



M.S. "MONTEVIDEO MARU", 7,200 TONS GROSS 船名: 山手七重丸 船主: 山手七重丸

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society

Memorial News 20 November 2010

Warmed by the embrace of the dear lost of the Montevideo Maru - Kim Beazley

New Vets Minister promises he will pursue the names

The new Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, has expressed enthusiasm for pursuing the whereabouts of the nominal roll that may reveal the names of the men who were on the *Montevideo Maru*.

The precise identities of the prisoners, and the exact number on the ship, is one of the last great mysteries of World War II.

The location of the roll would be a significant Australian historical discovery as well as bringing certainty to the relatives of men who went missing nearly 70 years ago.

Society members Keith Jackson and Don Hook met Mr Snowdon in Canberra last week.

The original Japanese roll went missing after it was brought to Melbourne in late 1945 but a direct transcript is thought to have been found in Army Archives and is having its authenticity verified.

At the same time researchers in Japan and Australia have identified the whereabouts of nearly 22,000 cards (21,479 for prisoners of war and 441 for civilians) containing details of Australian POWs.

The cards were originally offered to the Australian Government in 1953 but rejected for reasons that remain unclear.

Mr Snowdon has been asked to use the offices of the Commonwealth Government to request Japanese authorities for copies of the cards, which seem likely to contain new information about people who were taken prisoner in the New Guinea Islands, including the men on the *Montevideo Maru*.

The estimated 1,053 lives lost in the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* accounted for one in eight of the 8,031 Australian prisoners who died in Japanese hands.

It was Australia's greatest loss of life at sea and in a single action.

Memorial on hold while AWM grounds are rethought

A review of the site development plan of the Australian War Memorial has caused further delays to preparations to establish a Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial in Canberra.

The south-west area of the Sculpture Garden has been flagged as a likely site for the memorial.

According to the AWM deputy director, Nola Anderson, it is expected that the review, to "ensure that the diminishing space available can be maximised", will take three months to complete.

The Society was hoping that a design for the memorial could have been agreed by the end of this year, but this will now not be possible.

Society Patron, Peter Garrett MP, and the Society itself are both committed to having a memorial opened in Canberra in 2012, the seventieth anniversary of the Fall of Rabaul and the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*.

"Without a site plan we cannot have a design, and without a design we will have difficulties in raising corporate funding for the project," said Society president Keith Jackson.

"It is nearly a year since we instigated this project with the AWM and very little progress has been made towards our goal."

The Society has a three-person group - Andrea Williams, Phil Ainsworth and Don Hook - who have been nominated to be part of an advisory committee that will guide the development of the memorial.

The advisory committee has not yet met.

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society was established to ensure national recognition and commemoration of the tragedies that ensued after the Japanese invasion of the New Guinea Islands in early 1942, including Australia's greatest maritime disaster, the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* with the loss of more than 1,000 lives. The Society is registered in the Australian Capital Territory (No A04977). ABN 960 583 442 11

Putting some things straight about the 1st Ind Coy

BY SANDY McNAB

Thank you for sending that package of materials relating to the Montevideo Maru, including the Life Membership certificate.

If I may, I would like to comment on Bob Katter's speech. In true politician's want, he exaggerates somewhat when talking of Lex Fraser.

Lex was our Second-in-Command, and a better officer I never met. But he did not lose his "entire command" on the *Montevideo Maru*.

Of the No 1 Independent Company, there were four of the nine Sections that survived.

No 4 Section was at Manus, the entire A Platoon (1, 2 and 3 Sections) were at Buka passage, Tulagi in the Solomons, and at Vila in the New Hebrides.

Nos 4 and 1 Sections stayed at their posts until chased out by the Japs, and platoon HQ and No 2 Section were at Vila and the Japs never got that far. They stayed there until the Americans landed on their way to Guadalcanal.

These Sections eventually made their way back to Australia and were distributed to other commando units. No 3 Section, of which I was a member, stayed operating on Bougainville until the end of April 1943.

On another subject, in one newsletter you mentioned a book on the coastwatchers by Patrick Lindsay. I bought it and on reading it I was disgusted: especially by the chapter on Mason and Read on Bougainville.

Patrick apparently solely based his story on Jack Read's and Paul Mason's reports instead of doing more research. They denigrate our Section and the Section that relieved us.

I wrote a long letter to Patrick care of the publishers. Of those two Sections, there are only two of us left alive and I feel, on behalf of those no longer able to defend themselves, I must protest.

In my letter to Patrick, I went to some detail to refute Read and Mason's reports. I had a fair bit to do with the coastwatchers, and I know there were a number who were great and heroic.

But not Read and Mason. They were mongrels. I wrote a book (Don Hook knows of it) in which I answer all the barbs aimed at us.

In my opinion, the weakness in that [coastwatchers] unit was that Eric Feldt just plucked these men off the plantations or out of government ranks and, with no training, they got

a commission. The only thing they had to be was islanders.

In 1946 Feldt wrote a book, *The Coastwatchers*, in which he attacked our officers in No 1 Independent Company.

When they got home from being POWs, Lex Fraser confronted Feldt, and the outcome was that Feldt had to put an apology in all the papers Australia-wide. I have a copy glued into my copy of Feldt's book.

That is a fair amount of grizzling from me. But I must beg your attention for just one more growl.

It is not much, but in the same newsletter you mentioned a mate of mine, Jack Ranken. Jack earned his MM on New Britain but he never had a platoon with him. They were only a small party or four or five.

Another mate of mine, Mick Collins, earned a DCM in the same action. That action never got a mention in Lindsay's book!

Another thing I have wondered about is that on the committee you have a Kerry Sibraa. At one stage we had a man called Lloyd Sibraa in our Section - are they related? Lloyd was unlucky, being transferred out of our Section before we went to Buka.

That's about it for now. I can assure you I'm not a bad bloke, but I had to get these growls off my chest. I think you and your committee are doing a wonderful job.

Vice-President Kerry Sibraa is a distant relative of Lloyd Sibraa, who died on the Montevideo Maru

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Ordinary membership - \$50
Gold membership - \$100
Life membership - \$500

Internet. Transfer the appropriate funds to the Society's bank account BSB 082-401 Account No 16-083-2367. Notify us of the deposit in an email to tharyjanto@jacksonwells.com.au

By mail. Cheques to Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society at PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089

All funds are devoted to constructing a memorial at the Australian War Memorial.

Military History Society of New South Wales, Inc.

Brigadier EJH (John) Howard CBE Commemorative Lecture presented by

Rod Miller

Historian and author of *Lost Women of Rabaul*

The Montevideo Maru: NEW FINDINGS ON AUSTRALIA'S WORST MARITIME DISASTER

Who was on board?

Why were they sailing to Hainan?

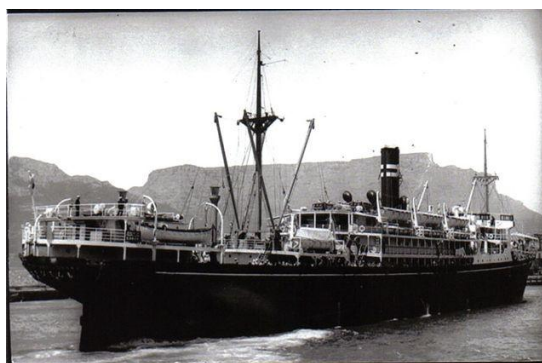
How much did the Australian Government
know before the war ended?

Saturday 20 November at 2 pm, Mitchell Theatre, Sydney
Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

Admission: \$10 at door

Bookings essential by Wednesday 17 November

(02) 9331-1202 vashtif@bigpond.net.au



Sisters of War based on Rod's book about the Rabaul nurses will be broadcast on
ABC Television before Christmas

MvM family member located at 2/22nd band exhibition

BY LINDSAY COX



A couple of months ago, I was delighted to be one of 40 stallholders at the Family & Regional History Expo at Beaconsfield Community Complex, hosted by the Narre Warren Family History Group.

I was there in my official capacity of Territorial Archivist for The Salvation Army to promote the services of our Heritage Centre (Archives & Museum) in the pursuance of genealogical and local history research.

In supporting my table of research material and handouts, I mounted a photo and ephemera exhibition relating the story of the Band of the 2/22nd Battalion and their tragic demise, along with most of Lark Force, after the Japanese invasion of Rabaul.

Several hundred people passed through the exhibition, demonstrating various degrees of interest.

Thirty Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial Society newsletters were taken plus many information sheets.

Several interesting conversations ensued.

Of particular significance was the chat I had with Loretta Edwards [above], whose grandfather, 'Don' Rodgers of the 2/22nd Battalion was lost on the *Montevideo Maru*.

Loretta's 80-year-old mother remembers very little of her father, and would dearly like to find any relatives and learn a little more about him.

From the World War II Nominal Roll:

VX23908, Lance-Corporal Robert George Rodgers. Born 25 December 1903 in Alberton, Victoria. At the time of his enlistment at Caulfield on 7 June 1940, Don resided in Pascoe Vale.

Rare picture of the Zentsuji prison camp

BY BRUCE M PETTY

I have been in contact with John M Jones, the last surviving member of the Tarawa Coastwatchers, who was kind enough to send me copies of some photos.

Jones and his group of seven in the northern Gilberts (Kiribati) were captured within 48 hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and among the first Allied POWs sent to Japan.

They were interned in the Zentsuji POW camp along with other early internees from Guam, Wake and New Guinea.

Jones said they were relatively well-treated, compared to POWs in other camps, but that - in the summer of 1945 - they were told that if the Allies invaded Japan they would all be executed.

In the photo you can make out, in the lower right-hand corner, one of the pits dug for their burial.

Keith Jackson writes: Most of the Australian officers captured by the Japanese in the New Guinea Islands ended up at Zentsuji, taken there on board the *Narita Maru*. They included AIF Chaplain John May and Lt Jack Lusby Burns of 1 Independent Company, both of who died earlier this year, and both members of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society. Society members Lt Stan Cooper of the Coastal Artillery and Capt Lex Fraser of 1 Independent Company were also interned in Zentsuji.



ASK YOUR RSL TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

If an RSL donates \$500 or more to the memorial fund, we can enroll it as a Life Member of the Society; which, in addition to making a fine contribution to our work, will entitle the RSL to receive DVDs, newsletters and other information, which their members may be interested in.

You can mention to your RSL President that our Society has received in-principle approval from the Australian War Memorial and is now raising funds for the construction of a memorial.

69th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

Two major events will be held in Canberra next July to mark the 69th anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*. On Saturday 2 July there will be a reunion lunch at the National Press Club and on Sunday 3 July an ecumenical memorial service is planned for the Royal Military College Chapel at Duntroon. People who may attend should register their preliminary interest with Andrea Williams at andrea.williams@bigpond.com or 0409 031 889 or 02 9449 4129.

REGISTER YOUR MEMORABILIA

Register your New Guinea Islands, Rabaul and *Montevideo Maru* memorabilia with Lindsay Cox at The Salvation Army Heritage Centre in Melbourne. Contact lindsay.cox@salvationarmy.org or write to PO Box 18137, Collins Street East, Melbourne VIC 8000.

The man who spotted the Rabaul invasion fleet

BY ROD MILLER

I first came across the name Paul Metzler when I was researching Australian nurses who were captured by the Japanese during the invasion of Rabaul New Britain in 1942.

Paul was the captain of Catalina flying boat A24-8 that radioed the position of the Japanese invasion fleet steaming towards Rabaul on 21 January 1942. With this warning, the small and ill-equipped military contingent on the Gazelle Peninsula, Lark Force, was alerted and, as best it could, made ready for the invasion.

Paul has died in Sydney at the age of 96.

Paul had flown off the small island of Gizo in the northern Solomons and managed to locate the invasion fleet. In 1963, he wrote of his mission:



Writing this now I shudder far more when I think of it than I did 21 years ago. Tropical skies often offer little or no cloud cover, a Catalina's top speed never was much over 150 knots, its defensive armament consisted of a few World War I Lewis guns and it carried no less than 1,460 Imperial gallons of fuel contained in non-self sealing and highly exposed wing tanks. All this amounts to a high degree of vulnerability.

Fortunately in 1942 my thoughts were directed almost completely towards such purely offensive aspects as accurate navigation, precise ship-recognition and precise sighting reports. There's no doubt about it, you can't beat being young.

After reporting the fleet's position, Paul was ordered to shadow it until he and his crew were finally shot down by Zero fighters launched from the carriers. Paul and the surviving members of his crew were picked up by a Japanese cruiser and taken to Rabaul.

From Rabaul, he was then transported to Zentsuji POW camp in Japan for the duration of the war. There he met the officers of the 2/22nd Battalion and 1st Independent Company who had been captured in the New Guinea Islands and shipped from Rabaul in the *Narita Maru*.

The servicemen, non officers, and the civilians were shipped on the *Montevideo Maru* - and all died when the ship was torpedoed in what is still Australia's greatest disaster at sea.

Paul Meltzer's survival was very much against the odds: he was shot down in flames without a parachute and rescued by the invasion fleet that went on to take Rabaul.

After the war, Paul stayed in the air force rising to the rank of Group Captain until his retirement in 1975. He is also an accomplished tennis player and author having written 7 books on tennis which he still plays today at the age of 92.

He was a true gentleman and a good bloke!

HISTORIC DVD AVAILABLE

Regret & Resolution - Phil Donnison's DVD of the historic parliamentary proceedings to mark the invasion of the New Guinea Islands and the loss of the *Montevideo Maru* is available from Society Treasurer, Teddy Haryjanto, for \$20 (\$40 for non-members) including post and packing.

The DVD is in two parts: a short version, *A Flame Never Extinguished*, providing highlights of the events in Parliament on 21 June; and *Regret & Resolution*, full coverage of all the events that memorable day.

Internet. Transfer funds to the Society's bank account BSB 082-401 A/c No 16-083-2367. Notify us by email to tharyjanto@jacksonwells.com.au

Post. Cheques to the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society at PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089

Barbara Selby: A life of laughter, learning & giving

BY JEN ROSENBERG



Once asked for a magazine survey for her opinion about *The Australian Women's Weekly*, Barbara Selby retorted: "I can't read that." The interviewer marked her down as "illiterate" but the summary could not be further from the truth. Literature was one of her lifelong passions.

Barbara Phillips was born on 7 May 1915, the youngest of three children, and spent her early years between her beautiful home, Tusculum, in Potts Point and a summer house her parents built in Moss Vale. She went to school at Ascham and majored in English and education in her arts degree at Sydney University.

Barbara took her mother's advice to "go and learn something useful" and in 1937 enrolled in a preschool teaching course at the training centre at Woolloomooloo. It gave her a first taste of teaching and she proved to be a natural.

She married barrister David Selby in Sydney in 1939. He later became Justice Selby, judge of the Supreme Court of NSW. The early years were not easy for a young mother, whose husband not only went off to war but was missing for three months after the Fall of Rabaul.

Barbara was not one for pomp or ceremony. As the wife of a judge and deputy chancellor of Sydney University, she attended many fancy functions and admitted to playing mental games to relieve the boredom. She was neither pretentious nor ostentatious and lived her life in a frugal manner, in contrast with her overwhelming generosity. She helped people through donation of time, money, support and, as a Red Cross donor, even blood.

The Selbys came from comfortable backgrounds and had a strong sense of civic duty. Barbara's mother was an early board member of the Sydney Day Nursery - established to provide a safe and stable place of daycare for children while their parents worked. Selby herself was involved with Sydney Day Nursery for many years, including 20 years on the executive and as vice-president from 1981 to 1988.

Barbara's many other community involvements included Meals on Wheels, acting as a volunteer guide at Taronga Zoo, reading to people with vision impairment and work for the University Settlement. In 1991, the University of Sydney gave her honorary membership on the university senate.

She developed a deep interest in, knowledge of and affinity with animals and all her acquaintances remember her particular love for tigers and otters. Even the fiercest neighbourhood dogs would put menacing growls on hold and bound up to her for attention.

Daughter Alison Rosenberg says: "If you think all this makes her sound like a pious or a goody-two-shoes, she was not. She was a lot of fun to be around. She had an acute intelligence, a marvellous sense of humour and a phenomenal memory."

Barbara was someone whose opinion or counsel people actively sought and was open-minded and thoroughly modern. She would be just as likely to be discussing the state of politics as passing a football to a sports-mad great-grandson, catching bugs with another nature-loving great-grandson or sharing thoughts on the ballet.

Making friends came easily, even when she moved to Bowral at almost 90 years of age. She was not one for great shows of emotion or sentimentality but it seems fitting that when hearing of her death, the response from a shop assistant was: "Oh, the gates of heaven have opened for her. She was a mighty woman."

Barbara Selby, who was a member of our Society, is survived by children Alison, Elizabeth and Bill, grandchildren Sally, James, Jen, Kirsty, David, Jane and David and 12 great-grandchildren. David died in 2002.

Sydney Morning Herald, 15 October 2010

Photo: Barbara & David Selby, Wedding Day 1939

FEEDBACK

LEAH HALL

Gladstone QLD

Thank you for your most informative newsletter. If possible can someone please answer my query? Henry Courtney Gerard (my first cousin) was on the *Montevideo Maru*. He enlisted in Townsville. All his immediate family have now passed on. I am curious how he found his way to the 2/22nd consisting of mostly Victorians. Can you give me any pointers to complete this puzzle? We will be visiting Melbourne in December and will take the time to visit places of interest pointed out in your previous newsletters. Thank you for the time and effort of your committee.

Rod Miller writes: Henry was originally part of the First District Depot Company, AAOC, a Militia unit, formed in 1939. The role of the unit was to supplement the permanent Ordnance Depot at nearby Gaythorne in Brisbane. At the start of WW2, new recruits would be based at Gaythorne for 12 weeks of initial training.

The Anti-Tank and Anti-Aircraft groups attached to Lark Force were both Militia units and had antiquated WWI vintage guns which would have required Henry's skills. My guess is he probably volunteered for one of these units.

WARWICK RISBY

Sandy Bay TAS

I have recently learned of the need to raise funds for the construction of a memorial at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. My uncle Keith Alwyn Trigg enlisted under the alias of Eric Kenneth Triggs Service Number NX53269 and was attached to Unit 17 Anti Tank Battery RAA in the World War II. He was the son of George Albert and Ellen Maude Trigg of Tuggerah NSW.

Keith had three older sisters, Dorothy, Joyce and my mother Aileen Trigg being third daughter and nearest in age to Keith. Four other siblings followed. I have visited Rabaul and found his name on the Memorial there and now wish to help in your important task of raising funds for the *Montevideo Maru* to be built at Australian War Memorial.

My aunt Dorothy Trigg (now Mrs DO Aiken) holds letters written to her by her brother Keith from Rabaul. In one of the letters Keith sends his love to Aileen (my mother) and my mother told me when I was a boy, in 1950's of his time in Rabaul and of the family concern when he was reported missing at end of WWII.

I shall be pleased to hear of progress in building the memorial and have pleasure in enclosing my cheque for the sum of \$100.

MARG CURTIS

Mt Martha VIC

I received my MVM package today and wanted to congratulate you on putting together a great acknowledgement of what happened in Canberra on 21 June. It was terrific to once again see and hear all that went on in Canberra and to once again appreciate all the hard work that went on to achieve such a great result for all the families involved. I am sure everyone who receives a copy of the DVD will watch it with great interest and relive the events of the day and be very grateful for the long overdue recognition of the tragedy of Rabaul and the *Montevideo Maru*. The booklet, DVD and Certificate were very much appreciated, thank you.

BRYAN MATTHEWS

Golden Beach QLD

I received the Regret & Resolution package yesterday and have just finished playing the DVD. Well done everyone for the assembly of the package. I shall have the certificate framed in due course.

HENRY ASHLEY-BROWN

Kensington Park SA

I enclose a cheque for \$500 to cover membership of the Society and in memory of my uncle, Walter Ray Brown of Homebush NSW.

COLONEL PETER WALKER

**Chief Secretary, The Salvation Army Southern Territory
Melbourne VIC**

I write to acknowledge, with appreciation, your letter of 1 October 2010 which was accompanied by the document *Regret and Resolution* and membership leaflets. I read, with interest, the story about Fred Kollmorgen, who is personally known to me. Thank you for including me in this circulation. God bless you.

LOIS & ERIC NEWMAN

Eaglehawk VIC

Wonderful news from Bendigo. We met with the local RSL Commemorative Committee a couple of weeks ago, we told them about 2/22 Lark Force history, I had ten minutes to do it in but I must have got the message over to them, as when I finished the President Cliff Richards asked me what the RSL could do to commemorate the Battalion. I then asked if it would be possible to have a plaque put somewhere in Bendigo to recognise them.

We were expecting to be able to put a small plaque at the RSL building where we have our family get-togethers, but the Secretary voted that we can put our plaque at the main Memorial Hall Museum in the main street of Bendigo, it was much more than we had hoped for. We have been given a quote from between \$700 and \$1,400, it will depend on what we have on it. The museum curator is waiting on the next quote as he feels the cost is too high so has asked for another quote.

I have spoken to quite a few of our families and they are more than willing to put money towards the plaque we have \$200 already. We aren't having our next get together till November so will run it by the others then, if we can raise the money our selves that would be great. I can see a lot of Tupperware parties coming up.

The RSL have also offered to do all our photo copying and pay our postage for us. They have also offered to hold a commemoration service for us on a date that is significant to Lark Force we were going to work towards July 1st next year but after getting your email we may try to make it in February. They have also offered us \$100 towards other costs, we never expected any of this to happen so are rapt.

The only thing they ask is for as many of our families to join as associate members of the RSL. We can now officially take part in all commemorative occasions and we will actually get a mention so we are on cloud nine.

We had a great day in Benalla last weekend and gathered 4 more new families plus another member of one of the men we already had. Our little family is now 68 families not many to go now. Eric had the honour of carrying the original 2/22 banner in the march and our grandson and the nephew of another soldier carried our banner, there was about 25 from Bendigo in Benalla, so that was great.

There were quite a lot of Gull Force families there as well. They had a really nice badge with their names on it so we were thinking we may do a bit of poaching and get one for us, it is nice if we can identify each other when we go to another place and we can see people's names.

Thank you for our newsletter, we will enclose a membership form for you in our next newsletter to our group. I am still working on my album with all our men and their stories to send to you, but just when it's almost done we gather some more. It is a great feeling when we find some one new; can't imagine how it is for you.

It's just a shame that all of this has come to late for some families. Take care keep up the great work and if there is anything we can do to help just let us know.

SUE PASCOE

Blackburn VIC

I was delighted to receive the DVD *Regret & Resolution* and accompanying book. As I was unable to attend the function in Canberra, it meant a great deal to be able to see Phil Donnison's comprehensive visual record. I think he captured the events and atmosphere very sensitively, thus enabling someone like myself to almost feel as though I had been present after all! Thanks again to the wonderful ongoing hard work of the committee.

JEANNE BANBURY

Sippy Downs QLD

Quite by accident, I recently came across your article in the Queensland RSL News. Had it not been lying open at that page I would not have seen it. My cousins and I are the only surviving relations of our cousin, Stewart Graham 'Slog' Raff, who was one of those lost on the *Montevideo Maru*. We had not known of your Society nor had we been informed of any later developments in the fight to get some recognition of those men.

His story is worth telling. He was working in the Commonwealth Bank in Brisbane and was living with us in 1940 when my brother and all his mates were joining up. [He was my favourite cousin. I was about ten years old.] Slog, [I never knew him by any other name.] wanted to join the Navy. He had something wrong with his heart and they wouldn't have him. So then he tried the RAAF followed by the AIF, but they were equally reluctant. Undeterred he gave the RAN another go but they rejected him a second time. He then joined the Militia.

In January 1942, when the Japs were closing in on Rabaul, the Bank asked for volunteers to go up there to remove all of their stuff to Lae. Of course Slog volunteered. With four or five others, he took off from Brisbane and planned to put down in Cairns to refuel. No sooner than they had taken off than the bank received word to cancel the trip because the Japs were just about to land in Rabaul, so the bank sent a telegram to that effect to Cairns.

For reasons we shall never know, maybe a good tail wind, they bypassed Cairns and so landed in the teeth of the Jap army, so to speak. From what my mother told me years later, it was many months or years later that the bank was able to confirm a few details of what happened to Slog. Apparently it was every man for himself at the time. It seems some men went north and these were the ones who got home. Slog was among those who decided to go south.

In September that same year, my brother was reported missing, his plane having been shot down over Tobruk Harbour so you can imagine the grief in our house at that time. It was another three years before my brother was declared killed in action.

DAVE SHEARER

Graceville QLD

I was unaware of the Society's existence until reading the article in the Queensland *RSL News* Winter edition referencing the sinking of the prisoner of war ship *Montevideo Maru*. I would like to show my interest in becoming a member and offering a donation for the memorial on behalf of my family.

My uncle (my mother's brother) was a POW aboard when the sinking took place. My mother and grandparents were always saddened that it took so long to get information of what finally happened to them all and as we know, it still remains Australia's worst maritime disaster.

My uncle's details are SX10876 Private Robert Langsford Paine (aka Paine, Arthur). Date of birth: 3 March 1913. 1 Independent Company. Date of enlistment 9 January 1941.

Coming events of interest to the Society

REMEMBRANCE DAY BREAKFAST, BRISBANE - THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Tattersalls Club, Brisbane, 7 am - 8.30 am \$40 per person. Tables of 8 also available

RSVP: 27 October. E: editor@pngaa.net T: 0409 031 889

REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCH, BRISBANE - THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER

The Ship Inn, Brisbane, 12 noon [Corner Stanley & Sidon Streets, Southbank Parklands, Brisbane]. \$45 per person. Group tables available. Drinks from a cash bar

RSVP: 27 October. E: editor@pngaa.net T: 0409 031 889