

Topic 4: Australia under attack

Work Sheet 4G: Interpreting and Analysing Sources

The sources in this activity were produced during World War II. *Sources 1* and *2* are about the burial of the Japanese sailors who were killed in the midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour. They are newspaper articles published in *The Sydney Morning Herald* shortly after the attack. *Sources 3* and *4* are leaflets about the dangers that Australia faced as a result of Japanese attacks. Study the sources closely and then discuss and record your answers to the questions.

Source 1 – Japanese Dead Cremated

From: www.wv2australia.gov.au/underattack/sydarbour.html – Newspaper article (1) in 'Japanese Dead Cremated'.



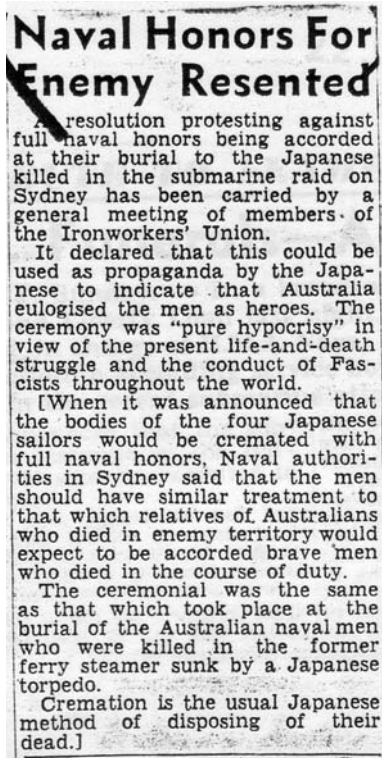
Sydney Morning Herald 10 June 1942

Source 1 – Questions

- From your reading of the information on the midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour, explain how the four Japanese crewmen died.
- What naval honours were carried out during the ceremony at the crematorium?
- What is the meaning and significance of the firing party standing with 'arms reversed'?
- Which people were in the official party for the ceremony? Who did they represent?
- Apart from the obvious interest of the journalists, what reasons might the woman in the chapel have had for attending the funeral?
- Why do you think there was no religious ceremony?
- What is a pall-bearer?
- Do you think this was an appropriate ceremony for the Japanese crewmen?
- What do you think is the significance of the last sentence of this article?

Source 2 – Naval Honors for Enemy Resented

From: www.w2australia.gov.au/underattack/sydneyharbour.html – Newspaper article (2) in 'Japanese Dead Cremated'.



Sydney Morning Herald 11 June 1942

Source 2 – Questions

- Look up the meanings of the following words: 'propaganda', 'eulogised', 'hypocrisy', 'Fascist'.
- What arguments did the Ironworkers' Union use in their protest against the burial of the Japanese sailors with full naval honours?
- Explain in your own words why the Ironworkers' Union thought the ceremony was hypocritical.
- What is the relevance of the reference to 'the conduct of Fascists throughout the world'?
- What explanation did the naval authorities give for burying the Japanese crewmen with full naval honours?
- What other reason for respecting the Japanese dead did Rear Admiral Muirhead-Gould give?
- Do you agree with the opinion of the Ironworkers' Union or with that of Rear Admiral Muirhead-Gould? Give a reason for your choice.
- If you agree with Rear Admiral Muirhead-Gould, would your choice be different if you had been living in Sydney at the time of the midget submarine attack?

Source 3 – The Maps He Made on Our Luggers

From: www.wv2australia.gov.au/underattack/broome.html

The maps he made on our luggers



We take people much at their face value in Australia. We are frank ourselves and we expect frankness in others. We have learned that this can be a mistake, and our teacher has been the Jap. For years he's traded on our coasts, his divers have manned our pearling luggers, his whalers have refitted in our ports. He seemed harmless enough, though most of us wondered why he was so keen about photography—why he was so careful when he made his soundings coastwise or in our bays and harbours. Now we know.



bring Japanese bombers to Broome

The maps he made for navigation then, bring his bombers now to our shores. His spies have told him how and when to strike. For this is no war of a moment's decision—this is a war Japan has planned for years. The infamous Tanaka Memorial was submitted, by the corrupt Premier Tanaka, to the Emperor on July 25th, 1927. It was described on the title page as "The Memorial of Premier Tanaka—a Japanese secret design for the conquest of China as well as the United States and the rest of the world." It went on: "In the future, if Japan wants to control China, she must first crush the United States, just as in the past she had to fight the Russo-Japanese war.

"But in order to conquer China, Japan must first conquer Manchuria (now called Manchukuo) and Mongolia. In order to conquer the world Japan must first conquer China. If Japan succeeds in conquering China, the rest of the Asiatic countries—and the South Sea countries—will fear us and surrender to us." Mr. Tanaka went a bit astray. Australia doesn't fear Japan—won't surrender a square inch of territory. Australia is ready, equipped, with her allies by her side, ready for a fight in which she would rather perish than lose. Jap planning, nevertheless, we shall throw the Mikado marauders back where they belong.

**We've always despised them—
NOW WE MUST
SMASH THEM!**

AWM DRL 1295

Source 3 – Questions

- What do the following terms mean: 'luggers', 'whalers', 'marauders'?
- According to this article, what information had the Japanese been collecting during peacetime for their attack on Broome?
- Using different coloured highlighters, underline statements which you would consider to be facts, and those which are opinions.
- How are the Japanese portrayed in this article? Consider for example the significance of expressions such as: 'Jap', 'Mikado marauders', 'We've always despised them, now we must smash them'.
- Is the term 'Jap' an appropriate word to use today?
- Who might have written this document? What is the writer's purpose?
- How has the writer used visuals and captions to convey his message? How effective are they?
- How would you sum up the writer's attitude in this article? Choose an example from the article to support your answer.

Source 4 – Leaflet



Leaflet AWM ARTV09061

Source 4 – Questions

- What is a menace? What is a 'Beaufort'?
- What is the menace referred to in this source?
- What forms do the menace take and how are they shown?
- What events in Australia during World War II help to explain this leaflet?
- What is the writer's purpose? Who is the intended audience?
- What does the writer of this leaflet suggest should be done to deal with this menace?
- What features of language and visuals does the writer use to convey his message?
- Which features do you think are most effective?

BEAUFORTS FACT FILE

The first Beaufort bomber was produced in Bristol, England in 1938. They are commonly referred to as Bristol Beauforts. When Japan entered the war in December 1941, six of these aircraft were flown to Singapore, but because of the rapid advance of the Japanese, it was agreed that all Beauforts would be taken over by the RAAF for the defence of Australia. During World War II they attacked shipping in all areas of the South-West Pacific and sank cruisers, destroyers and submarines, as well as bombing and strafing inland supply dumps and troops. They were also used for routine convoy protection and coastal reconnaissance.

Sources 1 to 4 – Comparing Sources and Drawing Conclusions

- What is the common theme of all four sources?
- Are these sources primary or secondary sources? Why is this question significant?
- Would the writer of *Source 3* support the opinion of the Ironworkers' Union or the opinion of the naval authorities (*Source 2*)?
- How are *Sources 3* and *4* similar?
- How are *Sources 3* and *4* different in their message and the way it is conveyed?
- Which of the two sources (*3* and *4*) is more effective in getting its message across? Explain your answer.
- Which of these sources are the most factual? Which are the least factual?
- What do you understand by the term 'propaganda'?
- Could any of these sources be classed as propaganda? Give examples from the source/s to support your answer.
- How would a historian researching Australia's response to Japanese attacks during World War II find these sources useful?