Preserving History: Digitisation of Allied Geographical Section, South-West Pacific Area, *Terrain Study* collection

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Overview

- Why digitise the Terrain Studies?
- Background
- Process
- Wrap-up
Why digitise?

- Preserve intellectual content of material – response to questions received over the years
- Reduce use of physical material (fragile state – decrease deterioration)
- Easier response to questions received – “self-service”
- Expected increased interest in military history especially WWI and WWII
- Complement existing WWI collection
  monash.edu.au/library/collections/exhibitions/world-war-one/
A new nation goes to war

Welcome to an exhibition of World War I material held in the Monash University Library Rare Books Collection.

This page is best viewed in Firefox.
Background
History of Allied Geographical Service

7th Dec. 1941 saw the Japanese attack Pearl Harbour.

By August, 1942, much of SE Asia was under Japanese control and the threat to Australia was very real.

SWPA (Southwest Pacific Area) established 18th April, 1942 – an unknown & largely unmapped arena

AGS formed under SWPA, 1942
  • Brief: to address critical lack of geographic and other information
Background

History of Allied Geographical Service

- August, 1942, Director: Major (later Colonel) William Jardine-Blake
- Inter-Allied & inter-Service in nature
- Utilised skills & knowledge of non-military personnel
- Information acquired from variety of sources:
  - Pre-war information
  - Local Informants
  - Armed services & intelligence units, incl.:
    - ATIS (Allied Translator & Interpreter Section);
    - CIU (Central Interpretation Unit)
    - NEFIS (Netherlands Forces Intelligence Service)
    - RAAF Meteorological Service
    - School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine
    - JANIS (Joint Army Navy Intelligence Studies)
    - Other Allied intelligence agencies: e.g. US, UK, India

Col. W.V. Jardine-Blake, Dir. AGS , 1942-45

Group Photo of AGS members in Melbourne, August, 1945.
Source: Souvenir Book, p57, as cited by Bowd,
A basis for victory : the Allied Geographical Section 1942-1946
Area of interest to the AGS, upon which reports were produced.

Source: AGS, Souvenir Book, p15, as cited by Bowd,
A basis for victory : the Allied Geographical Section 1942-1946
AGS Publications to 15\textsuperscript{th} September 1945

- Terrain Studies 110
- Terrain Handbooks 62
- Special Reports 101

Copies distributed to 15\textsuperscript{th} Sept., 1945

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ground Forces</th>
<th>Naval Forces</th>
<th>Air Forces</th>
<th>GHQ etc.</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<td>Terrain Studies</td>
<td>21,349</td>
<td>16,674</td>
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<td>39,898</td>
<td>41,167</td>
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How – Stage 1: Scope

- Investigate the scale of the project
- Copyright clearance
- Costing
- Detailed inventory
  - Physical description (size, pagination, etc.)
  - Assessment of condition
How – Stage 1: Scope

<table>
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<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>L</th>
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<td>Number</td>
<td>Title</td>
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<td>Area study of Finschhafen and the Huon Peninsula</td>
<td>map 12</td>
<td>Huon Peninsula: Tracks between Sio and Satelberg</td>
<td>74 x 56</td>
<td>revised</td>
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<td>Huon Peninsula: Tracks between Sio and Satelberg</td>
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<td></td>
<td>map 12</td>
<td>The Rai Coast from Sairor to Nambariwa</td>
<td>74 x 56</td>
<td>revised</td>
<td>36-002</td>
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<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td>map 13</td>
<td>Hinterland Hopo to Lae</td>
<td>51 x 34</td>
<td>revised</td>
<td>36-003</td>
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<tr>
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<td>n/a photo</td>
<td>The Finschhafen Coast from Gingala to</td>
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<td>photo 27</td>
<td>Finschhafen building area</td>
<td>35 x 80</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>photo 28</td>
<td></td>
<td>81 x 34</td>
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How – Stage 2: Digitisation

• Outsourced to CAVAL
  • Digitisation: Kirtas 2400 robotic book scanner
  • Image processing: Kirtas software: Book Scan Editor (BSE)
  • OCR (Optical Character Recognition): ABBYY FineReader

• Large format scanning
  • Overhead camera
  • Small images ‘stitched’ together
How – Stage 3: Metadata

• Why a spreadsheet?
• MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema) and DC (Dublin Core)
• Novices and metadata
• TIME vs QUALITY
Spreadsheet + XSLT = MODS

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How – Stage 4: Load and review

- Consolidation
- Quality control
- Load into Monash University Research Repository
  - Spreadsheet to XML (Extensible Markup Language)
  - Using an XSLT (Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations)
  - Create MODS metadata, configuration file, model and RELS-EXT
- Review

arrow.monash.edu.au
Wrap-up

• Preservation

• Contribution to collective memory

• Enhanced access
  • Self-service
  • Worldwide access online
  • Searchable content

• Research asset
Links

Allied Geographical Section Southwest Pacific Area WWII Terrain Studies Collection
http://arrow.monash.edu.au/vital/access/manager/Collection/monash:152600

Monash University Research Repository
http://arrow.monash.edu.au

Monash University Rare Books WWI Exhibition
http://monash.edu.au/library/collections/exhibitions/world-war-one/

Thank You

Questions?
Terrain Studies compiled to 15th September 1945

-1 * Rabaul, Gasmata, New Ireland. Superseded by 52, 60, 74
-2 * Babo. Superseded by 37
-3 * Manus. Superseded by 67
-4 * Buna. Superseded by 12, 27
-5 * Lae, Salamaua, Madang, Wewak. Superseded by 32, 33, 59, 69, 76
-6 * Tulagi. Superseded by 11
-7 * Rabaul, Gasmata. Superseded by 60, 74
-8 * New Ireland. Superseded by 52
-9 * Lae & Salamaua. Superseded by 32 & 33
-10 * South New Guinea
-11 * Guadalcanal
-12 * Buna. Superseded by 27
-13 * Kai Islands. Superseded by 56
-14 * Fak Fak. Superseded by 37
-15 * Mandated Solomons. Superseded by 41
-16 * Salamaua. Superseded by 33
-17 * Lae. Superseded by 32
-18 * Choiseul. Superseded by 48
-19 * New Georgia. Superseded by 54
-20 * Ysabel. Superseded by 39
-21 * Wissel Lakes. Superseded by 68
-22 * Gazelle Peninsula & Rabaul. Superseded by 74
-23 D’Entrecasteaux & Trobriand Islands
-24 * Talasea. Superseded by 64
-25 * Cape Gloucester. Superseded by 63
-26 * Gasmata. Superseded by 60
-27 * Buna (Revised)
-28 * Main Routes Across New Guinea
-29 * South West Papua & The Fly River. Superseded by SR 28
-30 * Tual Subdivision Tanimbar. Superseded by 87
-31 * Locality Study of Madang. Superseded by 59 & 69
-32 Locality Study of Lae (Revised) & The Lower Markham Valley
-33 Locality Study of Salamaua (revised)
-34 Louisiade Archipelago
-35 Woodlark Island & other islands
-36 Finschhafen & the Huon Peninsula
-37 Bomerai Peninsula (Netherlands New Guinea;)
-38 * The Aroe Islands. Superseded by SR 42
-39 Ysabel (revised);
-40 * New Georgia (revised). Superseded by 54
-41 The Mandated Solomons & the Shortland Islands;
-42 Marobe - Waria Valley & Adjacent Catchment Areas
-43 * Manus & Western Islands. Superseded by 67
-44 * Merauke (Locality Study)(preliminary). Superseded by 55
-45 Ambon Island
-46 Vogelkop & Salawati Island - Netherlands New Guinea
-47 Russel Islands
-48 Choiseul (revised)
-49 The Markham Catchment
-50 Portuguese Timor
-51 Eastern New Britain Excl: Gazelle Peninsula. Superseded by SR 63
-52 New Ireland
-53 * Tanimbar Islands - Netherlands East Indies. Superseded by SR 37
-54 New Georgia Group (2nd revision)
-55 South-west New Guinea
-56 * Kai Islands - Netherlands East Indies. Superseded by SR 49
-57 Western New Britain, excluded Cape Gloucester
-58 South-western Islands. (Islands N.E. of Timor);)
-59 Madang - Vol.1 (text and maps); Vol.2 (photographs)
-60 Gasmata (revised)
-61 Northeastern Netherlands New Guinea & Geelvink Bay
-61B Photographic Annex - Sarmi Village to Masi Masi Village
-61C Photographic Annex - Impedi Village to Menoerwar Village
-62 New Hanover & Islands North & East of New Ireland
Terrain Studies compiled to 15th September 1945

-63 Cape Gloucester (revised)
-64 Talasea (revised)
-65 The Sepik District - Vol.1 (text and maps) Vol.2 (photographs)
-66 Ramu - Markham Valley with link to Madang
-67 The Admiralty Islands
-68 Central Dutch New Guinea
-69 Madang
-70 Dutch Timor, Netherlands East Indies
-71 Northern Molukkases
-72 Hansa Bay - Vol.1 (text and map) - Vol.2 (photographs)
-73 Seran (Ceram) & Adjacent Islands;
-74 Gazelle Peninsula - Vol.1 (text and maps); Vol.2 (photographs),
-75 Kavieng
-76 Wewak
-77 Aitape - Wanimo
-78 Hollandia (Dutch New Guinea)
-78B Hollandia - Photographic Annex;
-79 Radja Ampat Group
-80 Mindanao Island - Vol.1 (text and maps); Vol.2 (photographs) (Philippine Series)
-81 Talaud & Sangihe Islands. Superseded by TH 32
-83 Menado (Celebes)
-84 Leyte Province (Philippine Series)
-85 S.E. Luzon [Bicol] (Philippine Series)
-86 Cagayan Valley (Philippine Series Cagayan Valley (map supplement)
-87 Taninbar Islands - Netherlands East Indies
-88Samar Province (Philippine Series)
-89 Sarawak & Brunei - Vol.1 (text and maps); Vol.2 (photographs)
-90 North Borneo
-91 Tayabas Province (Philippine Series)
-92 Davao (Gulf) - Sarangani (Bay) Mindanao Island (Philippine Series)
-93 Lingayen (Philippine Series)
-94 Central Luzon - Vol.1 (text and maps), (Philippine Series) Central Luzon - Vol.2 (photographs) (Philippine Series)
-95 Batangas - Lucena (Luzon Island) (Philippine Series)
-96 Mindoro Province (Philippine Series)
-97 N.W. Luzon (Philippine Series)
-98 Central Mindanao (Philippine Series) Central Mindanao (map supplement)
-99 Negros Island & Siquijor Island (Philippine Series)
-100 Cebu & Bohol Islands (Philippine Series)
-101 Panay Island (Philippine Series)
- Sulu Archipelago (Philippine Series)
-103 Palawan Province - Vol.1 (text and maps) (Philippine Series); Vol.2 (appendices and photographs)
-107 Kendari (S.E. Celebes)
-109 S.E. Borneo
-112 Batavia - Bandoeng (Java Series)
-130 S.E. Kyushu (Japan Series) Map Supplement
-132 Tokyo & Kwanto Plain (Japan Series )
-134 Nagoya Area (Japan Series);
-136 Osaka (Japan Series);

Total 110 (4 – Japan series) MU missing 27 titles.
* indicates out of print and superseded as of 15th September, 1945.
Bold indicated held by Monash University Library and digitised