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KOKODA HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

Welcome to our March 2021 newsletter. Our cover photo this month is a wonderful picture of trekkers in full swing somewhere near the village of Naduri, half-way along the Kokoda Track. At the moment we are hoping that we are more than halfway through the pandemic. We had hoped to be back for Anzac Day 2021 but alas COVID keeps getting in the way.

As you are probably aware we have now officially cancelled Anzac Day 2021 treks & tours. Many of you have already postponed again to 2022. We thank everyone that has once again shown their support. For those who cancelled we also understand your situation. Kokoda Historical is committed to seeing the pandemic through and looking after our clients, our staff and most importantly the people we partner with in PNG.

As a gesture of good will and to show our commitment, we continue to support all our staff in PNG. This has included sending aid in the form of money, food and equipment. Recently we supported our team in Kokoda who asked for the supply of a gold dredging machine. Currently Kila and the Green Masin are engaged in fossicking for gold. Our well known cook Gabs, has request a slasher so he can find work maintaining lawns. We have been very proud to see the resourcefulness of our beloved PNG guides.

Our message to everyone is-keeping going the course. We will return to our beloved PNG and we will take you our clients with us as soon as the COVID situation has changed.

David Howell March 2021



PASSING OF ALAN 'KANGA' MOORE

It is with great sadness to report the passing of Alan (Kanga) Moore who passed away peacefully at 0915 on 9 March 2021. Alan served his country as V36205/VX100094 LT A W Moore B&D Coy of the 39th Battalion. Alan had come from the 14thBn Militia, and later was a Captain in the 2/6 Bn. Alan had also been President of the 39th Battalion Association, and remained a very loyal supporter of all things Kokoda.

Alan had a long association with Rotary and over the last decade being involved with the Young/Bould Award which Kokoda Historical was a proud supporter of. Lest We Forget

A Celebration of Alan Moore's life will be live streamed on Friday 19 March at 2:30 pm.

<https://www.belindajanevideo.com/client-vides/alan-moore/>



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY NEWTON VC

This month in history we remember the heroic actions of William (Bill) Newton VC.

In early March 1943 their targets were in the Salamua area, and enough sorties were carried out that the enemy gunners had become familiar with the machines of 22sqn, and they with the placement and accuracy of the various guns. The crews of the guns and the aircraft became so familiar with each other that it had almost become a personal duel between them. Because the attacks were often carried out a very low levels, the gun crews were able to recognise the pilots of the Bostons, especially Newton who habitually wore a blue cricketers cap.

On March 16, a sortie against the Salamua Isthmus was carried out by six aircraft from 22sqn, led by Fl. Lt. Newton. Their objective being to hit the supply dumps near Macdonald's road, and the adjacent anti- aircraft battery. On arrival near the target, after flying over the Owen Stanley range, Newton commenced

so the aircraft had to fly straight towards the guns, presenting the best possible target. Despite four direct hits during the run in that holed fuel tanks, punctured the fuselage in a number of places, and ruptured a wing main spar, Newton continued undaunted and dropped his bombs directly on the target from minimum altitude, as his right engine was put out of action.

Read the full article [here](#)



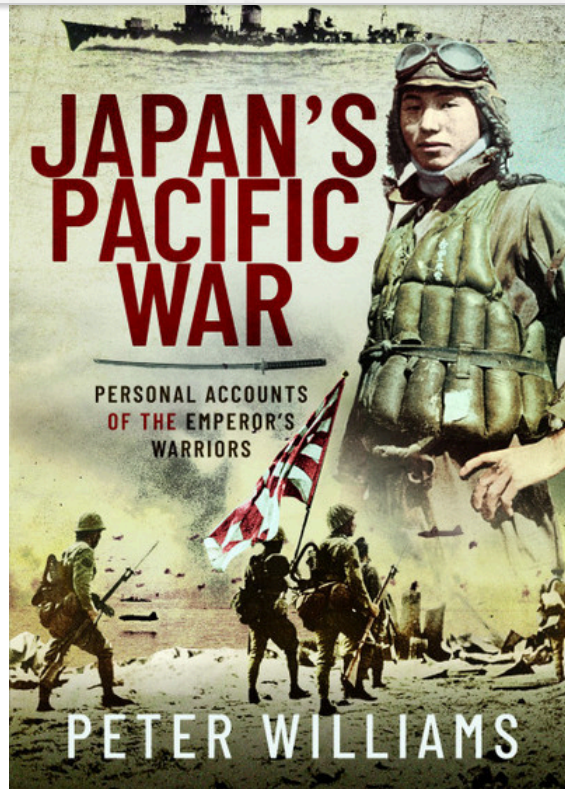
PASSING OF SIR MICHAEL SOMARE

Michael Thomas Somare was born on April 9, 1936, in Rabaul, a coastal town in what was then the Australian-mandated territory of New Guinea, and raised in the East Sepik Province, a region he went on to represent in parliament. In 1972, Sir Michael was elected as chief minister of the territory and pledged to lead it to self-government and then independence. Just three years later, PNG gained its independence and Michael Somare became the country's first prime minister at the age of just 39.

He died early on Friday 26 February 2021, having being diagnosed with a late-stage pancreatic cancer.

People in Papua New Guinea knew Sir Michael affectionately as "The Chief" and the "Father of the Nation" and he is one of only two people in PNG to be given the official title of "Grand Chief". He was knighted by the Queen in 1990.

He is survived by his wife Lady Veronica Somare, who he married in 1965, and their five children.



NEW BOOK

I had no qualms fighting the Australians, just as I have killed without remorse any of the Emperor's enemies: the British, the Americans and the Dutch', so admits Takahiro Sato in this ground-breaking oral history of Japan's Pacific War.

Thanks to years of research and over 100 interviews with veterans, the Peter Williams has compiled a fascinating collection of personal accounts by former Japanese soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Their candid views are often provocative and shocking. There are admissions of brutality, the killing of prisoners and cannibalism. Stark descriptions of appalling conditions and bitter fighting blend with descriptions of family life. Their views on the prowess of the enemy differ with some like air ace Kazuo Tsunoda who believed the Australians 'worthy'. Some remain unrepentant while others such as Hideo Abe are ashamed of his part in Japan's war of aggression.

The result is a revealing insight into the minds of a ruthless and formidable enemy which provides the reader with a fresh perspective on the Second World War.

To order the book direct from the publisher click [here](#)



2022 ANZAC DAY TREK & TOURS

2022 will mark the 80th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign. Join Kokoda Historical as we undertake a unique Australian pilgrimage trekking the Kokoda Track. As we see the roll out of vaccinations including Australia now committed to helping PNG get on top of the Pandemic, we are confident that by 2022 we will be back on Track!

Therefore Anzac Day 2022 is expected to be a very busy time of year.

We are offering a choice of 3 special in-depth history treks.

You can choose to trek from Kokoda to Owers' Corner, attending the Official Anzac Day Dawn Service at Bomana War Cemetery or trek Owers' Corner to Kokoda, attending the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Isurava with the option to visit the Northern Beachheads of Buna, Gona & Sanananda.

1. \$3,950 12 Day Fully Australian Led Tour, Anzac Dawn Service Bomana (15-26 April 2022) Trekking Kokoda to Owers' Corner.
2. \$3,850 11 Day Fully Australian Led Tour, Anzac Day Isurava Memorial (17-27 April 2022) Trekking Owers' Corner to Kokoda.
3. \$4,245 13 Day Fully Australian Led Tour of Kokoda Track & Northern Beachheads (17-29 April 2022) Trekking Owers' Corner to Kokoda & to Buna-Gona-Sanananda.

To visit our dedicated page to Anzac Day 2022 treks click [here](#).

KOKODA HISTORICAL



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