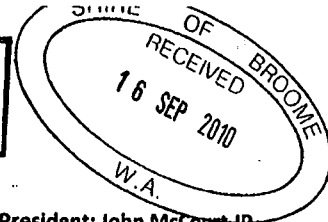


COUNCIL
 Item No. 9.1.01
 No. Pages 4



**THE RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
 BROOME SUB BRANCH**

President: John McCourt JP
 Secretary: Rodney Hill OAM

ALL CORRESPONDENCE:
 The Secretary
 PO Box 67, Broome WA 6725
 Phone: (08) 9192 1003
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13 September 2010

Mr. Kenn Donohoe
 Chief Executive Officer
 Shire of Broome
 27 Weld Street
 Broome WA 6725

Dear Kenn,

Re: 70th Anniversary of Broome Air Raids

At a recent meeting of the Broome RSL Sub Branch Executive Committee, it was resolved that our Branch commences discussion and plans to conduct a special remembrance on 03 March 1012 that will mark the 70th anniversary of the Broome Air Raids by the Japanese on 03 March 1942.

As you may be aware the incident holds significance in the history of Broome and the conduct of World War 2 in relation to Australia.

It is the strong desire of the Broome RSL to use the 70th Anniversary to not only remember those men, women and children who perished but to bring together representatives of their nationalities as a mark of respect and to forge ongoing goodwill.

While deliberations are at the initial stage, we are very keen to secure the support of the Broome Shire Council in the planning and staging of a special remembrance on 03 March 2012 as well as marking that anniversary with some form of permanent structure at Bedford Park.

There is a view to possibly securing historical aircraft for the occasion as well as inviting the support by, and attendance of, official personnel from the United States of America, The Netherlands and, possibly, Japan.

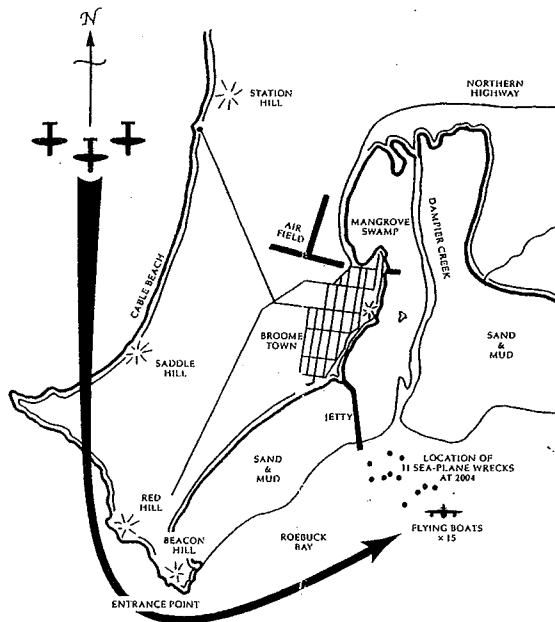
Given the above, we would be keen to form a working committee to plan such an event and I look forward to your response on behalf of the President and Councillors.

Yours Sincerely,

John McCourt
 President

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| FILE: | ASE35 | |
| ACTION OFFICER: | DCCS | |
| ACTION: (sign & date) | NOTED | RESPONDED |
| RECORD NO: | 1100916-55041 | |
| FURTHER REFERRAL ACTION OFFICER | Already received by E-mail / Fax | |
| ACTION REQUIRED | NOTE of RESPONSE | |

JAPANESE AIR RAIDS ON BROOME 1942



Allied Aircraft Destroyed in the Air Raid

There were 22 Allied aircraft lost including 15 Flying Boats on 3 March 1942.

Dutch Losses (61 confirmed Dutch deaths, many others missing)

| | |
|---|--|
| Royal Netherlands Naval Air Force | 5 Dornier DO-24K flying boats |
| Royal Netherlands East Indies Air Force | 4 Consolidated PBY Catalina flying boats |
| K.N.I.L.M. Royal Dutch East Indies Airlines | 1 Lockheed Lodestar |
| | 1 Douglas DC-3 |

United States of America Losses (18 killed)

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| U.S.A. Army Air Force | 2 Boeing B-17E Flying Fortresses |
| | 2 Consolidated Liberators |
| U.S. Navy | 2 Consolidated PBY Catalina flying boats |

United Kingdom Losses (5 killed)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Royal Air Force | 2 Consolidated PBY Catalina flying boats |
|-----------------|--|

Australian Losses (none killed)

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Royal Australian Air Force | 1 Short Empire flying boat |
| | 1 Lockheed Hudson |
| Qantas | 1 Short Empire flying boat |

Japanese Naval Aircraft in the Air Raid

Mitsubishi Zero A6M.2 Fighter Planes, 9

Carried 60 rounds of 20 mm cannon which did most of the damage plus 500 rounds of 7.7 mm bullets. Fitted with 320 litre long-range fuel tanks dropped at Broome.

Mitsubishi C5M.2 Babs, 1

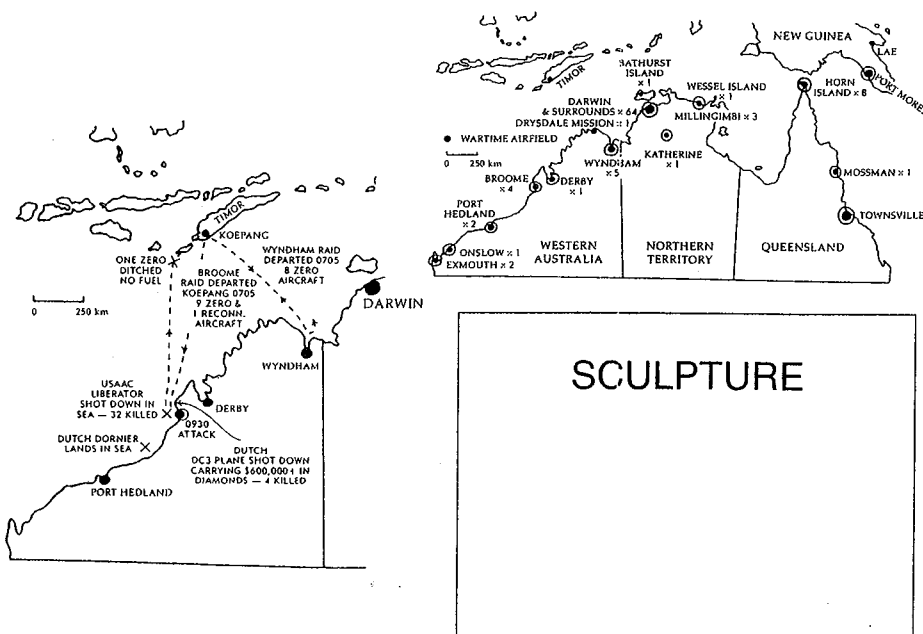
Six of the Zeros were hit by ground fire. One crashed at Broome (pilot killed) and one in the Timor Sea (pilot survived) having expended fuel.

On March 3, 1942 during World War 2 (1939-1945) Broome was attacked suddenly by the Japanese and so became the 'front line' of the Pacific War.

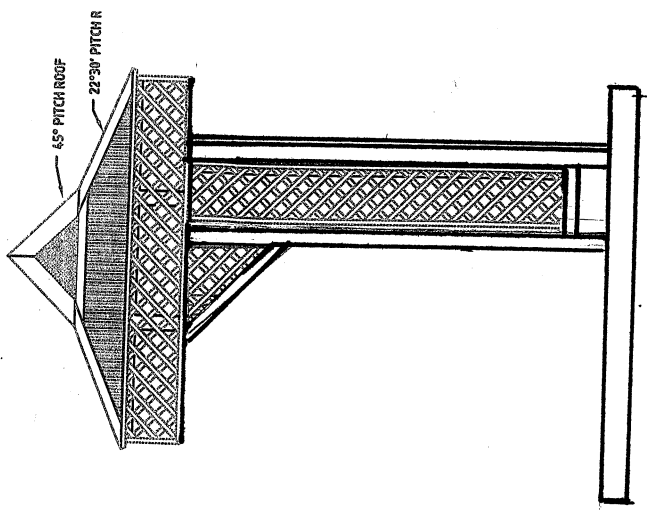
The Japanese had entered the War against the Allies on December 7, 1941. Broome was then a small, sleepy town used by the Allies as a refuelling base. In February 1942, over a two week period more than 8000 refugees were shuttled from the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) to Australia, via Broome. They were escaping the rapid and relentless southerly invasion of South East Asia by the Japanese.

The Japanese reconnoitred Broome on March 2 and detected significant aircraft activity. As a consequence, early next day, 10 Japanese naval aircraft left Koepang to attack Broome (see map). They arrived over Broome at 9.30 a.m. immediately attacking the airfield and all the defenceless, stationary, flying boats on Roebuck Bay, destroying all but one seaplane with machine guns. Sadly many of the 15 flying boats each contained approximately 40 Dutch civilians, many of whom were women and children. Civilian land targets were not attacked in the one-hour raid but by this time, with fuel now dangerously low, nine remaining Japanese planes left Broome, eight returning to Koepang.

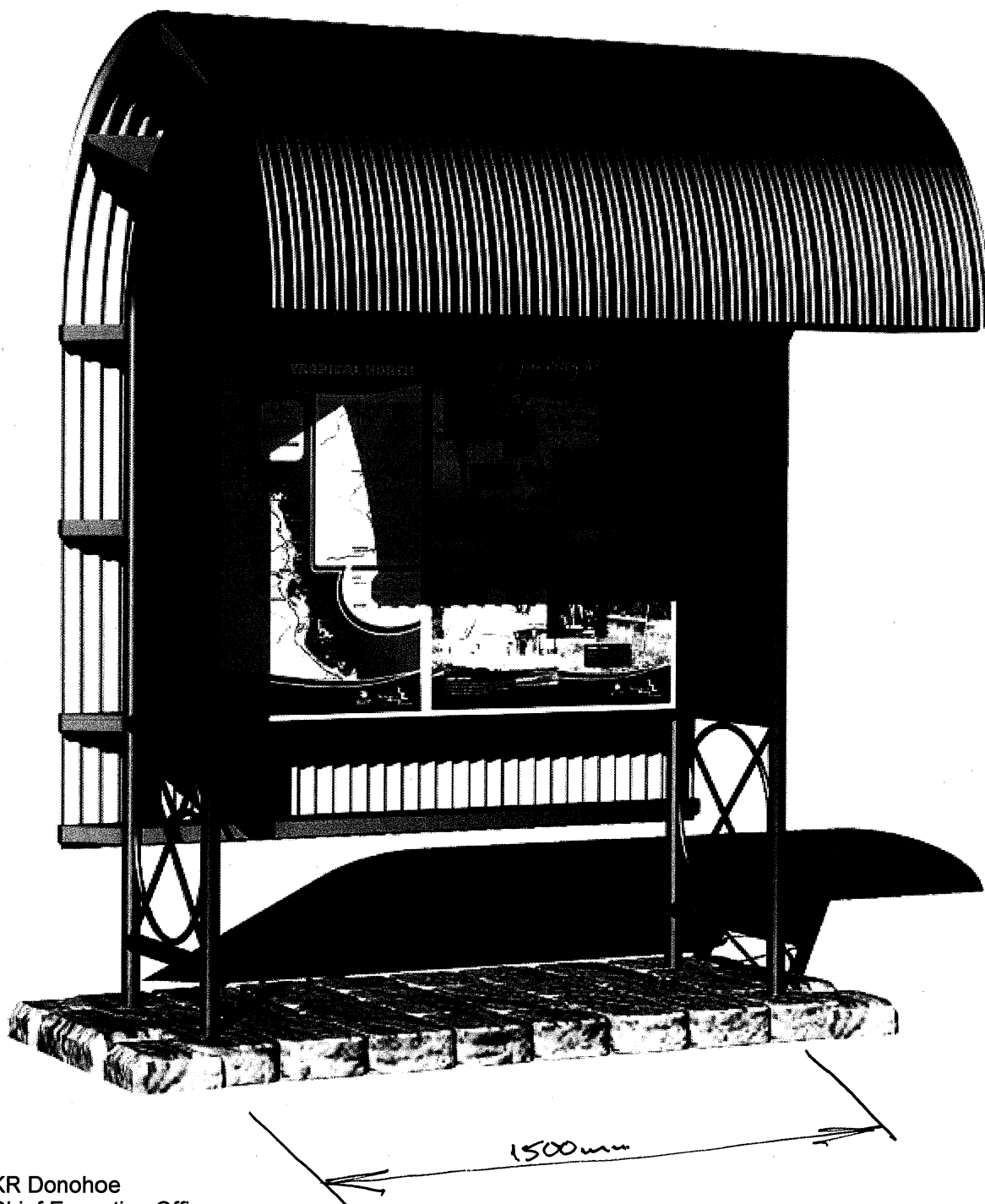
The raid had killed almost 100 people and destroyed 22 Allied aircraft. Broome was immediately evacuated as a land invasion was expected. Subsequently, three further air raids occurred. The first on March 20, 1942 bombed the airfield and killed one man. The last two caused no damage in August of 1942 and 1943.



LEST WE FORGET



Subject: Pictorial representation re Broome Air Raid concept discussed yesterday



KR Donohoe
Chief Executive Officer

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7/01/2011