

APRIL 23, 1943 Fr. Sheridan Porter, CM



In 1943, somewhere off the Bermudas, the death of Fr Sheridan Porter, aged 31. He was lost at sea while returning to Australia from post-ordination studies in Ireland. He was a brilliant student and held the degree of Bachelor of Science and the Diploma of Education with honours. Originally from Singleton, he did the first 18 months of his secondary studies at Holy Cross College, Ryde, with the Patrician Brothers, and then transferred to Waverley and the Christian Brothers for the completion of his course. He entered Eastwood in 1931 and was ordained in 1937. He then taught at Bathurst for a short time before proceeding to Ireland where he did his degree. As World War II continued to drag on, and he had by this time completed his studies and some teaching as well, his request to return to Australia was granted. The ship on which he was travelling, the "Melbourne Star", was completely destroyed by enemy action and sank very quickly. With the exception of 4 persons, all the passengers and crew were either killed or drowned. By his will made in favour of the Australian Province, Fr Porter provided several thousands of pounds for the works begun after his death, notably the College at Bendigo. He was an only child. His father died in 1925. His mother survived him for about 12 years and was greatly comforted in her grief by the confreres of the Sydney houses, during much of the time as she lived in the parishes of Ashfield and Stanmore.

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