



# MvM Newsletter 12

## April 2010

## Parliament to approve Montevideo Maru resolution

### MvM Friends invited to be present in Chamber for historic event

Two Ministers will host Parliament House function to mark the day

#### **The Australian Parliament is set to debate an historic motion on Rabaul and the *Montevideo Maru* on Monday 21 June.**

Former servicemen, relatives and friends will be invited to Canberra to witness the debate and attend a subsequent function hosted by Veterans' Affairs Minister Alan Griffin and Environment Minister and Trust Patron Peter Garrett.

It is expected the resolution will cover:

- (1) the gratitude of the Australian nation to the military personnel and civilians in Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands for their services in the defence of Australia during World War II
- (2) regret and sorrow for the sacrifices that were made in the defence of Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands after the invasion of 23 January 1942 and in the subsequent sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* on 1 July 1942
- (3) condolences to the relatives of the people who died in this conflict
- (4) thanks to the relatives for their forbearance and efforts in ensuring that the nation remembers the sacrifices made

**The Montevideo Maru Memorial Trust was established to ensure national recognition of Australia's greatest maritime disaster, a tragedy of war that cost well over 1,000 lives and affected many thousands more. Contact the Trust at PO Box 1743 Neutral Bay, NSW 2089 or email [blawrence@jacksonwells.com.au](mailto:blawrence@jacksonwells.com.au)**

The multi-partisan group of speakers will include Catherine King (ALP Vic), Louise Markus (Lib NSW), Bruce Scott (Nat Qld), John Murphy (ALP NSW), Steven Ciobo (Lib Qld) and Bob Katter (Ind Qld).

People who wish to attend the Parliamentary event and function need to register with committee member Andrea Williams at [andrea.williams@bigpond.com](mailto:andrea.williams@bigpond.com) or on phone (02) 9449 4129.

No time has yet been set for the debate, but it is likely to occur in the late afternoon.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our Parliament to expatiate a lot of the grief and misunderstanding built up over the years since the men of the *Montevideo Maru* were lost in what was a terrible disaster for our nation," said Trust president Keith Jackson.

"It will be a significant action by our Parliament: one that the few remaining men of Lark Force and the relatives of those who died, many of them now in their eighties and nineties, have been waiting for and will treasure.

"They will travel to Canberra to witness it and to be part of it. They will sit in the gallery and know the sacrifice is honoured by the Parliament of their nation."

In another development, the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Maj Gen (ret) Steve Gower has advised the Trust that his Council has given in-principle approval for a Rabaul and *Montevideo Maru* monument to be constructed in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial.

"Much work lies ahead, but this is a significant step," said Prof Jackson.

## Leave our mates in peace

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By Sandy McNab

### **I am a member of No 1 Independent Coy, AIF.**

I wish to make known my opinion regarding the finding of the *Montevideo Maru*. I have gathered the feelings of the few survivors of our company and the almost unanimous answer to the question is that we should leave the wreck undisturbed and leave our mates in peace.

I can imagine the shambles if the location of the ship was released: uncontrolled diving, seizing relics etc.

I realise I may be going against the wishes of my old mate Lex Fraser but I am sure, on reflection, he will concur with our sentiments.

By all means keep up the effort to find the roll of those aboard the ship. It may finally lay to rest the rumour that our men were not on the ship! Wishing the committee success.

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### **Keith Jackson comments:**

Sandy will be pleased to know it is Trust policy that the ship not be disturbed.

We do believe, however, that the area of the sinking, the coordinates of which are known, be declared an official war grave. As such, it could not be interfered with by divers.

The depth at which the ship lies, believed to be about 4,000 metres, is also strong protection against human intrusion.

Further, it is not the view of the committee that the so-called "captain's safe theory" has validity. Some people feel that the nominal roll of prisoners may have been put in the "captain's safe". There is no evidence to support such speculation but, even if it were true, neither the safe nor any documents inside would be in a viable condition today, even if it was possible to recover them.

We also thank Sandy for his recent generous donation of \$250 to the Memorial Fund and, with Anzac Day approaching, we honour him and his distinguished comrades from No 1 Independent Coy.

## PNG absent in curriculum

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By Andrea Williams

### **The draft K-10 Australian curriculum is now available for comment until 23 May.**

It is on the on the Australian Curriculum Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA) website.

There is very little PNG content: one small reference to Papua as a Queensland colony, which it never was!

Most people see the curriculum as an opportunity to enable students to better understand the history of Australia's Pacific involvement in two world wars, including the fall of Rabaul and the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*.

There should also be understanding of why New Guinea was a mandated territory under Australian administration; the Australian role in taking PNG to Independence; and why PNG is still important to Australia today.

The period for public comment on the curriculum gives us the opportunity to ensure that Australia's unique association with PNG is covered. Australian students should understand the historical significance of our relationship so that future generations understand our closest neighbour.

ACARA is encouraging people to comment on the website so changes can be made during the consultation period.

To comment, people need to register at [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au), read through the curriculum and look for opportunities where PNG could be included (sometimes instead of some other country).

The Trust's recognition sub-committee is working with the PNGAA history sub-committee to prepare a submission for the ACARA Board.

There is information on the PNGAA forum at: <http://www.pngaa.net/bb/viewtopic.php?t=324> and it would be great to see input from others.

People who provide input to the ACARA website could also send a copy to Andrea Williams at [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net).

# The enquiry into the bombing of the *MS Herstein*

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BY NILS T SELVIK

**When a ship is lost – or some other grave accident happens - a court of inquiry normally examines the circumstances.**



During the German occupation of Norway, most of the merchant navy was in allied service, and inquiries had to be performed abroad.

In Sydney in 1942, an enquiry was convened into the loss of *MS Herstein*, in Rabaul harbour in January 1942.

In court, consisting of the Consul General and two merchant captains, Captain Gundersen presented a report

written dated 27 April 1942 – the day after he had returned to Australia. The report tells about the bombing in Rabaul harbour on 20 January at 1330 hours. The captain was at that time not on board the ship – he was at the agent's office.

Three dive bombers attacked *Herstein* which was hit midships by three bombs. The first exploded in the engine room and the subsequent fire spread to the whole ship. The crew tried in vain to extinguish it, but were forced to leave the ship. *Herstein* had two .303 machine guns which were in action until a bomb hit the bridge and damaged both weapons.

Steward Karl Magnus Thorsell (from Gothenburg in Sweden) was killed. He was observed going down the gangway when he suddenly returned to the ship, and was never seen again. Chief engineer Peter Brandal, boatswain Gerhard Olsen (Storhaug) and cook Arthur Landhaug had to be treated at a hospital. Four other crew had minor burns.

*Herstein* was still burning the next morning. The moorings had burned and the ship had drifted to the other side of the harbour. She was holed and was a total wreck.

Captain Gundersen, examined by the court, said *Herstein* had 2,000 tons of copra on board when attacked. It had been decided by Naval Control in Rabaul that the ship should take on board 6,000 tons, which was full capacity. Apart from *Herstein* there were only some smaller coastal vessels in the harbour. A coal barge was also hit and sank.

On the crew list is noted the names of all those who were saved from the bombing of *Herstein*. With a pen is marked *død* for all those who died later. This must have been added at subsequently, when the fate of the *Montevideo Maru* was known.

There has been some confusion about the names of the crew of *Herstein*, many of who died on *Montevideo Maru*. As far as I can find out, the list included below is the correct one.

There are some small difficulties. For instance the name registered as Arthur Ringshaug. His full name is Arthur Olaf Olausen Ringshaug according to the book *Våre Falne (Our Fallen)*.

Another example is boatswain Gerhard Olsen. His full name is Gerhard Johan Olsen Storhaug, as many Norwegians took the name of the farm or village where they came from. Saloon boy James Tynan was said to have British nationality, but according to a list sent to me by the late Chris Diercke, Tynan came from New Zealand.

I have tried to get the list correct, but cannot guarantee every detail. I am also working on my notes about the *Montevideo Maru* tragedy. I am fascinated by the story and will try later on to translate the notes into English – although my sort of English is far from fluent and precise.

## The crew of MV *Herstein*

Andersen, Viktor Hugo – Oiler - Trondheim b 23-8-1913  
Andersen, Olvar - Able Seaman - Trondheim b 17-5-1919  
Beckman, Nils - Seaman - Sweden b 7-4-1917  
Bolt, Benn – Second Mate - Sandefjord b 9-9-1914  
Brandal, Peter Cornelius - Chief Engineer – Ålesund b 5-5-1895  
Brekkestø, Kaare Hansen - Galley Boy – Vennesla b 2-7-1916  
Edwardsen, Gunnar Egil – Mechanic – Fredrikstad b 29-3-1917  
Grytnes, Reidar Ellefsen - Able Seaman - Horten b 16-5-1915  
Gundersen, Gottfred – Captain - Tromøy, Arendal b 19-7-1895 [escaped from Rabaul]  
Gustavson, Gøte – Seaman – Sweden b 27-4-1922  
Hansen, Jack - Mess Boy – USA b 21-7-1922  
Hansen, Olaf – Electrician – Karmøy b 19-9-1911  
Jemtland, Alf – Third Engineer – Porsgrunn b 4-11-1907  
Knudsen, Gunnar Alexander - Able Seaman – Oslo b 12-6-1914  
Koinberg, Axel - Able Seaman – Estonia b 27-5-1913  
Køllersen, Kåre Johan - Engine Room Assistant - Nesna b 28-1-1910<sup>1</sup>  
Kristiansen, Kristian M – Motorman - Ø.Moland b 30-1-1916  
Landhaug, Arthur Marius – Cook – Åfjord b 9-2-1908  
Lie, Ivar Martin – Oiler – Larvik b 1-3-1921  
Møller, Bjarne – First Mate – Arendal b 13-2-1911  
Mostad, Knut – Third Mate – Nøtterøy - b 8-11-1908  
Myhre, Reidar Thorbjørn – Second Engineer - Oslo b 2-2-1904  
Nicolaisen, John Arthur - Radio Operator – Tønsberg b 22-5-1905  
Nilsson, Karl - Mess Boy – Sweden b 25-9-1921  
Olausen (Ringshaug), Arthur Olaf - Able Seaman - Sem b 12-5-1916  
Pettersen, Egil Kristian – Carpenter – Karmøy b 5-11-1899  
Skaug, Magnus – Mechanic –Gjøvik  
Storhaug, Gerhard Johan Olsen – Boatswain – Kinn b 9-9-1879  
Teien, Hans – Mechanic – Sandefjord b 3-11-1915  
Thoresen, Einar Finn – Seaman – Oslo b 19-6-1923  
Thorsell, Karl Magnus – Steward - Gøteborg b 8-12-1906 [died on *Herstein* 20 January 1942]  
Tynan, James - Saloon Boy - Auckland, New Zealand b 12-12-1925

### Nils Selvik writes:

Thorsell died on *Herstein*. The rest of the crew is registered as having gone down with the *Montevideo Maru*. The only survivor was Captain Gottfred Gundersen, who was determined to escape because he had information that might be useful to the Japanese, presumably concerning Australian and allied shipping.

Captain Gundersen left Rabaul on the evening before the invasion with a man from the agent's office and joined 120-160 Australians trying to escape. They walked more than 300 miles - some shot by the Japanese; many dying from sickness and hunger.

After 78 days, the survivors were saved by the *Laurabada*. These survivors were taken to Port Moresby and later Australia. Captain Gundersen returned to Norway in 1946.

Recently I stumbled upon a copy of *Readers Digest* from April 1987 with a story about an American B17-bomber shot down over Rabaul in 1943. There was only one survivor, Lt Joe Holguin, and these following words caught my eye: "Shortly thereafter Japanese soldiers captured Joe and took him to a POW compound in Rabaul. He remained there with other airmen until the war's end in August 1945." Has this any relevance to the camp in which the Australians were held?

I have begun translating the Norwegian notes I sent you. Sadly I have found that my English is very rusty - to put it mildly - and the translation will probably take some time.

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<sup>1</sup> A stone has been erected to the memory of Kåre J Køllersen in Fagervik

# The only Yank in the Battalion

BY LINDSAY COX

**US citizen James Riley Thurst fronted up to the recruiting officer at Caulfield on his 28<sup>th</sup> birthday on 19 July 1940.**

In 1914, young Jim Thurst with his mother and two sisters had arrived in Australia from the USA to join James senior, who had arrived a year or so earlier, and settled on a farm at Skenes Creek in south-east Victoria. In 1918 Jim's brother Bruce was born.

The family was devastated lost after James senior tragically died as the result of a kick from a horse. The family was forced to relocate to Colac, where Jim became number one cornet-player in the Colac Brass Band as well as an Elder in the Colac Methodist Church and the local Scoutmaster.

Leaving his employment as a gardener, Jim was inducted in the AIF at Colac and marched into the Trawool camps on 27 August 1940. He had never revoked his US citizenship and his attestation form listed his birthplace as Washington, USA.

Private James Thurst (VX47625) became a cornet-player in the 26-piece brass band of the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. He was one of only two non-Salvos in the band, formed under renowned Salvation Army Bandmaster Arthur Gullidge. The other non-Salvo was William Edwards (VX47625), a member of the Church-of-England and the side-drummer of the band.

Private Thurst completed his recruit training at Trawool and on 24 September 1940 marched with the band at the head of the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion as some 2,000 men of the 23rd Infantry Brigade completed a route march of 250 km from Seymour to the newly-built Bonegilla Training Camp near the NSW border.

Band practice and stretcher-bear training were the daily norm for Thurst until the time came when the Battalion was ordered to New Britain. He and other members of the band arrived in Sydney on 17 April 1941 to board SS *Zealandia* with the destination being Rabaul.

On 23 January 1942 Japanese forces overwhelmed the Rabaul garrison, and Jim Thurst became one of 19 Bandsmen made prisoner-of-war and interned at Malaguna. Tragically he was also one of the 18 bandsmen who perished on the *Montevideo Maru* (one had died of wounds in captivity). Jim's memorials are where his name is listed on the bronze panels at the Rabaul War Cemetery and at the Prisoner-of-War Memorial at Ballarat, along with the other men of Lark Force.

His comrades, the Salvation Army bandsmen of the Battalion Band, have been perhaps more acknowledged, being registered on Memorial Boards at their own Corps (Churches) and having been reported on in various Salvation Army publications over the years.

Jim Thurst and Bill Edwards belie the myth that the Band of the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was composed entirely of Salvation Army Bandsmen. This misconception no doubt comes unintentionally from Salvation Army publications and memorials that have recorded only the members of their own organisation without mention of the non-Salvos.

Jim's mother, Florence, deprived of her husband and eldest son, took some comfort in the safe return home of Jim's young brother in December 1945. Bruce Thurst had enlisted in the Australian Military Forces in the 4<sup>th</sup> Light Horse, with the number V22526, on 19 March 1941. On 5 September 1941, he volunteered for the AIF, receiving the number VX62900. He returned to Australia after fighting in the Markham Valley, New Guinea, with the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Australian Independent Company.

Mrs Thurst and Bruce returned to the United States after the war. Florence, according to author Bruce Gamble in *Darkest Hour*, never received so much as a penny of pension after Jim was declared dead. Jim had sent her a portion of his army pay every month, but never filled out the paperwork for an official allotment. Florence, who lived to be 90, loathed Australia for the rest of her years.

# FEEDBACK

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## Bruce M Petty

Harumi-san - My name is Bruce M Petty. I am an American writer/historian now living in New Zealand with my wife and three children. I lived on the island of Saipan for five years, where I researched and wrote my first book on the Pacific War, *Saipan: Oral Histories of the Pacific War*. I have written three others since then, including my latest, *New Zealand in the Pacific War: Personal Accounts of WWII*.

On of my works-in-progress is *The Missing in Action from WWII*. I network with a number of individuals and groups in the field and recently heard about your quest from Keith Jackson. Also, I have been selected by Princes Cruise Lines to be their Pacific War lecturer, and will do my first series on the *Dawn Princess* leaving Los Angeles on 11 August, arriving in Auckland on 31 August.

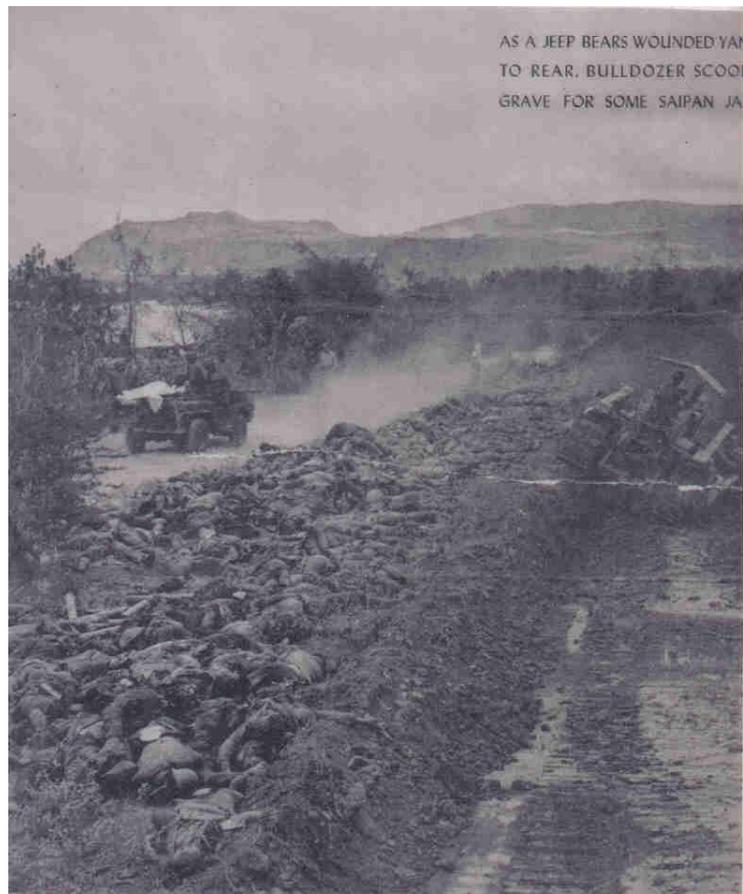
During the cruise, I will present eight lectures on Pacific War topics, including several related to PNG. If we can make contact, I would like to hear more about your efforts with the idea in mind of making mention of your work in one of my talks.

You might also be interested in knowing that while we lived on Saipan, I assisted the Japanese Ministry of health in recovering Japanese war dead from that island. After the Gyokusai that

took place in July 1944, the more than 4,000 Japanese dead were buried in a number of mass graves, not all of which have been found. However, in 1995 I was there to assist in the exhumation of one of these.

## Tony Smith

Please accept me as a Friend of *Montevideo Maru*. My grandfather, Eric George Macadam, is listed as lost on the *Montevideo Maru*. All Australians are entitled to know, and deserve to know, exactly what happened following the Fall of Rabaul. My Mum and Dad, Phyllis & Doug Smith, have been keeping me up to date with your progress. We appreciate the efforts of the committee.



Achugao, Saipan. After the Gyokusai, or banzai charge, as many Americans referred to it. The dead were buried in mass graves such as this. In 1995, this same site, pictured above, was rediscovered. The remains were exhumed, cremated, and the ashes returned to Japan.

## Ted Trigg

I would be very interested in receiving your newsletter regarding the *Montevideo Maru* and in becoming a Friend of Montevideo Maru. My brother, Keith Alwyn Trigg (NX53269), was a Gunner in the AIF 17 Anti-Tank Battery, Royal Australian Artillery.

Keith enlisted and used an assumed date of birth and also changed his name. He was only 17 when he enlisted in 1939. Mum received a letter when they were dropped over Singapore in 1942. I still have a copy.

Keith still has three sisters (aged 93, 80 and 77) and two brothers (aged 85, me, and 82). I am so grateful to see all the work you and your committee have done and are still doing. Keep up the good work.

## Judi Davis

I recently became a member of the Montevideo Maru Memorial Trust. Through the PNGAA website I came across a media release dated 5 May 2008 in which the PNGAA asked the Prime Minister to fund a search for the *Montevideo Maru*. Attached was a list of the civilians who died on the ship.

Herbert John Washington (my grandfather) was on this list but there was an error as to where he resided - it should read Kabaira Plantation not Kabana Plantation. Is it possible that this mistake can be amended in any further civilian lists?

*Herbert John Washington; Planter; Born Melbourne, Victoria; Resided Kabaira Plantation, New Britain; Lost Montevideo Maru; Aged 56. (Served World War I; Regt No: 1523; Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force, Medical Corps). Lest We Forget*

## Max Henderson

Many thanks for another informative and comprehensive newsletter.

I have found photos taken at Bitapaka at what I remember as the last major 2/22nd reunion in PNG, although I can't recall the date.

They were all taken at the service at Bitapaka. I think the plaque beside the Rabaul Harbour was dedicated on the same occasion.



## Robert (Bob) Williams

Thanks for Newsletter 11. It's staggering how the saga of the *Montevideo Maru* continues with such intrigue. I believe my uncle Francis Gordon Williams from Lenah Valley in Hobart was aboard, but who knows for sure? Whatever the truth, so many brave young Australians died an awful death and nothing will change that. We can only hope such a thing will never happen again. It's important that we never forget them and it's dedicated souls like you that work so hard to ensure this doesn't happen. Thank you.

*TX4411 (TP10774) Spr Francis Gordon Williams; Aged 22; Rabaul Fortress Engineers. Lest We Forget*

## **Maryann Collidge**

My uncle, Francis Gordon Williams of Hobart Tasmania, Royal Australian Engineers, is believed to be one of those on board the *Montevideo Maru* when it sunk.

My father who is in his late 70's is wanting to visit the Cemetery at Rabaul to view his brother's name, and was interested if there is going to be an Anzac Service or maybe a service there on the 1st of July.

How would I find out this information, and would you have any further information or links that would help him.

*We have put Maryann in touch with people in Rabaul. A memorial service is held at Bita Paka each Anzac Day - KJ*

## **Peter Jackson**

Thank you again for the *MVM Newsletter*. This is always an informative, interesting and poignant publication. What a great little story by Benn Selby!

It was good to see the reference to the National Archives display. Is it possible to throw any light on the connection between the display's extract from the nominal roll and the search for the roll? Where did the Archives obtain their copy of the extract?

## **Margaret and Scott Henderson.**

I need more time to calm down after the initial reading of the *Menzies government knocked back POW offer*. What a revelation! Please convey my very grateful thanks to Mr Harumi Sakaguchi for his research. And thank you to the members of the committee who went to Canberra at their own expense to meet with the office of Defence Personnel Minister, Greg Combet, to follow up the mystery of the missing name cards.

I was delighted to read that Kurt Diercke has become a member of the committee. I'm sure his contribution will be very gladly welcomed by the committee and all those involved with the MVM Memorial Trust. Thank you to Kurt.

## **David James**

I have a Jack Thurston connection. In late 1960, I was engaged by Jack as a young just-out-of-my-time fitter, to work on his two wooden ex Navy minesweepers the *Carla Manus* and I forget the other. He had an Italian guy named Victor as organiser and we worked on Rodd Island for several months, fitting out the empty hull for her transition to plantation workhorse.

I remember that Talasea was the name of one of Jack's plantations. I got the job via my uncle Phil James (an old New Guinea hand), who got his start *mumuting* Jap equipment out of the caves etc around Rabaul. Jack Thurston senior had a son, also Jack, and daughter Carla, after whom the boat was named.

I heard that, after *Carla Manus* finally got to New Britain, she got a rope around the prop and was wrecked somewhere up there. I think young Jack was master at the time.

The plan was for me to go up on her as engineer but fortunately her departure was delayed and instead I cracked a job with Port Line as an uncertificated engineer on the UK and Continent refrigerated cargo trade from Australia and NZ.

I sailed out of Sydney in January 1961 in what was the first instalment of a life at sea in all manner of ships and craft. The Thurstons lived at Rose Bay, very near the small lighthouse there. Memories!

## **Liz Thurston**

What a good memory David has, but I don't think the *Carla Manus* was wrecked. The name of the plantation was Volupai near the town of Talasea! And David's right - they did have a lighthouse in the garden of their home.

## **Noriko Miyake**

Thank you so much for putting my message in the newsletter. I heard from Des Martin, Donald Hook and Doug Stewart, which is a great progress for my initial objective in locating relevant people. I am also glad that my current research work has led me to learn about your work including the *Montevideo Maru* matter.

## **Lynette Rosina-Smith**

I'd really like to subscribe to the newsletter. I found your PNG Attitude website while googling my uncle who died on the *Montevideo Maru*. He was one of the few who were from NSW. He was from Guildford in Sydney. Incredibly sad.

I know this is an odd request but there was a comment from man whose uncle was Pte Alfred William Hawkings. There were only three members of the 19th Dental Unit on the *Montevideo Maru* but also in the whole of Lark Force. Hawkings, my Uncle Kenneth Mitchell, and one other. This is so rare, it's the first time in all my searching on *Montevideo Maru* (over five years) that I've ever come across a direct relative of a soldier from the 19th Dental Unit.

I'm just wondering if it is at all possible for you to pass on my email address to this person who responded, mentioning that my uncle was also in the 19th Dental. I'd like to keep in touch if possible. Maybe we can share what little bits we know and share what we've collected. I'd really appreciate it.

*The address has been passed on - KJ*

## **Bess Flores and Bruce Mills**

Last year I saw a TV program about the fall of Rabaul & the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*. This contained an interview with an elderly Salvation Army man who had been in Rabaul at the time. We don't have his name.

My brother Bruce Mills clearly remembers that in about 1944-1946 a Salvation Army pastor [?] visited my widowed mother, Barbara Mills, in the small upper Eyre Peninsula township of Iron Baron to tell her that he had been in Rabaul at the time and that he personally had seen our brother, Gunner Jack Mills, boarding the *Montevideo Maru*. Jack was the fifth in a family of eleven, in which Bruce and I are 11<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> respectively.

My brother and I would like your help in tracing this good man, who had taken the time and trouble to travel hot dusty roads to find our mother, so that we can thank him or his family for doing this for us so many years ago.

## **Albert Speer**

I have uncovered some notes I recorded at the Mitchell Library on 17/11/1998 when I was researching maps dealing with the Second World War and in particular the Mt Missim military map. It was there that I was given the phone number for the manager of the Military Mapping Museum, Warren Innes.

I subsequently spoke to Warren on 20/11/1998 and he agreed to search for the map and [said he] would advise me later. On the 11/12/1998 I phoned him again and he had not any luck in tracing the map and said that he would send me two maps but not of Mt Missim. Warren mentioned that they were in a great deal of upset and they had received from CARO [Central Army Records Office] locked metal mapping cases and, on opening one of them, had discovered no maps but there [were] Japanese documents and he did not know what was to become of them.

I suggested they should be translated and maybe connected with the *Montevideo Maru*. I did not at this stage connect with my earlier army service but I did understand the position that Warren was in. He did mention also that Chris Coultard Clarke was researching the *Montevideo Maru* story. I am still searching for some letters I did receive from the Central Mapping Authority. Now at least you have some dates and name that you can connect directly if you care to research further.

## Lt Col Bill Houston

### SO1 Historical Records, Australian Army History Unit

Thanks for that. I will chase it up, although I fear the Military Mapping Museum you refer to has been overtaken by at least two reorganisations. Still, it beats having nowhere to start.

## Lindsay Cox

A little further information for you. The Salvation Army commenced in Whyalla in February 1939, with Captain Heather Wishart appointed as the officer. The Hall was opened in December 1940.

By way of explanation, the Officers of The Salvation Army are the full-time 'clergy' and are appointed by Headquarters to the various Corps (Churches) as often as seen fit. From its earliest days The Salvation Army has not differentiated between men and women for its 'clergy'.

The Soldiers of The Salvation Army are the members of the congregation. They have usual jobs in the community etc. They can be also bandsmen, songsters, etc. They are not full-time employees of The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army is their religious denomination.

You mention the *Montevideo Maru* 'lists' not including any reference to Salvation Army Officers? The 24 Salvation Army members (Bandsmen) that enlisted into the 2/22nd Battalion to form the Battalion Band did so the same as all other volunteers for the AIF. The Salvation Army aspect had no bearing whatsoever.



The only indication that they were Salvationists was on the attestation forms where one's religion was recorded. The 2/22nd Band was unique, though, because all but two of its members were Salvation Army Bandsmen (including its Bandmaster) and this gave it a distinctive flavour. By the way, Bandsmen in time of war accompany the combat troops into battle serving as stretcher-bearers.

Incidentally, one of the 24 Salvation Army Bandsmen enlisted in the 2/22nd Battalion Band was in fact an Officer. However, he resigned his Salvation Army commission upon enlistment. The names of the Salvationist that perished during that tragic episode are listed on rolls and memorials; but not as a separate Salvation Army entity. Our museum has a small display relevant to the 2/22nd Bn in Rabaul.

*Photo: Lark Force display at the Melbourne Salvation Army Museum. Lindsay Cox is curator.*

## Dr Marian May

### Lecturer, Research Skills, School of Business, UNSW@ADFA, Canberra ACT

Thanks to you all for your donations and condolences on the occasion of my father's death. The fate of those on the *Montevideo Maru* and the lack of resolution for their families and friends was something that concerned him more rather than less as time went by. Much appreciated.

## Mary Symons

I am really enjoying the newsletter and I thank you for all the time and effort put into them.

# MARCH NOTES

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## FRIENDS

The number of Friends of Montevideo Maru increased from 200 in February and 240 in March to 260 this month. The Montevideo Maru Memorial Trust has many tasks to undertake, including fundraising for a memorial at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. You can encourage people to join as Friends and receive this monthly newsletter by emailing Keith Jackson at [kjackson@jacksonwells.com.au](mailto:kjackson@jacksonwells.com.au) or writing to him at PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089.

## MEMORIAL FUND

The Fund now stands at \$8,305.20. Donors during the month were Yvonne Cameron, School of Business UNSW@ADFA, Julia Ryan, Richard Hart, Jim Fenton, Chambers, Sayers, Tony Ganly, Barbara Knowles, Ted Trigg, Trigg Family, No 1 Independent Coy (S McNab), JC & B Abbott, John Ellis, Keith Jackson, Schindler Video Productions, Judi Davis, Vin Smith, Mary Symons, Rev Clive King AM, Lindsay Cox, and Ralph Doughty.

Our fund-raising for a memorial in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra is a continuing endeavour. Please give what you can afford and encourage friends, relatives and other people (especially companies that may see this as a good project) to do the same.

**PAYMENTS.** Cheques to 'Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee' at PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089. Or make a direct deposit to the Committee's bank account: BSB **082-401** A/c No **16-083-2367** and put your name in the description instead of just writing 'donation'.

## POSTAL ADDRESSES

When the Trust is incorporated, which we hope will happen in the near future, we will need to advise the authorities of the names and postal addresses of our members, or Friends. So, if you see your name on the following list, we need your postal address:

Adams, Lucy & Rob; Anderson, Nola; Ashley-Brown, Henry; Bagot, Stafford; Beadle, FR; Bell, John ([jbelle@y7mail.com](mailto:jbelle@y7mail.com)); Bond, Claudia; Brier-Mills, Chris; Brown, Kerrie; Campbell-Williams, David; Cook, Kathleen; Crawford, Bruce; Crawford, Jackie; Curtin, John; Dalziell, Trevor; Doughty, Ralph; Drane, Noel; Erler, Doreen; Ferguson, Jack; Franks, Eric.

Ganly, Tony; Gherke, Mark; Gibb, Malcolm; Gilfillan, Richard; Hanna, Robyn; Hardie, Robert; Harrison, Jeremy; Henning Stavenes, Age; Henning Stavenes, Nils; Horsey, Don; Ishizuka, Yohko; Ivey, Greg; Keenan, Bernie; Kollmorgen, Jim; Komiya, Ms Mayumi; Limbert, Joy; Long, Fay; Maclean, Rod; Maish, Jo; McEniery, Nicola; Miwa, Yuji.

Miyake, Noriko; Ottesen, Kirsten; Payne, Keith; Pearce, Tim; Peel, Julie; Pitman, Bernadette; Rajamae, Cheryl; Ridges, Jim; Rosina-Smith, Lynette; Sasamoto, Taeko; Saunders, Steve; Schmidt, Cynthia; Scott, Bob; Selvik, Nils; Street, Hooky; Sutherland, Colin; Tamura, Yoshiko; Tangye, Joanne; Taylan, Justin; Thurston, Liz; Walter, Knut; Williams, Frank

Please email your postal address to [kjackson@jacksonwells.com.au](mailto:kjackson@jacksonwells.com.au)

## THE MEMORIAL

For some weeks now, at no cost to the Trust, sculptor Hal Holman has been working on a concept design for the proposed Memorial. Hal, in his late eighties, is a prominent Australian sculptor and artist. He was a commando in New Guinea in World War II and later served in PNG as the official government artist. Among his credits at the time was the design of the national coat of arms. He is still a regular visitor to PNG.

Hal has sculpted the busts of all PNG prime ministers since Independence and has a great number of public sculptures in PNG and Australia. In the last 12 months, for example, he has sculpted a mermaid statue for the Mermaid Beach (Gold Coast) Council and a bust of Gen John Baker for the new ADF headquarters at Bungendore. He also has the unusual honour of being awarded both the Order of Logohu (PNG) and the Order of Australia for his creative work.

For a couple of months now, Hal has been engaged in developing ideas for a Montevideo Maru Memorial, seeking to reate a concept that meets the range of design, visual, historical and emotional goals the Trust is seeking.

That said, it is not up to the Trust alone to produce a final design. The AWM will appoint an advisory group charged with the task of making a recommendation to its Council – which will make the final decision.

The Trust will be represented on the advisory group through Andrea Williams, Phil Ainsworth, Don Hook and me. AWM Director, Steve Gower, has asked that the RSL be part of our team, and we have initiated steps to identify an appropriate person in that organisation. The other members of the advisory group will be nominated by AWM.

## **HAROLD STANNETT WILLIAMS OBE (1898-1987)**

Harold Williams was a remarkable Australian who spent most of his adult life in Japan. Born in Hawthorn Victoria, he studied medicine at the University of Melbourne. At his father's urging he also received Japanese language lessons from a Mr Inagaki who ran a local laundry business.

In 1919 Williams visited Japan on holiday to improve his Japanese, but deferred his return to Australia as he found an interesting position with a foreign business firm. From this beginning he went on to pursue a highly successful commercial career in Japan. While on leave in 1935 he visited New Zealand and met and married Gertrude Fortune MacDonald, better known as Jean. Together they returned to live in Japan.

He is best known to Friends of Montevideo Maru as the man dispatched to Japan by the Australian Government in the early post WW2 days to find, translate and return to Australia with the Japanese roll of prisoners on the *Montevideo Maru*. He successfully completed this mission and we can only imagine his disappointment and perplexity when the original roll mysteriously went missing.

*Source: National Library of Australia*

## **MONTEVIDEO MARU DVD**

The DVD of *The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru* is still available and, under an arrangement with the producers, \$18 from the sale of each two-hour production is donated to the Memorial Fund.

**ORDER YOUR COPY:** The extended DVD is on sale for \$40 including packaging and posting. Cheques for \$40 to 'Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee' at PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089. Or make a direct deposit to the Committee's bank account: BSB **082-401** Account No **16-083-2367**.

## **FUYUKO NISHISATO**

I am researching about Hainan Island and POW camps on the island. I understand *Montevideo Maru* was heading to Hainan Island. Do you know it was stopover or final destination for the POW and internees on board? Were they supposed to be slave labour like others in Japan and elsewhere?

*We have referred Fuyuko to Rod Miller, whose research paper, Sunk En Route to Freedom, looks at new evidence linking the Montevideo Maru with internee exchanges between Japan and Australia. The paper is at <http://www.montevideomaru.info/> in the section entitled 'What Really Happened' - KJ*