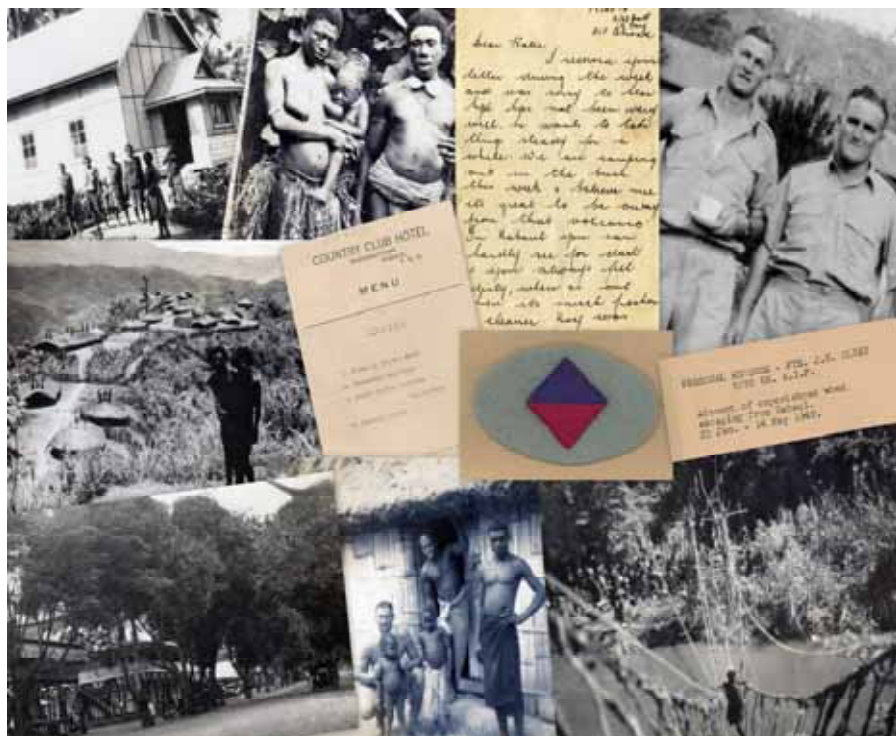


RABAU 1942, PAPUA NEW GUINEA - AUSTRALIA'S UNTOLD WW2 HISTORY



'RADIO SILENCE'
AUSTRALIAN MANDATED
TERRITORY OF NEW BRITAIN
23 JANUARY 1942

MISSING OVER 2000
AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS
& CIVILIANS

DISPLACED EXPAT WOMEN
& CHILDREN ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA

NEW BRITIAN & SURROUNDING
ISLANDS HAVE FALLEN TO
THE JAPANESE

11 YEAR OLD AUSSIE SCHOOL
BOY, DICKIE MANSON,
EXECUTED FOR ESPIONAGE

'EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF'

The Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group, part of the PNGAA, encourages students and adults to explore the significance of WWII in the Papua New Guinea islands and what the start of the Pacific War in 1942 meant for Australia, including its worst maritime disaster ever.

Complimenting the Australian Curriculum, this powerful and poignant history is about those who first faced WW2 on Australian territory and were abandoned by Australia.

Our **RABAU 1942, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**, project team provides your school with an **Online Education package available at** <https://www.memorial.org.au/Education/index.htm> which includes:

- 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, available online and free.
- Lesson plans supporting content links in the Year 10 Australian Curriculum
- Teacher background notes
- Student worksheets
- Link to the 15 minute online film, 'Some Came Home' in which POWs and civilian internees are interviewed about their war experiences
- A list of resources – Websites, Historical Documents, Books & Film

Photo: Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Memorial, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT.



The Online Education package, previously Project 150, is available at:
<http://www.memorial.org.au/Education/index.htm>

More information is also available via

W: www.memorial.org.au F: <https://www.facebook.com/RabaulAndMontevideoMaruSociety/>



Interesting WW2 facts you may not know about Rabaul, Kavieng and the Papua New Guinea islands

- In 1941 a small Australian Army garrison of 1,400 personnel, known as 'Lark Force', consisting of the 2/22nd Battalion and supporting units, was sent to Rabaul, New Britain, to protect its airfields and seaplane anchorages and act as a link in a chain of observation posts across the northern frontier. The 1 Independent Company went to Kavieng.
- Civilian women and children were evacuated to Australia and told not to discuss what happened. Some Australian nurses and nuns from Rabaul either remained in Rabaul or became Prisoners-of-war in Japan.
- Australian civilian boys aged 16 years and over were not evacuated. At least one 11 year old and one 15 year old remained and were killed. Island Chinese and Papua New Guineans were not evacuated.
- Lark Force was not only routed from Rabaul by a superior Japanese force on 23 January 1942, but it was informed by the Australian Government that there was to be no reinforcement, no further support and no evacuation. Lark Force and the civilians of Rabaul were quickly told 'Every man for himself'.
- Between 300-400 Australian soldiers based in the New Guinea islands escaped back to the mainland through the dense mountainous jungle, crocodile infested rivers and with the aid of small coastal vessels, missionaries and coastwatchers - all the time on the look-out for Japanese patrols. They had no food, no medicines, no ammunition and no maps. Some did not get to Port Moresby for six months.
- The Japanese executed more than 150 Australian soldiers who surrendered at Tol and Waitavalo Plantations on 4 February 1942.
- On 22 June 1942, five months after the fall of Rabaul to the Japanese, 1053 Australian prisoners, both soldiers and civilian men, were boarded from Rabaul's port on to the *MS Montevideo Maru*. Unmarked as a POW ship, this 'Hellship' proceeded without escort towards the Chinese island of Hainan, when she was sighted by the American submarine *USS Sturgeon* near the northern Philippine coast. Unaware of its load, the *Sturgeon* fired four torpedoes at the *Montevideo Maru* before dawn on 1 July 1942, causing the vessel to sink quickly, with no allied survivors.
- This sinking is the worst maritime disaster in Australia's history.
- Australian families were not informed for over three and a half years.
- In 2012 the Japanese handed thousands of POW documents to the Australian government including the *Montevideo Maru*'s manifest.
- On 1 July 2012, on the 70th Anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*, the Rabaul and *Montevideo Maru* Memorial was dedicated at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Most Australians still do not know if they had a relative on board as their families never spoke about this horrific incident. Even you might have a relative involved...



LET'S TELL OUR HIDDEN HISTORY. DON'T LET THE TALES OF LARK FORCE, ITS SUPPORT TROOPS AND CIVILIANS AT WAR REMAIN HIDDEN IN THE PAGES OF TIME. LEARN and TEACH 'RABAUL 1942'

'An amazing opportunity to ensure Australian students are taught their nation's stories.'

EMAIL: education@memorial.org.au

WEBSITE: www.memorial.org.au
 SOCIAL: www.facebook.com/RabaulAndMontevideoMaruSociety
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 Including the former Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society



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