part of the area towards the wharf is likely to be the Naval Administration Base (NAB).

Over the course of a whole day, Anne was accompanied by members of the museum project to visit and film remains of the camp site. The entire area was made up of four different camps, each of which had their own mesh halls and other facilities, but sharing a large bakery believed to supply the entire area, including also a hospital referred to during the war as hospital base no.06.

The base camp was setup beneath coconut grooves during the war, and had since been used as a cattle ranch and coconut plantation, which made it possible to trace these remains. If the area had been developed, the remains from the war would not have been easy to trace, document and preserve.

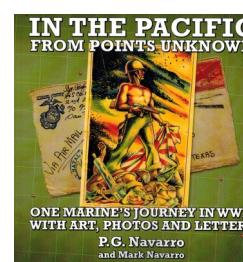
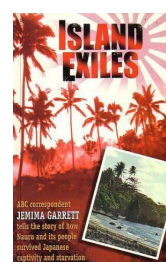
Thanks to Peter Colmar, the property owner, for supporting the works of the museum and allowing access to his property.

Image: Among many other building remains is what appeared to be a vault



WWII Book Donations

We are pleased to have received the following books from the museum's friends and supporters to add to the museum's library when completed. Not only will it add to our books collection, but also provides accounts and stories of the WWII historic heritage of the wider South Pacific region for benefit of residents, locals, national and international visitors. We appreciate these donations, and applaud the work of the authors which links with the museums goals to acquire, document, preserve and exhibit the WWII military history and stories from the South Pacific Islands. Thank you Bruce M. Petty, P.G Navarro & Mark Navarro, and Jemima Garrett.




[P.G Navarro](#), the author of 'In The Pacific from points unknown' is a veteran of the 2nd Marine Division during WWII. His book featured photos, sketches (being an artist), letters and stories of his time on Espiritu Santo. He is 96 and still paints.

Allan Power pledges for further support to the South Pacific WWII Museum

A long time resident in Luganville, and owner of [Allan Power Dive Tours](#), Mr Allan Power, has met with members of the South Pacific WWII Museum to share his stories of the post world war II times on Espiritu Santo. Allan is widely known for his involvement with the famous world wreck dive, [SS President Coolidge](#) dive.

He has donated to the museum ww2 weapons and some ammunition that had formed part of his collection over the years. Allan has also pledged to donate other items off his collection for the museum when it is completed. In 2012 Allan Power and his team discovered the remains of [Capt. Elwood J Euart](#) which was later recovered and returned home in 2016.

 **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
CONTACT: Elwood J Euart Association
Email: info@southpacificwwiimuseum.com
Website: www.southpacificwwiimuseum.com
Phone: (678) 36 227 Fax: (678) 36 829
PO Box 850 Luganville Espiritu Santo Vanuatu