



PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO MARU GROUP

WORLD WAR II (1941-45): CAUSES, EVENTS, OUTCOMES AND NATURE OF AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN RABAUL

SOME CAME HOME: AN INSIGHT INTO THE FIRST ENGAGEMENT OF WWII ON AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY



CONTENT (including links to Australian Curriculum):

Examine Australia's relationship with New Guinea and its implications during World War II

(ACDSEH024) Literacy; Creative thinking

- Locate Rabaul on a map
- Identify how, when and why Rabaul became an Australian territory

Investigate how the threat of a Japanese invasion contributed to Australia's changed allegiance

(ACDSEH110) Literacy; Critical and creative thinking

- Why did Australia support Britain so strongly in the First World War?
- Who became Australia's main ally in December 1941? Explain the reasons for this change, identifying key events and people.
- Explain why Rabaul was a key strategic military base
- Examine the different groups involved in the defense of Rabaul and the consequence of the Japanese invasion

Examine Australia's responsibility to the people at Rabaul and Ambon

(ACDSEH107) Ethical Understanding

At the War Cabinet meeting on 12 December 1941 the Australian Government Ministers were presented with 3 options for the Rabaul garrison:

- 1) Do nothing
 - 2) Reinforce the garrison
 - 3) Withdraw and abandon the area
- What choice did the Government make?
 - What were the reasons for this decision?
 - Consider consequences
 - Reflect on whether it was an ethical choice

The experiences of Australians during World War II

(ACDSEH108) - Critical and creative thinking; Personal and social capability

Examine the different reactions and recollections of POWs

- Appreciate diverse perspectives
- Identify and clarify information and ideas

STUDENT TASK

This task can be completed by students, either as individual or group work, over two or three periods. It can also be broken into stand-alone sections with a brief background overview.

Part 1: New Guinea becomes a mandated Australian Territory

Part 2: The Fall of Rabaul

Part3: The Fall of Ambon

Part 4: Remembering 1942: The Defence of the 'Malay Barrier'

Part 5: 'Some Came Home'

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION SHEET

AUSTRALIANS AT RABAUL

For most Australians little is known of Australia's close relationship to New Guinea, or of the role Rabaul had in both World Wars.

Pre-World War I Rabaul

Australians, especially the Queenslanders, were concerned about the growing German influence in New Guinea. The fear was that Germany would take possession of eastern New Guinea. So in 1883 the resident magistrate on Thursday Island was sent to Port Moresby to raise the British flag and claim all of eastern New Guinea for Queen Victoria. The problem was that the British Government did not agree to this arrangement. In November 1884 Britain and Germany agreed to share the territory of eastern New Guinea. On 1st September 1906 British New Guinea was handed over to Australia and renamed Papua. Hence, at the beginning of the First World War the island of New Guinea was divided up by three foreign countries: the western half was held by the Dutch; Germany had the north-east section; and Australia was in possession of the south-eastern area. Rabaul was the capital of German New Guinea.

First World War

On 6th August 1914, two days after Britain declared war on Germany, Australia and New Zealand were asked by Britain to occupy German New Guinea, capture the wireless stations, and prevent its harbours being used by German war ships. Australia quickly agreed and the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (A.N. & M.E.F.), consisting of 500 Royal Naval reservists and a battalion of infantry and ancillary troops, was specially raised in the first week of the war. This volunteer force was recruited, equipped trained and left Australia for New Guinea on 19 August. Such was the support for the British Empire.

Six men from the A.N. & M.E.F. were killed and four wounded in the successful battle to seize the wireless station at Bitapaka on 11th September. They were the first Australian engagement casualties of the First World War. On 13th September the British flag was raised at Rabaul. On 14th September, AE1, one of Australia's first two submarines, was lost off the coast of Rabaul. This submarine has never been found. 16 men from the Royal Australian Navy and 19 men from the Royal Navy died. By the end of the year German New Guinea was secured and was placed under Australian military rule for the next seven years.

The six AN & MEF servicemen who died in the battle to capture the Bitapaka wireless station and the campaign contributed to the British government's strategy to capture all German colonies. It removed a real threat to Australia and its economy by capturing the German radio station at Bitapaka and the strategic harbour at Rabaul, preventing their use by German ships.

On 23 April 2014 on ABC Radio National during the *Historyonics* segment of the drive program David Howell from the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne was interviewed in regards to the Bitapaka battle. In this ten minute interview David talks about the battle and its importance.

Refer: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/drive/historyonic3a-the-battle-for-bitapaka/5407518>.

The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914 -1918, Volume 10, contains over 400 pages and the main body of the work is devoted to the administration of the German Possessions in the Southern Pacific. While this wasn't a major battle it is a very important part of Australia's military and general history. The six A.N. & M.E.F. servicemen who died in the battle to capture the Bitapaka wireless station and the campaign fought should not be forgotten because it contributed to the British government's strategy to capture all German colonies. It also removed a real threat to Australia by capturing the German radio station at Bitapaka and the strategic harbour at Rabaul, preventing their use by German ships.

The following are Australian War Memorial information sheets on these Australian operations:

Operations against German Pacific territories
http://www.awm.gov.au/units/event_145.asp

AE1
http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_10759.asp

The Paris Peace Conference

After the First World War ended the question arose regarding control of the former German New Guinea territories. The commander of the A.N. & M.E.F., William Holmes, thought the islands should be retained as British possessions. At the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 the USA President, Woodrow Wilson, wanted the new League of Nations to have total responsibility for the former German colony. Australian Prime Minister, William Hughes, rejected this proposal, as he wanted Australia to annex the former German colony.

“Australia had suffered 90,000 casualties in this war and lost 60,000 killed.....The islands were as necessary to Australia as water to a city.....If there were at the very door of Australia a potential or actual enemy, Australia could not feel safe.” William Hughes.

The British Prime Minister, Lloyd George, intervened and brokered a compromise. Australia could have control over the former German colony but there would be restrictions. On 9 May 1921, Australia formally was granted a mandate to administer what was German New Guinea on behalf of the League of Nations. Whilst this mandate was of a fairly low level it did prevent Australia from establishing military or naval bases or any fortifications in the islands. Australia adhered to this obligation, which had very serious consequences for Australia in the Second World War. Rabaul was the capital of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea and Port Moresby the administrative centre for the Australian Territory of Papua. Now Australia had to defend an area, which was more than twice the size of Victoria.

Between the Two World Wars

The German properties were acquired with some compensation given to the owners. Australians, especially Australian returned servicemen from the First World War, were encouraged to buy the copra plantations and the other businesses that were put up for sale. Many of these ex-servicemen would die in the New Guinea Islands or on the Montevideo Maru during the Second World War. Rabaul became a large cosmopolitan town of about 5,000 people - 800 Europeans, 1,000 Asians (a large Chinatown), and around 3,000 Indigenous people. The Australian settlers saw themselves as permanent residents. Rabaul was sometimes referred to as “a suburb of Anzac”. There were also a large number of missionaries (some German as well as Australian) in the islands looking after the educational and spiritual needs of the native population.

World War Two

In April 1941 the threat of war with Japan increased. The Australian Government sent forces to the islands as part of “The Malay Barrier” strategy in order to protect the airstrips north of the Australian mainland and the strategic harbour at Rabaul from Japanese attacks. The 2/22nd Battalion was sent to Rabaul with supporting units including Army nurses. The garrison of 1,399 at Rabaul was known as Lark Force. Similar size forces were sent to Ambon (Gull Force) and Timor (Sparrow Force). These battalions were undermanned and relatively poorly armed. They lacked significant naval or air support and would not be able to withstand any large scale Japanese attacks. There were also small Independent Companies, commando units, like the 1st Independent Company based at New Ireland.

When Japan entered the Second World War, the Australian women and children were evacuated from Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands. However, others including the Chinese population, and male civil servants and plantation owners were not allowed to leave. Lark Force had not trained for the tropics and had no plans for retreat except for the final order “every man for himself”. Lark Force was not reinforced. This decision by the Australian War Cabinet on 12 December 1941 would eventually lead to the deaths of 1,400, perhaps 1,500 Australians – around 1,125 POWs and 275 civilian internees.

The Fall of Rabaul

On 12 December 1941 the Prime Ministers Department sent a Most Secret and Important Cable to Washington referring to the Lark Force garrison at Rabaul as being “hostages to fortune”. The Japanese bombing of Rabaul began on 4 January. The inhabitants of the islands were left to their fate and on 23 January 1942 5,000 or more men supported by a large Naval Fleet attacked Rabaul. The fighting was soon over as the small garrison was no match for the huge Japanese armed forces.

These web pages from the NSW Department of Education and the Department of Veterans' Affairs are a part of the website *Australia's War 1939-1945, Japanese Advance, December 1941 to May 1942, covering 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.*

These web pages summarise the fighting and what happened to the Australians who were at Rabaul and in the New Guinea Islands when the Japanese invaded. Peter Stone in chapters 3, 4, and 10 of his book *Hostages to Freedom, The Fall of Rabaul* gives more details about the invasion, the escapes from New Britain, the massacres and misery and what happened to the prisoners on New Britain and New Ireland. In the Tol and Waitavalo plantations massacres over 150 Australians were slaughtered by the Japanese. However, a few men survived to tell their story not long afterward the Tol and Waitavalo plantation massacres and Australians knew very early in the war against the Japanese that they would not uphold the Geneva Convention for prisoners of war. One of these men was Private Bill Cook who was bayoneted eleven times. There is a film in the Montevideo Maru and Tol Plantation exhibit in the Australian War Memorial where Bill shows us where he was bayoneted. Thanks to the help of missionaries like Father Ted Harris around 400 Australians were able to survive in the jungles of New Britain and escape the Japanese. Father Harris was killed by the Japanese. (<http://misacor.org.au/join-us/msc-life-stories/49-life-story-fr-ted-harris-msc>) Also, due to the skills of PNG patrol officers such as John Keith McCarthy many of these men were able to be rescued by boats from New Britain. (<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mccarthy-john-keith-10910>)

The following DVDs are worth viewing:

- ***The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru.*** Schindler Video Production. Montevideo Maru Pty Ltd. Northgate. Queensland.

As well as telling the tragedy of the Montevideo Maru, other "hell ships" are also documented.

- ***The Fall of Rabaul and Kavieng.*** Also produced by Schindler Video Production
- ***Some Came Home,*** Schindler Entertainment. Gripping accounts from 10 Australian and 2 American veterans and civilians who tell of their experiences during the dark days in Rabaul in the 1940s. First hand stories of escape for some and imprisonment in Rabaul and Japan for those less fortunate.
- ***Sisters of War.*** ABC Commercial. (Available from ABC bookshops)

This awarding TV historical drama is based on the experiences of Lorna Whyte (married name, Johnston), an Australian army nurse, and Sister Berenice Twohill, an Australian catholic nun, who survived as prisoners of war when Rabaul fell on 23rd January 1942.

- **70th Anniversary Commemorative Events of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Tragedy** Available from the PNGAA: Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group: <http://www.memorial.org.au/About/Activities/DVDs.htm>

As of July 2014 these DVDs are available from the Australian War Memorial's bookshop.

There are also information sheets from the Australian War Memorial about the two main Australian Army Units involved in this conflict:

- *2/22nd Battalion* : http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11273.asp
- *1st Independent Company.* http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_13312second_world_war.asp

What happened here during the Second World War shows us the complexity of war.

Of course what happened on New Britain to the Australian soldiers in 1942 still affected the surviving men (as in many wars) 40 or 50 years later as demonstrated in the film (DVD) ***Journey to the End of Night*** by Peter Tammer. This powerful and emotional award winning documentary made in 1982 is based on the recollections of Bill Neave, a former escapee from the Japanese on New Britain in 1942. <http://artfilms.com.au/Detail.aspx?ItemID=3991>

The Aftermath of the Fall of Rabaul

The possession of Rabaul by the Japanese Armed Forces gave them one of the largest sea and air bases in the Pacific. This was a severe blow to the Curtin Government. They now knew that the door was open for a direct assault on northern Australia. Within a month of the fall of Rabaul, Darwin was bombed. The British couldn't help even if they wanted to. Fortunately, the chief of the US Fleet, Admiral Earnest J. King, was also concerned by this Japanese presence and proposed a new US naval command in the waters off the east coast of Australia, extending east to Fiji, to be known as the ANZAC command area. On 26 January 1942, Admiral King instructed the commander-in-chief of the US Pacific Fleet, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, to send a cruiser and two destroyers to the ANZAC command area. These joined two Australia cruisers to act as a deterrent to any Japanese movements into the waters south of Rabaul. Australia's defence strategy had changed. Our key ally was now the USA.

The soldiers who were able to escape from New Britain in 1942 were in a very poor physical condition when they were rescued. Many had spent months in the jungle. They were suffering from lack of food, tropical diseases, and war injuries. However, some of the soldiers were able to fairly quickly recover their health and resume their usual duties. One of these men was William Owen who was a Major in the 2/22nd Battalion. William Owen was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and assumed command of the 39th Battalion on 7 July 1942. Owen was mortally wounded on 29 July 1942 on the Kokoda plateau.
<http://kokoda.commemoration.gov.au/>

Also, some of the men in the 1st Independent Company who were on other New Guinea Islands and not captured by the Japanese became coast watchers. These men gathered intelligence about Japanese shipping and military movements.

<http://www.wv2australia.gov.au/coastwatcher/>

References

- Connor, John, Stockings, Craig ed., 2013, *The capture of German New Guinea* from the book, *Before the Anzac Dawn (A military history of Australia to 1915)* , Chapter 12, New South Publishing. University of New South Wales Press Ltd.
- Kelly, Paul, *100 Years: The Australian Story: Farewell to Great and Powerful Friends..* Allen and Unwin. Cows Nest . NSW. 2001.
- Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee (November 2009). *The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru. Time for Recognition. A Submission to the Commonwealth Government.*
- Nelson, H, Department of Pacific and Southeast Asian History, Australian National University and M. Piggott, Australian War Memorial (July 1984). *Introduction to Official History of Australia in the War 1914 -1918, Volume 10 (10th Edition, 1941).* Published online by the Australian War Memorial with the assistance of the University of Queensland.
- Travers, B.H, Holmes, William, 1983, *(1892-1917), Australian Dictionary of Biography,* Volume 9. Melbourne University Press
- Wurth, Bob, 2008, *Australia's Greatest Peril, 1942,* Pan Macmillan Australia.

RESOURCES

Student access to an atlas or world map

INFORMATION SHEETS

Part 2: The Fall of Rabaul

- The Fall of Rabaul overview

- Left to their fate...'
 - 'hungry andcold'
- www.wv2australia.gov.au/japadvance/rabaul.html
- **Finding Darcy** by Sue Lawson. Black Dog Books. Fitzroy. Victoria. 2008. ISBN 6781742030234.

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. This book is suitable for students from upper primary to mid secondary. It was shortlisted for the 2009 Children's Peace Literature Awards.

Classroom ideas on **Finding Darcy** are located at:

http://www.walkerbooks.com.au/statics/dyn/1322808542329/finding_darcy_TN.pdf

Part 3: The Fall of Ambon

- The Fall of Ambon overview
- <http://www.wv2australia.gov.au/japadvance/ambon.html>

Part 5: Some Came Home

'Some Came Home' trailer, Schindler Entertainment

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 2/21st Battalion
- http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11272.asp?query=2%2F21
- 2/22nd Battalion
- http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11273.asp
- Remembering the Montevideo Maru and the Fall of Rabaul, Lt Gen David Morrison, Chief of Army 30 June 2012
- <http://memorial.org.au/About/MorrisonSpeech.htm>
- Talk by Australian historian, Peter Stanley 'Remembering 1942: The defence of the 'Malay barrier. Rabaul and Ambon, January 1942
- <http://www.awm.gov.au/atwar/remembering1942/ambon/transcript.asp>
- The Sinking of the Montevideo Maru, 1 July 1942
- www.awm.gov.au/atwar/remembering1942/montevideo/
This website from the Australian War Memorial contains:
- Roll of Honour talk by AWM historian, Ian Hodges on Monday, 1 July 2002.
 - Documents from AWM collection
 - Education Activity
- The education activity contains a document study which is based on a 1945 report detailing the lengthy and frustrating search for information on the missing passengers of the *Montevideo Maru*. This study is designed to assist students to use a primary source document to gain factual information, insights and understanding to this tragic event.
- The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru.- Time for Recognition, NOVEMBER 2009, A Submission to the Commonwealth Government, Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee

- The National Archives of Australia Fact Sheet on the Montevideo Maru: <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs266.aspx>
- ABC TV News Report, 1/7/2012, The Dedication of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial, Australian War Memorial, Canberra. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFjcyGetgJg>

Books

- **Hostages to Freedom, The Fall of Rabaul** by Peter Stone. Oceans Enterprises. Yarram. Victoria. 1995. ISBN 0646 2412490 Contact Peter Stone at peter@oceans.com.au
- **A Very Long War: The Families Who Waited** by Margaret Reeson. Melbourne University Press. Melbourne. 2000. ISBN 0522 849091
Written about the families who were evacuated to Australia just before the bombing and invasion of New Britain and New Ireland commenced.
- **Finding Darcy** by Sue Lawson. Black Dog Books. Fitzroy. Victoria. 2008. ISBN 6781742030234. (Excellent classroom worksheets: http://www.walkerbooks.com.au/statics/dyn/1322808542329/finding_darcy_TN.pdf)
- **Hell and High Fever** by David Selby. Pacific Books. Sydney 1971. ISBN 9780207122255.

David Selby was a member of Lark Force and with about 400 other Australians, soldiers & civilians who were able to escape the Japanese by walking through the New Britain jungle. This book describes his war experiences and how he survived in the jungle. After the war David Selby became a well known Australian Judge.
Copies of this book can be obtained from Robert Albert, GPO Box 4899, Sydney NSW 2001 or at: ralbert@albertmusic.com
- **Eric Feldt, *The Coast Watchers*** ISBN-10:0140149260, Penguin Australia 1991
- **Threlfall, Neville: *Mangroves, Coconuts and Frangipani - The story of Rabaul***, ISBN 978-0-646-58310-5 Published 2012 Contact the author, Unit 91, Nareen Gardens, 19 Bias Ave, Bateau Bay 2261.
An excellent and well written publication, the author was a Uniting Church missionary, he learnt the local language and was able to broaden the historical perspective. Covers WW1 and WW2 and beyond. 570 pages, a good companion to the recommended reading, *Hostages to Freedom*.
- **Downs, Ian: *The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, NGVR, 1939-1943 – a history***, ISBN 187515003X Pacific Press, 1999. Easily readable, photographs included, significant in that apart from the details contained therein, this unit is the only Australian Militia unit to be awarded a US Presidential Citation. Ian Downs had an illustrious PNG service history.
- **Bowman. Alice M: *Not Now Tomorrow - ima nai ashita - Australian Civilian Nurses-Prisoners of the Japanese, New Guinea and Japan***, ISBN-10: 0646203606 Daisy Press, Bangalow. 1996.
- **McAuley, Lex: *We who are about to Die, the story of John Lerew- a hero of Rabaul 1942*** ISBN 9781875593293 (pbk) Banner Books, 2007. The first 10 chapters are particularly relevant to the times and compliment the book, *Hell and High Fever*.
- **Nikakis, Gillian: *He's Not Coming Home***. Lothian Books. South Melbourne. 2005.
- **Henderson, Margaret L *Yours Sincerely, Tom. A Lost Child of the Empire***. Openbook Publishers. Adelaide. 2005.
- **Henderson, Margaret L *Yours Sincerely Tom Revisited***. Seaview Press. Henley Beach. South Australia. 2005.
- **Margaret Reeson, *Whereabouts unknown***. Albatross Books. Sutherland. NSW . 1993.

- The Newsletters of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society. These newsletters *Memorial News* have been archived by the National Library of Australia on their Pandora Website at <http://www.pandora.nla.gov.au> (enter Memorial News in the Trove Search box). The July 2012 newsletter has records of the 70th Anniversary Commemoration Lunch in Canberra and the Dedication of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial. Included are speeches by Lt General David Morrison, Chief of the Australian Army; the dedication speech by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO , the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia; and Margaret Henderson who was evacuated from the New Guinea Islands. pp 27 -47.
- The Department of Veterans' Affairs at www.dva.gov.au and enter Montevideo Maru in the search area in the top right hand corner of the home page and click on search.
- The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society at www.memorial.org.au
- Rod Miller's website at <http://www.montevideomaru.info/index.htm>
- Lost Lives, the Second World War and the Islands of New Guinea at <http://www.jje.info/lostlives/>
- Mike Carlton, *First Victory -1914 – HMAS Sydney's hunt for the German raider Emden*. Random House Australia. North Sydney. NSW. 2013.
- **Kevin Meade, *Heroes before Gallipoli: Bitu Paka and that One Day in September***. John Wiley & Sons Australia. Milton, Queensland. 2005.
- **Greg Raffin, (History Teacher), *Australia's Real Baptism of Fire: Heroes Known Only To A Few***. Five Senses Education. 2013.

Website Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the following organisations whose websites were used in this document:

- National Library of Australia
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation
- Google
- Australian Defence Force Academy , University of NSW , Canberra
- Australian War Memorial
- Department of Veterans' Affairs , Canberra
- NSW Department of Education
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Australia
- Australian National University
- National Archives of Australia
- Walker Books , Australia
- Contemporary Arts Media/ Artfilms Ltd

Screenrights and Enhance TV

Screenrights is a non-profit organisation appointed by the Government to administer the provisions of the Australian Copyright Act that allow for educational copying from radio and television. Screenrights have developed *enhancetv* – a free website which includes study guides, features articles and a comprehensive television guide that lists education programs for specific learning areas.

www.enhancetv.com.au

www.screenrights.org

The films (DVDs) *The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru* and *Sisters of War* can be downloaded from this website.

'SOME CAME HOME' DVD: AN INSIGHT INTO THE FIRST ENGAGEMENT OF WWII ON AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY

1. New Guinea Becomes a Mandated Australian Territory

Australia's sacrifice in the Great War had been immense — 59,000 dead. In a population of 4 million, nearly 420,000 men had enlisted. Billy Hughes would now invoke this blood sacrifice. His opportunity came at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. World leaders gathered to decide the fate of defeated Germany and its colonies. The key figure was US President Wilson, who dreamt of creating a new international body, the League of Nations.

Hughes had contempt for Wilson's dreams. Wilson wanted the new League of Nations to have ultimate responsibility for the former German colony. Hughes rejected this. He was insistent that Australia must annex the former German colony.

"Australia had suffered 90,000 casualties in this war and lost 60,000 killed . . . The islands were as necessary to Australia as water to a city... If there were at the very door of Australia a potential or actual enemy, Australia could not feel safe." (AA A981/1, WAR P16

Britain's Prime Minister, David Lloyd George watched the clash between the two men.

"Mr Hughes ... listened intently with his hand cupped around his neck ... The president asked him slowly and solemnly, '... that if the whole civilised world asks Australia to agree to a mandate in respect of these islands, Australia is prepared still to defy the appeal of the whole civilised world?' Mr Hughes answered; 'that's about the size of it, President Wilson.'" (ref: Lloyd George diary — p.542.)

But a compromise was agreed. Lloyd George forced Hughes to abandon annexation and accept a trustee system where New Guinea was administered by Australia.

"Our first duty as Australians is to Australia, its industries both primary and secondary but our next duty is to Britain upon whose strength and power our safety and progress depends."

Source: excerpts from '100 Years: Australian Story' Episode 5.2

http://www.abc.net.au/100years/EP5_2.htm

Not everyone at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 supported Australia's request for the former German New Guinea becoming an Australian Territory. Complete the following table with the roles and opinion of these three key men.

Britain's Prime Minister, Lloyd George	USA President, Woodrow Wilson	Australian Prime Minister, Billy Hughes

Prime Minister Hughes wanted Australia to annex German occupied New Guinea but ended with a League of Nations' mandate over the territory. What is the difference?

What responsibilities did Australia now have for New Guinea?

2. The Fall of Rabaul

In late 1941, the Federal government realised the dangers of stranding an under strength and under-supported garrison in Rabaul, but conscientiously believed this measure was justified in the defense of the Australian mainland. So the government chose to position and retain Lark Force and civil administrators in Rabaul, and they did not encourage other civilians to leave this Australian territory until it was too late.

Source: The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru. Time for Recognition - *A Submission to the Commonwealth Government*

Locate Rabaul on a map. Why would Rabaul, a deep sea harbour, be of strategic importance during war time?

On 12 December 1941 the Prime Ministers Department sent a Most Secret and Important Cable to Washington referring to the Lark Force garrison at Rabaul as being "hostages to fortune". What does this mean?

What is the difference between Prisoners of War (POWs) and civilian internees?

Source: 'Australia's War 1939 – 1945: The Fall of Rabaul'
[www.w2australia.gov.au/japadvance/rabaul.html]

Using this source, add information to the boxes below regarding numbers, equipment, training and strategic planning and preparation for invasion of the different groups at Rabaul.

2/22nd Battalion

2/10th Field Ambulance

Australian army Nursing Service

Anti-tanks and coastal artillery batteries

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles

24th Squadron

1st Independent Company

Civilians

Why was the defence of Rabaul over in a couple of hours?

Who gave the order 'everyman for himself' and why?

Why was the 24th Squadron able to successfully escape, even though their aircraft had been decimated, while most of the men of the 2/22 were captured or killed?

Why do you think there is limited reference to the civilian population of Rabaul at the time of the invasion?

3. The Fall of Ambon

Use the information sheet, 'Australia's War 1939 – 1945: The Fall of Ambon' [www.ww2australia.gov.au/japadvance/ambon.html] to answer the following questions

Who was given the task of defending the Bay of Amon and the airfields at Laha and Liang?

What were Lieutenant ant-Colonel Roach's concerns and what was the result of his request for reinforcements of men and equipment?

Who was given the task of defending the Bay of Amon and the airfields at Laha and Liang?

Gull Force suffered over 75% casualty rate. What were contributing factors for this large loss of life?

Defence of the 'Malay Barrier'

Source 1:

The Victorian RSL magazine, *Mufti*, published an article in 1954 headed, 'Forget the Bad, Remember the Good'. It recorded that twenty people had attended a ceremony at the cenotaph to remember the twelfth anniversary of the fall of Rabaul. The anonymous writer was not writing to lament that so few people turned out on this day: he was arguing that the anniversary should not have been marked at all. 'Defeats', he wrote, 'are depressing enough ... without dwelling on them'. He urged that if Rabaul was to be remembered at all it should be on the anniversary of its 'recapture' in 1945

The disasters which befell Australians and their Dutch and indigenous allies in the defence of the mis-named Malay barrier were only the first of a string of defeats which Australians faced in 1942. Exactly sixty years after it is fitting in this place above all others we should remember them and those to whom they brought so much suffering.

Extracts from a speech by Peter Stanley, 26 January 2002, 'Remembering 1942: The defence of the 'Malay barrier. Rabaul and Ambon, January 1942'

<http://www.awm.gov.au/atwar/remembering1942/ambon/transcript.asp>

Source 2:

War is a terrible thing. It reaps souls and lives un-lived and leaves waste, sorrow and broken years in its wake. Too often our remembrance can appear to give more emphasis to the nobility of sacrifice, rather than face the anguish and deep personal sorrow such sacrifice demands of those who go on living. At times, our ceremonies can gloss over the mistakes that are made in war, but mistakes and miscalculations are intrinsic to battle because war is solely a human endeavour. That is not the case today, for at this gathering we remember one of the most tragic episodes in the annals of Australian military history. The sinking of the requisitioned transport vessel, the *Montevideo Maru*, by an American submarine, the *USS Sturgeon*, forty miles West of Luzon on the 1st of July 1942 was the culmination of a chain of disastrous strategic and tactical decisions.

Extract from a speech by Lt Gen David Morrison, Chief of Army, 30 June 2012, 'Remembering the *Montevideo Maru* and the Fall of Rabaul'

<http://memorial.org.au/About/MorrisonSpeech.htm>

Use a graphic organiser to compare and contrast the three views expressed in these two sources.

At the War Cabinet meeting on 12 December 1941 the Australian Government Ministers were presented with 3 options for the Rabaul garrison:

- 1) Retain the present position
- 2) Reinforce the garrison
- 3) Withdraw and abandon the area.

Which choice did the Government make?

What may have been the reasons for this decision?

What were the consequences of this decision?

Many of the servicemen who managed to escape, and the families of those who died, felt they'd been sacrificed by the Australian Government for the greater good of the war efforts. Do you agree? Give reasons to support your opinion.

(Please use extra paper if needed)

4. 'Some Came Home' DVD trailer.

Complete following table after watching the DVD

<p>John May (Padre)</p> <p>photo</p>	<p>Why did John May feel he should not point out he was a POW?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Why do you think having someone like John May would help POWs survive?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Norm Furness</p> <p>photo</p>	<p>What insight did Norm Furness give of the character of the diggers and why would recalling these memories be so emotionally painful, 70 years later?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Rudy Buckley</p> <p>photo</p>	<p>In 1942, when Rudy was 12 years old, he saw Australian servicemen and civilians being taken to a vessel anchored in the harbour. A soldier threw Rudy his army issue handkerchief on which was written his name and serial number. Rudy kept it in a buried tin box, along with other Australian items. He witnessed the brutality of the Japanese, including the death of his father. Why do you think Rudy kept this memorabilia and what might the consequence been if it was discovered?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

<p>Lorna Johnson (Army nursing sister)</p> <p>photo</p>	<p>How were the POW nurses treated?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Why did the nurses never give up hope?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Sister Bernice (Catholic nun)</p> <p>photo</p>	<p>What did the Japanese tell Sister Bernice and the internees to make them think Japan was winning the war?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>How did she know the war was over?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Why do you think John Schindler choose the title 'Some Came Home'?

HOW THE HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIANS AT RABAU RELATES TO SCHOOL SUBJECTS

HISTORY

Refer to the document *The Teaching of the First and Second World War History: The Australians at Rabaul*. This history also relates to the “hellships” on which nearly 2,000 Australians died during the Second World War. Many of these Australians were civilians.

ENGLISH

- **Finding Darcy** by Sue Lawson. Black Dog Books. Fitzroy. Victoria. 2008. ISBN 6781742030234.

This book is suitable for students from upper primary to mid secondary.

Classroom ideas are located at:

http://www.walkerbooks.com.au/statics/dyn/1322808542329/finding_darcy_TN.pdf

- **The Shoe-Horn Sonata** by John Mistro. Currency Press. ISBN 9780868194813. This is a play that is on the list that students in the senior English classes (years 11 & 12) can study. John Mistro also was the screenwriter for the historical drama *Sisters of War* which was shown on ABC TV in 2010. The theme in *Sisters of War* is similar to the theme in *The Shoe-Horn Sonata* and this film (dvd) can be used by teachers to give their students a better understanding of the play.

ART

- **Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial**

This memorial in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial was designed by the noted Melbourne sculptor James Parrett. It commemorates those Australians who died at Rabaul and in the New Guinea Islands during the Second World War and on the *Montevideo Maru*, Australia's worst maritime tragedy. James Parrett's aim “was to create a work that would ‘protect’ the memory of the people who lost their lives as well as the tragedy of the event itself.” He sought to provide an abstract design for future generations.

https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/rabaul_montevideo_maru_memorial/

SPORT

- The *Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial* is not far from the bronze sculpture of *Sir Edward “Weary” Dunlop*. Both Weary Dunlop and Mack Ramsay who died on the *Montevideo Maru* played rugby for Australia. They were two of many outstanding Australian sports people who fought for Australia in wars.

Document compiled by Patrick Bourke and Karen McPherson on the behalf of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group, Papua New Guinea Association of Australia.

For further information, please contact:

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www.pngaa.net and www.memorial.org.au

PS. Spelling of Australia's first battle in the First World War.

For many years this battle was spelt as Bitapaka. In recent years some writers have been spelling the place of the battle as Bita Paka.