Camp Columbia revealed:

celebrating and preserving the Dutch WWII headquarters in Brisbane, Australia.

Funded by

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 - School of Social Science, University of Queensland
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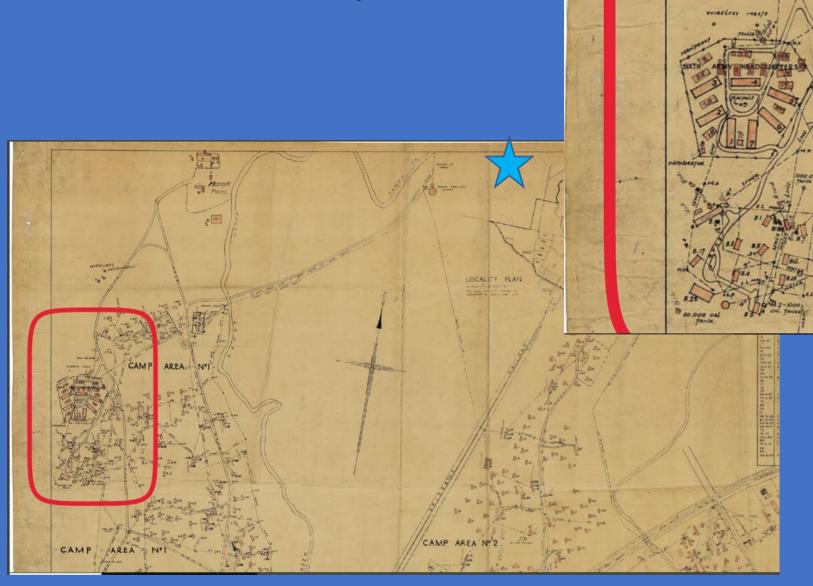
Project background

- The objective is to make this important but now obscure historical site better known to the public, primarily in Australia but also in the Netherlands and Indonesia, and to provide information to support the site's sustainable preservation over the long term.
- The project aims to do this by expanding upon what is currently known from documentary research through a combination of
 - archival work in both Dutch and Australian archives (National Archives of Australia and het Nationaal Archief/Nederlands Instituut voor Militaire Historie), as well as other collections (e.g. Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (NIOD); Rijksmuseum; Museum Bronbeek; National Military Museum; KITLV/Leiden University; Arsip Nasional, Jakarta).
 - oral history with Australian (including Dutch migrants) and Dutch/NEI people in the Netherlands who know about the site and in some cases lived and worked there during the final stages of the war, and
 - archaeological work on the site.



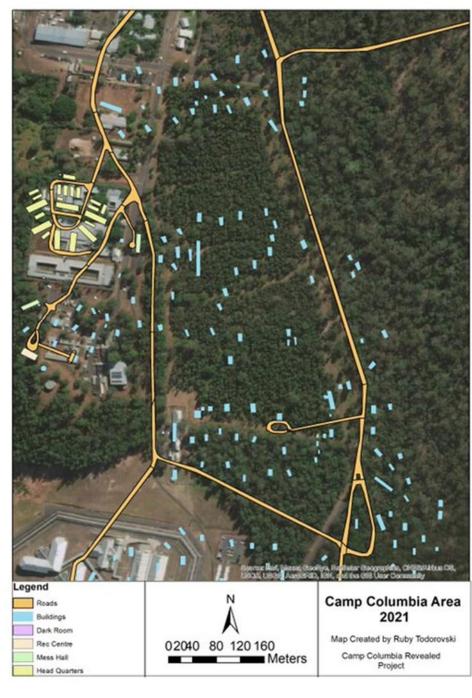
- First we had to definitively locate the site, with no Dutch maps or other information then known to us.
- Contrary to available public information, the camp was located in the US 6th Army HQ, not across the highway from the Wacol railway station.
- Unfortunately the HQ area is now almost entirely under Queensland prison facilities

US 6th Army base



On modern maps

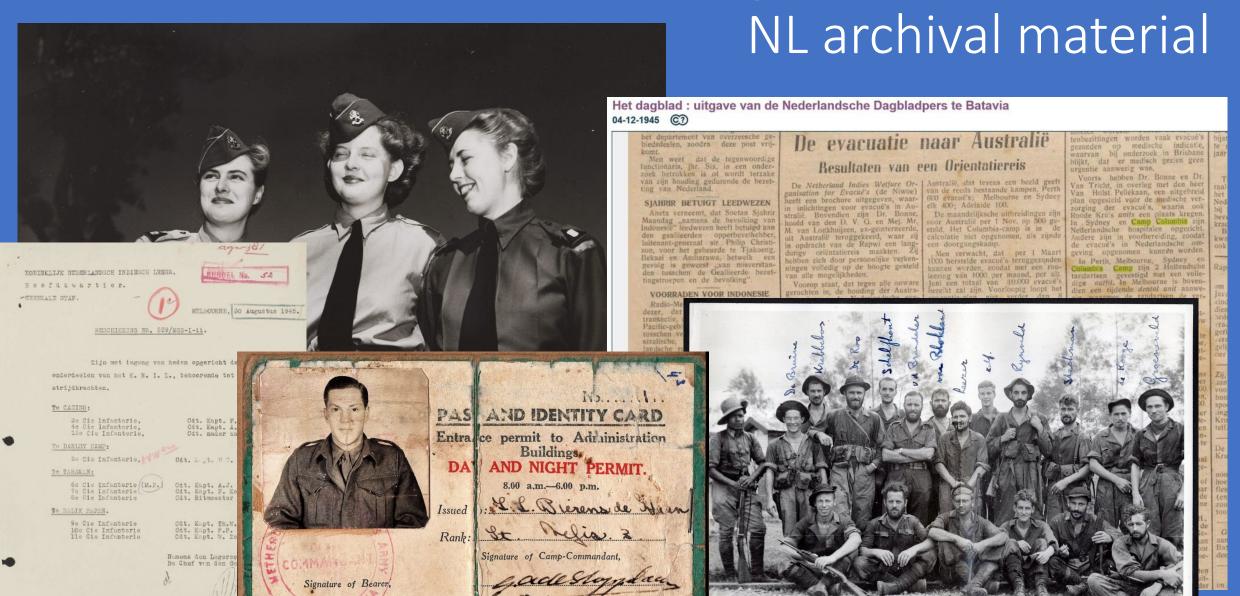




Then...

- Covid dramatically decreased the project's effectiveness here and in the Netherlands. Little/no access to
 - archives and museums
 - community members
 - prison area
- Archaeological prospects greatly reduced by prison regulations and infrastructure development – no digging near prison infrastructure.

But!! We now have an increasing amount of AU and NI archival material



Ann: Allo Militaire Gezoghobbendon.

And more!

- We have undertaken a test ground-penetrating radar survey, which demonstrated it may be a useful technique to apply where we can
- The undeveloped area east of the prison academy is potentially accessible, and
- There is a small remaining area of the camp here in the Pooh Corner nature reserve that has some promise for a memorial and heritage walk with interpretation signage

