

# Basic Detail Report

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**Title**

Nadin Bin Nawa, Quatermaster of the SS MANGOLA

**Date**

1950

**Primary Maker**

Brett Hilder

**Medium**

Watercolour on paper

**Dimensions**

Overall: 335 × 240 × 20 mm, 1 kg

**Name**

Painting

**History**

Brett Hilder born in 1911 was the youngest son of renowned watercolourist Jesse Jewhurst Hilder. In 1927 he became a crewmember for ships owned by Burns Philp & Co. He traveled extensively to the Dutch East Indies and South Pacific Islands, and eventually became a ship's master. During WWII he taught navigation to Australian air crew and attained the rank of Wing Commander. He flew on Catalina flying boats for the Royal Australian Air Force. After the war Hilder resumed his career as a merchant sea-captain. During the war Hilder started painting watercolours depicting landscapes, details and portraits of the people and places he visited. He also wrote extensively about navigation and his travels for magazines such as 'Walkabout'. Hilder is the author of numerous books on his own experiences and in 1966 published 'The Heritage of JJ Hilder' a book about his father's art career. This accompanied a national touring exhibition of his father's work organised by the Queensland Art Gallery. Brett Hilder passed away in April 1981. Hilder started painting portraits in Malaya in 1946. In 'Navigators of the Sea' he wrote that the natives of the East were 'very colourful' and it was their 'racial characteristics' that caught his interest. After returning to the South Seas he continued the practice and the many portraits he completed mounted to a catalogue of faces of the western Pacific. Hilder held an exhibition of his portraits in Sydney in 1950 and later exhibited works in Melbourne, Port Moresby, Honiara and New York. SS MANGOLA was built at Cockatoo Island Sydney in 1920 and operated by Burns Philp from 1925- 1957.