

From the Archives

"Every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old."

Matt. 13.52

Monday 6th December 2010

Vol. 2 No. 7

Editorial: Many of us may have seen the telemovie "Sisters of War" on ABCTV a few weeks ago. It tells the story of the Japanese invasion of Rabaul in January 1942, the occupation of the Catholic Mission Vunapope, the suffering of the missionaries, soldiers and nurses in the months that followed, the evacuation of the nurses to POW Camps in Japan; the internment of the missionaries in concentration camp in the Ramale Valley and liberation in August 1945. The experience of the missionaries is familiar to us because of our close connection with our own Missionary Sisters who endured the occupation and internment and because of our association with Bishop Scharmach who lived with us in his retirement at Mary's Mount after he had supervised the rebuilding of the Vunapope Mission after the War. The Vunapope Story is not so familiar to the world at large. "Sisters of War" brings it to the attention of the Australian people through the dramatized story of the friendship between the last Australian survivors of the Vunapope bombardment, OLSH Sister Berenice Twohill and Army Nurse Lorna Johnston. The interview with these two remarkable women, now in their nineties, which followed the movie, was every bit as inspiring as the drama itself. To relate the movie to the experience of our Sisters, this edition of "From the Archives" contains photos which you may have seen before but every photo tells its own story and the story never ceases to inspire. *Pat*



MSC Sisters in Ramale Concentration Camp 1945
Photograph given to us by Sr. Berenice Twohill OLSH in May 2002
Can you recognize familiar faces?

Front Row: Second from Left, Mother Hermengildis; Fourth from left Mother Clothilde; Third from Right Sr. Anscaria.
Could the obscured figure between First and Second from right be Sr. Placida?
Could the Sister behind Sr. Anscaria be Sr. Imina?
Could the tall Sister in the back row to the right, without glasses, be Sr. Friedericke?