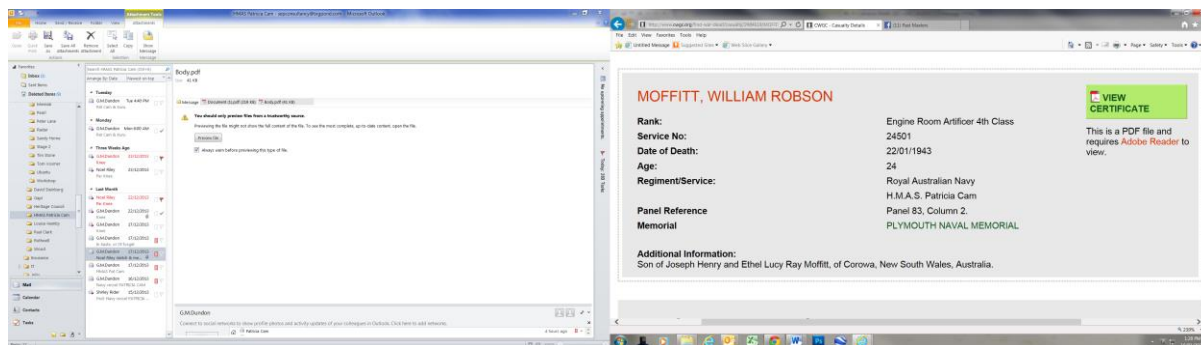
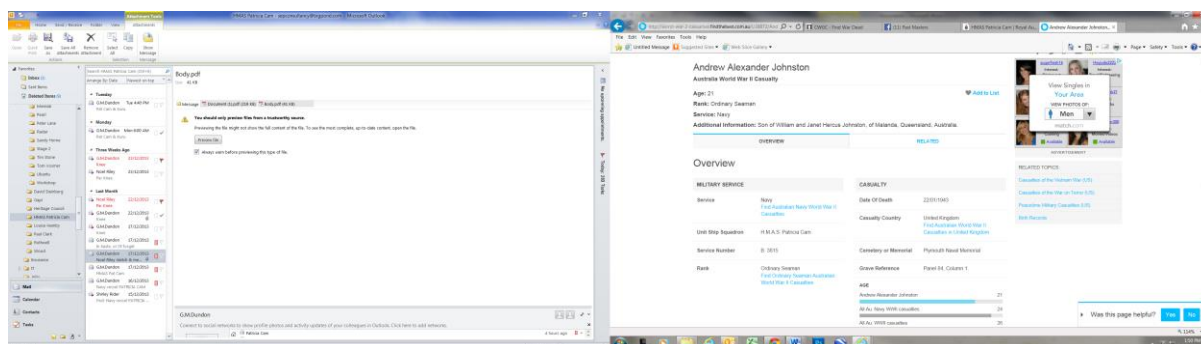


Chief ERA William R. Moffitt



Ordinary Seaman Andrew A. Johnston



UNCLASSIFIED

Mike,

A quick perusal of the information in your email tells me that we can expect that he has no known grave. The date of death is probably the result of any report of deaths from the sinking. It might be reasonable to conclude that he was buried on or near the beach. If those who buried him failed to accurately record the exact location of his burial, any subsequent attempt to recover his body may have failed to locate it and therefore he would go unrecovered.

I had a look at his service record and a date of death is recorded as 23 Jan 43.

A single burial on or near a beach that has remained undisturbed for more than 70 years will be impossible to find.

Regards

Brian

Brian Manns

Manager, Unrecovered War Casualties - Army
Army Headquarters

Tel: 02 6265 5319

Fax: 02 6265 4041

Mob: 0409 469 302
Email: brian.manns@defence.gov.au

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From: Cooper, Alan MR 4 **On Behalf Of** Army UWC
Sent: Thursday, 16 January 2014 13:15
To: Manns, Brian MR
Subject: FW: P J Cameron RANR [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Mike Owen [<mailto:sepconsultancy@bigpond.com>]
Sent: Friday, 13 December 2013 15:25
To: Army UWC
Subject: P J Cameron RANR

Attn: Brian Manns


Brian - I'd appreciate any assistance that you can give with confirmation that there is no registered grave of Percival J. Cameron who died as a result of wounds sustained during the sinking of HMAS Patricia Cam in 1943 in the Wessel Islands, Northern Territory.

CAMERON, PERCIVAL JAMES

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rank: | Stoker 2nd Class | VIEW CERTIFICATE <small>This is a PDF file and requires Adobe Reader to view.</small> |
| Service No: | S6670 | |
| Date of Death: | 22/01/1943 | |
| Age: | 24 | |
| Regiment/Service: | Royal Australian Naval Reserve H.M.A.S. Patricia Cam | |
| Panel Reference | Panel 04, Column 1. | |
| Memorial | PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL | |

Additional Information:
Son of John Allen James Cameron and Sylvia Pearl Cameron, husband of Nancy Margaret Cameron, of Waverley, New South Wales, Australia.

PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL



| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Country: | United Kingdom |
| Locality: | Devon |

Find out more about this Cemetery including, visiting information, reports and plans and any emergency notices.

[Find out more >](#)

Cameron survived the initial sinking and made it to land - he died on the morning of Saturday 23rd January 1943 - an Aboriginal passenger died later that day. Thirteen servicemen/crew & two Yolngu survived and were rescued on the 29th January by HMAS Kuru which was little more than a launch. There were Japanese submarines in the area refuelling & rearming floatplanes so the bodies may well have been left in shallow graves. It seems

improbable but it would appear that the body of Cameron was never recovered – hence the citation to him at Plymouth Hoe – which commemorates deceased commonwealth sailors who have no known grave.

The survivors were photographed on the beach by an RAAF Beaufort – I identified the beach during research for an expedition to the Wessels in July this year. I have also put the word out at Yirrkala to find the name of the Yolngu who finished up that day and whether his remains were recovered for business. It depends very much which families were involved but they will certainly know.

Ten years ago, Cameron's daughter & family approached the Darwin Museum seeking information about the reported finding of the wreck of the Pat Cam and possible recovery of Percival's remains. They were informed that the wreck was not of the Pat Cam but a more recent trawler.

January 1943 was pretty hectic up here so anything magnitude of cock-up was possible and the official record of him being lost in the sinking was expedient. Before perusing this I appreciate some confirmation that his grave is indeed unknown and advice on how the responsible authorities would like to proceed.

Kind Regards
Mike

Michael B. Owen
32 Waters Street, Rapid Creek Darwin NT 0810
Ph. 08 8948 1203 – 041 981 0928
Member of the NT Heritage Council
Co-leader Past Masters 'Ancient African Coins in Arnhem Land' Expedition
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Past-Masters/301882649948002>

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Wreck Link With Ship Built At Kincumber

A castaway whose skeleton was found on a lonely island off the north-west coast of Arnhem Land may have been a member of the crew of the Patricia Cam, a vessel built at Cockle Creek, near Kincumber, early in the last war.

In 1943, the Patricia Cam and the Macumba were sunk off north-west Arnhem Land.

A Croker Island native who discovered the body several months after the ships were sunk, told the skipper of a mission boat early this month of his discovery.

The skipper went to the island and found the man's skeleton which was still dressed in the remains of a blue serge uniform and life jacket.

Since the ships were wrecked nine years ago, natives have talked of the "white-haired sailor" of Valencia Island, near Croker Island.

There was evidence on Valencia Island that the shipwrecked sailor had arrived on the island alive and crawled into the cave where he died.

He had probably floated for 200 miles down the coast on a strong current and been washed ashore on the island.

The Patricia Cam was intended for use as a coastal fishing ship. She was launched by one of the owner's daughters, Patricia.

16.5.1952

(GOSPEL)
TIME