Coastwatchers light is shining

MADANG, Monday: Australia’s “cloak-and-dogger” men who operated behind Japanese lines during the war, were honoured here on Saturday—the fourteenth anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific.

The Minister for the Navy, Senator Gorton, officially unveiled and lit the spectacular, bomb-shaped Coastwatchers Memorial Light on Kalibobo Point, at the end of Coast Watchers’ Avenue.

At sunset—6.27 p.m.—the 90ft. beacon sent its one million candlepower beam into the Bismarck Sea for the first time, honouring the Coastwatchers, living and dead, European and native, who took part in the war's most hazardous spy operation.

The public subscriptions—about 40 Europeans and 28 natives.

Some hadn't seen each other since the end of the war. They milled around each other, shaking hands, listening to each other's tales before the ceremony, then sat solemnly while speakers—Mr. Cieleland, Senator Gorton, the Chairman of the coastwatchers memorial committee, Capt. I. H. McDonald, and the honorary secretary, Mr. W. Brogden, bank, gave them the credit for some of the most outstanding work of the war.

About 5,000 people — practically every European living near Madang and many of the natives — attended the ceremony, which lasted for an hour and a half and was climaxied by the lighting of the beacon by Senator Gorton as the sun set.

NATIVES THERE

The Territory was represented by the Administrator, Mr. J. M. Cieleland, and representatives of the Royal Australian and New Zealand forces were also present.

But the most important people at the ceremony were the surviving coast-