



Rabaul & Montevideo Maru

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society

Memorial News 28

July 2011

CANBERRA - 69th MEMORIAL EVENTS - JULY 2011

'We owe those who lost their lives and their families the dignity of the more formal and public recognition the Society has championed.' - Hon Peter Garrett

150 members and friends gathered together on 2 and 3 July to remember and honour those who fought, died and risked their lives with the invasion of the New Guinea islands and the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*.

We were delighted that Major General John Pearn was able to be with us. His informative words reflecting on and providing a wider understanding of time and place were enormously appreciated.

Patron of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, The Hon Peter Garrett, enthused everyone present with the energy and commitment he gave with his heartfelt words. See page 2.

With his close personal connection to the events Paul Lockyer was a wonderful MC, his anecdotes resonating to the core of all those who know and understand this incredible story.

The wearing of Rev John May's scarf by Chaplain Catie Inches Odgers combined with Arthur Gullidge's beautiful music at the moving ceremony at Duntroon provided a real connection with the men, transcending the generations and lifting everyone's spirits. We thank Canberra Legacy's Southside Laurel Club for the delicious refreshments - and all those who contributed to this memorable day.

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

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME at the 69th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE LUNCHEON, National Press Club, Canberra, 2 July 2011.

It is marvelous to see so many people here to commemorate, through this luncheon and the service tomorrow, the 69th Anniversary of those lost in the New Guinea islands and the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*.

On behalf of the Society, I welcome you.

I offer special welcomes to our guests; guest speaker, Major General John Pearn, the Society's Patron Peter Garrett, the Papua and New Guinea High Commissioner to Australia Charles Lepani, General Peter Cosgrove, the Director of Australian War Graves, Brigadier Chris Appleton and Mrs Appleton, representatives and their wives of the Federal and Territory governments, the RSL and the Salvation Army.

Thank you for attending.

There are many people present who will be mentioned throughout the proceedings by our Master of Ceremonies, Paul Lockyer.

We are fortunate to have two originals with us today, and whom I most warmly welcome. Mr Norm Furness, the President of the Lark Force and 2/22 Battalion Association who, as a soldier in the 2/22 Battalion, escaped from Rabaul along the north coast of New Britain and then on the *Lakatoi* from the Witu Islands to Cairns. Norm joined the Militia at 16 years in 1938 and was 18 when he enlisted in the AIF. Norm presently lives in Melbourne.

Cont over...

www.memorial.org.au

The second original here is Australian Army Nursing Sister Lorna Johnston, nee White, who was captured in Rabaul and spent the remainder of the war in Japan. The recent “*Sisters of War*” telemovie was inspired by Lorna’s story and based on the manuscript of Rod Miller, also here today. Lorna lives in New Zealand. It is indeed wonderful to see you here, particularly as you have travelled so far.

On a momentous day in June last year, many of those attending today were present in the Parliamentary Chambers to hear both houses of the Parliament pass resolutions in recognition of the sacrifice made by the soldiers and civilians involved at the time of the Japanese invasion of the New Guinea Islands in 1942. This luncheon and tomorrow’s service provide a further opportunity to gather together, and share special memories of family and friends. The significance of it is emphasized when we know that so many have travelled so far.

The Society’s main focus in 2012 will be the finalizing of funding for construction and dedication of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru National Memorial on 1st July 2012, the 70th Anniversary of the sinking. You will see the revised logo on the rear of the menu/programme which reflects this.

As President of the Society and on behalf of the founding President, Keith Jackson, who was forced by health issues to stand down earlier this year, I thank the committee members who have dedicated themselves, and generously given their time and resources, to achieve the objectives of the Society. It has been a remarkable journey in such a short time - thank you.

I particularly thank committee members, Andrea Williams and Don Hook for organising this weekend’s events, without whose work we would not be here today - thank you Andrea and Don.

Finally, I thank our MC, Paul Lockyer, for undertaking these duties today.

Ladies and gentlemen, please enjoy the luncheon and the moment.

SPEECH TO RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO MARU SOCIETY NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

2 JULY 2011

THE HON PETER GARRETT ‘Dove At Dawn...No Further Contacts’

I want to begin by acknowledging the Aboriginal people of this land, the Ngunnawal people.

I also want to acknowledge Phil Ainsworth President of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, Andrea Williams, office bearers, committee members and friends of the Society gathered here.

And also distinguished guests including General Peter Cosgrove and special speaker Major General (Professor) John Pearn.

As we gather to mark the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*, as patron of the Society, I want to offer my continuing support for your endeavours, especially your efforts in this crucial year of fund raising activities.

The sinking of the Japanese merchant vessel *Montevideo Maru* by the submarine *USS Sturgeon* on July 1 1942, saw the greatest single loss of life - over 1,000 people - in our nation’s wartime history.

The fact is that this was Australia’s greatest maritime tragedy, yet still remains one of Australia’s least well-known events.

The sinking of this vessel crammed with prisoners of war - soldiers and civilians - following the fall of Rabaul, is still for the most part, off the radar when we think of the history of World War Two.

But I’m pleased to say that is changing.

This is due in no small part, to the tireless efforts of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society and other organizations dedicated to increasing awareness of this momentous event.

As well family members of those who lost their lives, along with a number of military historians are drawing our

collective attention to the terrible night of July 1 1942 when, after being pursued for days, the *Montevideo Maru* was sunk by torpedoes launched from the US submarine *SS Sturgeon* whilst en route to Hainan.

There were few survivors amongst the crew and guards, but all prisoners of war and civilians on board were lost at sea.

It is long overdue that this event is appropriately recognised and commemorated, including by the placement of a memorial at the Australian War Memorial here in Canberra.

It is encouraging the arrangements are now underway for that to happen with a site at the East Precinct now identified and agreed.

My Grandfather TW (Tom) Garrett, who had settled in New Britain following the Great war and owned and managed the copra and cocoa plantation 'Varzin' at Kokopo south west of Rabaul, was one of those civilians who lost their lives.

I note that Max Henderson writing in the Rabaul and Montevideo Society Memorial News 26 describes him as a "...hail-fellow-well-met who didn't mind a drink from time to time." Thank you Max for filling in some gaps in my knowledge about my grandfather!

I wrote about this in the Midnight Oil song 'In The Valley' released on the Earth & Sun & Moon album.

My reflections are similar to some others I've since read, in as much as the family knew relatively little about the history of the MVM, had few mementoes or means of honouring his death and never saw the event prominently commemorated.

As we know, official notification of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* was not provided until October 1945.

The conflict in the Pacific was yet to reach its zenith with the Battle of the Coral Sea just ended and the contest at Guadalcanal still ahead.

But I think we can say from the vantage point of the present day that the constant demands of wartime meant

attention was easily diverted, lines of communication were fractured and little information was offered by the Japanese authorities.

In the ensuing seven decades individual families would have remembered and mourned their loss, even if the nation then did not, and the lack of public profile in no way lessened the intensity those with connections to the many who perished would have felt.

But now the passage of time and the enormity of the *Montevideo Maru's* sinking combined with the absence of pronounced, formal recognition brings us here today.

I am pleased that it was under a Labor government that important acts of recognition, long overdue are now in train.

Here the work of the society, still in relative infancy, has been crucial. It was a welcome step when the Parliament only last year on June 21, resolved amongst other things to:

'Express its gratitude to the service personnel and civilians in Rabaul and PNG, ...as well as ... its sorrow and regret for the sacrifices made in the defence of Rabaul and in the subsequent sinking of the Montevideo Maru and ...conveyed its condolences and thanks to relatives and loved ones for their forbearance over time.'

I want to acknowledge the role played by my colleague, the former Minister for Veteran's Affairs the Hon Alan Griffin for his help at that time.

We owe those who lost their lives and their families the dignity of the more formal and public recognition the Society has championed.

This is something I know the Australian public if they were aware of what happened then would very much support.

After all we remember the gallantry of Gallipoli and the sacrifice of the Somme - indeed the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* are shared.

We remember the suffering of the Burma Railway, the stoic heroics of the Kokoda track.

The legacy of the controversial Vietnam conflict is ever present.

The fact is that the tragedy of young men sent early to their grave is one that resonates across our national psyche.

War in all its terrible ugliness also sweeps up in its path the non-combatant, the civilian, the innocent bystander as well.

And on this fateful day in July 1942, some 1053 lost their lives, not as a consequence of any decision they had made, nor as an act of aggression by those who were then our enemy.

But instead, as collateral damage, an unintended consequence of the confusing tempest that is war.

May they rest in peace and may our efforts intensify over the next year to raise the profile of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* and crucially raise the funds to have in place a memorial for those who passed on and whose memory families and the nation all cherish.

<http://petergarrett.com.au/937.aspx?print=Y>

RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT DUNTROON, 3 JULY 2011

PHIL AINSWORTH

Good morning,

I welcome you to this morning's memorial and thanksgiving service here at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

The significance of an event 69 years ago has brought us to this place to commemorate and honour the people who perished. Many of you are related to the victims of the events of 1942 surrounding the time of the Japanese occupation of the then Australian administered New Guinea Islands.

I am frequently asked why I am involved in the Society. I am not directly related with anyone connected with this event or the Islands. My initial connection with

these events, for it was more than one, occurred when I was a member of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and I heard of the work of its predecessor war time unit, the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles in the Islands and Mainland.

It was not until I became a member of the NGVR & PNGVR Association that my interest grew. When assisting my wife to compile her family history I came across the story of Harry Schiffmann, a distant relative of my wife. The story briefly explained how this 38 year old bachelor, who worked on the family farm near Tenterfield and was a well-known local horseman, joined the AIF, was posted to I Independent Company and went to Kavieng. After the Japanese invasion, early 1942, no one in the family knew what happened to him until a telegram was received late 1945. His father died soon afterwards.

My interest grew and I read widely. The circumstances of the tragedy and the repercussions to the families struck a vibe within me. When I was invited onto the Montevideo Maru Committee, as it was known then, I accepted without knowing where it would lead. It has been a great journey - the Society, with unstinting support from its members, has achieved much in just 2½ years.

I will highlight the Society's achievements made so far, in terms of its objectives.

An early test of the new committee's mettle was arranging the funding, construction and the 1st July 2009 dedication service of a Montevideo Maru Memorial on the Hell Ships Memorial at Subic Bay, Philippines. A group of about a dozen members were present for the ceremony attended by the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines.

The initial submission to the Government late 2009 brought public recognition when both Houses of Parliament resolved to honour the sacrifices of these men, military and civilian. The Government also made a grant to kick start the funding for the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru National Memorial which is to be dedicated in one year's time, the 70th Anniversary of the sinking of the

ship. The decision will soon be reached when the selected sculptor and the design is announced. This is scheduled late August.

Much work has been done in finding and authenticating the *Montevideo Maru's* nominal roll. Perhaps the recently discovered POW cards may help resolve this issue.

There can be no further progress on having the site of the wreck of the *Montevideo Maru* declared a war grave until Australia and the Philippines ratify the 2001 UNESCO Convention, which affords protection of vessels in international waters. No one has any idea when this is likely to occur.

A permanent, albeit small, exhibition explaining the Japanese Invasion in the New Guinea Islands, Tol Massacre and the *Montevideo Maru* is now featured in the Australian War Memorial.

Additionally, a submission to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority was made to have historical information with resource references about these matters included in the national school curriculum to ensure future generations of Australians will be aware of these dark events in 1942.

I have found the most worthwhile and heart-warming activities of the Society are the functions when the widely spread members of the Society assemble, such as yesterday's luncheon and today's service and morning tea. These events have the hall marks of family reunions, no doubt due to the commonality of interest in Papua New Guinea and the past.

I take this opportunity of thanking those who have contributed so much to this service, the Commandant of Royal Military College, Principal Chaplain Geoff Weble, Salvation Army Major Kelvin Alley, Senior Chaplain Catie Inches-Ogden and other members of the Defence Force clergy. We are grateful for your help and support.

Thank you for coming this weekend to these important occasions.

➡ **FUNDRAISING** - is now a priority activity for the Society to ensure that the memorial can be completed by July 2012, the 70th anniversary. Please remember that donations are eligible for tax deductibility!

The Society is required to encourage corporate Australia - private-sector companies, organisations, community groups and individuals - to contribute to this memorial. Your committee would appreciate as much assistance as possible.

Donations for the memorial may be made in any of the following ways:

1. to the Society - see back page of *Memorial News* for details
2. To the Australian War Memorial Fund Account - please identify these with: Cc11120/Montevideo Maru Memorial.

BSB: 082-902 Account No: 3501 8614
Please also notify deposit to email: tharyjanto@jacksonwells.com.au

3. Give Now Ref: 2437 - See: www.memorial.org.au or <http://www.givenow.com.au/rabaulandmontevideomarusociety>

GiveNow.com.au is an initiative of the Our Community Foundation, a not-for-profit program supporting community groups. It provides linkages between the community sector and the general public, business and government.



1 July 2011 - Bellingen War Memorial - Phyllis McAdam Smith laying her camellias in memory of those from Rabaul and the *Montevideo Maru* - including her father.

**LARK FORCE/2/22nd Btn
Trawool -**

The get-together this year will be held on Sunday July 31 at the old camp site of the 2/22nd Battalion which is located at the Trawool Valley Vineyard, 380 Goulburn Valley Road Trawool.

Family members start gathering from 11.00 a.m. BYO food, drinks and seats.

Further enquiries to Norm Furness (03) 9808 2127 or Marg Curtis mobile 0418 323555

**AURORA EXPEDITIONS PNG -
70th commemoration voyage**

RABAUL ANZAC Day 2012 -

To acknowledge the 70th anniversary of Australia's entry into the Pacific War and Papua New Guinea's entry into World War II, *Aurora Expeditions* offers a special commemorative voyage:

Lost in Paradise - Our Fallen Heroes.

Aurora's historian shines a light on the courage and tragedy of Australia's unsung heroes - Lark Force - in the Battle of Rabaul, and the ensuing loss of lives, both troops and civilians, on the *Montevideo Maru*.

With moving dawn ceremonies at Tol and Rabaul, this cruise will reawaken the true courage and sacrifice of WWII.

Aurora Cruises offer two historic voyages to the New Guinea Islands in April 2012 - see box for details.

The PNG brochure is currently online at: <http://www.auroraexpeditions.com.au/papuanewguinea2012>

Further information and brochures are also available from: *Aurora Expeditions* +61 2 9252 1033 or 1800 637 688 (*free call within Australia*)

Note: Aurora Expeditions support the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial.

There is already considerable interest and it is suggested that you consider options as soon as convenient.

APOLOGY

With various activities and travel occurring there was an oversight in the transfer of monies to the AWM prior to the end of the 2011 financial year. This process is now being actioned and you will receive your receipts shortly. We do apologise and hope this does not inconvenience anyone.

VOYAGE 1:

2-14 April 2012

Island of Smiles

Alotau, Dobu/Ferguson Is, Trobriands/Kitava, Lababia, Wannam/Tami group, Madang, Murik Lakes, Mandam, Karkar, Siassi Island (Tuam), Tufi, Weddau/Dogura, Alotau For those wishing to explore the islands and coastline of New Guinea, and to experience the diverse array of customs, snorkel, swim, bird watch, or perhaps go on village walks or join in a football match.

VOYAGE 2:

70th Commemoration Voyage:

14-26 April 2012

Lost in Paradise - Our Fallen Heroes

Alotau, Milne Bay/Samarai, D'Entrecasteaux islands - Dobu & Fergusson Is, Egum Atoll and Gawa Is, Trobriands, Lindenhafen near Gasmata, Palmalmal/Jacquinot Bay, Karlai/Wide Bay, Tol (pre-dawn landing and ceremony), Lambon & Lamassa - New Ireland, Duke of York Is, Rabaul.

This voyage, visiting key historical sites and beautiful beaches and coral atolls, will arrive in Rabaul in time for a special 70th ANZAC Day service on 25 April 2012 before disembarking 26 April.

There is also an option to experience the 65km **Lark Force Wilderness Trek from Vunga, near Rabaul, to Tol** - admire the courage of Australian soldiers as you follow their footsteps on the jungle route to escape overwhelming numbers of Japanese in early 1942.

Options for the voyages also include kayaking and scuba diving.

TWISTS OF FATE PAUL LOCKYER

After more than 69 years, the families of those lost on the *Montevideo Maru* are left to ponder the cruel twist of fate that led the POWs to such a tragic end. It is dramatically highlighted in the contrasting stories of two young men who enlisted in Victoria in 1939.

One was Bill Roycroft, a stockman, horse breaker and farm worker who answered the patriotic call and joined the ranks of the 2 /22nd. The other was Tom Cogan, a 20 year who became a gunner in the 17th Anti Tank Battery. Fate had already intervened.

Tom Cogan was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He was visiting Melbourne from his hometown of Perth when he was swept up in the nationalistic fervour and joined up. He had been gaining experience in the department stores of Melbourne to take home to a family men's wear business. Now, he was destined for Rabaul.

Bill Roycroft should have been there with him but shortly before the 2/22nd was deployed he and a few of his mates from the bush decided they were owed a farewell drink and repaired to a pub in a nearby town. They were declared AWOL, (absent without leave), disciplined and stood down. The 2/22nd left without them. He and his mates were drafted into another unit.

Years later, on his dairy farm near Camperdown in western Victoria, Bill Roycroft ruefully recalled how chance had played its part. "I often think of those poor blokes," he said, "and to think that we could've been with them."

It was 1998, and Bill Roycroft was looking back on a full life. After the Second World War he took up a soldier settlement block and became a dairy farmer.

But he's best remembered as one of Australia's greatest Olympians. He famously helped the Australian equestrian team win gold at the Rome Olympics in 1960 after leaving a hospital

bed to complete the show jumping round with a broken shoulder. He rode for Australia in five Olympics in a row and his three sons competed alongside him at various Games.

Bill Roycroft died earlier this year at the age of 96. Tom Cogan didn't make it to his 24th birthday. He last wrote home from Rabaul in January 1942, just 10 days before the Japanese invasion. He described a Christmas feast, washed down with a bottle of Fosters, and offered advice to his sister Flora about where to build an air raid shelter at their home in suburban Perth, "put it near the Jack, (Jacaranda), tree and you'll be safe sis," he advised.

The family clung to his last letters home as the months and years passed in agonising uncertainty - the same uncertainty and devastation shared by all those connected with the 1,053 aboard the ill fated *Montevideo Maru*.

The *Montevideo Maru* Memorial Service in Brisbane on 1 July hosted by the PNGVR Ex Members Association and the commemorative events in Canberra of 2 and 3 July were featured in several recent media articles:

-The Courier Mail by Ian McPhedran
<http://www.couriermail.com.au/ipad/nations-worst-sea-disaster-least-known/story-fn6ck51p-1226085142975>

Brisbane Times by Max Blenkin
<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/garrett-leads-tribute-to-war-horror-victims-20110702-1gwp2.html>

Sydney Morning Herald
<http://www.smh.com.au/national/garrett-leads-tribute-to-war-horror-victims-20110702-1gwp2.html?skin=text-only>

Adelaide Now
<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/nations-worst-sea-disaster-least-known/story-e6frea6u-1226085235620>

NINEMSN:
<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/national/8268283/garrett-honours-grandfather-he-never-knew>

The Sunday Examiner, Tasmania - 3 July 2011 page 10

REMEMBERING THE MONTEVIDEO MARU

SEN THE HON MICHAEL RONALDSON

Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson marked the anniversary of 69 years since the sinking of the Montevideo Maru, and the loss of 1,053 Australian Prisoners of War with a statement acknowledging the tragedy.

"Japan invaded the islands of New Britain and New Ireland in early 1942. A small, yet dedicated, force of Australian troops, known as Lark Force, was all that stood between the Japanese and victory" he said.

"I have also written to Minister Snowdon asking him to look favourably upon a request for additional funds if they are required to expedite construction ahead of the 70th anniversary."

Senator Ronaldson also encouraged donations to be made to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society.

Further info at:

http://www.michaelronaldson.com.au/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=201&cntnt01origid=78&cntnt01category_id=3&cntnt01returnid=78

DEFENCE FORCE SCHOOL OF MUSIC - AWARD IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR GULLIDGE MARG CURTIS

On 15 June 2011 I attended the Defence Force School of Music Graduation Concert for 2011 with Norm Furness as his guest.

The award is in memory of Sergeant Arthur Gullidge, Bandmaster of the 2/22nd Battalion AIF, who lost his life after capture by the Japanese in 1942.

The 2/22nd Battalion Lark Force Association generously provide this award which is presented to the outstanding student from the Assistant Band Leader Course.

This years winner was Warrant Officer Class Two Peter Mathison - Australian Army Band Darwin.

PNG-US SIGN MEMORANDUM OF RECORD

Port Moresby: The Papua New Guinea (PNG) National Museum and Art Gallery and the Joint (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) signed a Memorandum of Record (MoR) on June 21 to reaffirm support for US investigative and recovery efforts in PNG and surrounding waters.

Signed in Port Moresby by Mr Mek Kuk, Director for the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery, and JPAC leader US Army Major General Stephen Tom, the MoR is an arrangement of good faith by both countries and covers details such as site preservation, customs and courtesies, and safety. Also present to witness the signing were US Ambassador to PNG Teddy Taylor and Brigadier General Agwi, Commander to the PNG Defence Force.

The organizations will use their resources and experience to conduct investigation and recovery operations with the hopes of ultimately identifying the more than 2,000 Americans who were lost during World War II in and around modern-day Papua New Guinea.

The signing would help the museum achieve its work objectives to recover the remains of US servicemen and ensure their proper burial.

US Ambassador Teddy Taylor said the effort was indispensable in recovering the remains of those who had "paid the ultimate price for their country." Recovery teams, he said, develop close partnerships with the people in the communities where they work. Those friendships often last a lifetime. *Information from the United States Embassy in Port Moresby, PNG.*

President of Lark Force/2/22nd Battalion, Norm Furness, congratulates Warrant Officer Class Two Peter Mathison



DUNTROON and the CHAPLAIN'S SCARF

The beautiful notes of Arthur Gullidge's musical compositions played by the Tuggeranong Salvation Army Band filled the chapel. Everyone listening. Everyone quietly admiring the extraordinary gift so short-lived, tragically taken.

Chaplain Catie Inches-Odgers began the poignant Memorial Service on Sunday 3 July 2011 by announcing she was removing her own scarf and replacing it with that of Rev John May. Those present were deeply touched. There was an immediate connection with the men. She continued with the following words:

John May was Anglican Chaplain to the 2/22nd battalion in Rabaul and then after the war at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, from 1952-55. As a chaplain, his role brought him in contact with all ranks.

When the main body of men left Malaguna camp to board the *Montevideo Maru* on 22 June 1942, the officers were prevented from making contact or joining them. They, the nurses and some civilians were shipped to Japan a few weeks later on board the *Naruto Maru*.

In his memoir from the time, Captain David Hutchinson-Smith wrote:

“At about 4 30am we were awakened by unusual activity on the part of the guards. There was shouting and stamping and we could hear the men and civilians moving about and talking. Many of us rose, but when we went to leave the hut, we found light machine guns laid on the doorway at each end and the Japanese made it unmistakably clear that we were to remain inside. We could see the men and civilians collecting their miserable possessions and discussing the movement. Then they were formed into parties of about 50 men, the sick having to be supported or half carried, and several transported on improvised stretchers or old doors.

The actual movement out of the compound did not commence until about 9 am and it was in the interim that Stewart Nottage asked that we be permitted to go with the men, or that, if we had to stay, the men be allowed to remain with us. This request the authorities refused.

John May led prayers through the open side of our hut and read the Psalm for the day, which was singularly appropriate*, and Vic. Turner spoke encouragingly to the members of his flock. We shook hands with the men and a large number of acquaintances, and learned from them in whispers that they expected to go to Hainan. They were re-formed and marched out with cheerful grins and banter; about 1,053 men going to death. It was not until the August, 1943, that we were to receive a hint of their fate, and not until the war was over of their tragic loss in the *Montevideo Maru*. This was the first anniversary of the German invasion of Russia - indeed a fateful day.”

[*The psalm of the day was Psalm 107, containing some lines about men who go down to the sea in ships]

A verse that John May frequently used in Rabaul and in Japan when partings were occurring and people were heading off into uncertainty is the first part of a poem entitled *God Knows* by Minnie Louise Haskins, used by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas message:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

SILENT AUCTION - Saturday 2 July 2011

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society is grateful to all those who generously donated items for the Silent Auction on Saturday 2 July 2011...

1. **Original artwork created for the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society to honour those who died or were killed in the islands and on the *Montevideo Maru*.**

Donated by the artist Julianne Ross Allcorn, a practicing artist and art teacher who was born in Rabaul.

The artwork shows the islands of Papua New Guinea with a PNG face gazing out. The known names of those who died or were killed in the islands and on the *Montevideo Maru*, and of those who went missing, are painstakingly handwritten in the currents of the sea. With no definitive list to work from, missing names are represented by symbols. Resting on top of the drawing is a raised silhouette of the *Montevideo Maru* cut out of Japanese rice paper



2. **Rabaul Hotel** - five nights for two people in a King Room with airport transfers, valid for twelve months www.rabaulhotel.com.pg

3. **Rapopo Plantation Resort, Kokopo (New Rabaul)** - 2 nights' accommodation for two in Poolside Executive Rooms with airport transfers, valid twelve months. www.rapopo.com

Traawool Valley Lark Force Cabernet Sauvignon - The grapes from which this wine was made were grown on the site at Traawool where the 2/22nd Battalion AIF was formed on 17 July 1940 and carried out their initial training. It is dedicated to their memory. 1 dozen - Donated by John and Julie Farrer from Traawool Valley Vineyard www.traawoolvalleyvineyard.com.au

4. **Book: NOT A POOR MAN'S FIELD: THE NEW GUINEA GOLDFIELDS TO 1942 - AN AUSTRALIAN COLONIAL HISTORY** by Michael Waterhouse - Donated by Michael Waterhouse.

This special issue includes two airmail stamps, with a face value of £1 and a 5/- first issued in 1939 and used to post gold back to Australia.

www.notapoormansfield.com

5. **AUSTRALIAN TRAVELLER** - Two years subscription to Australia's biggest selling travel magazine plus **AUSTRALIAN TRAVELLER - 100 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU DIE - top adventures to tick off in your lifetime.** Top selling special collector's edition. Donated by Drina Thurston

6. **Book - NO TURNING BACK** by E T Fulton edited by Elizabeth Fulton Thurston Donated by Elizabeth Thurston

7. **Book - YOURS SINCERELY, TOM: A LOST CHILD OF THE EMPIRE** by Margaret Henderson -Donated by Margaret Henderson

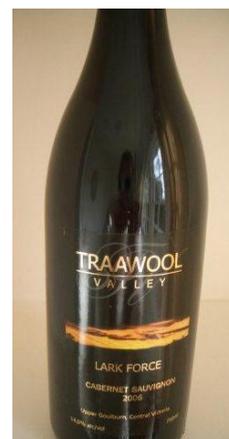
8. **Book - YOURS SINCERELY, TOM: REVISITED** by Margaret Henderson - donated by Margaret Henderson

9. **Book: HE'S NOT COMING HOME** by Gillian Nikakis
Two copies donated by Gillian Nikakis

10. **Book: NOT NOW TOMORROW** by Alice Bowman - Two copies donated by Claire Déglon Marriott

11. **Book: A DOCTOR IN THE GARDEN** by John Pearn - Donated by Dr John Pearn

12. **Book: LOST WOMEN OF RABAU** by Rod Miller - Donated by Rod Miller



Denis Green's granddaughter, Caitlin Nash aged 14, prepared and gave this speech at the Northern Rivers RSL Public Speaking Competition, NSW. She was fortunate to win and continued to the finals in Sydney, competing against older students.

THE MONTEVIDEO MARU

CAITLIN NASH

The impenetrable darkness sets upon the Pacific Ocean. It is the 1st of July 1942. Deep beneath the waves, an American submarine, the USS Sturgeon, lines up its oblivious target. The crew waits for the signal from Lieutenant William Wright. Finally, it comes; a single, deadly torpedo is released, slicing through the water towards the unsuspecting Japanese troop carrier. It made its mark, forcing a huge hole in the stern of the ship. While the 18 Japanese crew members clambered into lifeboats, the Australian human cargo was left for dead in the hull of the sinking ship.

A Japanese soldier, numbed by the sounds of war, death and terror, watches the ship sink in nearly 6 minutes. His blood chills, at the sound of the trapped 1,056 Australian mates defiantly singing 'Auld Lang Syne', a memory that will haunt him for the rest of his life. Within the terror, a lone man enjoys his last breaths and silently remembers his wife, two sons and beautiful life and the tranquillity of Papua New Guinea.

Clive was the superintendent of Keravat Agricultural Station, a government based experimental station through which he introduced the growing of coffee and other crops to the area. He lived an ideal and peaceful life with his wife Grace and two young sons who liked to amuse themselves playing in the extensive gardens with the native house boys. Life was wonderful, until the invasion of the Japanese.

In January, 1942, the Japanese swarmed on Rabaul. Most of the women and children had been evacuated to Australia, but there was no evacuation for the civilian men as room was reserved for the precious cargo of copra. These men enlisted, but with no organisation, equipment or training, had no choice but to stand guard over their beautiful paradise. A small, ill equipped Australian force. The 2/22nd battalion, was sent as a delay for the invading Japanese army. Massively outnumbered, they fought and were forced to retreat through the untamed jungle; each man for himself.

As the Japanese enveloped the island, Clive eluded capture for several weeks. He used the crops and stores of Keravat to hide and feed the retreating soldiers directing them through the impenetrable jungle south toward safety.

Late one afternoon, Clive was captured at Keravat. He was interned as a civilian prisoner of war at Malaguna Road concentration camp. Here he suffered many unspeakable hardships, beatings and hunger. Ironically, he would become known as one of the 'luckiest prisoners' after a fellow Australian implied that he had hidden the Commonwealth Bank's gold bullion on Keravat soil.

Clive and a bank worker were taken to Keravat by the Japanese. They were tortured cruelly for four days in the nearby jungle. Even enduring unimaginable torture, dehydration and starvation, they protested their innocence.

Forced to dig their own graves, kneel at the edge, with the cold steel end of a gun at their back, they believed this was surely the end. At the last moment, they were saved, reprieved by the guilt of the man who laid false witness against them. They were taken back to Malaguna Road, saved only to be taken aboard the unmarked troop carrier named the *Montevideo Maru*. A combination of soldiers, civilians, priests and even members of the Salvation Army were crowded below, like stock in the hull of the ship.

My name is Caitlin Nash and I am the great granddaughter of Eric Clive Green. Who risked his life to help defend Australia the best way that he could. Like Clive, many of the Australian citizens enlisted in Rabaul, however the paperwork was lost in the ensuing Japanese invasion. Their families had to wait four years to discover their fate. Despite their bravery, loyalty and sense of mateship they have never been formally recognised.

The *Montevideo Maru*, sunk by the *USS Sturgeon*, is still today the largest loss of Australian life at sea. 1056 Australian men lost their lives, 400 more than the HMAS Sydney and twice as many as the entire Vietnam War. We stand here today in a democratic country with freedom of speech, thanks to the Australian men and women who selflessly gave their lives and even today continue to fight for our way of life.

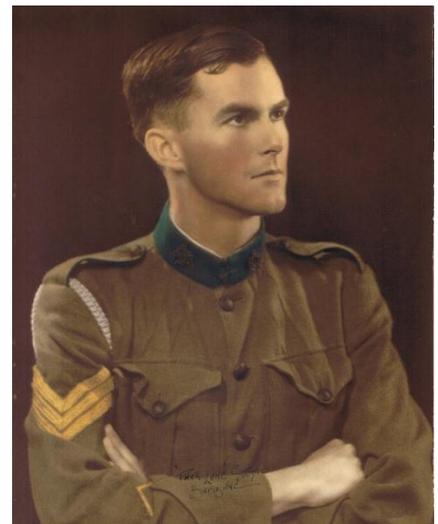
Lest we forget.

‘SLOG’ - AND THE COMMONWEALTH BANK JEANNE BANBURY

Here is a brief account of my cousin Slog's part in the *Montevideo Maru* disaster. I'm sure this coming weekend will help me, finally, to come to terms with the loss.

GRAHAM STEWART RAFF (SLOG) 1917-1942.

My cousin Slog was staying in Brisbane with my family in 1940 when my brother and all his friends, indeed all the young blokes, were joining up. His first choice had been the navy, but there was something wrong with his heart so they turned him down. Undeterred he then set off for the RAAF recruiting point. They also turned him down. The AIF was his last option and they didn't want him either. He was getting a bit despondent by this time but he gave the Navy one more go and they turned him down as before. All he had left was the Militia so he joined that and gave it his all. The Militia was a kind of Home Guard, a body of men drilled like the regular army but reserved for home defence. Men whose jobs were considered essential would also join the Militia. I have often wondered what was wrong with his heart. You don't get a nickname like 'Slog' playing cricket, for nothing, and I never heard him called anything else.



Came 1942 when the Japanese were heading towards New Guinea, the Commonwealth Bank where he worked called for volunteers to go to Rabaul to move their banking facilities to Lae. Naturally Slog had to volunteer with 4 or 5 others. They took off from Brisbane intending to land in Cairns to refuel. No sooner had their plane taken off than the authorities sent word that the Japs were just about to land and to cancel the project. The bank then sent a telegram to Cairns to bring them home. For some reason they did not land there. Maybe there was a tailwind. So they landed in Rabaul just a little ahead of the Japs.

Some of the bank's staff escaped to the north and others went south. Those who went north eventually made it home but the others were taken prisoner and it was years before we knew what happened to them.

**Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society
69th Commemorative events**
National Press Club Canberra 2 July 2011
Royal Military College Duntroon 3 July 2011





Canberra
2 and 3 July 2011



The following song was written and composed by Prisoners of War interned in the Ramale Prisoner of War Camp, New Britain, following their liberation by an Australian Army party led by Major Charles Dowson Bates in September 1945.

The score, written during September 1945, was handed to Major Bates by Father Reischl for presentation to Major Bates' wife, Roma. The original score is now held by his daughter, Pat Johnson.

“Sons of Australia”

Words by Sister Adela

Music by Father Jos. Reischl

Verse 1

Sons of Au-stra-lia long live that glorious name,
Soldiers in green it was you who played the game.
In Jungle's heart you did your part to set our Is-lands free.
The foreign foe to you must bow New Guinea is now ours a-gain.

Chorus

As long as there is a New Guin-ea, as long as the jungles' seen.
The wind to the trees shall tell of the deeds of the gallant men in green.
And the natives still will tell while their children's hearts shall swell
The praise of the Aussies in green, the praise of the Aussies in green.

Verse 2

Sons of Au-stra-lia the world has learned of your fame.
So of Austra-lia we are so glad you came.
Our cares our fears our by-gone tears have va-nished all a-way.
The foreign foe to you must bow New Guinea is now ours again.

Chorus (repeat)

Verse 3

Sons of Au-stra-lia we'll ne-er for-get such a day
Sol-diers in green oh so glad-ly we-d re-pay.
Your deeds of gold shall e-er be told how you have set us free.
The foreign foe to you must bow, New Guinea is now ours again.

Chorus (repeat)

KEN SATO - THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH

BY ROD MILLER

When the Japanese transport ship *Naruto Maru* cast off from Rabaul on the 4th of July 1942, the 18 Australian women and 60 officers of Lark Force and the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles knew nothing of their fate in Japan. These men and women endured 10 hard days at sea in the hold of the ship before their arrival in Yokohama.

Although nothing is noted in official files, an unusual event took place upon their disembarking. The women were taken to the dockside Customs office, where their meagre belongings underwent a formal Customs inspection. They were then taken to a modest tourist hotel, where a Japanese woman dressed in a kimono behind the reception desk (speaking English) asked if they would prefer single or double rooms!

The male officers were taken to the clubhouse of the pre-war American Rowing and Yacht Club, on the foreshore of Yokohama harbour. Here they were first questioned by Japanese intelligence officers and newspaper reporters. A few days later, all but eight were transferred to Zentsuji POW camp. The eight that remained included Colonel Scanlon, Major John Mollard (a Melbourne businessman), Lieutenants Ted Best (an Empire Games runner), John Bateman (a businessman) and John Gibson (who prior to the war had been an ABC radio announcer). Also included was Pilot Officer Geoff Lempriere, from a well-known family of Victorian wool-buyers, who had done business with Japanese firms for many years prior to the war. Although official archives provide little information on what subsequently happened to these officers, some of them made statements to journalists after their release in Japan in 1945 and others noted events in their diaries and memoirs, allowing us to build up a picture of events.

The officers retained at the clubhouse were questioned by two faultlessly-dressed Japanese, Tomokazu Hori and Baron Masamitsu Takasaki. (Interestingly, Takasaki had been in Singapore in April 1942 trying to persuade Charles Cousens to accompany him to Tokyo to broadcast. In her book *Australia's Forgotten Prisoners*, Professor Christina Twomey states that in July 1942 Takasaki also interviewed Australian journalist Dorothy Jenner in Hong Kong, suggesting that she could work for the Japanese news agency *Domai* and that the Japanese wanted her to urge Australian troops to lay down their arms and join the Co-Prosperty Sphere.)

Hori was head of the Third Department of the Japanese Foreign Office and concerned with the distribution of diplomatic information. After this meeting, all but one officer (John Gibson, who remained in Yokohama) boarded a train and after a journey lasting half an hour, three of the officers (Mollard, Best and Lempriere) were taken off and transferred to the infamous Ofuna Interrogation Camp. (In 1943 Squadron Leader Noel Quinn joined those officers at Ofuna, having been sent to Japan after being shot down over Rabaul.)

In August 1945, shortly after his release in Japan, Lempriere told journalist Geoffrey Tebbutt:

We were surprised at how much they knew about individuals and businesses in Australia. They even knew the names of the lift-drivers in some large Melbourne and Sydney businesses, and asked many questions about which business leaders were Jews. They picked me because of my wool business connections and at first they were friendly, even exuberant when I first arrived at Yokohama. One Japanese I knew in Melbourne said, "Hello Geoff old boy, I'm pleased to see you." After that came threats of coalmine work, hard labour, and even execution, when they saw we wouldn't fall for their schemes of using us to make Japanese propaganda... They even put up a scheme that they should fly me to Australia, and parachute me... to carry a proposal to the Australian Government.

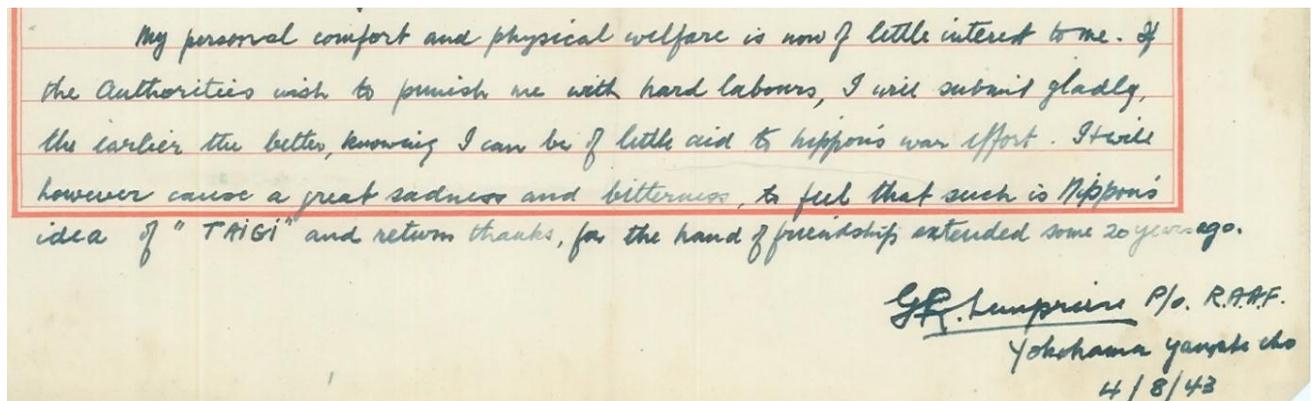
On their arrival at Ofuna, Lempriere and Mollard were interviewed by Commander Uzawa of Imperial Naval Headquarters and asked if they “loved their country”. He suggested that they could best serve Australia by telling it “the truth” in broadcasts. Lempriere states:

Mollard and I both told him what our definition of traitor was and that we preferred execution to broadcasting on behalf of Japan.

It was after this exchange that Ken Sato arrived at Ofuna. He boasted to Lempriere that he was the “big noise” of the propaganda department.

On May 15, 1943, in an attempt to persuade him to broadcast, Lempriere was moved to solitary confinement in the lower level of the Yokohama Rowing/Yacht Club. By this time the Rabaul women were being housed on the upper level. Their diaries note his arrival, departure, and their attempts to communicate with him by singing messages and dropping small notes concealed in pieces of soap. In Tebbutt’s article, Lempriere stated that Sato had visited him at the clubhouse and that he had behaved like a raving maniac and threatened him with execution due to his lack of cooperation. Lempriere asked for 24 hours to make his peace with the world. A couple of hours later, Sato returned and told Lempriere that he would be returning him to Ofuna.

In August 1943, after twenty months’ confinement, Lempriere, using a cleverly-worded letter to his captors, got himself transferred from Ofuna.



My personal comfort and physical welfare is now of little interest to me. If the Authorities wish to punish me with hard labours, I will submit gladly, the earlier the better, knowing I can be of little aid to Jappon's war effort. It will however cause a great sadness and bitterness, to feel that such is Jappon's idea of "TAIGI" and return thanks, for the hand of friendship, extended some 20 years ago.

G.F. Lempriere P/o. R.A.A.F.
Yokohama Yawata cho
4/8/43

This is but a small extract from Lempriere’s letter to the Japanese Navy [AWM 27 423-23]

From the information he had received, journalist Geoffrey Tebbutt obviously thought that Ken Sato qualified as a war criminal. In a follow-up article he posed the question:

Why is Ken Sato, who was to have been Japanese Administrator of Australia, at large and not under arrest as a war criminal? ...Sato, formerly editor of the Osaka Mainichi, introduced himself to prisoners in 1942 as “chief public relations officer of the Co-Prosperity Sphere”.

In yet another 1946 article, Noel Quinn, talking of Sato, stated:

I don’t know whether this little yellow ----- was responsible for putting me into Ofuna. But Lempriere and Major Mick Mollard, Lt. Best and Lt. John Gibson, who were put in there, were his particular prisoners. Sato himself was at Ofuna and knew just what went on there.

I think he was primarily responsible for having the Australian nurses from Rabaul badly treated and locked at the Yokohama Yacht Club. If he was not responsible he knew what was happening and did not use his high authority to stop it.

There is no doubt in the minds of any of us who passed through his hands that he qualifies as a war criminal.

BUNKA Camp.

1. When Quinn was at OFUNA Camp KEN SATO, Director of Public Relations Co-prosperity Sphere, and a former well known Jap journalist associated with the OSAKA MAINICHI, approached him with a view to securing his co-operation in what he termed goodwill publicity.
2. Quinn considered that if a PW appeared to ^{have} literary ability the Japs might have compelled him to go to BUNKA if he were not prepared to go willingly.
3. KEN SATO promised that if Quinn co-operated he would use his best efforts to improve the conditions of the PW. *Quinn refused to co-operate.*
4. Quinn believed that some PW in BUNKA Camp were co-operating with the Japs under pressure and intimidation, while some probably went in willingly in the hope of securing easier conditions.

H.S. Williams
(H.S. Williams)

LO % Aust PW Reception Group.

12 Sep 43

In July 1943 John Mollard was sent from Ofuna to Zentsuji, where he related the details of life at Ofuna to his fellow officers. He told of subtle advances that had been made to him to form and lead an organisation to bring about Australia's separation from Great Britain. The Japanese had also suggested to both Charles Cousens and

Geoff Lempriere that they could be flown to Australia to parachute in with a proposal for the Australian Government.

So why is it that Kennosuke Sato, a man who prior to the war had spent five months collecting invaluable information for the Japanese war effort about Australia, and who had been deeply involved with POWs, internees and propoganda, was never charged with any war crimes?

Within the Australian Archives there are two specific files on Ken Sato. In December 1945, after reading an article by Dennis Warner in the Melbourne Herald, Australian Prime Minister Ben Chifley made a request to General Douglas MacArthur for Sato to be interviewed. During this interview, the American intelligence officer questioned him about the Australia First movement and his friends in Australia that had suggested collaboration with Japan. The Australian officer who had accompanied the American interviewer must have been somewhat surprised when Sato gave the names on many prominent Australians as being his friends. They included:

Sir John Latham, Justice of the Supreme Court and Australia's Diplomatic Minister to Japan before the outbreak of the Pacific War.

Sir Earl Page, acting Prime Minister of the Commonwealth in 1934. ("I dined with him at Consul General Murai's home. He gave me much help for the publication of the Japan-Australia-New Zealand book. In fact I went to Australia to collect material for this book.")

Professor Copeland, of Melbourne University. Organised contributions for the book.

Sydney Ure Smith, very distinguished Art Editor, Sydney Morning Herald.

Ambassador Eggleston, Melbourne, who later became Ambassador to China.

Premier Dunstan, Melbourne. "He gave me help in collecting Australian cultural information."

Mr Dyson, head of Australian Institute for Far East Research.

Miss Duncan, who was general secretary to Mr Dyson's Institute.

Mr Fink, owner of Melbourne Herald.

Colonel Longfield-Loyd, a government official in 1934

Charles Kingsford-Smith, who negotiated a goodwill flight from Australia to Japan.

It is interesting to note that Major Harold Williams (in Manila prior to travelling to Japan to discover the *Montevideo Maru* nominal roll) also filed a summary of an interview with WgCdr Noel Quinn, in which Sato's name is specifically mentioned. It would appear from this summary that Williams deemed it important enough to classify SECRET, implying Sato was well-known within intelligence circles and that his activities were of interest to the authorities.

As such, it is difficult to understand why no mention of Sato appears in any of the available post-war interviews given by Geoff Lempriere, while other evidence clearly shows he was one of Sato's main prisoners.

In Rabaul in May 1942, with the invasion of the New Guinea mainland imminent, the Japanese Army handed responsibility for POWs and internees to the Japanese Navy. A large roll-call (which is believed to have been the basis of the nominal roll of those lost on the *Montevideo Maru*) was conducted in Rabaul at that time. Considering Ken Sato's involvement with Earl Page in 1934 and his position as head of the Japanese Navy's Australian Intelligence Section, Sato must have known that Earl Page's brother Harold was a prisoner.

The other archival file on Sato is a 1949 report by H C Menzies, counselor in Japan for the Australian Department of Commerce and Agriculture. After his retirement from the *Osaka Mainichi* newspaper, Sato had been employed as the liaison representative for a number of Japanese companies that had formed the "Pacific Trading Association", which it was hoped would promote trade between Japan and Australia.

Menzies noted in his report:

Forwarded herewith is a copy of notes on an interview that I had today with Mr Ken Sato who, you will remember, was in Australia in 1934 and met Messrs. Tonkin and Lynch and the writer when he was preparing information for a book published by him and later distributed in Australia by the Department.

But Sato's story doesn't end there; in 1946, Charles Cousens was tried for treason for broadcasting from Japan. An American, George H. [Buck] Henshaw, who had been with Cousens at Radio Tokyo, was brought to Australia to assist with his defence. A copy of Henshaw's wartime diary, kept during his time at Radio Tokyo, is available in the National Archives of Australia¹. He notes that Cousens was interviewed by Sato on 31 December 1943 and that Cousens stated that he could only broadcast "names and messages" of POWs and appeal for Red Cross supplies, nothing more. Henshaw's entries for the following five days note the involvement of a Japanese named Kazumaro "Buddy" Uno, and intriguingly, his entry for January 5th 1944 notes, "*A long list of prisoners interned at Rabaul has arrived*" [at radio Tokyo]. Unfortunately he doesn't elaborate but from his description we can assume that the list was written in English. If this was the case, how did it get to Japan and why was it at Radio Tokyo?

Sato was never charged with any war crimes; nor, it would seem, ever re-interviewed about his "special prisoners" at Ofuna, or the reason why the Rabaul women were taken to Japan. I suspect that he was one man in Japan who simply knew too much.

In the next newsletter:

Kazumaro "Buddy" Uno. - Who was he and what was his connection with Rabaul?

Note 1. NAA: SP185/1, 42044 PART 21

AERIAL PHOTO OF RABAUL

KEN HAYES

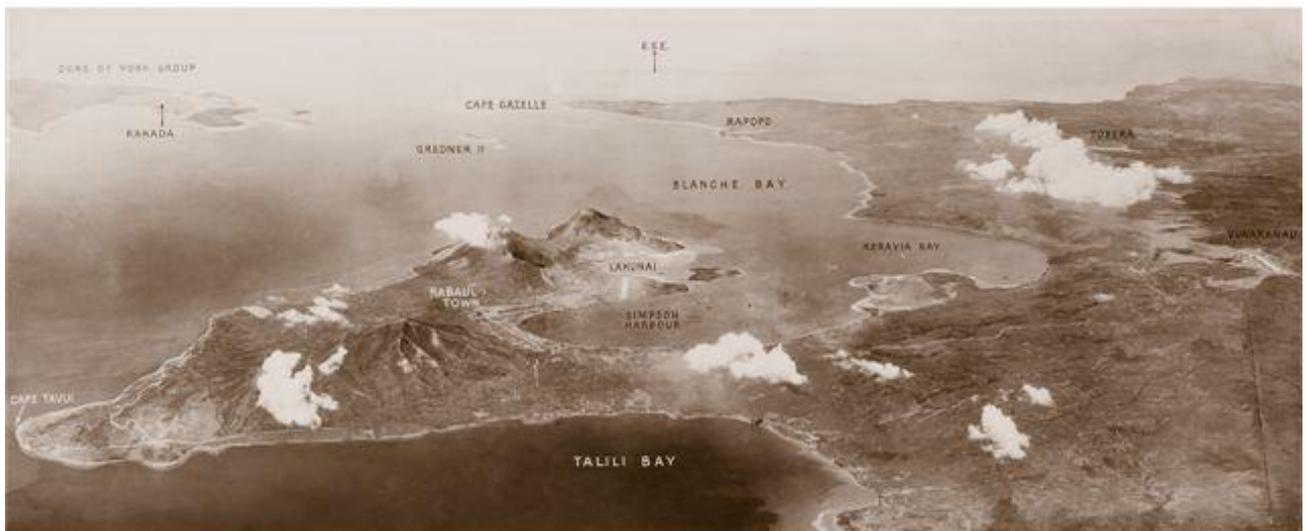
Recently a lady who had been a missionary teacher in New Britain after the war heard of my interest in Rabaul and gave me a large aerial photo of Rabaul and District. It measures 15 cms x 60 cms and covers the following areas: Duke of York Group, Cape Gazelle, Rapopa, Keravia Bay, Cape Tavui, Rabaul Town, Talili Bay and jungle areas.

The photo was taken by a Chin Hoi Meen (1917- 1992), a businessman and photographer born in Rabaul. His personal details can be found on Google. I just typed in Rabaul and his name, so was able to find him without much effort. It is my understanding that the photo was probably taken in 1940 or 1941. Many people have expressed interest when seeing it.

I have shown the photo to many of my RSL friends and descendants of the Methodist Missionaries who lost their lives in Rabaul and on the Montevideo Maru. They have said they have not seen any photo as large. One identified the street where his family had lived prior to the Japanese occupation.

Barbara's cousin and one of the RSL veterans I visit were particularly interested as they were at Tol Plantation and Rabaul for the surrender of the Japanese in 1945.

I thought you would like to see it. There may be others who are interested.



WEBSITE:

www.memorial.org.au

Have you any old photographs or letters, stories, or historical documents of the service men or civilians who lived in Rabaul and surrounding islands before WWII?

Photos of Rabaul pre-war would also be welcomed.

This information will help provide insights to the story of Rabaul, the New Guinea Islands and the Montevideo Maru.

We thank those of you who have already sent them in; they will be on the website soon.

Please Email: andrea.williams@bigpond.com

RECRUIT PEOPLE AS MEMBERS

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society has over 330 members. Each membership contributes to the memorial and is tax deductible. Please encourage family and friends to join and to receive this monthly newsletter by emailing Andrea Williams andrea.williams@bigpond.com or writing to the Society c/- Jackson Wells Pty Ltd, PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089

FEEDBACK

ELIZABETH THURSTON
DOUBLE BAY NSW

A great weekend, Phil, Andrea and Don,
The service at Duntroon yesterday was just beautiful and the band was superb and very moving. Also the ladies from Legacy did an amazing job, Don. So much wonderful home baking! I am sure everyone really enjoyed the two days and the effort put in to a very special occasion. Another milestone on the journey.

JAN KLEINIG
ADELAIDE

John and I were indeed privileged and honoured to have shared the Memorial weekend with those present.

Whilst both the luncheon with their guest speakers and the Memorial Service at Duntroon were stand-alone events, they also 'emotionally' complemented each other.

And the music of the Tuggerong Salvation Army Band was a joy to listen to but I do think there were not too many 'dry eyes in the Chapel' when they accompanied us for **Abide With Me**. As you know I was delighted to be seeing Bruce Edwards again after all those years.

And our appreciation and gratitude for all the time, effort and attention to detail so obviously expended into making this the memorable and moving Memorial weekend it was.

JANICE AND JAN STEINFURTH
HURSTVILLE NSW

Last weekend was wonderful, we had a great time - Thanks to the Association

SUE PASCOE
BLACKBURN

Thank you for the wonderful organisation of a great weekend!

I found it very healing and stimulating and the church service inspiring. It was so satisfying to make contact with so many people, too. The first ones I met were Marian and Mary May with whom I was hoping to catch up as John was a friend of my father. Then I was delighted to be seated at the same table as Judith Gullidge, as I'd contacted her a few years ago after the TV documentary. I even met a friend of Nancy Beckett and her brother!

I've just returned from a holiday extended from Canberra. I certainly will scan anything which may be relevant - it may take a while, but I look forward to doing it.

Best wishes and many, many thanks.

FRAZER HARRY

I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the weekend just gone, and how interesting it was to be part of it and catch up with you and the others. ... it really was a success! Just a pity my bids got pipped for the accommodation in Rabaul!

EVELINE STIRK
GROVEDALE VIC

Enclosed is a photo of my late husband Cpl Cliff McAliee [at right] who was a cook with the No 1 Independent Company and was lost on the *Montevideo Maru*.

I am hoping to catch up with other relatives of the Company in July as I know very little of what happened. I am 90 years old now. My son was born three weeks after his father left, so he never saw him.



**CHRISTINE WATKINSON
GLENELG SA**

I read the story on the Memorial in the Adelaide Advertiser and would like to donate and become a member (my son tells me he is already a member). I am the daughter of Sergeant Ralph Codd who drowned in the *Montevideo Maru* and I was so pleased to see the story in today's paper. My mother passed away 2 years ago, and she never got over the fact that she didn't know what had happened until after the war. I was 10 months old at the time of his death. My mother remarried, however she often spoke to me about my father and the fact that the relatives weren't told about the tragedy until after the war. Hopefully the donations will flow in and I shall be amongst the many who travel to Canberra next year to honour my father and his comrades.
Many thanks.

**BRUCE MILLS
TUMBY BAY SA**

Please find enclosed a contribution towards the construction of a memorial. I send this money on behalf of my sisters and myself in memory of our brother Jack and all those who perished with the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* 1 July 1942.

**BARRY AND JUDITH ANGEL
WYONG**

Please accept our good wishes for a memorable 69th anniversary of the Rabaul and *Montevideo Maru* tragedy. We attended last year, are unable to attend this year but will certainly be attending the 70th anniversary in 2012.

Our uncle Keith Trigg perished when the *Montevideo Maru* was sunk. Being underage he enlisted under the name Eric Kenneth Triggs. And this was the name inscribed on the Wall of Honour in the National War Memorial in Canberra.

His younger brother Ted lobbied for a long time to have Keith's proper name on the Memorial. This was finally agreed to late last year, the name was corrected from EK Triggs to KATRIGG. Unfortunately Ted passed away in November before he could see his brothers proper name acknowledged at the Memorial.

Earlier this year we took Keith (and Ted's) 95 year old sister Dorothy and their younger sister Leone to the War Memorial and visited the Memorial Wall with his name KA TRIGG. I felt it was good to see the final results of something one brother could do for another by having him properly acknowledged. (I hope this is making sense as it is hard to find the right words.) After we had a look at the site for the Rabaul and *Montevideo Maru* Memorial and were most impressed with the location. I also feel it is so fitting to have it in close proximity to the Weary Donlop Memorial. A wonderful man who did so much for his fellow man.

**KEN HAYES
SOMERTON PARK SA**

Hoping this email finds you well and that everything went according to plan with the celebrations/activities of the first weekend in July, we would like to have been there, but that was not possible. I look forward to receiving the next edition of MVM news.

When visiting a Veteran this week he lent me a book entitled "Zero" and I wonder if you know about it? Authors: Masatake Okumya and Jiro Horikoshi with Martin Caiden and published in the USA 1956. I was told it was written in Japanese and translated into English

MEMORIAL NOTICEBOARD

DONATIONS

Recent donations towards the memorial have been gratefully received from:

Notley, Collings, Lovell, Adams family, Notley, Coote, Mills, Katter, Furness, 2/22nd Btn, Larkin, Symons, Pattinson, Poircuitte, Ranken, Devereux, Harrison, McMichael, Deglon-Marriott, Dove, McColl, O'Hara, Tavender, Johnston, Cox, fong, Hill & Stevens, Redway, Watkinson, Gullidge, Scott, Sutter, Forsyth.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEMORIAL NEWS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

E: andrea.williams@bigpond.com Or P O Box 1743 Neutral Bay NSW 2089

REGISTER YOUR MEMORABILIA

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

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

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

HOW TO REMIT FUNDS TO THE SOCIETY

BY INTERNET: Transfer funds to the Society's bank account BSB 082-401 Account No 16-083-2367. Notify your 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 devoted to constructing a memorial at the Australian War Memorial

BY CREDIT CARD:

CREDIT CARD AUTHORISATION FORM



Card type:

Credit card number: _____

Expiry date: _____ / _____

CVV: _____

Last 3 digits on back of credit card

Amount to be charged: \$ _____

Complete mailing address:

City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Description of what is being paid for:

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089, Australia

