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Lions seek better bonds on Kokoda trek. 28/11/2005. ABC News Online

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Lions seek better bonds on Kokoda trek

The Brisbane Lions hope five days on the rugged Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea will make them a tighter unit in the lead-up to the next AFL season.

The Lions flew out of Brisbane for Papua New Guinea this morning, and more than 30 players and coaching staff, including coach Leigh Matthews, will set off on the 96-kilometre trek on Tuesday.

Ruckman Beau McDonald said the players were keen to learn about the Australian soldiers who campaigned in the region during World War II.

"It'll be great to learn about what the diggers did," he said.

"I suppose when it gets a bit hard you can just think they didn't have back packs and sleeping mats and things like that, and nice food rations like what we've got.

"We are grateful for what they have done and hopefully we can just learn about that on the trek."

Lions captain Michael Voss said the trek should be a valuable team bonding experience.

"At the start of Kokoda there is a memorial that says four words - courage, mateship, sacrifice and endurance," he said.

"If we can achieve any of those along the way, and get all four of them, then we are going to come back a better unit. So for us that is what the challenge is all about."

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