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A visit from PAC Angels



From left, Major Gieseey, Lieutenant Colonel Kaat, our project manager Alma Wensi, and Brigadier-General Burks.

Espiritu Santo has this month been home to a large contingent of US military personnel who are part of the PAC Angel humanitarian programme in a number of Pacific nations.

The roar of a US air force Hercules transport has been a familiar sound overhead Luganville and an especial hit with local school kids.

The team has carried out optometry, dental, pediatrics, family practice, pharmacy and physical therapy service and worked in a multinational group making renovations at four schools and two medical clinics.

We at the project office have been delighted to

have a number of those servicemen and women take time to visit, capped off by a meet and greet by three senior US officers.

Nevada Adjutant General, Brigadier General Bill Burks, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Ingrid Kaat, and Major Andrew Gieseey, the Army attaché for the US Embassy in Suva, were in Luganville to mark the successful conclusion of the latest deployment.

The project wasn't on their radar until they saw a copy of one of our regular articles in the inflight magazine of our Navara Fund sponsor, Air Vanuatu and decided we were a "must see"!

We hope they were able to take away some useful information about our vision. And we thank the entire PAC Angel deployment for their helping hands during this month to assist the people of Espiritu Santo.

Inspiring Everyday Heroes



Every month we feature someone who lives up to our Museum motto of Inspiring Everyday Heroes.

Litiana Kalsrap from the Efate village of Pango last month received a Queen's Young Leaders Award from Her Majesty in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.



The prestigious Queen's Young Leaders Awards programme, celebrates exceptional young people aged 18 to 29 from across the Commonwealth and the work they are undertaking to improve lives across a diverse range of issues.

Litiana, 25, has been chosen in recognition of the work she is doing to mobilise young people as a force for positive social and environmental change in her community and beyond.

She is vice-Secretary of the Pango village Youth Council in Vanuatu, which oversees local youth associations. She works as a Youth Sector Counsellor for the Pango Area Council, where she represents the views of young people.

As part of her work, Litiana organises activities such as beach clean-ups and tree planting initiatives. She also raises awareness about climate change and its effect on the Pacific Islands.

Litiana also visited 10 Downing Street, the BBC World Service, and the UK headquarters of Facebook, besides taking part in leadership mentoring through the University of Cambridge.

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

The new photo collection



We don't know what these sailors did to deserve this task, preparing the harbor chains, on Espiritu Santo

We're looking forward this month to having a closer look at a treasure trove of new images from the war in New Hebrides. If you're on our Facebook page, you will have seen some of these images. Perhaps the most remarkable to date has been the mine barrier curtain being prepared for sealing off the entry into the Second Channel.

As you can see, they resemble a series of giant chain-mail.

The pictures are courtesy of friend of the museum and researcher Sam Bell and have been obtained by research at NARA in the United States.

Many thanks to Sam and all of you who enjoy and often give use added insights on these wonderful pictures.

Workshopping our Museum

An important part of our work is projecting ahead to when the Museum is open.

So this month we've had a New Zealand business consultant donating his time and expertise to refine our comprehensive business plan and strategy.

Bill Hardie from Christchurch spent four days with us, and helped us firm up our forecasting for the future. He spent time talking with a number of individuals and local businesses.



Business Consultant, Bill Hardie

We appreciate very much their support and input.

And the work was capped off by a day-long workshop by board members, so that Bill could pick as many brains as possible.



Workshop in progress

Bill and members of the Museum Board after the workshop



Every dogtag has its day



The drones before we had drones - courtesy of the Stag-1 website

We never know what story might lie behind some the discoveries handed into us at the Museum project office, but this one may take some topping.

It concerns the dogtag for Richard Mahan.

It turns out Richard Mahan was part of a very exclusive wartime team, which pioneered the US military's use of unpowered aircraft. In short, the very first drones.

That fact was unearthed by our Pacific Wrecks expert, Museum member and dogtag sleuth Donna Esposito. Donna was thrilled by the discovery and is working hard to find out more about the unit, STAG-1, and Richard Mahan's role in it.

STAG-1 had a controversial history and actually only deployed once – with considerable success – against a Japanese target in the Solomons late in the war.

To the best of our knowledge the unit did not come to Espiritu Santo, but clearly Richard Mahan did. We'll keep you posted on developments.

If you'd like to know some more about Stag-1 there is a great website at <http://stagone.org/>

Sign up for The Santonian

The Santonian is our special added-value newsletter which comes out quarterly to Museum members. If you would like to become a member, sign up by [clicking here](#). This quarter's Santonian has an analysis by Australian military historian Dr Peter Williams of how - if Espiritu Santo had not existed - it would have had to be invented. As well, we discuss some very new questions about what lurks beneath the placid surface of the Segond Channel, and finally we reveal the very big news of July 1944 in our corner of the South Pacific.

Aore chocolate & Our buttons



Two ways to support us. Chocolate and buttons (not chocolate)

We've been stocking the popular Aelan chocolate range at the museum as a fundraiser for several months. And it's a hit with visitors.

Aelan Chocolate is literally a world beater, having won a string of gold and silver medals at the recent 2018 International Chocolate Salon – Artisan Chocolate Awards in the United States.

The two blends we've stocked until now have been Malo and Santo, both islands where there is a wartime association and story to tell. They're also our favorites taste-wise, but don't tell the other islands.

So we're very pleased that Aelan chocolate, a collective of local farmers, are extending their range to include Aore blend. The island just across the Segond Channel from Espiritu Santo was home to the rest and recreation base here as well as sizeable ammunition storage and other facilities.

If you keen on trying it out, we'll be among the first to stock it . Just drop by our Luganville project office during working hours or contact us at admin@southpacificwwiimuseum.com to see if we can post some to you.

If you know your history then you'll know of course that the Espiritu Santo base had the, perhaps unusual, codename of 'Buttons'.

Something we also stock that is popular are our World War II authentic Navy buttons. These are packaged up as a sign of your commitment to our Museum. Email us if you're interested.

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“Inspiring
everyday
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