



Freedom for MSC and OLSH Sisters after Captivity in Ramale -1945
Photo given to us by Sr. Berenice Twohill in May 2002

Left to Right: Sr. Anscaria MSC, Sr. Hermengildis MSC, Sr. Theodeberta MSC
Sr. Martha OLSH, Sr. Flavia OLSH, later changed her name to Sr. Catherine O'Sullivan

This photo appeared in the telemovie "Sisters of War" in the documentary section at the end. It is also to be found in a manuscript compiled by Sr. Francis in 2001 entitled "Stories by Some of Our Sisters, Prisoners of War of the Japanese during World War II". The stories were translated from the German by Sr. Brigid. Stories relevant to the invasion of New Britain, the bombing of Vunapope and imprisonment in Ramale are told by Sr. Theodeberta and Sr. Theodoretis and there is an extract from Bishop Sharmack's book "This Crowd Beats Us All". If you have a copy of this manuscript it is well worth reading. Details given by our Sisters fill out the story of "Sisters of War".

In "Robes Embroidered" you will find a story called "Freedom! The Sound of Coo-ee and the Taste of Bread" in which Sr. Imina and Sr. Jeremia recount their experiences of events from January 1942 to August 1945. Many of these events were verified in "Sisters of War", most memorably the Australian soldiers' "Coo-ee" call from the top of Ramale Ridge being echoed by the amazed missionaries in the Valley below. Allow me to quote Sr. Jeremia: "After the exchange of Coo-ees an Australian Army colonel came down into the valley to tell us we were free. Our dark camp was filled with jubilation. He told us the Japanese had surrendered unconditionally on 15 August after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The surrender came just in time for us. We heard later that a massacre of all the missionaries had been planned for 19 August."