



Rabaul & Montevideo Maru

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society

Memorial News 33

December 2011

STOP PRESS - YOU CAN RELY ON A QUEENSLANDER!



Anna Bligh, the Premier of Queensland, advises "I fully support this memorial to commemorate the lives of these brave Australians and on behalf of the Queensland Government I wish to contribute

\$10,000 towards the commissioning of this lasting tribute to the 1,400 lives lost". Further she says "On behalf of all Queenslanders, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society Inc for their dedication in assisting family, friends and relatives of deceased Australian soldiers and for promoting national recognition of the Montevideo Maru". Of the estimated 1,400 who died, records indicate 46 of the victims were born or recruited in Queensland. Queensland is the only Australian state government which has so far contributed to this national memorial, a gesture much appreciated.

www.memorial.org.au

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

DEDICATION ON 1 JULY 2012 PHIL AINSWORTH

James Parrett has been commissioned to start the Rabaul & Montevideo National Memorial in time for its dedication on 1 July 2012, the 70th Anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*.

Copies of the working drawings with a final budget and construction and installation time schedule were received and their approval endorsed by the National Capital Authority for development and building. The heritage approval was received earlier. A significant milestone has been reached.

Now the Society's focus is on completing the arrangements for the 30 June and 1 July 2012 weekend. Discounted accommodation arrangements are in place and costs for the luncheon and morning tea of \$60 per person, payable on booking to the Society, has been agreed. A turnout for the weekend exceeding 500 is expected. As this time of the year is popular for travelling to Canberra and the snow country, you are advised to book for the Society's arranged events and your travel and accommodation now. Details of the accommodation arrangements are shown elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Memorial will be erected in the Eastern Precinct of the Australian War Memorial, the precinct which received an Architectural Award for excellence this year. The Memorial's location is on the rise just beyond the "Weary Dunlop" stature and its distinctive appearance will make it readily apparent to anyone looking easterly from the front of the main building.

Cont over...

All Society members and friends must now exert themselves to ensure all possible next of kin and friends of those who perished in the New Guinea islands and the *Montevideo Maru* at the time of the Japanese occupation have the opportunity of attending this once in a life time weekend. All local media and organisations, no matter what size or type, should be notified of these coming events. Discuss and convince your friends and acquaintances to attend the 30 June/ 1 July 2012 weekend and give the 1,400 men who perished the acknowledgement that their sacrifice deserves.

Further details on page 10.

RAY MARTIN TAKES PLACE OF FRIEND AT 70TH COMMEMORATIVE LUNCHEON



Television journalist and author Ray Martin will be MC at the Society's luncheon at the National Press Club on Saturday 30 June.

Ray takes over the job from his friend and onetime work colleague Paul Lockyer, who died in the ABC helicopter tragedy on 18 August.

Paul was a highly respected journalist interested and empathetic to the Society's goals. He was connected to the *Montevideo Maru* through his wife Maria who lost an uncle on the Japanese ship.

Bookings are now open for the luncheon which is part of the Society's weekend activities marking the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* on 1 July 1942.

OCEAN POWER INSPIRED SCULPTOR'S WINNING DESIGN DON HOOK

Melbourne sculptor James Parrett loves to surf and ride the waves. And it was to the sea that he turned when seeking inspiration for the design of the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Memorial.

Like most Australians of his generation, James (35) knew little or nothing about the Japanese invasion of the New Guinea Islands in January 1942 or the subsequent sinking of the Japanese prison ship *Montevideo Maru* with the loss of more than 1,000 Australian prisoners of war and civilian internees.

It was not until James stood in Canberra among the memorials to Australians who'd fought and died in the nation's various military campaigns that he realised the daunting challenge ahead of him.

"To those tens of thousands Australians who served in all the wars - and to those they left behind - this was indeed a sacred place.

"I felt I had to do justice to them and their memory and this special place by designing an abstract sculpture, outside the traditional memorial box, yet with a modern feel that will speak to future generations.

"Hopefully, it will not age. People will either like or dislike it but what matters most of all is when they walk around it, or stand under it, that they wonder and think about the event it commemorates.

"To me it is most important that the people who died in the tragedy are at peace and that everyone who comes to know about the event also feels at peace," he said.

James surfs along Victoria's West Coast beaches and it was while paddling in the calmness waiting to be picked up by the right wave that he realised the ocean's power. All was calm out where he was but he could see in the distance the fury of the waves as they crashed onto the beach. He decided then to create a memorial that symbolised the ocean; his

design picks up the circular wave-like-forms while the angled base is evocative of a ship's bow.



James only started thinking about Art and the possibility of a future career while in his senior high school years at Kingswood College, Box Hill, Melbourne. He could not decide what he wanted to do until his teacher showed him images by two American artists and sculptors, Jasper Jones and Frank Stella, noted for their pop art and abstract expressionism.

"They spoke to me, blew me away, and started me off," he said.

What followed was a Bachelor of Arts (Sculpture) degree from Monash University, then Honours in Sculpture from the Victorian College of Arts.

Since then he has exhibited at galleries in Sydney and Melbourne, and has been a finalist in several of Australia's most important sculpture exhibitions, including *Sculpture by the Sea* at Sydney's Bondi.

James spent two years teaching English in Japan. But it was in Melbourne five years ago that he met his Japanese-born wife Chiyoko. She was studying English; he was learning Japanese. They have a daughter Haruki and live in Coburg just north of the Melbourne CBD.

The dedication of the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Memorial will take place at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra at 11.30am on Sunday, July 1, 2012 - the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the unmarked prison ship by an American submarine.

(The help of Melbourne journalist Bruce King is greatly appreciated.)

SOCIETY SHORTLISTED FOR AN AWARD

The Society has been shortlisted along with two others for a 2011 Public Affairs Asia Gold Standard Award which identifies excellence in a Non-Government Organisation's (NGO's) strategic engagement with governments, business and civil society.

The Society is a pro-bono client of Jackson Wells Pty Ltd (Australia) which nominated it for the award. This award applies to Asian and international NGOs operating in the Asia Pacific or to Asian NGO'S operating overseas - see <http://www.goldstandardawards2010.com/categories.html>

The awards will be presented in Singapore on 19th January 2012 at an awards cocktail reception at the Fullerton Hotel in Singapore.

This award is sponsored by Weber Shandwick, one of the world's leading public relations firms. The other shortlisted nominees are: "Dignity for Chronic Pain Sufferers" and "CRY (Child Rights and you)".

Presently we have asked Jackson Wells to arrange our representation through its Singapore agent's office. This is flexible, however, and we may substitute names should we find one or two people amongst ourselves who could assist the Society by being able to attend this ceremony. Please bear in mind all costs other than the entry to the presentations are born by attendees. If there is a member who could assist the Society it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Phil Ainsworth M: 0418 730 348 E: p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au

The Society appreciates Jackson Wells nominating it for this prestigious award, which will assist in promoting greater awareness in the Asian Pacific region about the tragic wartime events of Rabaul, the New Guinea islands and the *Montevideo Maru*.

PNGVR MUSEUM, WACOL FEATURED ON ABC

Sean Dorney, the ABC/Radio Australia *Pacific Correspondent* and former ABC's Papua New Guinea Correspondent, produced a TV segment on the PNGVR Museum aired on the ABC on 22 November 2011.

To view it click on the following link then scroll down till you get "War Tribute":

<http://australianetwork.com/newsline/archives.htm?site=201111>

2012 - 70th ANNIVERSARIES

There are at least two occasions between now and dedication of the memorial that offer the opportunity to further publicise the story of what happened in Rabaul, the islands of New Guinea and on the *Montevideo Maru*.

- **January 23** - the 70th anniversary of the Japanese invasion of the New Guinea Islands, and

- **Anzac Day - 25 April**

Can members - especially those outside the capital cities - contact their local newspaper(s), as well as their ABC and commercial radio/TV stations on or just before January 23, to talk about the tragic and little known events of 1942? These could for instance include the invasion itself, the POWs and civilian internees, the nurses, Tol massacre, the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*, the long wait by relatives for news of their loved ones and the affect this had on their lives.

Please also alert your:

- State Minister for Veterans Affairs
- local councils
- RSLs
- Historical Societies

By telling your story, this will help acknowledge what occurred and ensure the story becomes a lasting part of Australian history.

JAPANESE APOLOGY TO FORMER POWS

Lorna Johnston nee Whyte joined four other former Australian prisoners of war and their family members who visited Japan in November at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Lorna, now 96, found it a 'very moving' experience.

Mr Koichiro Gemba, Minister for Foreign Affairs in Japan, welcomed the group and expressed his hope that the visit would contribute to reconciliation and to strengthening the friendship between the two countries. Minister Gemba reiterated Japan's feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology for the tremendous damages and sufferings Japan inflicted on the many people involved during the war, including former Australian prisoners of war who had suffered a tragic experience.

Minister Gemba 'noted that preparations are ongoing to hand over to Australia copies of all records kept in Japan since the end of the war, including individual records of Australian prisoners of war, and said he hoped the handover would be done as soon as possible.' (MOFA Press Release 29 Nov 2011)

See articles:

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/defence/japan-visit-heals-war-wounds/story-e6frg8yo-1226212710558>

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/armed-forces/news/article.cfm?c_id=123&objectid=10770059

<http://www.theaucklander.co.nz/news/lorna-johnston-prisoner-of-war-apology/1192264/>

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE MELBOURNE VICTORIA

The Shrine of Remembrance is developing an exhibition on Japan's entry into WWII, focusing on the period Dec 1941 - June 1942, including the loss of Australian POW's aboard the *Montevideo Maru*.

The display is scheduled to open on 20 January 2012 and will run for approximately four months. (Cont over...)

Due to privacy issues we can only pass on your details for an invitation to attend the launch with your permission - If you think you might like to attend, please contact Andrea Williams E: admin@memorial.org.au by 30 Dec 2011.

PORTRAIT SURPRISE

NORM FURNESS

As usual I was thrilled to receive the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society Newsletter and to read all that is happening. I only wish I was 10 years younger - I could have done so much more.

I had a phone call from the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne asking would I be prepared to sit for a portrait painting by a top artist; I agreed and Peter the artist came to my room at the retirement village and I sat there for three hours and had a very interesting chat with him. He knew nothing about Rabaul or the *Montevideo Maru*, but he sure does now! During the conversation he told me he was also commissioned to go to New Zealand to paint a 95 year old woman and I quickly said 'That would have to be Lorna Johnston'. Well, he nearly dropped his brushes as, sure enough, it was Lorna. I told him she might be 95 in years but I could assure him that he will be surprised - and showed him photos of Lorna and I at Canberra this year - so I sent my love and a big hug to her.

Now the reason for the painting is that starting on January 20th 2012 there is going to be an exhibition at the Shrine about the early days of the Japanese involvement in the war and I believe 'Lark Force' will feature in it - it will run until June and the paintings will be on display.

This is a big letter from me these days but your Society is or has done so much. Finally, I have enclosed another cheque from our [2/22nd Battalion 'Lark Force'] Association to help keep the ball rolling.

MONTEVIDEO MEMORIAL IN AWARD WINNING LOCATION

DON HOOK

The Australian War Memorial's Eastern Precinct - where the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru memorial will be located - has won the prestigious Sir Zelman Cowen award for public architecture,

The development of the area was the culmination of an overall site plan for the AWM first developed 10 years ago.

The architect Johnson Pilton Walker was required to solve the logistical problems of improving the movement, parking and arrival of thousands of buses and their passengers, and also to provide an appropriate location and surroundings for the existing National Service Memorial.

The AWM's head of building and services, Stewart Mitchell described the development as outstanding.

"What is outstanding about the architecture and the landscape is that it looks as if it's always been here."

President of the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society, Phil Ainsworth says it's fitting that the society's memorial will form part of the distinctive precinct.

The memorial will be dedicated on July 1 next year - the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the Japanese ship with the loss of 1,053 Australian prisoners of war and civilian internees.

Earlier this year, the development of the Eastern Precinct was awarded top honours by the Australian Institute of Architects (ACT Branch). It was said at the time the work "demonstrated architectural mastery at every level".

AUSTRALIAN WAR GRAVES PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

The Australian War Graves Photographic Archive is committed to procuring a digital photograph of every Australian War Grave and Memorial Commemoration; worldwide.

The photographs are being used to populate the searchable database. This will increase the accessibility of information and images related to Australian war graves and memorials. Every Australian will be able to, through the web site, locate an individual war grave or commemoration, peruse information pertaining to that war casualty and obtain a copy for posterity (if required).

<http://www.australianwargraves.org/about-the-archive/w1/i1001185/>

SUGGESTED READING ROSS TUCKER

I have recently read three books which may be of interest as they all include details of the *Montevideo Maru* and may not be known to some members.

Rabaul 1942 by Douglas Aplin

Heroes at Sea by Don Wall

The Kavieng Massacre by Raden Dunbar

My Uncle Roy McPherson was lost on the *Montevideo Maru* - his best friend was Bill Atwood. They had both grown up in Caboolture Queensland and were both in Kavieng at the outbreak of war. They became separated after being captured and Bill was a victim of the massacre.

* * *

Ross has also forwarded a copy of the service for the Dedication of Permanent War Memorial Cemetery Rabaul, 10 Nov 1946.

F/O JV Tucker (75966) RAAF with two other RAAF Officers represented the RAAF on the Official Dais at the dedication. F/O Tucker was stationed at Finschhafen but on duty with RAAF squadron at Rapopo at the time. Rapopo was a Japanese Bomber Strip at Kokopo.

ELECTRONIC MEMORIAL

A section on the website is being developed for individual tributes to the men who defended the New Guinea Islands. We hope to have as many as possible listed there for the 70th anniversary, 1 July 2012.

It would be appreciated if you could forward their name and Army number, their date of birth and any photos, letters or documents that support their lives in Rabaul or how they managed to survive the invasion.

If you would like to also write a piece, it would be welcome. You could consider:

1. how this affected your family
2. how you/your family heard about the tragedy of the *Montevideo Maru*
3. if you were evacuated, what happened? What assistance, if any, did you receive?
4. the short-term and long-term difficulties you faced
5. your feelings both at the time and continuing to this day.
6. Anything else you think might be useful in telling this story

If you would prefer information in the Members Only section of the website please mention this.

Please send information to Andrea Williams at:

andrea.williams@bigpond.com or
24 Melaleuca Drive, St Ives NSW 2075.

CHRISTMAS IN RABAUL 1941

The following letter was written by Frank Pascoe to his wife Sadie. It is sent to us by his daughter, Suzanne, who was then four months old.

VX28754
FW Pascoe
R Coy
2/22 Btn AIF
Rabaul TNG
Monday, 29 Dec '41

My dearest Sadie,

Well my dear, another week has passed and with it another Christmas. Perhaps Christmas wasn't as bright as might have been expected, but now we have the New Year almost upon us; full of hope and promise - and Victory. We are full of confidence as soldiers and feel elated that at last our future and present tasks are clearly marked.

Last week our OC decided that we would hold our dinner on Xmas day as arranged. I was relieved from guard duty at midday to go to town in the afternoon and complete arrangements with another N.C.O. We hired table cloths (10) from the Lodge, tumblers (7 doz) free from BP's. Bought cigarettes, tinned Nestle's cream, gherkins and other things at a discount from WR Carpenters. Up early on Christmas morning, and with several helpers, prepared the various requirements for decorations etc. Each man was to receive 10 cigs wrapped up in crepe paper, a bonbon, bottle of beer and sweets. All these things were fixed up. Our mess hut consists of a bamboo frame, gabled roofed; the roof being palm fronds, and the sides open.

It lent itself excellently to decorations, which we hung diagonally, crossways and lengthways, with unlighted Chinese lanterns down the centre. (Bought originally for a night show.) Next the cloths were laid on the tables which were placed in U formation. Red and blue strips of crepe were run down the centre of the table. Knives, forks, spoons, tumblers, bonbons, cigs and place names were placed. Sugar etc, which is put in ex-cocoa flat tins 3" high and 5" down, were covered with red and blue crepe.

Dinner consisted of thick soup, turkey and ham, roast potatoes, pumpkin; plum pudding with white brandy sauce; beer, port wine, black and white coffee; sweets. My job was looking after the service, which consisted of four natives dressed in clean white "*lap-laps*". One of them had been a "*hausboi*" at Salamaua and I instructed him to "*tok tok*" the other boys how to serve the meal. A couple of them were a bit bewildered for a while where to serve first, but gradually picked up the idea. It was my first attempt at being "headwaiter", so they're not wholly to blame. The meal was thoroughly enjoyable. I only heard about three chaps scoff at the idea of a Christmas party, but they don't count, and the others were very appreciative of it. Several photos were taken but I don't think they'll be too good.

The other chap and myself who organized things told Charles McLean that he would be President of the mess at the last moment. He didn't have time to protest and when he did, we didn't listen! The OC sat next to him, and a number of Privates who never see the limelight were also placed at the "Official" table. Other officers and Sgts. were distributed evenly amongst the other two tables. The port wine was used to drink the King's Toast - the only one for the day.

After lunch, I got the natives cleaning up and reset the table for the evening meal (cold turkey and ham, fruit salad, jelly and cream); supervised their washing of the tumblers, and repacked them *without* a breakage or any "*souveniring*", a common pastime enough amongst the AIF.

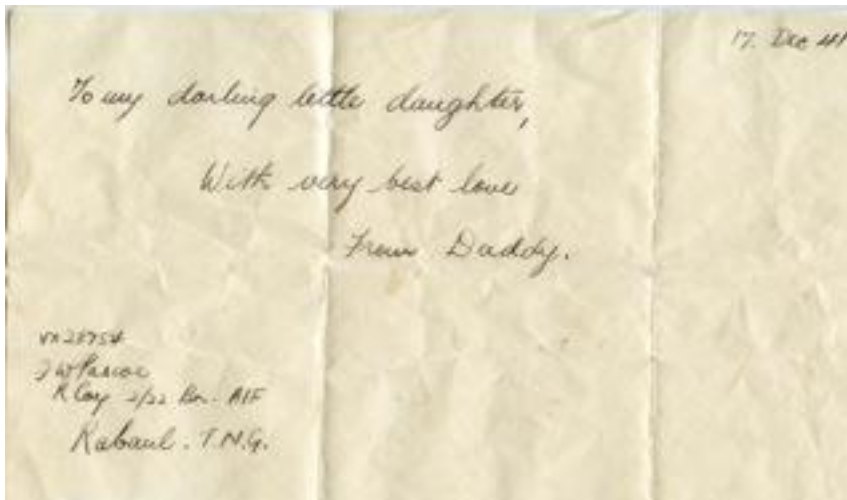
A neighbouring OC, Major R. Clarke, paid us a visit at lunch and wished us the compliments of the season, had a drink; and then departed. He is not in the AIF, but is one of the finest officers I have met.

I was very tired after tea and went straight to bed, as we have to rise early whether we like it or not.

My Boxing Day was filled with a full day of wrapping, which I finished at 5pm; had tea, changed and mounted Guard.

Again, the mail did not arrive again on Saturday, which was very wet and squally. On Sunday, we got up at the usual time and went out to work. It was rather humid, but there was no sun, so it was not too hot.

Tues. The mail arrived on Monday, including your fat Christmas parcel full of useful articles. I am thinking seriously of starting a grocer's establishment! The knife, fork and



spoon set is a very useful article, and the cake and slices are very tasty. Your latest lot of papers have just arrived this afternoon. I wonder if Suey got her present in time for Xmas? Another thing that worries me is if it will fit her, and be suitable. The same applies to yours, and I do hope you'll like it, dear.

The bassinet sounds lovely. I only wish I could

be home to buy things like that. It was a great thrill when we got Suey's chest o' drawers, wasn't it? Melbourne must look funny in a blackout. I hope it's making people realise the seriousness of the situation. Fancy meeting Dr. Smith - it's a small world.

Very glad to hear that Suey is so full of mischief; that is surely a sign that she is in excellent health. Sorry to hear that you are not well sweetheart. I'm very, very glad you told me. I was wanting to ask you, dearest, but did not know how to frame the words.

I went on Guard again last night (Monday) and of course am on today. I felt off colour yesterday and did not have lunch or tea. However, I got up this morning and feel OK again. Well my dear, that's all I can rake up this week.

I am thinking of you always dear, and send you my fondest love, and of course Suzanne too. Remember "there's always a silver lining to every cloud" and Right will win in the end.

Your ever loving Husband,
Frank



L/C JOHN SMEATON

VICKI HOBSON (Granddaughter)

My mum's father, Lance Corporal John Smeaton, (known to his friends as Jack) was taken prisoner of war in Rabaul, and was apparently on board the Montevideo Maru, when it was torpedoed. I say apparently because it was never actually confirmed. There were possible sightings of him on board and some years later a gentleman from Ballarat contacted my Nan (Ada) to say there was supposedly a soldier by the name of Smeaton, possibly John, taken as a prisoner on that ship. On the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour it lists his Place of death as "At sea (South West Pacific Area)" and cause of death "Presumed". His details are as follows: Lance Corporal John Smeaton Service number VX44168 of the 2/22nd Battalion (Infantry). Date of death 1st July 1942 aged 37 years.



He left behind his wife Ada Smeaton and four daughters Maureen, Verna, Iris and Beverley. My mum Maureen, the eldest of these four girls, was only eight years old when she last saw her father. The day he left home the three older girls were at school, Beverley, the youngest, was still at home but can clearly remember waving to her daddy on the bus as it drove away. Ada and the girls received letters from time to time, full of questions about all his girls and telling them how much he loved them and missed them



and couldn't wait to be home. At some point in time, Ada received a letter from her husband telling her he had been taken prisoner by the Japanese, but was being well looked after and told her not to worry about him. However, my mum Maureen, vividly recalls the day the minister walked through their front gate, up the path and around the back of the house with the telegram for Ada advising of her husband's death. For many years the family still held out hope that this wasn't true and he would one day walk through that gate himself alive and well. These four little girls are now all in their seventies and would still desperately like to know the truth about what happened to their father. They have tried many times over the years to find out any further information, even confirmation that he was definitely on that ship. If anyone has any information whatsoever, we would love to hear from you. (E: hobson5@bigpond.com.au)

Ada Smeaton lived to the age of 98 years, she passed away on the 28th July 2004.

DEDICATION OF RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL AND 70th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL LUNCHEON - 30 JUNE/1 JULY 2012 CANBERRA

The dedication of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial, *Passage*, will be held on 1 July 2012.

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society will also be hosting a luncheon at the National Press Club in Canberra on Saturday 30 June 2012. Seating at the National Press Club will be limited and therefore the first confirmed replies, with payment, will be those accepted.

SATURDAY 30 June

Luncheon 12nn - 5pm (Drinks will be available from a cash bar)

Venue: National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600 www.npc.org.au

Guest speaker: To be advised

COST of lunch on Saturday \$60 per person

Payment will confirm booking.

PLEASE RSVP as soon as possible and prior to 8 June 2012.

To confirm, please contact Andrea Williams and provide her with this information:

- \$ The full name of each person who wishes to attend.
- \$ The age of each person who wishes to attend (optional but helpful).
- \$ Any mobility issue
- \$ The full postal address, phone number (home and mobile) and email of each person who wishes to attend.
- \$ The relationship, if any, of the person to the events of 1942 (if you did not attend a previous event in Canberra in 2010/2011).
- \$ The address and phone number, where each person intends to stay while in Canberra.
- \$ Any other people you are travelling with.

Even if you do not have all this information at this stage, please tell us what you can.

Andrea's contact details are: Ph: 02 9449 4129/0409 031 889

E: andrea.williams@bigpond.com 24 Melaleuca Drive, St Ives, NSW 2075

Payment can be made to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society as follows:

Electronically. Transfer funds to the Society's bank account:

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society

BSB 082-401 Account 16-083-2367. Bank NAB.

Please include your name and the words '**Memorial 70**' for this deposit. Also, please notify the deposit by email to Email: richard@isaunders.com.au.

By mail. Cheque to Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089.

By Visa or Mastercard - details at end of newsletter.

SUNDAY 1 July 2012

**Dedication of *Passage*, the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial
Australian War Memorial, Canberra ACT - Details to be advised**

To obtain a special rate and provide the opportunity of gathering together for the remainder of the weekend, a 'preferred accommodation' arrangement has been made for members and friends of the Society attending the event at:

Rydges Lakeside and Rydges Capital Hill in Canberra

***A preferred rate \$ 169.00 is extended exclusively to members and friends of the Society attending the event on the dates of Friday 29th June to Sunday 01st July 2012 inclusive. This rate will be for a deluxe queen bedded double and will include double / twin accommodation, full buffet breakfasts for 2 people and car parking.**

Other room types (suites for instance) rates and availability will be advised at the time of the enquiry.

A limited number of rooms will be made available at each property. Rydges have also advised that guests be made aware that this is the snow ski season and their parent company, Amalgamated Holdings Limited (AHL) is the owner/operator of Kosciusko Thredbo Resort. Therefore they actively promote overnight stays in Canberra at this time and demand may be high.

Rydges have developed a special 'landing page' on their website where members can access this special rate online and make bookings. The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society has also created a link from our website to the online page at Rydges.

<http://www.rydges.com/cwp/rmms>

To have access to the rate just enter in the qualifying dates, your contact details and a credit card as a guarantee for the booking.

**** Please Note: This rate and facility will expire after March 31st, 2012** .Enquiries after that date would be subject to available rates at the time of enquiry.

The booking code for the event is **R - 2906RMMS**

RYDGES LAKESIDE CANBERRA

1 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

Ph: 1800 026 169 Please quote: **R - 2906RMMS**

RYDGES CAPITAL HILL HOTEL, CANBERRA

Cnr Canberra Avenue and National Circuit, Forrest ACT 2603

Ph: 1800 020 011 Please quote: **R - 2906RMMS**

* * *

BREAKFREE CAPITAL TOWER CANBERRA, specialising in 2 and 3 Bedroom Apartments (fully self-contained) have also offered the following rates for apartment accommodation - these will be available for the next three months.

Facilities include - squash and tennis courts, spa, gym, sauna, outdoor pool and BBQ entertainment area.

2 Bedroom City Side - 1 queen, 2 x single or double, 1 bathroom, kitchen, laundry and some with balconies. \$259pn

2 Bedroom Lake Side - 1 queen, 2 x single or double, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, laundry and all with balconies. \$289pn

3 Bedroom Apartment - 1 queen, 3 x single, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, laundry and all with balconies. \$339pn

Guests would need to advise they are part of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society and confirm how many bedrooms, and which rate, to book direct.

For bookings please contact **Thomas Lamond**: Phone: 02 6276 3483

Email: thomas.lamond@breakfree.com.au

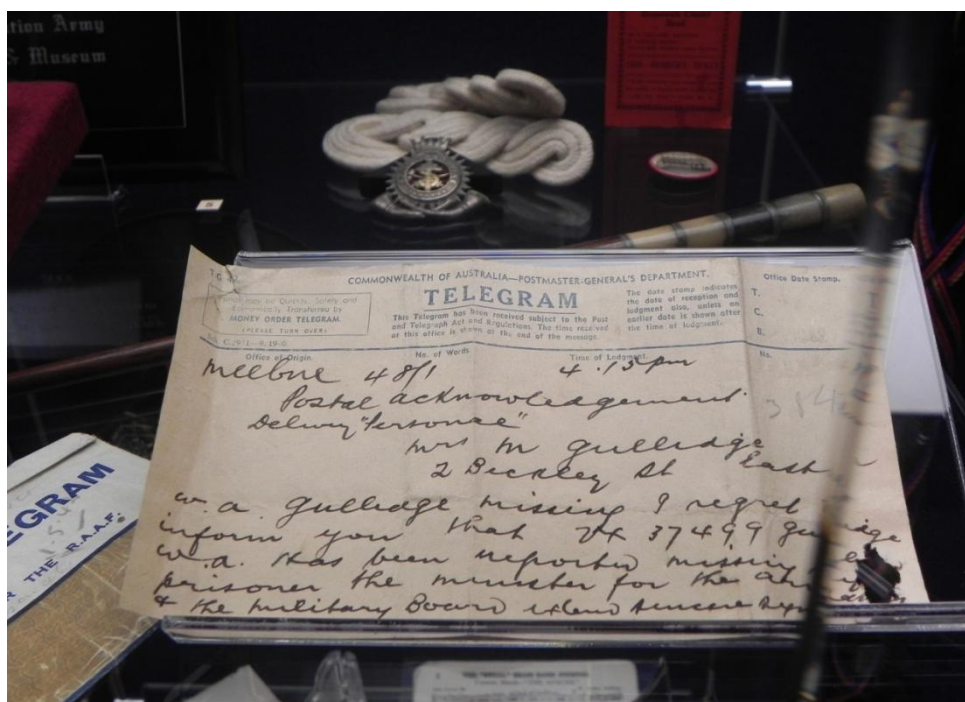
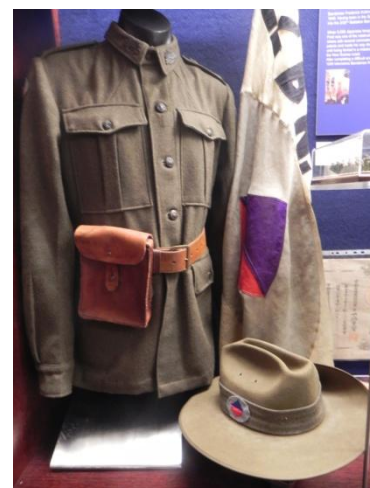
BREAKFREE CAPITAL TOWER CANBERRA
2 Marcus Clarke Street Canberra ACT 2601

HERITAGE CENTRE DISPLAY LINDSAY COX

A permanent exhibition commemorating the sacrifice of the Band of the 2/22nd Battalion is an important part of the new Salvation Army Heritage Centre at 69 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

The archive section holds records of all of the Bandsmen and a collection of photographs relating to their military service. Some general information relating to the 2/22nd Battalion and Rabaul is also held in the collection.

The Salvation Army Heritage Centre is linked to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society and on their behalf acts as a repository to receive or register all WW2 New Guinea Islands, Rabaul and *Montevideo Maru* memorabilia to ensure it in perpetuity records its existence.



70 YEARS SINCE CIVILIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN EVACUATED FROM NEW GUINEA ISLANDS

Lillian Evensen (excerpt of letter sent to Pat Boys in New Zealand) - evacuated by boat from Pondo, then plane from Rabaul

It was on the second Sunday afternoon before Christmas 1941 that my husband (Albert Stanley Evensen), known throughout the Territory as *Masta 3 Finger*, in twiddling the dial of our teleradio communication set, intercepted a 71-word message being broadcast to the people of Samarai to proceed to their nearest port and wait to be evacuated. This message which I also heard, was then broadcast once again, but to the people of Port Moresby.

After giving the matter some thought, Albert called his staff together and told them what we had heard. We were a coastguard watching station for the Navy so it seemed fairly obvious that we would receive instructions through our 0730 call on the morrow from Rabaul. The *Macdhui* was also due on the morrow for our products and bringing our food supplies. Albert suggested husbands should face facts and let their wives return to Australia by this vessel.

Only Albert and I knew the codeword for messages - which was changed every month - and I did nearly all the tele-communication sessions, thrice daily. Under the circumstances, Albert considered he should be the one to receive such a message and for the next nine days returned to our bungalow from the office three times daily to receive and send messages, but alas - no message re evacuation was ever received. Our food supplies ran out and we had more than one meal of fish cooked in ashes.

As I finished the 1645 session on the 9th day, I saw a strange gentleman (strange to Pondo) coming up the garden path with Albert - he proved to be the Captain of a small trading vessel. I quickly called Rabaul and requested another call from them when they had completed the circuit because there would be a coded message. I guessed correctly, this gentleman had come to take us to Rabaul to await evacuation. He explained he had been tossed about at sea for some nine days like a cork. He knew that the ship that was to have taken us to Australia had gone six days previously. The storm was still raging and he wanted permission from the Government in Rabaul to remain at Pondo overnight and load with desiccated coconut for ballast. The coded message was sent but alas there was no Government official on duty to receive this message - nevertheless, he made the decision to remain overnight.

The vessel was loaded and off we went the following night into the dreadful storm, with a total of 23 women collected from the Bainings district, on this small cargo vessel which had accommodation for only two. We lay on the deck *all* night with waves washing over us - a never-to-be-forgotten experience. Rabaul itself was completely deserted and here we waited for three days to be rescued - running to air raid shelters now and again - by a plane which came up from Sydney and on which I was the last person to board.

A 'Zero' hovered around for some time but we 'lost it' ere we reached Port Moresby where our plane was refuelled and on we went to Townsville. From there we travelled by train to the various capital cities and myself to Geraldton in Western Australia by Jan 31st 1942. Different women's organisations met the train at each station and showered us with goodies. In particular, the ladies of Rockhampton will never be forgotten. They took the

children and babies away, bathed and fed them, while the mothers and other adults had a lovely meal. They practically filled that long long carriage with home-made cakes, biscuits, fruit, sweets and magazines. People around the vicinity of the Canberra station were just the opposite; they laughed and jeered at us, calling out 'Look at the refugees' more than once, which was of course hard to swallow.

Then began the long wait for news of loved ones - five and a half years. During this long period I read in the *Pacific Islands Monthly* that Albert had been executed. A letter to the Editor asking where he had acquired this information brought no reply, likewise one to the Minister for Territories (Mr E Ward) in which I requested that he insist on the *PIM* editor stating how he had obtained such information.

On 20 May 1947 I was advised by Canberra that my husband was now presumed dead on 15 May 1944. Having been given no reason for the date, I cannot accept this at all because our next door neighbour at Pondo (George McKechnie) who was one of the four who came out alive of 800 civilians, told me when we met in June 1971, that Albert was taken into Rabaul and put in charge of our prisoners' hospital and that he was talking to Albert two months before hostilities ceased.

Finally to complete the story, Albert was in receipt of a war pension of thirty shillings a fortnight for injuries received in the first world war (which was the reason of his non-acceptance for the second) but Canberra never ever sent me sixpence of it during the five and a half years, or even asked how I was living. After the war I told the RSL in Geraldton who took the matter up with Canberra with the result that they sent me a cheque for £130.

Well might the question be asked – 'Who cared?'

* * *

With thanks to the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia for this article - part of a collection gathered on the occasion of the 60th anniversary Reunion of PNG Evacuees in Sydney, December 2001, and recently republished for the 70th anniversary.

ANZAC DAY SCHOOLS AWARD 2012 - How you can help

The Anzac Day Schools' Awards is a competition that encourages students to learn about Anzac Day. By researching Australia's wartime history students learn why veterans are commemorated on this special day. The competition is open to primary and secondary schools Australia wide and can be entered as an individual, class or a whole school and there are various categories. Prize money for State/Territory primary and secondary winners ranges up to \$2000. Further information on entry criteria can be found at 'Commemorations' at www.dva.gov.au or phone a Commemorations Officer on 133 254.

Could members of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society with children or grandchildren at school mention the significance of the 70th anniversary in 2012 for Lark Force, the 2/22nd Battalion and 1 Independent Company to their children's teachers and encourage the school to submit a project for these national awards?

Members could also contact the schools in the areas where the men were camped prior to going to the New Guinea Islands eg Bendigo, Trawool please? If you could also copy the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society in any correspondence, this would be appreciated.

Thank you to Patrick Bourke for this initiative

BUDDY UNO AND THE CIVILIAN SURVIVORS OF RABAU BY ROD MILLER

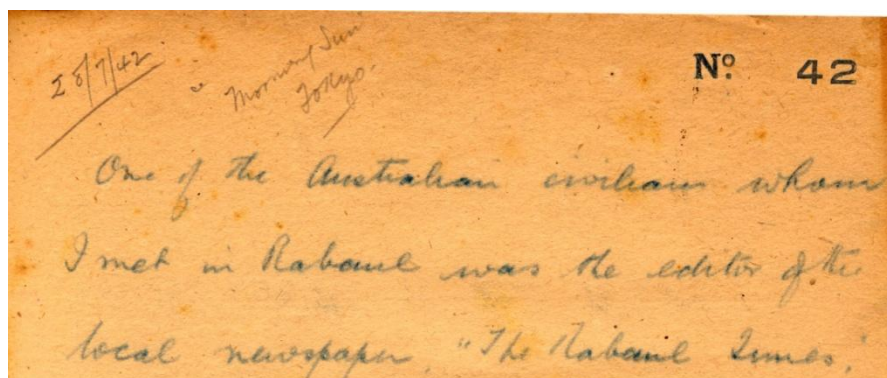
When the *Montevideo Maru* sailed in June 1942, twelve Australian civilians were retained by the Japanese to assist with the running of Rabaul's essential services. These men included tradesmen, plantation managers, a surveyor and technicians. Of these men, only four were to survive the war in Rabaul.

These men seemed to have only one thing in common; they had been placed together in the Rabaul Ice-Works after the invasion by the Japanese. One of the survivors, journalist Gordon Thomas, had been the editor of the *Rabaul Times*. As a long-time resident of Rabaul, Gordon was a good friend of the chief warden Nobby Clark. After the invasion, along with Hector Robinson, they had walked into Rabaul to surrender on behalf of the civilians who had taken refuge in a gully not far from the township.

They were met by a Japanese interpreter, who, although not named in Thomas's memoirs, was Mr Kawaguchi who knew both Clark and the acting administrator Harold Page. After the civilians were taken into custody, Clark was taken to Army Headquarters and after a short absence, he appeared at the doorway with a glass of beer in his hand, which he raised to them in a silent toast.

It was around this time that Gordon Thomas informed the Japanese that he was a correspondent for some Australian newspapers and suggested that it would be nice for the newspapers to receive word that the Australians captured in Rabaul were receiving such excellent treatment from the Japanese Army. Having worked on the wharves unloading Japanese ships with other internees and POWs, he was then transferred to the Ice House where he worked as a cook. Amongst Gordon's memorabilia from that time are a number of consecutively-numbered loose pages from an order-book, in which he kept carbon copies of a number of stories he had written. One in particular appears to have been written for a third party. The first page reads:

One of the Australian civilians whom I met in Rabaul was the editor of the local newspaper, "The Rabaul Times". I heard from a friend that he was engaged on special work for the supply department and was stationed at the Rabaul freezer, the principal ice-making and refrigerating establishment in the town and to this place I went one morning and enquired for the editor and two Australian engineers who were retained on special technical work.



Noted on the top left of the first page is the date 28/7/42, along with the words “Morning Sun Tokyo” which suggests he thought it had been published in a Japanese newspaper. The story continues for six pages and goes into some depth about his life in Rabaul, the behaviour of Japanese soldiers after the invasion and the AIF prior to the invasion.

In his memoirs Gordon relates the story of a visit to the icehouse by a curly-headed Japanese civilian named Ohara:

He told us his name was Ohara, and that he had arrived that day from Tokyo in company with a certain Prince, who travelled in his own plane. The Prince, he said, was interested in natural history; birds, insects and so on. He, himself, was interested in anthropology. He spoke perfect English. He told us he had spent many years in the States, and had attended Stamford University in California.

Thomas’s description of Ohara continues:

Ohara-san was something out of the box. He was the most educated Jap we had contacted and, though we took his story about travelling around with a Prince with a grain of salt, nevertheless he made an impression on us, and we couldn’t quite fit him into the general scheme of things. With a cheery “So long; see you later,” he departed. Next day we learned that a Prince had arrived from Tokyo and that Ohara was one of the party. That evening Ohara came again. He was entertaining; he had a good supply of American cigarettes, so we gave him a welcome, and all the ice-water he desired. He was an interesting mixture of the East and the West. We strongly suspected he was holding down a job of full-scale magnitude in the States for he had that air of command which only comes with Big Business. Concerning himself, he said little; but he delighted in showing off the information he collected about other people. He surprised me momentarily with the amount of information he had collected about myself, until I realised he had been dipping onto a “Who’s Who”...

Before he departed that evening, he had it all arranged that I should accompany the Prince and himself to Tokyo, where I was to lecture at the universities on Rabaul and New Britain...

“But now I go to the Solomon Islands,” said Ohara, “and when I return I come for you.” And off he went with a gay smile and a wave of the hand. That was the last we saw of him.

A visit by a Prince and a anthropologist is also mentioned in the diary of civilian nurse Jean McLellan, who on 22nd June 1942 the day of the sailing of the *Montevideo Maru*, notes a relatively accurate figure for the number of men leaving Rabaul and the number of men who had been left behind to work for the Japanese. Of all the nurses’ diaries that I have researched, hers is the only one to note the visit of the Prince, for at that time she was segregated with a sick colleague on the lower level of the Mission, away from the other women.

She wrote:

June 22nd Men left Rabaul for unknown destination - 1047 in all. Eight remaining for necessary work. No News of Bob. "Prince" and Anthropologist inspect in p.m.

Six days later, after the sailing of the *Montevideo Maru*, Vunapope Mission was again visited by a person that the interpreter announced as a "Prince". He was only interested in the Australian nurses and nuns. They were lined up outside as he was slowly driven past them in an impressive car.

The identity of the "Prince" is currently unknown, but offers made to journalists in other theatres of the war by Baron Takasaki, who it would appear was travelling in his own plane around that time, were uncannily similar to those made to Gordon Thomas.

However, it has been possible to identify "Ohara". Whilst researching the Rabaul officers taken to Japan I came across an unusual transfer of prisoners in the memoirs of Lark Force officer David Hutchinson-Smith. In 1943 he noted the departure of six officers from Zentsuji POW camp. He wrote:

The significance of this selection was obvious, as the Americans were either communications or signals officers and "George" and Braden were prominent in the theatrical circle of the camp. Each member of the party was provided with a new pair of trousers, a shirt and underclothing, boots and a sealed Red Cross parcel complete! Such solicitude obviously meant something!

From previous research I knew that most of these officers had been associated with Charles Cousens at Bunka camp, where the POWs working at Radio Tokyo were held. Whilst researching officer Ken Parkyns¹, I realised that except for Lt Gordon Braden², all the Rabaul officers moved from Zentsuji were accounted for at Bunka camp. Interestingly, although there is no record of Braden ever having been in Bunka camp, he was interviewed post-war about his association with the camp by Major Harold Williams, who approximately a week later discovered the nominal roll of those lost on the *Montevideo Maru* in Japan. Having been one of the first POWs to return to Australia, Braden next appears in a photograph of an inter-service conference held at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, in November 1945. It was chaired by Colonel J. McCahon, the Commanding officer of Directorate of Prisoners of War and Internees, to whom Major Williams was reporting directly from Japan. Its purpose was to trace missing members of the services in the South East Asian and Pacific areas.

In his book *Tokyo Calling; The Charles Cousens Story*, author Ivan Chapman notes that a Japanese witness for the prosecution, Hiroshi Niino, who had worked at Radio Tokyo during the war, was brought to Australia to give evidence at the treason trial of Charles Cousens. Intriguingly, this book also noted that Niino had a meeting with a former POW who wanted to know the whereabouts of other Australian troops captured by the Japanese at Rabaul.

I had Niino's Australian National Archives file digitised - only to discover that the interrogator was none other than Gordon Thomas! Considering what Gordon wrote in his post-war memoirs about the "Prince" and Ohara in Rabaul (which Jean McLellan's diary

clearly dates to the time of the sailing of the *Montevideo Maru*) I was surprised that he didn't ask Niino who the Prince and Ohara were.

Researching the other Japanese civilians noted in *Tokyo Calling* as being associated with Bunka Camp, my attention was drawn to a rather nondescript character named Buddy Uno. Ivan Chapman noted that Uno was:

Working with [Baron] Ikeda on the promised Japanese propaganda bombardment of North America... Buddy Uno, had been a Nisei newspaper reporter in California before going to Tokyo in 1939. He had served as a war correspondent in China.

From earlier research I knew that Baron Ikeda had been repatriated from Australia along with 869 other Japanese in August 1942 for an exchange of internees (for which the Curtin government received only 30 Australian internees in return).

Researching Uno, I discovered that author Yûji Ichioka had devoted a chapter of his book (*Before Internment; Essays in Prewar Japanese-American History*) to Kazumaro Buddy Uno. Yûji 's book reveals that Uno was a well-known Nisei³ in the pre-war Japanese-American community. In 1937 he had been introduced to Tatsuo Kawai, the chief of the Information Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry (who coincidentally, as Japans Ambassador to Australia in 1942, was the most important internee to be repatriated to Japan as part of the internee exchange). Kawai introduced Uno to the Japanese Army and Navy ministries who granted him authorization to go to China, along with other foreign correspondents, as an officially-recognised reporter. At that very time, fellow journalist Ken Sato, who also worked for Radio Tokyo later in the war, had been seconded by the Japanese Army newspaper section and sent to China to work as an interpreter. It is possible that this was where they first met. On his return to America, Uno published extensive pro-Japanese accounts of the fighting and lectured on the Sino-Japanese war. Ichioka further states that when war broke out:

Kazumaro "Buddy" Uno was in the service of the Japanese government, but in a different capacity. From January 1940 he was attached to the Press Bureau of the Japanese Army in Shanghai as a civilian journalist serving as a liaison between the Army and foreign correspondents. At the same time, he monitored the *East Asia Review*, a fortnightly English news magazine published unofficially by the Press Bureau. In June 1941, Uno assumed the editorship of a new publication called *Asiana*. Ostensibly independent, but also published by the Press Bureau, it was a monthly news magazine patterned after *Time* magazine. As Editor-in-Chief, Uno used the alias of "Brian Ohara" to conceal his identity until November 1942, after which he used his real name.

Thus the brash Japanese civilian named Ohara, who had sought out journalist Gordon Thomas in the Rabaul Ice Works in 1942, was in fact Kazumaro "Buddy" Uno, the editor of the Japanese magazine *Asiana*. Interestingly, in February 1944 Buck Henshaw, an American POW at Radio Tokyo, noted in his diary:

Uno has ordered that a script be written pointing out how terrible it is that the war prisoners in Rabaul are being bombed by their own planes.

A few months later, after arguments with Baron Ikeda and after abusing the POWs at Radio Tokyo, Uno was transferred to Manila. Arriving just four days after MacArthur had landed on Leyte, he was captured in May 1945. Due to his frequent outbursts in English he was ostracised by his fellow Japanese POWs as being an American spy. He was repatriated to Japan in May 1946 and died in Kobe in 1954.

Gordon Thomas's post-war memoirs (*Rabaul 1942-1945*) contain unique and important information about Rabaul and its environs during the Japanese occupation. However, researchers should also be warned that there are gaps and omissions in his work.

There are many possible reasons for this. Surprisingly, having survived with the Japanese for the duration of the war, life after liberation wasn't easy for Gordon. Instead of being admired for surviving, in some quarters he was met with animosity and rumours flourished as grieving families came to terms with the loss of their loved ones in Rabaul. Many appealed to him for information and although endeavouring to help, he could only tell them that they had sailed on the *Montevideo Maru*.

Some old Rabaul hands who had escaped the invasion in 1942 suspected that Gordon had assisted the Japanese to print pamphlets dropped on the escaping troops. This was based upon the fact that these pamphlets (uncharacteristically) included perfect English and were printed using many different typefaces.

Civilians, unlike Military POWs, can't be charged with "Collaboration with the Enemy". (The definition of "Collaboration" poses a difficult ethical question. Were the prisoners in Rabaul who unloaded ships, repaired trucks and radios for the Japanese effectively "collaborators"? Most observers would argue that they were not deliberate collaborators, because of the implicit threat from their captors of death if they failed to perform this work. Yet this same description can be applied to the work of Charles Cousens, who was later tried - unsuccessfully - for Treason.)

Charles Cousens and others had indeed broadcast for the Japanese, but similarly, there was the threat of execution. Also Cousens used his position to get the personal details of many Australian POWs broadcast home. (This information was unavailable through any other channel for families back in Australia.) So, while distasteful, the decision of those who wrote or broadcast for the Japanese was understandable. It was a matter of survival.

Gordon Thomas lived out his life in Campbelltown N.S.W., where he died in 1961.

In the next newsletter: Coast Watcher John J. Murphy - survivor of Rabaul.

1. Parkyn had been part of the Catalina crew who reported the Japanese fleet heading for Rabaul. The survivors of his crew were the first prisoners from Rabaul to be taken to Japan.
2. Officer of the 2/22nd Battalion.
3. "Nisei": American-born second-generation Japanese

ADDRESS TO THE PNGAA LUNCHEON SYDNEY, 4 DEC 2011, COMMEMORATING 70 YEARS SINCE THE EVACUATION OF PNG IN WWII SIGURD LAPPEGAARD, from Bodoe, Norway

When WWII broke out in Norway April 9 1940, A Norwegian cargo ship named *Herstein* set away from Calcutta and a year later arrived in Melbourne with 32 crewmembers. 25 Norwegians and one Australian amongst them.

In November 1941 they became part of a search party of three ships that were sent looking for *HMAS Sydney*, a Royal Australian Navy cruiser that was sunk by Germans outside WA. There were no survivors.

A month later *Herstein* was chartered out to the Australia Government and on the 27 December 1941, they set course for Port Moresby PNG along with British Ships *Sarpedon* and *Aquitania*. Four cruisers were escorting the three ships were bringing 4250 troops, and 10,000 tonnes of equipment to assist PNG. On the 4 of January 1942, the convoy docked safely in Port Moresby.

After unloading and reloading, *Herstein* set course for Rabaul. By this point in the war, Rabaul had already been bombed several times. Upon arrival on the 14 January the crew started unloading about 1200 tonnes of cargo. On the 18 the ship was moved to load up the cargo hauls with copra.

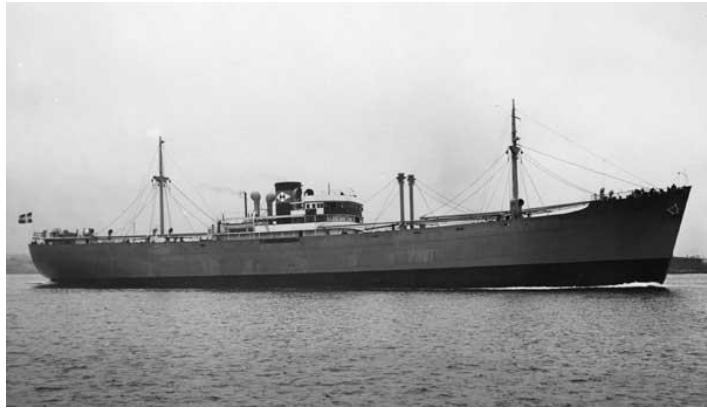
I am not sure why the ship was not used for evacuation because, on the 20 January 1942, the Japanese struck the harbour of Rabaul with full force. About 100 dive bombers aeroplanes caused mayhem in the harbour, and three of them hit *Herstein* amid ship. The anti-aircraft guns mounted on the deck did their best, until a second bomb hit the bridge and put them out of action. The third bomb exploded in the engine room, and Captain Gottfred M Gundersen watched in awe as all but one of his crew jumped overboard the burning ship, and swam to safety. Three of the crew were sent to hospital and taken good care of. The next morning *Herstein* had drifted across to the other side of the harbour, still burning. A total loss. That afternoon information reached them that the Japanese was preparing to land in Rabaul. Each of the Norwegian crew members were given 60 pounds to survive on the other side of the world with no means of return. The majority of the crew decided to stay in Rabaul, in the hope that the Japanese would send them home, because Norway was not at war with Japan at that time. This had happened before. That turned out to be a fateful decision.

Captain Gundersen was split from his crew and joined a group of Australians that wandered 300 miles overland and along the coast for 78 days. Half of the group died of hunger and illness, and others were killed by the Japanese. Those who survived were picked up by an expedition from New Guinea and Captain Gundersen eventually made it back to Norway, as the only one.

Meanwhile the crew of *Herstein* had been captured and imprisoned by the Japanese invaders, and then moved aboard a Japanese cargo ship named *Montevideo Maru*. The ship was used as a prison ship with terrible conditions and held 1050 POWs captured by the Japanese. *Montevideo Maru* set course for Hainan Island, but on 1 July 1942, the American submarine "Sturgeon" hit it with a torpedo 65 miles West of Cape Bojeador,

Luzon. The American submarine had instructions to stop the Japanese supply line, unaware that the *Montevideo Maru* was carrying POW'S. The ship sunk, and everybody on board died.

I cannot help but to send a thought to these Norwegian sailors that had been long away from their home country long before the war even started, but somehow still ended up as victims of it on the other side of the globe.



References:

<http://memorial.org.au/>

<http://www.warsailors.com/>

65 YEARS SINCE FIRST CIVILIANS RETURNED TO RABAU



MV Reynella brings the first civilians back to Rabaul after WWII - November 1946.

Left to right: Harold Coldham, Captain Jim Duncan, Tex Roberts, Mrs Greenwood, Mrs Una Adams, Pat Stanfield, Mrs Grose, Drummond Thompson, Jack Allan, Oscar Rondahl, Jimmy Joyce, Gladys Baker, Vic Pennefather

Photo courtesy: Peter Coote

www.memorial.org.au

MEMBERS LOG-IN ON WEBSITE

The Members-only area on the website is continually being updated. It currently holds additional photos and recently archived newsletters.

If you do not have an access number please let us know.

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.

Please Email: admin@memorial.org.au

RECRUIT PEOPLE AS MEMBERS

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society has over 450 members. Each membership contributes to the memorial. Please encourage family and friends to join and to receive this monthly newsletter by emailing Andrea Williams admin@memorial.org.au or writing to the Society c/- Jackson Wells Pty Ltd, PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089

DVD: THE FALL OF RABAU & KAVIENG

4 hours over a 2 disc set, High Definition format. Cost: A\$43 incl p&p within Australia

This 2-disc edition of "The Fall of Rabaul & Kavieng" features over 10 in-depth interviews with those who survived Rabaul in 1942 - plus extensive coverage of the events at Parliament House, 21st of June 2010.

Schindler Communications has pledged \$3 per unit donation for every copy sold to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society towards the building of the memorial.

To purchase this DVD visit: www.thefallofrabaul.com or phone: 0418 740182

THE RESTORING COMMUNITY WAR MEMORIALS GRANTS PROGRAM in Victoria provides funding of up to \$10,000 to assist ex-service organisations, local councils, schools and community groups to preserve, restore and enhance local war memorials and honour rolls. The 2012 grants program closes on Monday 30th January 2012 and can be obtained from www.dpcd.vic.gov.au

CAN YOU HELP? FROM THE VET AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER, SUMMER ISSUE:

Seeking information or contact with WW11 veteran who escaped from Japanese custody in Rabaul and was hidden in the jungle by my family, along with another soldier who died of malaria. I called the soldier "Ah Fin". He married a Chinese girl and settled in Rabaul after the war. I am now 74, living in WA and wish to hear about the soldier "Ah Fin". Contact Thomas Wan 08 97271264.

FEEDBACK

**PETER PRITCHARD
BENDIGO**

What a marvellous edition of the Memorial News. Many thanks for the excellent coverage of the events in Bendigo. Lois and Eric deserve much praise for their efforts.



Help commemorate an important part of the history of Australia and Papua New Guinea by donating to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial.

Memorial News, the monthly newsletter of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, is available to all members.

How to join the Society:

Electronically:

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society
BSB 082-401 Account No 16-083-2367.
Please notify the deposit to Richard Saunders: Richard@isaunders.com.au

By mail. Post a cheque to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society:
PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089.

By credit card - please complete form at end of newsletter.

Donations of all sizes will help. Donations over \$2 will be tax deductible. They are forwarded, in bulk amounts, to the AWM for processing to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial Fund. Please note that this process may take a little time however your receipt will be returned to you as soon as possible.

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society is committed to applying all funds to the establishment of a Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial.

Membership/Donations

One post or email address - \$50
Gold membership - \$100
Life membership - \$500

NOTE:

If you received this newsletter by post and you have an email address which could be used, it would be appreciated if you could let us know please. This will save both costs and time. Please email: admin@memorial.org.au

AURORA EXPEDITIONS PNG -

70th commemoration voyage

RABAU 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.

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.

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/Jacquinet 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.

Option: 65km Lark Force Wilderness Trek from Vunga, near Rabaul, to Tol -

Options for the voyages also include kayaking and scuba diving.

MEMORIAL NOTICEBOARD

DONATIONS

Donations towards the memorial have been gratefully received from:

Banbury, Johnson, McCallum, May, University of NSW Regiment Association, Brighton RSL Sub-branch, Dee Why RSL Sub branch, Second Twenty Second Battalion 'Lark Force' Association

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: Richard@isaunders.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: _____

Email Address: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Description of what is being paid for:

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