prisoner — in Australia

On a train to his office in Melbourne, a former RAAF Intelligence officer, Mr Alfred Wilson, opened his copy of the Argus, and saw the letter, which struck a familiar chord.

Mr Wilson had spent much of the war in Halmahera Island in the Torres Strait, supervising reconnaissance flights in the region. He recalled sending a colleague, Sergeant Gainns, on a photographic mission over the Wessel Islands.

The sergeant had seen shipwrecked seamen on an isolated beach. After being rescued, the men told him of the sinking of the Patricia Cam, and the capture of the missionary.

Mr Wilson wrote to Mrs Kentish to give her the sad news. On an impulse, he decided to act further. Using contacts in General Douglas MacArthur's staff in Tokyo, he discovered that the missionary had been taken to the Japanese-held island of Dobo, Aru Islands (now part of Indonesia).

Here, on May 4, 1943, he was beheaded by his captors.

Military investigators in Tokyo tracked down the commander of the base at Dobo, former Sub-Lieutenant Sagejima. Mangan, who had by now returned to his civilian occupation as a farmer.

Mangan, who admitted ordering the killing, was arrested as a war criminal, together with a Japanese rating, Petty Officer Hoya Kenzo, who had actually carried out the execution, and the civil administrator at Dobo, Kohame Shozukie.

The case was transferred to an Australian military court in Hong Kong. Mangan was sentenced to death, and the others to life imprisonment.

On the morning of August 23, 1948, 30 seconds before he was hanged at Stanley Goal, Sagejima Mangan was asked if he wished to say anything. He uttered the curious reply: "I thank you. Peace and prosperity to the British Empire."

PAGE 20: Honouring Pacific war martyrs.

TWO teenagers in a city ice cream shop yesterday were talking about skipping their usual cone and asking for a "Coalition split". I don't think they'd stock enough nuts for the topping," said a businessman waiting behind them.

SYDNEY is rebelling. Margaret Thatcher of Richmond found a brick in an automatic toll basket on the Harbour Bridge yesterday.

A Darlinghurst reader, who travels across the bridge about three times a day, will ask for a receipt every time, and a Glebe reader will put his $100 and $50 notes with which to pay each day.

TOURISM Minister John Brown announcing a new Sydney hotel development yesterday, told a newspaper reporter what a splendid view the hotel would have. At least I resisted the temptation to say how difficult it was for him to draw myself away from my desk in Canberra," he said.

IN State Parliament yesterday, Health Minister Peter Anderson lauded his Department's efforts in cutting cardiac surgery waiting lists. The Opposition heckled him constantly. To one heckler he yelled: "I will lose weight when your IQ increases."