

LATE EDITION

The Sydney A

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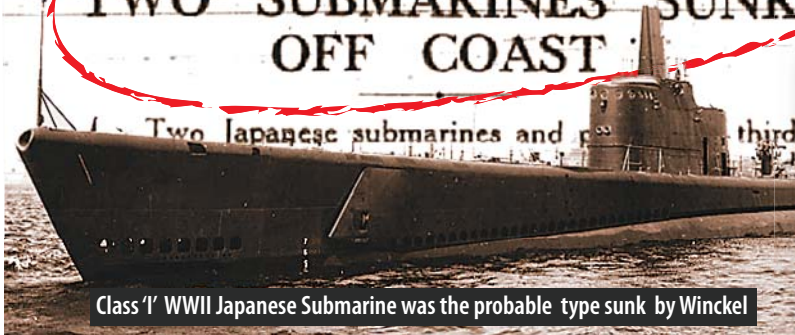
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TWO SUBMARINES SUNK OFF COAST

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Class 'I' WWII Japanese Submarine was the probable type sunk by Winckel

Captain Gus Winckel (left) with his flight crew later in 1945 based in Batchelor south of Darwin. Darwin was attacked some 68 times by the Japanese.



Captain Gus Winckel

BB DFC DSO
Bronze Lion, Distinguished Flying Cross, Distinguished Service Order

WWII WAR HERO

The Legend Lives On!

On my way to Moruya from New Zealand I spent a day in Sydney and while I was sitting by the ferry terminal overlooking the 180 degree view of the Harbour Bridge and Opera House I remembered a story that my dad told me. . . "You know son, after I bombed the Jap sub off the Sydney Heads in 1942 I could have bought a mansion overlooking the harbour for a hundred pounds!" With this in mind I looked around at the development that must have taken place since 1942 and I thought "if only he had a crystal ball." I remember asking him why he didn't buy it? He said "Ahh it was war time, I didn't know if I was going to live the next day or not." At that very moment it struck me why he has such a great sense of humour, after taking so many risks and defying death day after day for years on end. The most precious gift is life and freedom, not the mansion on Sydney Harbour.

And that's why I was on my way to Moruya, to celebrate freedom by honouring those who had the guts to fight for it, so we may have it. To honour one special man in particular for his acts of bravery, my Dad



Warrant Officer Berry Bodelier Assistant Defence Attaché of the Netherlands with Capt. Winckel (Ret) aged 96

Arrival 6th June 2009 at Moruya N.S.W. Australia (also the anniversary of D Day). A crowd-packed venue and a brass band to unveil the honorary statue.



Captain Gus Winckel. As a kid I would ask him naively "how many people did you kill Dad?" He would reply, "It's how many I saved son." About two months ago I received an email from Lt. Col. Caro Lefevre, Defence Attaché of the Netherlands, saying the following "I've been approached by the president of the Rotary Club of Moruya, Mr Michael Gold. The Rotary Club intends to erect a statue of an airman. It is being undertaken by Moruya Rotary Club as a tribute to the aircrew who served there. . . Because of the extraordinary service of Gus to Australia, the Rotary Club wants to use the 'features' of Gus for this statue." Moruya Airbase was operational from 1939 as part of a defence initiative for a landlocked Australian Capital Territory. Capital city Canberra had no coastal defence. After Java (now Indonesia) fell to the Japanese after Singapore in May 1942, Capt. Winckel and many other pilots flew evacuees to Broome (north west Australia). Many were killed there that day in nearby Roebuck Bay, where Australia was attacked for the first time by Japanese zeros - mostly women and children burned, bombed or eaten by sharks, "It was a bloodbath" Gus recalls. It was in the heat of the battle when Gus ripped out a machine gun and a box of ammunition from his Lockheed Loadstar, sat on the runway and blazed away while being strafed by a furore of aircraft. He shot one down and badly damaged another. He went on to ferry the wounded to Port Headland. "The zeros had a devastating toll that day