



SECRETS & SPIES RESEARCH PROJECT

**MU
SEA
UM**
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MARITIME MUSEUM

WWII SECRET MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION

Blog by Pembroke School, South Australia, Australia

Koichiwa! Hiya! Rhytsas! Ello-hay! G'day mate!

My name is Jasper Dew, and I am currently a Year 10 student from Pembroke Middle School, situated in Adelaide, South Australia. And first, as my project is all about discovering the truth amongst highly-valued secrets, let me just bust one myth real quick - I am from the land down under, and we *do not* ride kangaroos to school down here. Australia is not as dangerous as its made out to be, at least urban Australia is - we tend to worry more about cyclists than brown snakes here!

Earlier this year, I embarked on a journey that would take me back through the years, in order to snoop around taciturn, bloodcurdling offices of Nazi doctors, investigate and reveal the truth about the alleged horrifying, concealed experiments that were performed on countless prisoners of war during the second world war. My particular focus was on the life and experiences of one unfortunate member of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (known as an ANZAC), waist deep in a realm of horror that is almost incomprehensible today - involuntary medical experimentation. Under the control of Nazi doctor Friedrich Meythaler, this ANZAC, alongside four of his mates, underwent incredible suffering for the furtherance of the Wermacht.

I explore this young ANZAC's story, the hidden experimentation conducted on him alongside his daring escape, the reasons behind the German drive for medical experimentation, the potential outcomes of Meythaler's secretive experiments, and evaluate their contribution to contemporary medical practice in my documentary, *'The Doctor will see you now.'*

My idea for the project was sparked when I picked up 'Traitors', written by Frank Walker - author and Australian war correspondent of 40 years. It firstly discussed the hideous human experiments of the Japanese Unit 731 on (primarily Chinese) prisoners of war in the Pacific. These accounts were gruesome and truly horrifying, and illustrated that medical experimentation was in the interest of multiple countries across all fronts during the war, in attempts to gain an advantage over their enemies. *Traitors* also documented the previously secret human experimentation on ANZACs during World War Two. My interest piqued, I scoured the National Archives of Australia for the one surviving ANZAC's records to use as supporting evidence and to gain a further insight into his life.

The article *Genocide Perspectives V* by Australian historian Konrad Kwiet further developed the provided a base for my documentary. Additionally, I conducted an interview with Frank Walker over Skype, where his expertise in the topic and relevant experience enabled me to fill in any gaps and create a piece I was proud of. I hope it can be of use to educate people around the world about secret war medical experimentation as a whole - why it was so prevalent, how it was conducted, who it was conducted upon, along with the ethical and medical issues and possible advancements created from its conduction.

Well, now you know a little bit about my project and myself, I hope you are excited to explore the realms of gruesome, undisclosed medical experimentation! I certainly am ready to learn more about the other secrets that the war holds!

Sayonara!

Jasper