



Rabaul & Montevideo Maru

Memorial News 35

February 2012

70TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

TO COMMEMORATE THE FALL OF RABAUL, KAVIENG AND THE NEW GUINEA ISLANDS 23 January 2012

Services were held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, and the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Rabaul and Kavieng.



Bill Sykes MP, State Member for Benalla, and Norm Furness, President 2/22nd Battalion/Lark Force Association attend the service at the Shrine of Remembrance on 22 January 2012 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the fall of Rabaul and Kavieng. About 120 family members and friends paid their respects.

DON HOOK

The Australian War Memorial marked the 70th anniversary of the Japanese invasion of Rabaul with a commemorative closing ceremony on January 23.

About 80 people attended the ceremony including the Patron of the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society, Peter Garrett.

Mr Garrett's grandfather, a copra and cocoa planter on New Britain, was one of 1,053 Australians who died in 1942 when the Japanese prison ship, *Montevideo Maru* was sunk by an American submarine off the Philippines.

2/22nd Battalion/Lark Force plaque at Melbourne Shrine



Over 350 people from most Australian states have accepted for the Canberra events. Response has been strong for both the 70th Commemoration Luncheon on Saturday 30 June and the dedication on Sunday 1 July. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

SEE DETAILS PAGE 13

Help please! Do you have an account with the Hume Building Society? A payment has been received however we have been unable to identify the owner. Another payment has been received from 'Naltina'. If you can assist, please contact Andrea Williams

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



**Happy 90th
Norm!**

Norm Furness, President of the 2/22nd Battalion/Lark Force Association, and one of the few survivors from Rabaul, celebrated his 90th birthday with family in Melbourne.

**ABC interview with Norm Furness:
23 January 2012**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-01-23/rabaul-invasion-70th-anniversary/3788068>

Access archived issues of Memorial News

All previous issues are available in the Members Only section of the website. If you do not have a password please email admin@memorial.org.au

Sarah Snook won the AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama for: Sisters of War (2010) (TV). Sarah played the role of Lorna Johnston nee Whyte in the television drama.

23 January 2012 Shrine of Remembrance



Our thoughts are with Phil Ainsworth and his family after the recent loss of his wife, Joan, who passed away on 3 February 2012.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR HANK NELSON

Eminent historian and respected advisor to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, Professor Hank Nelson, died on Friday 17 February 2012 in Canberra.

Professor Nelson lived in Papua New Guinea for seven years from 1966-73, teaching at the University of Papua New Guinea whilst also studying the period of the Japanese occupation.

This led to a lifelong 'interest in the history and current politics of Papua New Guinea and in Australia-Papua New Guinea relations.'

Hank worked on a collaborative project with the Australian War Memorial and Japanese historians to create a comprehensive web site about World War II in Papua New Guinea.

He was well known for his book '*Taim Bilong Masta: The Australian Involvement with Papua New Guinea*, ABC, 1982.

Hank was often generous with his time and encouragement to those working to better understand the Australian-PNG relationship. He greatly assisted the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society in establishing the facts surrounding the sinking of the prison ship *Montevideo Maru* and continued to support the Society as it progressed towards achieving the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial.

DISPLAY AT SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE

MELBOURNE VICTORIA

The Shrine of Remembrance has 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 opened on 20 January 2012 and will run for approximately four months.

70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOL MASSACRE

The following account has been condensed from statements of survivors of Japanese massacre at TOL.

(55) As mentioned in PART 11, a Japanese float plane reconnoitred the neighbourhood of TOL Plantation on the afternoon of 1 Feb 42, when the majority of the personnel who were withdrawing along the SOUTH coast of NEW BRITAIN were recuperating there from their journey across the BAININGS. No doubt as a result of this reconnaissance, Japanese forces came ashore in five landing craft at TOL soon after dawn on 3 Feb 42.

(56) In spite of the fact that the troops remaining at TOL were unarmed and one party of 22 men were waiting on the beach under a white flag to surrender, the Japanese opened fire with mortars and machine guns. Most of the men who had remained at TOL until the Japanese landing, had evidently done so with the intention of giving themselves up as POW. The fire may have been directed at small parties retreating towards the bush.

(60) At daybreak on 4 Feb the men were called out of the huts, counted and names and numbers were taken. All were then marched to TOL Plantation Homestead. Here the party of 22, who had waited on the beach under a white flag, were separated from the rest and were marched off. The others were permitted to sit in the shade for a period of three hours during which they were given water and cigarettes and during which identification discs and all other personal possessions were taken away and thrown into one heap. (61) Using white fishing cord which each man seemed to carry as part of his equipment, the Japs proceeded to tie their prisoners' hands behind their backs and to rope them together in parties of 9 and 10. Insufficient cord resulted in at least one party not being roped together. The parties were then marched off in different direction, escorts carrying rifles, bayonets and spades.

Statement of LL Robinson of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles to F Holland Esquire, a member of the New Guinea Administrative Unit - at Wide Bay, South Coast New Britain 27 Feb 1942:

I was fortunate in that the line I was with happened to be not roped together and that I was No 2 in the line. Three Japanese soldiers headed the line, then came 9 or 10 of our men then 3 more Japanese and so on. In the beginning the procession made its own track through the cover crop and secondary growth (which was springing up) but after a time emerged upon the track proper through the plantation. It was here that an 'S' bend in the path with secondary growth; overgrown with cover crop, presented an opportunity for me to escape and I availed myself of it. Turning the 1st bend of the 'S' I nipped out of the line and ducked down behind a bush on the other bend of the 'S'. The chap next to me called 'Lower sport' and I accordingly crouched further into the scrub. Fortunately the line went by with nothing untoward happening and I made off through the plantation. I heard some shooting whilst on my way. After the trying experience of three days wandering in the bush living only on water I came across a party of civilians camped on the bank of a creek who released me and looked after me for a couple of days. The civilians were: Vic Pennefather, Tex Roberts, Jack Allan, Harry Briggs, W Seale and Ryall (?) I then made off for the Mission to get disinfectant and bandages for my sores. I met Col Scanlon en route and related to him the whole story.

Colonel Scanlan a couple of days later decided to return to Kokopo with his party and surrender.

Further reading at:

<http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/records/awm52/8/3/22/awm52-8-3-22-10.pdf>

RABAUL TO TOL LARK FORCE WILDERNESS TREK MARG CURTIS



In 2009 I attended our annual 2/22nd Service at the Shrine in Melbourne where discovered that it was planned that some of the members of the Brunswick Salvation Army would be involved in going to Rabaul and doing the Lark Force Wilderness Trek; McCarthy's Trail II to coincide with Anzac Day in April 2009. Kori Chan from South Sea Horizons had been promoting this new venture and in fact two other 2/22nd family members, Frazer and Rohan Harry had done this first official trek in October 2008. I got a lot of information and started to commit to getting physically fit enough to be able to tackle the trek. I was able to convince my brother Craig and cousin Ron to come along and enjoy(?) the experience with me. Another Lark Force family member Pete McGuiness also decided to join the



group too. (Pete's father had escaped and come back on the Laurabada.) Unfortunately Victoria experienced terrible bush fires and the Salvation Army had to cancel their plans but we had decided that we still wanted to do it and Kori arranged for a couple of other people to be a part of it to. We were joined in Rabaul by a Care worker then working in Rabaul, Alison, and an AAP journalist, Ilya Gridneff, a total of six trekkers plus porters.

The Province and Districts visited were - East New Britain Province - Gazelle, East Pomio and Open Bay and the clans visited were - Bainings - Uramot; East Pomio - Mengen, Sulka, Tomoip, Mail and Simbali.

The group met up at Vunga Village on



Anzac night where we experienced a fire dance - an amazing start to our 5 day trek. Our first day saw us travel from, Vunga to Renagi, trekking down to the Kerevat River crossing (5 river crossings is total) and then we commenced ascent to Baram village where we had lunch. Baram is a small village inhabited by Bainings family and perched on top of a mountain peak. We had a refreshing swim before heading off for Renagi

village - a 2 and 1/2 hour trek from Baram. We stayed overnight and set off from Renagi which is 581m above sea level and commenced our 2 hour descent to Sren River. Renagi Village has a population of 40 villagers. After a quick break at Sren River we continued trekking up to the top of Mount Qaduit (about 1 hour). After descending from the top of Mount Qaduit we had a swim in the Eboga River and continued on after lunch to Adenam River (2 hours). We camped that night by the river and the porters caught and cooked some eel and fresh water prawns. Next day was



probably the most challenging day and we trudged through low wetlands and followed the meandering bends of the Toriu River and Qilot River (2 hours). After crossing the Qilot River we commenced our 1 hour climb up to the top of Mount Imeng - a very tough climb, but very rewarding when you reach the summit - views were amazing. After a short break at Mt Imeng we did a 2 hour trek along the Imare River (2 hours) and



stopped for lunch. We then continued our trek to Unam which involved another steep descent followed by an equally steep climb and then a final descent to our last river crossing at Breng River. The Breng River is located at the base of Mondrabet Village. After a refreshing swim we continued up the steep and final hill to Mondrabet Village (about 2 and ½ hours). That night we were entertained with a fire dance by the Bainings dancers. The following day we went down the Mevelo River Crossing and finished up at Karlai Plantation. That night we actually spent a night in a bed which was great after small one man tents. The following morning we went by banana boat to Tol for a very moving dawn service. We went back to Karlai for breakfast and then headed back to Kokopo by boat (around 4 hours). We stayed at Rapopo Plantation Resort for a couple of nights before heading home. We started each day getting up around 6 and heading off early and usually finished around 3.30 - 4.00 in the afternoon - pretty long days but with regular stops we all seemed to manage ok. Exhausted, most nights we were in bed around 7.

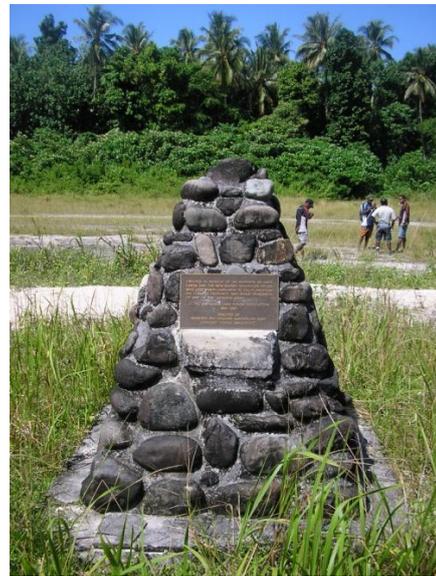
I cannot recommend this experience highly enough, particularly for family

members of 2/22nd. Whilst my connection through my Uncle, Jack Groat, who was taken POW and presumed to be on the Montevideo Maru, the connection we had with Pete McGuiness who was walking in his father's footsteps was a very emotional time where he made constant reference to his father's diaries and also made regular reference to David Selby's book where all the villages and places were mentioned. You felt they were with you all the way. Each Village we passed through or stopped with were fantastic too. It was great to see how they lived and how very house proud they are and they had lovely gardens. They made us feel very welcome at each stop and very happy for us to visit and the kids were just terrific too, being excited to see us (probably for the lollies too I suspect!).



I don't believe any amount of training could prepare you for the ups and downs (and there were plenty!) and the river crossings both in the water and over logs, but the porters were so helpful and there to guide you and make sure you were coping ok. It was a real bonding experience with everyone getting on so well and all enjoying the company and the experience together and I was lucky enough to have a female porter Monica who was very caring and made sure that I was coping ok. I think as long as you are physically fit to handle the steep climbs and descending in mud, heat, etc. and

most of all determined to do it, you will enjoy it immensely and find it a most memorable and rewarding experience.



AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES TRIALS

After examining under oath the available survivors and independent witnesses who had passed through the area, the Court on July 8th reported its finding that :

There were at least four separate massacres of prisoners on the morning of 4th February, the first of about 100, the second of 6, the third of 24 and the fourth of about 11... All the men had surrendered or been captured and held in captivity for some time before being slaughtered.²

Those responsible for the Tol Massacre were never brought to trial. Horii was drowned in the withdrawal down the Kumasi River on 19 November 1942. Kuwada was killed in action near Giruwa on 22nd November. Kusunose after his preliminary interrogation by 2 Aust War Crimes Section in Tokyo on 5th and 6th December 1945 fled to Takigahara and committed suicide there on December 17th.

<http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~warcrime/documents/Sissons%20Final%20War%20Crimes%20Text%2018-3-06.pdf>

THE EARLY MORNING INVASION OF KAVIENG

The 1st Independent Company (Commando) arrived in Kavieng in July 1941 to protect the seaplane base, and to act as a link in a chain of observation posts being established across Australia's northern frontier.

On arrival it was found that no arrangements had been made for their accommodation. It was left to Assistant District Officer Gerry McDonald to arrange billets for more than 250 troops until things were sorted out.

The officer commanding the unit, Major James Edmond-Wilson, soon posted sections to Manus Island, Namatanai on New Ireland, Buka, Tulagi in what was then the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, and Vila in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu).

In his war diary, Major Edmond-Wilson gives details of the Japanese invasion of Kavieng that took place in the early hours of 23 January 1942 - about the same time Rabaul was invaded.

Because of air raids on 21-22 January, most troops had moved outside Kavieng to pre-arranged outposts. Only five company members remained in Kavieng proper along with a handful of Europeans - Phillip Levy, Harry Murray, Bill Attwood, a Mr Livingstone, and a few Roman Catholic priests.

Major Edmond-Wilson decided to stay the night with Phillip Levy; the others stayed at the Town Club. According to his diary:

At 03.05hr on Wednesday the 23rd of January I was awakened by noise at Saunder's wharf. Visibility was very poor and it was raining lightly. Mr Levy switched on the lights, saw Japanese

troops outside the front of the house, and immediately switched them off. It was the commencement of an enemy landing, made in the darkness and without noise.

Landing barges were reaching all western beaches at 03.10hr. Very lights were being fired, followed by much shouting and shooting. By 03.12hr, Mr Levy's house was surrounded but we left it by car unmolested except for a few stray ineffective shots.

I picked up Harry Murray on the way out to the aerodrome. The enemy by this time were surging toward the aerodrome from the lower western beaches. I was met by Lt Burns whose duty it was to blow the drome and supply dumps. I told him to do this immediately and then retire if possible.

I drove to the end of the drome and waited 30 seconds before the aerodrome and dumps were blown up at 03.18hr. By this time some of the enemy troops had actually penetrated onto the drome. Captain Goode received severe concussion when the drome exploded but he, with all the remaining members of his platoon, retired in good order towards Cockle Creek and sustained no further casualties.

Major Edmond-Wilson returned to the company headquarters at 03.25hr. Heavy radio equipment was smashed as was everything else of use to the enemy. He and his men then moved as planned to the Cockle Creek rendezvous. The enemy force was estimated between 4,000 and 5,000.

After a week of eluding the Japanese, mostly in swamps, the Australians were suffering from fatigue, malaria, skin diseases and dysentery. However, hopes were raised when the company's

schooner *Induna Star*, badly damaged by Japanese bombing, was repaired and set sail on the night of 30 January. The diary again:

“The night of the 1st of February fell dark and stormy and I decided to run straight for Woodlark island. Under a favourable wind and a heavy following sea, the Induna Star made good time and dawn found us out of the sight of land, approximately some 70 miles south east of Rabaul.

“By 09.30hr when we were about 90 miles south east of Rabaul an enemy recce plane was sighted, travelling north west. She appeared not to see us but, unfortunately, the day was bright and clear and after a minute or two the plane changed direction and circled around us several times. It then opened fire with machine guns without causing any serious casualties but causing further leakage in an already very leaking ship which need constant pumping.

“At 09.50hr the enemy plane dived and bombed us, with one bomb hitting the schooner amidships on the starboard side. This bomb destroyed the lifeboat and caused considerable casualties. The boat was now taking in a dangerous amount of water and I considered further resistance useless and had the boat stopped.”

Three were killed in the action and one later died of wounds.

The Japanese Navy towed the *Induna Star* to Rabaul. Later officers were separated from the other ranks, all of whom died when the *Montevideo Maru* was sunk. The officers spent the next three years as prisoners of war in Japan and all returned to Australia when hostilities ended.

After his discharge, Major Edmond-Wilson took up farming. He died of cancer in the 1950s.

RABAUl REMEMBERED ROSS HALL

The 23rd January marks the 70th anniversary of the Japanese invasion of Rabaul, the then beautiful administrative centre of New Britain, an island north east of New Guinea. New Britain was mandated to Australia after World War 1 and was strategically important as part of Australia's 'forward observation post' policy.

In March 1941, as fears of war with Japan increased, the Australian Government garrisoned Rabaul in order to protect its airfields and seaplane facilities which were used for surveillance of the Pacific Ocean to the north. The garrison was 1400 strong including 716 frontline soldiers of the 2/22nd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force (AIF).



One of the members of the 2/22nd Battalion was Private Hector Kay of Kerang, Victoria. Hec (as he was known) was born in England and came to Australia in 1923. He worked in the Pyramid district constructing irrigation channels with a team of horses and scoop. Later he formed a partnership, Kay & Potts, with his brother in law George Potts. Kay & Potts dealt in farm machinery and produce from premises on

the corner of Scoresby and Victoria Streets in Kerang, now the Kerang Authorised Newsagency. Hec never married and with the outbreak of World War 2 enlisted in the AIF aged 39.

The Japanese invasion of Rabaul in the early hours of January 23rd 1942 became a rout for the defenders. The Australians were outnumbered by a vastly superior force and within hours the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Scanlon,

ordered "every man for himself". What happened at Rabaul in 1942 was not known until after the war and to this day many questions remain unanswered. Hec Kay's fate is one of those many unanswered questions.

Pictured: Hec Kay at 65 Fitzroy Street, Kerang on his last leave home, 1941.

Ross Hall is Hec Kay's nephew

Two excellent articles written by David Ellery appeared in the Canberra Times on 23 January 2012

- Garrett urges Rabaul Awareness
- 1942 - A Year to Remember

. As we went to press the links seemed to be broken but have a look in the Newsroom of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society at:

<http://www.memorial.org.au/about-the-society/activities/newsroom.html>

Lark Force 70th Anniversary Trek

Kokoda Historical offers a 15 day trek to Tol ex Australia. Dates are 12-26 April 2012 with attendance at the Dawn Service at Bita Paka on ANZAC Day on return, or 17 June - 2 July 2012 with a service at Bitapaka to coincide with dedication of the Montevideo Maru memorial at AWM, Canberra.

Reg Yates (M: 0408 971 998 - a former Reservist and retired paramedic) will lead the trek. The trek includes both jungle and coastal walks to Tol, some maintenance work around the memorial working with local people, boat travel including fishing and local tour around Rabaul area.

The walk through rainforest and along the coast is tougher than the Kokoda Track; endurance, teamwork and a planned spare day will bring success for trekkers with average fitness. Reg Yates' local porters understand the South Coast route and will get everyone safely to Tol; they will demonstrate bushcraft and survival skills en route.

Prices are available from Kokoda Historical, depending on final numbers; Preferred numbers are 5 to 10 trekkers.

Non-trekkers (i.e. keen fisherfolk) willing to escort fuel to Tol boatmen, then wait for trekkers to arrive, should contact Kokoda Historical.

Kokoda Historical is owned and run by David Howell, a serving Reservist and Shrine of Remembrance Development Officer. Further information at: <http://www.kokodahistorical.com.au/> or Email David Howell at: david@kokodahistorical.com.au

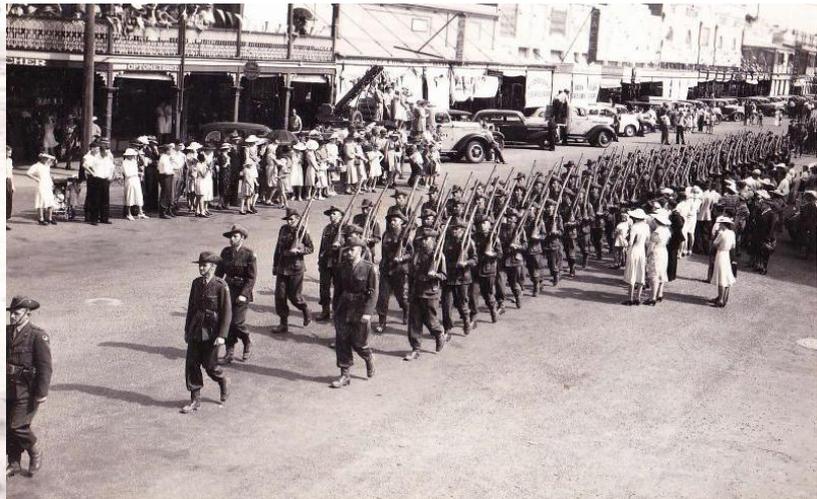
70 YEARS OF MEMORIES COME FLOODING BACK

DOREEN MANSLEY-BEADLE

As we celebrate events of 70 years ago memories come flooding back of when my loved brother, Frederick Mansley, sailed away to Rabaul. The date of sailing was under wraps but a friend took Mother to the gates of the wharf where the ship was berthed, the boys were already on board but Fred was on deck and recognised Mother among the handful of people at the gates. A call of "Mum" came loud and clear, they waved to each other and the ship sailed.



Fred Mansley NX 60075 and Eric Newton NX 33388



2/22nd Infantry Battalion

Thank you for all you do to make *Memorial News* so interesting and informative.

Living in WA since 1946 I have not had any contact with anyone, apart from my husband, who knew anything about Rabaul or Lark Force. There was a great gulf of silence until Margaret Reeson researching for her book 'A Very Long War' got in touch in 1999. The book was about the families of Lark Force and how they waited, and fared, after 1942.



TSS Katoomba in Sydney

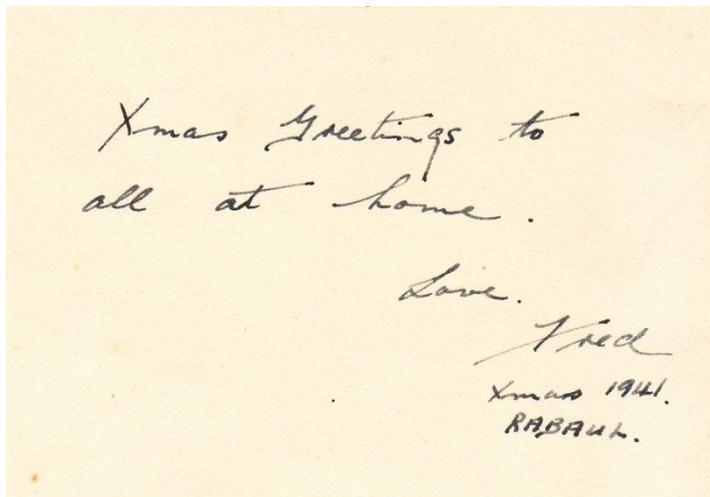
WOW! There was someone out there that knew and cared about us.

Then our nephew John Mansley sent us a Memorial Newsletter to read. At first I did not care to read it; why open up to the pain and heartache again? Curiosity must have won and as I read I found the newsletter revealed pieces of information that formed the big picture of what had happened to Lark Force after that last letter from my loved brother Fred .. January 6th 1942. I wanted to know more so I became a member; during this process I had contact with Keith Jackson through Emails. His understanding and kindness

are a never to be forgotten comfort and consolation. I could never thank him enough for this.

Next I sent for the DVD 'The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru' from John Schindler; again in him I found a depth of understanding that was heart-warming.

The pieces of the jigsaw keep coming and in November 2011 Newsletter 33 you published a letter from F W Pascoe VX28754 about him preparing Christmas dinner for Lark Force. He certainly put a lot of thought and effort into it to make it special. He mentioned his colour theme of red, white and blue THEN I remembered that amongst Fred's photos there was a paper serviette from that dinner, see attached photo of it and also a Christmas card from that occasion.



Fred's last letter dated January 6th 1942 told us about the dinner as follows:-

NX60075
Driver F W Mansley
8 Div Supply AASC
A.I.F. Rabaul
6-1-42.

My Darling Sister,

I intended answering your most welcome letter by last mail but did not have time.

Too bad you were not home for Xmas but that is part of your job [*nursing*] isn't it. I am sure you would have a good time making the patients happy and the decorations would be nice. We missed the decorations and the carols, you should have sung up here, but we had a marvellous dinner which left nothing to be desired except of course homely surroundings. The cake was tip top and as a matter of fact I still have a little left.

I have much pleasure in making that a date to take you to Vere Mathews and I hope it won't be long before we go. I think your photo is great and I do like your dress, you seem to be taller. It is good to know you are such a comfort to Mum and Dad for I realize they will need it all in these worried times.

You probably know by now that Rabaul has had some air-raids, we have actually had about six alarms, the first being on Xmas Day just after lunch and boy it's hard running on a full

stomach. However nothing happened. Last Sunday we had about five from lunch time on. The first one, a number of bombs were dropped but quite a long way from where I was luckily. There was no damage done, no European injuries. During the night we had another one but it was further away from us, more bombs being dropped but with no resulting damage and no casualties whatsoever.

I am feeling No. 1 and not the least bit worried so I don't want you or those at home to worry. I have a small piece of shrapnel as a souvenir from the first bomb. All I hope is you people at home will not suffer any attacks.

Foys [where Fred had been employed] came good last mail and sent me a cheque for one pound, not too bad was it. Mother's letter missed out this week but I suppose the mails are still heavy.

Just imagine you in your 8th month, [of nursing] how time does fly. Keep up the good work dear, I am glad you are liking it better. When you realize that you are also serving your country I am sure you will never feel like quitting. Keep smiling because I will want to see that smile when I get home.

Cheerio for the present, tons of love, my thoughts and prayers are with you always.

God Bless you dear,
Your Loving Brother
Fred.

P.S. I am sending you a few stamps I have, hope you want them. F.M

John Holland forwarded the Society a copy of the following Evacuation Notice. As it did not scan easily it has been transcribed:

Evacuation Notice

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA
W/P 54/2
Central Administratin
RABAUL. 16th December, 1941
NOTICE

It is notified for general information that the Commonwealth Government has decided that European women and children in the Territories of Papua and New Guinea are to be evacuated compulsorily to Australia almost immediately. The cost of the fares will be borne by the Commonwealth government.

Details of the scheme are now being worked out and an announcement of the action required to be taken by women will be made as early as practicable. In the meantime it is desired that women should remain in locations at which they can readily be communicated with and should make such preliminary personal and domestic arrangements as are necessary to facilitate expeditious response to any instructions that are issued.

It will be appreciate if the information contained herein is communicated to any person who may not have seen a copy.

[signed: H. Page]

Government Secretary

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 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 2012

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: 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 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:

Rydgges Lakeside and Rydgges 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. Rydgges 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.

Rydgges 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 Rydgges.

<http://www.rydgges.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 until end February 2012.

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

EVACUATION from MUSSAU GEOFF ATKINS

My sister and I spent our early years on Mussau Island. In fact my parents were initially stationed on Matupit Island and were posted to Mussau in 1931. I was born in Rabaul (Namanula) in 1933. Lois was born in Kavieng.

The circumstances of our evacuation are as follows -

Every six weeks we would motor over to Emirau Island in the *Malalangi*, pick up the Colletts - Trevor, Olga and Anthea, then travel into Kavieng for our supplies. A 10 hour trip if it was a good sea, anyone's guess if it was rough!

On this occasion we had been into Port, had heard some rumblings in Kavieng and so decided to stay the night with the Colletts. That was the night of Pearl Harbour and I remember it very clearly. The adults sat up all night around the radio and we kids knew that something was up.

Uncle Trevor had rigged up a swing for Anthea, on the veranda. A typical tropical veranda, with a low rail and nothing above so many breezes would have clear access. Their home was on top of a plateau which rose fairly steeply from the harbour area. A path wound up from the bottom for access. I was on Anthea's swing and no doubt everybody was a bit touchy so, as I swang back and forth, mum said "Stop that Geoffrey!"

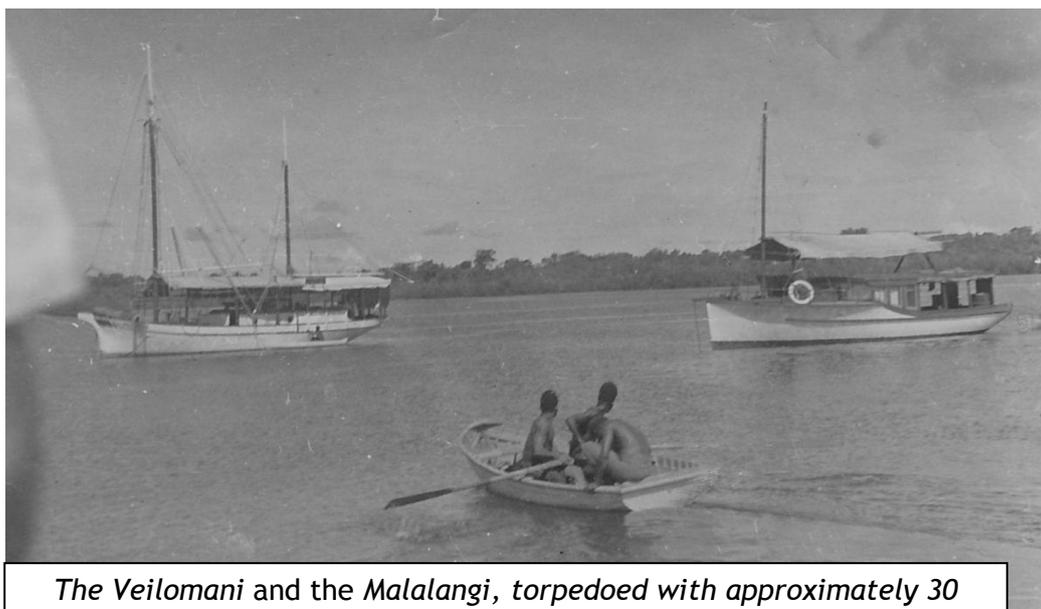
I didn't tell mum till a year or so before she died that I expected to see Japanese soldiers appear at the top of that path and that's why I was on the swing.

The decision was then made to go back into Port, which we all did, saw the authorities who said: "You've left it too long you'll have to go back home and sit it out".

So we went back, dropped off the Collett's and went home to Mussau. Not long after getting home dad switched on the tele-radio and got the tail end of a message, to say that evacuation had been ordered for women and children. Our two families and another family unknown to us were to report immediately to Kavieng.

So off we went again with not much more than what we stood up in. This time we were told to report to the authorities in Rabaul, there we were told that there would be a very fast boat for women and children and a slower boat for others. We expected the fast boat to be the Queen Mary or something in that class! Well the fast boat turned out to be the good old BP's ship the *Macdhui* - well cared for and, what normally took 14 days from Rabaul to Sydney, she accomplished, despite zig zagging, in eight days.

Now, Dad and Trevor returned to Mussau and Emira until they heard by radio the order to leave. They travelled at night nearly to Put Put, when they met the *Veilomani* coming out of Rugen Harbour (Put Put). They were loaded with a large number escaping. Dad got some more refugees and set out after the *Veilomani*, travelling again at night.



The Veilomani and the Malalangi, torpedoed with approximately 30 men on board trying to escape the Japanese invasion.

Apparently some observant Japanese pilot realised these two 'islands' were moving and shouldn't have been there anyway, so the two boats were torpedoed and all had to swim ashore.

My Dad suffered from chronic asthma and the effort of swimming had weakened his heart. As a result he was very poorly and insisted that the other 30 or so men go on. He would return to Put Put and the boys at our school there would care for him. At that Trevor Collett insisted that if Dad stayed, he would stay with him. Subsequently, as Dad's heart deteriorated, Uncle Trevor said 'We have to get you some help; we will have to go to the Japanese.'

The nearest of course was Kokopo, so Dad was put into Vunapope Hospital, Trevor was arrested and put to work on the docks.

Dad's health got worse and he died on 13th March 1942, just a few days short of his 42nd birthday. Dad is buried in Vunapope cemetery and I understand is the only non-Catholic in it.

Trevor of course was on the *Montevideo Maru* along with others we knew.

There is no doubt that, in Trevor's case, he had sacrificed his chance at freedom to help his friend. The others in the group eventually got to Australia. That's a story in itself.

ELECTRONIC MEMORIAL

A section on the website is being developed for individual tributes to those who defended the New Guinea Islands. 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. Written articles are also welcome. You could consider:

1. how this affected your family
2. how you heard about the tragedy of the *Montevideo Maru*
3. if you were evacuated, what happened? If you were assisted, what happened?
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: admin@memorial.org.au or 24 Melaleuca Drive, St Ives NSW 2075.

WEBSITE www.memorial.org.au

MEMBERS LOG-IN ON WEBSITE

A Members-only area on the website has recently been developed. It currently holds additional photos and recently archived newsletters.

This section of the website will continually be updated and improved. 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 the New Guinea islands 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*. Please Email: andrea.williams@bigpond.com

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 andrea.williams@bigpond.com 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 of THE TRAGEDY OF THE MONTEVIDEO MARU and THE STORY OF THE KRAIT until the 30TH June 2012 to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society. To purchase this DVD visit: www.thefallofrabaul.com or phone: 0418 740182

FEEDBACK

GRAHAM TAYLOR

ADELAIDE

Graham: Do you know whether the RMVMS Committee has given Federal Minister Snowden a list of all the names - ie all the *Montevideo Maru* victims plus all the others who died at the hands of the Japanese in the New Guinea islands - so as to make sure that there are no commemorative omissions when the monument is unveiled on 1 July ?

Answer: Apparently there is so much work in cross checking Army numbers and names - getting the names correct and ensuring there are no omissions, that the AWM have advised they do not include them.

Graham: To get more than a thousand names on the memorial would be a bit of a challenge but there is a case for an associated written/printed Memorial Register accessible to interested parties.

BEVERLEY PEGGIE BLACKBURN

My father, Harold Parnell was a member of the 2/22nd Battalion Band who lost his life on the Montevideo Maru in 1942.

We could not attend the service at Duntroon but our son, Alan Peggie who lives in Canberra was able to attend and sent us the article in the Canberra Times. I was able to supply information and photos to the Salvation Army Archivist who wrote Brave & True , an account of the Band of the 2/22nd Band. My mother had photos and information of the Band Members in Australia and later Rabaul and including letters and stories.

I am glad that a memorial is to be built having seen the information about Rabaul at the War Memorial and the fact that there has not been much publicity about the terrible event and the loss of so many lives.

JOHN COLLINSON

I would like to receive the Montevideo Maru memorial newsletter that you produce. My grandfather Robert Collinson was a member of the 2/22nd band, he injured his knee at a final training camp in Alice Springs as was not allowed to travel with his band and friends. He suffered greatly over the years of not really knowing what happened and also that he was not with them.

My grandmother still has letters that Arthur Gullidge wrote back to Grandpa while in Rabaul - excerpts of which have been published in Lindsay Cox book.

I became a musician in the military and Salvation Army bandmaster and know of the still existing Arthur Gullidge award at the Defence Force School of Music in Melbourne.

JOHN MCNABB

I attended the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance today for the 70th Anniversary of "Lark Force." It was the biggest crowd I have seen at the service for many years.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

2012 - 70th ANNIVERSARIES - You can help! 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 before Anzac Day, 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 and Historical Societies. By telling your story, this will help acknowledge what occurred and ensure the story becomes a lasting part of Australian history.

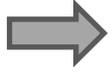
ANZAC DAY SCHOOLS AWARD 2012

The Anzac Day Schools' Awards is a competition that encourages students to learn about Anzac 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. 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



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 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. This may result in a slight delay in receipts being returned.

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:

Do you have an email address we could use? This will save both costs and time. Please email: admin@memorial.org.au

AURORA EXPEDITIONS PNG -

70th commemoration voyage

RABAU ANZAC Day 2012 -

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>

Brochures 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.

Discount available

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.

Option: 65km Lark Force Wilderness Trek from Vunga, near Rabaul, to Tol - Options for the voyages also include kayaking and scuba diving.

ANZAC DAY RABAUL 25 APRIL 2012

Susie McGrade has put together the following itinerary for those interested in travelling to Rabaul for ANZAC DAY 2012.

MONDAY 23rd APRIL 4.40 pm PNGVR Group and Matt Foley arrive Tokua Airport, Rabaul - Welcome by Dignitaries at Tokua Airport.
6.00 pm Rabaul Hotel: **WELCOME RECEPTION** by Gerry (PNGVR) & Joyce McGrade & family, Rabaul Hotel.

TUESDAY 24th APRIL RABAUL LAND TOUR - Bookings to be made with Susie McGrade at the Rabaul Hotel

TUESDAY 24th APRIL 6- 8:00 pm **RABAUL HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
Welcome Reception at the New Guinea Club

ANZAC DAY

WEDNESDAY 25th APRIL 5:00 am
DAWN SERVICE at the Rabaul RSL Cenotaph, Rabaul, conducted by the Rabaul Historical Society
Commemoration Service of the 70th Anniversary of the tragedy of the *Montevideo Maru* - Montevideo Maru Memorial Rabaul Town waterfront (Walk or Shuttle bus)
Rabaul Yacht Club for Gunfire Breakfast (Walk or Shuttle bus to venue).

11:00 am **Service at Bitapaka**
Conducted by Australian High Commission.

BUFFET LUNCH at the RALUM CLUB, home of Queen Emma.

4.30 pm Boarding Ship in Rabaul Town, for sundown laying of wreaths in Simpson Harbour, in honour of all those who tragically lost their lives aboard the *Montevideo Maru* (sponsored by Agmark Shipping)

7.00 pm **COMMEMORATION DINNER, Rabaul Hotel.** Dinner sponsored. Guests to pay own beverages

Susie McGrade advises that she has secured rooms at the Gazelle International for PNGK280 per night, per room, for two people, including light breakfast. Bookings through the Rabaul Hotel please. Buses will also be arranged to bus people in and out of Rabaul and Bitapaka.

BURNS, PHILP & COMPANY LIMITED

N^o 3748

Copy of a boarding pass
for the MV Macdhui
dated 6.12.41
Courtesy John Holland

The Bearer, *Moira E. Holden*, whose
signature appears hereunder, is a ~~member of the crew~~ ^{passenger} of the
M.V./S.S. **M.V. "MACDHUI"** now berthed at
all ports to Leamings, and may be admitted
to that ship and the wharf at which that ship is berthed.

Signature of passenger
or member of crew

E. Holden

Signature

W. Christie

~~Master~~ Master.

Date

6-12-41

TO BE SURRENDERED WHEN FINALLY LEAVING THE VESSEL.

MEMORIAL NOTICEBOARD

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.

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION

Life - \$500 Gold - \$100 Ordinary - \$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:		

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