
The Most Exotic Country You Never Heard of: Vanuatu

Lew Toulmin, Ph.D., F.R.G.S.
ESILL; Fairhope, Alabama
November 2018

www.themosttraveled.com



Class 2

Topics Today:



**Expeditions to the real
Bali Hai: Ambae**



The John Frum cult



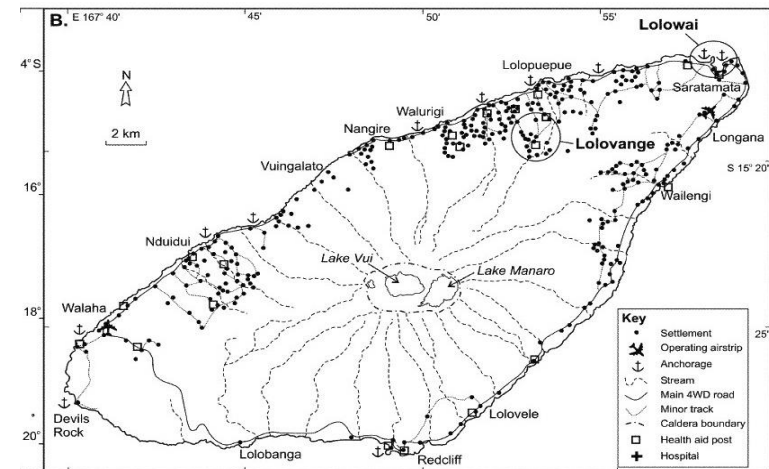
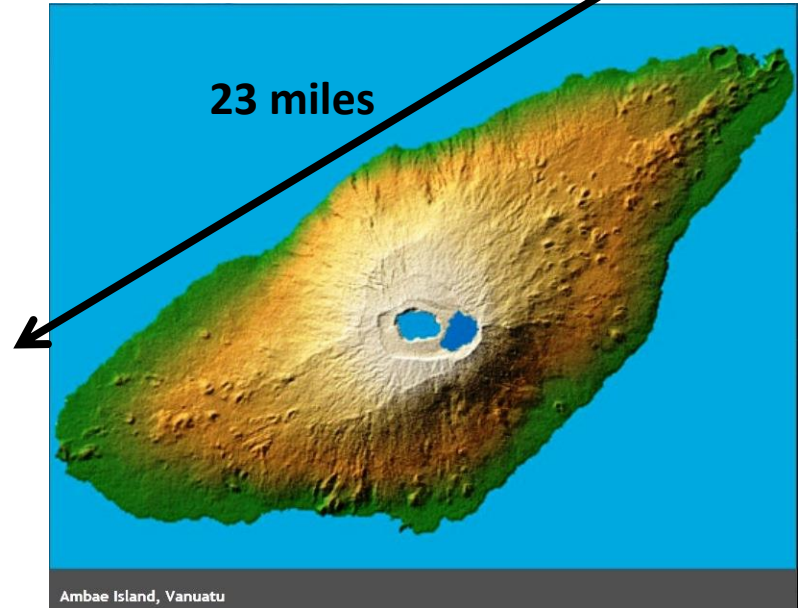
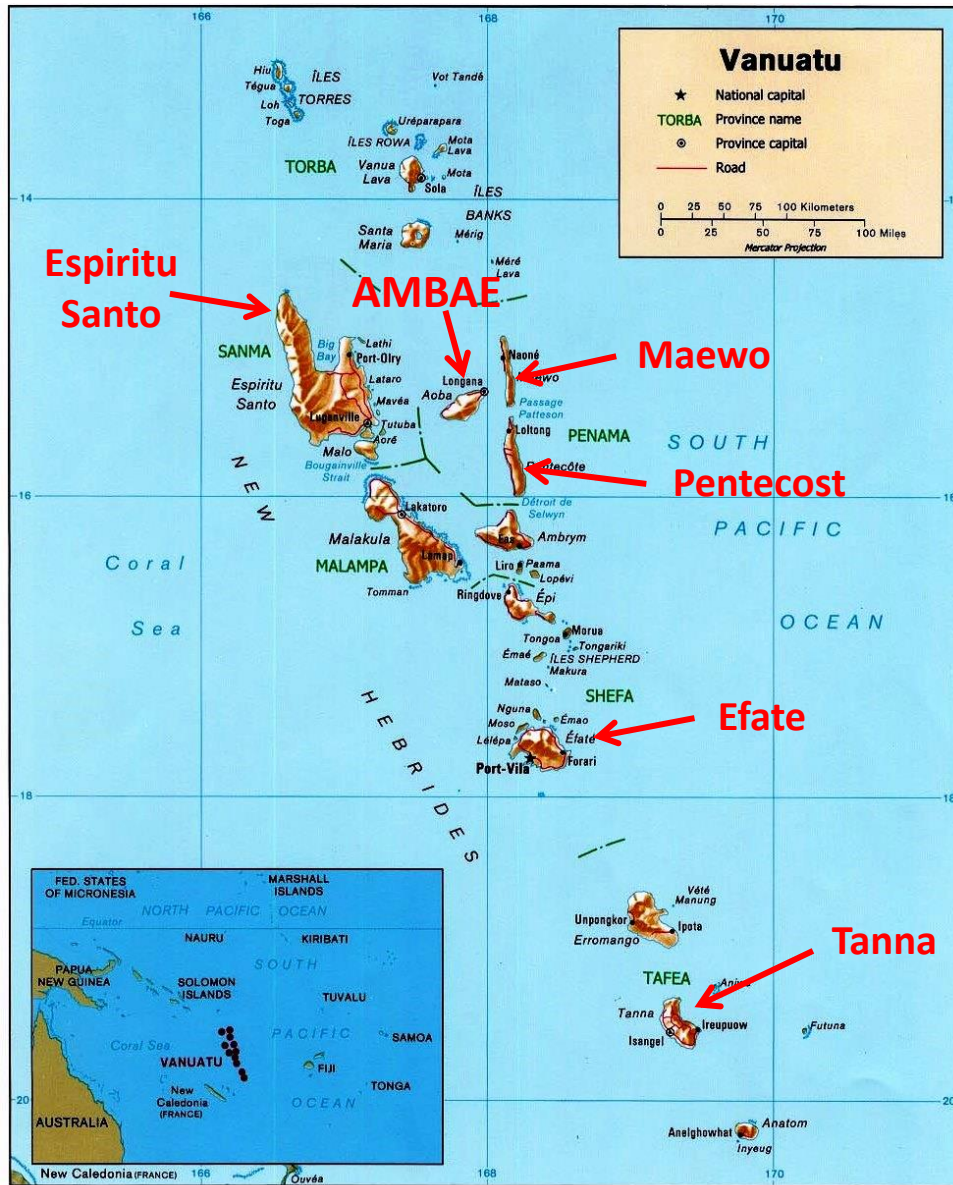
The Prince Philip tribe



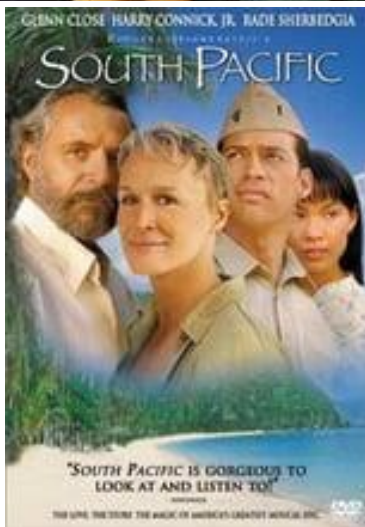
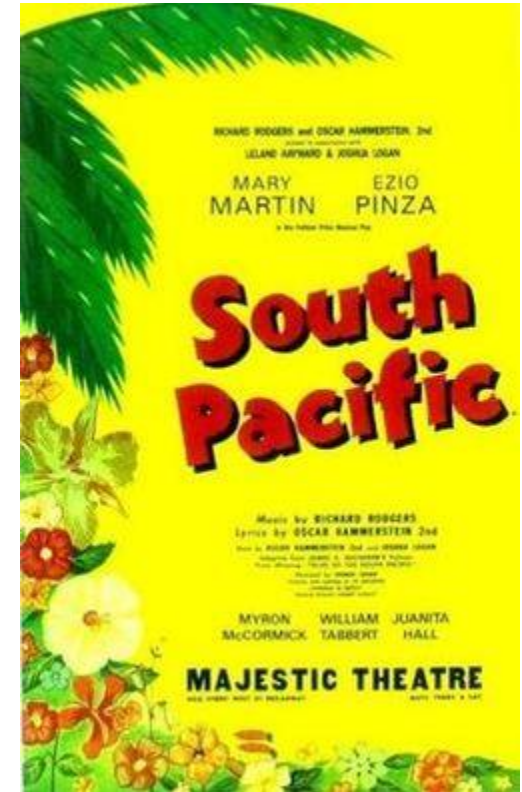
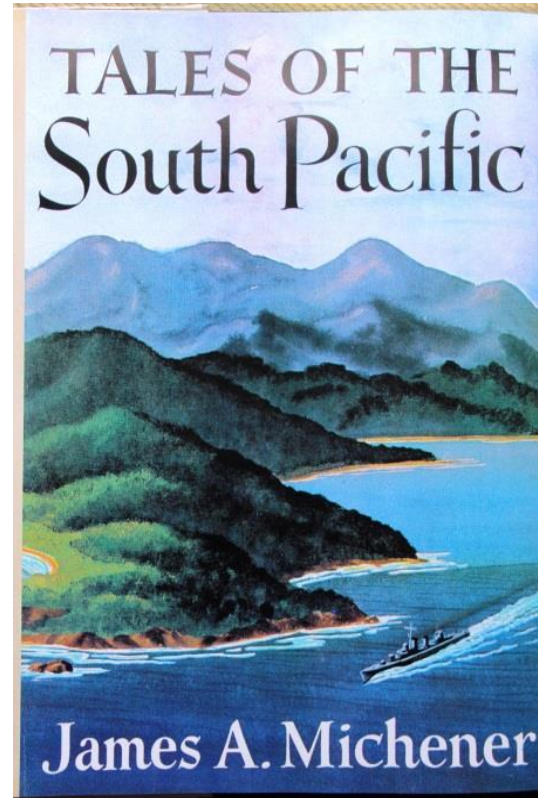
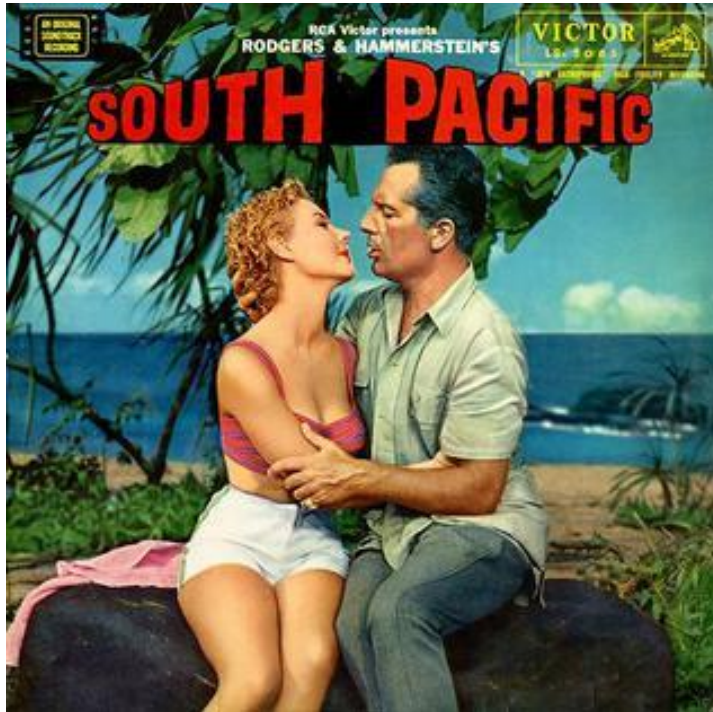
The real Bali Hai: Ambae



Images of Ambae



I was raised on the movie music of “South Pacific” ..

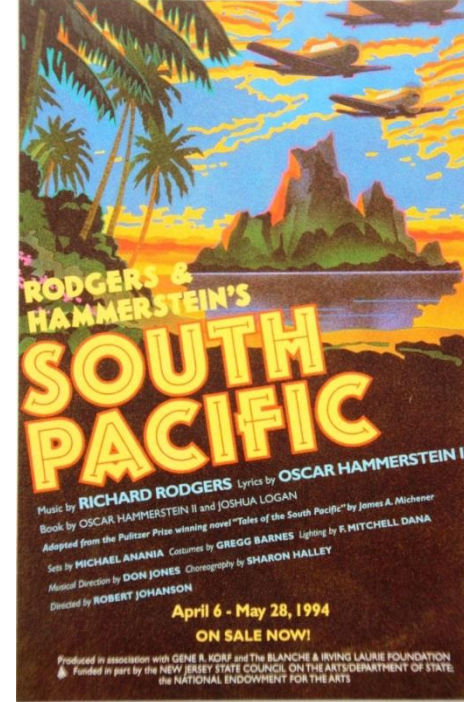


...and later loved the book and play

Images of Bali Hai



© Barry Porter
www.SummitPhoto.com



Play versions above



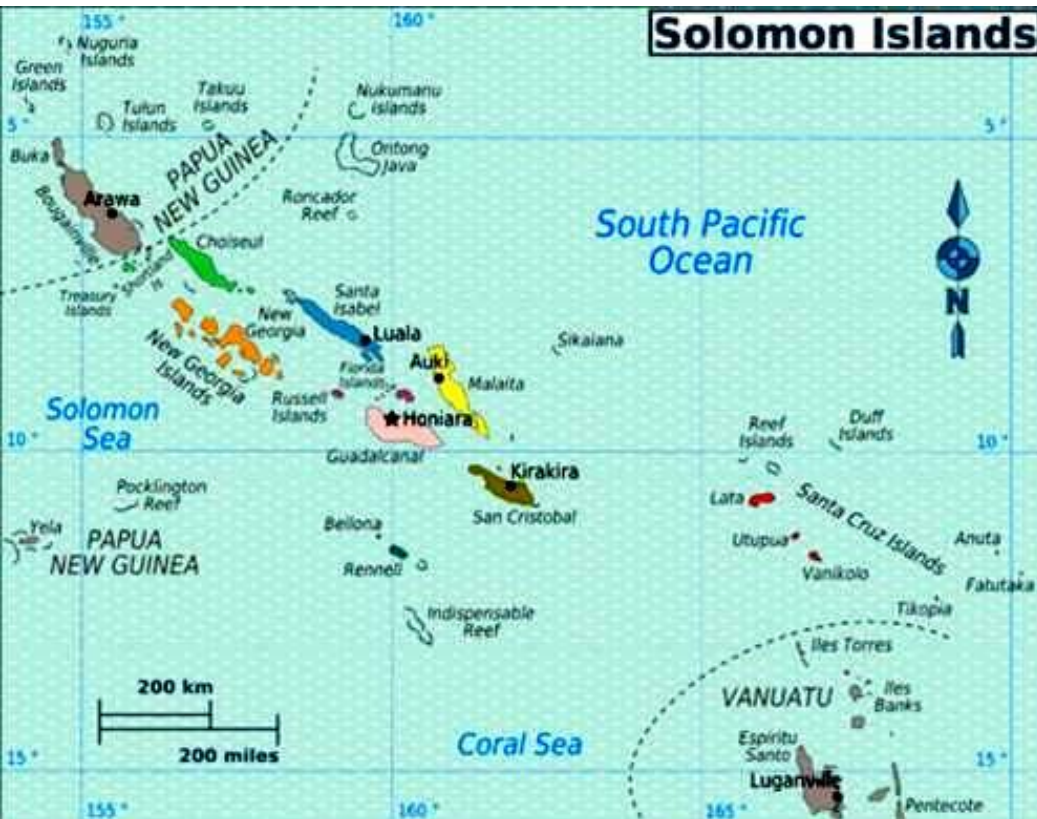
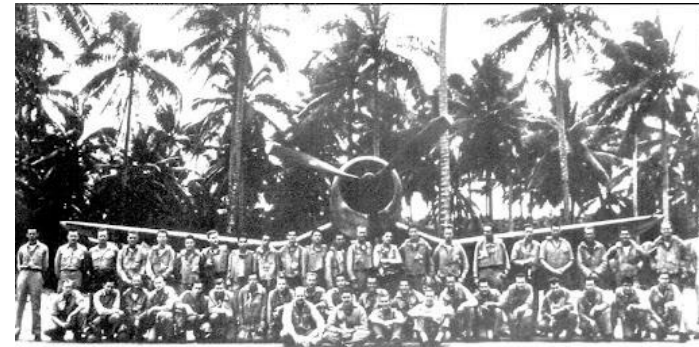
Movie versions above



Real "Bali Hai" in distance



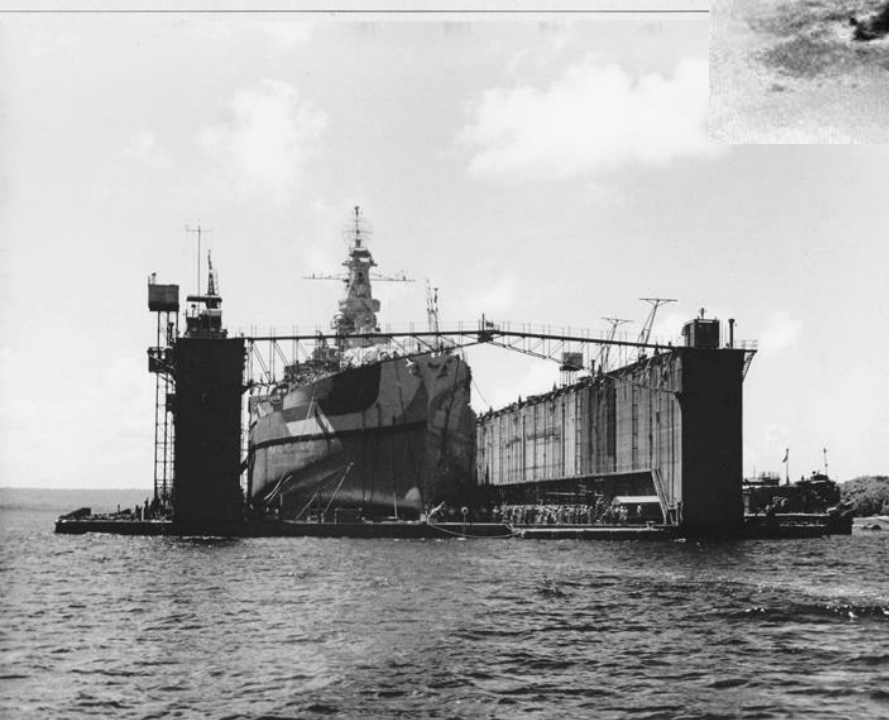
New Hebrides played a key role in World War II



Air and sea power were projected from Espiritu Santo and Efate

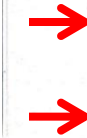
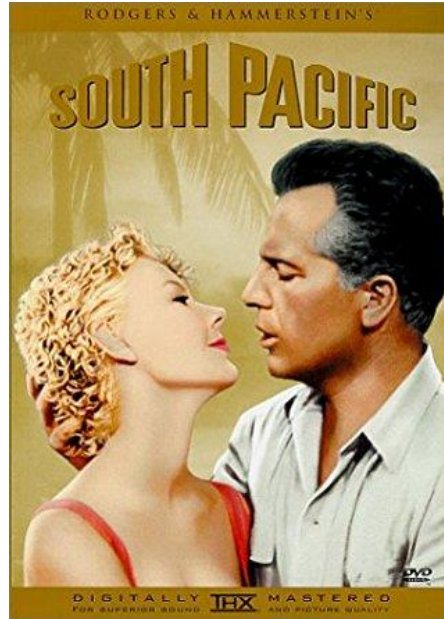


289693 NCB



9/1943

James Michener was stationed on Espiritu Santo and visited Ambae



TEXAS CENTER FOR WRITERS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
PCL 3.102 • Mail Code 55401 • Austin, Texas 78713-7330
(512) 471-1601 • FAX (512) 495-4628

June 8, 1994

Llewellyn M. Toulmin, PhD
13108 Hutchinson Way
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Dear Dr. Toulmin:

Mr. Michener has asked me to reply to your letter and to express his good wishes in your quest.

The facts surrounding Bali-ha'i are as follows:

- (1) In a trip to the Solomon Islands during World War II, Mr. Michener came across a crude sign board in a remote village. It read: Bali-ha'i. The island was either Mono or Sterling, off Bougainville. He cannot remember which.
- (2) When he came to write *Tales of the South Pacific*, he recalled the name and attached it to Aoba, allowing him to fictionalize the island as he wished for his story.
- (3) That is the extent of it. Aoba became Bali-ha'i. The film version of *South Pacific* was shot in the Tahitian island of Moorea. But that choice was for logistical purposes, not because it had any actual relationship to Bali-ha'i.

If I can be of further help, please call me.

Sincerely,

John Kings
John Kings
Coordinating Editor to
James A. Michener

JK/bs



I first visited Ambae in 2001...



Brigantine *Soren Larsen*

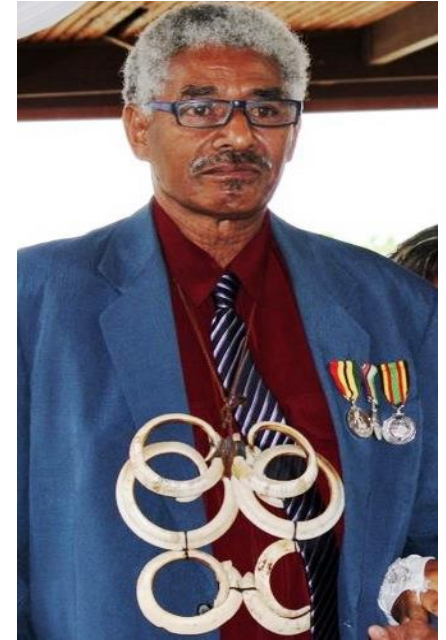


**Chief Charlie Bani at
Nanako Village, Ambae**

...and launched an expedition in 2013

Expedition goals:

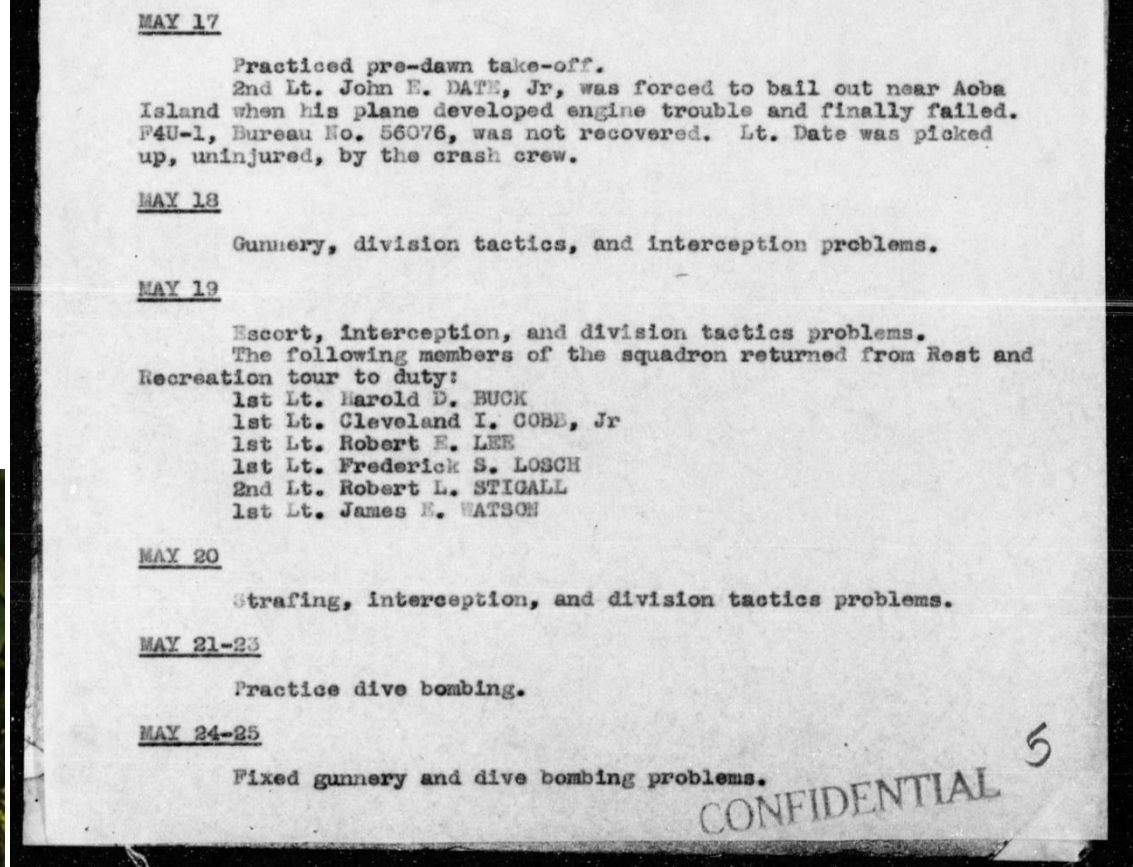
- Solve plane mystery
- View pig-killing (as in the "Tales...")
- Evaluate volcano



Proofs re the plane



August Matthew Aru saw
the crash on May 17, 1944



Re-creating a Corsair at museum in Aus



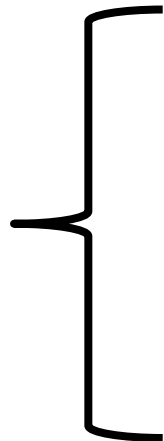
Lt. John E.
Date, USMC



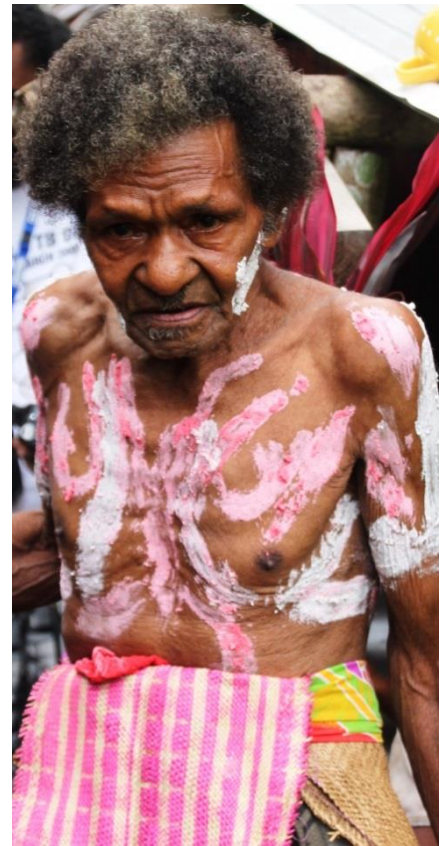
Right now I am in the
mess of said hotel waiting
for Bill Rutherford to show
up and give me a ride
back to the base. Our

squadron has practically
disbanded. Thirty of us
have received orders to
combat as replacements.

I imagine that by the time
you get this I will
be riding the waves on
my way to the New Hebrides
to join a squadron and



Pig-killing is the key chiefly ceremony



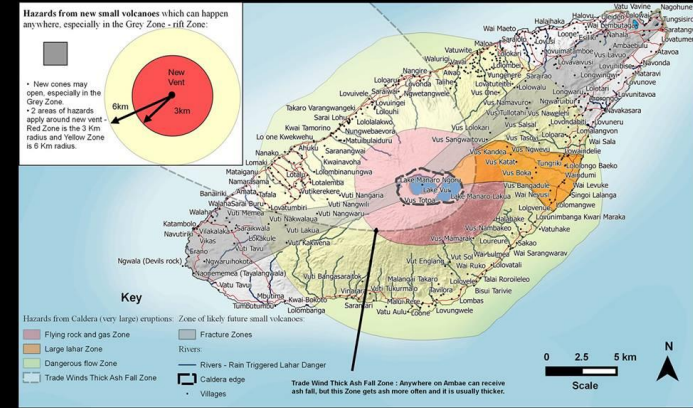


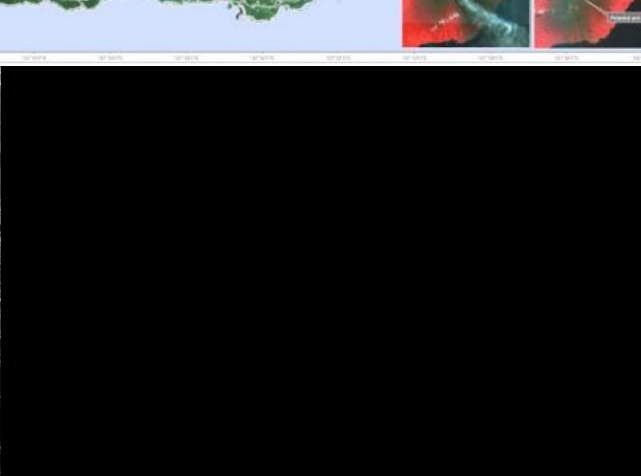
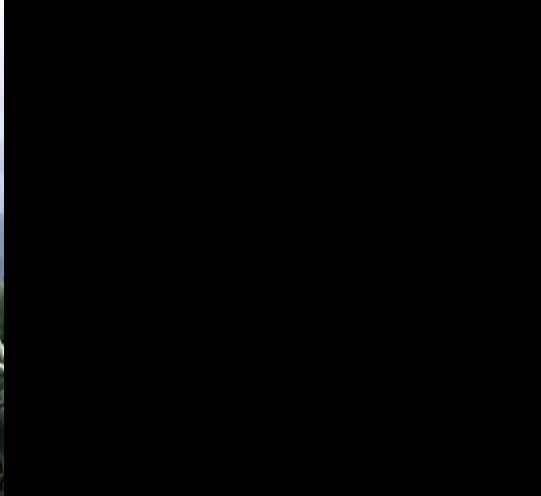
Let's see 3 short videos of this ceremony



1. Drummers (note T-shirts & shorts): 15 secs
2. Women & chiefs dancing (note pigs): 40 secs
3. Blacked-out recording of nite dance & chant (note lantern): 40 secs

Ambae volcano is very dangerous

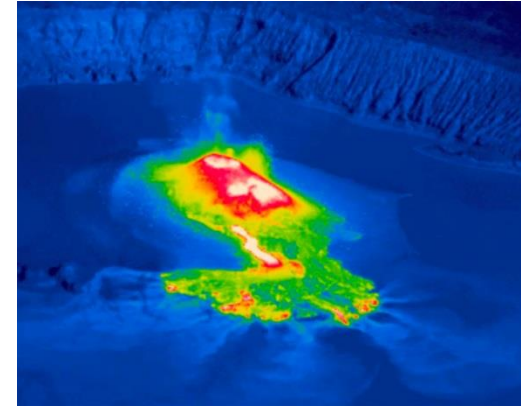




It has a history of eruptions...



- ❖ 1575 eruption
- ❖ 1670 explosive eruption
- ❖ 1718 flank explosion
- ❖ 1870 eruption
- ❖ 1914 earthquake
- ❖ 1995 lake de-gassing
- ❖ 2005 major eruption & evacuation
- ❖ 2006 lake color change
blue to red
- ❖ 2011 minor eruption
- ❖ 2017-8 major eruption & total evacuation

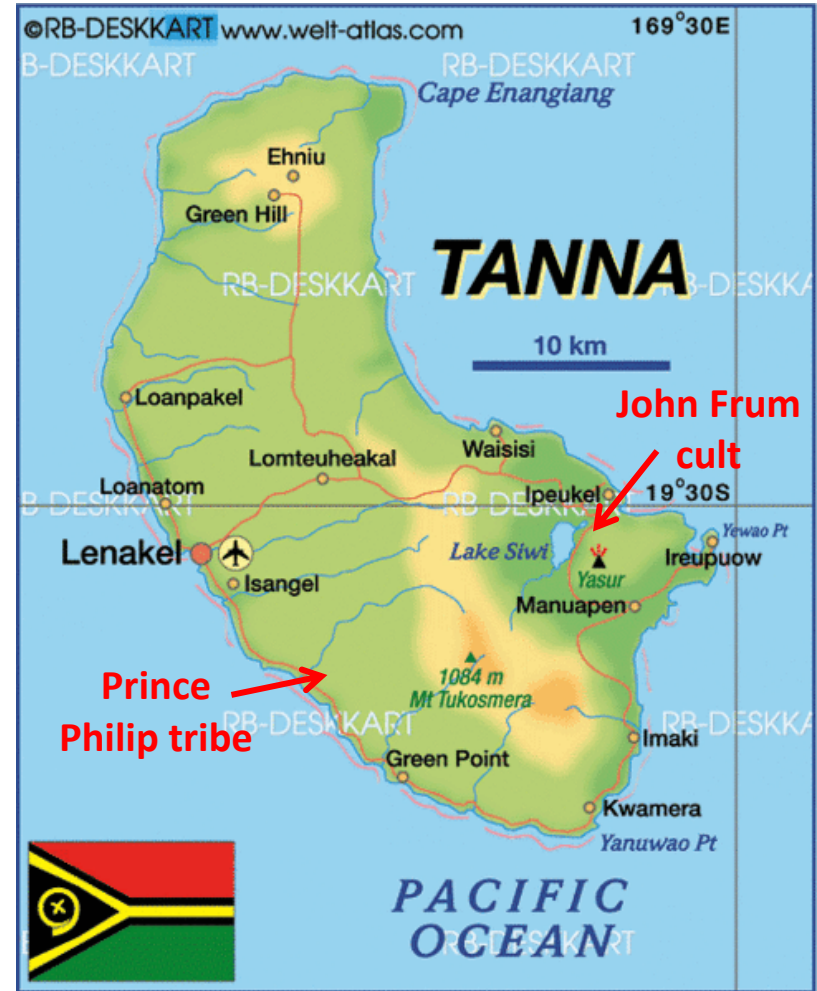
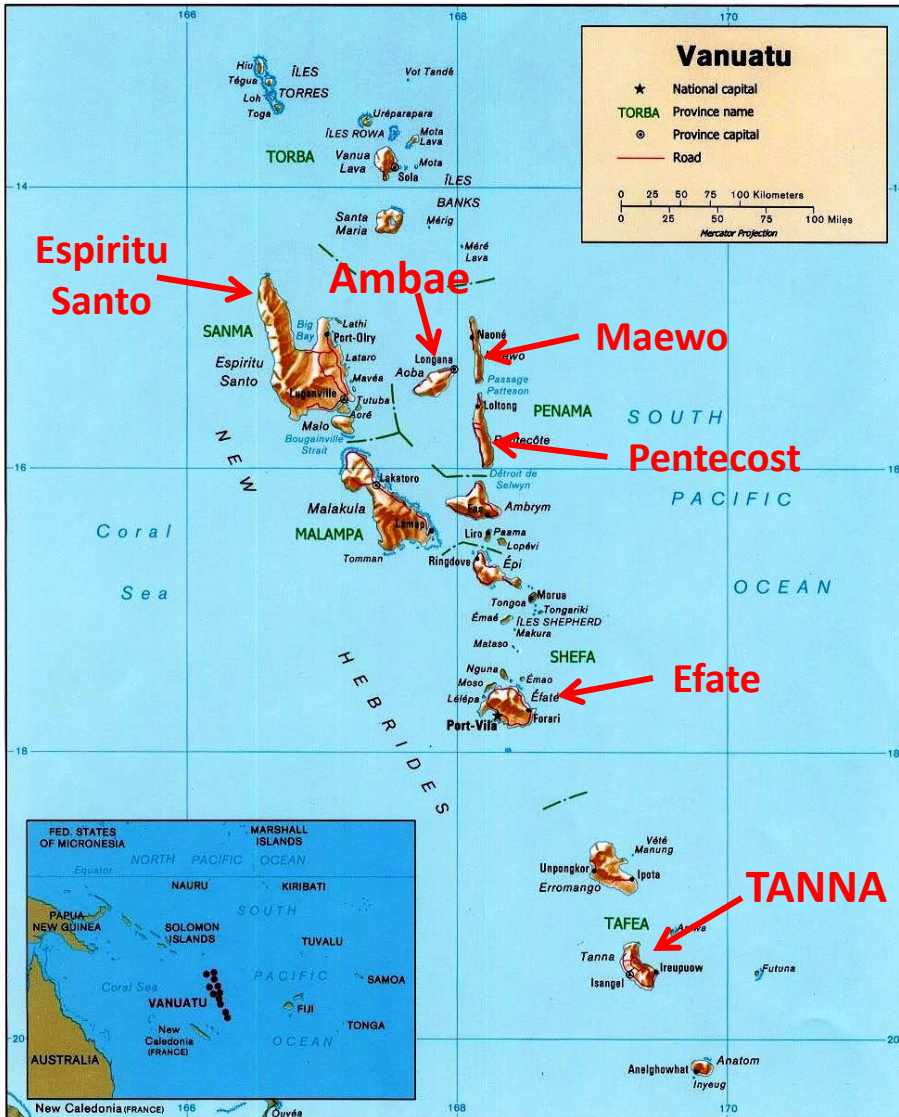


...and the 2017-8 eruption may lead to the end of "Bali Hai"

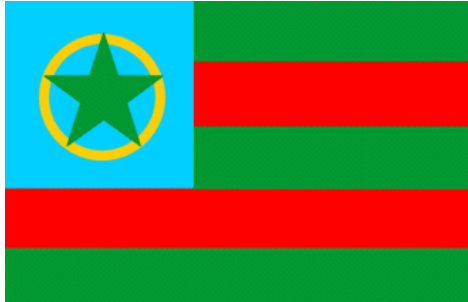
The John Frum cult



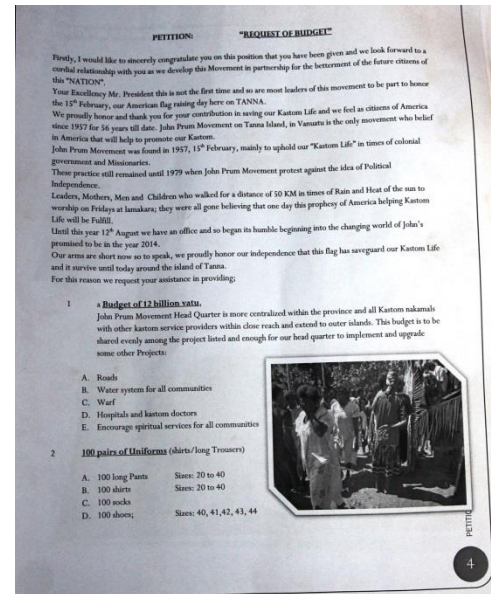
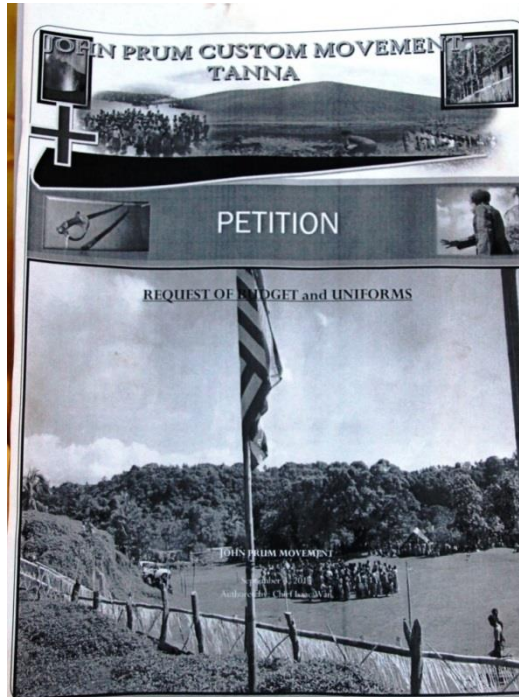
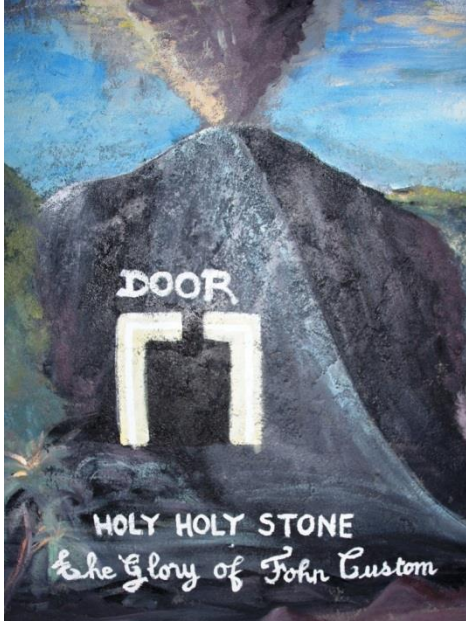
Vanuatu and Tanna



The John Frum/Brum cargo cult is pro-USA



Chief states that "John Broom" will sweep the world clean



The end of the world will be brought on by American aid...

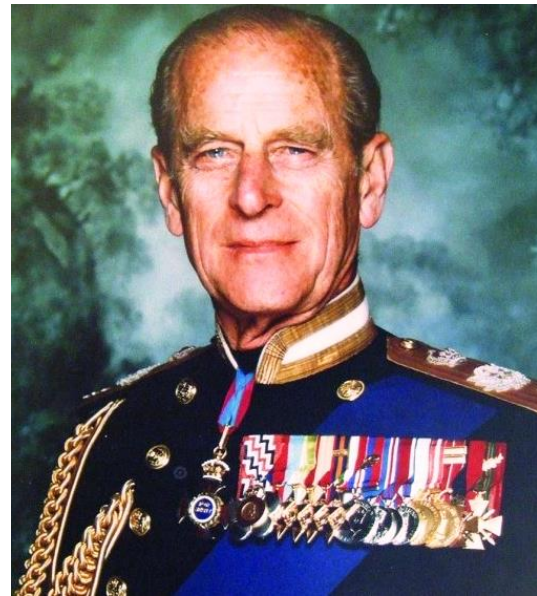


Uh, oh!

The Prince Philip tribe



Was Prince Philip really born in Greece?



High Admiral of the Royal Navy
Captain-General of the Royal Marines
Marshall of the Royal Air Force
Marshall of the Royal Army
Royal Knight of the Garter
Knight of the Thistle
KGC of the British Empire
Companion, Order of Canada
Royal Victorian Chain
KGC of Order of the Queen of Sheba
KGC of Order of Condor of the Andes
KGC of the Order of the Elephant
Order of Muhammad (Morocco)
Order of New Zealand
Order of Maritime Merit, Port of SFO

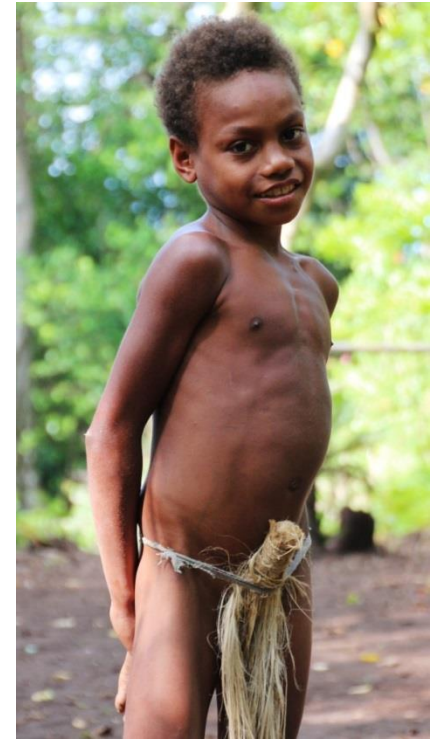
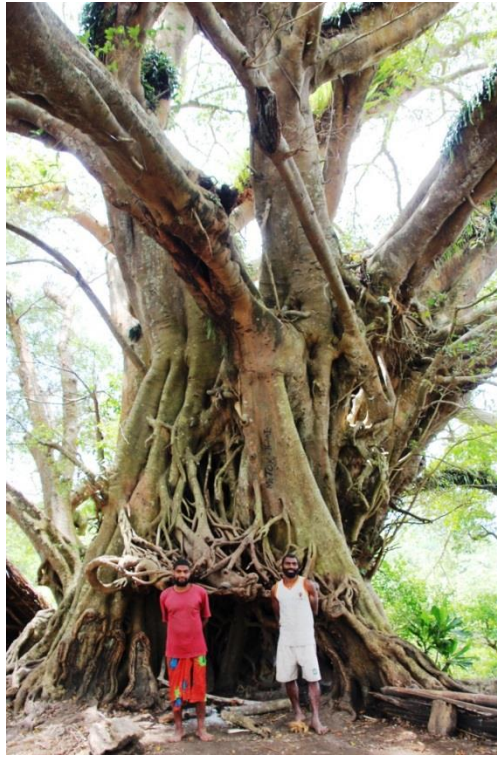
Duke of Edinburgh
Earl of Merionith
Baron Greenwich
96 years old
22,219 solo public appearances
251 official foreign visits
814 charities
Pres of World Wildlife Fund UK
Pres of the English Speaking Union
Co-founder, Inter-Faith Dialog
Pres, Royal Society of Arts
75 prizes and medals, including the Silver Wink Cambridge Award

Perhaps Philip was born in Tanna...



...he certainly is a God there!

Will Philip be reincarnated on Tanna?



Prince Charles was recently made a chief of Prince Philip tribe



Tank Yu Tumas!

www.themosttraveled.com



QUESTIONS?

