



Rabaul & Montevideo Maru

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society

Memorial News 32

November 2011

DEDICATION ON 1 JULY 2012 PHIL AINSWORTH

It is with great pleasure I can advise that the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru National Memorial will be dedicated Sunday, 1 July 2012, coinciding with the 70th Anniversary year of the Japanese invasion of the New Guinea islands and the anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*. A weekend of events is being arranged for this commemoration including a luncheon at the National Press Club, Canberra on Saturday 30th June and the dedication at 11.30 am in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra on 1 July 2011.

BENDIGO MEMORIAL PLAQUE ANDREA WILLIAMS

‘My uncle was on the *Montevideo Maru* when it went down on the 1st of July in 1942, and while I wasn’t even born then, there is something there, something



about his story, that I just love’ Bendigo resident Lois Newman said.

‘I’d ask questions, but parents in those days just never talked about it.’

For Lois and the families of the Bendigo 2/22nd Family Remembrance Group a dream came true on Friday 11 November 2011. After raising \$1000, a plaque to those lost on the *Montevideo Maru* was dedicated at the Memorial Wall, Bendigo RSL Soldiers Memorial Hall. The dedication followed the Remembrance Day ceremony and was officiated over by School of Artillery chaplain Andrew McNeill.



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

Norm Furness (89) and Sam Blaby (93) of the 2/22nd Battalion were special guests at the memorial service at Bendigo Soldier’s Memorial Hall and then for the dedication of the plaque.

Wreathes were laid on behalf of the Bendigo Remembrance Group, the 2/22nd/Lark Force Association and the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society.

Lois has always felt a connection with her foster uncle Leonard Wall - known as Peter. Peter had become part of her

grandparents' family as they fostered many young boys on their farm at Kennington in Victoria. Lois felt that Peter deserved to be remembered.

As Lois, together with husband Eric, pieced together the story of what had happened to Peter they met a circle of people in Bendigo and the surrounding areas who had all lost relatives. Some of them had previously known each other but, until 2009, had no knowledge that they shared the same family secret. Lois and Eric have regular gatherings in their home sharing photos, letters and memorabilia with others whose men were involved in the tragedy. The group has grown from four people to over 130.

Many of them had been unaware that Bendigo had played such a significant part with the 2/22nd. A rare insight into those days was unearthed in 1993 by 92 year old Erskine Eadie. A coveted first edition Vol 1 No. 1 of the 2/22 Echo, official journal of the 2/22 Infantry Training Battalion, showed that the racecourse and showgrounds in Bendigo served as their Army Camp. The camp opened as the 3rd Training Depot, Australian Army Service Corps on 16 June 1940 with officers first marching through the city of Bendigo in battle regalia on 23 July 1940. Another march, on 25 August, ended with a massed demonstration on what is now Queen Elizabeth Oval. Major-General Rankin, commanding the 2nd Cavalry Division was present with Brigadier Luxton.

Bendigo families were delighted that Norm Furness and Sam Blaby of the 2/22nd were able to be present for the dedication of this special plaque.

'We've been a very close knit association over the years and even today we have special function' Norm said. The importance of grieving with family and friends of up to 1000 Australian men from the 2/22nd battalion who lost their lives is all the more significant 'because for most of [the relatives], they didn't even know their men were dead until four years later.

'Most of those that were taken prisoner were lost on a Japanese ship.'

They were among 1,400 soldiers sent by the Australian Army to Rabaul in 1941. Both men agreed that the January 1942 assault from the Japanese was extraordinary; first from the air, then on land. With the Japanese landing 10 soldiers to every one Australian who were already under-equipped with antique WWI equipment, there was no choice but to retreat into the jungle.

'They blew our good guns to pieces in 20 minutes,' Sam said. 'Australia sent training aircraft up as fighter planes, but the first time the Japanese flew over they blasted them out of the sky.'

'The order was given, every man for himself, and that's what you had to do,' Norm said. 'You would eat anything that crawled; rats were great, almost as good as chicken.'

'It was three months of jungle food. I was 12 stone six when the Japanese landed; when I left the island I was nine stone.'



Photo:

Norm Furness, President of 2/22nd/Lark Force Association with Sam Blaby

<http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/news/local/news/general/diggers-look-back-on-ordeal/2354324.aspx>

<http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/news/local/news/general/bendigo-diggers-spend-day-with-families-of-fallen/2355523.aspx?src=email>

Article also on WIN TV News 12Nov11



THE PNGVR MILITARY MUSEUM, Wacol (Brisbane) will be featured on ABC Channel 2 on Sunday 27 Nov 2011 11am Asia-Pacific program.

ELECTRONIC MEMORIAL

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

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

If you would like to write a piece, it would also be 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.

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE MELBOURNE VICTORIA

The Shrine of Remembrance is developing an exhibition on Japan's entry into the Second World War, focusing on the period December 1941 - June 1942. The loss of Australian POW's aboard the Montevideo Maru will be covered.

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

If you are able to help the Shrine with any small items that help tell the story of the invasion of the New Guinea Islands please contact Neil Sharkey on 03 9661 8100

COMMUNITY GROUPS

To have the men remembered in their communities, and to have this story become a lasting part of Australian history, perhaps there are others who would consider getting a group together as Lois and Eric Newman have done in Bendigo? With the 70th anniversary coming up in 2012, local RSLs and Historical Societies may well be interested in your story.

THE RESTORING COMMUNITY WAR MEMORIALS GRANTS PROGRAM

in Victoria provides funding of up to \$10,000 to assist ex-service organisations, local councils, schools and community groups to preserve, restore and enhance local war memorials and honour rolls.

The 2012 grants program closes on Monday 30th January 2012 and can be obtained from www.dpcd.vic.gov.au

DATABASE UPDATE

A recent check on our database shows we are missing contact details for the following people. If you can help it would be appreciated. Please email: admin@memorial.org.au

JE Malone, G Lawrence, S & T Visser, GJ Griffiths, Leone Frame, A Dove, Allistair McColl, L S Tavender, Doug Moran, Paul Yuck Leo, K W Farnell.

DEDICATION OF PASSAGE BY JAMES PARRETT 1 JULY 2012

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

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society will also be hosting a luncheon at the National Press Club in Canberra on Saturday 30 June 2012.

At this stage we are waiting on final costings - including for the dedication ceremony. We hope to include this information in the December *Memorial News*. Seating at the National Press Club will be limited and therefore the first confirmed replies, with payment, will be those accepted. Please start thinking about who would like to attend as we expect to be able to notify you in the December *Memorial News*. We will need names of attendees with their address, phone and email details, accommodation in Canberra and any information regarding disability.

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

Rydges Lakeside and Rydges Capital Hill in Canberra

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RYDGES LAKESIDE CANBERRA

1 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601

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

RYDGES CAPITAL HILL HOTEL, CANBERRA

Cnr Canberra Avenue and National Circuit, Forrest ACT 2603

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

Breakfree Capital Tower Canberra, specialising in 2 and 3 Bedroom Apartments (fully self-contained) have also offered the following rates for apartment accommodation - these will be available for the next three months.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email: thomas.lamond@breakfree.com.au

BREAKFREE CAPITAL TOWER CANBERRA
2 Marcus Clarke Street Canberra ACT 2601

KENELM MACKENZIE RAMSAY NX 25468

ANNE McINTOSH

Anne McIntosh is interested in any information about her great uncle, Cpl Kenelm MacKenzie Ramsay (known as 'Mac') NX25468. Mac was with AIF 1 Independent Company at Kavieng at the time of the invasion.

One of the surviving officers told family members that at the time that the *Montevideo Maru* left from Rabaul, Mac was very unwell.

Mac was born 27 August 1914 at Quirindi, NSW. He played four tests for the Wallabies between 1936 and 1938. He was a 1939 tourist, one of the 29 Australian rugby players who arrived in England the day before war was declared, and departed for Australia two days later.

If you have any information to help Anne, please email her at: amc67497@bigpond.net.au

ANZAC DAY SCHOOLS AWARD 2012 - How you can help

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

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

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

Thank you to Patrick Bourke for this initiative

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

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 - details to be confirmed

THURSDAY 26th APRIL

FREE DAY

FRIDAY 27th APRIL PNGVR GROUP ETC, DEPARTS

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

**GUNNER KEITH TRIGG
AKA AK TRIGG NX53269**

DOROTHY AIKEN NEE TRIGG

I am so pleased to become a Life member of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial Association and honour the memory of Gunner Keith Trigg aka AK Trigg NX53269 and our parents George and Ellen Trigg.

I am now 95 years of age and the eldest sister of Keith, from a family of 8 siblings there are 3 sisters and one brother surviving. We are so very pleased to be able to see the Nominal roll finally appear and the belated recognition of this tragedy which has affected so many families for far too long!

I saw the anguish my parents went through waiting throughout the war having heard Keith was a POW and then nothing.

My father passed away in 1952 still tormented at not knowing what had happened to his eldest son who had turned 20 on March 15th after capture. In his letter sent as a POW he made mention of it not being a very good birthday present. His Army records would have him turning 24 in September, as he had stated his date of birth as 15/09 1918, putting his age up on enlistment at Paddington NSW. He was originally in the 9th Division but transferred to the 2/22 Battalion where he was a Gunner in the 17th A/T Battery.



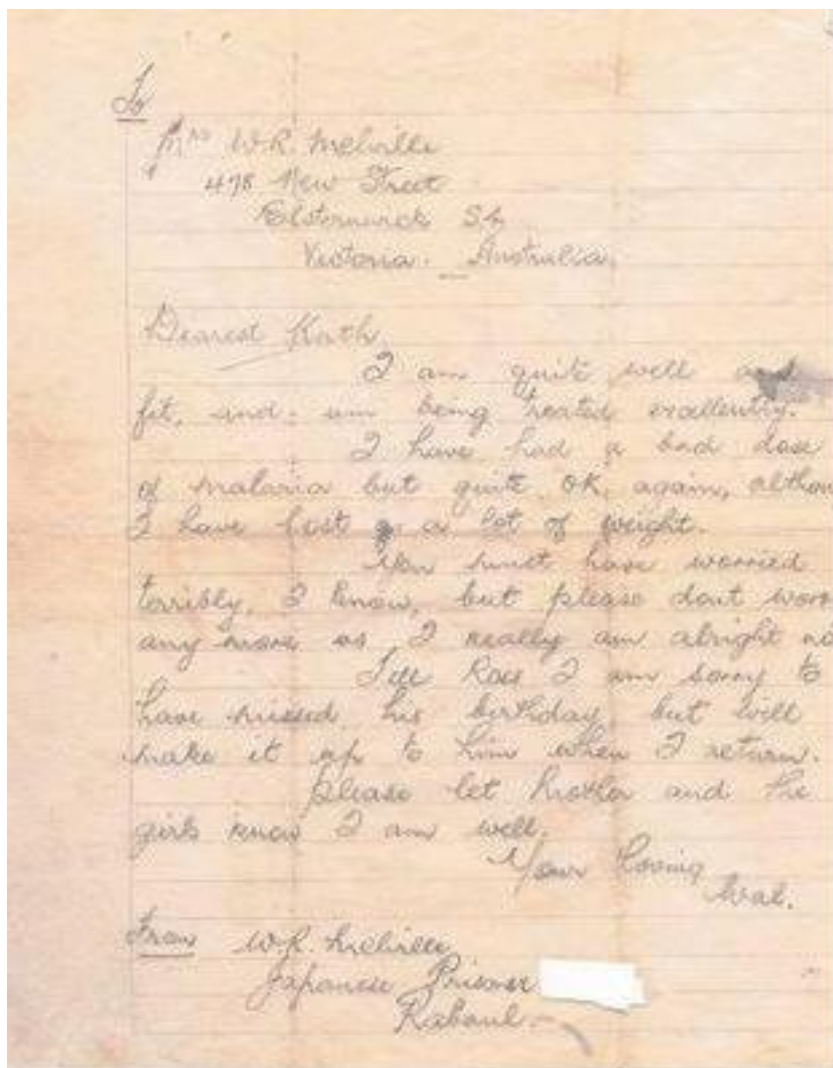
My Mother, Ellen Trigg, attended a Memorial Service in Rabaul in about 1960? She cherished the opportunity to meet with some of the other families who had the same questions as to what had happened to their husbands, sons, brothers and friends.

I know she contacted the family of Wilfred Trigg mentioned in your September newsletter to see if they were related or perhaps the two men had met in Rabaul, but there was no connection.

I was a nursing sister at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney during the duration of the war and Keith used to visit me whenever he could. We also corresponded and I still have his letters from Rabaul which are cherished by the family.

Hopefully I will be at the service in Canberra in 2012 for the dedication of the Memorial. I wish the society all the best in its endeavours.

**PRIVATE WALLACE ROSS MELVILLE
PETER SCOTT**



This letter was sent from Private Wallace Ross Melville to his wife Kath whilst he was a prisoner of war in Rabaul.

Dearest Kath

I am quite well and fit, and am being treated excellently.

I have had a bad dose of malaria but quite OK again, although I have lost a lot of weight.

You must have worried terribly, I know, but please don't worry any more as I really am alright now.

Tell Ross I am sorry to have missed his birthday but will make it up to him when I return.

Please let Mother and the girls know I am well.

Your loving

Wal

K-10 CURRICULUM

Information was recently received from the Australian Curriculum Consultation Process that on Friday 14 October the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) approved the Foundation to Year 10 Achievement Standards for the first four learning areas of the Australian Curriculum, including History. A check of the K-10 Curriculum showed only two mentions of PNG.

1. World War II: Kokoda (History Year 10)
2. Rainfall figures for PNG (Geography)

Earlier in the year and on Patrick Bourke's suggestion, the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society followed up the submission to ACARA by contacting Education Services Australia (ESA) who were developing the educational portal for teachers. ESA pointed out that copyright on websites for education resources is an often overlooked issue. As information about the New Guinea Islands is not easy to locate, ESA were asked to include the following web sites on the teaching portal for history teachers (History, Year 10, WWII, POWs - The experiences of Australians during WWII ACDSEH 108):

www.w2australia.gov.au/japadvance/rabaul.html

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

A list of suggested educational resources, compiled by Patrick Bourke, was also sent to ACARA and ESA. They are included here for your information:

THE SECOND WORLD WAR: NEW BRITAIN AND NEW IRELAND

Books

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

Finding Darcy 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*. Parallel to this is the story of her best friend, Laura, who is researching her Japanese great grandfather.

Suitable for school years 7 to 9.

- **A Very Long War: The Families Who Waited** by Margaret Reeson. ISBN 0522 849091 Melbourne University Press. 2000.
- **Hostages to Freedom: The Fall of Rabaul** by Peter Stone. ISBN 0646 241249 Oceans Enterprises. Yarram. 2006.
- **Australia's Forgotten Prisoners. Civilians interned by the Japanese in World War Two** by Christina Twomey. ISBN-13: 9780521612890 Cambridge Press. Port Melbourne. VIC. 2007.
- **Hell and High Fever** by David Selby. ISBN 9780207122255 Pacific Books. Sydney. 1971

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.

Website

- **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 (Sister Berenice Twohill's story)

- **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 Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial

A permanent Montevideo Maru display in its World War II galleries.

For more information concerning the Montevideo Maru and what happened in New Britain & 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

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 Rabaul pre-war would also be welcomed. This information will help provide insights to the story of Rabaul, the New Guinea Islands and the Montevideo Maru.

We thank those of you who have already sent them in.

Please Email: 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 to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society towards the building of the memorial.

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

FEEDBACK

MARGARET HENDERSON FULLARTON SA

Thank you for all your efforts to get the PNG Government involved. This is probably the greatest act of generosity displayed by all the organisations and people involved in the establishment of the memorial in the AWM. It says so much in terms of the contribution of the Australians involved in PNG in 'assisting' the pre-war development of PNG and who were then caught up in the war with Japan. It also, in a way, is recognition of the indigenous people of PNG and the Chinese who also died during the war.

Personally, I am thrilled with this gift as it will mark the end of my quest for formal recognition of the tragic events in PNG during the Second World War.

BOB WILLIAMS NORTH FREMANTLE

Congratulations in every respect. I wish my father Alexander was still alive as he missed his older brother Frank Williams so much until the day he died. Frank was reportedly on board the MvM. If Dad was still alive what you and your colleagues are achieving would have brought him great joy.

CLAIRE INCHBOLD GLADESVILLE

I am delighted to donate to/join the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society as granddaughter of the civilian, Harry Darley HOLLAND who went down with the ship almost 70 years ago. I would very much like to attend the unveiling of the memorial in honour of the paternal grandfather I never met. It would also be an honour to remember the other troops and civilians who went down with him, at the ceremony next July.

Harry and his wife, Winifred owned a copra plantation in Kavieng prior to moving to Rabaul. Winnie was evacuated with their two children, Alfred Thomas Holland (my father) and Betty Larard Holland. Harry stayed on in his role with AWA to maintain the island's communications until the Japanese invaded Rabaul. I understand he was then taken prisoner of war before be transported on the *Montevideo Maru*.

MARG CURTIS MT MARTHA VIC

Thought I would let you know that Mum and I attended the Memorial Service held for Joan Best (wife of Ted Best) yesterday. It was held at Christ Church South Yarra with a large group attending. She died on 27th September aged 95. She was a very remarkable and generous women who contributed to and attended all 2/22nd functions until last year (the anniversary at Trawool was the last one).

She was married to Edward 'Ted' Best who passed away in 1992. Ted was in the 2/22nd Battalion and was captured in Rabaul and spent 3 years in Japan as a POW. Ted was a great athlete competing in British Empire Games held in Sydney in 1938 where he won 3 bronze medals. He was also the Lord Mayor of Melbourne from 1969 - 1971.

Apart from her connection to us via 2/22nd - we found out in the later years that her daughter and son-in-law were neighbours of our family farm in Devenish. It seems such a pity that the men didn't talk about their years in the war as Mum and her family would have been comforted by the knowledge of hearing any news - good and bad.



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

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

How to join the Society:

Electronically:

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

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

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

Donations of all sizes will help. Donations over \$2 will be tax deductible. They are forwarded, in bulk amounts, to the AWM for processing to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial Fund. 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:

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

AURORA EXPEDITIONS PNG -

70th commemoration voyage

RABAUL ANZAC Day 2012 –

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

Lost in Paradise - Our Fallen Heroes.

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

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

The PNG brochure is currently online at: <http://www.auroraexpeditions.com.au/papuaneuguinea2012>

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

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

70th Commemoration Voyage:

14-26 April 2012

Lost in Paradise - Our Fallen Heroes

Alotau, Milne Bay/Samarai, D'Entrecasteaux islands - Dobu & Fergusson Is, Egum Atoll and Gawa Is, Trobriands, Lindenhafen near Gasmata, Palmamal/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.

Commemorative Cruise to Papua New Guinea



Darren
Jew

“During this exotic voyage I dine by the light of a spluttering volcano, explore kaleidoscope reefs so rich in coral that some have yet to be catalogued, sip cocktails at the mouth of a tropical fjord system and constantly marvel at this primitive-meets-modern land.”

Kendall Hill, *The Australian*

Islands of Smiles

2 to 14 April 2012

This voyage is ideal for families looking for adventure! Focusing on the natural and cultural highlights all the way from Alotau to the Sepik River and back, we explore remote islands, pristine beaches, have the opportunity to snorkel and dive in the colourful coral reefs, and witness the diverse array of colourful customs through sing sings, complex rituals and spectacular costumes.

Lost in Paradise – Our Fallen Heroes

14 to 26 April 2012

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of Australia’s entry into the Pacific War and Papua New Guinea’s entry into World War II, this special commemorative voyage will shine a light on the courage and tragedy of Australia’s unsung heroes – The Lark Force – in the Battle of Rabaul, and the ensuing loss of lives, both troops and civilians, on the

Montevideo Maru.

Prices start from AUD\$5,690 per person, quad share.

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BENDIGO PLAQUE DEDICATION



Eric and Lois Newman



Norm Furness



Bendigo Memorial Wall



Norm Furness and Sam Blaby lay a wreath

.....and share their story



Members of the Bendigo Remembrance Group



MEMORIAL NOTICEBOARD

DONATIONS

Donations towards the memorial have been gratefully received from:

Cadden Crowe, Sarah Gillespie, Ann Graham, Roma Page, Gold Coast PNG Club, Ron Hayes, Shirley Hosking, Ruth Harry, Leslie Goulburn Clements, Jeanette Cassidy, Verrera Pini, Dorothy Collings, Dorothy Gay, Joyce McGrade, Warwick Risby, KW Farnell, Mark Smith, Rev N & Mrs E Clarke, Leslie Burrell, John Crooke, Richard Gladhill, Don Cracknell, Carolyn Hall, Malcolm McArthur and from the following RSLs: Auburn, Thirroul, Bondi, Doyalson-Wyee, Redfern, Tea Gardens, Forestville, South Hurstville, Traralga, The Entrance-Long Jetty, Kempsey-Macleay, Wellington, Penrith, Bangalow, Casino, Bathurst, Raymond Terrace, Bellinger River, Woodburn Evans Head, Oberon, Belfield, Hill District, Albion Park, Guyra, Swansea

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEMORIAL NEWS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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

REGISTER YOUR MEMORABILIA

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

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

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

HOW TO REMIT FUNDS TO THE SOCIETY

BY INTERNET: Transfer funds to the Society's bank account BSB 082-401 Account No 16-083-2367. Notify your deposit in an email to: Richard@isaunders.com.au

BY MAIL: Cheques to Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society at PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089. All funds devoted to constructing a memorial at the Australian War Memorial

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