



# 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/](http://monash.edu.au/library/collections/exhibitions/world-war-one/)





**Search**

Show All 129247  
Show Quick Collection 0  
Advanced Search  
Search History  
Clear Session

**Browse**

Collection  
Title  
Creator  
Subject  
Type  
Recent Additions

Search the Repository

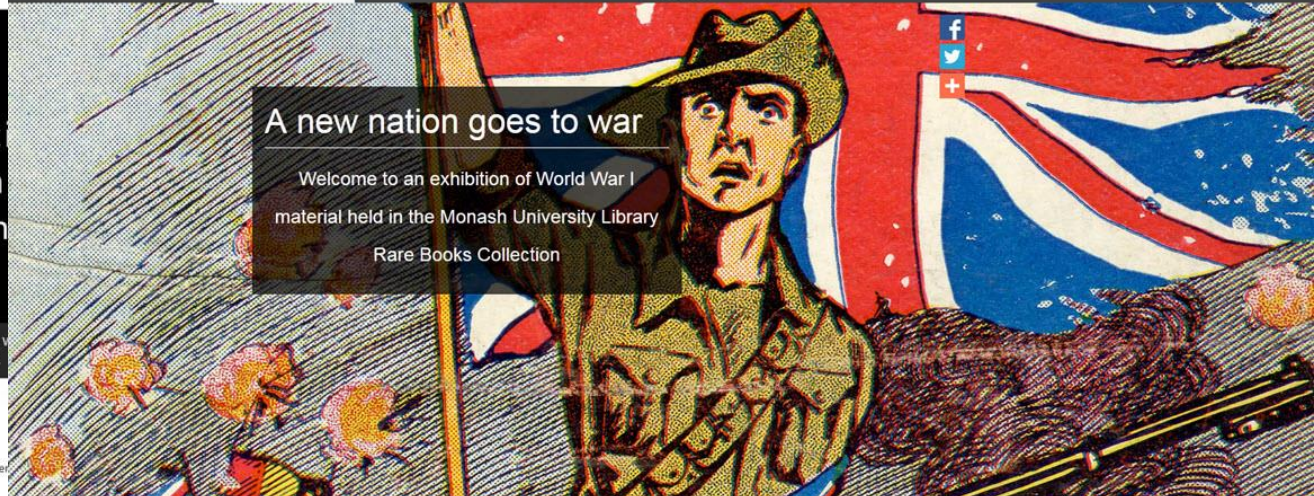


Accessible version of slideshow

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## Rare Books Exhibition

Home Introduction The Virtual Exhibition World War 1 Resources Contacts



## Rare Books Exhibition

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### The Virtual Exhibition

<< Item 56 A new nation goes to war



## Rare Books Exhibition

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### The Virtual Exhibition

\*\*This page is best viewed in Firefox

<< Item 22 A new nation goes to war Item 24 >>



Click on image to view larger version in a separate window

#### 23. Australia. High Commission (Great Britain)

Anzac bulletin - issued to members of the Australian Imperial Forces in Great Britain and France by authority of the High Commissioner for Australia. (London : Published by the authority of the High Commissioner for Australia, 1916 - 1919)

This journal was published in London to inform soldiers of happenings of battles and news of the Australian war effort. Much of it was news of politics, sport, and life at home.

At the back of each issue was a Roll of Honour consisting of several pages of casualties and wounded from the AIF.

Item details in Search



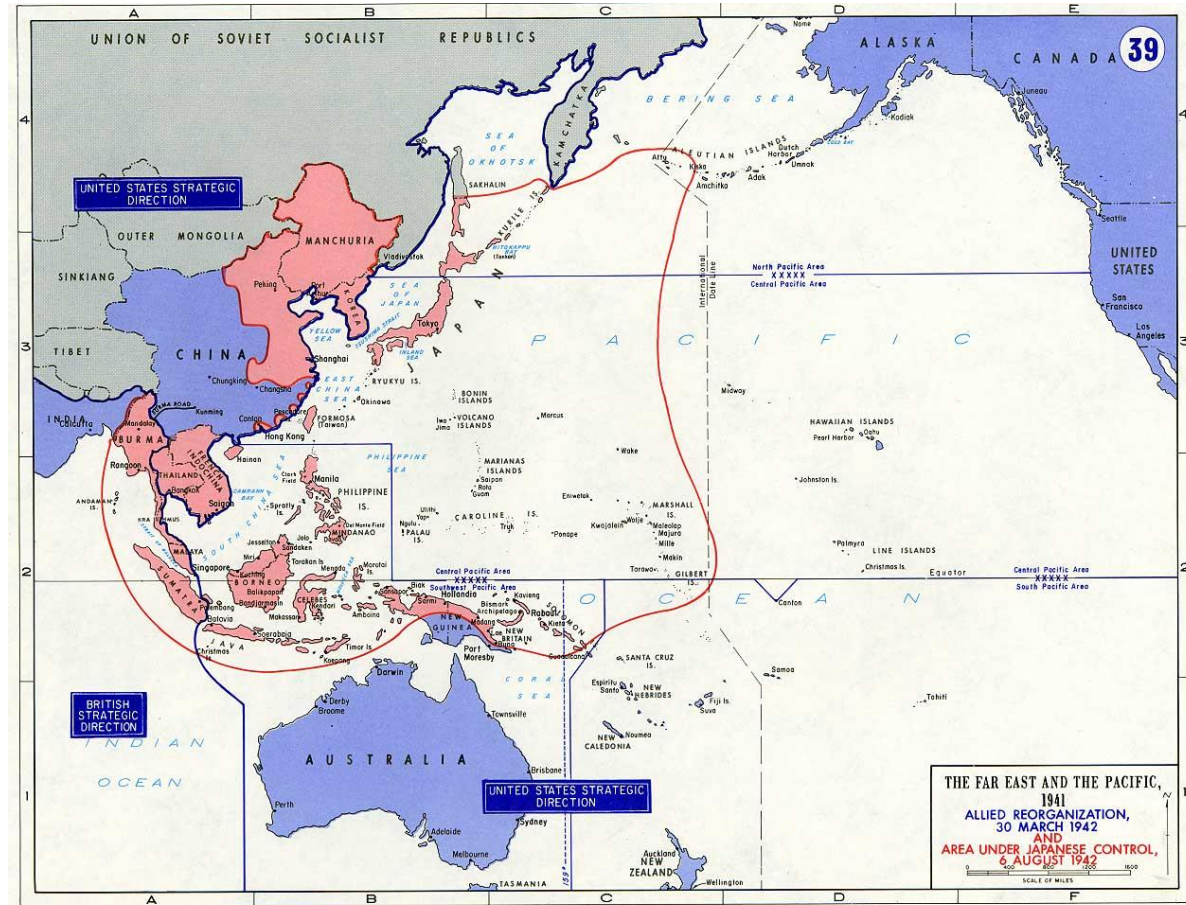
[monash.edu.au/library/collections/exhibitions/world-war-one/#virtualex](http://monash.edu.au/library/collections/exhibitions/world-war-one/#virtualex)  
[arrow.monash.edu.au/vital/access/manager/Collection/monash:130796](http://arrow.monash.edu.au/vital/access/manager/Collection/monash:130796)



# Background

## History of Allied Geographical Service

- 7<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1942 – an unknown & largely unmapped arena
- AGS formed under SWPA, 1942
  - Brief: to address critical lack of geographic and other information



Allied Reorganization, 30 March 1942 and Area Under Japanese Control, 6 August 1942  
<http://www.westpoint.edu/history/SiteAssets/SitePages/World%20War%20II%20Pacific/ww2%20asia%20map%2039.jpg>

# 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

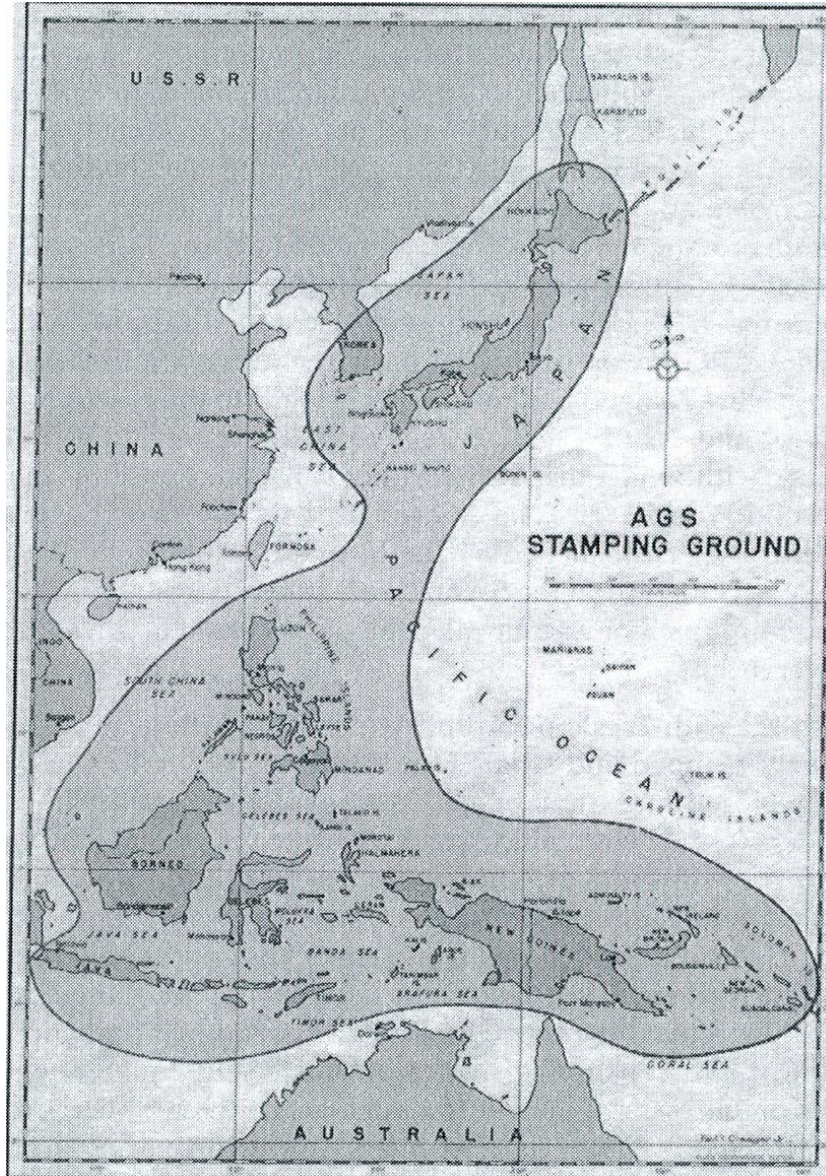


Col. W.V. Jardine-Blake, Dir. AGS, 1942-45  
Source: Willoughby, *History of intelligence activities under General Douglas Macarthur, 1942-1950 the intelligence Series*, G-2 USAFFE-SWPA-AFPAC-FEC-SCAP



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<sup>th</sup> September 1945

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

Copies distributed to 15<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1945

	Ground Forces	Naval Forces	Air Forces	GHQ etc.	Totals
Terrain Studies	21,349	16,674	14,817	12,988	65,828
Terrain Handbooks	50,345	21,487	21,432	17,092	114,356
Special Reports	5,416	1,737	918	5,300	13,371
Totals	77,110	39,898	41,167	35,380	193,555



## How – Stage 1: Scope

- Investigate the scale of the project
- Copyright clearance
- Costing
- Detailed inventory
  - Physical description (size, pagination, etc.)
  - Assessment of condition



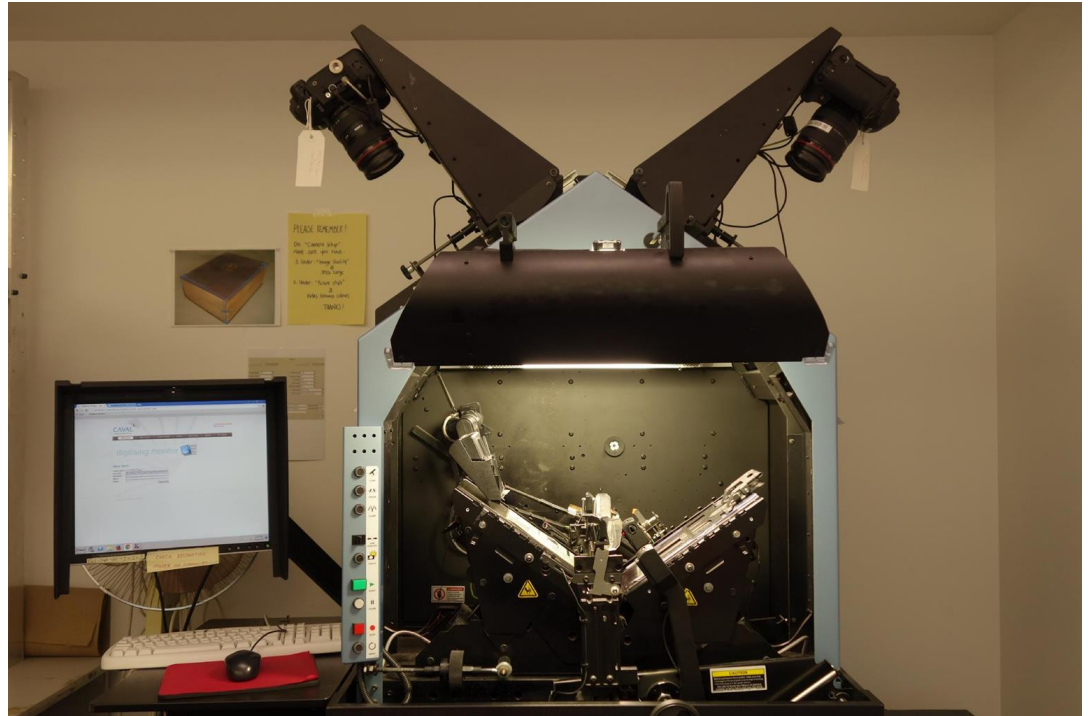
## How – Stage 1: Scope

	A	B	C	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Batch	Number	Title	folded item and map number	map	map size	notes	filename	filename2
76	1	36	Area study of Finschhafen and the Huon Peninsula				Contains additions and amendments; Pages 1-8 in additions section missing; loose errata page in additions section; pages 13-20	36-000	
77	1	36		map 12	Huon Peninsula: Tracks between Sio and Satelberg	74 x 56	revised	36-001	
78	1	36		map 12	Huon Peninsula: Tracks between Sio and Satelberg	74 x 56	revised		
79	1	36		map 13	The Rai Coast from Saidor to Nambariwa	51 x 34	revised	36-002	
80	1	36		n/a photo	Hinterland Hopoi to Lae	99 x 43		36-003	
81	1	36		photo 27	The Finschhafen Coast from Gingala to	35 x 80		36-004	
82	1	36		photo 28	Finschhafen building area	81 x 34		36-005	



## 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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1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2  <mods:modsCollection xmlns:mods="http://www.loc.gov/mods/v3" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-in
3  <mods:mods>
4      <mods:titleInfo>
5          <mods:title>Area study of D'Entreasteaux and Trobriand Islands</mods:title>
6      </mods:titleInfo>
7      <mods:name type="corporate">
8          <mods:namePart>Allied Geographical Section</mods:namePart>
9          <mods:role>
10             <mods:roleTerm type="text">creator</mods:roleTerm>
11          </mods:role>
12      </mods:name>
13      <mods:typeOfResource>text</mods:typeOfResource>
14      <mods:genre authority="local">handbook</mods:genre>
15      <mods:originInfo>
16          <mods:dateIssued>1942</mods:dateIssued>
17      </mods:originInfo>
18      <mods:language>
19          <mods:languageTerm type="text">English</mods:languageTerm>
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21      </mods:language>
22      <mods:identifier type="local">Terrain study no. 23</mods:identifier>
23      <mods:physicalDescription>
24          <mods:extent>86 p.</mods:extent>
25          <mods:digitalOrigin>reformatted digital</mods:digitalOrigin>
26          <mods:note type="original version">Original format: col; 24 x 36 cm</mods:note>
27      </mods:physicalDescription>
28      <mods:note>12th October 1942. Terrain study, copy no. 91. Includes additions and amendments</mods:note>
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30          <mods:topic>World War, 1939-1945</mods:topic>
31      </mods:subject>
32      <mods:subject authority="local">
33          <mods:topic>Military geography</mods:topic>
```



## 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

Please use this identifier to cite or link to this item: <http://arrow.monash.edu.au/hdl/1959.1/1153296>

Title: Area study of New Hanover and islands north and east of New Ireland

Creator: Allied Geographical Section

Abstract: 18th August 1943, Terrain study, copy no. 193. Includes additions and amendments

Subject: World War, 1939-1945 | Military geography | Allied Forces

Date: 1944

Date: 1943

collection(s): Allied Geographical Section Southwest Pacific Area WWII Terrain Studies

Identifier: <http://arrow.monash.edu.au/hdl/1959.1/1153296>

Identifier: monash:152627

Identifier: Terrain study no. 62

Format: 99 p.

Format: Original format: col: 24 x 36 cm

Coverage: Oceania

Coverage: South Pacific

Coverage: Bismarck Archipelago, Papua New Guinea

Coverage: New Hanover Island, Papua New Guinea

Coverage: New Ireland, Papua New Guinea

Coverage: Papua New Guinea

Language: eng

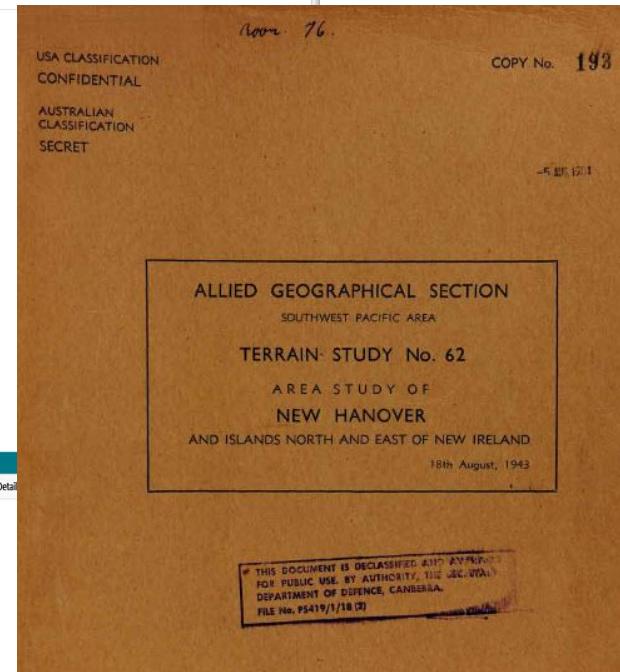
Relation: Allied Geographical Section South West Pacific Area Terrain Studies

Relation: Monash University Library Geographical Studies Collection

Rights: No known restrictions on publication

Type: text | handbook

File	Abstract	Size	Format	
DOC	Document	19 MB	Adobe Acrobat PDF	View Details



[arrow.monash.edu.au](http://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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Bomera 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

cont.

- .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 Molukkas
- .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)
- .82 Talaud & Sangihe Islands. Superseded by TH 32
- .83 Menado (Celebes)
- .84 Leyte Province (Philippine Series)
- .85 S.E. Luzon [Bicols] (Philippine Series)
- .86 Cagayan Valley (Philippine Series Cagayan Valley (map supplement)
- .87 Tanimbar Islands - Netherlands East Indies
- .88 Samar 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)
- Central Luzon - Vol.3 (Manila Directory) (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 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1945.

**Bold** indicated held by Monash University Library and digitised