

MU
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AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MARITIME MUSEUM

MISSION

THE RAGTAG FLEET



Exhibition for Hire



In 1942 a ragtag flotilla of Australian freighters, fishing trawlers, tugs, ketches, schooners and launches was assembled to sail under the American flag.

A Small Ships Section salvage crew on a floating crane in Lae Harbour, New Guinea including US Army, Australian civilian and Australian Seamen Apprentices. Australian War Memorial

As Mission X of the US Army Small Ships Section they plied deadly waters from Queensland to Papua New Guinea and beyond, being bombed and strafed, hiding by day, landing troops and supplies by night and returning with the wounded and dead.

Deemed too old, too young or unfit for regular service, skippers and crew enlisted from coastal towns and villages across south-east Australia. They had the know-how and bravery to navigate the shallow bays, reefs and estuaries of the tropics and establish a lifeline to American and Allied troops in the war against Japan.

The *Mission X* exhibition presents this little known story of daring and courage by Australians during the Second World War.

Audience

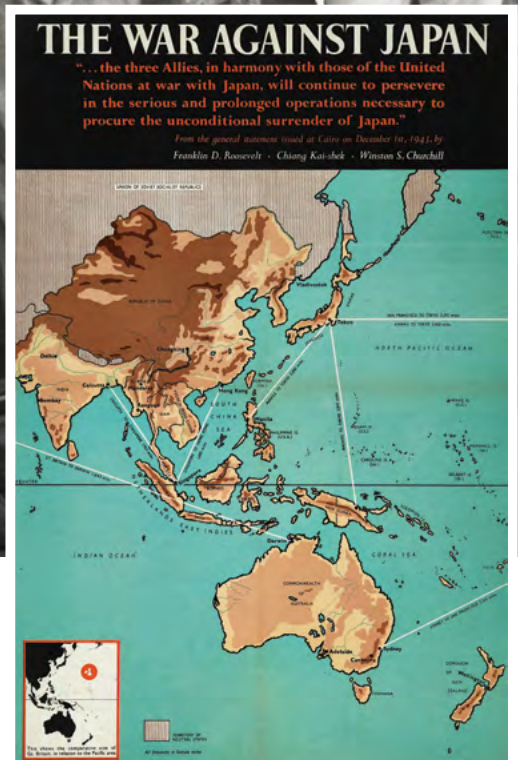
- The families and communities of the boat builders, owners, captains and crew that built, crewed and supplied the Small Ships
- High school students studying WWII in the national curriculum

Key objects and experiences

- Ten pull up banners
- One video (optional)

Supporting materials

- Education resources
- Media release template
- Exhibition logos



Poster, *The War Against Japan*, issued by His Majesty's Stationery Office, UK, 1943. ANMM collection.

Fees

- Free (venues to pay for freight)
- Available now

Size

Approx. 15 square metres

Contact

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Exhibition produced by

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Australian National Maritime Museum acknowledges all traditional custodians of the lands and waters throughout Australia and pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to elders both past and present.