

Santo gives up more secrets

The Museum has again expanded its collection thanks to local business identity Peter Colmar.

Peter had a pair of Twin Flexible 7.62 mm Browning M1919 Machine Guns of the type used on the Douglas SBD Dauntless – the same aircraft that we have in pieces outside the museum.

We became aware of the machine guns earlier in the year thanks to French PhD student Pierre Noel who spotted them and let us know of this exciting find.

Peter and he was only too happy for us to display the guns in the museum, particularly as they make a fantastic companion piece to our Dauntless. A sincere thank you to Peter for making this fabulous piece available to us.



Peter Colmar hands over the Twin Flexible Browning M1919 machine guns set to go on display at the museum in Luganville..

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A formidable combination

The SBD Dauntless and the Browning M1919 machine guns

Following on from our fantastic new exhibit, we thought we'd explore the background of the Browning M1919 Machine Guns and what made them so special.

The Birth of the Dauntless

The Douglas SBD Dauntless was designed in the mid-1930s as a carrier-based dive-bomber, and it quickly gained a reputation for its accuracy and ruggedness.



A restored SBD-5 Dauntless, featuring the twin Browning machine guns. Photo Planes of Fame Air Museum/Wikipedia.

It was employed extensively by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, particularly in the Pacific Theatre, where it played a pivotal role in battles such as the Battle of Midway and the Guadalcanal campaign.

The Twin Flexible 7.62 mm Browning M1919 Machine Guns

One of the key features that made the Dauntless such a formidable aircraft was the inclusion of twin flexible 7.62 mm Browning M1919 machine guns in the rear cockpit. The guns were operated by a gunner or radio operator, and they provided critical defence against attacking enemy aircraft.

The Browning M1919 machine gun was a reliable and proven design that had been in service with the U.S. military since the 1930s. It was chambered for the .30-06 Springfield cartridge, known for its accuracy and stopping power.

Versatile and reliable

The twin M1919 machine guns were not only effective for defensive purposes but also added an offensive punch to the Dauntless.



These restored Browning machine guns in the rear of a Dauntless certainly look formidable.

In addition to protecting the aircraft from enemy fighters, the rear gunner could use the guns to strafe ground targets during low-level attack runs. This versatility made the Dauntless a potent weapon against both surface targets and aerial threats.

The combination of the Dauntless' ability to carry a significant bomb load and the firepower of the twin M1919 machine guns made it a deadly adversary. It could dive steeply and accurately drop bombs on enemy ships and installations, then defend itself against pursuing fighters with its rear-mounted guns.



An SBD Dauntless somewhere over the Pacific carrying its single 1000lb bomb to a Japanese target.

(continued...)



A close up detail photo of the Browning machine guns showing the thick steel bullet-proof screen to protect the rear gunner.

Impact on the War

The presence of the twin M1919 machine guns on the Dauntless had a significant impact on the outcome of many battles in the Pacific Theatre. During the Battle of Midway in June 1942, Dauntless dive-bombers armed with these machine guns played a crucial role in sinking four Japanese aircraft carriers, turning the tide of the war in the Pacific.

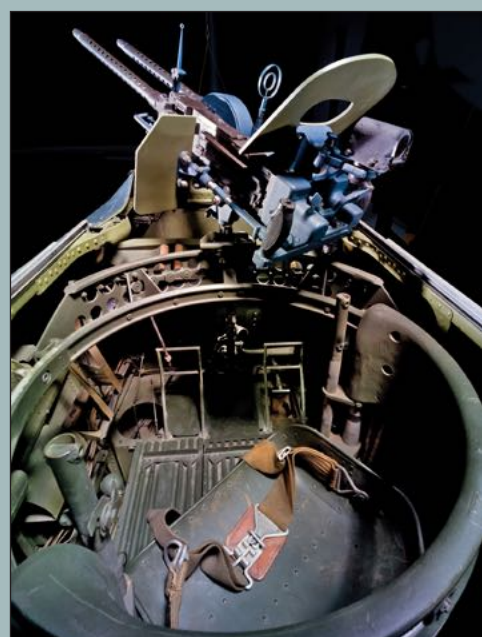


Not much protection was offered to the rear seat gunner in a Dauntless.

Furthermore, the Dauntless' ability to fend off enemy fighters made it a less appealing target for Japanese pilots, as attacking a Dauntless often meant facing

a hail of bullets from the rear guns. This provided the Dauntless with a degree of protection that other aircraft lacked.

The combination of accuracy, firepower, and resilience made the Dauntless a symbol of American airpower in the Pacific Theatre and a crucial instrument in the defeat of enemy forces.



The rear cockpit of an SBD Dauntless in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC.

Making progress

Back in our July newsletter, we ran a story regarding the structural engineering plans for Stage 1 of the new museum.

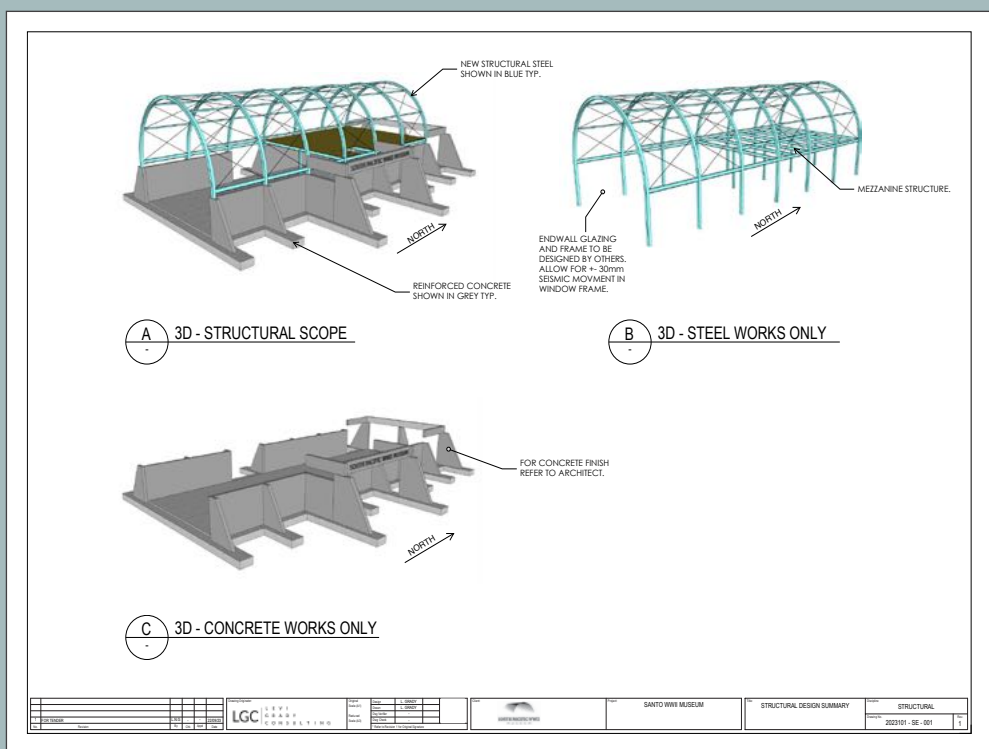
We were delighted to announce that Chartered Senior Structural Engineer, Levi Grady had offered to assist us with the necessary engineering specifications and plans needed for a project of this type.

Levi has completed his work on the plans, which is very exciting for us as we can now obtain more accurate estimates for the build.

With cost of materials and construction skyrocketing globally as a direct result of Covid, our costings need to be re-estimated.

Additionally, as we mentioned back in July, everything has to be brought in by ship which requires complex logistics and planning to ensure transport costs can be kept to a minimum – particularly these days with the costs of fuel and shipping increasing.

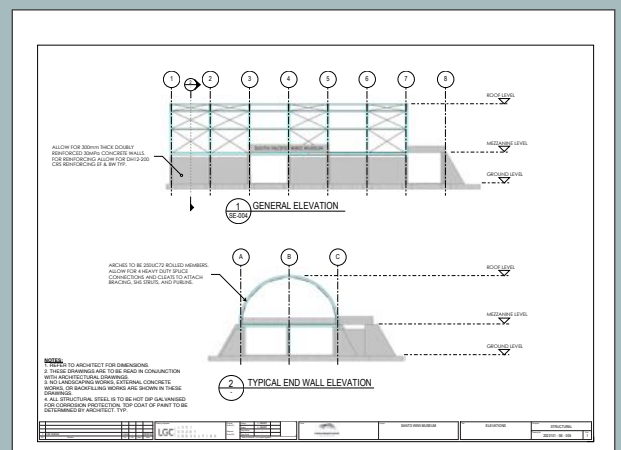
We're now putting the plans out to construction companies both in Vanuatu and overseas to see what they come back with. We'll report on their estimates in upcoming newsletters.



Some of the engineering design work by Levi Grady.



A rendering of Stage 1 of the South Pacific WWII Museum. The complex engineering specifications presented a range of challenges for Levi.



Another of Levi's plans featuring concrete and steel specifications.

The last search

Also in our July newsletter, we ran a story about the 'holdouts' – those Japanese soldiers who refused to lay down their weapons following the Japanese surrender on 2 September 1945. Not long after publication, Dr. Martin Hadlow wrote to us.

He was based in Solomon Islands in the early 80s and met some of the search team during their visit to the town of Gizo to secure more supplies. His first-hand account of being there during the search makes for a wonderful follow-up to our original piece. This is his story.



Dr Martin Hadlow Honorary Associate Professor, School of Communication and Arts, The University Of Queensland. Photo The University Of Queensland.

A war not over

As late as the 1970s, soldiers from the Imperial Japanese Army were emerging from the jungles of South-East Asia and the Pacific where they had remained in hiding since the capitulation of Japan in 1945. Fearing the indignity of surrender and its consequences, having not lived up to their oath to the Emperor of fighting to the death, it often took a cajoling message from a former wartime commander to convince them that it was safe to finish their duty and return to Japan.

Perhaps the best-known was Lt. Hiroo Onda who, by 1974, had held out since the end of World War Two on

the island of Lubang in the Philippines. Later in the same year, another emerged on Morotai in Indonesia while, two years earlier, a soldier had also appeared from the jungles of Guam, giving Japanese search teams the hope that more were still alive on islands elsewhere in the South Pacific.



A young Hiroo Onda in his military uniform.

Although the last Japanese soldier surrendered on Guadalcanal in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate (BSIP) in 1947, persistent stories of stragglers emanated from the island of Vella Lavella in the west of the country where, in October 1943, after heavy fighting, the Japanese Army garrison and shipwrecked Imperial Japanese Navy sailors had faced overwhelming attacks by the US military, the 3rd New Zealand Division, and a Fijian Commando Unit.

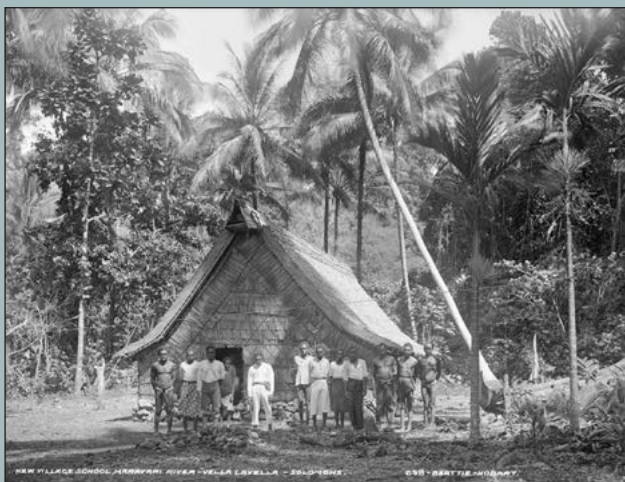
Remote island hideout

Vella Lavella is a large volcanic island with mountains, rivers, villages and thick jungle canopy. Even pre-war it was a remote part of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, the only expatriate presence being a few missionaries and planters. In the early days of the war as the Japanese military took possession of neighbouring territory, such as Rendova and New Georgia, Australian Coastwatchers and their Solomon Islands Scouts remained behind on Vella Lavella to report enemy movements.

(continued...)

In the confusion of the Japanese seaborne evacuation from Vella Lavella on the 6th October 1943 as Allied forces took control, many Japanese soldiers and sailors were left behind in small pockets in the hills and other locations. Troops aboard the transport barges taking them from the north-west tip of the island for transshipping to a base on Bougainville recalled seeing at least 60 of their comrades on the beaches ceremoniously bowing and waving farewell before they headed back into the bush to continue the fight.

Acting on post-war reports from Vella Lavella villagers of sightings of strange men in their gardens and the neighbouring bush, the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare, along with volunteers from the All-Japan Solomon Islands Association (a grouping of Japanese veterans), undertook eight search missions to the island. The last was in September, 1981.



New village school, Maravari River, Vella Lavella. Photo Auckland Museum Collections.

The final search was based at the village of Maravari on the southern coast of the island, a four-hour ride by boat across open water from the Western Provincial HQ at Gizo. Some 14 Japanese war veterans, all of whom had served on Vella Lavella, along with six students and two representatives of the Government set up eight camps in the jungle, with other bases at Lambu Lambu, Parasao and elsewhere. A media contingent, primarily television crews from Tokyo, stood by in expectation of potentially one of the most amazing news stories of the decade.

At the time, I was based in Solomon Islands (1980-84) as News/Programme Trainer with the Solomon Islands

Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) and was temporarily assigned to Gizo where a new regional SIBC station was being commissioned. Upon meeting some of the search team during their visit to the town of Gizo to secure more supplies, I decided to travel to Vella Lavella to view for myself this rather extraordinary spectacle and to undertake reporting duties for the SIBC. It all seemed so unlikely, unbelievable and, in many ways, surreal.



A map of the Solomons. Image by Xena Mapel. unm-bioblog.blogspot.com/2017/12/into-mud-solomon-islands-story.html

Camp in the jungle

From Maravari, it was a gruelling, three-hour uphill walk through thick bush, across flowing streams and along muddy, barely discernible tracks to the first camp site in the hills. Along the route, small boxes with paper and pencils had been affixed to the trees by the search parties. These were checked each day to ascertain whether a straggler had decided to leave a message without showing his presence.

Occasionally, leaflets dropped previously from chartered search aircraft could be found scattered around the tracks. These carried a message designed to encourage any soldiers to come out of the bush as their families back home in Japan would be waiting for their return.

At the top of the hill, the jungle opened to a cleared space where the canopy had been slashed to allow several leaf shelters to be constructed. These housed the search team. The Japanese searchers sat idly amongst large amounts of foodstuffs, (continued...)



New Zealand troops in action on Vella Lavella.

water bottles, a motor generator and other paraphernalia. Nearby, two large flag poles towered over the camp.

One flew the Japanese Rising Sun wartime flag, the other a huge carp, the symbol of boys in Japan.

To each side, on large platforms constructed from bamboo, sat huge loudspeakers and from them poured a stream of Japanese wartime music, both singers popular with soldiers in that era and patriotic anthems from military bands.

The sounds echoed for kilometres across the jungle. Occasionally, the music was interrupted by one of the searchers using a microphone to send messages in Japanese to any stragglers, the words essentially translating as 'Don't worry. Come out. The war is over.'

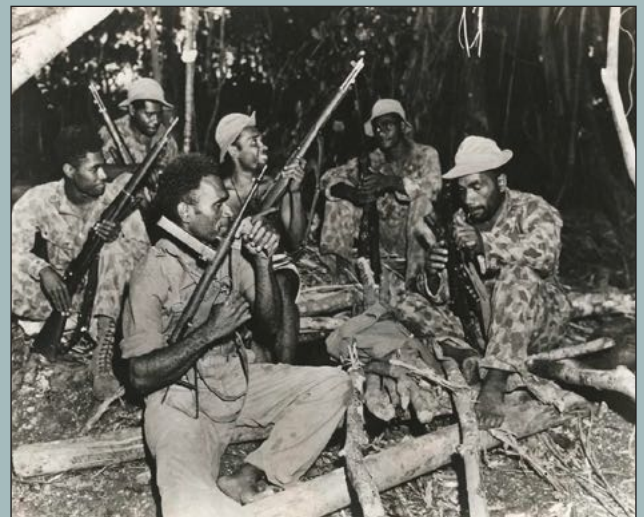
Local knowledge

But did the searchers really believe that a soldier could have survived by himself in such inhospitable surroundings for more than 30 years? The Japanese Government representative told me of a young girl at Parasao Bay who had claimed to have recently seen in the family garden a man of Asian appearance with long hair and wearing short trousers. She had been afraid and ran to tell her parents and the local Chief, who

believed her story. By the time they returned, the man had gone.

In Maravari, a village resident said to me that he had had "a strange encounter" in his garden only one year previously. Hearing a sound while walking in the rain near his house, he saw a man, about 50 to 60 years of age, with long hair and a beard. He wore brown military-type trousers and a shirt. On approaching him, the stranger ran off into the bush.

The villager saw footprints nearby and followed the trail upstream along the river near Uzamba. He also claimed that bananas were regularly missing from his garden and felt that these had been taken by soldiers staying in the bush.



Men from First Commando Fiji Guerrillas on Vella Lavella in the Solomon Islands, 9 September 1943.

The Japanese veterans on the search had a different reason for believing that their comrades remained somewhere on the island. It was more about hope than possibility, but they felt it was their responsibility to return to Vella Lavella in memory of those they had left behind. A matter of honour.

They had also suffered dreadful wartime conditions, a lack of shelter and food, and constant bombing and harassment by Allied forces. The Imperial Japanese 17th Army and the IJN had attempted to evacuate as many men as possible, but was only partly successful due to relentless daytime air attacks and heavy naval battles at night.

End game

Did the media personnel and television crews accompanying the search party believe that they might film a soldier appearing from the jungle? Some felt it was a remote idea but still possible and that, in 1943, the soldiers had first been told to fight to the death, but that the orders had then been changed to tell them to surrender.

Maybe they didn't receive the order, one journalist pondered. Even so, it was hard for them to believe that a soldier could still be alive after 38 years. Perhaps the local people were telling stories of seeing Japanese soldiers to encourage tourism to their villages? Many thousands of dollars had been spent locally by the searchers on food and services and the Japanese Government representative told me this would be Japan's final official search for its missing WWII soldiers in the Pacific.

Probably the last word goes to a soldier who fought on Vella Lavella in 1943 and was safely evacuated by Japanese naval barge to Bougainville, where he went into action during 1944 against Australian military forces.



New Zealand soldiers land on Vella Lavella, 17 September 1943, to relieve U.S. units on the island. Photo National Library of New Zealand.

Badly wounded in the fighting, the Australian Army took him, as a POW, to Melbourne where he spent many months in hospital undergoing treatment and convalescence. His gratitude towards a benevolent Australia was limitless.



New Zealand soldiers of 3rd Division in Vella Lavella, Solomon Islands, during World War II, with a boat abandoned by the Japanese. Photo National Library of New Zealand.

But, sitting in the jungle on a Vella Lavella hilltop in 1981, what would happen if he saw a wartime soldier from 1943 appearing from the bush? His answer to me was as forthright as it was understandable: "I will be astonished!"

[Dr. Hadlow spent several days in the bush with the Japanese search parties at Maravari on Vella Lavella in September 1981. No trace of any WWII Japanese soldiers was found during this final search.]

The Museum would like to thank Dr. Martin Hadlow for compiling his story for us and making it available to our readers.

When Moses roamed Santo

As its name suggests, the South Pacific WWII Museum's primary focus is on those events of the Pacific Theatre that helped shape the outcome World War II. Yet 35 years later, another war was to shape the lives of those on Santo – the Coconut War.

A Catalyst for Change

Vanuatu boasts a rich history of indigenous movements that have shaped its destiny. Among the key figures in Vanuatu's quest for self-determination,



Jimmy Stevens in Port Vila emphasises his continuing opposition to independence in the New Hebrides (Vanuatu) and vows to fight in the jungles to prevent Santo becoming part of the new nation.

Jimmy Stevens stands out as a pivotal figure. His role in the Nagriamel Party on Espiritu Santo played a significant part in the journey towards independence for what was then known as the New Hebrides.

A Colonial Past

Before becoming Vanuatu, the New Hebrides and was jointly administered by France and Britain – a colonial arrangement known as a condominium. This shared governance led to complexities, challenges, and discontent among the Ni-Vanuatu population, who had long sought self-rule and freedom from colonial rule.

A Leader Emerges

Jimmy Stevens – a charismatic and influential figure – emerged as a leader who would play a pivotal role in challenging the colonial status quo. Born in 1926 on Espiritu Santo, Stevens, also known as Moses, was of mixed heritage, with both Polynesian and European roots. His unique background allowed him to bridge cultural divides and connect with a wide range of people in the New Hebrides.



The logo of Na-Griamel. Photo Wikipedia.

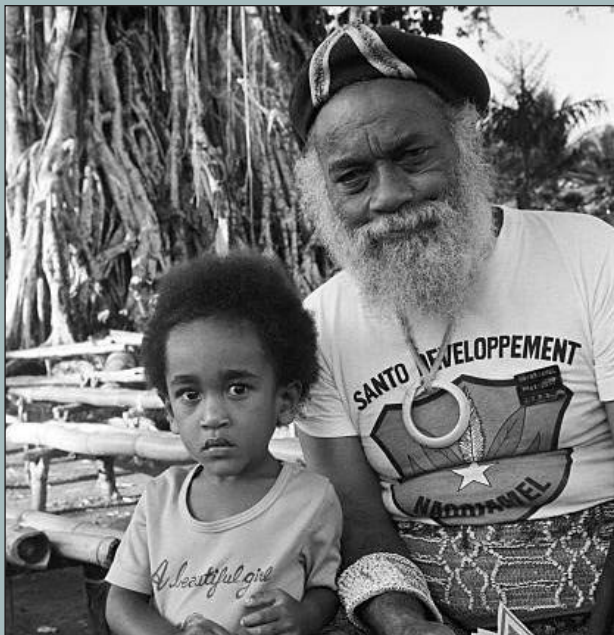
Stevens' political journey began in the 1960s when he became increasingly disillusioned with the colonial administration and the limited opportunities available to the Ni-Vanuatu population. He recognised the need for a unified and organised movement to advocate for the rights and aspirations of the Ni-Vanuatu people.

A Platform for Change

In 1970, Jimmy Stevens founded the Nagriamel Party, which quickly gained popularity among the indigenous communities on Espiritu Santo. The party's name, "Nagriamel," is an amalgamation of three key words from local languages: "Nagri" (village), "Ri" (rising), and "Mel" (men). This name signified the party's commitment to empowering local communities and lifting them up from the shackles of colonialism.

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The Nagriamel Party's platform was built on principles of land reform, cultural preservation, and self-determination. Stevens and his supporters advocated for the return of ancestral lands to the indigenous people and sought to protect their cultural heritage from the encroachment of Western influences.



Jimmy Stevens at home in Fanafo. Photo Fabrice Moderan and Facebook Vanuatu and Santo History page.

The Coconut War

Perhaps the most defining moment in Jimmy Stevens' political career was the Coconut War, which erupted in 1980. This conflict was sparked by the

Nagriamel Party's declaration of the independent "State of Vemerana" on Espiritu Santo, just days before Vanuatu achieved formal independence from colonial rule.

The declaration of Vemerana was a bold move, and it led to a military intervention by French and Vanuatu forces seeking to restore order. The conflict came to be known as the Coconut War due to the significance of coconut as a symbol of power and identity in Vanuatu.

Despite the military intervention, the Nagriamel Party's actions and the Coconut War highlighted the deep-seated desire of the Ni-Vanuatu people for self-determination and control over their land and resources. Although the conflict ended with the party's defeat, it accelerated the path toward independence for Vanuatu as a whole.



Jimmy Stevens arrested and in jail. Photo Fabrice Moderan and Facebook Vanuatu and Santo History page.



New Guinea soldiers guarding Santo airport. Photo David Squires.

Legacy and Impact

Jimmy Stevens' role in the Nagriamel Party left an indelible mark on Vanuatu's history. His dedication to the cause of indigenous rights and self-determination inspired generations of Ni-Vanuatu leaders and activists. Today, Vanuatu is a sovereign nation with a strong sense of cultural identity and pride.

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While the Coconut War did not result in an independent Vemerana, it ignited a spark of resistance and unity that ultimately led to the end of colonial rule.

Vanuatu's journey to independence and its enduring commitment to preserving its unique cultures are a testament to the lasting impact of leaders like Jimmy Stevens and the Nagriamel Party.



Chief Moli Jimmy Stevens was the leader of the rebellion in Santo in 1980.

In the heart of the South Pacific, the legacy of Jimmy Stevens and the Nagriamel Party serves as a reminder of the power of determination, resilience, and the pursuit of self-determination in the face of colonialism. Their story is an integral part of Vanuatu's history, a history that continues to shape the nation's identity and aspirations in the modern world.

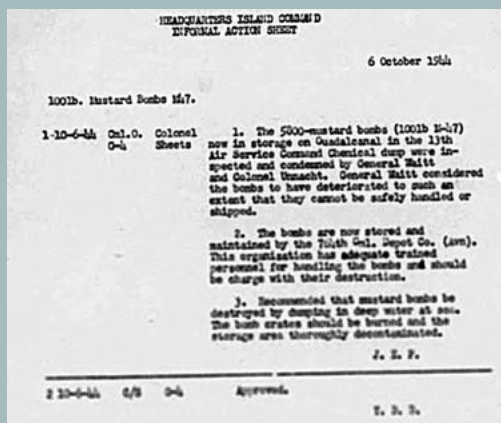
Fred's article entitled, 'Lt. Lewis A. Wakefield: How and Why His Company Dumped 5,800 Mustard-Filled Bombs into Ironbottom Sound', provides a fascinating insight into the dumping. More importantly, what potential hazards still exist today for divers exploring the wrecks that litter the area. This is Fred's piece.

Lt. Wakefield (O-1039607) was Executive Officer of the 764th Chemical Depot Company (Aviation), based near Carney Field on Guadalcanal from June through November of 1944. Lt. Wakefield also wrote the Company's monthly Organisational History Reports, reports which remained secret until 2009.



Carney Field (Bomber 2) was established by U. S. Naval Construction Battalion 14 "Seabees" in December 1942.

During its months on Guadalcanal, the Company was responsible for a depot containing incendiary bombs, smoke munitions (both of which were used) and toxic chemical bombs. The toxic chemical bombs were never used, but they were ready for a quick Allied "response in kind" if Japan had used similar munitions—as it had done earlier in China.



A slightly blurred copy of the Informal Action Report detailing the deteriorated chemical weapons that were to be dumped.



An M47A2 chemical bomb of the type stored at Guadalcanal.

The toxic bombs at the 764th depot (or "dump") were primarily mustard-filled 100-lb M47A2 bombs. These bombs had previously been stored at a US base in Fiji. M47A2 bombs had thin steel casings and were notoriously prone to leaks, particularly when stored in tropical conditions. Unloading the bombs at Guadalcanal had already resulted in at least one major leak.

In late September or early October of 1944, the depot was inspected by Gen. Alden H. Waitt, Assistant Chief for Field Operations for the US Chemical Warfare Service. Gen. Waitt found the bombs then in storage had "deteriorated to such an extent that they cannot be safely handled or shipped." He ordered their disposal in an "Informal Action Sheet," dated 6 October 1944 and transmitted via Colonel Sheets.



An LCM-2 from the USS President Jackson (AP-37) beached on Guadalcanal, circa 1942.

The 764th responded immediately, organising and carrying out the disposal with their available resources. Lt. Wakefield carefully described the process in his monthly report.

The available vessels were "tank lighters" (LCM-2), landing craft that had been used for months to bring light armoured vehicles and other cargo onto the beaches.

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In seven days, the Company successfully moved 5,800 mustard-filled bombs—many of them leaking mustard agent—from their depot to Koli Beach, onto the tank lighters and two miles out to sea, where they dumped them “into deep water.” Seven soldiers from the 764th received minor mustard burns, but their training and protective clothing prevented serious injury.

Kali Beach on the northern shore of Guadalcanal is near Kali Point. The area is notable for a land battle in November 1942 between U.S. Marines and Japan’s 230th Infantry Regiment. Projecting as it does into “Ironbottom Sound,” Kali Point was also near air-sea battles which continued as late as August 1943 when the USS John Penn was sunk by Japanese torpedo bombers.

The John Penn was lost shortly after unloading ammunition at nearby Lunga Point. The wreckage of the John Penn remains a popular dive site for those interested in exploring Ironbottom Sound. It lies at a depth of 36–56 meters, deep enough to require advanced diving skills, and in an area that is subject to strong currents.

If mixed well with water, mustard agent becomes far less toxic. There are, however, cases elsewhere in which chemical reactions produced a shell around the mustard even if the metal bomb casings had completely disintegrated.

Decades-old mustard bombs can remain hazardous both in the short-term effects for which they were intended and in their longer-term effect as a carcinogen.

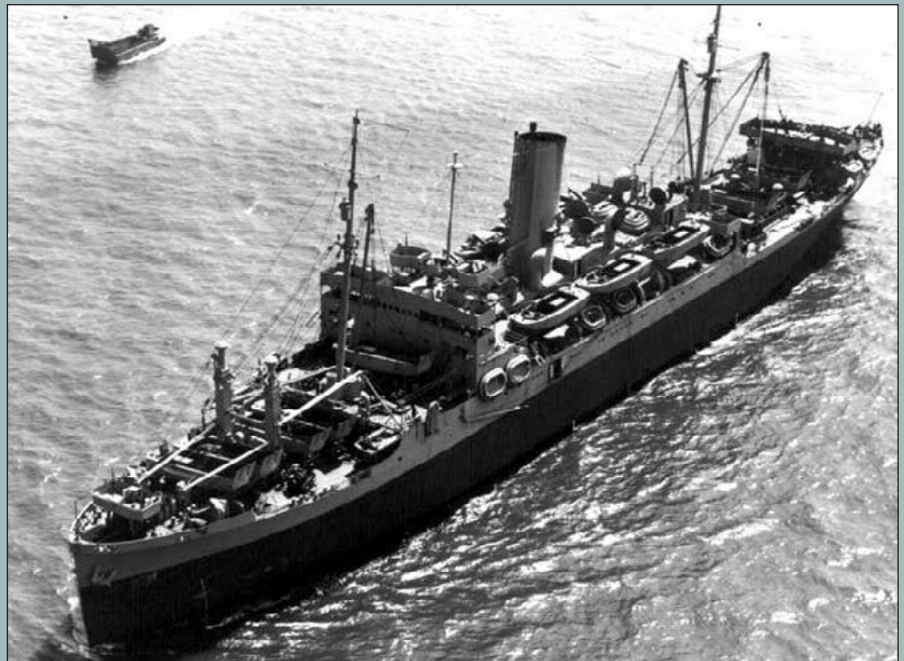
To our knowledge, there have been no investigations into possible hazards now posed by the mustard bombs which the 764th Chemical Depot Company dumped into Ironbottom Sound.

Where does Espiritu Santo fit in to all of this? The 23rd Chemical Decontamination Company ran the Chemical

Warfare School just south of what is now Santo Airport. We don't know exactly what went on there and whether any chemical weapons were located amongst the 38,000 tons of bombs and ordnance stored on Santo and Aore Islands during the war. Given Fred's research, let's hope not.

Sources of additional research

The entire 516-page set of reports from the 764th Chemical Depot Company (Aviation) is available as part of Microfilm Reel A0189 at the Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.



The USS John Penn AP-51, was sunk shortly after unloading ammunition at Lunga Point. Coincidentally, an LCM-2 can be seen in the top left of the photo.

Hoosier Scientist has also posted a pdf of the full set for immediate download without charge or registration at dropbox.com/s/rrxzmz3o7sbpvh0/764ChemicalDepotCo.pdf?dl=0

Note that some of the material is difficult to read because of issues with alignment of the microfilm camera.

Thanks to Fred Thomas for his story. More information of the chemical warfare of WWII can be found at hoosierscientist.com

THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

Singapore surprise

In the annals of World War II's clandestine operations, few stories are as audacious and successful as Operation Jaywick.

In September 1943, a small but highly skilled team of 14 commandos and sailors from the Allied Z Special Unit executed a daring raid on Singapore Harbour.

Their mission: to cripple Japanese shipping and disrupt enemy supply lines in Southeast Asia.

What followed was a brilliantly executed raid that sank or damaged six ships, demonstrating the bravery, ingenuity, and effectiveness of the Allied Special Operations units.



The MV Krait. Because it was a former Japanese vessel, it was selected to transport members of operation Jaywick, conducted by the Z Special Unit, Australian Services Reconnaissance Department, into Japanese occupied waters near Singapore, in order for them to carry out the highly successful raid on shipping in the harbour.

Operation Jaywick had its roots in the Allied need to disrupt Japanese supply lines, which were vital to the enemy's war effort in the Asia-Pacific region.

As Japan occupied vast territories, they relied heavily on the transportation of vital supplies through Southeast Asian ports, with Singapore being a key hub.

Recognising this vulnerability, the Allied command decided to launch a covert raid on Singapore Harbour.

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The success of Operation Jaywick can be attributed to the extraordinary skills and determination of the men involved.



A group on board MV Krait en route to the Singapore area during operation Jaywick. AWM photo.

Led by Lieutenant Ivan Lyon, an Australian officer with extensive experience in small-scale raids, the team was composed of seven Australians and seven British sailors.

Their backgrounds ranged from engineers to radio experts, and their diverse skills were essential for the mission's success.

The first and most challenging task of Operation Jaywick was getting the team into Singapore Harbour undetected. The commandos used a disguised fishing vessel called the Krait, which sailed from Australia to the vicinity of Singapore.

The Krait was an inconspicuous choice, as it looked like any other fishing boat commonly seen in Southeast Asian waters.

Under the cover of darkness, the team in the Krait paddled to the harbour on collapsible canoes. Once inside the harbour, they silently boarded their targets



A collapsible kayak of the type used in the raids in Singapore. This is believed to be training at Wilson's Promontory in Victoria.



Some of the raiding party, and ship's crew, on board Krait prior to the mission to Singapore.

(continued...)

– Japanese merchant ships and tankers – with satchel charges filled with explosives.

On the night of September 26, 1943, Operation Jaywick went into action. The team split into two groups, each responsible for different targets. They moved swiftly and stealthily, attaching their explosives to the hulls of the unsuspecting Japanese vessels.



The Krait approached Singapore. Photo AWM.

The commandos' precision and meticulous planning paid off as the explosives were successfully detonated, causing significant damage to the targeted ships.

In total, six Japanese ships, totalling over 39,000 tons, were sunk or severely crippled. The damage inflicted was a heavy blow to Japanese supply lines, and the success of Operation Jaywick was a morale booster for the Allies.

Having completed their mission, the Jaywick team faced the daunting task of escaping Singapore Harbour without detection.

The return journey to Australia was fraught with danger, as Japanese patrols and ships were now on high alert. The team relied on their cunning and wits, as well as the deception of flying the Japanese flag to avoid suspicion.

Operation Jaywick was not only a remarkable military success but also a testament to the courage and skill of the individuals involved. It demonstrated the effectiveness of small-scale, special operations in disrupting enemy supply lines and eroding the morale of the Japanese forces.



Group portrait taken after the completion of Operation Jaywick. Photo AWM.

The success of Jaywick paved the way for subsequent Allied covert missions in the Pacific theater, further hampering Japanese war efforts.

To this day, their actions continue to be celebrated as a testament to the courage and resourcefulness of those who fought behind enemy lines during World War II.

Japanese records and radio decrypts have identified six ships sunk or damaged. It is highly probable the attack on the seventh failed.

Ship	Attacker	Target	Gross Tonnage	Configuration	Outcome
1	Lyon/Huston	Shosei Maru	5698	Engines aft tanker	Damaged
2	Davidson/Falls	Nichiren Maru	54603	Island cargo	Damaged
3	Davidson/Falls	Unknown	NA	Engines aft cargo	NA
4	Davidson/Falls	Arare Maru	2770	Engines aft tanker	Sunk/salvaged
5	Page/Jones	Hakusan Maru	21973	Island cargo	Sunk
6	Page/Jones	Nasusan Maru	4399	Engines aft tanker	Damaged
7	Page/Jones	Kizan Maru	50713	Island cargo	Sunk

Inspiring everyday heroes

The Vanuatu Cricket Association (VCA) has identified six highly talented cricketers from its outreach programs in Tanna and Santo. These young athletes are receiving full-time scholarships to further develop their cricket skills and pursue education in Port Vila.

scholarships will strengthen national representation, despite the geographical challenges between islands.

Tari noted that scholarship recipients will join the U19 Women's and Men's pre-squads, preparing for the 2024

World Cup Qualifiers. TAFEa secured one men's scholarship for Joshiah Lendal, while SANMA earned two for Waane Sirovulu and Justin Sarginson. In the women's category, SANMA received two scholarships for Suzanne Bani and Selinda Revi, and TAFEa proudly boasts Ruth Nako.

The South Pacific World War II Museum congratulates these six cricketers and wishes

them all the success in the world as they advance Vanuatu's presence in international cricket and are our Inspiring Everyday Heroes.

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



Ruth Nako, starred for Tafea at the national secondary school games in August. Photo VCA.

The national secondary school games played a pivotal role in this endeavour, with teams from outreach centres competing in Port Vila for scholarships and a chance to trial for the national U19 teams.

Ronald Tari, the National U19 Head Coach, believes these



South Pacific WWII Museum
Unity Park, Main Street,
Luganville, Espiritu Santo
Vanuatu

email: info@southpacificwwiimuseum.com
web: southpacificwwiimuseum.com

