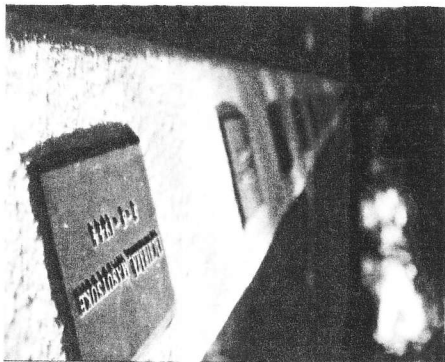
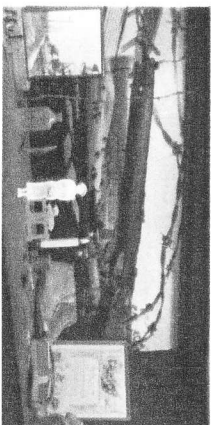


HOW DOES THE P.O.W THEATRE WORK?

The technology you see in the P.O.W theatre is well over 100 years old and is commonly known as 'Peppers Ghost'. It has been improved by modern electronics and is called Spectrovision.

Originally it was a technique conceived by 'Professor' John Henry Pepper of London's Royal Polytechnic Institution in 1862. By hiding below the stage, out of the audience's view, John Pepper illuminated himself with a lamp and reflected his image onto a sheet of glass on stage. When the lamp was doused, Pepper disappeared.

Clare (real name Roslyn Oades, an actor from Home and Away and Wildside) was filmed in a studio where strategically placed blanks were placed to mimic the position of the artifacts you see in the cabinet. Her image is reflected onto glass but due to the optical illusion effect her image is seen to be inside the cabinet where she can interact with objects. It does not matter where you stand as she will always be in the correct position.



THE JAPANESE WAR CEMETERY

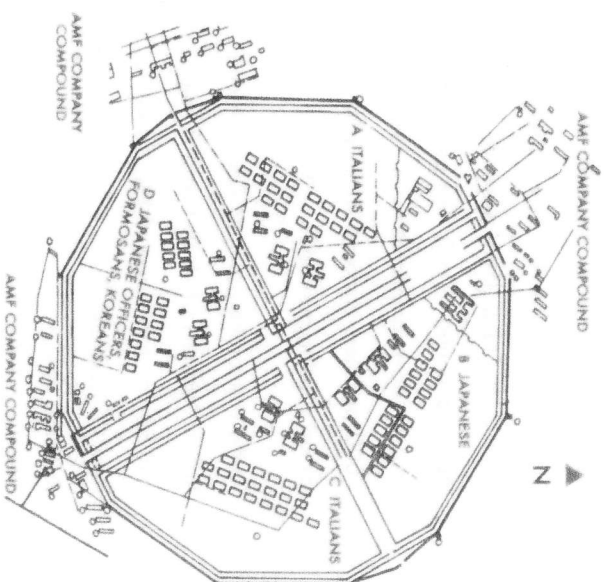
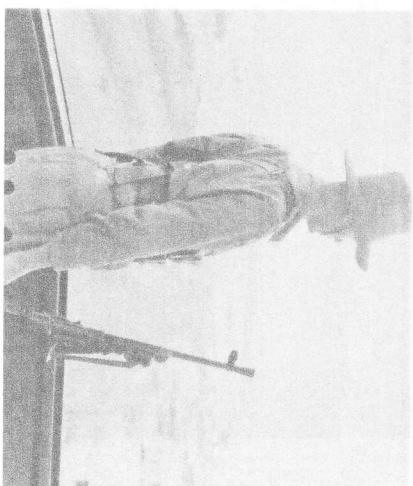
Japanese who died prior to the Breakout were originally buried in marked graves in the general location of the Cowra cemetery.

After the Breakout the graves were consolidated into a distinct area. After the war, members of the local RSL assumed the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the Japanese section of the war cemetery as well as the Allied graves.

In 1963 the Japanese Government was considering the repatriation of their war dead to Japan, however they were so impressed with the attitude of the Cowra RSL members that they submitted a proposal to the Australian Government for the establishment of a Japanese War Cemetery. This request was agreed to and the Japanese War Cemetery was officially opened on 4th August 1964. All other Japanese who died during the war, both civilian and military alike, had their remains exhumed and brought to Cowra. Other Japanese remains from the Second World War have been interred here since then.

FROM: COWRA VISITORS' CENTRE 2013

Cowra P.O.W Camp The Cowra Breakout

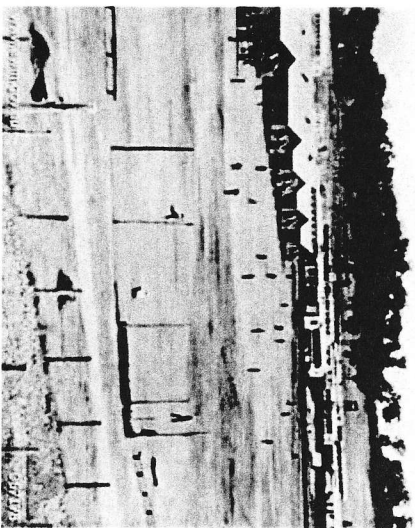


Cowra Township
(3.2 kms s.w.)

0 75 150 metres

COWRA P.O.W CAMP

THE COWRA BREAKOUT



In 1941 the Australian Army decided to establish a camp for Prisoners of War on the outskirts of Cowra. The camp became Number 12 P.O.W Camp (there were 28 such camps in Australia during WWII). The camp consisted of four 17 acre compounds each designed to hold 1000 prisoners enclosed within a twelve sided, almost circular, perimeter.

At the time of the breakout Camps A and C held Italian Prisoners of War, Camp D held Korean and Formosan Prisoners of War as well as Japanese Officers and Camp B held 1104 Japanese Prisoners of war.

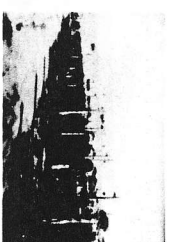
THE BREAKOUT

In August 1944, overcrowding in B compound, due to the number of new Japanese prisoners was becoming a problem. On August 4th 1944, it was decided to move all Japanese below the rank of Lance Corporal to the P.O.W camp at Hay. The Japanese leaders at the Cowra camp were told the same day. The Camp B assistant leader, Minami, who was the first Japanese prisoner captured by the Australians remarked, 'Very bad business, why can't we all go'. Interviews with Japanese witnesses after the Breakout determined that a series of emergency meetings were then held. The Japanese voted to attack the perimeter.

The attack was launched at 1.50am on 5th August 1944.

Responding to an evidently pre-arranged bugle call, the Japanese prisoners opened hut doors and yelling and screaming they fanatically rushed toward the perimeter wire in groups of approximately 200 to 300.

Two waves attacked the perimeter directly at the Vickers machine gun manned by Private Jones and Private Hardy. Another group attacked the eastern perimeter and two groups exited into Broadway. This group then split and one half attacked the northern end and the other attempted to link up with Japanese officers in Compound D to the south. Only one Japanese P.O.W escaped from Broadway, however he was shot and killed shortly afterwards.



Some of the huts were set on fire by prisoners overturning the heating braziers which resulted in the complete destruction of eighteen sleeping huts and two administrative buildings.

The general alarm at the P.O.W camp was given at approximately 1.50am at the same time the Australian Recruit Training Centre, located some two miles away, was alerted by flares and telephone.

Of the 1104 Japanese who occupied Compound B, 378 escaped through the wire of the outer perimeter and southern gates, the remainder were found in the Camp and either did not attempt to escape or were unsuccessful in their attempt.

Patrols of AMF personnel inspected the surrounding countryside for escapees. On 5th August an Australian Officer was killed by a group of Japanese on a hillside near the Canowindra road. During the ensuing nine days, 334 Japanese were recaptured, some over 15 miles from Cowra. The last Japanese were recaptured nine days after the escape. Several had committed suicide in the bush and two had thrown themselves under a train.

Casualties sustained by AMF personnel were: one officer killed; three other ranks killed; and four other ranks wounded.

Total Japanese casualties were: one officer killed; 230 other ranks killed or died of wounds; one officer wounded; and 107 other ranks wounded. Three more Japanese succumbed to their wounds in the following months.