

## **Content Summary - *The Sudden Storm: The AANS sisters of Singapore + Radji Beach***

### Part 1

- Contributors to the podcast explain their reaction to the massacre of the sisters on Bangka Island.
- 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony SA Women's Memorial Playing Fields, 2022.
- How the nurses found themselves in Singapore and Malaya.
- What life was like at first for the nurses serving in Malaya and Singapore.
- The advance of the Japanese and the retreat down the Malayan Peninsula towards Singapore
- The evacuation of the nurses via the Empire Star which made it to safety via Malacca.
- The final group of nurses were evacuated on the Vyner Brook, were not so lucky.
- The Japanese Battalion on Bangka Island was the same one which committed atrocities in Hong Kong a few weeks earlier.
- Vyner Brook was bombed, crippled and sank. 150 survivors made it to Bangka Island.
- The massacres of British Military personnel and Australian nurses on Radji Beach, Bangka Island.

### Part 2

- Survivors from the Vyner Brook were imprisoned.
- Allies finally found the POWs after several weeks in September 1945 once the war had ended.
- POW's in terrible condition and evacuated initially to Singapore for treatment.
- Gender and war: the role of women and how the women POW's were presented to the media; feminising them. Women in war is problematic!
- Vivian Bullwinkel who survived the massacre on Radji Beach and how she controlled the narrative regarding the truth of what happened.
- Discussion regarding whether the nurses were raped on Radji Beach. This may have been 'covered-up'; what evidence is there to support this! The stigma attached to sexual assault at the time.
- The Japanese treatment of POW's.
- The *MeToo* movement needs to engage in historical cases of sexual assault.
- Australian Nurses Memorial, St Kilda Rd Melbourne and how it commemorates the nurses.
- The significance of the story and why it must be remembered.

### Part 3

- 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony SA Women's Memorial Playing Fields, 2022.
- Short Biography of Lorna Florence Fairweather who was murdered on Radji Beach, 16 February 1942.
- Lorna's nieces and nephew explain their reactions and emotions surrounding the ceremony and the impact Lorna's murder had on their family.
- Short biography of Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy.
- Descendants of Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy share their reaction to the ceremony and the effect that Elaine's murder had on their family.
- Why the story is significant and important to remember.
- Roll of Honour of the 21 nurses murdered on Radji Beach and the sole survivor Bullwinkel.

### Part 4

- Renmark RSL and how they commemorate Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy
- Renmark High School students and history teacher outline how school remembers and commemorates Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy. Renmark High School Library is a memorial to Elaine.
- Students explain what they know about the story and their reaction to it. They explain why they think it is important to remember. What would they say to Elaine if she was with them today?
- History Teacher at Renmark High school explains why students need to understand and relate to the ANZAC spirit.

## Part 5

- Renmark-Paringa Children's library tribute to Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy.
- The dedication of the library to Elaine on Remembrance Day 1984.
- Loxton Street Sign Memorial named after SA Military nurses, VC winners and WW2 battlegrounds. How the memorial was formed and why.
- Renmark Soldiers Memorial Institute description of the building and displays.
- Interviews with Renmark RSL members about why this story must be remembered, and how remarkable these women were.
- Paringa Art silos and discussion with the Chairman of the committee that instigated the project.
- Purpose of the mural as a memorial to Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy.

## Part 6

- The mural artist who painted the Paringa silos explains his reaction to the story about Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy.
- Andy Priestner author of 'Remembering Tenko' explains his reactions and emotions about the story.
- Prof. Christine Twomey explains the legacy of what happened to the nurses on Radji Beach.
- Explanation of the memorial service for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary held on Radji Beach, Bangka Island, 2017
- 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony SA Women's Memorial Playing Fields 2022.
- Interview with Ian Shaw the author of 'On Radji Beach'. He explains the legacy of the nurse's massacre.
- Lorna Fairweather's family explain what they gained from the ceremony and why they want ongoing recognition and remembrance of what happened to Lorna.
- Australian Army Nursing Service Pledge of Service.
- Peninsula Women's Chorus performs a version of 'Largo' arranged by British POW's imprisoned alongside the Australian nurses in Palembang prison camp Sumatra.
- Dedications, acknowledgements and credits.



VIRTUAL  
WAR MEMORIAL  
AUSTRALIA