CEREMONY TO HONOUR THE WORK AND FRIENDSHIP OF DUTCH, AUSTRALIANS, AND WEST PAPUANS DURING WORLD WAR TWO
NETHERLANDS AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA, 9 SEPTEMBER 2019
Babuan Mirino, Australia West Papua Assoc (Melb); Federal Republic of West Papua Womens’ Office (Docklands)
The elegant Netherlands Australian War Memorial (unveiled in 1991) dwarfed by the 79-metre Australian American War Memorial (unveiled in 1954), Blamey Square, Canberra

Ceremony, 9 September 2019, to honour the work and friendship of Dutch, Australians, and West Papuans during World War Two
Henri Licht, Dutch-Australian writer who translated Sergeant Kokkelink’s memoir of WWII in West Papua

NETHERLANDS AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, THOMAS BLAMEY SQUARE, CANBERRA, 9 SEPTEMBER 2019
We Fought in the Jungle
My guerilla struggle in Dutch New Guinea in the Second World War

Sergeant M. Ch. Kokkelink

The first English translation of a guerilla fighter’s memoir of WWII in West Papua

Published by West Papua Womens Office (Docklands) in August 2019

“This is certainly a story worth translating and reading.... Its principal lesson is the importance of attempting to avoid violent conflict. **The most effective way of making societies secure is to settle conflicts before they become violent.**

Fortunately, the commitment of nation states and the United Nations to peaceful conflict resolution has strengthened greatly since the 1940s; and the capacity of many countries for diplomacy, and of the UN, and of peace-building non-government organisations for addressing conflict through mediation has grown substantially.”

From the review by PROFESSOR JOHN LANGMORE

- Director, UN Division for Social Policy and Development (1996-2001)
- Organised 24th session of UN General Assembly—which agreed on the global target for halving serious poverty by 2015

English translation by Henri Licht
Harold Wilkinson, United Nations Association of Australia

READING PROFESSOR JOHN LANGMORE’S REVIEW OF ‘WE FOUGHT IN THE JUNGLE’
King Willem-Alexander’s response to the first English-translation of Sergeant Maurits Kokkelink’s memoir *We Fought in the Jungle; My Guerilla Struggle in Dutch New Guinea in the Second World War*; and the Canberra ceremony at the Dutch Australian War Memorial on 9 September 2019.

Kokkelink was awarded the Militaire Willems-Orde, the highest Dutch military honour, in Brisbane in 1945 during the reign of King Willem-Alexander’s parents, Queen Beatrix and Prince Bernhard.