



Kokoda Initiative



Australian Government



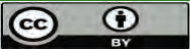
VOICES FROM THE WAR

Papua New Guinean **stories of the Kokoda Campaign**, World War Two

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IMAGE CREDITS (FRONT)

Carriers and troops crossing the Brown River between Nauro and Menari, Kokoda [Australian War Memorial, 1942]

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THE KOKODA TRACK



VOICES FROM THE WAR



Papua New Guinean **stories of the Kokoda Campaign**, World War Two



Message from the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea



Connections and relationships between peoples are sadly often formed through war and conflict.

Seventy-five years ago, soldiers from Papua joined with soldiers from Australia and other allied nations in stopping the invasion of our soil from the North.

Through austere conditions, terrible sacrifice and many demonstrations of true comradeship between men and women of different cultures and background, our people built the foundations that are an important part of Papua New Guinea and Australian relations today.

The seventy-fifth anniversary edition of “Voices from the War – Papua New Guinea Stories of the Kokoda Campaign” provides great insight into the relationship between soldiers and civilians.

It provides us with greater understanding of the pain and the sacrifice that fell upon them in horrible conditions on the Kokoda Trail.

The death, the injury and the sickness that occurred along the trail were experiences no man, woman or child should ever experience. But in those days, seventy-five years ago, many communities and villages were immersed in war and this changed their lives forever.

Today, we live in a modernising country that is generations away from the death and sacrifice of World War II.

As a nation, Papua New Guinea expresses its gratitude to those who gave their all so that our countries could have a future that was free. To all soldiers who took up arms from Papua, Australia and all contributing countries, to the Papuan porters who carried the injured from the battlefield to medical care, and to the communities who suffered along the trail, we thank them for their sacrifice and we celebrate their heroism.

Hon. Peter O’Neill CMG MP
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

Message from the Prime Minister of Australia



Between July and November 1942, Australian, Papuan and Japanese soldiers fought a deadly struggle along the Kokoda Trail, which crosses the precipitous Owen Stanley Range.

The fighting was some of the most vicious experienced by our troops in the Second World War.

The 75th anniversary of the Kokoda campaign provides an opportunity to reflect on this period in our country's past, and remember those who fought and died in the desperate battle in Papua.

It is also a time to remember the heroic contributions of our Papua New Guinean neighbours. Indeed, Kokoda is a monument to the courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice that both Australians and Papuans displayed in this time of immense peril.

The story of Kokoda is often told from an Australian perspective, which means that few people have heard it from the Papuan side. The Papuan Infantry Battalion, for example, fought gallantly to stem the Japanese advance on Kokoda. And Papuans carried or helped sick and wounded Australians from the front lines to safety. Without them, Australian casualties would have borne greater suffering and fewer would have survived.

It is, therefore a great honour to launch a special 75th anniversary edition of *Voices from the War* in partnership with the Papua New Guinea Government. This book preserves Papua New Guineans' stories of the Kokoda campaign for future generations and makes an important contribution to the history of the war. It is through deeds such as those described in these stories that we have forged the close and enduring bonds between our two countries.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP".

Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister of Australia



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Abbreviations

ANGAU Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit

PIB Papuan Infantry Battalion

SDA Seventh-day Adventist (Church)





'The war on the track lasted for 3 years from 1942 to 1945, when I was a young man at the age of 14 ... All these stories are not forgotten, they are all fresh in my mind'.

Hawala Laua, Kagi

RECORDING STORIES FROM THE KOKODA CAMPAIGN

The Oral History Project

From April to September 2014 a group of Papua New Guinean and Australian researchers visited villages and other places in Northern and Central Provinces to record interviews with men and women about their experiences during World War Two.

The stories about the Australians, Americans, and Japanese soldiers who fought in Papua New Guinea during World War Two are well known. However, many people do not know the stories about the Papua New Guineans who lived through the war. The purpose of this project has been to record their stories so that Papua New Guinea's children, and their children and grandchildren, will know about this time.



The research team included Professor John Waiko as senior historical adviser and war historian Mr Maclaren Hiari, as well as Mr Didymus Gerald, Mr Hennington Horewo, Mr Soda Ihania, Pastor Lepsy Koia, Ms Cathy Langu, Mr Javith Lowland Abavu, Mr Barnabas Orere, and Ms Elizabeth Taulehebo. Dr Jonathan Ritchie, a researcher from Deakin University in Australia who was born and grew up in Papua New Guinea, coordinated the project. The project was supported by the Australian Government through the Kokoda Initiative.

More than seventy interviews were recorded with women and men in Northern and Central Provinces. The research team visited, in order: Hanau, Deboin, Kokoda Primary School, Beama, Popondetta and Kovelov in Northern Province, and Kagi and Karakadabu-Depo in Central Province. Interviews were also held at the National Museum and Art Gallery in Port Moresby.



Cathy Langu interviews Seba Orogu at Karakadabu-Depo (J. Ritchie, 2014)



Lomas Tomu Ani shares his story as others listen at Hanau (J. Ritchie, 2014)

Some of the interviews were with senior men and women who were alive during World War Two and could tell their own stories. But this war is now seventy years ago. Sadly, there are not many people alive today who have memories of that time. Most of the interviews were with the children and grandchildren of the old people who are not living any more, but they were very proud to be able to tell their bubus' stories.

Staff at the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery are carefully looking after the interview recordings. Family members, and all Papua New Guineans, will be able to listen to them now and in the future. The memories of the men and women who took part in the war as carriers, soldiers, sailors, police, and in many other roles are extremely important. Recording these memories has helped to shine a light on the time when World War Two came to Papua New Guinea.

'My young generation and all the children of this village must listen to the story I am going to tell ... You have not heard my story about the Second World War before. So now open your ears and listen'. Claude Gegera Peututu, a carrier, Deboin (J. Ritchie 2014)





Dr John Waiko (left) and Dr Jonathan Ritchie (right) with Hawala Laua, a carrier, Kagi (J. Ritchie, 2014)



Sarah Sau Hiari shares her story at Kokoda (J. Ritchie 2014)



World War Two in Papua New Guinea

World War Two in the Pacific began on 7 December, 1941 when the Japanese attacked the American base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Soon after this Papua New Guinea was drawn into the fighting, with Japanese forces landing at Rabaul and Kavieng in January 1942. The first of many bombing raids on Port Moresby took place in early February, and in March the Japanese captured Lae and Salamaua.

The Japanese army occupied large parts of Papua New Guinea from 1942 until the war ended in August 1945. For the people who lived in the New Guinea islands and Madang, Morobe, Sepik and Sandaun Provinces, the war involved living under occupation by the Japanese. This was very difficult: people's lives were often in danger from air raids against the Japanese occupiers, and as the war went on there was a shortage of food.

The war meant that many young Papua New Guinean men had to leave their villages. They were employed by the Australians and Americans to work as carriers, medical orderlies, police, cooks and in other service jobs. Sometimes this lasted until the war ended.

Thousands of young men were also recruited into the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB), the New Guinea Infantry Battalion and other units. For them, the war involved fighting in their own districts and in many other places around Papua New Guinea.

Many women worked at the bases, barracks, hospitals and other facilities that looked after the Australian and American soldiers at places like Oro Bay and Sogeri. With the men from the villages away, the women and children also had to take on many of their daily tasks.

The war had a big impact, especially in those districts where there were battles between the Japanese and the Australians and Americans. The only way for people in these areas to survive was to leave their villages and hide in caves and other secret places. Often they returned to find their houses and gardens destroyed by the fighting. With many young men away, this made the lives of the women, children, and old people very hard.

This is what happened in many parts of Northern and Central Provinces, where the fighting in the Kokoda campaign and on the plains at Gona, Buna and Sanananda was most fierce.



Local carriers assist wounded Australian soldiers waiting for evacuation (G. Silk, 1942)

Looking across the Kokoda area (Australian War Memorial, 1942)



The Kokoda campaign

The Kokoda campaign was very important for the people interviewed in this project. It began with the Japanese landing at Gona on 21 July 1942, and lasted until the Japanese were defeated at Sanananda on 23 January 1943. During those six months there was bitter fighting that spread from the northern coastline as far as Ioribaiwa, only forty kilometres from Port Moresby.

Here are some of the main actions from the Kokoda campaign, from start to finish:

21 July 1942	Japanese forces land in Gona area; Papuan Infantry Battalion involved in the evacuation to Sangara and first engagements with the Japanese forces (23 July)
29 July–10 August 1942	Battles for Kokoda; Papuan Infantry Battalion involved in defending this area as part of Maroubra force
26–31 August 1942	Stand at Isurava; Papuan Infantry Battalion units operating behind Japanese lines in Ambasi area
31 August – 5 September 1942	Japanese forces advance past Isurava to Templeton's Crossing; Papuan Infantry Battalion withdrawn to regroup in Sogeri area and assist with evacuation of wounded
6–9 September 1942	Australian forces pushed back at Efogi (battles of Mission Ridge and Brigade Hill)
14–16 September 1942	Japanese forces reach Ioribaiwa Ridge; furthest point of Japanese advance
26 September 1942	Japanese forces start to withdraw
13–28 October 1942	Action at Eora Creek / Templeton's Crossing which leads to the defeat of Japanese forces; Papuan Infantry Battalion units operating behind Japanese lines at Opi River and Wairopi
2 November 1942	Australian forces re-enter Kokoda
4–11 November 1942	Japanese forces defeated at Oivi-Gorari
November 1942	Many carriers who were brought from New Britain by the Japanese forces desert; most later serve in the Papuan Infantry Battalion with distinction
19 November 1942–22 January 1943	Battle of the Beachheads: attacks on Gona, Buna, and Sanananda by Australian and American forces; Papuan Infantry Battalion units operating to prevent Japanese retreating on inland paths
23 January 1943	Formal end of Japanese occupation in Papua; Papuan Infantry Battalion continues to patrol against Japanese retreating towards Morobe.



The Kokoda campaign was a terrible introduction to the war for many people from Northern and Central Provinces. When this campaign ended, some people thought the war was over as well. But the fighting in Papua New Guinea went on until the Japanese surrendered on 15 August 1945.

The people who were interviewed for this project have told stories of what happened as the war went on in other parts of Papua New Guinea like Morobe, Sepik, New Britain and Bougainville. They have also told stories about what it was like living alongside thousands of Australian and American soldiers for all that time.

Some of these stories have been put together in this book.





War comes to Papua New Guinea

I [Redmond Manuda] was doing grade three when the Japanese ... began landing its troops at Gona on 4.45pm on July 21 1942. ... when the people saw the Japanese boats approaching the shore close to the nearby reef they ran into the bushes.

Mavis Manuda Tongia, Popondetta¹



United States troops landing at Biamu village during the advance of Japanese forces occupying the Buna-Gona-Sanananda areas [Australian War Memorial, 1942]

Preparation for the war had begun before the Japanese forces landed at Gona. Recruiting local people to join the war effort was an important part of this preparation:

Before the war, the whiteman by the name of Misikani made the survey from the track for the war to start. ... He came ... to Kagi collecting names of the brave men who will join the war as carriers and labourers. My father was one of the persons who was recruited from the program

Jerry Dimuda, Kagi village

Most of our young people ... were recruited by Constable Sebastian Goro, on the behalf of the American and Australian forces to provide labour for those two Allied forces. Our grandfathers were recruited on the behalf of the engineering - American engineering and Australian engineering units to construct roads, and bridges, and also airstrips that serve the aircraft during the World War Two.

Carson Hanana, Hanau village



Men working for the Royal Australia Air Force hanging out laundry, Port Moresby [J.T. Harrison, 1944]

¹ This information gives the name of the person interviewed and where they were living at the time of the interview (based on the recorded address for correspondence).



Children in a local village (G.H. Short, 1943)

One young man was plucked from a tree when he was recruited by the American army:

[When the war started] my dad was with his parents who fled into ... the bushes ... We, the Melanesians, were used to chewing betelnut. So ... when [my dad's Dad] did not chew betelnut, he was very sick. So my dad came and then he asked his dad why he was sick ... his dad ... said 'Oh, my son. ... I did not chew betelnut for so long, which is making me very sick'. So [my father] decided that he would go and find the betelnut for his dad.

So, poor fellow, he took off. ... before coming to the spot where the betelnut was growing ... he hid under the bushes, and he spied that there were soldiers all around. So quickly he ... started climbing the betelnut tree. ... When he was right at the top, touching his hand to pull this betelnut down, there was an American soldier who was underneath the betelnut tree, who shouted and said 'Hey Joe, come down!'. 'Hey Joe, come down!'. ... When he got down, that very moment he was being recruited. That is when he started his mission. ... that was the last time for him to say goodbye to the parents. [He did not see them again until after the war].

Bernard Oanda, Barisari village

Some young men went against their family's wishes so they could join in the war, like many underage young men around the world:

My father was the carrier himself with the others ... He couldn't use his proper name Oga Bobogi because fearing his two elder brothers who were also the carriers. He was only the last born in the family, so they said 'You won't take part in that' ... but being a grown up person, he felt that he wants to be because the war was on and he wants to be in that.

Jack Oga, Naimunu 2 village

Other young boys could not pass the recruitment tests:

When the recruitment of carriers was taken in June 1942 by Claude Champion, the ANGAU [Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit] officer, my dad ... he marched up to be recruited. But in that time when they were doing the selection ... the officer had to size them by getting the hand over the ear. Those who had their earlobe touching their hand ... were recruited, and in his case, his hand could not touch his earlobe, so he was quite young and he was sent off.

Stella Harika, Saga village

The local recruits played an important role in helping to communicate with local people:

Because our father had received some basic education, our father was identified by the Australian army, where he was recruited [as a] translator. His role was basically to assist with translations between Australian armies and the native people.

Recks Ea'ah, Bereadabu village

Local recruits were motivated by promises that their lives would get better after the war if they helped the Australians and Americans win the war against the Japanese:

All the recruited young people from Oro sat down - on the runway, and they were encouraged by the Australians, saying that after this war, if they win, they'll be like white men. This was the motivation that they'd given, and they dress like Europeans, eat like European and sleep like European. People would know how to drive, and this was how they would motivate them, that their work as [a] carrier was very important for this war.

Lindsay Farari, Ombisusu village

[The] ANGAU officers told the Papuan people that they must help Australian soldiers to fight and stop the Japanese from taking our land. ... My father and other Papuans were angry when they heard the story that Japanese were fighting to take our Papuan people's land. These Papuan carriers told ANGAU officers that they did not like the Japanese to take away their land, because their land supplied all the needs of many generations of natives of this land. These Papuan carriers further told ANGAU officers that they would support white soldiers to fight, and chase the Japanese away.

Charles Ofa, Kamondo village



Carriers walked long distances carrying heavy loads of supplies and equipment (D.P. Parer, 1942)

Life on the bases



Local men building a hut for American troops (Australian War Memorial, 1942)

During the war many bases, barracks, depots and hospitals were set up to support the troops who were fighting. Large bases were made on the Sogeri plateau, and around Oro Bay. Sometimes the armed forces demanded the land from local land owners:

The administration during the war was based in here, from Nine Mile right up to Sirinumu Dam, and Owers Corner ... [The Australians did their] training here, like mission station, at Bisiatabu mission station was SDA [Seventh-day Adventist] ... that's our land, we gave it to the SDA mission in 1908 ... And in [1942] when Australians come, they chase all the SDA pastors and they took over the Bisiatabu mission station, they destroy it.

Geoffry Meia, Bisiatabu



Both men and women were recruited to work at the bases, and their work supported the troops on the front line:

My mother is Ruth Ani. She was recruited and taken to No. 3 camp where she did laundry with other girls. There were 40,000 pieces washed each week ... from seven hospitals in the Dobuduru, Oro Bay, Base B area. She was working at No. 3 camp which is located near Girua airstrip until the war came to an end.

Lomas Tonu Ani, Hanau village

[In our village on] 19 June 1942, they were getting the carriers, labourers, employing the labourers, [my father] came ... the people who were employing him said he was too young to carry heavy load because he was a young man so they put him in a lighter job where he was a cook for army commander ... So he was helping the cook to do some kitchen work all the way down to Dobuduru during the war.

Vera Iruwa Pehara, Kanadara village

The bases were also used for rest and recreation by both the local people and Australian soldiers:

While waiting for their assignment their recreation time, [my father] told me that they would, after cutting down and after making air strip and the grass was growing, that's when they'd do recreation weekends, they would normally do relay race, sack bag, three-legged race, they were taught by [the] Australians ...

Lindsay Farari, Ombisusu village

At Donadabu was where the first Australians ... they have the first [State of Origin] rugby there [between New South Wales and Queensland soldiers]. Rugby field there, Australians. When they finish war they come here for their resting, they usually go there and play rugby there.

Geoffrey Meia, Bisiatabu



Women working in an army hospital laundry, Lae
(J.R. Lawrence, 1944)



Men working in the kitchen of the Officers Club, Ela
Beach (J.R. Lawrence, 1944)



Spraying tomatoes on an Australian Army farm, 12 Mile, Laloki River [C.T. Halmarick, 1943]

Life on the bases could be dangerous:

One day the Japanese war plane flew very very low towards us, at Dobuduru ... And there were seven cook boys from Gosiagu and the plane dropped a bomb that killed all these cook boys. Another bomb fell on our side of the camp and destroyed our houses. The third bomb was dropped at the hospital where the sick people were but it did not explode.

Claude Gegera Peututu, Deboin village

The bases also sadly became the final resting place for some people killed during the war:

My father's distasteful assignment, while working with ANGAU officer Lieutenant F A Franklin ... was retrieving corpses of the Australian soldiers, at Efogi, Kagi, Myola, Templeton's Crossing, Alola, Isurava, Deniki, Kokoda, Oivi, and Gorari, and bringing them and burying them at the temporary camp cemetery at Kokoda between November 1942 to December 1943.

Sarah Sau Hiari, Papaki village

Labourers working beside Australian graves at the Soputa War Cemetery
(Australian War Memorial, 1944)



'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels' – The carriers' stories

I have identified that there were 3,677 Papuans been recruited, as carriers, carriers from Alola to Kumusi, and they were used around this track, and they carried almost 1,600 pounds, or more than four hundred kilograms, of cargo, and they became the human transport to bring those supplies across from Alola to here, I'll describe it as the human transport train.

Maclaren Hiari, historian, Sirorata village

The now famous term 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel' was the affectionate term used to describe the Papua New Guineans who worked as carriers for the Allied forces during the war:

My father says the hard work of Papuan carriers was recognised by Australian soldier, and he gave the name, the fuzzy wuzzy angels. The Papuan carriers thank him for recognising their work.

Sarah Sau Hiari, Papaki village

Others say it had a meaning in local language:

Fuzzy wuzzy meaning friend. Friend, I'll take you and I'll walk you is what my father used to tell me. I remember that.

Inoa Bobogi Ovia, Nainumu 2 village

Some carriers had their own name for the work they did:

They worked as a carrier between Duropa, Siremi and Doboduru was like a centipede, or *wowuji* in our local language ... because every day, seven days a week, they were working from point A to point B. My father told me that they called themselves as *wowujis* ... *Wowuji* is local language, it means centipede. You know how the centipede bites people, when the centipede bites you it's painful, eh, it's a painful pain.

Philemon Barminas Ogomei, Beama village



Carriers helping the wounded on the Kokoda Track (G. Silk, 1942)



Carriers look after a wounded Australian soldier, and use palm leaves tied with vines to provide some shelter (G. Silk, 1942)

The carriers worked in very poor conditions and were often tired. Many men became ill and some lost their lives:

[My father] was a carrier ... He walked from Depo to Buna ... even rain [they walk] they couldn't [stop to] sleep. Sometimes they stand, they close their eyes, and then they got up they walked the track. ... [It was] very hard during that time. But today, today is good because we got everything here with us, like torch. We walk the night, we got torch, but that time they don't have the torch with them. They just walk.

Nuana Momoa, Manurinumu village

The work of carrying supplies and ammunition, of the wounded was a very, very fatiguing, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, four weeks a month, for three and a half months, between July and November 1942. My father and Papuan carriers worked under great pressures, and in very poor conditions. Some of them died of sickness, short rations, cold weather, exposed and from falling supplies dropped by planes at Myola, Kagi and logi. My father said the number of deaths has not been recorded. So the true number is still unknown.

Gilbert Mandio, Beama village

Even when the work was difficult, the carriers were committed to their task:

The carrying of wounded up and down this mountain track was very difficult and very dangerous but the carriers tenderly took loving care of the patients. When it rained, Papuan carriers used leaves to keep their patients from getting wet. This was not a easy way but they did it lovingly and willingly.

Sarah Sau Hiari, Papaki village

Carriers saw horrific scenes as they worked close to the front lines:

My father was a war carrier for the Australians and the Americans, he was carrying bombs and other ammunitions from one camp to the other... [He also] worked behind each soldier as a support carrier... He used to open the packages of cartridges, bombs and other ammunitions and handed them over to the frontline soldiers to fight the Japanese. ...

And the bodies were so many, I am unable to count. At the time my grandfather was telling the story and the vivid description of the dead soldiers, I cried when my grandfather told me the story. I was deeply moved by the way my grandfather told stories of his eyewitness accounts during the war.

Dixie Woiwa, Hanau village



A brother's love

Fathers, sons and brothers often worked together as carriers. The harsh conditions forced one man to carry his own brother:

Mr Darisupa Diambu ... with one of his younger brothers, Mr Mapusa Dandusei was recruited by ANGAU with position to work as labourers and carriers with the American allied forces. ... During their travel from Buna to Salamaua Mr Darisupa's younger brother, Mapusa, was very sick ... [and] he could not get assistance from anywhere.

Mr Darisupa asked the army commander if they could assist his sick brother in some ways if possible but the commander told Mr Darisupa it is a war time and they don't have time for sick people or anybody who needs help. ... Mr Darisupa was so concerned about his brother's life and did not want to leave him behind in the jungle ... So before leaving his sick brother at the previous campsite he leave him some water, some food, and even made fire next to his sick brother and told him that he would come back for him and carry him to the next campsite.

While everyone at the new campsite some miles away from the previous campsite were busy, Mr Darisupa had to sneak out and walk back to the place where his sick brother, Mapusa, had been left ... Darisupa then carried his sick brother Mapusa and walked back in the night crossing strong rivers and climbing steep mountains to the new campsite where everyone was fast asleep after the whole days work with all the heavy loads of cargo.

Mr Darisupa was in the same position shifting his sick brother from camp to camp in the night and it took him a month or so to do ... finally they reach Salamaua where they took his sick brother to the hospital ... That night Darisupa stayed all night next to his sick brother at the hospital, taking care of him until morning. But knew that his sick brother would die so he dressed [him] with new clothes and traditional armbands which he carried around with him. Darisupa then left to do his normal duties, and he came back in the afternoon and he was told that his sick brother has passed away ... After the death of Mapusa, Darisupa continued with his duties and he was one of those lucky ones to witness the [end of the war].

Lancelot Dauma Junior, Hanau village



A medical orderly attending to a sick man
[Australian War Memorial, 1942]



**‘It takes a village
to raise a man...’**

Original caption: ‘Buna, Papua, 25 December 1942. QX23902 Private George C. “Dick” Whittington being helped along a track through the kunai grass towards a field hospital at Dobodura. The Papuan native helping him is Raphael Oimbari. Whittington was with the 2/10th Battalion at the time and had been wounded the previous day in the battle for Buna airstrip. He recovered from his wounds but died of scrub typhus at Port Moresby 12 February 1943.’ [G. Silk, 1942]

The story of George Whittington

On Christmas Day, 1942 men from Hanau and other nearby villages were supporting the Australian and American soldiers fighting at Buna. They were carrying ammunition and stores to the front line and returning with the wounded men. Some of these men had to be carried on stretchers and some of them could walk with assistance. One of these men was Private George Whittington, who had been wounded in the head and was being helped to the aid station at Dobuduru by a number of men. This now famous photo of him being helped by Raphael Oembari was taken by the Australian Government Official War Photographer, George Silk. The following stories honour all those who were there on Christmas Day 1942 with George Whittington and Raphael Oembari, and the roles they played:

Raphael Oembari's grandson shares his grandfather's story of this day:

We had been performing our task of carrying supplies from Dobuduru to Buna, evacuating the wounded for many days, until on Christmas Day George Washington [George Whittington] was wounded with other Australian and American soldiers. Our carriers took in turns to guide George Washington from the battlefield along the track when Raphael Oembari's turn came to take over. They were walking along when the photograph was taken.

Lomas Tonu Ani, Hanau village

Fabian Jawoambu describes the role his grandfather, Toja Jawoambu played as a carrier on this day:

They move by crawling behind the Allied forces into the fighting zone and remove dead and wounded soldiers out, then carried them on the stretchers to the care centre at Dobuduru where the Red Cross was for the first aid. ... On Christmas Day this soldier George Washington was wounded and his Allied men led him out and handed over to the group of natives called 'half soldiers' to take him to the care centre at Dobuduru for first aid. Along the way, Raphael Oembari was fortunately pictured and he became famous all throughout the country and world as a whole.

Fabian Jawoambu, Hanau village



Haita Heviki helped by giving George the handkerchief shown in the photo:

Close range fire exchange, Japanese with Australia, our soldier George Washington was injured. At the field of the battle, Haita Heviki somehow went into the flaming smoky area, and held onto the arms of George Washington. At that minute, a hanky from the pocket of the soldier was picked up by Haita Heviki and tied one of his eyes, and held him out from the battlefield.

Stonewigg Haita, Hanau village

Soni Goto walked next to George just before the photo was taken:

[In] the photo of Raphael Oembari and George 'Dick' Washington, the wounded soldier, was walking [with a] stick ... the stick was given to him by Soni Goto. Soni Goto and Mr Raphael Oembari were in fact walking side by side, with the wounded soldier, George 'Dick' Washington. While they were walking, carrying ... Soni Goto went into nearest bush for relief, toilet. And that was how Mr Oembari and the wounded soldier were caught by the photograph.

Dennis Itari, Hanau village

Tambari Jawopo was part of a group that went to collect George:

When [my grandfather] worked on that Christmas Eve night [1942], they shot George Washington ... So next ... morning my grandfather ... went in a group to pick a dead body ... his brother-in-law, Stonewigg Haita, brought back a wounded body. He hand over to my grandfather ... and my grandfather he held him, and then he walked together with him ... [After a while he] hand over to his father-in-law, Raphael Oembari. When he left and passed the cameraman came with a plane, and so they got a picture of Raphael Oembari and George Washington.

Paulus King Taimbari, Hanau village

Many other men also helped George along the way:

The wounded soldier George Washington, given by Mr Fabian Jawoambu, Heita, Sirima, Anamo, Oanda, Hibiti, Ware, Jaboko, Kokoro, and Gomba, they helped all the dead bodies and the wounded soldier. They help them and they put it on the stretcher to pick it up, carry it out to Dobuduru aid station. At that time, my father, Ware Toja, broke the stick and he came and give to George Washington to support him to come to Dobuduru. ... the carriers they carry the body up until that time when they hand over the wounded soldier to Mr Oembari. At the same time, the filmer took the photograph.

Matthew Ware, Hanau village



Papuan Infantry Battalion, Port Moresby (R. Pearse, 1941)



Papuan Infantry Battalion



Papuan Infantry Battalion troops, Port Moresby (R. Pearse, 1941)

The Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB) began in 1940. The first recruits came from the ranks of the Royal Papuan Constabulary, and most were from the Buna area.

The PIB was formed on June 1 1940, when the first sixty recruits were obtained from Papua police constabulary. [My grandfather] was one of the forty Orokaivan men who walked across Kokoda Trail from Kokoda to Port Moresby to join the PIB on June 10, 1940. The training lasted for three months.

Robert Michael Banaga, Beama village

Many men started their services as labourers or carriers for the Allies before joining the PIB as soldiers:

My grandfather's name is Orogu, and like nowadays the young ones want to roam around and he ended up down in Moresby. ... and then he was employed by the army. ... He was employed as a cook ... and then the wars was coming down from up at Kokoda, so we know, there was an announcement made that they were running out of soldiers, they were going to use Papua New Guinea soldiers, people to assist in the war, so my grandfather was one of them who took part, he was employed as one of the PIB, so he was a gunman.

Ian I Bali, Wahondada village

My dad ... he was in the war in 1942. He joined the army ... with the Australian army, there was a mixed American army and American negroes, and they start going up to Kokoda ... He [first] was working in the mess at 14 Mile, ... They, test them [for the PIB], by shock[ing] them. The others were shocked [not my dad], that's why they [recruited him] to [the] PIB, that's where he's in the war.

John Auda Arue, Mesime village

The PIB soldiers were not equipped like the soldiers we see today, but they used their natural instincts on the battlefield:

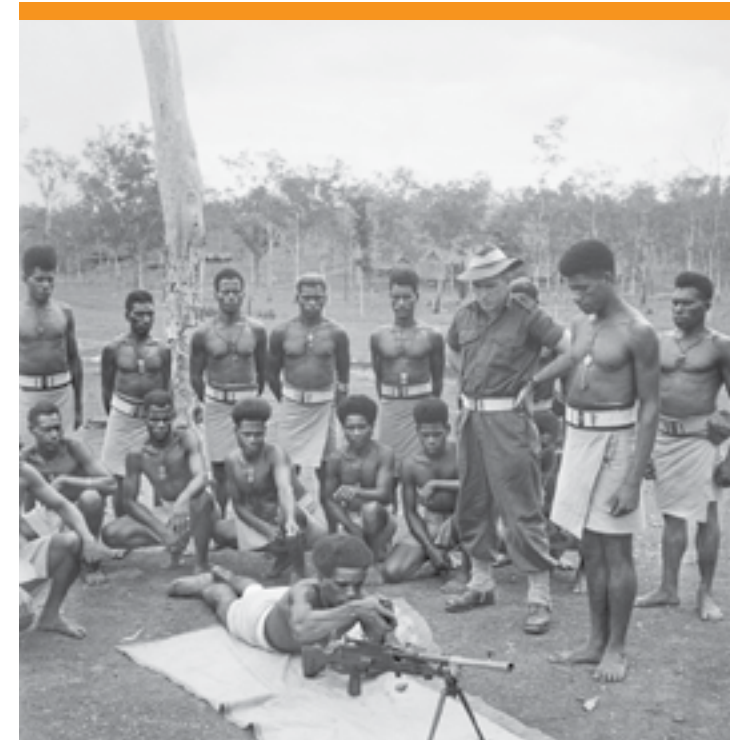
I was in the army, I know what dressing [equipment] that was needed to be in the battle but [my father] was not dressed that way, he had only a calico with the weapons on and a pack at the back. But he said that was good because, you know, they moved faster, he said they crawled in, they crawled out, and they could smell the Japanese, they knew where they are, they could even smell their brew, their coffee, or even repellent, their insect repellent or whatever they applied, they would smell them, and they would warn the Australians that these guys were close.

Rolf Asi, Popondetta

The PIB's equipment was sometimes difficult to use, especially in the heat of battle:

They came across a camp, and they were to attack. So the Australian officer opened up with a short, Owen gun ... Every time [my father's Bren gun] burst, it would jam or it would stop, ... the officer realised that in the thick of battle [my father] was not firing. He said ... 'What's wrong', [my father] said 'it's not working'. The officer in his rush just said 'Off!'. So ... true to his training, my father stripped the whole gun down in the thick of battle. When the officer couldn't hear what was going on, he turned around and saw that the gun was stripped down. My father was waiting for [his] next order. The officer almost had a heart attack that time. So he was eager to use the Bren gun and on his first action, he made a mess of it. Luckily they were attacking so things were in their favour a little bit.

Max Itolo, Kokoda



PIB soldiers learning how to use the Bren gun
(Australian War Memorial, 1944)

The PIB soldiers were often sent on dangerous missions behind enemy lines. By blending in with the local people, they were able to gather valuable information:

[My stepfather] went to Ambasi and back to Oro Bay, he was sort of a coast-watcher with [my uncle] Victor Endegi. They both worked together ... They keep on their eyes to see the enemies around ... They met enemies at Gona beach, they asked but they told the enemies that they were just the villagers, paddled from north coast towards Oro Bay. ... the Japanese were searching them but lucky that they wrapped their two guns with dry coconut leaves, put them under the canoe. But the few females were on the canoe, but my stepfather advised them not to say anything.

So the [Japanese] left them and they paddled all the way to Oro Bay, took them another two days to paddle, ... [when] they arrived at Oro Bay, they reported [what they saw] to Colonel Smith, [who] was the commander up at Eroro Creek.

Tasman Oiko Orere, Beama village

My grandfather and his friends acted as scouts, guides and patrol units for the white soldiers who were ignorant of the terrain and conditions they were to encounter. Before PIB soldiers could begin the move up the coast, the Japanese positions and strength ... had to be assessed. ... My grandfather and his friends bravely volunteered to trek one of the carrier lines used by the Japanese to transport supplies ... On the officer's order, my grandfather and some of his friends took off their uniforms, let their hair and whiskers grow, carried net bags used by local men and chewed betel nuts. They joined a Japanese carrier line without difficulties ... This patrol provided a great deal of available intelligence.

Robert Michael Banaga, Beama village

It was not just the Japanese forces that soldiers had to worry about on the battlefield:

The fighting went went until it came to the Markham River which was infested with crocodiles. When the Australian and American soldiers got to the river they were faced with a dilemma: they couldn't cross the river because of the crocodiles. Osborne Tonu said he would volunteer to cross first and then, if he died, they could decide what to do next. So he tied a bundle of four dry coconuts; two he tied to his legs and the other two on his chest area, and he floated on it to get to the other side of the Markham River and safely landed. So his mates said 'OK, fine, we'll do the same', and as they were crossing, some made it and some didn't; the crocodiles ate them up.

Lomas Tonu Ani, Hanau village





A PIB soldier who received a Military Medal for working behind Japanese lines and obtaining valuable information. He is shown here on the range with an Owen gun, and the target on which he scored 11 hits out of 15 on a 30 yards range (N. Brown, 1943)

Markham valley advance: the Papuan Infantry soldiers cross the Umi River (G. Short, 1943)



A policeman's duty



Sergeant-Major Arwesor, BEM, Royal Papuan Constabulary from the Rai coast (Australian War Memorial, 1944)

Papuan policemen were valuable recruits for the Allies' war effort because of their training and local knowledge. They became responsible for the recruitment and supervision of other local people during the war:

Since [my father] was already trained as a policeman and he knew how to use firearm, there was no question about him getting involved in [the] war. ... [Policemen] were [also] mailmen [before the war] and by walking along all this track they already knew the track, so when war came [my father] knew exactly which place he would go.

... [My father] was actually involved in [the] supervision of the carriers in transporting the wounded and injured Australians, in supervising them and taking charge of the war prisoners, being a policeman.

... He said '... the worst thing I ever saw and I ever experienced was carrying or supervising the carriers to carry the wounded Australians through explosions and machine gun fire. Very, very risky, we risked our lives, carrying the wounded Australian soldiers among machine gun fire and explosions taking place. Sometimes our life or the wounded soldiers we were carrying'.

Daniel Periwa, Fala village

The police continued to keep law and order and protect civilians during the war:

In March 1942, Japanese plane bombed at Lae, Salamaua, Wau and Bulolo. Many native labourers employed by the mining company in Wau and Bulolo were suspended. And there was some looting of the stores and houses. ... My father and other policemen assisted this white officer to keep law and order in these two towns, and to look after the suspended mining labourers.

David Gill Ipumi, Beama village

The policemen were also responsible for arresting and imprisoning Japanese prisoners:

[My father] was sent by Captain Hall to do search on those [Japanese] bombers that were shot, and he made two arrests ... Unfortunately it was one against the two, with the village policemen, they were elderly people, and these guys were armed, so he had to shoot one and wound one, and took back the one that was wounded, and he kept him as a prisoner.

Gai Able Bonga, Beama village



‘The home front’ – The stories of the women and children



Children enjoying biscuit rations
(G.H. Nicholson, 1943)

Village life was greatly disrupted by the war. Most of the young men were recruited for the war effort and many women, children and the elderly were left to look after themselves. The Australian Administration knew that the Kokoda Track would be a strategic area during the war, so village leaders along the track were told to prepare to move their people to safer areas:

Before the war... the whitemans informed them [the village leaders] that the war is coming ... they informed them to shift the village people to the caves, to hide them, ... that's where they started to send their families, to hide them in the caves, to avoid the war.

Gideon Warite, 17 Mile

Some villagers were evacuated to ‘care centres’ before the fighting began:

When the first heavy bomb shells fell everybody ran naked and hid behind the trunks of trees. They did not have food and these heavy fighting there was no time to rest and eat. ... They [went to the] care centre and the food was rationed to these places by the ANGAU administration. The supply of rations included tinned meat, flour, rice, sugar, tea and other things. There was no supply of vegetables from the garden.

Dixie Woiwa, Hanau village

Many people had to flee their villages to avoid the fighting and when they returned they often found their villages destroyed:

When the Japanese reached Siga village, they slaughtered all the pigs, burnt down all the houses and destroyed most of the food crops. Nothing was left. From that they took control of our things and used it to fight against the Australians ...

Faola Lehui, Kovelov village

With their villages and garden destroyed, villagers had the dangerous task of collecting rations dropped by the Allied forces:

The warplanes were coming down lower to the ground and ... [we] noticed that this time the warplanes were dropping rations on our villages and into the nearby bushes. People started flocking in to collect their rations and take them to their hiding sites. I couldn't do much because I was a little girl so my dad alone collected all our rations and took them to our hiding places.

Kekeni Misuka, Kagi village

So most of our parents they escape in the bushes and they were hiding away and what they did was at night they collected the food supplies along the track here, and also, track ends, they have a scout man. One person have to stay at the end, the other person that people walk by in between, and they collect the food items and they go hide in the bush.

Ivan Nitua, Kovelov village

The boys who were too young to be recruited for active service still did their part for the war effort and their villages:

At Kagi village, I met one Australian by the name of Mr Snow. He commanded and gave me an order to be in charge of all the supplies that were dropping at Myola. From that time as a young man, I started my journey doing the carrier as a supplier for the people. I commanded people far and near who came asking me for supplies to make good use of the supplies and preserve some for later use.

Hawala Laua, Kagi village

With the adult males away, the women, children and elderly were vulnerable:

I used to ask [my father] question about where the women were, and my father tells me that during that time it was risky for women to be hanging around. They bring all our mothers and children into the big bushes and the caves and hide them because during that time it wasn't safe for women to be hanging around. They might do anything to the women so our fathers they had to hide the women and children.

Inoa Bobogi Ovia, Nainumu 2 village



An Australian officer buys fruit from local people in a village that has just been taken from the Japanese, Kokoda [G. Silk, 1942]



Australian Infantry troops on patrol in the Papuan jungle talk with local villagers (Australian War Memorial, 1942)



I was an infant, baby, and [my mother] carried me around during the war, from places to place ... Oro Bay was the base ... so during this war there was a lot of bombing, a lot of fighting, so my mother has to carry me to prevent bombing and firing, so she has to carry me around even to what's this place named up the mountain, Garawuji, to avoid being shot, or killed during the war.

Godfrey Daima, Beama village

Brave villagers risked their lives doing what they could to support the men fighting:

The food supplies had started to drop. The environment was uneasy for both the Papuan and Australian soldiers. Many got sick and died on the way. ... There were two of my brave sisters who walked the track, secretly providing garden food for our local Kovelov young men after the news of starvation had reached their small hiding hamlets up on the mountains of Deniki and Mudulu. These two elderly ladies used to hide secretly and provide local garden food for their brothers at Eora Creek. One time they were caught red handed by the Japanese soldiers ... [and were killed].

Michael Esoma, Kovelov village

Villagers were angry about the destruction that took place:

Some of our people together with my father wanted to take revenge for the properties which were destroyed; but the whiteman told them you can't do anything. This is a war and you must run away from it.

Keken Misuka, Kagi village

And at [the] battle of Isurava, [my father] told me that it was a heavy fight there, and that our streams, our crops, our food gardens were destroyed, our huts were burned down, by Japanese. Also, domestic animals were killed by Japanese. And even our people, they were frustrated, they got spears and they missed those Japanese with spears. Because they killed our domestic animals. Pig at that time was very important to the society of PNG. Once you kill a pig, you kill a man.

Ivan Nitua, Kovelov village



The end of the war



The commander of the 7th Division, AIF, Major General G.A. Vasey, presents a medal of honour to a carrier, Kokoda [G. Silk, 1942]

Once the Japanese forces had retreated, the people were able to return to their villages:

When the war retreated back to Buna we received the message from our fathers informing us that the war was over now. So everyone hiding in the caves or wherever had to return home. The same message was also received by people living at Manumu village and they all returned back home to Kagi.

Vavaga Marina, Kagi village

The war, however, raged for another two and a half years in other parts of the Territory of Papua. When the war was finally over, PIB soldiers and carriers were discharged to return to their villages:

[The PIB] went to Bougainville where the war ended, so they all came ... by ship and they all ended up at Oro Bay at Beama, and their friends and relatives came by outrigger canoe and took them ... paddled them to their respective villages.

Dudley Banaga Nongori, Beama village

Some of the carriers and PIB received medals for their work:

My father says he saw five Papuan carriers were given medals for their good work on the Kokoda Track.

Gilbert Mandio, Beama village

My father Osbourne Tonu did receive medals. One, it was round. It had a picture of a lion on it. Two, a star. Three had a red stripe, four the same. The medals were given to RO [Raphael Oembari] and kept by him for some time until he gave it to my mother ...

Lomas Tonu Ani, Hanau village

However the payment for their services was modest:

The war has come to an end. Mr Darisupa with the other carriers from Oro were put on a bus from Salamaua back to Oro Bay with nothing good but only American-issued blankets after years' hard work.

Lancelot Dauma Junior, Hanau village

At Wairope we were each paid six pounds which was equal to twelve Kina, that's all. One carrier received twelve pounds which is twenty-four Kina. After that we were ordered to return to our villages. The Australian commanding officer treated us like empty tins of bully beef and tin fish being thrown into the rubbish bin.

Claude Gegera Peututu, Deboin village

For some families that had not heard from their sons, brothers, husbands and fathers during the war, it was a great surprise to see their relative alive:

During the time, [my father's] parents, they were very worried. ... [In] our Melanesian culture, they started to leave their house ... and then, poor fellows, they let their beard just grow. ... They would stay [like this] until when the war was finished ... they came and found out that their son was alive. So they celebrated with a very big feast, to welcome their son home.

Bernard Oanda, Barisari village

They didn't welcome [my father when he returned because] somebody had told lies to my grandfather and mother. They said they killed my daddy, the Japanese killed my daddy.

Clarissa Bobura, Beama village

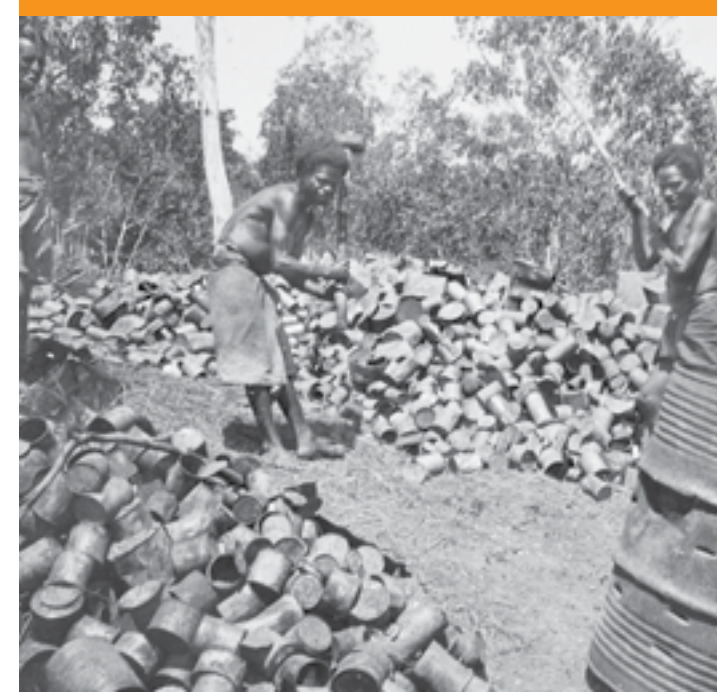
After the war the Kokoda Track had to be cleared of all the leftover war material, and any human remains buried:

After [the war], ... [my father] was employed by the patrol officer ... he was involved in census, he would go up as far as Myola taking stock of all the ammunitions that were left ... The people that were wounded, the locals, the indigenous, the native carriers, those were wounded ... he made sure he recorded them. ...

Stella Harika, Saga village

We collected bombshells, buried the dead and put the unexploded bombs together in a secret place. This workforce took place at the end of 1945. We also collected telephone lines, empty bullet shells and other remains of the war. It started from Owers Corner to Kokoda and then to Buna and Gona.

Hawala Laula, Kagi village



Labourers disposing of empty tins, Oro Bay
(Australian War Memorial, 1943)

Men returned to their villages and tried to rebuild their lives but their war experiences stayed with them:

After the war, [my father] came back home. He started planting rubber, he started planting cocoa, he got married and he had us children, and he was a very strict father. He thought that war might come again and we might face what he faced, what he experienced, so he would make us rise up early in the morning, to go to school, to go to work, to help in the gardens, he would restrict us from eating too much. There was so much that he said and did, that we should not slow down, to prepare ourselves for what might be coming after.

Sarah Sau Hiari, Papaki village

Some young men never returned:

Out of the young men who were recruited from Kagi only one of them was killed and the rest all returned back home. Upon arrival they shared the stories in informing the relatives of late Euki's family that he was killed. Because the distance of carrying his body to Kagi was so far, we all made a decision to bury him at Buna. His people together with us cried very bitterly.

Vavaga Marina, Kagi village

The end of the war was marked with a feast in many villages:

After the celebration [in our village], they got another message from Port Moresby about a big feast celebration for all the carriers and labourers at Menari village. So the message went around to all the villages and they moved to Menari with their food and pigs for the party.

When they arrived at Menari everyone welcomed them and they started slaughtering their pigs ... When they shared the pigs with the Australians. The Australians only got a few bits and gave all the rest back to the people telling them to share it equally amongst themselves. The Australians further told the people at that time that the war is over and we are very thankful for your supportive assistance during the war ...

The Australians made a strong commitment with us on that day that they will be together and their friendship will be together and they will still help us in any way in the future. The Australians said they will become our brothers and sisters forever.

Jerry Dimuda, Kagi village



Remains from the war are still visible today
(V. Scholz, 2009)

After the war and until this day, the landscape around the Kokoda Track still carries the scars of war:

Some of our creeks that time, we never drink since until now, because the bones are still remaining there. ...

I found with the help of a metal detector, we find a human wearing a leather boot sleeping under the ground. We find it and we give to the Australian archaeologists ... it belong to Japanese, so the bones were returned to Japanese embassy.

Ivan Nitua, Kovelov village



Men boarding a Douglas C47 aircraft, Madang
(Australian War Memorial, 1944)

The making of modern Papua New Guinea



Papua New Guinea and Australia forged their friendship in blood during World War Two. Lest We Forget ... (D.P. Parer, 1942)

The war saw the largest mass movement of people around Papua New Guinea. Sometimes there was friction between men and women from different parts of Papua New Guinea, but the war also saw the start of the idea of one nation with many peoples:

Kiwai, Rigo, Orokaivas and many others ... we didn't know [they] came to also support the campaign. Some of these people ... end up in the hands of the local people where they fight against each other without knowing that they were only serving the whiteman and the Australian soldiers. Our local people often killed some and hid them in the caves thinking that they were the enemies. ... Due to language barriers our men thought some of these foreign labourers were enemies and mistakenly killed them. But we were all brought together to serve one master. Then the local people suddenly knew that they were killing their friends ... they brought one of the bodies to the village and formerly buried him where all the people became aware that such behaviour is bad.

Vavaga Marina, Kagi village

The men and women who lived and served during the war helped to protect Papua New Guinea for its future generations:

My grandfather was one of them who ... help the Australian Army and the Americans to protect our land. Especially our land so that we could live safe now ... my grandfather was one of them who defended our resources from World War Two so as to be secure, from others who would come and will destroy the environment or something like that.

Moses Seni, Kahaitana village

Today along the Kokoda Track men and women carry on the proud tradition of their grandfathers and grandmothers, helping the Australians and others who walk the track and protecting their environment for future generations:

During that time, [my father] told us the story and then I was walking the trail, I was a porter and I walked the trail ... It was very hard you know, I think back and I said, this is what they do during the war. I became a porter, I walked. It was good but that time, their times it was very hard. ... I want to look out for my family, that's why I walked the track ... Then from porter, I joined KTA, Kokoda Track Authority, I work for Kokoda Track Authority as a ranger... I look after Owers Corner.



Nuana Momoa, Manurinumu village







The roll of honour: people who shared their stories

Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Lomas Tonu Ani Hanau village		Hanau	Raphael Oembari	Hanau	Carrier	Grandfather
			Ani Kaki	Hanau	PIB	
			Osborne Tonu	Hanau	PIB	Father
			Ruth Ani	Hanau	Laundry worker	Mother
			Morica	Barisari Siremi areas	Laundry worker	
			Sebastian Goro	Sanananda	Police Constable	Recruiter of father
Lancelot Dauma Junior Hanau village		Hanau	Alwin Viambu	Hanau	Carrier	Grandfather
			Mr Mapusa Dandusei	Hanau	Carrier	Great Uncle
Stonewigg Haita Hanau village		Hanau	Haita Perija	Hanau	Carrier	Father-in-law
			Heviki Perija	Hanau	Carrier	Uncle-in-law
			Noah Javoko	Hanau	Carrier	
Carson Hanana Hanau village		Hanau	Mr Omota Tarawo	Hanau	Labourer for American Engineering Unit	Grandfather
Dennis Itari Hanau village		Hanau	Soni Goto	Hanau	Carrier	Grandfather

Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Fabian Jawoambu Hanau village		Hanau	Jawoambu Toja	Hanau	Carrier	Father
Bernard Oanda Barisari village	NO PHOTO AVAILABLE	Hanau	Oanda Pegapa	Barisari (Mahihita)	Carrier	Father
George Nixon Simbari Hanau village		Hanau	Simbiri Taimbari	Gararo	Carrier	Father
Paulus King Taimbari Hanau village		Hanau	Taimbari Jovopa	Gararo	Carrier	Grandfather
Keith Tembure Hanau village		Hanau	Dandase Perija	Hanau	Carrier and labourer	Father
			Raphael Oembari	Hanau	Carrier	Father's other brother
			Amos Perija	Hanau	Policeman	Uncle
Matthew Ware Hanau village		Hanau	Ware Toja (Adam)	Hanau	Carrier	Father
			Jawoambu Toja (Fabian)	Hanau	Carrier	Uncle


Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Dixie Woiwa Hanau village		Hanau	Hiviki Perija	Hanau	Carrier	Father/Grandfather
Claude Gegera Peututu Deboin village		Deboin	His own story	Deboin	Carrier	Himself
			Beiawa	Kotaure	Carrier	Friend - younger brother of Nathaniel
			Nathaniel	Kotaure	Carrier	Friend
			Selwyn		Carrier	Friend
			Isaac		Carrier	Friend
			Bruce		Carrier	Friend
			Nakada		Bigman/ boss boy of Carriers	
			Bukawa	Bovera	Carrier	
			Ananais		Carrier	Wilfred's uncle
			Gill		Carrier	Wilfred's uncle
			Willie		Carrier	Wilfred's uncle
			John Marx		Leader of the carriers	
			Felix Kindou		Carrier	Friend
			Kipling Jiregari		Carrier	Friend
			Gideon Yondari		Carrier	Friend
			The seven cook boys from Gosiagu	Gosiagu	Cook boys	Killed by Japanese bombing at Dobuduru
			Nicodemus Kove		Carrier	Friend
Gibson Gisi Deboin village		Deboin	His own story	Deboin	Carrier	Himself

Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Rolf Asi Popondetta		Kokoda Primary School	Asi Pere		PIB	Father
Grace Bauba Kokoda		Kokoda Primary School	Bauba Avea	Waie		Father
Lindsay Farari Ombisusu village		Kokoda Primary School	Farari Amopa		Carrier	Father
Stella Harika Saga village		Kokoda Primary School	Clement Harika		Took ammunition census after war	Father
Maclaren Hiari Sirorata village		Kokoda Primary School	Jude Sivoro Pure Hiari	Sirorata		Father
			Sergeant Katue	Kikori	PIB	
			Sergeant Vulai Mati		PIB won the Distinguished Conduct Medal	
Max Itolo Popondetta		Kokoda Primary School	Corporal Jinga		PIB	Father
			Umbutu		PIB	Uncle



Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Lumani Kupuri Kokoda		Kokoda Primary School	Kupuri Lelewa	Tamata	Policeman	Father
Charles Ofa Kamondo village		Kokoda Primary School	Vernon Ofa Hiviki		Carrier	Father
			Hojawo	Amanda	Carrier	Friend of father
			Sanopa		Papuan Policeman	
Alphilius Ombari Kamondo village		Kokoda Primary School	Ombari Hara	Kamondo	Telegraph linesman	Father
			Hara Keno	Kamondo	Policeman	Brother
Vera Iruwa Pehara Kanadara village		Kokoda Primary School	Iruwa Enjeka	Kanadara	Cook	Father
Daniel Periwa Fala village		Kokoda Primary School	Periwa Lelewa	Papuan Waria	Policeman	Father
Sarah Sau Hiari Papaki village		Kokoda Primary School	Simon Ogomeni Pehara	Papaki	Carrier	Father

Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Robert Michael Banaga Beama village		Beama	Augustine Angoro Simbiri	Busega	PIB	Grandfather
			Benjamin Moide		PIB	
			Amakai Gohiro		PIB	
			Endoga Gohiro		PIB	
			Dengari		PIB	
Gai Able Bonga Beama village		Beama	Able Bonga	Busega	Policeman	Father
			Uticus Gorare	Eroro	Housekeeper to Captain Hall	Uncle
Matthew Flenders Borari Beama village	NO PHOTO AVAILABLE	Beama	Eutyclus Borari	Eroro	Carrier	Father
Godfrey Daima Beama village		Beama	Gomba	Busega	PIB (regimental number is PN 3781)	Uncle (father's youngest brother)
			Sergeant Augustine Angoro	Busega	PIB	
			Timias Saragtu	Busega	Policeman	
			Godfrey's father	Busega	Looked after village people	Father
			Godfrey's mother	Busega	Mother	Mother
David Gill Ipumi Beama village		Beama	Ipumi		Policeman	Father

Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Gerald Iwuga Beama village		Beama	Eric Iwuga	Embogo	Carrier and PIB	Father
			Jari Tongamo		PIB	
Gilbert Mandio Beama village		Beama	Dogari Mandio		Carrier	Father
Dudley Banaga Nongori & Clarissa Bobura Beama village		Beama	Depona Doga	Koirapusi	PIB	Father-in-law (Father of Clarissa Bobura)
			Harold Abana	Koirapusi	PIB	Father-in-law's Cousin
Philemon Barminas Ogomei Beama village		Beama	Paminas Sena Ogomei	Kopure	Carrier and PIB	Father
Tasman Oiko Orere Beama village		Beama	Naitameri Oiago Orere		Laundry worker	Stepmother
			Oiko Stanley Orere		Carrier & PIB	Stepfather
			Naia Garu, Gimulae		Nurse	
			Violet Jaupa	Eroro	Laundry worker	
			Victor Endegi		PIB	Uncle
Nicholas Wowora Beama village		Beama	Conrad Woworu	Kopure	Carrier and labourer	Father


Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Mavis Manuda Tongia Popondetta		Popondetta	Redmond Lasibari Manuda		Medical orderly	Father
			Warrington Yaruso			
			Thompson Iagoba			
			James Surute		Medical orderly	
			Tendall Arura		Medical orderly	
			Arura Sisire		Medical orderly	
			Parmenas Kaembo		Medical orderly	
			Paulus Buna		Medical orderly	
			Pakau Tinga		Medical orderly	
			Paul Serere		Medical orderly	
			Sosapa	Andeba	Medical orderly	
			Rufus	Sombo Hohorita	Medical orderly	
			Timeus Gasi	Higaturu	Medical orderly	
			Simeon Tohane		Medical orderly	
			Hombega Isoro	Sairope	Policeman	
			Onderari	Divina Kovari	Policeman	
			Saul Garandi	Ue	Policeman	
			Leslie Potari	Buna	Policeman	
			Cyprian Temboro	Gona	Policeman	
			Matoro Ipumi	Beama	Policeman	
			David Ipumi	Beama	Policeman	
			Sora	Togaho	Policeman	
			Engia	Ope	Policeman	
			Benjamin of Ufa	Sairope	Policeman	
			Sebastian Goro	Sanananda	Policeman	
			Sanopa	Urio	Policeman	
			Sergeant Periwa	Waria	Policeman	
			Embogo Agena	Hohombota	Policeman	

Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Ivan Bohura Kovelo village		Kovelo	Mealo Iluvi	Alola	Carrier	Father
			Kesia	Alola	Carrier	Uncle
Michael Esoma Kovelo village		Kovelo	His own story	Kovelo	Carrier	Himself
Benson Gadova Kovelo village		Kovelo	Mr Lei Gadova		Carrier	
			Gadova Sopa	Deniki	Carrier/ Village Leader	Father
			Mr Sikulu	Koesi	Guide	Guided father to safety
			Mr Sinele		Village Police Constable	
			Mr Muiri Mabouri	Abuare	Awarded shotgun at end of war for service	
Faola Lehui Kovelo village		Kovelo	Father			Father
			Edula		Village woman who escaped the Japanese and alerted the village they were coming	
			Edula's husband and child		Killed by Japanese	Villagers
Ivan Nitua Kovelo village		Kovelo	Father	Isurava	Carrier	Father
			Kiko	Isurava	Carrier	Friend of Father
			Gileni	Isurava	Carrier	Father's Uncle
			Kudi Gumelo	Isurava	Cartridge carrier	
			Inove	Isurava	'Wireless man' pulled cables along track	
			Moni	Isurava	Carrier	
			Sinisi	Isurava	Policeman	
			Nave Nahoma	Bala	Villager	
			Moiri	Isurava	Villager - attacked by Japanese	





Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Jerry Dimuda Kagi village		Kagi	Dimuda Niligi	Kagi	Carrier and Scout / Policeman looked after the Egulu clan	Father
			Kola (Known as John or Kove)	Kagi	Carrier	
			Ilua Melai	Kagi	Carrier	
			Lomala Melai	Kagi	Carrier	
			Moi Melai	Kagi	Carrier	
			Matama Kekeve	Kagi	Carrier	
			Euki Emu	Kagi	Carrier	Killed at Buna
			Minama	Menari	Policeman	Killed at Buna
			Benson	Naduri	Carrier	Killed at Buna
			Sibona	Kagi	Carrier	
Hawala Laula Kagi village		Kagi	Mr Selu Kekeve	Somali	Policeman	Policeman who looked after Samori clan
			Aleki Duna	Kagi	Carrier	
			Budiki Duna	Kagi	Carrier	
			Susuve Orena	Kagi	Carrier	
			Sae Maere	Kagi	Carrier	
			Amuli Gomoli	Kagi	Carrier	
			Eleva Meleni	Kagi	Carrier	
			Kakai Sola	Naduri	Carrier	
			Kora	Naduri	Carrier	
			Hove		Policeman	Ordered Naduri and Kagi villagers to hide
			Sasi		Policeman	Ordered Naduri and Kagi villagers to hide
			Idiki		Policeman	Ordered Naduri and Kagi villagers to hide

Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Vavaga Marina Kagi village		Kagi	Marina	Kagi	Village Leader	Father
			Dudu	Kagi	Villager	Mother
			Lomola Melai	Kagi		Relative
			Ilua Melai	Kagi		Relative
			Moi Melai	Kagi		Relative
			Dimuda Niligi	Kagi		Relative
			Selu Kekeve	Kagi		Relative
			Kola Euvu	Kagi		Relative
			Sihare Emue	Kagi	Carrier	Brother of Euki
			Dairi Emue	Kagi	Carrier	Brother of Euki
			Euki Emu	Kagi	Carrier	Killed at Buna
Kekeni Misuka Kagi village		Kagi	Dimuda Niligi	Alola	Village Leader	Father
			Mother	Alola	Villager	Mother
			Bedoa	Alola	Killed by the Japanese	Sister
			Sister-in-law	Alola	Killed by the Japanese	Sister-in-law
			Mr. Misikani		Warned villagers war was coming	
Aramu Babo		Karakadabu-Depo	Babo Kakira	Donadabu	Carrier	Father
Kone Daube Botoguni village		Karakadabu-Depo	Mariori Mokuta	Koitaki	Labourer	Grandfather

Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Recks Ea'ah Bereadabu village		Karakadabu-Depo	Ea'ah Kakira (Kakira Waita)		Translator, carrier, doctor, fighter	Father
			Waigi Mumu			Mother
Tainori Kiroki Mesime village		Karakadabu-Depo	Kiroki Kirohi		PIB	Father
Kauka Kone Manurinumu village		Karakadabu-Depo	Father	Manumu	Carrier	Father
Orie Kori Fakonana village		Karakadabu-Depo	Korie Inara	Fakonama	Scout and carrier	Father
Geoffry Meia Bisiatabu		Karakadabu-Depo	Meia Wai	Ilolo	Carrier	Father
Kala Meia Magere village		Karakadabu-Depo	Kariki Ada	17 Mile	Carrier	Father

Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Nuana Momoa Manurinumu village		Karakadabu-Depo	Momoa Monobe	Manurinumu, Sogeri	Carrier	Father
Adam Muriumu		Karakadabu-Depo	Muriumu Maka	Akea	Carrier	Father
Jack Oga Naimunu 2 village		Karakadabu-Depo	Oga Bobogi (Jack)	Giniginitana now under Sirinumu Dam	Carrier and cook	Father
Seba Orogu Haima village		Karakadabu-Depo	Orogu Seba	Sirinumu	PIB	Father
Inoa Bobogi Ovia Naimunu 2 village		Karakadabu-Depo	Oga Bobogi (Laila Kokoni)	Southern Sogeri	Carrier	Father
Dixie Tamati Osabevai village		Karakadabu-Depo	Tamati Babo	Bisianumu	Carrier	Father

Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Iorio Toina Karakadabu (Depo) village		Karakadabu-Depo	Toina Womara	Depo	Carrier	Father
Samie Toina Ilanabewai village		Karakadabu-Depo	Father	12 Mile	Carrier	Father
Bore Womara Karakadabu (Depo) village		Karakadabu-Depo	Womara Wabuta	Eveidigi	Sorcery man / custom doctor	Father
Babara Yori Sogeri		Karakadabu-Depo	Yori Mado	Koitaki	Scout	Father
			Taitu Ubuni	Donadabu	Carrier	
John Auda Arue Mesime village		PNG National Museum and Art Gallery	Father	Sogeri valley	PIB	Father
			Uncle	Sogeri valley		Uncle
Ian I Bali Wahondada village		PNG National Museum and Art Gallery	Orogu	Gebada, now under Sirinumu Dam		Grandfather

Interviewee's name and village	Photo	Interview Site	In memory of	From	Role	Relationship to interviewee
Billy Ivai		PNG National Museum and Art Gallery				
Joel Enda Taira Sanata ATS		PNG National Museum and Art Gallery	Taira Saruva Sanata	Awala	Guide to Japanese	Father
			Kerega		Guide to Japanese	Father's cousin
Moses Seni Kahaitana village		PNG National Museum and Art Gallery	Seru Sapate	Koiari area	Carrier	Grandfather
Gideon Warite 17 Mile		PNG National Museum and Art Gallery	Warite Koare	Sogeri	Carrier	Father
			Mother		Villager	Mother

As much as we remember the people in this Roll of Honour, we also remember all those who were not mentioned, who lived and died during the Second World War in PNG

... Papua New Guinean men had to learn
to work as carriers, medical orderlies, porters,
thousands of young men were also recruited
for the military and other units. For them, the
New Guinea.

THE KOKODA TRACK



Australian War Memorial
photograph reference numbers

4	151021
5	026312
8	016540
9 (Left)	069274
9 (Right)	OG2749
10	016541
11	013002
12	025970
13 (Top)	100601
13 (Bottom)	100443
14	060203
15	072448
16	013641
17	151027
18	030258/10
19	026367
20	014028
23	0069215
24	006217
25	073366
26 (Inset)	015013
26 (Main)	015942
28	076122
29	016117
30	060901
31	013614
32	026014
33	013257
34	151018
35	079614
37	076605
38	013156





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