

## **Rabaul**

Poem written by an unknown member of Lark Force

Mt Vulcan to his breast  
Holds them in their last rest  
Oh, could a thousand bleeding hearts recall  
Them to us: No---the years  
Must mellow with our tears  
And the memory that shall live will be  
Rabaul.

And the epic of our men  
Shall stir some poet's pen  
Greater than mine, to they immortalize;  
Greater throbbing words shall tell  
Of how they thought and fell  
Making Freedom more precious enterprise.

Had it been man to man  
When the onslaught began  
This story would never of been told; the  
Bravest in the world  
Could not stem thousands hurled  
Against them, stubbornly they fought to hold,

Their post: 'twas ten to one---  
'Ere night had claimed the sun.  
The Nippon hordes the sting of Aussie knew:  
Two thousand on the shore  
Mute testimony bore  
As fighting, ever fighting we withdraw.

Five little Wirraways  
Soared up with guns ablaze  
(Our boys knew well that death would be  
Their due):  
Behold them die---Ye Gods:  
Eighty to five the odd;  
Unto the name of Aussie they were true.

Here a Sergeant tried  
With bloody bandage tied  
About the leg, to bear a wounded mate;  
They staggered mile on mile  
Through jungle swamps so vile  
We dare not even try to contemplate.

Some, some survived that storm  
In tattered uniforms;  
Unto the land that bore them they return  
To live and fight again;  
Oh, into heart and brain  
Let the epic suffering burn.

Stirring flames of wrath  
Consuming in its path  
Thoughts of peace till Nippon is destroyed,  
Rabaul, our sacrifice;  
Blood for blood our price  
Ere we think of the peace we once enjoyed.

They died, yet live forever.  
O God, may we endeavour  
To be as strong; with courage undiminished  
Fight on: where is defeat?  
Greece, Rabaul and Crete  
Are not lost till the word is written-----  
'Finished'.

Mt Vulcan to his brest  
Holds them in their last rest.  
Oh, could a thousand bleeding  
Hearts recall  
Them to us: No---the years  
That mellow with our tears  
And the memory that shall  
Live will be Rabaul.