

Rabaul & Montevideo Maru

Memorial News 37

April 2012

ANZAC DAY, 25 April, 2012

Please contact your local newspaper and ABC and tell *your* story. Remind them that this is the 70th Anniversary of the fall of Rabaul and the New Guinea islands including the sinking of the Montevideo Maru, Australia's greatest maritime disaster. Let them know that the *Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial* will be dedicated at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 1 July 2012.

POW RECORDS TRANSFERRED TO AUSTRALIA



The Australian Embassy in Tokyo recently took possession of Japan's World War II records on Australians held as prisoners of war, a mark of the close friendship between two former foes.

The records, which include name cards and related information, have been transferred to the

Australian National Archives in Canberra.

Amongst the records of particular significance are the first complete list of Australian victims of the sinking of the Montevideo Maru on 22 June 1942 near Luzon in the Philippines, a complete list of the approximately 20,000 Australian prisoners of war held by Japan in camps across the Asia-Pacific, and personal details about the 4,500 Australians detained in Japan.

Over the coming months, the National Archives will restore and digitise the records for public access, allowing family members and historians to better understand Australia's wartime experience.

Australian Embassy, Tokyo http://www.australia.or.jp/en/news/#20120319

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE PHIL AINSWORTH

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, confirmed today she will be attending and giving the key note address at the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial Dedication Ceremony on 1st July 2012 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. This is great news.

The Memorial's fabrication and the ceremony arrangements are well advanced and the Governor General's confirmation today will ensure these proceed appropriately.

The Society is awaiting the Prime Minister's confirmation of her attendance at the Commemorative Luncheon on the 30th June to be held at Rydges Lakeside Hotel. Over 450 acceptances have been received but there is room for more. Rydges will seat in excess of 600, the largest convention space in Canberra. For those who still wish to come, please book soon so the appropriate arrangements are made for everyone's convenience. Details about both events will be found on page 12.

About 100 relatives and friends, that we know of, will be visiting Rabaul for Anzac Day this April to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of those who died during and after the Japanese invasion of Rabaul and New Guinea islands including the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*. The Society will

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

be well represented by Committee members Andrea Williams (also representing the PNGAA), Don Hook (also representing 1 Independent Company and NGVR & PNGVR Association), Marg Curtis and Frazer Harry (also representing the 2/22nd Battalion and Lark Force Association) and me (also representing the NGVR & PNGVR Association and PNGAA). Also included are four 90+ year olds: two Coastwatchers who were in the area during WWII and two ladies, one of whom is travelling all the way from Western Australia. There are many others, such as John Holland representing the NGVR & PNGVR Association and Cynthia Schmidt representing the Montevideo Maru Foundation. The State Member for Benalla, Dr Bill Sykes, will be in attendance too. There will many local identities present also. The Anzac Day arrangements include the usual Dawn Service, followed by a gunfire breakfast, a commemoration service at the Montevideo Maru monument on Rabaul foreshore and a late morning service at the Bita Paka Commonwealth War Cemetery. A late afternoon harbour cruise will allow the scattering of frangipani flowers over the waters of Simpson Harbour.

A recent press release from the Australian Embassy in Japan (see page 1) states the POW cards and other documents have arrived in the National Archives of Australia in Canberra and that, after the required processing, they should be available to the public by the end of 2012. The same press release said the documents included a list of those on board the Montevideo Maru. The day after the cards were returned to Australia, the 19th March, the Society wrote to both the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Veteran Affairs to keep the Society informed of progress. Follow up calls to the Minister's offices have been made but to date no written reply has been received. It would be a wonderful gift to the relatives and friends of the victims to receive this list during the commemorative weekend of 30th June /1st July 2012. The Society also seeks an independent expert's oversight of the cards and documents to audit the contents. It is also important that the location of the transferred material is clarified and that this material does not disappear as a previous list returned from Japan did.

Mr Norm Furness, President of Lark Force/2/22nd Battalion has attempted, for over 55 years to attain the Defence Medal for his men. Very few, probably about a half a dozen, now remain of 1,400 sent to Rabaul in March/April 1941. Eligibility criteria for the Defence Medal focusses on the length of time the men were in an 'Operational Area', in Lark Force's case from March 1941 to the 23rd January 1942, the invasion date. It should at least relate to the date of escape from the operational area or death. Australia was at war with Germany since 1939 and armed German ships had been operating in the area since 1940. The German raiders *Komet* and Orion are documented as landing prisoners on one of the nearby islands, Emira, on 20 December 1940. This clearly places the men in a territory threatened by the enemy for over 12 months. The Defence Medal wasn't for bravery but for service in defence of their country. In this 70th anniversary year and with the upcoming dedication of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial at the AWM Canberra on 1 July 2012, it would seem appropriate that Australia corrects this anomaly, late as it is, and award the men of Lark Force this Defence Medal. The Society has made approaches but to date there has been no breakthrough.

The NGVR/PNGVR Ex-members
Association runs a Military Museum at
Wacol, Brisbane, on the former US army
base "Columbia". Many members of the
New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) were
killed at the time of the Rabaul invasion
and the Association is a stakeholder of
the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society
and the upcoming memorial. The NGVR
were a civilian militia group formed on
Australian Mandated Territory. The
Association has developed this

extraordinary museum containing much unique shared history of Australia and Papua New Guinea. With both military history and artefacts, the museum attracts various groups, from schools, scouts, aged, retirement and others. It is well worth a visit. The Museum would welcome assistance to ensure its long term sustainability. Perhaps there is a way to ensure that this museum, when it passes from the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex members Association, will remain a valuable part of the connection between the various stakeholders in this cause?

Thank you to Jackson Wells Pty Ltd for sponsoring our newsletter, *Memorial News* over the past three years. This support has been greatly appreciated. We are now looking for a new sponsor - if anyone can assist please contact Phil M: 0418 730 348 or Andrea M: 0409 031 889

AWM GUIDE TALK SUE MORTON

Don Hook and Dr Marian May addressed the Voluntary Guides at the Australian War Memorial on Wednesday 7 March. They spoke about the construction of the Montevideo Maru, how the ship came to be requisitioned by the Japanese government at the start of World War 2 and the circumstances of the sinking. They also spoke about the difficulties of tracking down a definitive list of those who perished. To provide context, Don also spoke about the Japanese invasion of Rabaul, and the roles of Lark Force and the 1st Independent Company. The address, attended by about 80-100 guides, provided useful background for the Guides and alerted them to the 70th anniversary coming up on 1 July 2012.

The Bendigo RSL Sub-Branch will have a display of photographs and memorabilia on Lark Force from April 2012 for several months. Please visit and let them know of your support. Further information: Lois and Eric Newman Ph: 03-5446 3277 ejn40@bigpond.com

PNG MILITARY CHRONOLOGY March - July 1942

20.03 NGVR in MVs *Lakatoi* and *Gnair* depart Vitu Islands, New Britain, with 214 Rabaul survivors

28.03 MV Lakatoi arrives Cairns

09.04 *MV Laurabada* picks up 153 (137 soldiers, remainder civilians) Rabaul survivors from Jacquinot Bay, New Britain

12.04 MV Laurabada arrives Port Moresby

30.04 17 Australians (9 civilians & 8 soldiers) escaped on *MV Quang Wha* from Boang Island, New Ireland

1/8.05 Battle of the Coral Sea, Japanese naval ships and troopships abort invasion of Port Moresby

05.05 *MV Quang Wha* arrives Buna from New Ireland with 17 Australians

4/6.06 Battle of Midway

22.06 Lark Force POWs and civilian internees board the *Montevideo Maru* in Rabaul Harbour bound for Hainan Island, China

28.06 NGVR & 2/5 Independent Company raid Salamaua

30.06 NGVR & 2/5 & 2/1 Independent Companies raid Heath's Plantation near

01.07 *Montevideo Maru* sunk by *USS Sturgeon*, off Philippines with loss of 1,053 POWs and civilian internees

06.07 Officer POWs and military and civilian nurses boarded *Naruto Mar*u in Rabaul bound for Japan

15.07 *Naruto Maru* arrives in Yokohama Japan

DEFENCE MEDAL MARG CURTIS

For about fifty years now Norm Furness on behalf of the men of the 2/22nd Battalion has applied to various Ministers in the Australian Government trying to get the Defence Medal awarded to the men of Lark Force. Norm has always felt that this medal should have been awarded to the 2/22nd Battalion, especially when others, in particular Gull Force and men that didn't leave Australia were awarded the medal. He has been given many reasons why they have not been eligible for this medal from not being operational, being in Australian waters, not being away long enough (missing out by a matter of weeks - if only they had stayed in the jungle that little bit longer or told the boat to wait!). With each reason for noneligibility, Norm went back to each Minister with various reasons why he felt they were eligible, only to be given another excuse. Our latest attempt to get this medal awarded to the few men that are left has likewise been rejected. Through Dr Bill Sykes MP, State Member for Benalla we have been liaising with Senator Bridget McKenzie, the Nationals Senator located in Bendigo Victoria but unfortunately I was advised last week that once again the request has been rejected. I'm afraid that there seems to be no possible way on convincing anyone that they deserve this medal. It seems such a small request for so few who are left, but apparently the guidelines are rigid and cannot be moved. I am very grateful for Dr Sykes and Senator McKenzie for their efforts in trying to see if we could get this medal for the remaining men of Lark Force.



Laurabada at Toboi Wharf in Rabaul early 1930s. The Laurabada, commandeered by Lt Ivan Champion, left Jacquinot Bay on the south coast of New Britain on 9 April 1942 with 156 men under the command of Major Bill Owen. It arrived Port Moresby 12 April. One man died during the voyage. The survivors shipped aboard the Macdhui to Cairns and Townsville. Photo from the John H Margetts Collection. Margetts went to German New Guinea as a Methodist Missionary in 1913. He served in German New Guinea and the Mandated Territory at several centres on New Britain and in the Duke of York Islands until he died in 1935. He died at Kabakada and was buried at the European Cemetery in Rabaul.

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society recommends the following book be used as a resource in classrooms. Perhaps our members could support this by donating a copy to their local school and suggesting the school use it as a reference on WWII. There are excellent classroom activities available too - please see link below.

This is particularly appropriate with Anzac Day approaching.

FINDING DARCY by Sue Lawson ISBN: 9781742030234 Published by Black Dog Books

Available from book outlets RRP \$18.99 Nominated: Golden Inky. Shortlisted: 2009 Children's Peace Literature Awards.

When Darcy Abbott is sent to live with her surly grandmother and silent great-grandmother for three months, she discovers a mystery regarding the death of her great-grandfather during World War II. A school project sets her on a search for the truth. Age 10+.

This book is skilfully written and provokes the reader to think deeply about the effect of war. Finding Darcy is suitable for the Upper Primary to mid Secondary age group.

Classroom ideas on Finding Darcy are located at:

http://www.walkerbooks.com.au/statics/dyn/1324513545832/finding_darcy_TN.pdf

There are pre-reading activities, post reading activities, opportunities to discuss the significance of the poppy on the front cover of the book, characters, themes and language. Included also are extended writing activities - discussion questions about conditions in Australia during WWII, opportunities to involve science, drama and the creative arts.

Reviews...

"This is a special book. The shadows the past casts on one family- and on our society- are brilliantly explored in the voice of a young girl. Sue manages to weave the profound with the every day language of a teenager." *Jackie French* http://www.suelawson.com.au/?page_id=22

Another review appears on the website for the NSW Association for Gifted and Talented Children: http://nswagtc.org.au/reviews/older-readers/464-finding-darcy.html

LINK TO CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FROM THE HISTORY TEACHERS WEBSITE

If you have a connection with a school, please ask that they consider teaching information about this significant part of our history. To find information on the History Teachers' Association of Australia website about the *Montevideo Maru* follow these instructions:

www.historyteacher.org.au

- 1. Click on "Resources"
- 2. Scroll down to the heading "Useful Links For Teachers"
- 3. Click on the fifth item: "Australian War Memorial Education"
- 4. Then click onto "Classroom Resources"
- 5. Click onto "Anniversary Talks: Education Based Activities " "Remembering 1942." and Activity 4 is:
- 6. The sinking of the Montevideo Maru, 1 July 1942.

Thank you to Patrick Bourke for locating this useful information. (Let's hope they make it easier to access! - Ed)

WILLIAM AVENEL MCLENNAN AIF 2/22nd Battalion, C Company (VX23813)

SUE LAWSON

Bill McLennan was born in Healsville, Victoria, on 12 August 1907. He grew up on the family farm, near Stanhope and stayed in the area, where he worked as an orchardist until he enlisted.

Bill was a keen sportsman, playing tennis and football for Stanhope. Before Bill joined the 2/22nd Battalion, he was the team's captain. Bill met his wife, an English girl who moved to Stanhope to teach, while playing tennis.

Bill and Phyllis Mavin were married on June 22^{nd} , 1936. The date later



L-R: Alf Driver, Laurie Luxmoore, Bill McLennan

turned out to be significant for another reason. The Rabaul prisoners of war are said to have boarded the Montevideo Maru on June 22nd, 1942, Bill and Phyllis' sixth wedding anniversary.

Bill and Phyllis had two children, Mary Fay (Fay) and Phyllis Joy (Joy). When Bill enlisted, Phyllis was four months pregnant with their second child and their eldest, Fay, was two. Joy was born after the 2/22nd arrived in Bonegilla. Phyllis stayed in Stanhope until 1942. After learning Bill was a prisoner of war, she moved to Brighton to care for her ill parents.

Phyllis and the girls were one of only 400 families to receive the prisoner of war letters the Japanese dropped over Port Morseby. Most were lost in the jungle, but Bill's letter, like the other 400, reached loved ones.

Bill and the other men listed as being aboard the Montevideo Maru were already dead when the letter, dated April 1942, arrived in Melbourne late July. Like other families, Phyllis and the girls waited for news, hoping that Bill would be amongst the prisoners returning to Australia after the war ended.

He wasn't.

Like many other families, Phyllis discovered Bill was listed as dead well before the official telegrams arrived. While reading The Argus newspaper on a train Phyllis read Bill's name amongst the long list of those missing, thought to be dead. The official telegram notifying Phyllis that Bill was a prisoner of war arrived weeks later, followed another week later by a telegram, declaring Bill as missing, presumed to be dead.

Like many of the surviving families, the pain was so great Phyllis didn't talk about Bill. When Phyllis died, so too did Bill's stories. Most of the letters from Bill have been lost, and it's only recently that photos of him in Rabaul have surfaced. A truly special gift. The photos have helped the family build a picture of Bill McLennan.

Phyllis, a remarkable woman who taught English at Hailebury College after the war until she retired in the 70's, died in 1987.

Bill and Phyllis' granddaughter, Sue Lawson, has written a young adult book, **Finding Darcy**, about the impact of this little known World War II incident on a teenage girl.

See information on page 5

PRIVATE WILLIAM VINCENT ABBOTT VX36790 JAN LOVEDAY



The soldier in the photo proudly displayed on my grandmother's side-board when I was growing up, was my Uncle Bill. I never met him; he died well before I was born. However I always felt that I knew him because of the way my Nan and Mum spoke of him - with warmth and love.

Bill was born in Isisford in central Queensland, on the 17th. July 1912. His parents brought him down to Geelong, Victoria, some time before his brother was born, two years later. He was the eldest of five children and they grew up in Queenscliff, Vic. My mum, Anne,

was the youngest. Their father died a couple of months before she was born, which meant that Bill was just 10 years old.

Bill left school when he was about 14 and took a job delivering milk. He bought Mum a celluloid doll with his first pay and I still have it today. When he was around twenty, Bill and one of his younger brothers went up north, to work on their uncle's sheep station near Gunnedah in NSW.

Bill was working on a farm on Phillip Island, Vic. when he enlisted in the army and subsequently became a member of the 2/22 Batt. Unfortunately we don't have any of his letters, but I remember Mum telling me that he once wrote expressing a wish that his brother, Sam, who was over in the Middle East, was there in Rabaul with him. Presumably Bill thought that his brother would have been safer in Rabaul. Ironically, Sam returned from the war, but Bill, sadly went down on the Montevideo Maru.

My grandmother apparently received news three weeks in a row:

1st Bill had been taken a POW

 2^{nd} Sam was injured in the Middle East

3^{rd -} Bill was 'missing in action'

"We would remember too, the brave, who of their dearest treasure gave". How did they cope?

Like so many others, my dear Nan went to her grave, never knowing what really happened to her beloved eldest son.

My mum passed away last September, knowing her brother's fate and also knowing that much has been done,



and is continuing to be done, to publicly acknowledge and remember Bill, or "poor old Joe", as Mum sometimes called him. (I don't know how he came to have the nickname, Joe.)

All credit must be given to the committee, past and present, of the Rabaul and MvM Society for their tireless and relentless work to finally gain that acknowledgement and recognition of the tragic events of 1942 in and around the New Guinea islands.

CPL HARRY HOBBS SX2773 1ST Independent Company DEL HOLDER



Harry Hobbs was born in Broken Hill on 13 December 1917. He must have had a very sad life. He was the eldest of five boys and when he was 14 years his mother died in tragic circumstances. The youngest, only 19 months, was given to a couple to raise. Harry was too old to go into a boy's home. His three other brothers were put into Goodwood Orphanage where their father was a gardener. Harry was only 19 years when he married my mother Ivy Davis. She was 23 in November 1937. I was born in October 1938 but have no memory of my Dad. Harry enlisted in May 1940. My sister, Phyl, was born in January 1942 but Harry never saw her. Before enlisting he worked on the roads and so was away from home for long periods of time. After the war ended my mother Ivy, Phyl and myself lived in Murray Bridge, South Australia. In approximately 1946 Mum purchased a block of land and applied for a War Service Loan to build the house.

She always told us that she was the first war widow to be granted a War Service Loan on the condition that she had to sell the house back to War Service - which she did in 1948 when we moved to Sydney. Who knows what our lives would have been like had our Dad returned from the war. He was only 25 when he died.

The following is an excerpt from Harry Hobbs' War Service and Casualty Form - note the comment 'For official purposes presumed to be dead (ex Rabaul) on board *Montevideo Maru*.

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DVD: THE FALL OF RABAUL & 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

TREVOR COLLETT

ANTHEA HUGHES (NEE COLLETT)

Trevor was born July 10, 1913, at his parent's home, 'Eskdale' near Wee Waa, NSW. His parents owned a sheep station. He attended Wee Waa Public School and Maitland High where "besides doing well in his studies, he excelled in sport and helped to carry his school's athletic banner in various all-schools events". He then attended the Australasian Missionary College 1932 and 1933.

He took over a copra plantation on Mussau Island in Papua New Guinea. Returning to Australia he married Olga Wiules of Brisbane. Back in New Guinea, he procured a licence for the sole use of the timber on the neighbouring island, Emirau. Two daughters were born - Estelle (who died soon after birth) and Anthea. When Anthea was about eighteen months old, the family moved to live on Emirau. Trevor became a self-supporting missionary.

On the 21st December, 1940, three German raider ships landed almost 500 prisoners from some eight to ten sunken British ships on the little island of Emira. The pantries of the two European families plus the gardens of the Emira natives sustained these folk until the government in Kavieng was alerted and plans put into action to repatriate hem. Certainly a special Christmas for all!

A year later, along with all the European women and children, my mother and I were evacuated - with the allowed ONE trunk only! My father remained, doing coastal surveillance work until ordered to escape. A small group of friends were making their way south on a tiny mission boat, travelling at night camouflaged during the day. A more observant Japanese noticed the "moving island" and the boat was strafed. All the friends made it to shore, but Pr Atkins, a bad asthmatic, could go no further. He insisted that everyone go without him, but my dad couldn't abandon a good friend, and stayed with him. The rest of the group made it to safety but the two friends were later captured by the Japanese. It was a gruelling march to camp, during which time Pr Atkins had very little sleep as he used his medical skills to minister prisoners suffering from dysentry. He arrived totally exhausted and died two days later. Meanwhile my dad remained a prisoner, doing what he could in the camp - and was one chosen to go on the ill-fated Montevideo Maru.

My mother and I often wondered if he actually was on the *Montevideo Maru* - or in the mass grave reportedly found after the war ended. However, several years ago I received a letter from an elderly Papua New Guinean (a pre-war friend) whose nephew was made to work on the wharf. The nephew, who also knew my dad, reported that he had seen and identified him as he was marched onto the boat. So I guess that brings closure.



Catholic Mission, 1941

The following list of educational resources has been forwarded to the History Teachers' Association of Australia and ACARA - the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority - with thanks to Patrick Bourke

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

THE SECOND WORLD WAR: NEW BRITAIN AND NEW IRELAND

Books

• Finding Darcy by Sue Lawson. Black Dog Books. Fitzroy, Victoria. 2008. ISBN 9781742030234. NSW Premier's Reading Challenge List for 2011.

Tells the unusual circumstances of a young girl's (Darcy) great grandfather's death as a prisoner of war on the Japanese ship the *Montevideo Maru* and her best friend, Laura, who is researching her great grandfather who is Japanese. This powerful book is skilfully written and provokes the reader to think deeply about the consequences of war

Suitable for school years mid Primary to early Secondary.

An excellent resource with classroom ideas related to this book is located at:

http://www.walkerbooks.com.au/statics/dyn/1324513545832/finding_darcy_TN.pdf

- A Very Long War: The Families Who Waited by Margaret Reeson. Melbourne University Press. 2000. ISBN 0522 849091.
- Hostages to Freedom: The Fall of Rabaul by Peter Stone. Oceans Enterprises. Yarram. 2006. ISBN 0646 2412490.
- Australia's Forgotten Prisoners. Civilians interned by the Japanese in World War Two by Christina Twomey. Cambridge Press. Port Melbourne. VIC. 2007. ISBN 13: 9780521612890.
- **Hell and High Fever** by David Selby. Pacific Books. Sydney. 1971. ISBN 9780207122255. This book was written by David Selby who commanded the only anti-aircraft artillery unit the Australian army had at the garrison of Rabaul, Australia's north-eastern outpost, comprising approximately 1,400 men of a force built around the 2/22nd Battalion.
- Heroes at Sea by Don Wall Mona Vale ISBN: 0646035789.
 This book identifies 1800 Australian prisoners of war and internees lost at sea during World War II.

Documentary Films (DVDs)

• The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru. Shown on the History Channel (Foxtel) on 11 November 2009 and 21 June 2010. Schindler Video Production. Montevideo Maru Pty Ltd. Northgate. Queensland.

As well as the tragedy of the *Montevideo Maru* the film explores the broad story of POW experiences on other hell ships.

• Sisters at War. ABC TV. 2010.

Records the experiences of the Australian Army nurses and the Catholic teaching sisters after the fall of Rabaul, New Britain.

Websites

The NSW Board of Studies/Department of Veterans ' Affairs

http://www.ww2australia.gov.au/japadvance/rabaul.html

Fall of Rabaul

This website comes under the heading "Australia's War 1939-1945", Japanese Advance, Dec 1941 to May 1942, and covers Malaya, Rabaul, Singapore, Ambon, Timor, Java and Moresby.

As well as the Overview there are sections headed "Left to their fate", "a miserable scene "and "hungry andcold".

Australian War Memorial

www.awm.gov.au/atwar/remembering1942/montevideo/

Remembering 1942

The sinking of the Montevideo Maru. 1 July 1942 - Education Activity

History students, year 10, the Second World War, POWs.

Document study based on a 1945 report detailing the lengthy and frustrating search for information on the missing passengers on the *Montevideo Maru*. Includes a two part worksheet:

- Part 1 Establishing the facts.
- Part 2 What else can we find?

Department of Veterans' Affairs Education Resources

Forever Yours book

This book is aimed at upper Primary Classes. It is a book of a collection of stories about love in wartime using mementos, letters and photographs which explore the notions of love and friendships during war time.

This book was distributed to all Australian primary schools in March 2011 by the Australian Government. Also, available on the internet through the Department of Veterans' Affairs at www.dva.gov.au (Education Resources).

Chapter: For the love of God. The Salvation Army Band, 2/22nd Battalion

• Australian Prisoners of War book

This book, which is also available on the internet through the Department of Veterans' Affairs, is aimed at Secondary Classes.

Topic 1 - The history of Australian prisoners of war

Topic 4 - Guards, civilians and internees (This includes Sister Berenice Twohill's story who was interned in Rabaul from January 1942 until September 1945)

Working the Web: Investigating Australia's wartime history

Designed to inform Upper Primary and Secondary Class teachers and their students of the wartime resources available on the websites of the agencies of the Department of Veterans' Affairs portfolio.

Topic 9. Australia under Threat: The defence of Australia 1942-43

Topic 10. Australian Wartime Experiences: Prisoners of War

The Australian War Memorial

The Australian Government has acknowledged that the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* on 1 July 1942 with the loss of over 1,000 Australian lives (soldiers and civilians) and the loss of Australian lives in the Australian Territories of New Britain and New Ireland during the Second World War should not be forgotten. With this in mind the Australian War Memorial has:

- In its grounds a Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial (from 1st July 2012)
- A permanent Montevideo Maru Display in its new World War II galleries.

For more information concerning the *Montevideo Maru* and what happened in New Britain and New Ireland during the Second World War contact:

The Department of Veterans' Affairs at www.dva.gov.au and enter Montevideo Maru in the search area in the top right hand side of the home page and click on search.

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society at www.memorial.org.au

DEDICATION OF RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL AND 70th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL LUNCHEON 30 JUNE/1JULY 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 Rydges Lakeside Hotel in Canberra on Saturday 30 June 2012. Seating at Rydges Lakeside 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: Rydges Lakeside Hotel, 1 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

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 - 11.30am. Please be seated by 11.15am Light refreshments will be served after the service.

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 1st 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.

rates and availability for other room types 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 April 30, 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

ANZAC DAY SCHOOLS AWARD 2012

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

The following instructions, provided by JK McCarthy, were provided to those in charge of men escaping down the north coast of New Britain in February 1942.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OFFICERS AND MEN IN CHARGE OF BASE CAMPS AND TRAVELLING PARTIES - FEBRUARY 1942

An essential point of the evacuation scheme is that men must maintain the regular days march between Base Camps. The Base Camps are as under:

Base Camp	Mileage	Mode of Travel	Time	Division
PONDO Plantation				
Eaea Village	26	By Ship	1 st Day	East
Sule Village	7	By Road	1 st Day	East
Bialla Plantation	28	By Road	2 nd Day	East
Tarobi Village	26	By Road	3 rd Day	East
Malaliam Mission	20	By Road	4 th Day	East
Numundo Plantation	28	By Road	5 th Day	East
Kautaga Camp	22	By Road	6 th Day	West
Wogiwogi Village	22	By Sea (Canoe)	7 th Day	West
Iboki Plantation	20	By Sea (Canoe)	8 th Day	West
Karaiai Village	14	By Road	9 th Day	West
Kokopo Village	20	By Sea (Canoe)	10 th Day	West
Kilingi Village	22	By Sea (Canoe)	11 th Day	West
Sag Sag CE Mission	12	By Road	12 th Day	West

Mileage - PONDO to SAG SAG 267
Plus 5% added for detours 17
TOTAL MILEAGE 284

It should be noted that providing power sea transport is available from Kautaga Camp (6th Day), parties will reach Kilingi Village on the 8th day (allowing 2 days for the trip from Kautaga to Kilingi) - thus the party would reach Sag Sag Mission on the 9th Day: a saving of three days as the Bases at Wogiwogi (7th Day), Karaiai (9th Day) and Kokopo (10th Day) would be excluded. Power transport would probably remain at least twelve hours at the Base at Iboki (normally the 8th Day). Details if Marching and carriage by sea are:

By Road 157 Miles in 7½ days By sea (canoe) 110 Miles in 4½ days

The days Marches are fairly long but in no case is the distance excessive. It is impossible to establish further Base Camps, for the men must reach Sag Sag, the embarkation point, at an early date. Enemy action might close the Dampier Straits and so prevent embarkation for Pt Moresby. The sooner parties arrive at Sag Sag the better. Nothing must prevent the even flow of men from base to base. The road may be hard but the alternative is capture by the enemy.

INSTRUCTION FOR THE OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF THE BASE CAMPS

Selected personnel will take up duties at their appointed Base and will be in charge of all travelling parties arriving there. The travelling parties will carry their own rations but Base Camp Peronnel will have power to purchase pigs, coconuts and native food (if available) from the local villages in order to augment rations of travelling parties. It is essential that the goodwill of the natives must be maintained. Without the help of the natives the scheme would be impossible. The pilfering of canoes, foods etc by irresponsible members will antagonise natives and parties following will find Bases deserted on arrival. Such a condition will destroy the scheme. We must rely on natives for help. Members of travelling parties, including Officers and men in charge of them are forbidden to purchase or commandeer canoes, houses and foods. This order is necessary

for uncontrolled purchasing etc of these items will cause a shortage of essentials for parties coming behind.

Officers in charge of Base Camps will inform the local Luluai (where their base is situated in a village) that the natives must put quarters for 25 men in readiness for them. Firewood and water will be provided by the natives of the village. You will see that when a travelling party departs for the next camp that a native guide accompanies them. Should there be any large rivers to cross, make arrangements for a canoe ferry service, or failing this a system of cane ropes to assist non-swimmers to cross.

The Luluai of the Base Camp will be told that providing that his work is satisfactory he will receive the sum of £20.0.0 from the Kiap (McCarthy, know to the natives as 'Makati').

Should you purchase food, or pigs or canoes, (in an emergency) you will hand the natives a requisition in the form of a note with the price to be paid on it. No fixed price is laid down but you may use your own discretion. You may pay at a generous rate.

Personnel in charge of Base Camps will probably have a NCO or selected man with him. This last named will do his utmost to get the party away to an early start and so ensure their arrival at the next scheduled Base Camp. Remember an even flow of travelling parties is essential. The parties must reach the next Base Camp. Members of Base Camp Staff will remain at their base camp until ordered to move. On no account should they accompany travelling parties.

No large fires to be visible at night, and parties will not make themselves conspicuous. Stations of the Catholic Mission must not be visited by travelling parties.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OFFICERS? NCOs? And MEN IN CHARGE OF TRAVELLING PARTIES

You will acquaint yourself with the schedule of Base Camps as given on page 1 of this Order. Your party will number 24 men and yourself, a total of 25 men. The base camps will be reached according to schedule and the party will proceed in close formation. A long drawn out line means stragglers. Stragglers mean congestion and ultimate confusion. An even flow of men from Base to Base must be maintained. Weather should not interfere with the days marches. The days marches as shown on the schedule have actually been carried out by Patrol Officers and Native Police on many occasions. Parties on leaving Pondo (or Takis etc) will be rationed for the trip. The rations carried on the man will be: 14 lbs Rice (or wholemeal flour); 7 tins meat; 12 tablets quinine

In addition to the foregoing, the party will carry a cookpot or tins for cooking rice at Base Camps. The road is along the coast and there are no hills. The Despatching Officer at Pondo will give you information regarding extra food supplies enroute.

Owing to drought conditions first year rot crops will be scarce. All Villages enroute will have their own coconut groves, and the Officers in charge of Base Camps will arrange for a supply of coconuts on arrival. Do not allow your men to strip the palsm bare as parties following might urgently need them. Everything possible will be done to arrange further power transport by sea, but ships are scarce.

From Kautage Camp the journeys by canoe commence. To overload canoes is dangerous and orders and advice from the Officers in charge of Base Camps at Kautage etc and native paddlers should be minded. The canoes at Kautage will probably carry from 5 to 7 persons excluding native paddlers. You must get your men to take a sitting position in the canoe, as lying down takes up too much room. Heads must be covered as sunstroke is dangerous on the water. Expose as little of the skin as possible when on the water. Severe sunstroke might mean sickness and delay. Fever and sickness cannot be helped but a malingerer might cause the capture of hundreds of his comrades.

With the cooperation of all Units the success of the scheme is assured. The personnel in charge of Base Camps will be drawn from Administrative Units. These are men who have knowledge of the country and the natives. This knowledge is essential and their orders should be heeded. (JK McCarthy) Officer-in-Charge Administrative Unit

BUSY TIME FOR SALVATION ARMY BAND DON HOOK

The Salvation Army's premier music ensemble, the Melbourne Staff Band, has a busy program during the Society's memorial weekend in Canberra.

The band will play at the dedication service at the Australian War Memorial on Sunday 1 July - the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the Japanese prison ship *Montevideo Maru*, with the loss of 1,053 Australian lives.



In addition, there will be concerts and workshops throughout the ACT on the Saturday.

Members of the Society are specially invited to a concert on Saturday night in the Senior

School Hall at Canberra Girls' Grammar in Melbourne Avenue, Deakin - a short ride from the city centre. The concert, under bandmaster Ken Waterworth, will feature a great deal of 'Gullidge music'.

Arthur Gullidge was the celebrated bandmaster of the ill-fated $2/22^{nd}$ Battalion Band that lost all but one of its members on the *Montevideo Maru*.

The concert will start at 7.00pm. Bookings can be made through PHILO Ticketing. The prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 concessions, and \$20 for a family.

Ken Waterworth has been a member of the band for 32 years including the past 18 years as bandmaster.

ANZAC DAY RABAUL 25 APRIL 2012

Further information about events in Rabaul for Anzac Day can be obtained from Susie McGrade at E: rabaulhotel@global.net.pg

Wreaths - Please either bring your own or Rabaul Hotel can organise these at \$30 per wreath. Orders need to be emailed by 22 April to: rabaulhotel@global.net.pg

Shuttle buses: Rabaul Hotel is organising shuttle buses to and from the memorials and between Rabaul and Kokopo. Please advise Susie McGrade at Rabaul Hotel E: rabaulhotel@global.net.pg which hotel you are staying at so buses can be arranged.

Dress is COOL, SMART, CASUAL. A hat or umbrella and comfortable shoes are a good idea during the day.

Mementoes - Special t-shirts commemorating the 70^{th} anniversary are being produced for purchase in Rabaul.

MONDAY 23rd APRIL

6.00 pm **Rabaul Hotel: Welcome Reception** by Gerry (PNGVR) & Joyce McGrade & family, Rabaul Hotel.

TUESDAY 24th APRIL

6-8:00 pm Rabaul Historical Society, Welcome Reception at the New Guinea Club

ANZAC DAY WEDNESDAY 25th APRIL

5.00am **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

Rabaul Yacht Club for Gunfire Breakfast (Walk or Shuttle bus to venue)
Sponsored by PNGVR Association, Rabaul RSL and Rabaul Historical Society

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

Buffet Lunch at Ralum Club, home of Queen Emma.

4.30 pm Boarding Ship in Rabaul Town - Frangipannis will be scattered on Simpson Harbour at sundown 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 AU\$20

All welcome. Guests to pay own beverages

Transport: Rabaul Historical Society has kindly organised buses to pick guests up from Kokopo hotels at 4.15am on Anzac Day, 25 April. The bus picking you up will be allocated to you for the *whole day*, including return travel for the Commemoration Dinner. Please register with Rabaul Hotel.

Note: Remember to order and pay for wreaths by 22 April E: rabaulhotel@global.net.pg

Payments for Commemoration Dinner (\$20pp), wreaths (\$30) and perhaps a donation to the Rabaul Historical Society to:

New Guinea Club Inc., 12 Central Avenue, Rabaul

ANZ Bank, Kokopo branch, Williams Street, East New Britain, PNG

SWIFT CODE: ANZBPGPX

BSB & ACCOUNT NO # 018: 905: 0011410415

RABAUL HOTEL: http://www.rabaulhotel.com.pg/

The Gunfire Breakfast is kindly co-hosted by the PNGVR Association, the Rabaul RSL and the Rabaul Historical Society - with thanks.

The Rabaul Hotel and the Rabaul Historical Society are generously sponsoring the events to ensure that all visitors have a memorable trip to Rabaul. If you feel you might like to make a donation to assist the Rabaul Historical Society it would help considerably and be most welcome.

If paying for the Anzac Day Commemorative Dinner at Rabaul Hotel in Rabaul, the cost is PGK45.00, wreaths will be PGK65.

One option, when transferring funds from Australian bank accounts, is to first have the Australian Bank convert it to its equivalent PNG Kina amount and then transfer that figure to the nominated account. Apparently this assists with the problem of transfer fees by the receiving bank.

WEBSITE: www.memorial.org.au

MEMBERS LOG-IN ON WEBSITE

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

The Members-only area also has additional photos.

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

ELECTRONIC MEMORIAL

A section on the website continues to be 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 (if applicable), 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.

HOW YOU CAN HELP 2012 - 70th ANNIVERSARIES - You can help!

25 April, Anzac Day, is a pivotal day on which you can help to further publicise the story of what happened in Rabaul, the islands of New Guinea and on the *Montevideo Maru*.

We ask all members to contact their local newspaper(s), as well as their ABC and commercial radio/TV stations, 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.

Thank you to those members who have already done this - it is greatly appreciated!

FEEDBACK

DOREEN MANSLEY BEADLE AND FRANK BEADLE BULL CREEK WA

Congratulations to all executives of the RMvM Society who have fulfilled the great goals of the Society. We on the sidelines who have enjoyed watching you bring all these things to pass ... Applaud you.

Now as you review your future role we thank you for inviting our input about the Society's future. You say there are two goals you would have liked to achieve; one being out of your reach at the moment - the declaration of the site of the sinking of the ship as a 'War grave". The second, for the story of Rabaul and the *Montevideo Maru* tragedy to be included in school curriculum.

We haven't been able to define in our thoughts just what would be involved in the implementation of a prize being offered, say, to Year 10 students for a 'paper or talk' on "Australia's Greatest Maritime Tragedy" as a means of keeping this history alive in schools. Could be nation-wide or a State basis?

For our part we will miss the connection with all the stories and experiences of those affected by the tragedy. Doreen especially has found these supportive after the years and years of silence concerning her brother Fred Mansley and fellow members of Lark Force.

In summary what we really are saying is that we would like the Society to continue.

DON CRACKNELL WARRAGUL

Thank you very much for the latest Memorial News. What an amazing production involving so many contributors, time and contacts. It is very well done. I am the Secretary of Friends of PNG and SI - a group of people in Victoria who meet three times a year to share experiences, update and hear talks by people on PNG themes. I share the News with them.

JANET ROSS DYKGRAAFF HORNSBY

Thank you for organising this function, we look forward to being there with fellow relatives on the 70th year of its sinking. I trust provision will be made for a group photograph for historical purposes. Perhaps orders for copies of this group photo will be arranged for personal purchase, as well as the usual smaller groups/tables.

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.

Membership/Donations

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

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.

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

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	V/SA MasterCard						
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:	Postrode:						
Email Address:							
Name on card:							
Signature:							
Description of what is being paid for:							

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