

Neil Smith 1905-1942

Army Service No. Q4208

ANGAU (Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit)

Neil Smith died 1 Jul 1942 in the sinking of the 'Montevideo Maru' in the Pacific Ocean. The 'Montevideo Maru' was a Japanese merchant ship sunk by the Americans during World War Two off the east coast of the Philippines. There were more than 1,000 Australian POWs and civilians on board.



Neil was the son of Thomas Smith and Marie Young Jarvie. Thomas emigrated to Australia from Carnwath, Scotland in 1886 and took up residence at Charters Towers Queensland where he met and married Mary. Neil was born 07 Jan 1905 at Charters Towers.

Neil voluntarily enlisted in the Australian Army at Brisbane as a member of the 49th Battalion, age 35 years & 8 months and allotted Army Service No. Q4208. At this time, the family were living at 9 Blake Street, Mt Pleasant, Gympie. A new 49th Battalion was raised for 'tropical service' in February 1941. Neil was to become a Coastal Watcher with the New Guinea Administrative Unit. He was captured near the island of Misima, Papua New Guinea in May of 1942.

A detailed account of Neil's service has been compiled by his grand children and was provided to me by his grandson Neil Connell.

www.mykidsancestors.com/Remembrance/Neil_Smith_army_service_story_ver_3.pdf

The wreck of the Montevideo Maru was located in April, 2023 and was the subject of a BBC news article.

www.mykidsancestors.com/Remembrance/Montevideo_Maru-BBC_News_Apr_2023.pdf

Dave Williams

www.mykidsancestors.com

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