

This letter was sent by an anonymous person in Australia who wanted to share some personal insights he had regarding Bottcher and the boats that were used during the Buna campaign.

One of the boat owners, the Boyd family, I have known for a few years now, I ran into recently at the local agricultural show (George Boyd, 8 Boyd St, Swansea, NSW) he had just published a Eastlake Historical Society tome with photographs of 1) his boat just off the beach east of Buna just before she sank 2) I have seen from the same source 20 part built hulls built by Boyd for the US Army all lined up on Boydie's Slip at Swansea, Lake Macquarie, NSW, Australia.

About 80 foot out of wood from the Awaba forest where my family had a mill. It was a motely fleet, I always thought that American TV serial , "The Wackiest Ship in the Army" was based on Macarthur's Small Ships Squadron. There is some US Consular effort put into this association because it was a commercial arrangement.

Robert COOMBES, is the representative in the N.S.W. Parliament/Legislature for Swansea Electorate also he was the Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia -- Bottchers old union in 1929-31. He can put you in contact with the Maritime Union Archives (or the West Coast Longshoremans Union).

The photograph I referred to was one on an American web-site so you will have to ask them about it ---- it's just that I found the Caption on it inaccurate Bottcher's best work when he was here was political. This whole coast was full of (anti-fascist) seamen from China, Indonesia, Norway, Yugoslavia, etc. The Japanese were dependent on stevedores and merchantmen from their occupied territories. The Communist Parties of East Asia were the most effective resistance to Japanese.

Macarthur's insistence on the re-establishment of Trade Unions in Japan after the War puzzled many who could recall his strike busting in the Depression.

The operation "Verona" files contain some disinformation --- the Americans had known who in Australia was giving information to the Russians since 1943. The Americans want others to think that they don't know. The problem there are so many useful things still coming out of Bottcher's work.

For example, Bottcher knew Tan Malaka. At the end of the war Tan Malaka tried to synthesise Islam with Marxism in Indonesia. A outcome of that was Darul Islam's constitution in 1948 was rather Social Democratic [sounding](#). It's why it's so easy to get inside Jama'al Islamiah throught the "Islamic Workers' Welfare Union."

I don't of course want my name on an open source Web-site. I wish to point out to you information that you can access and verify . If you wish to put any on your site feel free.

My daughter is in Barcelona, pretty much established with families that Franco thinned out so I could lead you towards documents that part of Bottcher's life. That would take you to Andres Nin of the COMINTERN's "International Red Labor Union" & Bottcher in the 1920s.

I am presently reviewing the US Archives Movie film of the Buna campaign that they have been kind enough to send me. The stills in Time magazine February 15, 1943 issue had accompanying movie film shot of Bottcher. This I know as I had Family (Australian Army soldiers) in frame with Bottcher (the pitch was joint American-Australian operation) but the FBI who already had a file on Bottcher may have censored the narration & Bottcher isn't identified to a broader audience.

As a side note: if you Google' Agate Collection, Naval Art Gallery', go to the site, scroll down to Australia & New Zealand you will find a portrait labelled "Shingleman Yan -Lake Macquarie Tribe"..... this is Signalmen John McGill or Biraban (Eagle Hawk): he sailed on old Boyd's boats in the 1830s.

I went to the funeral of an Uncle earlier this year. In 1942 as a 17 year old militiaman he managed to get up to Bootless Bay where he was enlisted in the AIF. His job was supervising the native bearers carrying an American Field hospital to Buna. But only as far as the Papua-New Guinea Border at the top of the Owen Stanley Range. I mention this because the political status of the Papuan natives was different to the New Guinea natives.

Papua was an Australian Colony ; New Guinea was a League of Nations Mandated trust territory. That's why the bearers deserted the 32nd at the border (or illegally became combatants alongside the 32nd.)