

KB Mission Inquiry—Written Task

Establishing a conclusion to the Inquiry

- You have conducted historical research into the events of 27/28 August 1942 within the wider context of the Battle of Milne Bay.
- This task requires you to synthesise your evidence into a historical conclusion

You are to respond to ONE of the writing tasks below:

Option A

A historian is partly a detective. Through the careful consideration of evidence, his/her role is often to come to a conclusion about the causes and outcomes of particular events (right: Charles Bean, noted AWM author). Imagine you are the author of a history of the Milne Bay Campaign. You have decided to devote 4-5 paragraphs (around 400-500 words) to the KB Mission Battle. What will you write about what happened that night?



Option B

In the army, battles such as this one are studied so that military leaders might improve their ability to command. Imagine that you are a military officer whose job is to teach new company commanders at the Jungle Training School in Canungra, Queensland (left), in early 1943. These new leaders are about to go into battle in New Guinea. You have decided to conduct a lesson on the KB Mission battle, including the reasons for the Australian defeat, and the lessons learned. Write a written report (400-500 words) of the topics you will discuss with your class.

Option C

Historical events such as this often require explanation, particularly when lives are lost. Imagine you are Lieutenant Colonel Jim Dobbs, battalion commander of the 2/10th Battalion. It is October 1942. Your Brigade commander, Brigadier George Wooten (right), wants your explanation for the failure of 27/28 August in 400-500 words. If it is determined that you are to blame for the failure, you will be relieved of your command. What will you say to avoid being given the sack? (hint: you could write this in the form of a letter)



Length: each option requires a written task in the range of 400-500 words.

Due: