

*PART III*

THE OCCUPATION OF GERMAN NEW GUINEA

*by*

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## PART III

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THIS territory comprised the north-eastern portion of the main island of New Guinea, and the large group of islands spread, somewhat disconnectedly, eastward.<sup>1</sup> The story of the naval and military expedition by which it was captured has been fully told in *Volumes IX and X of the Official History of Australia in the War*. It would therefore, under ordinary circumstances, only be necessary to record in this volume such medical features of that expedition as have a permanent value or interest. This detached military episode was, however, destined to become more than a transient and comparatively insignificant incident; the task of the Australian military force was less to seize the islands than to govern them. The original body of troops gave place after four months to a specially organised tropical force; this steadily evolved, through a number of adaptations to circumstances, into the civil administration which, under mandate from the League of Nations, governs the country to-day.

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<sup>1</sup> See map at p 804, and p 806, footnote 17. The "Protectorate of German New Guinea," as it was known, comprised "The Old Protectorate" (the north-eastern portion of the mainland of New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, and German Solomon Islands), and the "Island Territory" (certain scattered groups of islands, for the most part north of the Equator—the Marianne, Caroline, Pelew, and Marshall Islands) in all 93,000 square miles. In 1914 the population of the Territory consisted of 1,027 Europeans (almost exclusively German), 1,681 Asiatic aliens, and some 4 to 500,000 natives (estimated). For a detailed account of the geographical features of the Territory, and of the circumstances under which it came under the control of Germany, the reader is referred to the *Official History of Australia in the War, Vol X*. Its ethnology and sociology, and the medical problems involved in the "civilising" of this part of the Pacific, will be found well presented in the annual reports of the Administrator to the League of Nations for 1927-8 and 1928-9, and in various special medical reports and memoranda published by the Commonwealth Government.