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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 that 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: <u>brian.manns@defence.gov.au</u>

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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.

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Son of John Allen James Cameron and S Nustralia.	/AL MEMORIAL Country: Locality:	United Kingdom Devon but this Cemetery including, visiting information, reports and pla	ins and any

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 where akoleton was found on a isnely island off the marth-west ceast of Arabous land may have been a member of the crew of the Patricia Sain, a venice built at Coakla Greek, noar Kin-cumber, sairly in the test war. 183

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ai Cockie Greek, near Ein-sai Cockie Greek, near Ein-and the Macumha were sunk off north-west Arnhemi Land. A Croker Island instive who discovered the body several months after the ships were aunt, told the skipper of a mission boat early this month of his discovery. The skipper went to the is-intaid and found the man's skelston which was still dress-ed in the remains of a blue serge uniform and life jacket. Since the ships were wreek-ed in the remains of a blue serge uniform and life jacket. Since the ships were wreek-ed in the remains of a blue serge uniform and life jacket. There was, evidence on Valencia Island. near Croker Island. There was, evidence on Valencia Island that the ahip-wreaked sailor had arrived on the island allve and crawled into the cave whare he died. He had probably floated for 200 miles down the coast on a strong current and been wash-ed and for time as a poastail fishing ship. She was launch-id by one of the owner's daughters. Patrioin (a.STER). (a.STER). (b.S.ITESA. (a.STER).