Broome 1942 exhibition launching soon

An exhibition about the bombing of Broome in 1942 is set to launch on 28 February 2012.

The exhibition focuses on the relationship between the Netherlands East Indies (NEI) and the Curtin government following the entry of Japan into World War Two.

On display will be secret cablegrams, notes, minutes, and letters recording negotiations between the two governments on establishing a radiotelegraph service, the transfer of Japanese interned soldiers to Australian territory, Australian training of NEI air crew, evacuation of Australian citizens from NEI and the exchange of diplomatic representation.

The collection, made up of materials from JCPML and personal items donated from the Dutch community in Perth, includes documents about the bombing of Broome while the NEI had its government in exile based there under Curtin’s Prime Ministership.

The Broome 1942 exhibition will go on display from February to April 2012 at Curtin University’s Robertson Library.

Please find your invitation to the exhibition launch inside.

Visiting Scholar announced

Curtin University Associate Professor of History Dr Bobbie Oliver is the JCPML Visiting Scholar for 2012. In her role as Visiting Scholar she will research the life of Elsie Curtin and present a public lecture on this theme later in 2012.

Dr Oliver will also write the text for a more comprehensive online biography of Elsie Curtin which the JCPML will publish as a web resource.

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and could take both land-based aircraft and flying boats. Broome was chosen because it was the closest port to Java. All financial responsibilities associated with their exile in guardia Field (New York’s airport) at its busiest. Around 57 evacuation operation transformed the sleepy pearling town of the defence of the Region, including Australia. February 1942, but only after the NEI Administration had effort began two days after the Fall of Singapore on 15 military personnel with the expertise to continue the war valiant attempt, to no avail, by the combined Allied fleet to stop the invasion of the NEI. The Java route was reopened again briefly on the night of 2 March 1942, to enable the Marineluchtvaartdienst (Naval Air Service, or MLD) to evacuate their last nine flying boats (5 Dorniers, 4 Catalinas). This unexpected evacuation gave the two days after the Fall of Singapore on 15 aircraft were being processed in one day and between 7,000 and 8,000 refugees passed through Broome in the 14 days before the Japanese Occupation of Java. However, the window of opportunity it provided was limited. All shuttle flights were discontinued the day after the Battle of the Java Sea on 28 February, which in itself had seen a valiant attempt, to no avail, by the combined Allied fleet to stop the invasion of the NEI. The Java route was reopened again briefly on the night of 2 March 1942, to enable the Marineluchtvaartdienst (Naval Air Service, or MLD) to evacuate their last nine flying boats (5 Dorniers, 4 Catalinas). This unexpected evacuation gave the boat’s crew and their families, a few remaining VIPs and some of the Java Sea Battle orphans and widows a last chance to exit the NEI. The flying boats departed Java at night by stealth from secret hiding places in Lake Grati, Lengkong, Telenggappegoen and Tjilatjap, with 80 crew and 81 civilians. They arrived at Broome seven-hours later on 3 March 1942, where they joined six United States Navy (USN) and Royal Air Force Squadron flying boats already lying at anchor on Roebuck Bay awaiting refuelling for their flight to Perth. For the Dutch it was a dark day in the history of the MLD. All told 68 of the 161 on board the flying boats lost their lives by gunfire or while swimming through burning oil - 16 men, 12 women and 20 children. Many heroic acts took place that day. The Dutch community in Perth hold a service in May every year to commemorate the end of war at Perth War Cemetery’s Dutch enclave. It includes laying a rose on the gravestones of the 35 Broome victims buried there.
The JCPML is excited to announce the completion of a new web resource showcasing the Hazel Hawke Collection.

The collection focuses on Hazel Hawke’s time at the Prime Minister’s Lodge (between 1983 and 1991) and her community involvement after that period.

Granting access to transcripts of over 350 public speeches made by Hazel Hawke, the resource also holds inscriptions from some of the Hawke family library books, audio and transcripts of selected recordings of public interviews, various photographs from Hazel’s public life and images from her early family life.

Also included are personal papers of Hazel Hawke, including birth certificates, school reports and employment references.

The online images from the resource are also being harvested by the National Library of Australia’s Picture Australia Service. This allows the images to be more widely accessed by interested members of the public.

Hazel Hawke donated a first consignment of her papers to the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library in 1999. These records document her time at the Prime Minister’s Lodge (1983 to 1991) and include a comprehensive set of speeches she delivered in her role as the wife of Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

In 1999 and 2000, the JCPML also undertook a series of interviews with Hazel Hawke and some of her family and close associates.

In 2009, a further consignment of papers which Hazel Hawke had previously identified for donation was received from her family. These records cover Hazel Hawke’s life before and after her period in The Lodge and provide insights into both her public work in the community and some of her personal interests.

You can view the web resource at john.curtin.edu.au/hawkeh.