

# History

## Work sample 2: Discussion – Historical accuracy of film Kokoda

Alister Grierson's *Kokoda*, released in 2006, is rather an accurate representation of the actual Kokoda campaign in 1942. Although it displays the lifestyle and hardships of the Australian soldiers during the battle against the Japanese, it lacked in some areas regarding to the fierce battles between two countries. The main aspects within this film include the terrain of the Kokoda Track, the supplies and role of the *Fuzzy Wuzzie*'s. Even though several areas were absent, the audience are aware of the conditions that the Australian soldiers went through.

The terrain of the Kokoda Track within this film is beautifully presented as it clearly shows the accuracy of the track back in 1942. The mud that the soldiers had to walk through is very thick and extremely tough to walk in. At the beginning of the film, it displays the Australian soldiers walking up the Kokoda Track in the thick mud. Referring to the picture below, indeed the mud was absolutely horrendous. It shows the soldiers walking through the thick mud which seems as though they are having trouble moving since it looks like the mud wants to suck their legs in. Not only was the mud a big problem for these soldiers, but also the track itself. The complicated roads up the mountains made it very difficult to travel on let alone carry the wounded. Within this film, the environment of their battle field is clearly portrayed as it shows the complex track. Overall, the portrayal of the terrain in this film showed great accuracy as it correctly showed how hard it was for the soldiers to walk in such harsh roads.



Within this film the portrayal of the limited supplies that the Australian soldiers had is fairly accurate. It shows the hardship and struggles they went through because of their limited supplies. They had very little amount of food but they shared it around as they were all equally famished. This shows the love and bond these soldiers had for each other. Similarity from the campaign in 1942, most of their supplies that were delivered for them were unusable, as it was dropped from such a high distance that it was broken. Although during this film, the shortages of supplies or picking up

### Annotations

*Analyses the film 'Kokoda' as an interpretation (representation) of the past.*

*Uses evidence identified in sources to support an argument relating to the inquiry question.*

*Compares information from primary sources with the interpretation shown in the film to assess the accuracy of the film.*

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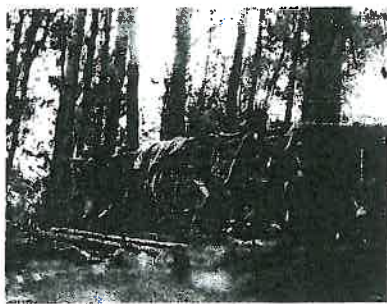
### Annotations

*Synthesises evidence from primary and secondary sources, that is from the film 'Kokoda' and photographs.*

supplies were not shown, but the short of food supplies was presented. Looking at the two photographs below, the *Fuzzy Wuzzie's* are seen to be helping the Australian soldiers carry back their delivered supplies back to the base. If this fact was included into the film than perhaps it would've been more accurate as it would've clearly portrayed how they received their supplies and the struggles they had trying to carry it back to their bases. It would've also made it more interesting to watch as it will allow the audiences to relate to the sufferings they had. Therefore, although they did hint some shortage of food, the more accurate information was not portrayed which made this film lack in accuracy of supplies during battle.



The role of the *Fuzzy Wuzzie's* throughout this film is extremely accurate. The 'angels', as the soldiers would refer them to, would help the wounded and sick Australian Soldiers across the Kokoda trail every day to their bases. These *Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels* played a very big role during the war as they gave significant help to the soldiers, from carrying the wounded soldiers to help looking after them to collecting supplies. The evidence as shown in both the photos below show that truly these *Fuzzy Wuzzie's* really offered great help to the soldiers. During the film, in some parts, *Fuzzy Wuzzie's* are seen helping carry the wounded soldiers from the dangerous battle fields to the safety of their bases. Even though this is a very tough job, as they had to climb great amount of stairs and through the muddy and rocky roads, they still reluctantly helped the soldiers. Thus, the accuracy of this aspect is impressively presented.



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The film *Kokoda* directed by Allstair Grierson is a very useful source for students studying about the Kokoda Campaign in 1942. This film shows great detailed perspectives of the living conditions of the Australian soldiers and the terrain that they had to walk through every day. It shows how these soldiers survived each day as this film revolves around the living conditions of the Australian soldiers during the war against the Japanese soldiers. Also the portrayal of the *Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels* throughout this film is indeed very useful as it shows how they had helped the soldiers and the conditions of the roads that they walked to and from to save wounded soldiers. Despite these useful aspects shown in the film, many great details were left out. It limits on showing the fierce battle they had when both countries collided with each other and started the attack. The portrayal of the Japanese was hardly seen in the film, but on rare occasions when there is, the face cannot be seen. Although this film is a useful source about the Kokoda Campaign, a film is usually bias. It is bias from the opinion of the film director as they choose to film which scenes they want to be seen in their movie. That means that the information within this film is not always accurate. Even though this film source is not always reliable, it is very useful as it creates an image of how these soldiers suffered during the war.

In conclusion, the film *Kokoda* is a well presented film which illustrates the accuracy of the real Kokoda Campaign. It shows strong accuracy in the living conditions of the soldiers and the harsh road of the Kokoda track that the soldiers had to travel on. Even if this film demonstrates great accuracy, many facts about the war were excluded. Although it lacked in some important aspects of war, the representation of the living conditions is beyond accurate. Thus, this film is a great source of the Kokoda Campaign in 1942.

### Annotations

*Develops a discussion text on the historical accuracy of the film.*

*Uses historical terms such as Kokoda campaign, Fuzzy Wuzz Angels, Kokoda track.*

*Makes a distinction between the reliability and usefulness of the film as a source on the Kokoda campaign and draws conclusions about its usefulness.*

### Annotations (Overview)

*The work sample demonstrates the selection and processing of information from primary and secondary sources.*