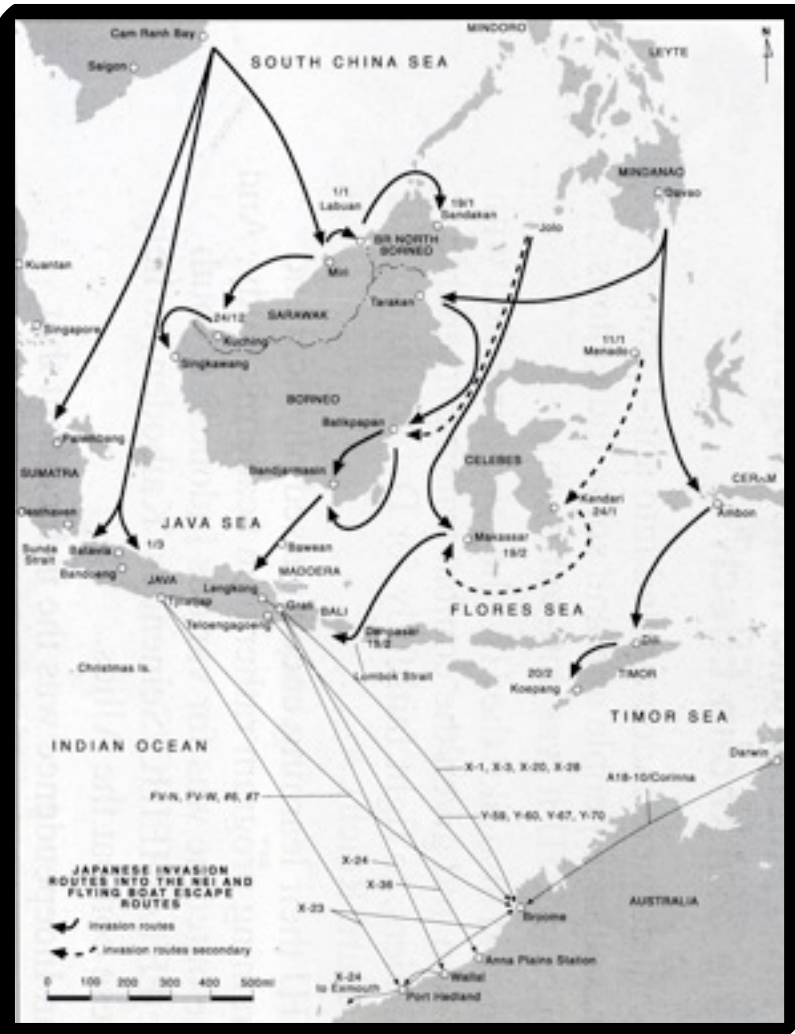


"The Broome air raid of 1942: An important chapter in Australia's



Map showing Japanese invasion routes into the NEI and flying boat escape routes (After Shores *et al.* 1992:473).



View of Broome and Roebuck Bay showing the aftermath of the air raid, taken by the 'Babs' (After Ashai Shimbun n.d. via Willy Piers 2005).



Gus Winckel's Lodestar before the Attack. Courtesy Gus Winckel. The ABDA Alliance at work in correspondence and the formation of the 18th flying Squadron at Batchelor, NT. Their logo

One Japanese Zero Down

This significant event included amazing tales of survival and bravery, including the shooting down from the ground of a Zero by Dutch pilot Lieutenant Gus Winckel. The nine Japanese Zero fighters and reconnaissance plane that swooped down over Broome in the far north of Western Australia on the morning of March 3, 1942, killed 88 people and destroyed 22 Australian, Dutch and American aircraft.



CONFIDENTIAL
 The Secretary of State for
 External Affairs,
 Canberra.
 Date sent: 10th January, 1942.
 I shall be glad if you will convey the following to the
 Netherlands East Indies Government:-
 In view of the gravity of the situation in the Pacific and in efforts to secure
 and to the immediate establishment of a working system of direct
 radio-telegraph service between Australia and the Netherlands East Indies,
 national for the establishment of the direct service has been given
 priority to the following conditions:-
 (1) The service shall be provided as soon as possible.
 (2) As in the case of recently opened radio-telegraph channels to
 U.S.A., our service shall be maintained by the Government
 of the Netherlands, equipped Wireless (Aerial) Ltd., being given the opportunity to operate the service as
 an agent of the Government, as licenses being issued to the Company.
 (3) The tariffs to be applied to the various categories of tele-
 gram transmitted over the new service in both directions
 shall be the same as those now in force for traffic trans-
 mitted by the same system.
 Arrangements Wireless (Aerial) Ltd. is being asked to operate
 the service subject to the foregoing and to the following further
 stipulations:-
 (a) The traffic receipts from the new service shall be equally
 divided between the Government of the Netherlands East Indies, and
 the Netherlands East Indies Administration of the tele-
 graph carrier operating the service in the Netherlands
 East Indies, after deducting:-
 (i) the current Australian terminal or transit
 charges; and
 (ii) all other necessary outlays to ensure
 and administration pertaining to the main-
 tenance of traffic routes over the sea service;
 (b) That the foregoing stipulations are tentative only, in
 view of the fact that the service may be opened without delay and
 may be subject to variation by mutual consent. The
 service therefore is dependent on the understanding that
 negotiations will be opened immediately between the parties
 and that formal agreements between them will be entered
 at the earliest date.

ADVISORY WAR COUNCIL MEETING
 SYDNEY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1942
 (18) DISCUSSING WITH DR. VAN NOBE.
 Dr. van Nobe, Lieutenant-Governor-General of the
 Netherlands East Indies, gave an outline of his visit to
 the United States. He also discussed the importance of the role
 of the U.S.E.I. in the war and expressed views as to future
 developments. The main points were as follows:-
 United States:-
 (a) The importance of the war in the southwestern Pacific
 is appreciated in higher Government circles in the
 United States, with the possible exception of the Navy,
 which had not yet fully recovered from the shock of
 the Pearl Harbour disaster.
 (b) The United States were at first pessimistic as to the
 possibility of holding the lines of communication
 to Australia and the ABDA Area, but they subsequently
 considered that this could be done.
 (c) As regards organization of supply in the United States,
 there were a disturbing number of committees functioning
 at first, but the recent appointment of Mr. Wilson as
 Head of the War Production Board would result in the
 elimination of unnecessary committees.
 Netherlands East Indies:-
 (a) The U.S.E.I. view is that the first aim of Japan is to
 occupy the U.S.E.I. This would neutralize offensive
 operations from Australia and would give the Japanese
 control of important sources of supply of essential
 raw materials.
 (b) Once the U.S.E.I. were reduced the Japanese would not be
 likely to embark on a large-scale invasion of Australia,
 but instead they would concentrate their forces on
 assisting the Germans in the Middle East and in
 attacking Russia through Manchukuo. This would
 seriously weaken the Allied position in Europe and
 would prolong the war for a very long period.
 (c) The foregoing pointed to the importance of holding the
 lines of communication to Australia.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
 DEPARTMENT OF AIR
 SECRET
 The Secretary,
 Department of External Affairs,
 Canberra.
 I desire to inform you that, following representations
 from the Netherlands East Indies Government, the Cabinet approved
 (minute item on 10th February, 1942) the recommendations by the
 Minister for Air, submitted in London on 20/1/42, for the creation
 of a number of R.A.F. personnel.
 The U.S.E.I. Government has suggested that facilities be
 provided at Adelaide, S.A., and at Melbourne, U.S.E.I., and it is
 anticipated that the first batch of personnel will arrive in the
 South Isles in the course of a few days. Expenses for South
 Australia will apply to staff and will depend on the nature,
 time of leave for visiting staff and the U.S.E.I. Government's
 facilities will come to their own government, following the United
 States Army's departure from Broome or Darwin.
 It is desired that the utmost consideration be afforded
 in the matter of placing of installations, maintenance and
 expediting any necessary communications which may be required.
 It will be appreciated that some of the officers and
 crew arriving will not be European, but of course they will
 be members of the Netherlands East Indies Army or Royal Air
 Force.
 I should be glad if you will suitable inform all the
 authorities concerned.

