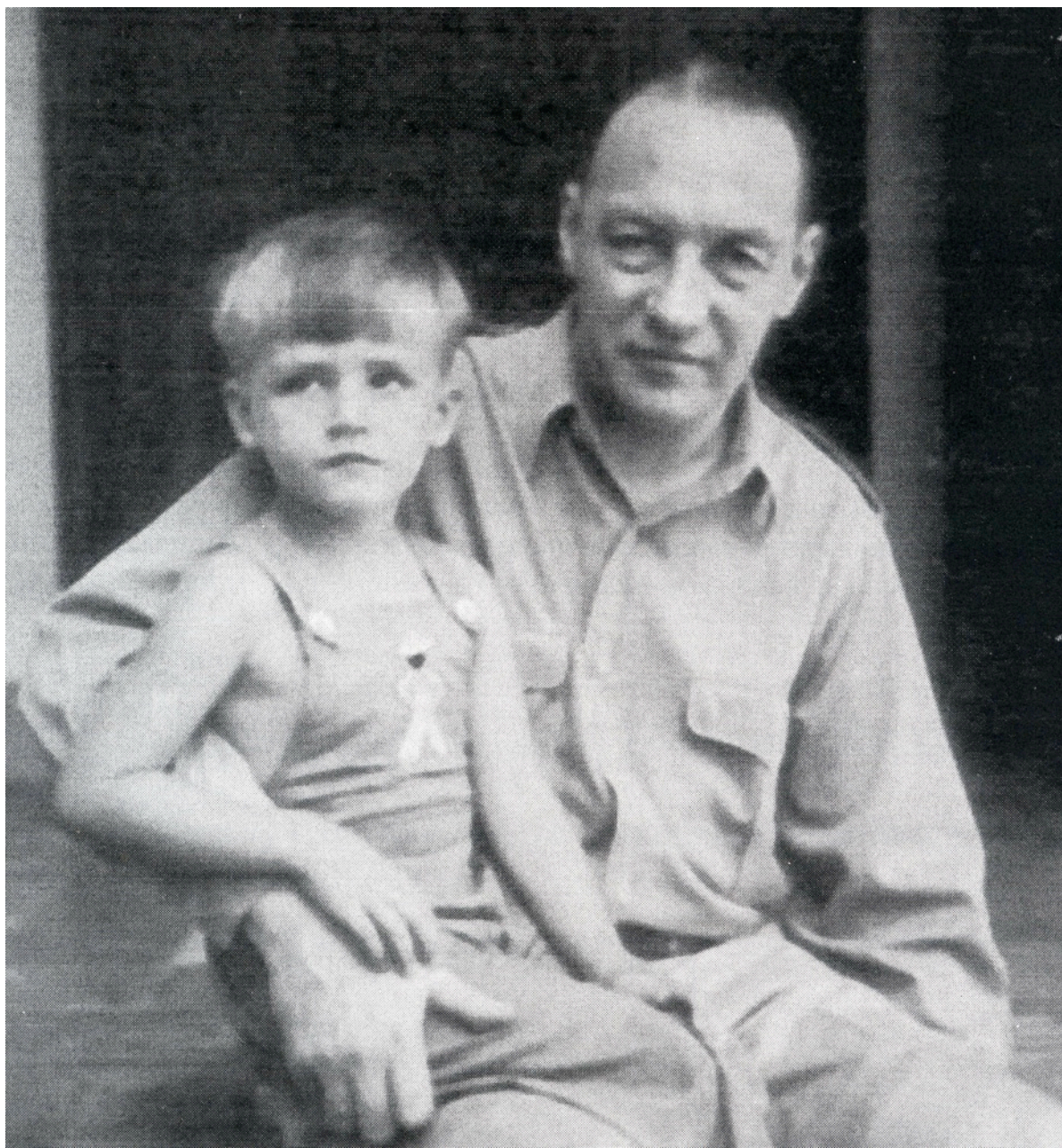


The Evacuees



Back L-R: Jan Willem Piers (Jantje), Jan Willem Piers. Front L-R: Frans Piers, Cornelia Piers-Morien and Cornelis Piers (Photo. courtesy Jan Willem Piers (Willy), 2005). Mrs Piers and the two younger boys were killed at Broome.

Theo and his father (Rear Admiral Karel Doorman) (Courtesy J.M. Doorman). His father was killed in the Java Sea Battle. Theo survived Broome as did his mother. They both swam to safety and were rescued.



Eye-witness reports describe the ensuing 20 minute attack, as an horrific massacre. Before long all the flying boats had burst into flames. Survivors recall that even under water you could hear the noise and feel the pressure of the Japanese bullets. All told, 48 of the 161 on board lost their lives –16 men, 12 women and 20 children – by either gunfire or while swimming through burning oil. A survivor, Theo Doorman, eight years old at the time of the attack and on Catalina Y-67 recalls:

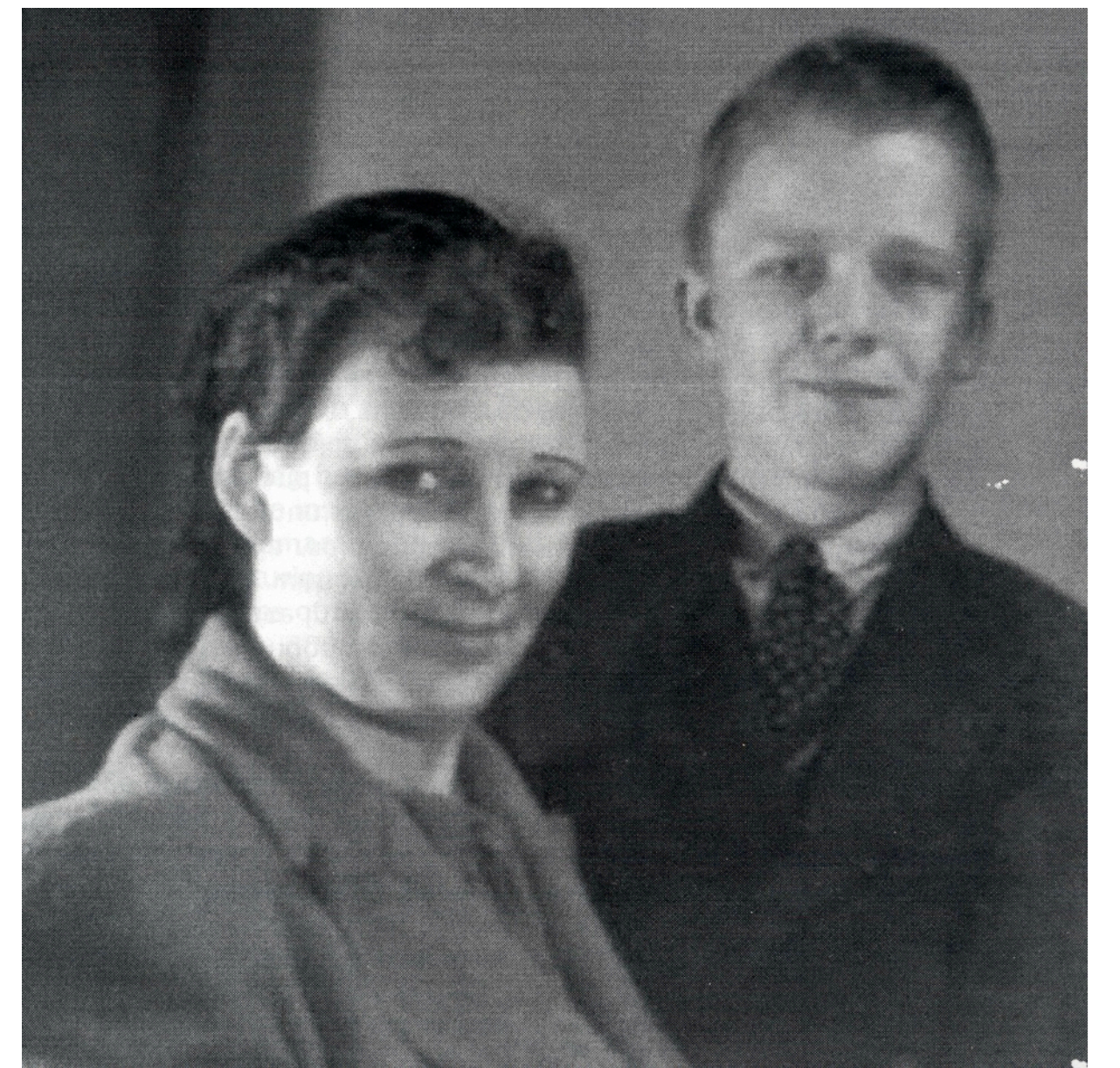
... Suddenly there was shouting, the roar of engines and the rattle of bullets piercing the aluminium. My mother grabbed me and shoved me under the bunk. Shortly after, when the plane was on fire, we climbed up to the flight deck. Mrs. Lacomblé, the wife of the Captain of HNMS 'De Ruyter', had been wounded and lay huddled on the starboard side. Apparently she told my mother to go on as she could not swim anyhow. We jumped into the water from a hatch near the starboard pilot seat. I lost sight of my mother and I was sucked under the burning starboard wing by a fairly heavy current. I managed to swim free and after a while I saw another boy, who later appeared to be 12-year old Rob Lacomblé. Together we dove underwater whenever we heard the roar of the Zeros.²⁴

Rob Lacomble lost his mother that day. The Y-67 also lost 4 members of the Kramer family, 3 children of the Amsterdam family and a young woman Heidsieck engaged to a crew-member who survived. Another crew member died later at Royal Perth Hospital in Perth. Both boys were picked up by a USN barge and Mrs Isabelle Doorman-Herligus (widow of Rear Admiral Karel F.W. Doorman) severely fatigued an hour later .

On Y-59 – 6 crew died. The Bruijn family lost a young son and daughter, both parents and another child survived. Ltz and Mrs Borsch-Baars died their child survived. SGT Emmerick and his child died, his wife survived. SGT van Tour and his daughter Catharina died his wife survived, Dr J Vermeij Arendz died and his child survived. 2nd engineer Spreeuw was killed instantly. Willy van Aggeren, who lost both her parents that day, was ferried to safety on the chest of the pilot who also later adopted her.⁴ They were saved by Captain Lester Brain of Qantas, who had grabbed a boat helped save two young aviators and the young exhausted woman they were supporting and another Dutch serviceman, who was swimming on his back supporting a young baby on his chest.



Elly and Peter 1939-1940. (Courtesy Elly Koens-Doeland). Both children and parents managed to swim to safety.



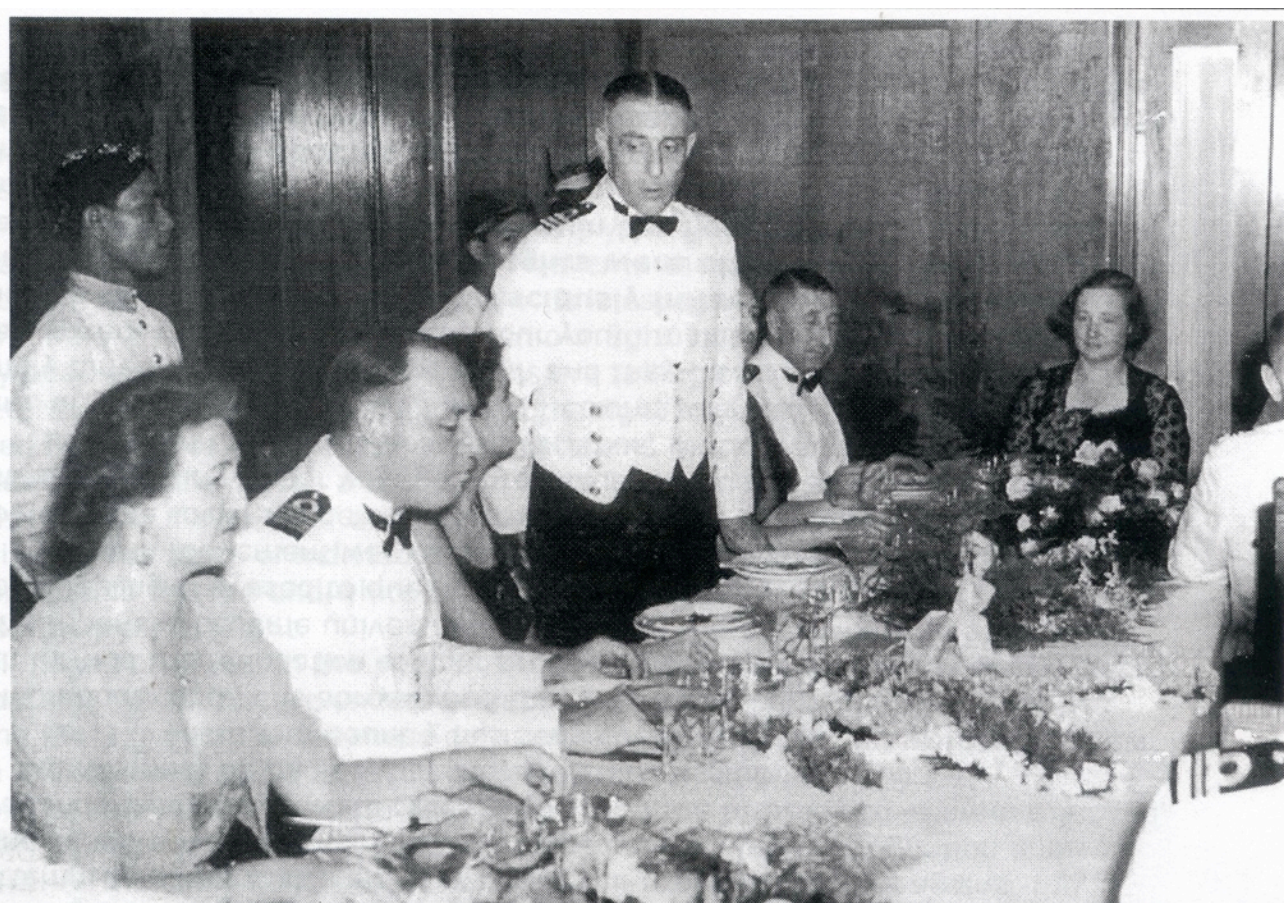
Jeannette Lokman with one of her two surviving sons, Johan Hendrik Jr. (11 years old) in Melbourne (Series number:B6531. Control symbol: Left Commonwealth/1938 – 1945/Lokman Jeannette, Four Lokman children died in Broome, two children and both parents survived.NAA).



NAA). Inset: LTZV 2 Bastiaan Sjerp (Photo. courtesy David Sjerp, 2005).. Bastiaan saved david by swimming with him on his chest until they were rescued. His mother, Alida also survived.



Y-67 and Y-70 passengers: 'Left to right: Mrs. Hendrikse (died at Broome), my grandfather captain K.W.F.M. Doorman, his (second) wife I.J.J.J. Doorman-Heijligers (mother of Theo, survived Broome), commander P.J. Hendrikse, he had the command of the navy airfield Morokrembangan at Soerabaja from 1937-1942 and was ... killed at Broome' (Photo. courtesy Jan Maarten Doorman, 2005).



Y-67 and Y-70 passengers: Hendrikse giving a speech, Admiral Doorman is seated to his right. Officer to the left of Hendrikse with his eyes closed is commander J. Schraver, second in command of Morokrembangan (Photo. courtesy Jan Maarten Doorman, 2005). Note: Schraver's wife, Marie Caroline Schraver-Kam, is seated far right, at end of the table.