**WAR MEMORIALS, HONOUR BOARDS AND PLAQUES**

**RABAUL, TOL PLANTATION, GASMATA, MONTEVIDEO MARU, KAVIENG**

**ACT**

* **Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial**

Sculpture Garden, Australian War Memorial, Campbell, Canberra ACT

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/238341>

* **Lark Force Plaque**

Sculpture Garden, Australian War Memorial, Campbell, Canberra ACT

This plaque commemorates the personnel of Lark Force which defended Rabaul during WWII and those who were killed during the sinking of the Montevideo Maru. The inscription also includes the 1st Independent Company and the civilian internees.

* **ACT Memorial**

Located opposite Civic Square on London Circuit, Canberra ACT

This memorial honours people who have a connection to Canberra and have been involved in war service or peacekeeping.

The following men who died on the Montevideo Maru have their names on the data base:

Reginald Curtis who was in the 1st Independent Company

Norman Gair who was in the 2/22nd Infantry Battalion

Alan Starkley who was in the 1st Independent Company

James Walker who was in the 8th Division Supply Column Mechanical Transport Section which was a part of Lark Force.

[www.memorial.act.gov.au](http://www.memorial.act.gov.au)

Reginald Curtis and Norman Gair, ex-students of the **Canberra Grammar School**, have their names in a **memorial window in the school’s chapel.**

Also, like a number of other servicemen from Lark Force and the 1st Independent Company Reginald Curtis and Norman Gair have their names a local war memorial – Reginald Curtis’s name is on the **Goulburn War Memorial in NSW** and Norman Gair’s name is on the **Oakleigh War Memorial in Victoria**.

* **Merchant Navy Memorial**

Wendouree Drive, Parkes, ACT. On the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin.

James Tynan, who was an assistant steward/saloon boy on the MV Herstein, has his name on one of the panels of this war memorial. His name also will be added to the Northern Territory Memorial which stands within the Adelaide River War Cemetery in the Northern Territory. The crew of the Norwegian merchant ship, the MV Herstein, which was sunk by Japanese war planes in Rabaul Harbour on 20 January 1942, became POWs when Rabaul fell to the Japanese on 23 January 1942 and most of them, including James Tynan, died as POWs on the MS Montevideo Maru when this Japanese prisoner transport ship was sunk by an American submarine on 1 July 1942.

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/190361>

**NSW**

* **Balranald and District Military Heritage Trail**

This series of information signs covers the involvement of local men and women during times of war. It includes information about the Montevideo Maru and Lark Force, including the Lark Force serviceman, Richard ‘Dickie‘ Smith.

[www.murrayriver.com.au/balranald-military-heritage-trail/](http://www.murrayriver.com.au/balranald-military-heritage-trail/)

* **Dubbo Memorial Rose Garden**

Victoria Park, Dubbo

On the WWII list of servicemen who were killed are two men who perished on the Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942 – Frederick Sadler (POW) of the 1st Independent Company and John Poole (civilian internee), a Methodist missionary. There is also a story which is linked to Minister Ward’s statement to the Australian Parliament on 5 October 1945 re the loss of the Montevideo Maru.

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/195946>

Frederick Sadler’s and John Poole’s names are also on the **Dubbo High School’s WWII War Service Honour Board at the Dubbo College, Senior Campus.**

Frederick Sadler is also commemorated with the graves of his family in the **Old Dubbo Cemetery.**

Rev John Poole’s name is commemorated on the **WWII Honour Roll in the Wesley Uniting Church in Dubbo.** <https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/246231>

* **North Star Soldiers Memorial Bore and Water Supply**

Walter Cracknell of the 1st Independent Company who died on the Montevideo Maru has his name commemorated on this war memorial.

* **North Star Memorial Park**

David Street, North Star, NSW.

Walter Cracknell also has his name on the gates to this park in North Star and the World War Two Honour Roll at the park.

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/245846>

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/245866>

* **Hawkesbury Agricultural College Memorial Library**

Kenelm ‘Mac’ Ramsay of the 1st Independent Company who perished on the Montevideo Maru has his name on the WWII honour board in this memorial library.

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/190206>

* **Sydney Churches**

Ronald Yerbury of the 1st Independent Company who died on the Montevideo Maru is commemorated at **St Jude’s Dural Anglican Church**.

Neville Pemble of the 1st Independent Company who died on the Montevideo Maru is commemorated on the WWI and WWII Combined Honour Rolls at **St James Anglican Church, Turramurra.**

Other memorial plaques in Sydney are:

A plaque in the missionary training institute in the **Missionary Training Institute in Haberfield, Sydney,** honours the memory of the Methodist missionaries who died on the Montevideo Maru. In 1988 the training institute was moved to Parramatta.

There is a plaque in honour of Keith Smith of Lark Force who died on the Montevideo Maru on the **gates of the St Martin’s Church at Killara.**

A tile plaque is on the **Australia’s Memorial Walk at North Fort, Manly, NSW**, which honours William Turner of the 1st Independent who died on the Montevideo Maru.

In the **Waverley Cemetery in Sydney** there is a plaque in the memory of Henry Fulton, a clerk in Rabaul, who became a civilian internee when the Japanese invaded in January 1942 and died on the Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942.

**VICTORIA**

* **Ballarat Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial**

Located at Lake Wendouree, Ballarat, crn Wendouree Pde & Carlton St, opposite Botanical Gardens

Within the war memorial precinct is the Montevideo Maru Monument as well as monuments to POWs from New Britain & New Ireland and the names of all known Australian POWs.

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/162281>

* **Bendigo**

**Pall Mall, Soldiers Memorial Institute Remembrance Wall**

2/22 Infantry Battalion Plaque

Front inscription: 2/22nd Btn Lark Force.

In proud and loving memory of those who gave their lives defending our country

New Britain, Rabaul, Tol, Gasmata

The Montevideo Maru prison ship sunk July 1st1942

Dignity in sacrifice

* **Casterton**

**Casterton Christ Church, Patterson Memorial**

In this church there is a glass- stained window in the memory of William and Richard Patterson. William, who was in the 1st Independent Company, died on the Montevideo Maru and his brother Richard, who was in the RAAF, went missing on an operational exercise at sea.

* **Geelong**

**Murray House, Geelong Legacy**

Plaque in memory of Norman Murray of the 1st Independent Company who died on the Montevideo Maru.

* **Heidelberg Hospital, Melbourne**

There are three plaques at this hospital for 22 members of the Salvation Army Band; officers and men of the 2/22nd Battalion & support units of Lark Force; and Charles Boswell of the 2/22nd Battalion.

* **Leongatha Memorial Hospital**

This hospital was formed in 1992 when Woorayl District Memorial Hospital and Korymburra District Hospital were amalgamated. The Woorayl District Memorial Hospital was built as a WWII memorial to honour the local men who died during this war. Names include Jack Howard & Albert Kuhne of the 2/22nd Battalion who died on the Montevideo Maru. Also, William Owen who was in the 2/22nd Battalion. He managed to escape from New Britain and the Japanese in April 1942. However, William was later killed by the Japanese at Kokoda on 29th July 1942.

<https://www.gshs.com.au/history> Click onto the section, who are we remembering?

* **Melbourne**

**Shrine Reserve, Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne**

A tree commemorates those of 2/22nd Battalion, Lark Force.

Inscription reads: 2/22nd Battalion

In honoured memory of those who lost their lives in 1942 in the defence of Rabaul, at Tol Plantation, and later as POWs upon the sinking of the unmarked Japanese ship, the Montevideo Maru on 1st July 1942.

* **Numurkah Secondary College**

104 Tocumwal Rd, Numurkah

One of the school’s sports houses is named Tweddle House in honour of Charles Tweddle of the 2/22nd Battalion who died on the Montevideo Maru.

* **Tidal River, Wilson’s Promontory**

The names of the 133 commandoes from the 1st Independent Company was included on the WW2 memorial at the Tidal River Australian Commando Memorial, Ring Road, Wilson’s Promontory. <https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/168801>

* **Trawool**

2/22nd Battalion Memorial Plaque.

* **Whiteheads Creek, Mitchell**

2/22nd Battalion AIF Memorial

<https://vwma.org.au/explore/memorials/5036>

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

* **South Australian National Memorial**

North Terrace, Adelaide

After WWII an additional war memorial was added. This war memorial lists the men and women who enlisted in South Australia during WWII and died during their war service. The list includes 26 soldiers from Lark Force and 9 soldiers from the 1st Independent Company.

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/189091>

* **RSL Building, Cowell**

Eyre Peninsula

In this building there is a plaque to Jack Mills of Lark Force who died on the Montevideo Maru

**QUEENSLAND**

**Brisbane**

* **Shrine of Memories, Anzac Square**

Ann Street, Brisbane City

There is a New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) Montevideo Maru Plaque in honour of the 34 NGVR men who were lost on the Montevideo Maru.

<https://www.qldwarmemorials.com.au/memorial/?id=926>

* **Brisbane General Post Office**

Within the post office there is a small plaque commemorating the three technicians W L Duus, T M Plunkett and H F Turnbull of the Postmasters-General Department who died on the Montevideo Maru.

* **National Australia Remembers Freedom Wall**

Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Brisbane

Includes plaques for Charles Campbell and Roland (Dick) Forsyth, civilian internees, who died on the Montevideo Maru.

[www.brismania.com/national-freedom-wall](http://www.brismania.com/national-freedom-wall)

* **Goondiwindi**

**St Mary’s Parish Primary School WWII Honour Board**

Herbert Street, Goondiwindi, Qld.

Walter “Tom” Cracknell, 1st Independent Company, who died on the MS Montevideo Maru on 1st July 1942, has his name on this school’s honour board.

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/121936>

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**

* **Northern Territory Memorial.**

Adelaide River, within the Adelaide River War Cemetery.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has decided that James Tynan’s name be included on this war memorial. James Tynan was an assistant steward/saloon boy on the Norwegian merchant ship, the MV Herstein. He was an Australian from Sydney. The MV Herstein was sunk in Rabaul Harbour on 20 January 1942 by Japanese war planes. When Rabaul fell to the Japanese on 23 January 1942 James Tynan became a POW. He died on the MS Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942, aged 16.

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/244466>

**TASMANIA**

* **Rabaul Fortress Garrison Memorial**

Kingborough Drive, New Town, Hobart.

In memory of the 39 Tasmanian servicemen of Lark Force who died.

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/213436>

**NEW GUINEA ISLANDS**

**NEW BRITAIN**

* **Rabaul Memorial**

Bitapaka War Cemetery

As well as the members of Lark Force and the 1st Independent Company this memorial also contains the names of five men who were in the New Guinea Police Force and the names of three men who were in the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles who are listed as dying on the Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942. They were on the Montevideo Maru civilian list.

[www.jje.info/lostlives/exhib/rabaulmemorial/index.html](http://www.jje.info/lostlives/exhib/rabaulmemorial/index.html)

* **Montevideo Maru Memorial**

On the shores of Rabaul Harbour, close to where the men boarded the Montevideo Maru.

* **Tol Memorial Cairn**

Dedicated to the men who were killed in the Tol Massacre

<https://www.pngaa.net/Library/TolMemorial.htm>

* In 1965 the Burns Philip Wharf **in Rabaul** was renamed Philip Coote Wharf

**NEW IRELAND**

At the **Kavieng War Memorial** there is a bronze plaque remembering the 97 civilians who died in New Ireland or on the Montevideo Maru.

[www.jje.info/lostlives/places/peopleoftheplaque.html](http://www.jje.info/lostlives/places/peopleoftheplaque.html)

**THE PHILIPPINES**

There is a Montevideo Maru plaque at the Hellships Memorial at Subic Bay in the Philippines. This prominent plaque tells the story of the ship.

<https://www.rslangelescity.com/hellship-memorial>

**JAPAN**

A plaque for Charles Moore of the NGVR, Lark Force, is in the Odawara Church in Japan.

**ENGLAND**

* **Westminster Abbey, London**

Names of 166 Australian civilians who died on the Montevideo Maru are included in the red leather- bound series of books of WWII Commonwealth civilians who died during WWII. The Montevideo Maru list is in volume 7. The books are kept in a special cabinet in St George’s Chapel, near the western door of Westminister Abbey, London. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission also includes Alan Cameron, who is on the Montevideo Maru civilian list, in these Remembrance Books, as an Australian civilian, dying in New Guinea on 15 May 1944. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission also lists another 68 Australian civilians as dying in the New Guinea islands during WW2. Many of these Australians were massacred by Japanese at the Kavieng Wharf, New Ireland, on 17 March 1944.

* **Plymouth** **Naval Memorial, Devon, England**

Eric Henry Fitzroy Mitchell, who is on the Montevideo Maru civilian list, was in the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve. His name is on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/commems-memorials/cwgc_plymouth.pdf>

**LIST OF MEN WHO DIED ON MONTEVIDEO MARU**

**National Archives of Australia – Montevideo Maru** : [www.montevideomaru.naa.gov.au](http://www.montevideomaru.naa.gov.au)

**Sources**:

Book: When the War Came, New Guinea Islands 1942. Edited by Gayle Thwaites. Published by Papua New Guinea Association of Australia. 2017.

Websites: Australia War Memorial’s Places of Pride; Monument Australia; ACT Memorial; NSW War Memorials Register; Queensland War Memorials Register; Gippsland Health Service; Papua New Guinea Association of Australia; City of Brisbane Council; Commonwealth War Graves Commission; RSL Angles City, The Philippines; and Joanne & Jenny’s Lost Lives website.

Patrick Bourke

18/05/2021