



Charlie Lynn
Adventure Kokoda
PO Box 303
Camden
NSW 2570
0439 303 303
charlie@kokodatreks.com.au
www.kokodatreks.com

23 January, 2009

The Hon Kevin Rudd
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

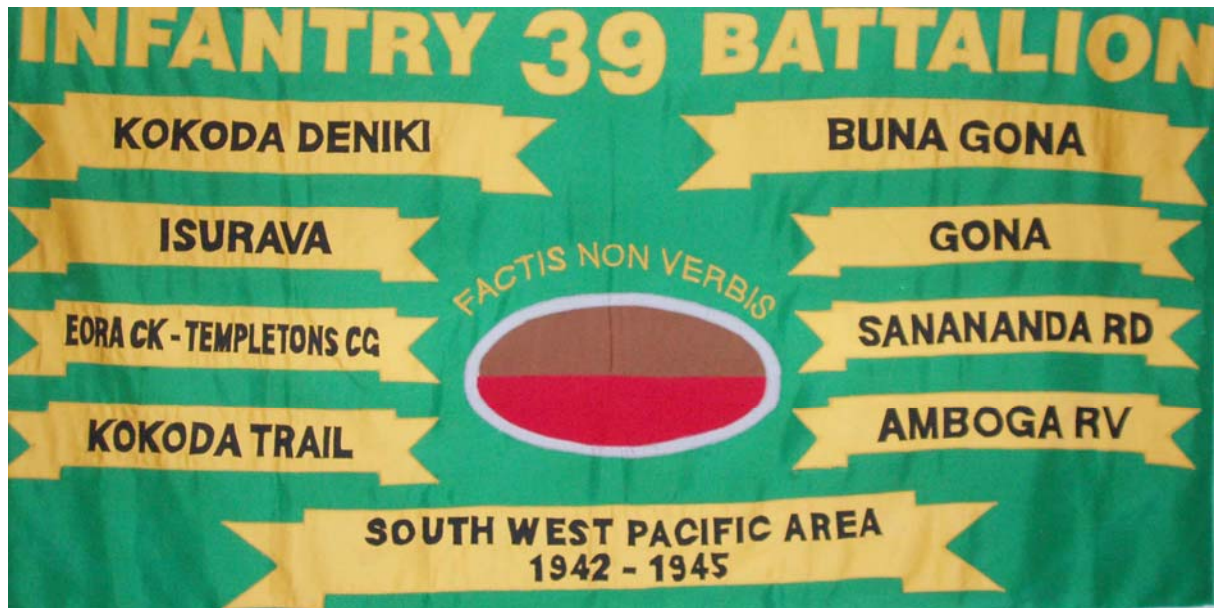
I write to you in regard to the proper designation of the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea.

You would be aware of the debate over whether it should be called a 'track' or a 'trail'. Former officers, soldiers, historians, wartime journalists and commentators have differing views on the issue.

In 2002 the Australian War Memorial conducted research into the issue. Their findings were published in their official publication, Wartime Volume 19, which concluded:

*'Both terms have been in common use since the war. "Trail" is probably of American origin but has been used in many Australian history books, including the official history, and was adopted by the Australian Army as an official "battle honour". "Track" comes from the language of the Australian bush. It too is commonly used by veterans, and is used in some volumes of Australia's official history. Thus, both are correct, but "trail" appears to be used more widely. **The Memorial has adopted the term "trail" because it is favoured by a majority of veterans and because it appears on the battle honours of units which served in Papua in 1942**'.*

The 39th Infantry Battalion which was the first to make contact with the Japanese army and fought a heroic battle at Isurava was awarded the Battle Honour 'Kokoda Trail' which has been emblazoned on their battalion flag since the end of Pacific War.



But more importantly the official name on the statute books of Papua New Guinea is the 'Kokoda Trail'. The official reference is PNG Government Gazette No. 88 of 12 October 1972 at page 1362, column 2. Notice 1972/28 of the PNG Place Names Committee.

I believe we should respect the official name as gazette by the PNG Government. If people have strong feelings one way or another they should be invited to make a formal submission to the PNG Government. In the meantime we should respect their sovereign right to name their geographical in accordance with their own official procedures.

I therefore request that you instruct your Government Departments to use the correct name, Kokoda Trail, in official dealings and correspondence with the PNG Government in regard to Kokoda.

I very much appreciate your personal commitment to ensuring the Kokoda is properly recognized and protected for future generations and I commend the work that has been done thus far by Sandy Hollway, James Shelvin and the staff of the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLIE LYNN