

WE NEED YOUR HELP

150 AUSTRALIAN HISTORY TEACHERS

REQUIRED

‘PROJECT 150 - Trial’

The Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group,
part of the PNGAA, would like to invite you to
be part of our Year 10 WW2 History trial.

Our PROJECT 150 team will provide your school with the following:

- A Unit of Work - ***Some Came Home: An Insight into the First Engagement of WWII on Australian Territory***, which is ready to be implemented in the classroom
- Lesson plans following the content links which are in the Year 10 Australian Curriculum
- Teacher background notes
- Student worksheets
- The DVD - *Some Came Home* in which POWs and civilians internees are interviewed about their war experiences
- A list of resources that teachers can use – Websites, Historical Documents & Film

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to learn more about Australia's involvement in the Pacific in WW2 plus be part of a fantastic trial ensuring Australian students are taught their Nation's stories.

More information about 'Project 150' is available on our Website & Facebook page:

W: memorial.org.au F: facebook.com/RabaulAndMontevideoMaruSociety



Some Interesting WW2 facts you may not know about Rabaul & New Britain

- In 1941 a small Australian Army garrison of approximately 1,400 personnel was sent to Rabaul, New Britain to garrison the outpost, protect its airfields and seaplane anchorages and act as a link in a chain of observation posts across the northern frontier. This garrison was known as 'Lark Force' – 2/22nd Battalion and Supporting Troops
- Lark Force not only was routed from Rabaul by a superior Japanese force on 23rd January, 1942, but it was informed by the Australian Government that there was to be no reinforcement, no further support and no evacuation. Literally and realistically it became "Every man for himself" for Lark Force personnel retreating from Rabaul.
- Between 300 – 400 Australian Soldiers based on New Britain, escaped back to mainland through the jungle & ocean, which took many months after the Japanese invasion: some soldiers did not make it back to Port Moresby until July.
- The Japanese executed over 150 Australian Soldiers, who gave themselves up at Tol & Waitavalo Plantations on the 4th February 1942, but there were survivors who managed to escape, even with their injuries. The exact amount of soldiers killed is not known – but the Court of Inquiry after the war estimated this at not less than 150.
- On 22nd June 1942, some weeks after the fall of Rabaul to the Japanese, a large number of Australian prisoners were boarded from Rabaul's port onto the MS Montevideo Maru. Unmarked as a POW ship or 'Hell Ship", she was proceeding without escort to the Chinese island of Hainan, when she was sighted by the American submarine USS *Sturgeon* near the northern Philippine coast on 30th June. Unaware that it was carrying Allied prisoners of war and civilians, the *Sturgeon* fired four torpedoes at the *Montevideo Maru* before dawn of 1st July, causing the vessel to sink. This sinking is considered the worst maritime disaster in Australia's history – with no allied survivors.
- Australian Families were not informed of their son's death for over three and half years after the sinking – throughout the war families thought their loved ones were POW's or still missing in action.
- In 2012, the Japanese handed thousands of POW documents to the Australian government and the Montevideo Maru's manifest, which contained the names of all the Australians on board, was found to be among them. The translation of the manifest was released in June 2012 confirming a total of 1,054 Australians of which 845 were Lark force.



M. S. "MONTEVIDEO MARU", 7,300 TONS GROSS 噸百參千七數噸總 丸おでびてんも

LETS TELL OUR HIDDEN HISTORY – DON'T LET THE TALES OF LARK FORCE & THEIR SUPPORT TROOPS BE HIDDEN IN THE PAGES OF TIME BE PART OF 'PROJECT 150'- YOUR STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW



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PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, Inc.

Incorporated in New South Wales - ABN 35 027 362 171
Including the former Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society



PNGAA

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