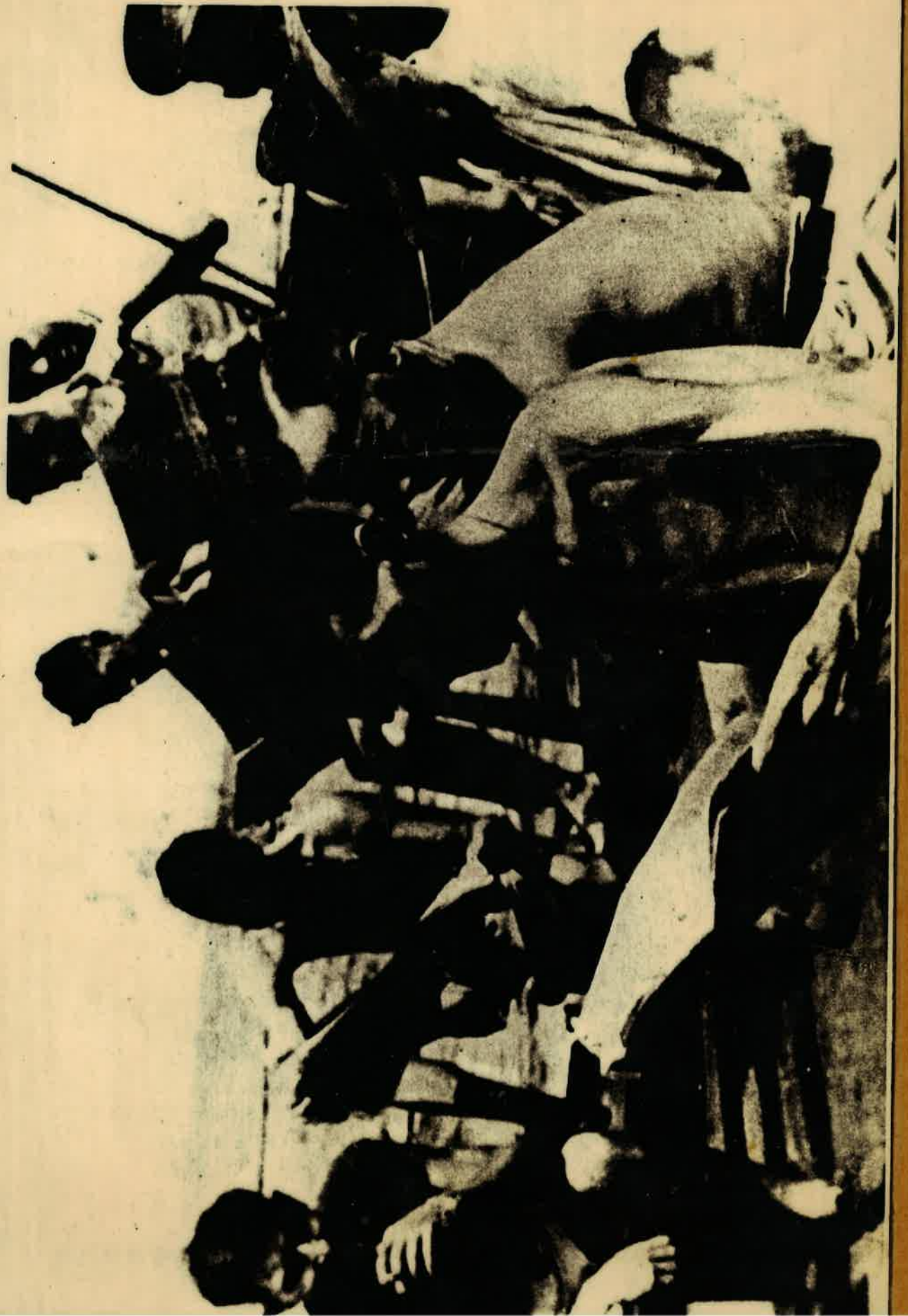


G U L L F O R C E  
O N A M B O N





## I N T R O D U C T I O N   T O   G U L L   F O R C E

I chose to do my Major English Assignment on the 2/21st Battalion (Gull Force) because I was thinking for days as to what topic to choose when my mum suggested I do it on Gull Force.

Gull Force appealed to me immediately because my family went to Ambon in 1990 and met some of the men of Gull Force and have kept in contact with them since. My dad had names, addresses and photos of the men so I was pretty much "on-my-way" already.

The Arafura Youth Games were to be held in Ambon in August 1991 so I decided to start training to make the team to travel to Ambon. I was picked in the team and went to Ambon to see the island for myself and also to experience the friendliness of the Ambonese people.

I came back to Australia and found that I could relate and understand more about Gull Force's experiences while on Ambon. I realised that Ambon is indeed very hilly and dense with trees and has a magnificent harbour.

Finally, I chose to do my Major English Assignment on Gull Force because I wanted to tell young people about the 2/21st Battalions time on Ambon and what happened to them and how it linked with the bombing of Darwin.

*Reg Brasseley Gull Force (2/21st BATT)*  
*On Ambon 1941 & 1945*

*RC. Ron GABRIEL*  
*Gull Force (2/21st) Association - Ambon 1941/45.*



*Caitlyn Antella, Ralph Godfrey, Alex Chapman, Ron Gabriel,  
Clive Newnham and Ben Amor.*



## HISTORY OF MALUKU

The province Maluku includes all the 999 islands between Sulawesi and Irian Jaya with Ambon as the capital.

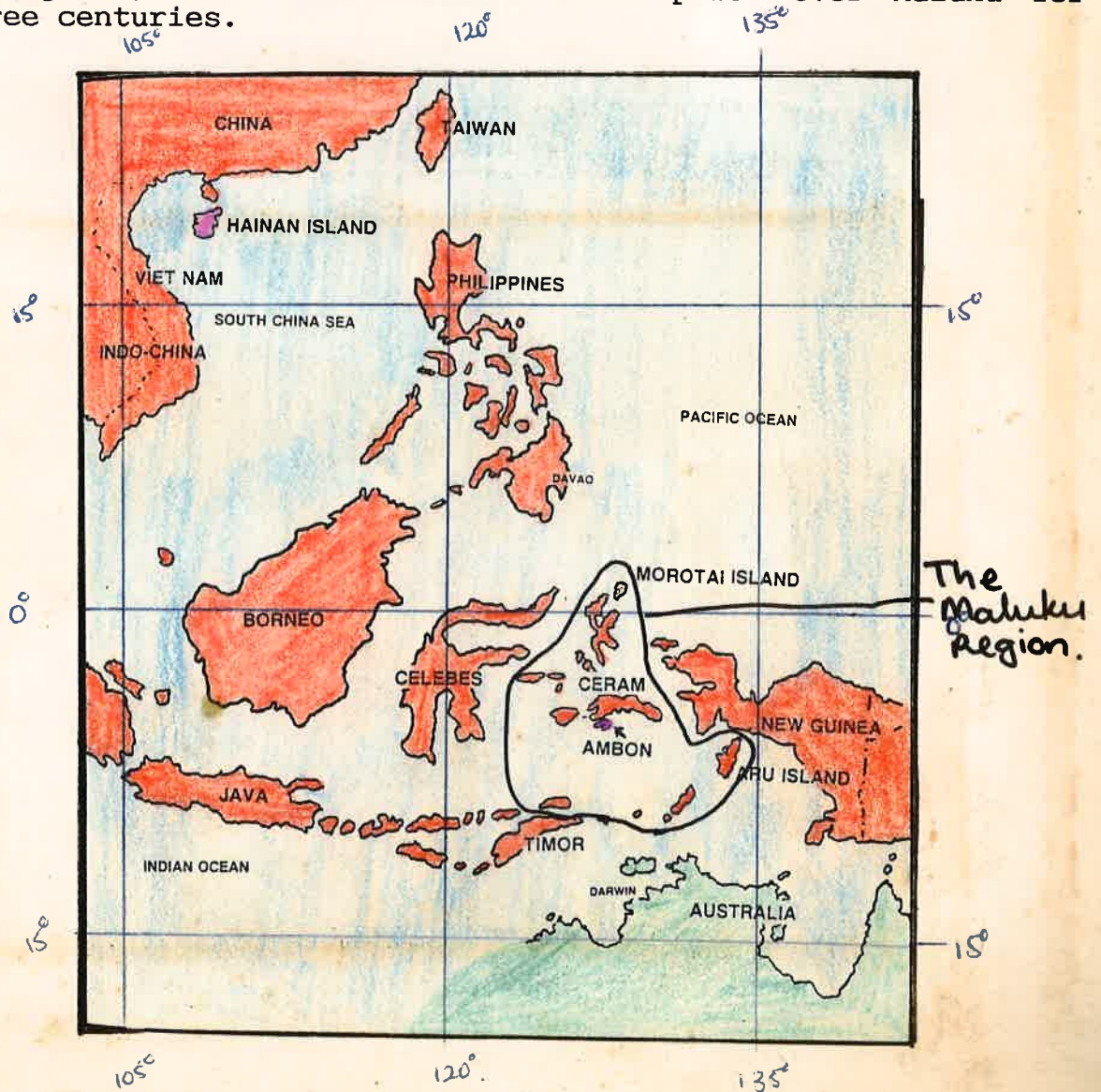
The name Maluku means; four mountainous islands (Ternate, Tidore, Bacan and Jailob).

During the 17th Century, people started to cultivate cloves in the Ambon region which covered the Islands of Ambon, Lease, Ambalau, Manipa, Kelang, Buano, Buru and Banda.

Maluku was known to the world in particular Europe for its spices and other commodities.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to visit Maluku in 1511. They then sailed to Ambon and later Banda. The Spaniards followed in 1521 and later the Dutch in 1599 and then the English in 1605.

The aim of these voyages was to monopolize the Maluku spices and because of this, many disputes erupted amongst the local natives and the Europeans themselves!! In 1605 the Dutch together with the Hitu people conquered the Portuguese fortress in Ambon and took a stronghold of Maluku. From this stronghold, the Dutch launched their power over Maluku for three centuries.



## A M B O N

The history of the Island of Ambon dates back to the establishment of the Koata Laha fortress in 1575 (later named "Nieuw Victoria"). Ambon lies on a beautiful bay with a gorgeous panorama where land and sea intermingle harmoniously. Ambon acquired world-wide importance and popularity for its spices that were wanted on the world market. These spices made history for the island but despair for the local population for three centuries.



A photo of Ambon city on Ambon Island.



## WHY WAS GULL FORCE FORMED?

Gull Force (2/21st Battalion) was first formed in Central Victoria in August 1940. The unit was extremely ill-equipped and it was thought that the training being given was for a possible Middle East Battle. Gull Force moved to Darwin on April 20th 1941 and continued their training for almost a year for what they thought was their Middle East deportation.

RAW RECRUITS  
AT DARLEY CAMP  
1940. OF THE TEN  
ONLY 2 MARKED=  
CAME HOME. SELF &  
BERT JONES. BOTH  
JOINED UP ON THE  
SAME DAY.



Part of the 2/21st Battalion at Darley Camp (Victoria).

ON THE ROAD TO DARWIN JANUARY 1941. HELD UP  
UP WITH FLOODWATERS AT NEWCASTLE WATERS..  
NECESSITATED LAYING 17,000 SAND BAGS  
ACROSS ATWO MILE WIDE STRETCH. TO ENABLE  
THE TRUCKS TO NEGOTIATE THE FLOOD. THE  
HEAD SHAVING DOES'NT MAKE ME LOOK ANY  
DIFFERENT THAN TODAY.



## On the way to Darwin - 1941

CATTLE TRUCKS WERE USED TO TRANSPORT US  
PART OF THE WAY TO DARWIN .PHOTO IS OF  
STOPOVER FOR A MEAL ON THE WAY .



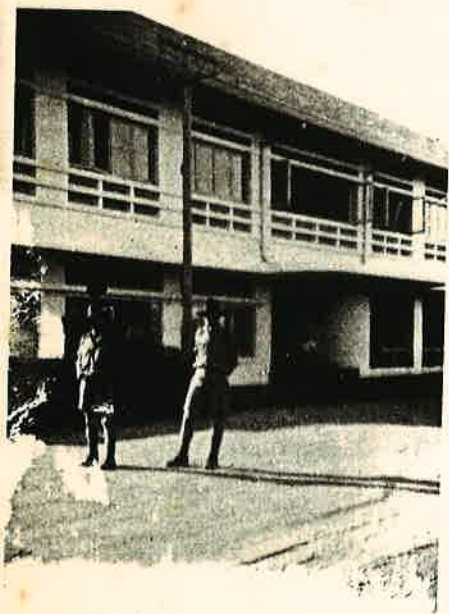




WINNELLIE CAMP PICTURE THEATRE 1941.  
BUILT BY THE ENGINEERS & SUBSEQUENTLY  
USED BY ALL UNITS FOLLOWING THE 2/21  
BPN.



BOB KELLY & SELF IN CAMP IN DARWIN  
BOB WAS FROM RUTHERGLEN & WAS LATER  
PART OF THE LAHA MASSACRE.



CLEM MORRISON & SELF OUTSIDE THE "NEW DARWIN"  
HOTEL IN 1941. CLEM SUFFERED THE SAME FATE AS  
BOB KELLY .

*Leisure time in Darwin 1941.*



SMOKO WHILST BUILDING AMMO  
DUMPS ETC. IN DARWIN 1941.

Alan Muir & self  
Darwin 1941



WINNELLIE CAMP IN DARWIN 1941  
DURING THE WET SEASON. CAMP  
WAS FLOODED FOR DAYS. ALL  
BEDS WERE OFF THE FLOOR FOR  
OBVIOUS REASONS.





RAPID CREEK AT DARWIN. CAMPED  
HERE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS 1941.  
PURPOSE WAS TO BUILD AMMUNITION  
DUMPS ETC. GREAT FISHING SPOT.  
SAW MY FIRST TURTLE HERE. NETS  
ACROSS THE MOUTH OF THE CREEK  
KEPT THE TROOPS IN FISH.



BREN GUN CARRIER CREW IN DARWIN.  
PHOTO ABOVE WAS BILL KIRKMAN OUR  
DRIVER WHO ALSO APPEARS IN PHOTO  
ON THE LEFT. SELF SOLE SURVIVOR \*

Leisure time in Darwin 1941.

8' ROCK PYTHON CAUGHT AT LIANYA SWAMP IN  
DARWIN 1941 WHILE ON MANOUVRES. THERE ARE  
OR WERE MORE WOGS IN THE SCRUB THAN IN ITALY.





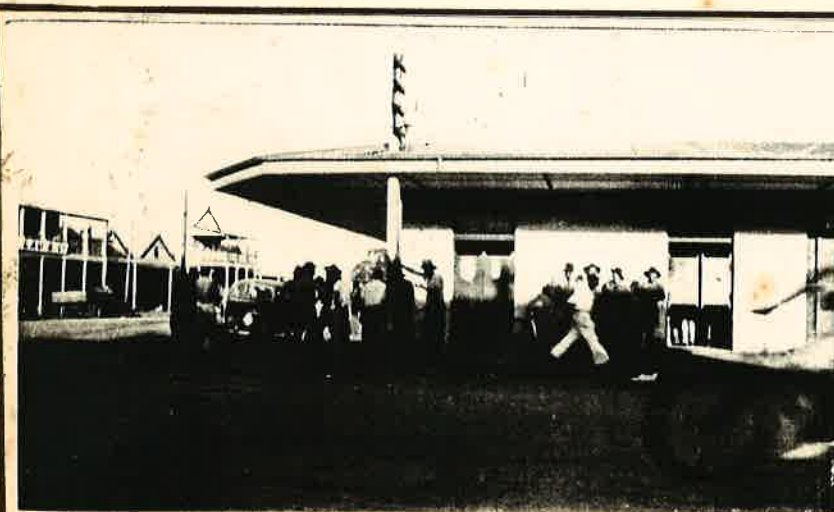


SELF IN CAMP AT WINNELLIE DARWIN 1942

Photos of life in early Darwin - 1941 - 1942.



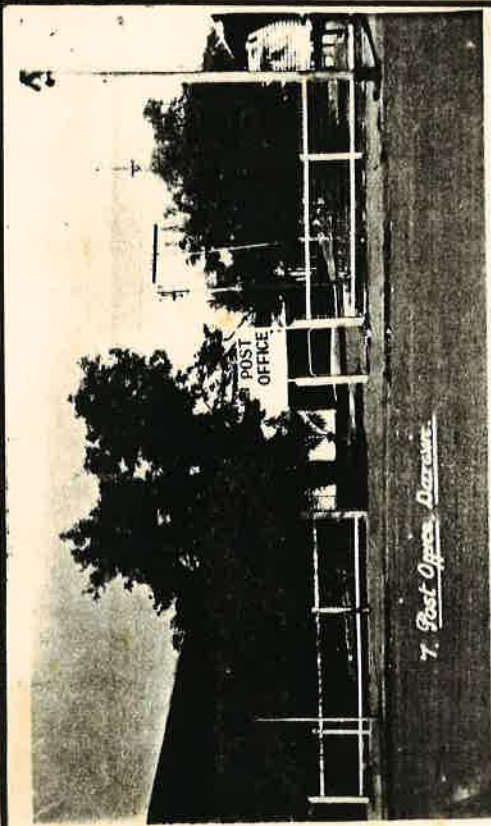
ORIGINAL PHOTOS OF DARWIN IN 1941. THE POST OFFICE, HOSPITAL, ETC. WERE DESTROYED DURING THE BOMBING RAIDS BY THE JAPANESE IN 1942. DARWIN WAS LIKE A FRONTIER TOWN OF THE "WEST" DURING THAT PERIOD. "CHINATOWN" PREDOMINATED. "BAT WING" DOORS ON THE PUBS FOR EASY EJECTION. THE 2/21st BTN WAS ONE OF THE FIRST UNITS TO ARRIVE. THE "NEW DARWIN HOTEL" WAS THE ONLY SIGN OF LUXURY, BUT WE WERE NON GRATIS.



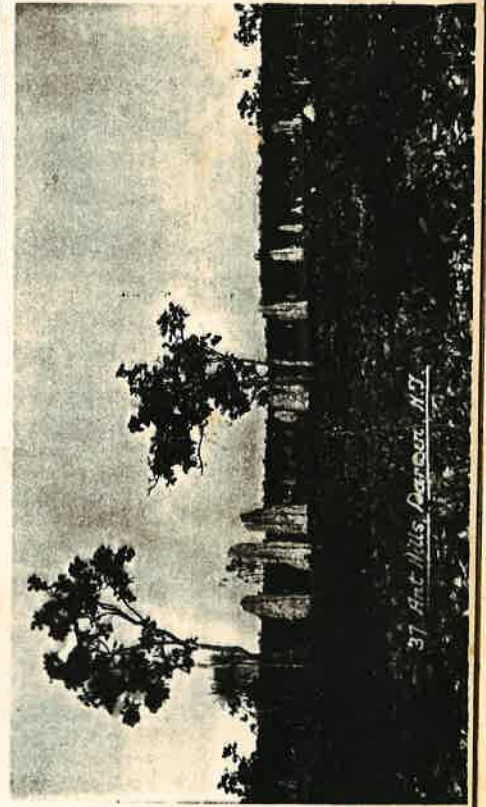
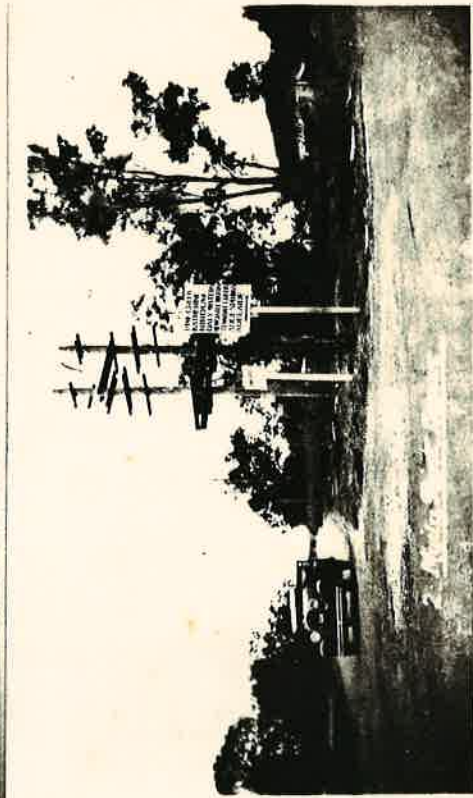
DON HOTEL IN DARWIN . PART OF CHINATOWN IN THOSE DAYS. NOTE BATWING DOORS. ALSO ONLY HAD CONCRETE FLOORS, NOTHING FLASH.



Photos of early Darwin in 1941.



7. Post Office, Darwin.



37. Art Mills, Darwin, NT.



15. General Hospital, Darwin.



65. Mill set for Corroboree, Darwin, NT.



84. State Hotel of the Darwin Hotel, NT.



# How Can We Make A Better Darwin?

By CLIVE TURNBULL

Up around Darwin many thousands of the finest of young Australians are doing a fine job for Australia; and in some respects they have been poorly rewarded.

They are the members of the Australian Imperial Force and the Australian Military Forces—for the airmen, who are in large numbers in Darwin, and the sailors, are living and working under different conditions. It is with the soldiers that I am concerned in this article.

**I**N the last fortnight I have seen these men in many places, and in many different circumstances. I have seen them training in the field, marching, playing, drinking, building roads, building camps, doing a host of jobs which soldiers are not called upon to do in any other part of Australia.

And doing it triumphantly well, in a temperature as high as that of midsummer in the southern capitals with a steadily rising humidity, with dust, flies, mosquitoes, sandflies and, as the wet season approaches, and inevitably increasing incidence of dengue.

These are the men we have heard plenty about in recent months. We have heard of complaints, brawls, and general discontent.

What is the truth about it?

The truth is that the men of the A.I.F., who make up approximately one half of the soldiers in the Territory, are as fine a body of men as their brothers in North Africa, in Syria, in Malaya.

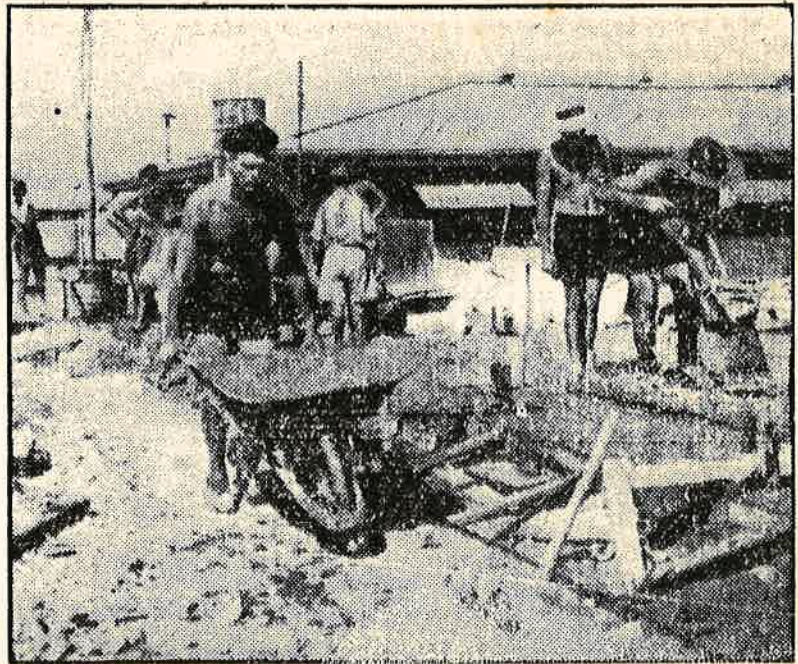
They are doing a magnificent job and, if they are keen to get away to fight that is no more than to be expected and hoped for in young men of spirit.

One of them said to me, "We enlisted to fight. But don't go and tell people we're a lot of grizzlers who can't take a few months in the Territory."

And these brawls.

Undoubtedly there have been affrays, a few windows have been broken and a few people have had sore heads in the morning—as there are affrays and sore heads in all communities of vigorous young men, undergraduates included, in every country that is free.

Even numerically the A.I.F. cannot reasonably be debited with responsibility for more than 50 per cent. of these disturbances; nor have I been able to learn that any of them was of particular significance, although it does seem that there are some civilians of ill-will who like to see soldiers fighting. To think of Darwin



"Doing a host of jobs which soldiers are not called upon to do in any other part of Australia."

as under a reign of terror by beligerent soldiery is nonsense.

There is no choice but to allot a large share of the blame for the sordid conditions on pay-nights to past Commonwealth Governments.

Thousands of high-spirited young men now look to Darwin as their metropolis, the resort to which they escape from the stickiness, the dust and the hard work of their lives in the Territory's bush.

For these men on leave the Commonwealth Government has done nothing, although a few religious organisations have done their best.

Dumped in Darwin, what is there for a young soldier to do?

A grateful country thinks so much of the flower of its race, the men whose flesh and blood are offered in its defence, that this is what is offered them as recreation—to jostle for drink amid the beer slops or, when the bars close at 10, to sit in the gutter and drink more.

It is not surprising that trouble sometimes comes of these conditions; it is surprising that there is not more.

Darwin's booze-shops, its gambling dens open on the street in flagrant defiance of Australian law and sentiment, its unlighted streets—its stinking gutters, its lack of even the common facilities for decency, its hovels—what a place for Australians to live in and fight for!

I have not met one responsible officer of any service who has not expressed his disgust with Darwin. What is to be done?

See that the law runs in Darwin, that the streets are lighted, the gutters flushed, the standard of low-class hotels raised.

And simultaneously build a recreation centre for all service men (and merchant seamen) in Darwin, with a place where they can sit down to drink in a properly conducted wet canteen.

Then, if need be, put the hotels out of bounds.

It must be remembered that Darwin has virtually none of the amenities of modern living to be found even in a small outback town. The eating-houses are not, with an exception or two, better than fifth-rate—the sort of places that might have passed muster on the goldfields 90 years ago.

A hostel should provide all those things which make life agreeable—some sleeping accommodation, a decent restaurant, a theatre, and places merely to sit and talk as alternatives to the pubs and the gutters.

Will this cost a lot of money and annoy vested interests?

Certainly, and whatever it costs it will be cheap at the price of bringing the present disgusting state of affairs to an end.

**D**ARWIN is neither tough nor primitive in the outback sense. It is merely squalid.

The contrast between Darwin and the rest of the Territory is vast. In the interior, with its genuine kindness, its hospitality, its courage, you feel proud to be an Australian. In Darwin you may well feel ashamed.

In past years this town has lived largely unto itself. Its fate, unfortunately, has troubled the rest of Australia little.

THE ABOVE ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE

A newsarticle from the "Melbourne Herald" 1941.



The 2/21st Battalion's long wait in Darwin finally ended when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. The outbreak of war in the Pacific brought the agreement between the Australian and Dutch governments of February 1941 into effect, and within seven days the 2/21st and the ancillary units that made up Gull Force were on their way to Ambon. Their means of transport were three Dutch vessels diverted to Darwin from their normal business of inter-island trade, complete with civilian passengers and their livestock—the latter of which some Australians, in true larrikin tradition, quickly threw overboard into Darwin harbour.<sup>46</sup> The trip took an uneventful three days, during which they were protected by an escort of RAAF aircraft, the cruiser *Adelaide* and the corvette *Ballarat*. As one of the members of the 2/21st band, Don Findlay, later recalled:

Just on dusk you'd see the old [cruiser] *Adelaide*. She'd blow off a lot of black smoke . . . and suddenly off she'd go. She'd disappear and we used to think, "Gawd, where's she gone . . . we've got no protection". But what she was doing [was] she was going in a big sweep all night right around us and the next morning she'd be out there bang right in front of us again.

When it finally arrived at Ambon on 17 December 1941, Gull Force consisted of the 2/21st Battalion, plus a troop of the 18th Anti-Tank Battery of the Royal Australian Artillery, one section of the 2/11th Field Company of the Royal Australian Engineers, a detachment of the 23rd Infantry Brigade Signals, the 104th Light Aid Detachment of the Australian Army Ordnance Corps, a detachment of the 2/12th Field Ambulance and the 23rd Dental Unit of the Australian Army Medical Corps, members of the Australian Army Service Corps (some of whom had been on Ambon making advance preparations since mid-1941) and, finally, personnel from canteen and pay services, and the intelligence corps.

Departing  
Australia (Darwin)  
for Ambon  
(Indonesia).

**Table 2.6: Previous professions of officers and other ranks, Gull Force<sup>a</sup> (%)**

	Officers	All other ranks	NCOs	Privates
Professionally qualified and high administrative	14.8	0.7	1.4	0.4
Managerial and executive <sup>b</sup>	14.8	2.7	2.0	3.2
Inspectional, supervisory and other non-manual	59.3	12.0	23.6	8.6
Routine non-manual	1.9	6.0	7.4	5.7
Skilled manual	1.9	13.1	14.9	11.5
Semi-skilled manual	7.4	21.2	18.9	21.6
Unskilled manual	—	42.6	29.1	47.7
Unemployed	—	1.1	2.0	0.7
Unknown	—	0.6	0.7	0.6

<sup>a</sup> The occupational categories used were adapted from the Hall-Jones Scale of Occupational Prestige for Males, in A. N. Oppenheim *Questionnaire Design and Attitude Measurement* London: Heinemann, 1968.

<sup>b</sup> With some responsibility for initiating and directing policy.

**Table 2.7: Residence of officers and other ranks, Gull Force, at time of enlistment (%)**

	Capital city	Non-metropolitan	Unknown	N/A
Officers	81.5	16.7	1.9	—
ORs	48.3	51.3	0.3	0.2

**Table 2.8: Religion of officers and other ranks, Gull Force (%)**

	C of E	Roman Catholic	Non-conformist	Jewish	None	Unknown
Officers	57.4	3.7	37.00	1.9	—	—
ORs	42.9	19.3	36.3	0.2	0.2	1.1

Previous professions, residence and religion of officers and other ranks tables of the men of Gull Force



**Table 2.1: State of residence of 2/21st Battalion and Gull Force at time of enlistment (%)**

	Vic	NSW	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Other
2/21st	93.6	5.7	—	0.3	0.2	0.2	—	—
Gull Force	78.6	15.3	5.0	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2

**Table 2.2: Age of 2/21st Battalion and Gull Force at time of enlistment\* (%)**

	Under 21	21-5	26-30	31-5	36-40	41-5	Over 45
2/21st	4.6	43.9	23.4	13.8	12.0	1.9	0.3
Gull Force	4.4	41.8	23.5	14.9	13.3	1.8	0.3

\* Since these figures are based on the attestation forms filled out by recruits as they enlisted, there is obviously some inaccuracy in the lower and higher age brackets, where recruits may have given false ages. However, since they were unlikely to have raised or lowered their ages more than a few years, the age profile of the battalion and Gull Force was presumably much as shown here.

Source: All tables compiled from attestation forms and personal records, Central Army Record Office (CARO), Melbourne, Australia.

**Table 2.3: Marital status of 2/21st Battalion and Gull Force (%)**

	Single	Married	Divorced	Separated	Widowed	Unknown
2/21st	78.8	20.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1
Gull Force	75.5	23.5	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.2

State of Residence, Age and Marital Status of the men of Gull Force.

Religion and Residence tables of men of Gull Force.

**Table 2.4: Religion of 2/21st Battalion and Gull Force (%)**

	2/21st	Gull Force	1933 census <sup>a</sup> (Victoria)
Church of England	43.0	43.6	34.4
Catholic	18.6	18.6	18.4
Non-conformist	36.7	36.3	31.2

\* The census figures in this and other tables relate to men aged 20-39, the age bracket from which approximately 93 per cent of the 2/21st came at the time of enlistment. Both the battalion and Gull Force included a very small proportion of Jews and men who named no religion. Some 14.2 per cent of men in the census gave no reply regarding their religion.

**Table 2.5: Residence of 2/21st Battalion and Gull Force (by region) at time of enlistment\* (%)**

	2/21st	Gull Force	1933 census (Victoria)
Capital city	52.4	49.8	51.6
Non-metropolitan	47.3	49.7	48.1

\* Information about place of residence was lacking for a very small number of both the 2/21st and Gull Force.



W H Y   D I D   G U L L   F O R C E   G O   T O  
A M B O N ?

Australians were sent to Ambon to assist the Dutch against the Japanese. In February 1941, the Australian and Dutch governments came to an agreement guaranteeing Australian support for the defence of Ambon and West Timor in the event of a Japanese attack on the Netherlands East Indies.

In discussions with the British, it was revealed how inadequate British air and naval defences in the area were. The Australians, Dutch and British felt that Japan may wish to expand eastwards, therefore coming into conflict with Britain, the Netherlands and the United States of America. The Australian Government changed its plan to send Gull Force to the Middle East, instead they were sent to Ambon to be in reserve for the defence of the Islands to Australia's north.

The Australian Government hoped that by sending Gull Force to Ambon, the Japanese wouldn't be very strong or well equipped if they invaded Australia.

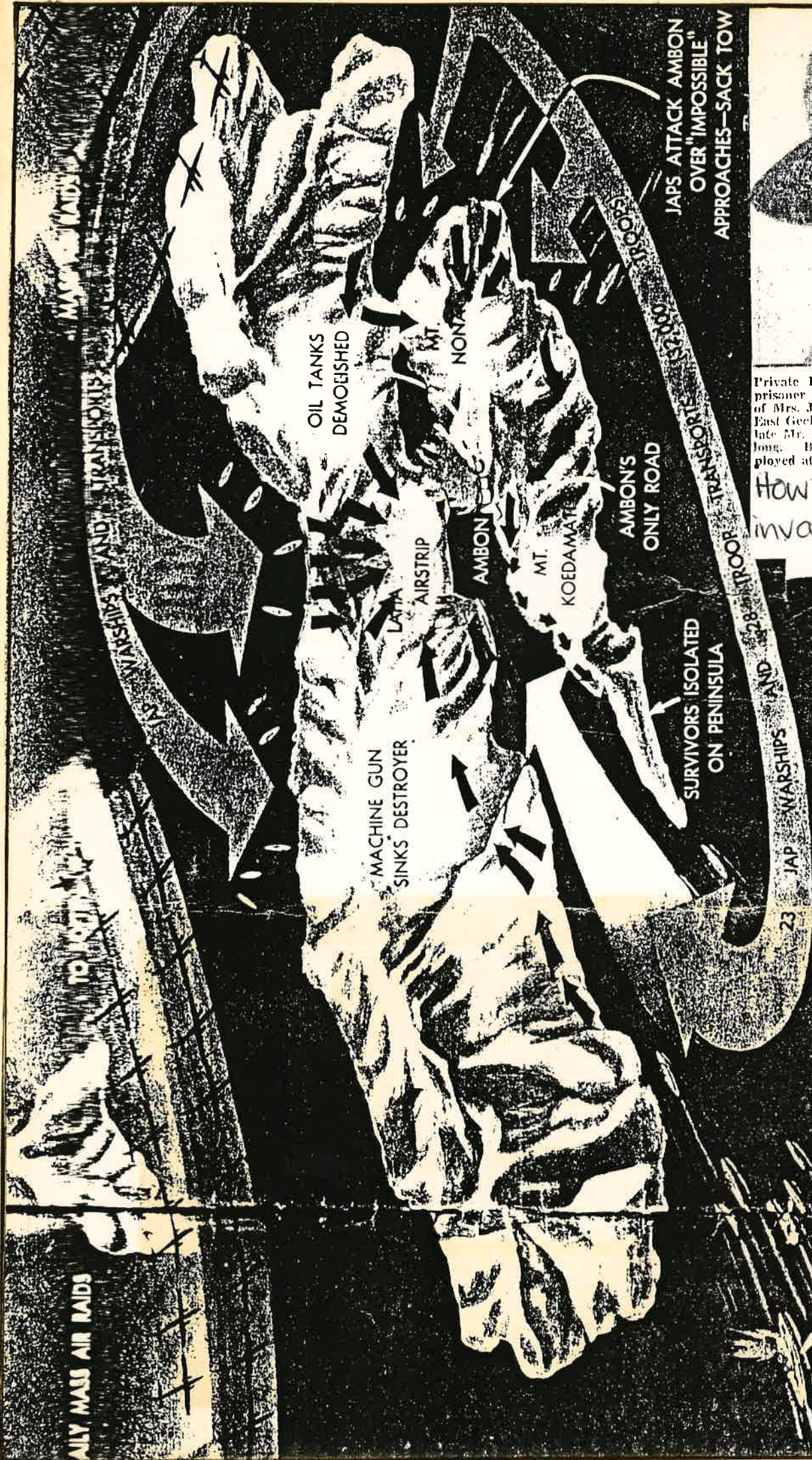


A RARE & UNIQUE PHOTO TAKEN XMAS DAY 1941  
AT AMBON. DEPICTS OUR CANTEEN & FIVE OF  
US ENJOYING OUR BEER RATION OF ONE BOTTLE  
PER DAY. DIDN'T LAST LONG . THE JAPS BOMBED  
US IN OUR FIRST AIR RAID SEVERAL DAYS LATER.

1. BERT JONES  
2. RUSS  
ONLY SURVIVORS.

Christmas Day on Ambon 1941.





JAPS ATTACK AMBON  
OVER "IMPOSSIBLE"  
APPROACHES—SACK TOW



Private R. J. Lavery, who is a prisoner of war. He is the husband of Mrs. J. Lavery, 103 Garden Street, East Geelong, and youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Lavery, Geelong. Before enlisting he was employed at the Returned Soldiers' Mill.

*How the Japanese invaded Ambon.*

**AMBON INVASION:** A 10-day mass air attack and a heavy bombardment softened up the defenses. Ground forces (black arrows) then attacked the perimeter, closed on town and airport. The harbor was swept of mines to allow the invaders to overwhelm the outnumbered defenders.

SUICIDE ATTACK  
BY R.A.A.F. PILO

DAILY MASS AIR RAIDS



WHAT HAPPENED TO GULL FORCE  
WHILE ON AMBON?

The Australians fought against the advancing Japanese with the help on some Dutch and Ambonese soldiers for five days until surrendering to the Japanese after being outnumbered 26 to 1 and also due to running out of ammunition, food and water.

For the next three years and nine months, 87% of the men that comprised Gull Force died of either; malnutrition, starvation, disease, malaria, beatings, torture or were beheaded or bayoneted.

Of the 1156 men that arrived on Ambon:

248 were massacred at Laha  
267 were transferred to Hainan  
24 escaped  
402 died  
120 returned to Australia

(see attached sheet for more information)

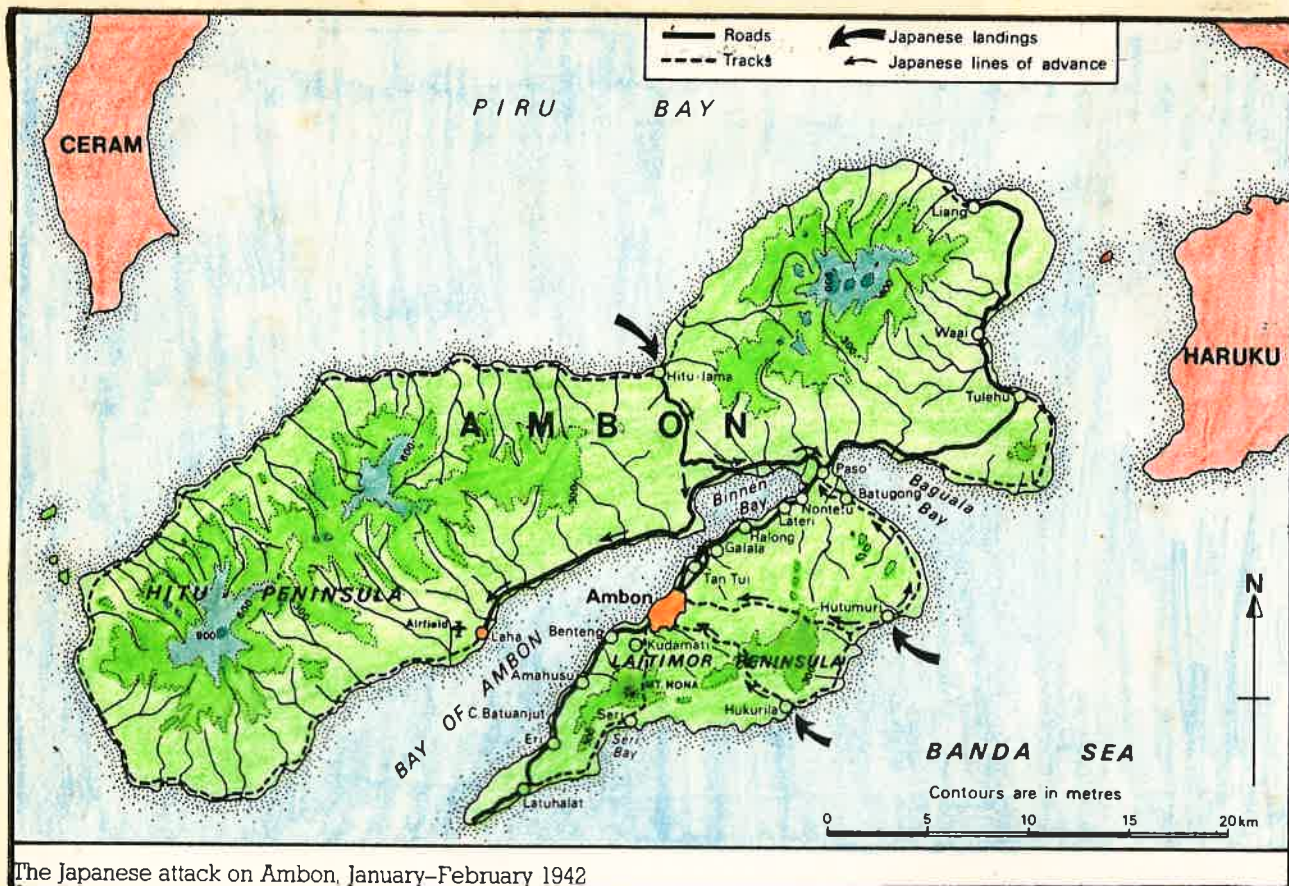
The struggle for survival was a daily routine. The bowl of rice per day was insufficient to live on. Many of the prisoners broke out of the camp at night to steal food but those unlucky to get caught were either beheaded or beaten severely.

This kind of brutality by the Japanese continued until Japan surrendered, thus ending the Second World War. The only food given to the Australians towards the end of the war was less than a cup of rice a day and if this continued, the Australians would all have died of starvation within a few months.



An unknown Australian killed on Ambon.





The Japanese attack on Ambon, January-February 1942

## The Japanese invasion of Ambon.

If those who knew [something about sailing] had done the lot themselves or issued plain instructions we might have been some use, but to shouts of "unfurl the sail", "pull on the jib" and "hoist the boom", it was a fine old mix up. So much so that our two natives went overboard and swam ashore.<sup>3</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1942.

Escape from Ambon; two different groups.

The putting to sea was a terrific job [Grady recalled], the tide was against us but after much pushing and shoving we got started ... and started rowing ... After about an hour and a half we were about 200 yards off shore and just holding our own from being washed back again. In the meantime the bread [the native women had been preparing in the afternoon] had cooked and a canoe brought it out, but owing to the rough seas it was almost impossible for the canoe to come alongside. In the process of trying it capsized and there went our bread. Two of the six water-sodden loaves were rescued and were not much the worse for their ducking. We were by this time about all in with the rowing ... but just then a off-shore breeze sprang up, the sail filled and we were away. It was dark by this time and we settled down to sleep. This was soon rudely disturbed by a grating grinding noise and a cry of "We're on a reef" from the helmsman.

8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1942.



I was standing on the other side of the road yelling for people to get down, just by the basketball court, when—I didn't hear the explosion—I was just lifted off my feet and carried through the air and deposited about 6 or 7 feet down near the basketball court. I can remember looking back over my shoulder and seeing up in the air huge timber beams from the huts about twenty feet long, just lazily circling a hundred feet up in the air or more. Everything was utter chaos. The whole camp had been blasted flat . . . there were fires everywhere and even the coconut trees outside were smashed to pieces.

A U.S. bombing  
raid on Ambon—  
Feb. 1942.

It was a bright day, bright sunshine, just on lunchtime. An engineer officer was up on the roof fixing the atap on the officers' hut which was the one closest to the bomb dump. Alongside it was a refrigeration unit . . . and George Russell, another officer, and I both walked out there. As we did, we spotted some Liberators coming in over the sea plane base and we saw this plane which appeared to waggle its wings. I said, "Oh, he's been hit." (It was the first time I'd seen a plane unload a load of bombs.) Well, he wasn't hit, he was unloading on us! The first salvo of bombs fell across the Dutch women's and children's camp and into the bomb dump—and set it on fire. One fell into the refrigeration unit and it blasted both of us over and it blew George Russell over the top of my head . . . he hit me with his knees as he went over and I thought I'd been wounded. I kept looking for blood but there wasn't any. Anyway, when we both got up, we saw that the bomb dump was alight . . . so George raced off to warn the Dutch women and children to get down and I came back to try to get the troops, hospital people and all the people in the huts there into the long concrete gutters that lined the road through the centre of the camp.

Another account of  
the bombing raid  
by the U.S. Red  
Cross flags were  
forbidden on Ambon  
by Ikeuchi.

This little fellow wanted to arm wrestle with me, and I beat him . . . So he gave me a packet of cigarettes . . . I didn't smoke at all so I just gave the cigarettes away. Next thing, I look around and everyone's puffing cigarettes! So he asked me where my cigarettes were and I told him I gave them away. And he went crook with me . . . gave me a hit over the ear—and another packet of cigarettes!

1942.

Japanese kindness towards the Australians.

[A guard] gave me a hiding [for stealing food] and my tail was red raw. [The next day] I got allocated to my job and it was the same guard, and the boys said, "Change! Change!" . . . He glared at me and I thought, "Oh no". I wasn't looking forward to getting to my destination . . . but actually he called me over, then he sat me down, gave me half his dinner and gave me his cigarettes because he reckoned I didn't squeal or carry on. I'd done my punishment.

1942-1943.



One Japanese  
guards' kindness  
towards an  
Australian in  
1942.

One [guard] stood out. On one of the work parties this Japanese—he was a happy sort of a bloke—was showing off in front of the natives and he was making our people throw punches at him so that he could throw them with jujitsu. Well, I had learnt jujitsu off a chap called Ron Leech . . . and even if you gave me a thousand dollars now I couldn't tell you why I did it, but this particular day—whether I was fed up with him making fools of our people or not, I don't know—but I threw *him*. And he went off in to the bush. I thought, "Gawd, I'm gone now, he's gone for a stick." . . . Everyone said, "You've had it, Darkie"—and he came back with bananas and cigarettes and gave them to me! . . . And everytime he saw me after that I'd get cigarettes off him.

How one man  
will always  
remember  
this meal on  
Ambon (diary  
entry - July 1943)

I will remember one supper we had recently all the days of my life [he wrote in his diary late in July 1943]. This fowl which had been sitting and had become sick was almost dead and was lying on it's [*sic*] back with it's [*sic*] feet kicking in the air. We decided that we would kill it before it died of its own accord, and eat it. I think the axe beat it by about five minutes. One of the boys showed us how to pluck it dry i.e. while it was still hot . . . [Murray] stuck it in a long meat tin and put it on the fire to boil. After it had been boiling for a while we decided to make some soup as well. I grated some cassava, cut up a couple of green tomatoes and Murray procured some onion tops . . . We cooked it for about an hour, by then it was time to put the fire out according to regulations. I left it in the tin until the Commandant went through then got to work. The night was pitch black . . . I had to get the bird out of the tin and put it on a plate, then pour the soup out into three dishes. It was a picnic indeed. We had the soup first which was a bit burnt but very good and then, as we could not see the bird, we just pulled her asunder by hand and ate whatever we got, a wing, a leg, the pope's nose or even a bit of breast. It was pretty tough but beautiful to the taste. After every bone had been cleaned down we put them in a dish and . . . left them out in the rain for the night. In the morning there was no sign of bones or even gravy on the dishes.



## Japanese violence towards the Australians - 1942.

Ando addressed the guards (who would be about 40 or 50 in number) and on his direction they rushed about collecting weapons. They collected pick handles, iron bars, star pickets, wire cable, in fact anything that they could lay their hands on . . . The beating was the most terrifying and bestial performance imaginable. It must have lasted some 2 hours or so and the result was that there were 18 stretcher cases, 3 men died and quite a few suffered from fractured bones, concussion and internal injuries as well as the terrific contusions and wounds that the majority suffered.<sup>51</sup>

## Japanese violence towards the Australians - August 1942.

immediately shouted out a torrent of Japanese, nothing of which could be understood by those present . . . As no one understood what was being said Capt Ando became enraged and using a cane about 3 feet in length he slashed myself three or four times across the face, severely [*sic*] bruising the cheek bone then half a dozen times across the chest which was bare leaving bruises and weals which took some days to heal. He treated Lieut Chaplin in like fashion, and made two attempts to strike Captain Major. He then left, striking the cook, Pte Williamson several times before departing.<sup>50</sup>

## Japanese violence towards the Dutch - July 1942.

several Ambonese threw pineapples, tobacco and soap on the ground near us. I told the men not to pick them up, knowing the consequences. At lunch time, the Japanese guard motioned me to take them and I distributed the goods amongst the men. He then lined us up, kicked everyone severely in the shins and body and punched several heavily in the face. There was nothing wrong with the work.<sup>53</sup>

one morning Ikeuchi went through the huts and there was a fellow, as he thought, in bed asleep. He started belting him with a stick and saying, "Get up". And the bloke was dead. He'd go through the hospital where the blokes were dying like flies, and he'd say, "You get out of bed! You get out of bed! You're all right, nothing wrong with you!" And all that sort of thing. The mongrel bastard.<sup>118</sup>

## Ikeuchi's violence towards the sick Australians.

## Ikeuchi's "kindness" towards one Australian in hospital - 1943-1944.

Mister Eka burst in [to the hospital] on Monday morning and of his own accord discharged 6 patients whom he considered could go back to their huts. He told one chap that if he did not get up and exercise he would go to heaven. One of the boys had an accident on a work party today and was hit on the bottom by a truck. Had eight stitches in the wound and is now in hospital . . . Eka came down and told him he was sorry and gave him a packet of cigarettes.<sup>48</sup>

There were a number of working parties leaving camp each morning and a number of sick men remained in the hut, these men were frequently suffering from four or five complaints at once, ulcers, beri-beri, dysentery . . . They were merely skin and bone. Ike Houchi [*sic*] . . . would hunt these men out of the hut kicking away their crutches. I recollect a particular case of Jack Knight [who] . . . was on crutches suffering severely from ulcers and in a feeble condition. Ike Houchi kicked away his crutches, lashed at his ulcers with a stick and sent him off on the Galala farm party. Kuwabara drove into camp each morning on a bicycle . . . He took charge of the party [of sick men], marching it out of camp, striking those who could barely walk, hastening those who were carrying prisoners who were incapable of walking.<sup>137</sup>

## Ikeuchi's violence towards the Australians - late 1944-1945.

## Ikeuchi's violence towards an Australian - late 1945.

[Pte J. F. Smith] was very weak suffering from beri-beri, malnutrition and a huge tropical ulcer. Ike Euchi [*sic*] asked him what his illness was. He told him that his main trouble was his ulcer. Ike Euchi then knocked him down, deliberately kicked his ulcer and beat him with a heavy walking stick. He continued this for a few minutes and proceeded to drive him down the road for a distance of about 300 yards. Smith then collapsed. Ike Euchi bashed him again and waited for him to recover sufficiently to stand up. He then excused him from the out of camp work party but forced him to hoe grass in sight of the sentry . . . throughout the day in the hot sun.<sup>138</sup>



He was knocked unconscious two or three times; then the Commandant [Uemura] threw water over him and when he came to he was beaten again. In the end, he was left lying in the rain for about half an hour. Our officer tried all the time to have him removed and eventually he was taken away to hospital on a stretcher.<sup>71</sup>

The punishment given to Australian P.O.W's for stealing or scrounging for food.

He was tied in the way peculiar to the Japanese [van Nooten told the War Crimes Board of Inquiry in 1945]. Tie the wrists together behind the back, pull them up behind and then tie around the throat, leaving a length hanging, so that when they pull it it pulls back on the throat. He was locked up for a period of about a fortnight . . . It looked as if he was going to get out of it fairly well, because the Japanese hated to go near him because of [the] overpowering smell [of his ulcers]. They also thought he was a bit sub normal. I thought he was going to stay locked up or would be allowed back in the camp.<sup>76</sup>

The "first" medical aid "ever" given to the Australian soldiers on Ambon.

Only at one stage in 1945 did the Japanese offer the prisoners any medication for their illnesses—and that was of very dubious value. In April 1945 about 90 men were treated to a course of injections which, so the Japanese surgeon responsible for the experiment, Nakamura Ryosuke, claimed, was intended to test whether some typhoid vaccine in the Japanese stores, which was past its expiry date, had lost its potency.<sup>142</sup> The prisoners, who volunteered for the treatment, were given extra rations for a time and eventually had blood tests to assess the effect of the vaccine. Very few of the men subjected to what they called 'the guinea pig parades' survived for the duration of the course<sup>143</sup>, and the conviction grew amongst the Australians that the injections were contributing to their deaths. This was almost certainly not the case<sup>144</sup>—but neither did the injections do anything to avert the prisoners' deaths.

By August 1945 the men who still remained alive in Tan Tui faced the future with a profound sense of despair. Clearly, if the rate of mortality suffered in July continued, then the whole camp would be dead within two months at the most. Every day this harsh reality was forced on them as they buried more and more of their mates.

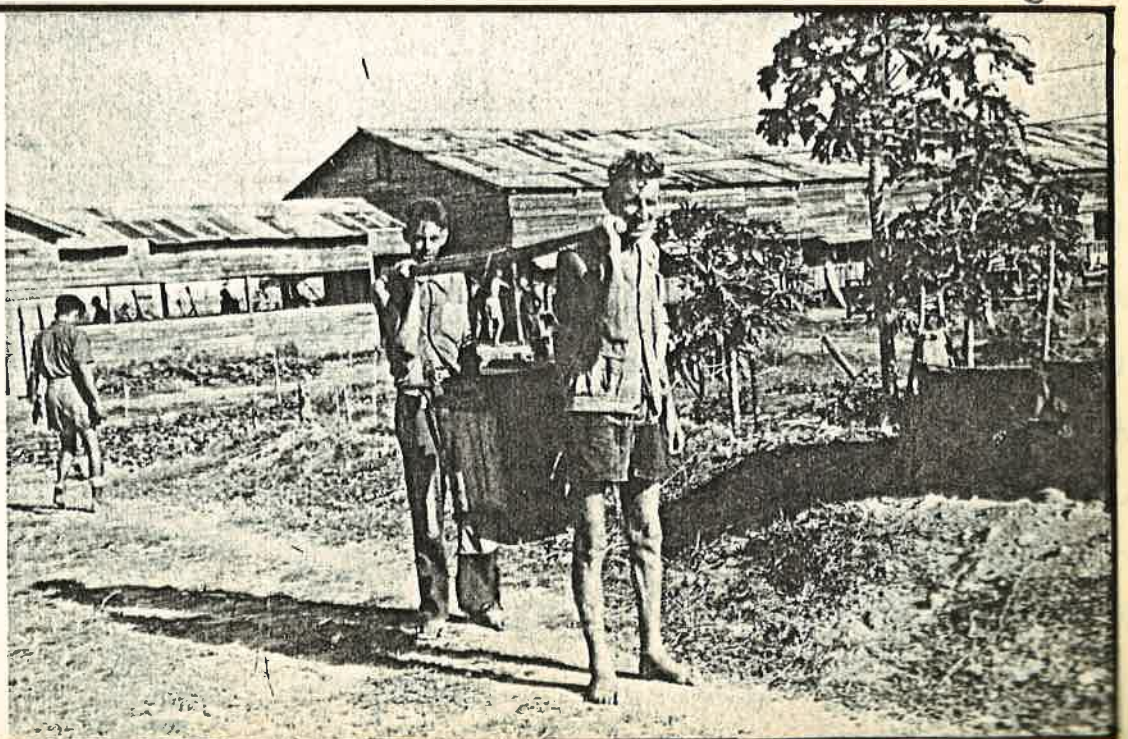


The route taken to transport 267 P.O.W.'s to Hainan Island from Ambon.



A container full of excrement used to fertilize gardens

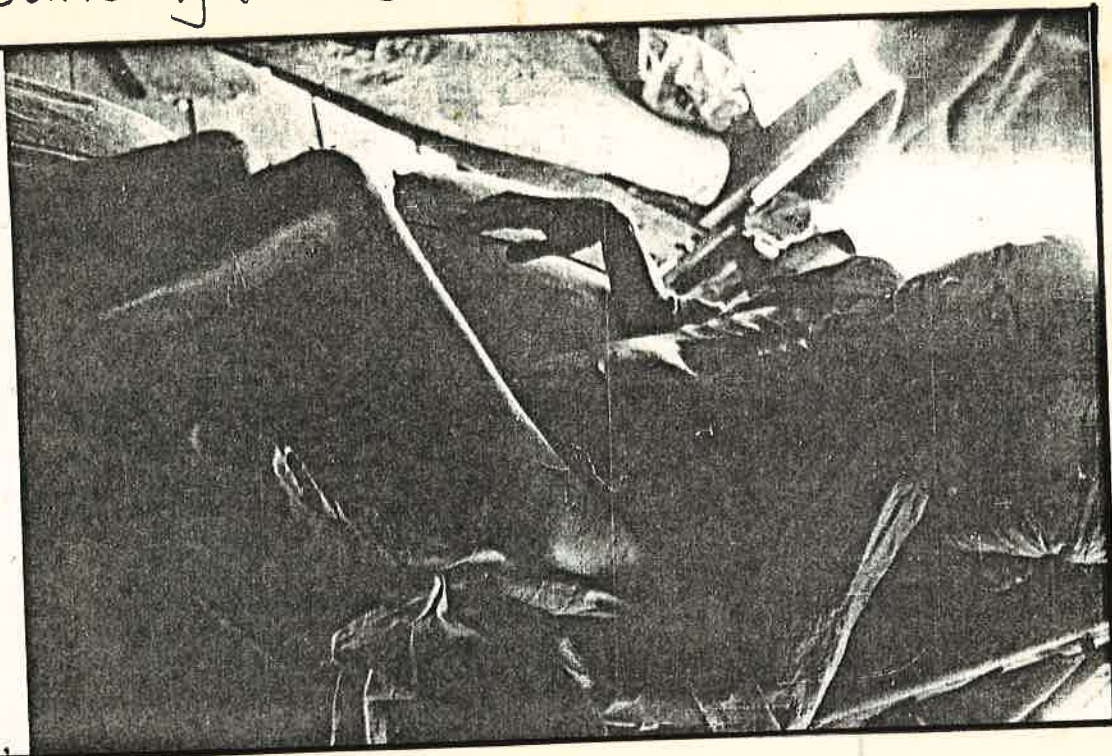
22 The latrine squad in the prison camp on Hainan island. (Left) I. Fishwick; (right) Danny Noonan. The excrement was removed in buckets each day and used to fertilise gardens. In the background can be seen the open sided section of an accommodation hut, which linked the sleeping quarters with the latrine. In the Australian hut this section of the hut was used as the officers' 'mess'. (Australian War Memorial, 30365/6)



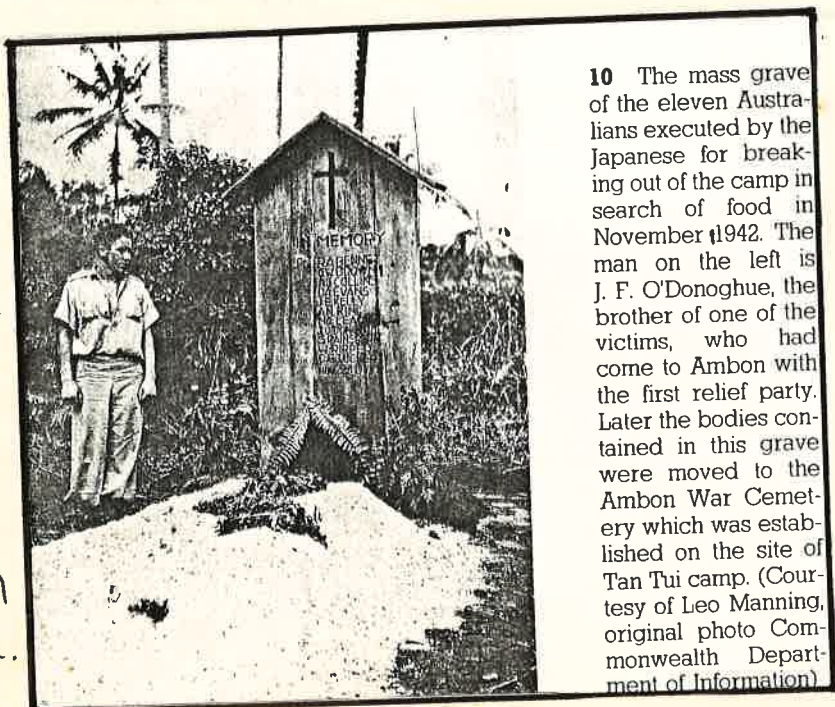


# A man suffering from starvation on Hainan Island.

23 One of the worst examples of the effects of the 'starvation period' on Hainan island in mid-1945. (Australian War Memorial, 30358/1)



The mass grave of 11 Australians executed for breaking out of the camp at night to steal food in November 1942.



10 The mass grave of the eleven Australians executed by the Japanese for breaking out of the camp in search of food in November 1942. The man on the left is J. F. O'Donoghue, the brother of one of the victims, who had come to Ambon with the first relief party. Later the bodies contained in this grave were moved to the Ambon War Cemetery which was established on the site of Tan Tui camp. (Courtesy of Leo Manning, original photo Commonwealth Department of Information)



# A summary of Gull Force

## Summary of "Gull Force".

2/21st. Battalion & Attached Troops.

Ambon - Laha - Hainan. *by Russ Lavery.*

Total all ranks = 1094. 48 Officers - 1046 Other Ranks

### Disbursement

AMBON PERSONNEL 831.	Laha Personnel 263.
Killed in action 5.	Taken Prisoner and/or
Escaped 24.	killed in action Not known.
Taken Prisoner 802.	Presumed executed 248
Total 831	Escaped 13
	Plus two returned
	to Ambon. 2
	Total 263.

### Tan Toey P.O.W. Camp Ambon.

Total P.O.Ws 795.

### Disbursement.

Remaining on Ambon for	267 P.O.W. were shipped to Hainan
the duration of the war.	Island for the duration of the war.
528	from Ambon.

### Ambon Statistics.

Escapes	7.
Killed by bomb attack	13.
Executed by Japanese	17
Died as P.O.W.	370.
Recovered	121
Died after recovery	2.
Returned to Australia	119
Total Casualties	402
Survivors	126.
Total=	528.

### Hainan Island Statistics.

Escapes to Chinese	10 (2 Died)
Killed in Chinese	
ambush	9
Died as P.O.W.	67
Returned to Australia	181
Total Casualties	76
Survivors	181
Total=	267

Statistics have proven, and there is certainly no prestige attached to it, that Ambon, with a mortality rate of 87%, was to be known as one of the worst, if not the worst camp in the South Pacific. Laha, and the massacre that took place, speaks for itself.



WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE WAR  
ENDED?

When Japan officially surrendered to the Americans, the Japanese on Ambon refused to surrender until six days after the Atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The Australians then radioed to the Australian Army Headquarters on the island of Morotai where they called for help and three days later, three Australian warships came to rescue them and arrest the Japanese.

The Ambon war trials began shortly after all the Australians had returned home and throughout these war trials, the main "offenders" were either shot, jailed or they committed suicide.



7 Tan Tui camp, Ambon. This photograph was taken after the war. Before the aerial attack on the camp in February 1943 there were over 50 huts in the camp. The Bay of Ambon and the Hitu peninsula can be seen beyond the camp. (Australian War Memorial, M18253)

Tan Tui; the Japanese P.O.W. camp.



# Rescue day on Ambon Island; 10<sup>th</sup> September 1945.

(LEFT) THEWLIS

*As Thewlis*

RESCUE DAY AT AMBON SEPT 10 1945.  
BY AUSTRALIAN CORVETTES H.M.A.S.  
LATROBE, COOTAMUNDRA, GLENELG & JUNEE.



JAPANESE PILOT BOAT LEADING  
CORVETTES TO ANCHORAGE AT  
AMBON WHARF.



H.M.A.S GLENELG MOVING TO  
ANCHORAGE AT WHARF.



WHARF AT AMBON . WAS BOMBED  
ON MANY OCCASIONS WHILE WE  
WERE WORKING THERE.



ANOTHER VIEW OF THE  
WHARF. WITH JAPS  
AWAITING ARRIVAL OF AUST.  
SHIPS.



AMBONESE GREETING AUST.  
WARSHIPS. - A GREAT DAY.



AUST. SAILORS MOUNTING  
GUARD AFTER DOCKING AT  
AMBON WHARF.



One of the "main offenders"; Ikeuchi Masakiyo.



THE "DADDY" OF THEM ALL

IKEUCHI ~~MASAKIYO~~ MASAKIYO.

JAPANESE INTERPRETER AT AMBON P.O.W. CAMP.

EKI, AS HE WAS KNOWN TO US, WAS THE EPIPHONE OF EVERY & ANYTHING THAT WAS FOREIGN TO CONVENTIONAL BEHAVIOR BY OUR STANDARDS. YOU NAME IT, HE WAS IT. HE INITIALLY DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE MASSACRE AT LAHA ATREPHY, BUT THE EVIDENCE, AS PROVIDED UNDER INTERROGATION WAS SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE HE WAS TRIED AS A NO 1 WAR CRIMINAL. LATER AT MOROTAI. THE TOLL OF P.O.W.'S AT AMBON WAS 87% WHICH WAS THE HIGHEST IN ALL SOUTH PACIFIC P.O.W. CAMPS.

SUGGEST YOU RETYPE THIS & REPLACE LOWER SECTION



AUSTRALIAN P.O.W.'S WAITING TO BOARD AUST. WARSHIPS AT AMBON 10 SEPT. 1945. SOME STRETCHER CASES WERE CARRIED ON BOARD INITIALLY, THREE OF WHOM SUBSEQUENTLY DIED. SO NEAR & YET SO FAR.



ONE OF THE MAIN OFFENDERS "EKI" WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GUY ON THE RIGHT. TERRY MARTIN.



\* AUST. P.O.W. ON BOARD THE "GLENELG" AT AMBON. TYPICAL CASE. WEIGHED IN AT 35KGS.

Waiting to leave Ambon and capturing "Eki".



JAPS ON WHARF WATCHING THE DEPARTURE OF P.O.W.'S FROM AMBON. ALTHOUGH THE WAR ENDED IN AUGUST, WE WERE'NT RELEASED UNTIL SEPT. 10 1945. THE JAPS DENIED THAT THERE WERE ANY AUSSIES ON THE ISLAND & THREATENED TO ATTACK ANY VESSEL ENTERING AMBON HARBOUR. THE RADIO STATION WAS TAKEN OVER & A MESSAGE SENT TO MOROTAI WHICH EVENTUALLY GOT RESULTS THE HARD WAY.





P.O.W. GRAVES IN THE CEMETRY  
ESTABLISHED BEHIND THE P.O.W  
CAMP AT TAN TUI AMBON ISLAND  
1942/45

THE ORIGINAL CEMETRY WAS TAKEN  
OVER BY THE AUST. WAR GRAVES  
& IT NOW LOOKS A PICTURE.

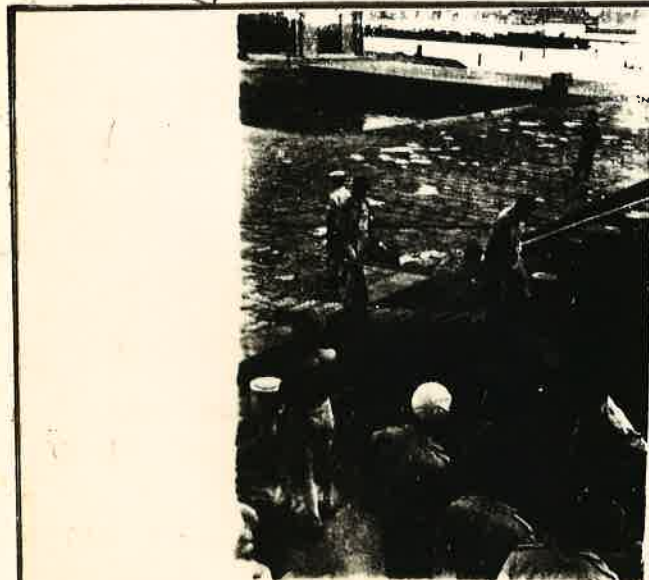


P.O.W. COMPOUND AMBON.  
TYPICAL HUT (OFFICERS).  
TAKEN 10.9.45 by sailor  
FROM H.M.A.S. GLENELG.

ORIGINAL PHOTO OF P.O.W. *TOP*  
CEMETRY. TAKEN 10.9.45. *RIGHT.*

The original Australian cemetery, a P.O.W. Compound and leaving

Ambon



LOADING STRETCHER CASES ON  
THE "GLENELG" AT AMBON.



SAILORS FLEEDING AMBONESE ON  
THE WHARF AT AMBON.





18 An example of the horrific effects of beriberi and malnutrition. One of the prisoners on Ambon, photographed in the 2/5 General Hospital at Morotai. Despite his emaciated condition, this man recovered and returned to Australia. (Australian War Memorial 116258)

An Australian ex P.O.W. suffering the horrific effects of beriberi and malnutrition.

Unearthing two mass graves of Australian soldiers executed by the Japanese.

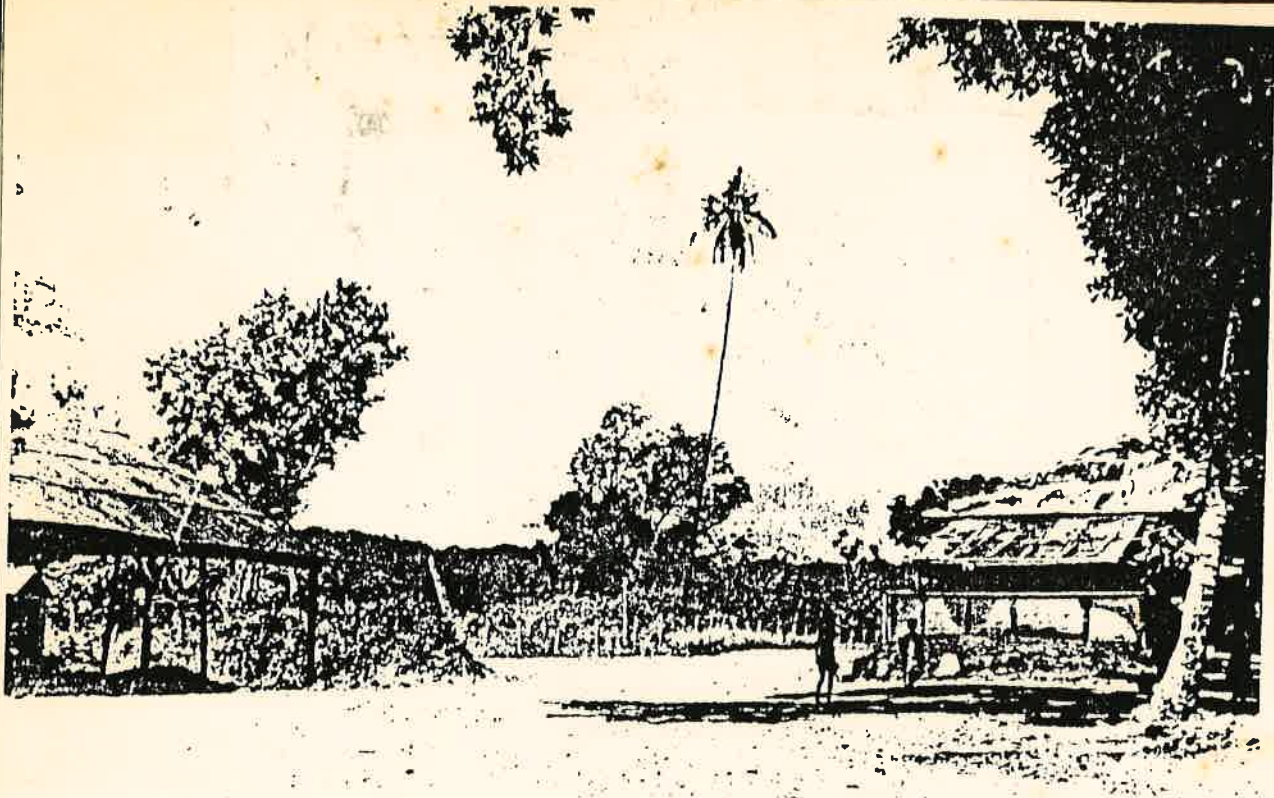


The massacre of Australian, Dutch and Ambonese soldiers at Laha on Ambon Island will go down history as one of the most inhuman acts inflicted on prisoners of war who had surrendered in accordance with the dictates of war as laid down by the Geneva Conference.

The following story, together with the report of evidence given by the Japanese at the War Crimes Trials held both at Ambon and Morotai, will illustrate the sadistic manner in which the Japanese conducted their war effort.

The picture is of Japanese P.O.W.s, under the direction of Australian Occupation forces excavating two of the four mass graves containing 315 bodies of men executed by the Japanese.





Laha Village, the scene of the mass massacre of Australian men.

## Laha Village

The food rations given to the Australian captured on Ambon Island, (notice how they get smaller every year!).

**Table 6.1: Rations received from Japanese Naval Headquarters, Ambon, 1 January 1943–15 August 1945**

Item <sup>a</sup>	1943	1944	1945
	(Quantities in kilograms, unless otherwise stated)		
Rice	98 750	68 281	15 915
Sago	–	20	1765
Maize	–	880	10
Flour	1496	3618	–
Sugar	2837	2488	522
Salt	3818	2207	637
Tea	421	195	92
Margarine	14	–	–
Yeast	1109	–	–
Biscuits	581	166	–
Matches	350	180	–
Milk	12 tins	–	–
Tinned meat & fish	8118 tins	234	–
Soup	79 tins	–	–
Fish (fresh & dried)	16 871	9601	–
Meat (fresh & salt)	5056	820	–
Green vegetables <sup>b</sup>	8760	11 388	5385
Carrot & pumpkin	11 775	50	–
Cucumbers	12 140	4725	–
Potatoes <sup>c</sup>	41 670	26 111	19 041
Melon & paw paw	5623	3785	–
Tomatoes	180	–	29
Egg fruit	960	1550	–
Bananas	–	4931	6496
Banana flowers	–	2170	6183
Coconuts	–	–	512
Matches	350	180	–

**Notes:**

<sup>a</sup> These are the major rations. Items like spices are not included.

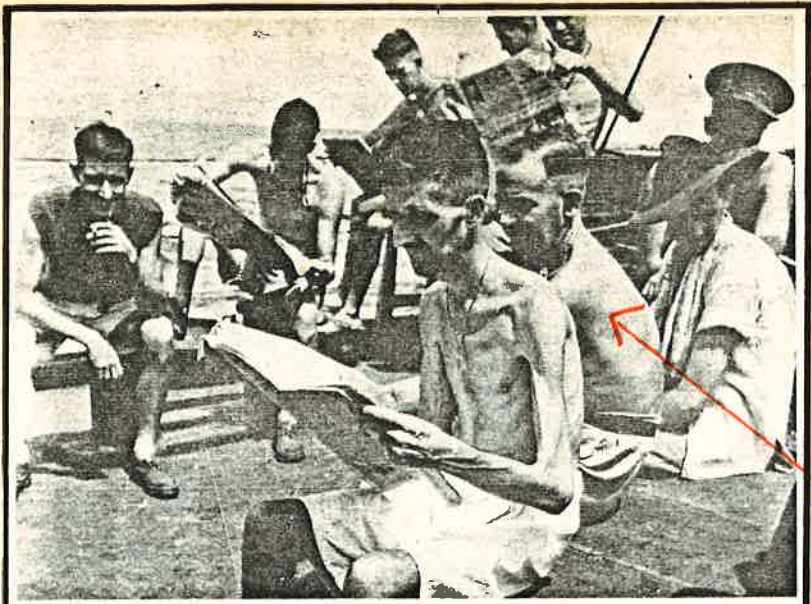
<sup>b</sup> These consisted mainly of cassava and sweet-potato tops. Other vegetables in smaller quantities were bamboo shoots, bean shoots, cabbage (fresh and dried) and string beans.

<sup>c</sup> Mainly sweet potatoes and cassava.

**Source:** Official Japanese record, counter-signed by Major G. Westley and Warrant Officer M. Ryan, included in evidence at Ambon war crimes trial, AA CRS A471, 81709. On some occasions Ryan was forced to sign for more than he received.



Finally being able to leave Ambon Island as free men.



17 Australian prisoners from Ambon en route to Morotai, September 1945. Back row (L to R): Bert Jones, Rex Hattersley, Don Baker, N. Blackney, H. Goodwin. Front row (L to R): Jim Ellis, Russ Lavery, S. Proud, (Warrant Officer) M. Ryan. (Australian War Memorial)

The man who sent me his photocopies of memories while on Ambon



Prisoners of war ex 2/21st. Btn. en route from Ambon to Morotai, aboard H.M.A.S. Glenelg.

Bert Jones on extreme left & self second on right (front). Remarkable co-incidence that we are both from Geelong, joined the army together, & are coming home together & were friends prior to the war.

The most hated man on Ambon Island; Ikeuchi Masakiyo.



11 Ikeuchi Masakiyo, the Japanese interpreter at Tan Tui who became de facto camp manager. For his part in the maltreatment of the prisoners of war, he was condemned to death by an Australian military court in 1946. (Courtesy of Leo Manning, original photo Commonwealth Department of Information)



**Sentences imposed by Australian military courts, 1946-48,  
on Japanese responsible for administration of Australian  
prisoners of war on Ambon and Hainan<sup>a</sup>**

**Ambon**

Name	Sentence
Shirozu Wadami	Death by shooting
Ikeuchi Masakiyo	Death by shooting
Shimakawa Masaichi <sup>b</sup>	Death by shooting
Miyazaki Yoshio <sup>b</sup>	Death by shooting
Nakamura Ryosuke	18 months
Fujiwara Kameichi ('Horse Face')	8 years
Ameshima Hisanori ('Frog Voice')	3 years
Asao Yoshiteru ('Gold Tooth')	2 years
Hyodo Naoyoshi ('Creeping Jesus')	5 years
Matsuda Masao ('Grey Mare')	15 years
Nagatani Takeji ('Gold Tooth no. 2')	12 years
Suehiro Masajiro ('Muttering Mick')	7 years
Takeuchi Nichio ('Black Bastard')	20 years
Tanaka Masashi ('Frill Neck')	20 years
Yamamoto Tatsuo ('Giggling Gertie')	18 years

<sup>a</sup>This list contains only the major war criminals and those Japanese mentioned in the text. Ando Naburo escaped trial by committing suicide on 15 September 1945, drinking a cup of coffee containing potassium cyanide, while at Surabaya Harbour (AA MP 742/1, 336/1/1956).

<sup>b</sup>Convicted for the execution of W. F. Boyce, 24 July 1945.

The death sentences or jail sentences given to Japanese personal for the administration of Australian P.O.W's on Ambon and Hainan Islands.

**Hainan**

Name	Sentence
Aoyama Shigeo	Death by hanging
Kano Terutami	Death by hanging
Tahara Susumu	12 years
Yamasaki Takio	8 years
Kikuchi Ichiro	20 years
Yajima Mishima	10 years
Shimura Seiichi	Life
Hirata Sadao	12 months
Obara Naoji	10 years
Fukunaga Tsuneyoshi	14 years
Matsukawa Chuzo	5 years
Yoshida Tomonobu	15 years
Tajima Tamaki	12 months
Akiyoshi Hideo	5 years
Otsuki Shigetada	7 years



The "autographs" of five ex.P.O.Ws that visited my house for dinner before leaving for Ambon.

11-04-91  
Dakin

Appendixes

Place of internment after October 1942

Rank in 1942

Clive Newnham	Captain	Hainan
R. H. Nowland	Lieutenant	Ambon
J. O'Brien	Sergeant	Ambon
C. O'Bryan	Private	Hainan
M. F. (Frank) Osborne	Corporal	Hainan
W. J. Page	Private	Ambon
T. Phillips	Private	Hainan
W. J. (Jim) Phillips	Private	Hainan
A. T. (Tom) Pledger	Corporal	Hainan
A. J. Rogers	Private	Ambon
Sam Rose	Captain	Ambon
L. Ryan	Private	Hainan
Stan Shaw	Private	Escaped
V. L. Stewart	Lieutenant	Ambon
R. Thomas	Corporal	Ambon
J. M. Turner	Captain	Hainan
Brian Tymms	Private	Hainan
C. E. Usher	Lieutenant	Hainan
John van Nooten	Lieutenant	Ambon
G. de V. Westley	Major	Ambon
Ken Widmer	Lance Corporal	Ambon
Harry Williams	Private	Ambon
Jim Wilson	Private	Ambon
E. T. (Ted) Winnell	Corporal	Ambon
George Williamson	Private	Ambon
Charlie Woodward	Private	Hainan

*B. C. AMOR.*  
*R. GODFREY*  
*C. F. NEWNHAM*  
*A. M. HARRMAN*  
*R. GABRIEL*

Gull Force

Place of internment after October 1942

Rank in 1942

Don Findlay	Private	Hainan
Vic Findlay	Private	Hainan
Rod Gabriel	Captain	Ambon
Eddie Gilbert	Private	Ambon
A. Grady	Private	Escaped
R. Godfrey	Lieutenant	Ambon
B. Gordon	Private	Hainan
Ron Green	Lieutenant	Hainan
D. L. Griffin	Private	Hainan
Courtney Harrison	Private	Hainan
Alex Hawkins	Private	Escaped
Clarrie Hein	Private	Ambon
Sam Hillian	Corporal	Ambon
Walter Hicks	Private	Ambon
W. T. Jenkins	Lieutenant	Escaped
W. Johnson	Private	Hainan
J. G. Julian	Private	Ambon
Eric Kelly	Staff Sergeant	Ambon
Gordon Kent	Private	Ambon
G. H. Kissick	Private	Hainan
W. S. Knuckey	Private	Hainan
B. Larkin	Private	Hainan
J. D. Larkins	Private	Hainan
K. E. Lupson	Sergeant	Hainan
R. J. Leech	Sergeant	Hainan
I. McBride	Lieutenant	Escaped
Frank McCormack	Private	Ambon
J. McDougall	Private	Hainan
Bill McGregor	Corporal	Ambon
Doug McIntosh	Private	Escaped
Ian Macrae	Major	Hainan
Leo Manning (Ayres)	Private	Ambon
A. Mason	Private	Ambon
R. J. Matthews	Lieutenant	Ambon
Keith Mellor	Lieutenant	Ambon
P. P. Miskin	Captain	Hainan



## WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

The men of the Gull Force Association now return to Ambon every Anzac Day to remember their dead comrades, to remember their time in the P.O.W camp, and to renew friendships with the Ambonese. The Association now sponsors an orphaned Ambonese girl and gives aid to the hospital to buy various types of new equipment that is needed.

The original Australian Military camp at Tan Tui (Tan Tooy) became the Japanese P.O.W. camp and is now the site of the Australian War Cemetery. The Cemetery is in a peaceful setting with shade trees and beautifully kept gardens and lawns. Gull Force members conduct a ceremony at the Cemetery on Anzac Day each year.

After this ceremony, wreath laying is conducted at the Indonesian Heroes Cemetery nearby.

The laying of poppies at the Australian War Memorial at Kudamati concludes the morning ceremonies.

Lunch and later two-up games are held at the cemetery residence.

The cities of Darwin and Ambon formed a sister city relationship in 1989 mainly due to the Gull Force involvement in Darwin and Ambon.

The video "Blood Oath" - starring Bryan Brown and Jason Donovan is about the Ambon War Trials.



This photo was  
given to me by  
ex P.O.W.  
Rod Gabriel

The wreath laying ceremony.





Ex. P.O.W.'s being interviewed about their escape from Ambon shortly after surrendering.



Getting ready to depart Darwin for Ambon 1991





Gull Force  
survivors at the  
Anzac Day  
Remembrance  
Service in 1990



Silence at the  
War Memorial  
in Ambon  
1990.



Australian and  
Indonesian V.I.P.s  
at the Anzac  
Day Remembrance  
Service in 1990.