



Australian Government



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**NAA: MP1185/8, 1877/13/320**

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Ashes of Japanese Naval men whose bodies were recovered from Sydney Harbour [10 folios, contains 4 photographs of the bodies of Japanese Naval men recovered from Sydney Harbour, these images may casue distress]

1877/13/320

Access to  
This file is not  
restricted. It contains  
4 photographs of bodies of  
Japanese naval men  
recovered from Sydney  
Harbour. These might cause  
distress. ~~Distress~~

**Attention:**  
Access to this file is NOT restricted. It contains  
four photographs of dead bodies of Japanese  
naval men recovered from Sydney Harbour.  
**THIS MAY CAUSE DISTRESS**

1877/13/320

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

RETAIN

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

*Subject:*

.....  
.....  
.....

*No.*

**RETAIN**

(COPY)

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND,  
SYDNEY.

Section for Japanese Interests.

SYDNEY,  
20th August, 1942.

R - 1 -17

Sir,

With reference to my letter of 24th June, relative to the ashes of the Japanese naval men whose bodies were recovered from submarines sunk in Sydney Harbour, and our telephone conversations of 8th and 10th August in regard thereto, I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from His Excellency the Japanese Minister, in which His Excellency requests me to convey his thanks to the authorities concerned for their action in handing the ashes over to him for return to Japan.

In conveying to you the expression of His Excellency's gratitude, I desire to join my own thanks to his, and particularly to express my appreciation of the prompt and efficient manner in which Rear-Admiral Muirhead-Gould made it possible to have the urns containing the ashes sent to Melbourne in time for them to be placed on board the exchange ship.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(sgd) H. Hedinger.  
Consul-General.

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Navy.

Referred.

047212

(sgd) Secretary, Dept. External Affairs.  
21.8.42.

The Naval Officer-in-Charge,  
SYDNEY.

31 AUG 1942

Forwarded for information with reference to your message T.O.O. 2245Z dated 11th August, 1942. By direction of the Naval Board.

Endo.

2. n.w. Copy of Jap. minister's letter dated 13/8/42 should also be forwarded to NOIC Sydney sent with letter to NOIC Sydney 31/8/42

9/9. Koth / D.N.V.

CONFIDENTIAL

PA 47 ✓  
w  
51

DNA/57

COPY. ML.

DEPT. OF NAVY  
1877/13/320  
SECRET

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND,  
SYDNEY.

RECEIVED  
24 AUG. 42 AM  
NAVY REGISTRY

Section for Japanese Interests.

SYDNEY,  
20th August, 1942.

R-1-17

Sir,

With reference to my letter of 24th June, relative to the ashes of the Japanese naval men whose bodies were recovered from submarines sunk in Sydney Harbour, and our telephone conversations of 8th and 10th August in regard thereto, I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from His Excellency the Japanese Minister, in which His Excellency requests me to convey his thanks to the authorities concerned for their action in handing the ashes over to him for return to Japan.

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I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) H. Hedinger.  
Consul-General.

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Navy.

Referred.

*W. Underwood*  
for

Secretary, Dept. External Affairs.  
21.8.42.

*Handwritten notes:*  
1. n.m.  
2. n.m.  
on 8.  
Head of N  
25/8

*Handwritten notes:*  
Why 17/18  
2/18

COPY. ML.

LEGATION OF JAPAN  
Branch Chancellery  
MELBOURNE, C.L

C/o 5 Harcourt Street,  
Auburn, Vic.

13th August, 1942.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the ashes of the four Japanese officers and men, whose bodies were recovered from submarines sunk in Sydney Harbour, were duly delivered to me this morning by the Swiss Consul in Melbourne, Mr. Pietzcker, in person.

In acknowledging the receipt of the same, I hasten to express to you my sincerest thanks for your whole-hearted assistance given to this matter. I am grateful to the Australian authorities, too, for their handing over to me of the ashes for return to Japan. I shall be exceedingly obliged, therefore, if you will kindly convey to the Naval and other authorities concerned my sincere thanks for their thoughtful action, which will be deeply appreciated not only by the relatives of the deceased but also, I am sure, by the whole of my fellow countrymen.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) TATSUO KAWAI.  
Japanese Minister.

H. Hedinger, Esq.,  
Consul-General of Switzerland,  
Section for Japanese Interests,  
117 Pitt Street,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

DEPT OF NAVY  
1877/13/320  
SECRET

RECEIVED  
14 AUG 1942

043652

12th August, 1942.

Dear Sir,

I desire to inform you that, at the request of the Department of External Affairs, a packet containing the ashes of Japanese Naval Officers, has this day been forwarded to you.

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*  
Secretary.

The Chancellor,  
The Consulate of Switzerland,  
422 Collins Street,  
MELBOURNE.

*[Handwritten notes]*  
H. B. H. 1418  
replies  
for Mrs.

*[Handwritten initials]*  
Pa H.

Navy Office,  
MELBOURNE.

12th August, 1942.

"SWISS CONSULATE"

Received from the Department of the Navy  
one package marked J 4.

CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND

*P. Chabry*

.....  
signature.  
CHANCELLOR



DEPT. OF NAVY  
1877/13/320  
SECRET

TO A.C.N.B. 59

FROM NOIG SYDNEY

{P/L  
CODE  
CYPHER

N CYPHER X (GEN)

METHOD OF TRANSMISSION

TPR.

DATE SENT

11/8/42

DATE REC/D

T.O.O. 2245Z/11

**IMPORTANT**

**SECRET**

*Check for Indexing*

MY 0149/11 AND ACNB 0659/11.

PACKAGE CONTAINING ASHES DESPATCHED COURIER MAIL A M TODAY

WEDNESDAY MARKED J4. THE SECRETARY NAVAL BOARD FOR TRANSMISSION

TO SWISS CONSUL

*for 15/8  
HN*

*Pl attach letter to Consul  
for Switzerland.*

*~~HN~~ HN*

*for 15/8  
HN*

Distribution:

- 1st N.M.
- 2nd N.M.
- D.C.N.S.
- D.N.I.
- H.N.B.
- RECS. \_\_\_\_\_

ADM/NS.

NAVY OFFICE—COPY OF MESSAGE

DEPT. OF NAVY  
1877/13/320  
SECRET

TO H.O.C.S. 802.

FROM N.B.

F/L. CODE P.L.  
CYPHER

METHOD OF TRANSMISSION

TPR.

DATE SENT

11/8/48.

DATE REC/D

T.O.O.0659Z/11.

**IMPORTANT**

SECRET.

YOUR 0149Z/11. APPROVED.

(RETURN OF ASHES OF JAP. PERSONNEL).

Distribution:

- 1st.N.H.
- 2nd.N.H.
- D.C.N.S.
- D.N.I.
- H.O.F.N.
- C.RECS.

DEPT OF NAVY  
SECRET  
1877 13 320

TO A.C.N.B. 15

FROM NOIC SYDNEY

F/L  
CODE  
CYPHER

CYPHER X (GEN)

METHOD OF TRANSMISSION TPR.

DATE SENT

11/8/42

DATE REC'D

T.O.O. 0149Z/11

IMPORTANT

SECRET

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE CONSUL GENERAL FOR SWITZERLAND THAT THE DEPT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAVE APPROVED OF THE RETURN OF THE ASHES OF THE JAPANESE PERSONNEL OF THE MIDGET SUBMARINES TO JAPAN BY EXCHANGE VESSEL LEAVING MELBOURNE ON THURSDAY THIRTEENTH AUGUST. REQUEST CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL FOR NAMES TO BE RELEASED AND ASHES DESPATCHED TO SWISS CONSUL IN MELBOURNE

- 1st N.M.
- 2nd N.M.
- D.C.N.S.
- D.N.I.
- H.N.B.
- RECS.

Distribution:

1877/13/318

Note re names

"I-27 by stealth" by Hugh Clarke and  
Takeshi Yamashita given the names as follows:

I-27 (referred to Lieutenant KENSHI CHUMA  
as I-27) (referred to as I-27) Petty Officer TAKESHI OHMORI

I-22 (referred to Lieutenant KEIU MATSUO  
as I-22) (referred to as I-22) Petty Officer MASAO TSUZUKU.

See book for further information (copy  
held in historical section).

JM  
2/5/73

# Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy

DEPT OF NAVY  
SECRET  
1877 13 318

30 JUN 1942  
REAR-ADMIRAL  
XIN-CHARGE, H.M.A. NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS, SYDNEY,

To THE SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE.

No. B.S.1537/641/46.

Date 25th June, 1942.

SUBJECT NAMES OF JAPANESE WHOSE BODIES WERE RECOVERED  
FROM JAPANESE MIDGET SUBMARINES.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Be pleased to inform the Naval Board that the bodies of four Japanese were recovered from the two midget submarine raised from the bed of Sydney Harbour on the 5th and 6th of June, 1942.

2. From the uniforms and identification marks thereon, the names of the members of the crews are as follows :-

From the submarine raised in Taylor Bay on the 5th June, 1942. (No.21).

- Sub-Lieutenant KENJI NAKAUMA (Cap with name "Sub-Lieutenant" on label stitched to lining found in submarine when raised). Photograph marked DB8/42.

\* ? Lieut. KENZŌ CHŪBA

1-7-42

\* as per  
log of name.

From the submarine raised in Taylor Bay on the 5th June, 1942.

- TAKESHI OHMORI. Photograph marked DB7/42.

From the submarine raised off St. George's Head on the 6th June, 1942. (No.14).

- MASAO MIYAKOTAKE. Photograph marked DB5/42.

From the submarine raised off St. George's Head on the 6th June, 1942.

- (Christian name unknown)  
- FUJIMORI. Photograph marked DB6/42.

3. These Japanese were cremated at Eastern Suburbs Crematorium, Sydney, on the 9th June, 1942, vide message No.961 (Time of Origin 0159/11th June) addressed Naval Board from N.O.C.S..

4. Neither the Press nor the Swiss Consul have been informed of the names of the Japanese whose bodies were recovered.

5. Photographs of the bodies in the Mortuary are attached.

*Dequithhead, Dudd*

A/REAR-ADMIRAL.

*The Japanese will know the personnel lost.*

*464 2/7  
124  
2/7*

*2/7*

*DNI*

*Recommended "no action"*

P.A.  
*[Signature]*  
6/7

*417*



D.B. 8/42  
Body of sailor removed  
from wreckage of Japanese  
submarine - Sydney Harbour  
7.6.42

Sub-Lieutenant KENJI NAKAUMA whose body was recovered from the  
submarine raised in Taylor Bay on the 5th June, 1942. (No.21).



D.B. 7/42  
Body of sailor removed from  
wreckage of Japanese submarine  
- Sydney Harbour - 7. 6. 42



Takeshi Ohmori

TAKESHI OHMORI whose body was recovered from the submarine raised  
in Taylor Bay on 5th June, 1942.



D.B. 6/42  
Body of sailor removed from  
wreckage of Japanese submarine -  
Sydney Harbour - 6.6.42

MASAO MIYAKOTAKE whose body was recovered from the submarine  
raised off St. George's Head on the 6th June, 1942. (No.14).

P. 8. 6/42  
Body of sailor  
From wreckage of Japanese  
submarine - Sydney Harbour  
6. 6. 42



(Christian name unknown) -- FUJIMORI whose body was recovered  
from the submarine raised off St. George's Head on the 6th June,  
1942.