

Victory in the Pacific *75th Anniversary*



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**



Front cover image: Colourised photograph of a section of the crowd watching the combined services Victory Pacific day March through the City of Sydney, 16 August 1945. (Source: Australian War Memorial, 113739)

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INTRODUCTION

The Second World War was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. The vast majority of the world's countries, more than thirty nations, were involved and broken into two distinct sides. This included the world's great powers; and two opposing military sides. The Allies; United Kingdom and France, and China in Asia since 1937, followed in 1941 by the Soviet Union and the United States) and the Axis powers Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies announced the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Second World War on the 3 September 1939. The announcement aired on every national and commercial radio station in Australia. Over the course of almost six years, Australian men and women served and fought on many fronts. This included; Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, against the German and Italian armies. Closer to home the Australian army fought the Japanese in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

World War Two was the first time the Australian mainland came under direct attack, with the Japanese aerial bombing locations in north-west Australia and submarines entering Sydney Harbour.

War has always been a costly endeavour, and World War Two was the most expensive war in human history. The economic cost of this war has greatly changed the world by altering the power structure of the world. Though World War Two lasted fewer than four years, World War Two was the most expensive war in the history. Adjusted for inflation to today's dollars, the war cost over \$4 trillion.

Neera Sahni

World War Two Timeline

Events in the Pacific

Neera Sahni

1939

14 June	Japanese blockade British concession at Tientsin, China
22 August	Soviet Union and Germany sign non-aggression pact
1 September	Germany invades Poland
3 September	<p>Britain, France, New Zealand and Australia declare war on Germany</p> <p>Australian Prime minister Robert Menzies declared that Australia was at war:</p> <p><i>Fellow Australians, it is my melancholy duty to inform you officially that, in consequence of a persistence by Germany in her invasion of Poland, Great Britain has declared war upon her, and that, as a result, Australia is also at war. No harder task can fall to the lot of a democratic leader than to make such an announcement ...</i></p> <p>(Extract from prime minister Robert Menzies's announcement of war speech, 1939)</p>
12 September	Enlistment for 2 New Zealand Expeditionary Force (2 NZEF) begins
3 October	First Echelon, 2 NZEF training begins at Burnham, Trentham, Hopuhopu and Papakura
23 November	Major-General Bernard Freyberg is appointed to command 2 NZEF
13 December	Battle of the River Plate - New Zealand cruiser HMS <i>Achilles</i> involved in battle with German pocket battleship <i>Admiral Graf Spee</i>

1940

5 January	First Echelon embarks for the Middle East
5 June	New Zealand begins raising an infantry brigade group for Fiji
10 June	Italy declares war on Great Britain and France
11 June	Australia, New Zealand and South Africa declare war on Italy
20 August	German raider <i>Orion</i> sinks the steamer <i>Turakina</i> off Cape Egmont
10 September	Advance party of 8 Infantry Battalion leave for Fiji
27 September	Tripartite (Axis) Pact signed by Germany, Italy and Japan
3 November	HQ 8 Infantry Brigade established in Fiji
25 November	Steamer <i>Holmwood</i> sunk by German raiders off Chatham Islands
27 November	<i>Rangitane</i> sunk by German raiders 480km from East Cape
8 December	New Zealand steamer <i>Komata</i> sunk by German raiders off Nauru Island

1941

3 March	Bulk of 2 NZEF now in the Middle East
25-27 July	Britain, Australia, New Zealand and United States freeze Japanese assets
28 July	Japanese troops move into southern Indo-China
18 October	General Tojo Hideki forms Cabinet in Japan
7 December	Japanese attack Pearl Harbor
7 - 8 December	Japanese troops land in Thailand and north-eastern Malaya
8 December	Britain, USA, and New Zealand declare war on Japan
18 December	Japanese land in Hong Kong
22 December	Japanese land in the Philippines

23 December	New Zealanders serving with 67 Squadron RAF have first encounter with enemy during Japanese air raid on Rangoon, Burma
25 December	Hong Kong falls to Japanese troops
31 December	Martial law declared in Singapore

1942

2 January	Japanese occupy Manila
3 January	488 Sqn RNZAF in action at Singapore
10 January	More New Zealand reinforcements to Fiji
30 January	Japanese within 25 km of Singapore
8 February	Japanese invade Burma
10 February	US naval vanguard arrives in Wellington
15 February	Fall of Singapore
19 February	Japanese attack Indonesia; Darwin, Australia, raided for the first time
March	Japanese air raids over Australia
8 March	Japanese submarine I-25 sends reconnaissance plane over Wellington
13 March	Reconnaissance flight from I-25 over Auckland
18 April	US General Douglas MacArthur assumes command of the South West Pacific Area; New Zealand in South Pacific Area a US Navy responsibility under Admiral Chester Nimitz
7 – 8 May	Battle of Coral Sea; Japanese forces heading for Port Moresby turn back
31 May	Japanese midget submarine raid on Sydney Harbour
3-6 June	US victory at Battle of Midway effectively ends the danger of invasion of New Zealand
12 July	New Zealand freighter <i>Hauraki</i> captured by a Japanese raider
24 July	US assume control in Fiji; 2 NZEF troops in Fiji return to New Zealand
July	9 Sqn RNZAF deployed to New Caledonia

7 August	First US land offensive against Japan at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands
September	HMNZS <i>Leander</i> involved in Solomons campaign
5 – 13 October	US forces continue attacks against Japanese at Guadalcanal
15 October	Seventeen New Zealand coastwatchers and five civilians captured in the Gilbert Islands (now Kiribati) beheaded at Betio, Tarawa
October	3 Sqn RNZAF deploys in South Pacific theatre
2 December	Professor Enrico Fermi sets up an atomic reactor in Chicago
3 December	3 NZ Div HQ temporarily established in New Zealand; throughout December troops NZ troops sent to New Caledonia

1943

5 January	HMNZS <i>Achilles</i> badly damaged by bomb off Guadalcanal
22 January	Australian and US forces defeat Japan in the Papua campaign
29 January	Japan withdrawing land forces from Guadalcanal
29-30 January	RNZN corvettes <i>Kiwi</i> and <i>Moa</i> sink Japanese submarine <i>I-1</i> off Guadalcanal
18 May	Japan begins an offensive along Yangtze River
20 May	New Zealand government agrees to keep 2 NZEF in the Middle East to be available for operations in Europe; 3 Division in the Pacific to be reduced
12 – 13 July	HMNZS <i>Leander</i> suffers heavy damage when torpedoed off New Georgia
15 August	US troops land at Vella Lavella in the Solomon Islands
16 August	Heavy Allied air attacks on Japanese at Wewak, Papua New Guinea
3 October	3 NZ Division secures Vella Lavella
5 October	US force attacks Wake Island
27 October	3 NZ Division lands on Mono in the Treasury Islands
1 November	US invades Bougainville

1944

January	US invades Marshall Islands
15 – 18 February	3 NZ Division lands on Nissan Island; organised Japanese resistance ceases by 20 February
29 February	US General Douglas MacArthur's force invades Admiralty Island
7 March	20 New Zealand aircraft take part in attack on Rabaul
8 May	Japanese launch offensive against British troops in Burma
15 June	Main body of 3 NZ Division HQ returns to New Caledonia
16 June	China-based B-29s bomb southern Japan
21 July	US troops land in Guam
10 August	Japanese resistance in Guam ends
20 October	Philippines campaign begins
5 November	Allied planes bomb Singapore
24 November	B-29s bomb Tokyo
24 December	Last Japanese attack on Calcutta

1945

22 January	Burma Road is reopened
19 February	US troops land on Iwo Jima, Japan
21 March	British forces take Mandalay, Burma
1 April	US troops invade Okinawa
3 May	Rangoon recaptured
13 May	Australian troops occupy Wewak
26 May	700,000 incendiary bombs fall on Tokyo
8 May	VE Day (Victory in Europe)
1 June	First landing of US troops on Okinawa
20 June	Australian troops land in Sarawak
21 June	US forces capture Okinawa

5 July	Liberation of the Philippines completed
14 July	US Navy bombards Honshu and Hokkaido
16 July	First atomic bomb test in New Mexico
3 August	Japanese home islands blockaded
6 August	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan
8 August	Russia declares war on Japan
9 August	Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan Soviet troops enter Manchuria
12 August	Soviet troops enter Korea
14 August	Japan accepts Allied surrender terms
15 August	VJ Day (Victory in Japan)
28 August	US troops enter Japanese main islands
30 August	British troops re-occupy Hong Kong
2 September	Formal Japanese surrender on deck of USS <i>Missouri</i>

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World War Two Overview

Emma Stockburn



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

007494

Defenders of Tobruk, James Francis Hurley, Australian War Memorial.

The Second World War was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. The vast majority of the world's countries, more than thirty nations, were involved and broken into two distinct sides. This included the world's great powers; and two opposing military sides. The Allies; United Kingdom and France, and China in Asia since 1937, followed in 1941 by the Soviet Union and the United States) and the Axis powers Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Starting in 1939 the war directly involved more than 100 million people across the world. This war was unlike any other in many ways included the: vastness of the theatres war, the use of astonishing levels of industry, science and economic power to push forward the war effort and resulted in the deaths of more than 70 million individuals, including civilians as well as military personal. The Second World War

also saw the use of massacres, genocide, starvation and disease as weapons and the only use of nuclear weapons during war.

By 1937, Japan and China were at war though a formal declaration of war had not been declared. World War Two then is seen as to have begun on the 1 September 1939, when Germany invaded Poland. This was the conclusion of a complex series of relations and pacts, including the Munich Accord between Germany and Britain as well as Germany and the Soviet Union. But this action, the invasion, set in motion a promise made by Britain's, Neville Chamberlain and both France and the United Kingdom declaring war on Germany.

From late 1939 to early 1941, in a series of campaigns and treaties, Germany conquered or controlled much of continental Europe, and formed the Axis alliance with Italy and Japan. Under the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact of August 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union partitioned and annexed territories of their European neighbours, Poland, Finland, Romania and the Baltic states.

Campaigns then rose in North Africa and East Africa, and then Fall of France in mid-1940. The war then continued primarily between the European Axis powers and the British Empire. This was followed by battles in the Balkans, the aerial Battle of Britain, the Blitz, and the long Battle of the Atlantic followed. On 22 June 1941, the European Axis powers launched an invasion of the Soviet Union, opening the largest land theatre of war in history. This Eastern Front, known to the Russians as the Great Patriotic War, trapped the Axis, most importantly, the German forces, in a war of attrition.

Then In December 1941, Japan launched an unexpected attack on the United States, at Pearl Harbour, as well as European colonies, including Malaya, in the Pacific. The U.S. was swift in its declaration of war against Japan, and the European Axis powers quickly declared war on the U.S. in solidarity with their Japanese ally.

Japan soon captured much of the Western Pacific, but the Axis advance in the Pacific halted in 1942 when Japan lost the critical Battle of Midway, which was a decisive naval battle in the Pacific Theatre of the war. This battle took place only six months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1942 and moving into the next year, Germany and Italy were defeated in North Africa, in the Western Desert Campaign and then, decisively, at Stalingrad. This was the wars bloodiest battle with the deaths of about 850,000 Axis soldiers dead, missing or wounded in the battle. As well as more than a million Soviet soldiers killed, missing or wounded in the Soviet Union.

From 1943, the Axis forces were defeated in various locations including the European Eastern Front, the invasion by the Allies in Italy and a number of victories in the Pacific over the Japanese. These losses continued in 1944 with the Allies moving into German occupied France, the continued show of force from the Soviet Union towards the Germans. The Japanese faced a major reversal of fortune in mainland Asia, in Central China, South China and Burma. The Allies also disabled the Japanese Navy and captured key Western Pacific islands.

In Europe, the Germans gave unconditional surrender on the 8 May 1945. Germany had come to this decision after the capture of Berlin by the Soviet Union, the taking of German land by Allies and the suicide of Adlof Hitler.

There was then a call for the surrender of the Japanese Forces with the Potesdam Declaration. This was a declaration given to Japan by the United States, Great Britain, and China on July 26, 1945. The Japanese refused to settle under the terms of the treaty and in an unprecedented act of war, before or since, the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This act lead to the surrender of the Japanese on the 15 August 1945.



*Lae Area, New Guinea, 1943. Australian troops disembarking from American landing ships.
(Source: Australian War Memorial, 106542)*

It is estimated that at least 60 million people died in the war, many military personnel, up to 20 million but many more were civilians, an estimate of 40 million. Tactics used by Axis forces, many deemed as war crimes, claimed the lives of these civilians. This includes what is known as the Holocaust by Nazi Germany, this led to the deaths of 6 million Jews, 4 million deemed "unworthy of life" including the mentally ill, disabled, homosexuals and Soviet prisoners of war. In addition, almost 3 million Polish citizens. They were held in and died in concentration camps.

Both the Japanese and Russians treatment of their prisoners of war led to the deaths of many soldiers and civilians from neglect, illness and starvation. Including up to 8000 Australians military men.

Tribunals were set up by the Allies, and war crimes trials were conducted in the wake of the war both against the Germans and against the Japanese.

Australia in World War Two

Emma Stockburn



Beaufort area, Borneo. 1945-07-22. members of 24 infantry brigade aboard the unit operated jeep train en route to Weston. (Source: Australian War Memorial, 111852)

Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies announced the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Second World War on the 3 September 1939. The announcement aired on every national and commercial radio station in Australia.

Over the course of almost six years, Australian men and women served and fought on many fronts. This included; Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, against the German and Italian armies. Closer to home the Australian army fought the Japanese in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

World War Two was the first time the Australian mainland came under direct attack, with the Japanese aerial bombing locations in north-west Australia and submarines entering Sydney Harbour.

The Australian army was not involved in combat until 1941, with the arrival of the 6th, 7th and 9th Divisions joining the Allies in the Mediterranean and North Africa. During 1940, the Royal Australian Navy and Air Force had joined in operations against Italy and was part of the Battle of Britain.

The Australian Army were in the Mediterranean theatre of war from 1941 to the end of 1942. During 1941, they saw success against the Italian military and defeat against the Germans in Greece, North Africa and Crete. As well as success during the Syrian Campaign, which involved operations in both Lebanon and Syria against the French Pro- Nazi, Vichy Government.

One of the first major battles Australian forces were involved in was the Siege of Tobruk. The Australian soldiers were given the name, the Rats of Tobruk, for their excellent network of belowground defensive positions. These 14,000 Australians with the Allied forces held the garrison against German forces for over six months. And the port of Tobruk was still held by the Allies in 1942, before it was surrendered. From here, the Australian 6th and 7th divisions moved to fight against Japan in the Pacific.

Australia's 9th Division were involved and played a prominent role in the Battles of El Alamein. The Allied success in these battles were extremely significant in the struggle for the North African front. Under the leadership of Lieutenant General Leslie Morshead, the Australian forces diverted the German Field Marshall Rommell's attention to the north in El Alamein, Egypt. This small location opened the way to Cairo and the Suez Canal, a strategic position of immense importance. From July to November 1942, the Australians fought an immensely difficult battle and suffered over 6000 casualties. Nevertheless, their actions meant the Allies were in a strong enough position to force Rommell to withdraw or face complete defeat. The remaining soldiers then made their way to the Pacific.

By the end of 1942, the only Australians remaining in the Mediterranean were airmen serving either with 3 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) or in the Royal Air Force (RAF).

Japan became part of the Axis powers in 1942, from there they managed a string of successes and occupied much of south-east Asia and the Pacific region. Australia suffered a terrible defeat in Singapore in February 1942, followed by the bombing of Darwin. This threat led to the return of all Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ships to the Pacific as well as the 6th and 7th Divisions of the army. It was at this time that the Australian government was given special powers to support a total war effort at home and abroad.

Australia fought Japan on many fronts, including, Netherlands East Indies, Coral Sea, at Midway, on Imita Ridge and the Kokoda Trail, and at Milne Bay and Buna.

The Kokoda Campaign is considered the most significant fought by the Australians during the Second World War. On July 1942 Japan started full scale offensive to capture Port Moresby. The Japanese saw the port as a way to attack the Australian mainland.

The Kokoda Trail was a path that linked Ower's Corner, approximately 40 km north-east of Port Moresby, and the small village of Wairopi, on the northern side of the Owen Stanley mountain range. In terrible conditions, Australians fought a series of battles over the next four months. Supplies were scarce, and tropical diseases such as malaria affected the men's ability to fight. In fact, loss of life due to disease would end up being more than 4000. The tracks path cut over mountains and through around almost 100 kilometres of dense jungle. All supplies had to be carried as much of the track could only be travelled on foot.

The Kokoda Trail fighting was some of the most violent and cruel encountered by Australian troops in the Second World War. Victory on the Kokoda Trail ensured that Allied bases in northern Australia were not be seriously threatened by air attack. By January 1943, 625 Australians were killed along the Kokoda Trail and over 1,600 were wounded.

During 1943 the Australia's main battle front was against the Japanese. These conflicts took place at Wau, the Huon Peninsula and the clearing out of Japanese forces from Borneo to Bougainville. The campaign against the Japanese at the Huon Peninsula was a complex operation and ran until 1944. And for the Australian forces it was their largest campaign of the war. The campaign started with the amphibious landing at Scarlet Bay, by the Americans and the 9th Division of the Australian army. These were the soldiers who had fought at Tabruk. Over the next four months, the Japanese were pushed back north from Loe to Sia on the coast of New Guinea. The Allied forces used the technological advantages they had at sea and in the air to achieve the victories in the Huon.

The extensive campaign against the Japanese fought from Borneo to Bougainville took place from 1944 until after the war was officially over in August 1945.

The Bougainville campaign was a series of land and naval battles in the Pacific campaign between Allied forces and Japan. The campaign took place in the Northern Solomons. Australians were heavily involved from November 1944 until August the next year. The last phase of the campaign saw 516 Australians killed and another 1,572 wounded, with 8,500 Japanese killed. Disease and malnutrition killed another 9,800 and some 23,500 troops and labourers surrendered at the end of the war.

The Borneo campaign of 1945 was the last major Allied campaign in the South West Pacific Area, and the last for the Australian forces. A number of amphibious assaults, were carried out by the Australians between 1 May and 21 July. The Australian ground forces were supported by the US with the US also providing the bulk of the shipping and logistic support necessary to conduct the operation. The Australians landed at Tarakan, Labuan, North Borneo and Balikpapan. Guerrilla operations were also used by the Dayak tribesmen of the region and small numbers of Allied personnel inside the island. While major combat operations were concluded by mid-July, mopping-up operations continued throughout Borneo until the end of the war in August. Casualties during the campaign on the Allied side were around 2,100 while the Japanese suffered about 4,700 casualties. The Borneo Campaign continues to divide experts as to its effectiveness and necessity. And of particular controversy was its length, as the Australian soldiers were still fighting when the war was officially over.

While most of Australia's armed forces were in the Pacific from 1942, there were still many in the air force who stayed in Europe and helped the Allies there. Australian airmen flew in North Africa and the Middle East, assisting in the defence of Malta and over Italy in 1943 to 1945. As well as with the British over the land and sea of Europe for the duration of the entire war. Australian aircrews flew in almost every major air operation and the lives lost, 3,486, was close to 20 per cent of all of Australian deaths.

Australians suffered greatly at the hands of the Japanese, as prisoners of war. More than 22,000 military men were captured as well as close to 40 nurses, plus Australian civilians. This occurred during 1942 in the Pacific theatre of war, in Malaya, Singapore, New Britain and the Netherlands East Indies.

Due to the Japanese treatment of these prisoners, approximately 8,000 had died by 1945. This included the Bangka Island massacre of 22 Australian Army nurses and 60 Australian and British soldiers and crewmembers who had survived the sinking of the *Vyner Brooke* by Japanese bombers. Most of the Australian prisoners of war died of neglect, illness and starvation.

World War Two Financial Cost

Neera Sahni

War has always been a costly endeavour, and World War Two was the most expensive war in human history. The economic cost of this war has greatly changed the world by altering the power structure of the world. The table below outlines the approximate expenditures of more than 15 world nations and its allies during World War Two. The US spent the most on the war, just over \$340 billion dollars. In total as indicated, the war cost \$1,301.316 billion dollars. Adjusted for inflation to today's dollars, the war cost over \$4 trillion.

Wartime expenditures during the Second World War, 1939-1945 in US billion dollars

Country	US Dollars (in billions)
United States of America	\$341.49
Germany	\$270.00
Soviet Union	\$192.00
China	\$190.00
United Kingdom	\$120.00
Canada	\$15.68
Italy	\$94.00
Japan	\$56.00
France	\$15.00
Belgium	\$3.25
Poland	\$1.55
Netherlands	\$0.93
Latin American countries (total)	\$1.00
Greece	\$0.22
Yugoslavia	\$0.20
TOTAL	\$1,301.32

World War Two Casualty List

Neera Sahni

Nearly every country and territory in the world participated in World War Two. Most were neutral at the beginning, but only a few nations remained neutral to the end. The Second World War pitted two alliances against each other, the Axis powers and the Allied powers; the U.S having served 16 million men, Germany serving 13 million, the Soviet Union serving 35 million and Japan serving 6 million. With millions serving in other countries, an estimated 300 million soldiers saw combat. A total of 72 million people died with the lowest estimate being 40 million dead and the highest estimate being 120 million dead. The statistics on World War Two casualties are inexact. Only for the United States and the British Commonwealth can official figures showing killed, wounded, prisoners or missing for the armed forces be cited with any degree of assurance. For most other nations, only estimates of varying reliability exist. Statistical accounting broke down in both Allied and Axis nations when whole armies were surrendered or dispersed. Guerrilla warfare, changes in international boundaries, and mass shifts in population vastly complicated postwar efforts to arrive at accurate figures even for the total dead from all causes.

Allied Powers

Country	Killed, died of wounds	Military wounded	Prisoners or missing	Civilian deaths due to war	Estimated total deaths
Belgium	12,000	—	—	76,000	88,000
Brazil	943	4,222	—	1,000	1,943
British Commonwealth	373,372	475,047	251,724	92,673	466,000
Australia	23,365	39,803	32,393	1,000	24,365
Canada	37,476	53,174	10,888	1,600	39,076
India	87,000	64,354	91,243	2,000	89,000

New Zealand	10,033	19,314	10,582	—	10,033
South Africa	6,840	14,363	16,430	—	6,840
United Kingdom	264,443	277,077	213,919	92,673	357,000
Colonies	6,877	6,972	22,323	—	7,000
China	1,310,224	1,752,951	115,248	15,000	1,325,224
Czechoslovakia	10,000	—	—	215,000	225,000
Denmark	1,800	—	—	2,000	4,000
France	213,324	400,000	—	350,000	563,324
Greece	88,300	—	—	325,000	413,000
Netherlands	7,900	2,860	—	200,000	208,000
Norway	3,000	—	—	7,000	10,000
Poland	123,178	236,606	420,760	5,675,000	5,800,000
Philippines	27,000	—	—	91,000	118,000
United States	292,131	671,801	139,709	6,000	298,000
U.S.S.R.	11,000,000	—	—	7,000,000	18,000,000
Yugoslavia	305,000	425,000	—	1,200,000	1,505,000

Axis Powers

Country	Killed, died of wounds	Military wounded	Prisoners or missing	Civilian deaths due to war	Estimated total deaths
Bulgaria	10,000	—	—	10,000	20,000
Finland	82,000	50,000	—	2,000	84,000
Germany	3,500,000	5,000,000	3,400,000	780,000	4,200,000
Hungary	200,000	—	170,000	290,000	490,000
Italy	242,232	66,000	350,000	152,941	395,173
Japan	1,300,000	4,000,000	810,000	672,000	1,972,000
Romania	300,000	—	100,000	200,000	500,000

Victory in the Pacific

Anne Tsang



'Dancing man' pirouetting in Elizabeth Street, Sydney, celebrating the end of the war on 15 August 1945. (Source: Australian Screen & National Film and Sound Archive of Australia)

Victory in the Pacific or VP Day, also referred to as VJ (Victory over Japan) Day, is celebrated annually on 15 August since 1945. This date commemorates Japan's acceptance of the Allied demand for their unconditional surrender on 14 August 1945, months after Victory in Europe (VE) Day was declared on 8 May 1945.

For Australians, it meant that the Second World War was finally over. The news was broadcasted across every radio station by then Australian Prime Minister [Joseph Benedict \(Ben\) Chifley \(1885-1951\)](#) just after 9 o'clock on 15 July 1945:

"Fellow citizens, the war is over. The Japanese Government has accepted the terms of surrender imposed by the Allied Nations and hostilities will now cease. The reply by the Japanese Government to the Note sent by Britain, the United Nations, the USSR and China, has been received and accepted by the Allied Nations. At this

moment let us offer thanks to God. Let us remember those whose lives were given that we may enjoy this glorious moment and may look forward to a peace which they have won for us."

To celebrate 'this glorious moment' as encapsulated in the iconic image of the dancing man above, every city and town across Australia were flooded with people spontaneously dancing in the main streets as shredded paper from office buildings rained down from above, bringing traffic to a stand still. The 15 and 16 August 1945 were declared public holidays by the Prime Minister with the second day of celebrations giving way to formal victory marches throughout major cities.

Australia's involvement that led to VP Day

On VP Day, we remember Australia's war efforts from 1942 to 1945 in the Pacific region. We commemorate those who fought and the lives lost including:

- Some 40,000 Australians who didn't return home to their families;
- Over 17,000 of them lost their lives while fighting in the war against Japan;
- Some 8000 of whom died in Japanese captivity.

In total, six Australian divisions, supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), were in action against the Japanese throughout the Pacific including in Singapore, Borneo, Malaya, Bougainville, Papua New Guinea and New Britain. The most well-known being in the Papua New Guinea campaigns of 1942: [Kokoda](#) and [Milne Bay](#). Some other key battles across the Pacific include:

- [Battle of Buna-Gona](#) (16 November 1942 – 22 January 1943), after the Kokoda Track campaign in which Australian and U.S. forces fought against the Japanese beachheads at Buna, Sanananda and Gona.
- [Battle of Wau](#) (29 January - 4 February 1943) in New Guinea where Australian soldiers dubbed the "Kanga Force" successfully defend the Australian base at Wau.
- [Battle of the Bismarck Sea](#) (2-4 March 1943), a joint U.S. 5th Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force attack on the Japanese convoy carrying troops to Lae, New Guinea.
- [Salamaua-Lae Campaign](#) (22 April - 16 September 1943), a series of actions the Australian and U.S. forces took to take two major Japanese bases in Salamaua and Lae area as part of the New Guinea campaign.
- [Finisterre Range Campaign](#) (17 September 1943 - 24 April 1944)
- [Huon Peninsula Campaign](#) (22 September 1943 – 1 March 1944) in Papua New Guinea.
- [Bougainville Campaign](#) (1 November 1943 – 21 August 1945)

- [New Britain Campaign](#) (15 December 1943 – 21 August 1945) between Allied and Imperial Japanese forces around Arawe, Cape Gloucester and Talasea before responsibility was transferred to Australia.
- [Admiralty Islands Campaign](#) (Operation Brewer) (29 February 1944–18 May 1944)
- [Battle of Leyte Gulf](#) (23–26 October 1944), possibly the largest naval battle in history, with over 200,000 naval personnel involved
- [Western New Guinea Campaign](#) (22 April 1944 – 15 August 1945)

In late 1944, the Australian troops took over former American bases in northern New Guinea, on Bougainville and on New Britain. The Japanese forces remaining there, despite being cut off from their supply base at Rabaul, and often having to rely on their own resources for survival, refused to concede defeat. Both sides continued to engage in long and costly battles:

- the 6th Australian Division fought in the [Aitape-Wewak](#) region of New Guinea between November 1944 and August 1945;
- the 3rd Australian Division, together with troops from the 11th and 13th Brigades, conducted demanding patrols interspersed with some sharp fighting on Bougainville including the costly battles fought at [Slater's Knoll](#) in March and April in 1945;
- the 5th Australian Division undertook difficult operations on the island of New Britain, pushing the Japanese back towards Rabaul.

In 1945, Australian forces launched their biggest campaigns of the Second World War. Three military actions against Japanese-held [Borneo](#) were fought at [Tarakan](#); [Labuan](#)-Brunei Bay; and [Balikpapan](#). In these campaigns, more than 500 Australians death and more than 1,400 Australian were wounded.

After the Japanese Empire accepted their defeat on 15 August 1945. It was not until 2 September 1945, at a ceremony on the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, that the Japanese Empire formally surrendered. This became known as VJ (Victory over Japan) Day in the United States while in Australia we call it Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day.

Victory in the Pacific – Parramatta Connections

Anne Tsang



Men of Second Army Headquarters taking part in a Victory Loan March through the streets of Parramatta. Identified personnel: Lieutenant Colonel T. A. Goyne, Assistant Adjutant General (1); Captain D. B. Hunter (2); Major W. L. Christie (3); Nx18002 Captain D. Humphreys (6). (Photographer Sgt R. Rice) (Source: Australian War Memorial, [125470](#))

Like any major city and town in Australia, Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day has been commemorated in the City of Parramatta since 1945 marking the end of the Second World War. On 15 August 2020, to commemorate the 75th anniversary, the City of Parramatta Council is conducting a research and commemorative project to mark this significant day in history.

The following is a chronological account of VP Day being commemorated in Parramatta:

1945 - Inaugural Victory Celebration in Parramatta

The first official VP day celebrations in Parramatta commenced on the second day of the proclaimed holiday by the Prime Minister Ben Chifley. As promoted in *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate* (15 August 1945, page 1), victory celebrations were to be scheduled on 16 August 1945, starting at 11am with a Thanksgiving service at the Parramatta Town Hall.

This was to be followed at 2pm with a procession march across the city from Campbell Street to the Cumberland Oval via Church and Ross Streets. Bishop Hilliard gave an opening address and events for the children and family were planned for.

Soon the boys and girls were to be welcomed home.

1946 – Official Victory Celebrations

Victory Celebrations marking the defeat of Nazi Germany and Japan in World War Two for the British Commonwealth, Empire and Allied victory celebrations took place from 8 June 1946 in London. For Parramatta Council, at the request of the ex-servicemen and women, plans were scheduled for the Victory Celebrations from Saturday 8 to Monday 10 June, with business premises asked to decorate and use neon lighting to promote the Victory weekend event.

A Victory Fair was held at Parramatta Park on Monday with Bishop Hilliard kicking off the event on Sunday delivering a thanksgiving service address to about 200 people in attendance. Many wreaths were laid on the War Memorials in commemoration and respect. Novelty and vaudeville events, as well as catering which included 12,000 cakes, 8,000 pieces of fruit and 750 pounds of mixed sweets was organised at the carnival for the local children and their family.

At Rydalmere Oval, a procession march and sports programme was organised on the Sunday. The marchers included Ermington-Rydalmere R.S.L. and Women's Auxiliary, Ermington-Rydalmere Parents and Citizens Association, Ermington-Rydalmere Progress Association, the Boys' Club on a novelty float, the Girls' Clubs, the local Fire Brigade, Ermington-Rydalmere Council and children from Ermington and Rydalmere Schools. The children also received Victory medallions. A ball was also organised where ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen were presented with honor scrolls by Ermington and Rydalmere Council.

1948 - Third Anniversary of VP Day in Parramatta

On Sunday 15 August 1948, the Parramatta Sub-branch of the Legion of Ex-Servicemen arranged for the biggest VP day commemoration in the district. This was due to the general belief that there should be a special day to remember the fallen of the Second Great War and secondly to the growth of the Legion in Parramatta. A VP social event was held on Thursday 12 August with tickets.

1949 - Fourth Anniversary of VP Day in Parramatta

On 15 August 1949, Parramatta Legion sub-branch held a VP Day ceremony at the Parramatta Cenotaph. Members of the Legion and Parramatta Regiment first assembled at the Lancer Barracks before the marching procession was led by Mr

Howard Beale, M.P. to the Cenotaph. A brief service was conducted by the Reverend C. T. Judd followed by Mr Beale's oration:

"We are gathered here today to celebrate the victory which crowned our arms in the Pacific theatre of war four years ago, and to commemorate the brave men and women who gave their lives during the war. We sometimes forget that the war itself started in September, 1939. It is to Australia's eternal honour that she entered the conflict then, side by side with Great Britain, and that her sailors, soldiers, and airmen fought with gallantry and distinction in Europe and Africa. The battles fought in those early days form a glorious part in our growing national story. When Japan struck in the Pacific it was natural that we should thereafter be primarily concerned with the struggle in that area, and it was therefore in the Pacific that Australia's greatest effort was made. It was an honourable and magnificent contribution to the successful issue of the conflict, and the deeds of those who fought and wrought in Malaya, Timor, New Guinea, and in the air and on the sea those regions; also become part of our national tradition. For those who fought and did not return, the task is over and all the trumpets have sounded for them on the other side, but for us who remain another task remains we must bend ourselves with our utmost energy to the task of preserving the free and democratic way of life which is our heritage, and for which our comrades died. History shows us that liberty is never secure; it must be constantly struggled for. All of us here must play our 'full part' in, preserving our free institutions and developing the spirit of tolerance and fair play. Unless we do this, we will have won the war and lost the peace."

1957 - 12th Anniversary of VP Day in Parramatta

On Thursday night 15 August 1957, a Victory in the Pacific Ball was held in Parramatta City Hall. It was organised by the Parramatta State Conference of the Liberal Party to commemorate the day of cessation of hostilities in the Pacific war and raised £70 for Legacy. The Ball was officially opened by Brigadier F. G. Gallegan, former C.O. of the 2/30th Battalion which served in the Malayan campaign.

1995 - 50th Anniversary of VP Day in Parramatta

On the 50th anniversary of VP Day, the government of Prime Minister Paul Keating decreed that from 15 August 1995, shall be known as V-P Day (for Victory in the Pacific). For years, Australians, like Americans, have called the anniversary V-J Day (for Victory over Japan).

2005 - 60th Anniversary of VP Day in Parramatta

The Regiment, Museum and Association hosted two free special celebrations in Parramatta funded by the Department of Veteran's Affairs and open to the community.

On Sunday 14 August 2005, a special Museum open day with a Pacific War Exhibition, featuring vehicles open for inspection, and guided tours of the Lancer Barracks, the Museum and the Vehicle collection from 10am to 4pm. The Regimental Band will give a concert at midday, with tea and scones. Invitations have been issued to the local schools, and advertisements placed in local newspapers. Veterans are invited to be present.

On the evening of VP Day Monday 15 August, the 60th anniversary of the day Japan accepted surrender terms, there will be a wreath laying ceremony at Lancer Barracks followed by drinks in the Officers' and Sergeants' messes. All local veterans are invited; those who saw service in the Pacific Campaign will be presented with 60th Anniversary Medallions (those to receive a medal will have received a letter from the local member's office). The service will commence at 18:00 and should take about an hour.

2020 - 75th Anniversary of VP Day in Parramatta

To mark the 75th anniversary of VP Day in Parramatta, the City of Parramatta Council is seeking community members who have a significant historical account, story or historical items relating to VP Day.

If you, your family members or friends are interested in participating in the project, please contact Civic Events at civicevents@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

Victory in the Pacific -Parramatta Connections - Eric Tweedale

Anne Tsang



Images of Eric as a young naval convoy signalman, as an Australian Wallabies representative and as the oldest surviving rugby legend holding a photo of the 1946 Australia team (Source: Daily Telegraph, Western Sydney Two Blues and ESPN)

Eric Tweedale is one of Parramatta's favourite sporting sons and is the oldest surviving rugby legend at 99 years old and a war veteran. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy during the Second World War (service number A/6346). At the time, he was engaged to marry Enid Wagner, employed by Shells Oil Company and playing Rugby for Parramatta (now Western Sydney Two Blues).

In a Cumberland Council Library 2018 oral history project, Eric shared his experience of the war serving with the navy as a convoy signalman with. To hear or read the transcript of the full interview, please refer to the Cumberland Council webpage <https://www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au/oral-history>

Growing up in Merrylands and Guildford

Eric Tweedale was born on 5 May 1921 in Rockdale, Lancashire, England, the son of Alexander and Annie Tweedale nee Green. At 3 years old, his family immigrated to Australia in 1924 and settled in Merrylands, N.S.W. Alexander later worked for Arnotts Biscuit Factory in Homebush.

Eric attended Guildford Public School and then Parramatta Intermediate School. After he graduated with his certificate at 14, he worked for Anthony Hordern's in

the city while learning typing and shorthand at the Metropolitan Business College. It was through the College that he gained a good job at Shells Oil Company.

Second World War

Eric recalls when the declaration of war was made on Sunday 3 September 1939 at 9.15 pm, his family were seated around the radio listening to then Prime Minister Robert Menzies announce the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Second World War:

"Fellow Australians, it is my melancholy duty to inform you officially that, in consequence of the persistence of Germany in her invasion of Poland, Great Britain has declared war upon her, and that, as a result, Australia is also at war. No harder task can fall to the lot of a democratic leader than to make such an announcement. Great Britain and France, with the cooperation of the British Dominions, have struggled to avoid this tragedy. They have, as I firmly believe, been patient; they have kept the door of negotiation open; they have given no cause for aggression. But in the result their efforts have failed and we are, therefore, as a great family of nations, involved in a struggle which we must at all costs win, and which we believe in our hearts we will win ..."

Upon hearing the announcement, he saw his father breakdown having served in in the British Army during World War One in the Middle East as a private of the 6th Lancashire Fusiliers (regimental number 11618), 9th Garrison Rifle Brigade (regimental number 208757) and 4th Ceches Regiment (regimental number 202934). Alexander died at the age of 56 on 05 February 1948.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
TWEEDALE	Lan: Fus.	Pte	11618
	9th Brig		208757
	Ceches: R.		202934
Alexander.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	J/2/101 B 27	9142	
BRITISH	" "	"	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

Alexander Tweedale's British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards (Source: Ancestry.com)

Sporting Career

Eric first played rugby at Cumberland Oval in 1937 after legendary Wallaby forward enforcer "Wild Bill" Cerutti introduced him to the game. At 17 years old, he was selected to play first grade Rugby and he played for Parramatta (now Western Sydney Two Blues) on and off for 21 years.

"Whilst on the coast during the war, I used to get the odd time at home so I would go back to Parramatta and play. When I finally returned from New Guinea in July 1945, Parramatta and Randwick were the two leading teams, and I was soon back amongst it."

- Extracted from Eric's interview with Greg Growden, ESPN on 8 April 2015

Eric not only played rugby but also from age 16 played first grade cricket with Central Cumberland as a fast-medium bowler from his 1940/41 debut. He played with the likes of Lou Benaud, father of Richie Benard.

Post war and Wallabies debut

After he was discharged from the war, he returned to working for Shells Oil Company while also pursuing his sporting career. In 1946, he became a father to a daughter named Kay and was drafted for the famous 1946 Wallabies team that played against the All Blacks in Australia's first international Test post-war. Half of the team were returned soldiers. He played prop forward / front row forward and went on to be part of one of the most famous touring teams, the 1947-48 Wallabies, who did not have their line crossed in internationals against Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England. He also play for Australia until 1949, having represented his country in Wallaby gold on ten occasions, travelling to Britain, France and Canada throughout his successful sporting career.

With 13 representative caps to his name, the Lifetime Parramatta Two Blues forward also represented the NSW Waratahs (#794) from 1946-1950. Eric played with the likes of Sir Nicholas Shehadie and Trevor Allan in the post-war era of rugby union as a front rower.

Post retirement

Post retirement from professional rugby playing at the age of 38, Eric became involved in coaching. He was an active member of the RSL and various community clubs. He continued working for Shells Oil Company and later was transferred to the country where he was stationed at Forbes until he moved back to Sydney for Isabel's ailing health and they lived with his widowed mother.

After 20 years of marriage, Isabel died at age 42 from terminal illnesses. Not long after, his mother too passed away in 1964. Eric found romance in second wife Phyllis Addicoat, an American, whom he had met in England during the Wallabies tour. His second marriage lasted for 42 years until Phyllis passed away in 2008.

At the request of the Merrylands RSL Younger Set Committee to meet he reconnected with former fiancée Enid Bradshaw nee Wagner, his current partner in 2004, 46 years later. Their love story was featured in three televised news reports. Both reside in separate residence home in self-care units at Peninsula Village in Umina.

Today, Eric has the honour of being the oldest surviving Rugby player and on 5 May 2020 celebrated his 99th birthday.

World War Two Soldiers with Parramatta Connections

Caroline Finlay

Thomas Costello



Private Thomas Costello at sea, 1945. (Source: Australian War Memorial [018622](#))

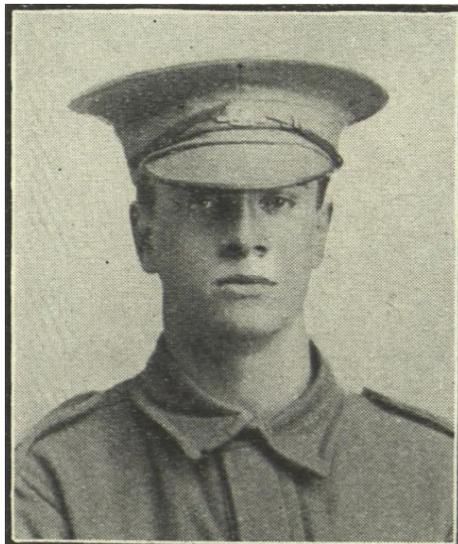
Private Thomas Costello was born on the 2 May 1917, and enlisted in the Australian Army on the 30 June 1941. The locality registered on his enlistment was Parramatta and his service number was NX37555. [1]

Thomas can be seen in this photograph in his 'doover' on board a Landing Ship, Tank (LST) on the way to Labuan Island, Brunei Bay, Borneo in 1945. [2] LST's also known as tank landing ships were designed by the Allies during World War Two to support amphibious operations by carrying tanks, cargo and troops onto shores with no docks or piers. [3] A 'doover' is Australian military slang for just about

anything. [4] Thomas is at sea on his way to Labuan Island, Brunei Bay, Borneo. In the final months of World War Two, Australian forces liberated Borneo from Japanese occupation in the only joint campaign of the war. The Royal Australian Navy (RAN), the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) combined forces in this highly planned and significant campaign. [5]

On the 27 February 1946 Thomas was discharged from the Australian Army, and his posting at the time of discharge was the 2/13 Australian Composite Anti Aircraft Regiment. Prior to the advent of World War Two Australia had very little in terms of air defences, but as the war progressed anti-aircraft defences significantly developed. Many anti-aircraft batteries were involved with the threat from Japanese aircrafts, but as this threat subsided anti-aircraft defences were reduced. [6]

Thomas Harrison Dobson



Thomas Harrison Dobson. (Source: Parramatta Soldiers, Cumberland Argus, 1920)

Private **Thomas Harrison Dobson** was born on the 1 November 1893 in Corsett England to Harrison Watson and Elizabeth Dobson. At the time of his enlistment on the 18 July 1915, Thomas was employed at Parramatta Murray Brothers as a piano repairer and tuner. He registered his mother Elizabeth as his next of kin, and they were living together at 52 Susan Street, Auburn. Initially, with the service number 3288, he was deployed to the 1 Australian Infantry Battalion 11 Reinforcement, but by 13 February 1916 he was transferred to the 53 Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt. On the 20 July 1916 whilst fighting on the Front in France it was reported he was a Prisoner of War and interned in the Prisoner of War (POW) camp in Dulmen Germany. On the 29 November 1918 he was repatriated to England and returned to Australia on the 5 March 1919. Thomas received the Star Medal, British War Medal and Victory Medal for his military contribution. [1]

Between the two world wars Thomas married Charlotte Noble in Mosman in 1926 and they lived in Warriewood, New South Wales.

On the 12 January 1942 Thomas reenlisted in the Australian Army to serve again in a world war. He was posted to the 2 Garrison Battalion as a Private with the service number N388475. He registered his wife Charlotte Dobson as his next of kin. [2]

The Garrison Battalions were the part of the Australian Army that was assigned to the security of the Australian mainland and coastal defence. They were mainly composed of World War One veterans. The 2 Garrison Battalion which was formed primarily for coastal defence was stationed at the Sydney Showgrounds, Long Bay and North Head. [3] It was a separate unit from September 1939 until 2 December 1943 when it was merged with the 41 Battalion, forming the 41/2 Battalion. They remained as a unit until they disbanded on the 17 December 1945 as part of the demobilisation process. [4]

On the 5 February 1944 Thomas was discharged from the Australian Army. He died on the 7 April 1977 at the Concord Repatriation General Hospital and his service was held at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium chapel.

Colin Walter Gazzard



Private Colin Walter Gazzard of Parramatta, NSW, in New Guinea 30 May 1944. (Source: Australian War Memorial [017213](#))

Private Colin Walter Gazzard was born in Parramatta on the 5 November 1922, and enlisted in the Australian Army on the 29 September 1941 with the service number N280827. He was discharged a few months later on the 11 November 1941, and his posting at the time of his discharge was Area Commandant of Liverpool. Colin reenlisted in the Australian Army a day later on the 12 November 1941 with the service number NX52887. He listed Betty Colliver as his next of kin. [1]

Colin was posted to New Guinea and was involved in the Allied activities in the Madang and Alexishafen area. Colin was also one of the Australian bandsmen playing the tuba in the military band. Alexishafen is located on the north coast of New Guinea north of Madang. On the 18 December 1942 Madang was occupied by the Imperial Japanese Army, and a few nights later they landed in barges at Alexishafen. The Japanese subsequently developed the area into a base and an airfield. On the April 26, 1944, after many missions, the Australian Army liberated Alexishafen. [2]



Australian troops who occupied the former Japanese base of Alexishafen. The bandsmen from left to right: Private Colin Gazzard, Parramatta; Private K.J. Mansell, Leichardt; Private F.C. Mansell, Campsie; Private W.Flynn, Granville. (Source: The Cumberland Argus) [3]

Colin was discharged from the Australian Army on the 2 July 1946, having been posted with the 13 Australian Small Ships Company. He died on the 8 September 2001 and he is buried at the Arakoon General Cemetery in Arakoon, Kempsey Shire, NSW.

Kenneth Malcolm Graham



A Section of the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit Headquarters (ANGAU HQ), Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea, 1944. (Source: Australian War Memorial, [072546](#))

Brigadier Kenneth Malcolm Graham was born on the 15 April 1900 to Thomas and Jennie Graham in Cecil Park, New South Wales. He was living at 25 Pennant Hills Road North Parramatta when he enlisted in the Australian Army on the 17 July 1942. [1] He registered his wife Winifred Graham (nee Barham), whom he had married on the 7 April 1928 at St John's Anglican Cathedral Parramatta, as his next of kin. His service number was NX111986.

By the time of his discharge on the 22 July 1946, Kenneth had attained the rank of Temporary Brigadier. [2] A month earlier in June 1946, it was recommended that he receive the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) by the Governor General of Australia, Prince Henry Duke of Gloucester. On the 25 January 1949 at Admiralty House Sydney, he received the O.B.E. for meritorious service and devotion to duty. He also received the Efficiency Decoration (E.D.) for his extended service with the Commonwealth Volunteer Military Forces.

A few years after he enlisted in the Australian Army, Kenneth served with the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit Headquarters, and acted as Chairman of the Australian New Guinea Production Control Board for the Department of External Territories. Following the Japanese attacks on the mainland of New Guinea, civil administration ceased in February 1942. The Australian Army began

inducting administration officers and civilians into administrative units, and in April 1942 they were formed into the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit. This unit was responsible for the administration of Papua and New Guinea until the end of the war. [3]

NAME GRAHAM, Kenneth Malcolm
 Award O. B. E. Reg.No. NX 111986 Rank COLONEL Service A. M. F.
 Recommended by Governor-General on 24/6/46. }
 Promulgated in London Gazette on 6/3/47. } G. H. File A. M. F. O/A 41(2)
 Promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette on 6/3/47. }
 Citation (G. H. File A.M.F. O/A 41(1)) Highly meritorious service & devotion to duty.
 Insignia received from London 24/5/48. PN LONDON. 1/3/49. G. H. File L/141.
 Insignia presented by The Governor-General,
 At Admiralty House, Sydney, On 25/1/49. G. H. File SYDNEY/25.
 Address of recipient on presentation date Lake Street,
PARRAMATTA. NEW SOUTH WALES.

Remarks

Other Awards

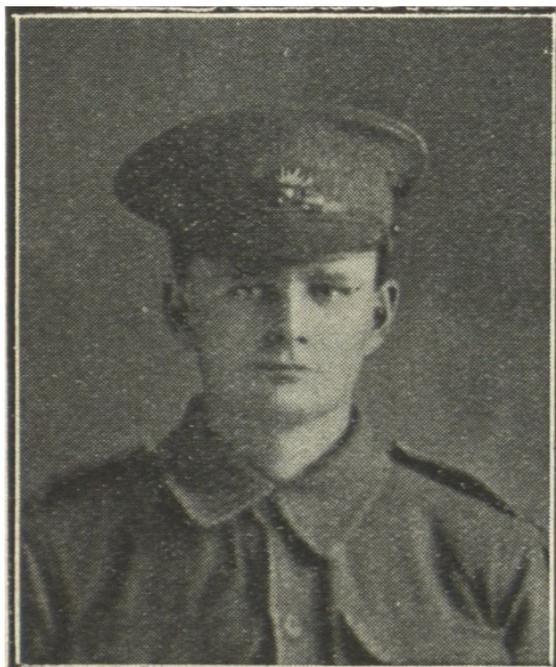
2376.

Honours and Awards Kenneth Malcolm Graham. (Source: Australian War Memorial R1568440)

After his discharge Kenneth was placed upon the Regimental Supernumerary List, and began his new career in an administrative position with Parramatta Clyde Motors [4] He was also an active member of the Parramatta Returned and Services League (R.S.L.).

On the 17 December 1979 Kenneth died and was laid to rest at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium. All the members of the Epping R.S.L., of which he was an active member at the time of his death, were invited to his funeral, which was held at St. Albans Church of England, Epping.

Horace John Joseph Lawn



Horace John Joseph Lawn. (Source: Parramatta Soldiers, Cumberland Argus, 1920)

Private Horace Lawn was born in Goulburn New South Wales on the 15 November 1896 to Edward and Mary Lawn, and enlisted in World War One on the 18 August 1915 with the 5 Infantry Brigade, 19 Infantry Battalion, 6 Reinforcements with the service number 2892. He was single, 22 years of age and employed as a striker, which was an assistant to a blacksmith. He was the brother to Herbert (service number 1978) and Alfred (service number 3341). The family lived at "Avoca", Harold Street, North Parramatta and were Roman Catholics. On the 2 November 1915 he embarked from Sydney on board HMAT "Euripides" with the 19 Infantry Battalion, 6 Reinforcements. He was taken on strength in Katoomba before joining the British Expeditionary Force in Alexandria, Egypt for France in March 1916. On the 26 July that year he suffered gunshot wounds to his hand, which resulted in his transfer back to England to recover, and by September 1917 he was discharged being deemed medically unfit for service. [1]

After the end of World War One, on the 17 May 1919, Horace reenlisted. His new service number was 85801 and he embarked for active service abroad with the Special Service Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F) 10 days' later, disembarking in England. A month later on the 28 August he was sent back to Australia per "Kanowna", and in November was discharged and his enlistment terminated.

On the 21 September 1942, Horace enlisted again to serve during World War Two. He was assigned to the 20 Australian Garrison Battalion, and his service number was now 436630. At the time he was 2 months short of his 47 birthday, a retired

lineman and married to Kathleen Elizabeth Lawn (nee Leedon) whom he had married in Parramatta in 1919. His address at the time of his enlistment was 8 Helen Street Westmead. By the 27 Feb 1943 Horace was suffering from vascular degeneration and was discharged being medically unfit for service not occasioned by his own default. [2]

A few months after his discharge Horace wrote to the local Parramatta newspaper *The Cumberland Argus* stating:

"Sir, As a soldier in the last war, with four years' service, and being discharged medically unfit after six months' active service in the present war, I wish to endorse Alderman Musto's remarks regarding the work of the Parramatta council in providing comforts both in Australia and abroad.

Myself and other Parramatta soldiers appreciated the gifts we received from time to time while on active service. I am stating this on account of the unjust criticism given to Alderman Musto in the 'Argus' of May 5."

(The criticism to which our correspondent refers was in a letter from the secretary of the Parramatta-Macarthur sub-branch of the [Returned Soldiers' and Sailors' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia] R.S.S. A.I.L.A. – Editor) [3]

In 1973 at the age of 78 Horace passed away, having serving throughout his military career with the 5 Infantry Brigade 19 Infantry Battalion, the Special Service Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F), and the 20 Australian Garrison Battalion.

Robert Arthur Douglas Marsh



Robert Arthur Marsh. (Source: National Archives of Australia)

Bombardier Robert Arthur Douglas Marsh was born in Parramatta on the 13 October 1919 to Claude and Jennie Marsh. He was his parents' youngest son, and at the time of his enlistment in Parramatta in the Australian Army on the 10 July

1940, he named his mother Jennie, who was living at 78 Pennant Hills Road Parramatta, as his next of kin. [1]

Prior to enlisting in the Australian Army Robert had trained as a day boy at the Lancer Barracks, and then joined the 30 Battalion Black Watch Militia Forces on the 22 June 1936 for a period of one year. [2] He also worked as a fibrolite worker at the James Hardie Company at [Camellia](#), and was engaged to Kat Steele a resident of Parramatta. [3]



*Second row third from the right Bombardier Robert Marsh 17 Anti-Tank Battery, 1941.
(Source: George Hill, [Lost Lives the Second World War and the islands of New Guinea](#))*

After his enlistment in July with the service number NX53975, Robert was appointed Acting Corporal on the 3 August 1940, which reverted back to Private shortly after, but was then promoted to Corporal also known as Bombardier on the 21 July 1941.

After being posted to several military bases around New South Wales including Wallgrove, Bathurst and Ingleburn, Robert was transferred to the 17 Anti-Tank Battery on the 12 August 1941. He disembarked with the 17 Anti-Tank Battery from the SS Zealandia in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, on the 3 October 1941. The SS Zealandia served as a troopship for the Australian military in both World War One and Two. Within a few weeks, Robert was admitted to a military hospital in Rabaul for pneumonia, but rejoined his unit on the 21 November 1941. Whilst Robert was en route from Rabaul to the capital of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, he was reported missing. It was later confirmed that Robert had died from malaria on the 2 April 1942. [4] Robert was buried at the Rabaul Bita Paka War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea. His name is also located at panel 19 in the [Commemorative Area](#) at the Australian War Memorial. [5]

Frank Phillips



Frank Phillips. (Source: Parramatta Soldiers, Cumberland Argus, 1920)

Lance Corporal Frank Phillips was born on the 6 September 1897 in Parramatta to George and Lucy (nee Fericks) Phillips. He enlisted in World War One on the 23 November 1915 with the service number 3012. His profession at that time was a Clyde Engineering Works clerk, and he listed his mother Lucy Phillips of Marsden Street Parramatta as his next of kin.

He embarked with his unit the 31 Infantry Battalion, 5 Reinforcements from Melbourne, Victoria aboard HMAT Anchises A68, and trained in Egypt before fighting on the Western Front in France which included the Battle of Polygon Wood. On the 1 October 1917 he was appointed Lance Corporal. On the 22 October 1917 he was wounded in action in the Battle of Passchendaele. After being transferred to England for medical treatment, he rejoined his unit in March 1918. He joined the X Corps Gas School a week later. On the 8 August, during the Battle of Amiens, Frank was again seriously wounded and was admitted to the 2 London General Hospital in Chelsea, England where due to gun shot injuries to his face, his left eye was excised. Frank returned to Australia on the 7 November and was discharged from the Australian Army on the 1 May 1919 as a result of his medical unfitness. [1]

On the 28 February 1925, he married Linda Bass at St. John's Anglican Cathedral in Parramatta.

After World War Two began, Frank enlisted once again on the 23 January 1941 in Parramatta at the age of 43. His service number was N103723, (the N represents New South Wales), and he listed his wife Linda Phillips as his next of kin.

Frank served with the 7 Garrison Battalion as a Lance Corporal during World War Two. The 7 Battalion served primarily in a garrison role, defending the Australian mainland through internal security and coastal defence. By early 1942 there were 12,000 personnel involved in a garrison role, and most were veterans of World War One. These personnel were organised into 13 garrison battalions, and in addition to internal security and coastal defence they also guarded prisoner of war camps. [2]

After almost 2 years' of service, Frank was discharged from the Australian Army on 1 November 1943. [3]

On the 12 November 1984 Frank died whilst residing in a nursing home in Ryde, and was buried at St John's Cemetery Parramatta. He was survived by his wife Linda Phillips, of 57 Marsden Street Parramatta.

Leon Hamilton Ravet



From left: Private Leon Ravet of Parramatta, and Private Bernard Kentwell of Cronulla, on the alert while on patrol duty with their Owen sub machine guns. (Source: Australian War Memorial 018320)

This photograph shows Private Leon Ravet of Parramatta and Private Bernard Kentwell of Cronulla on patrol duty on the 4 April 1945 during World War Two. This photograph was taken in **New Britain**, the largest island of the **Bismarck Archipelago** in the southwestern **Pacific Ocean**, **Papua New Guinea**. Both men were posted with the 19 Australian Infantry Battalion (South Sydney Regiment), 6 Brigade, 5 Division. They are also both holding an Owen gun which was an Australian **submachine gun** designed by **Evelyn Owen** in 1939. The Owen was the only completely Australian designed submachine gun of World War Two, and was first used by the Australian troops fighting the Imperial Japanese Army in New Guinea.

Leon was born on the 3 August 1922 in **Granville** to Edward Leon Ravet and Dorothy Hazel Cattell Smith. His mother Dorothy was given as his next of kin when Leon enlisted in the Australian Army in Parramatta on the 20 October 1941. He had the rank of Private with the service number NX195331 (N191106), and married Audrey Royal May Hickey in Glebe before the end of the war in 1944. [1]

On the 23 December 1942 Leon faced court-martial for being Absent Without Leave (AWL) from the 2 October to the 5 December 1942. [2]

The 6 Brigade of the 19 Battalion that Leon belonged to was scheduled to go to New Britain in September 1944, but rather than becoming involved in a major offensive they used active patrolling to confine the Japanese to Rabaul and the Gazelle Peninsula. By the end of February 1945 the 19 Battalion had crossed the Mevelo River and was patrolling east to the Wulwut River, and by mid-March they reached Bacon Hill which was captured by the 14 Battalion who had relieved the 19 Battalion. [3] With the capture of Bacon Hill, the Australians established a line of defence across the neck of the Gazelle Peninsula which they patrolled for the rest of the war. [4]

The 19 Battalion was disbanded in July 1945 and Leon was discharged from the Australian Army on the 2 May 1946. Leon died on the 23 February 2008 and is buried at the Iluka Columbarium in Clarence Valley Council, NSW.

Leslie Harold Saunders

<p>OLDSMOBILE Cars and Trucks</p>	<p>SAUNDERS BROS. GARAGE UW 8304 272 CHURCH STREET, PARRAMATTA</p>	<p>A.J.S. Velocette Waratah MOTOR CYCLES</p>
<p>PARRAMATTA'S LEADING GARAGE</p>		
<p><small>ESTABLISHED 1901</small></p>		
<p>"QUALITY AND A FAIR DEAL"</p>		
<p>COMPREHENSIVE STOCKS</p>		<p>Large Workshop</p>
<p>— FOR —</p>		<p>• •</p>
<p>CYCLIST</p>	<p>Modern Equipment</p>	
<p>MOTOR CYCLIST</p>	<p>• •</p>	
<p>— AND —</p>	<p>Qualified Mechanics</p>	
<p>MOTORIST</p>	<p>• •</p>	
<p><small>SPECIALISTS IN</small></p>		
<p>Re-boring and Engine Reconditioning, Oxy Welding, all classes of Mechanical Repairs, Hi-Pressure Lubrication, Car Washing and Polishing</p>		
<p>Home of "THE RIVAL" Cycles for 37 years</p>	<p>USED CARS — MOTOR CYCLES — CYCLES</p>	<p>SPARES AND REPAIRS</p>

Advertisement for Saunders Bros. Garage, Church Street Parramatta. (Source: The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate) [1]

Leslie Harold Saunders was born on the 30 September 1906 to Harold Oliver Saunders and Ida Fairless Greenman of 40 High Street, Harris Park. He signed the form for the registration of the Universal Obligation in Respect to Naval or Military Training, which was under the Defence Act 1903-1918, on the 27 January 1920. He signed as Les Saunders, and was listed as being enrolled at Parramatta Commercial School. [2] Not unlike his brother Reginald Oliver Saunders, he also became an apprentice at his father's garage in Church Street Parramatta, [Saunders Bros. Garage](#).

Lesley had his first examination for enlistment in the Citizen Forces on the 29 April 1924, and on the 30 June 1924 he was medically examined and found fit and allotted to the Australian Field Artillery (AFA) 35 Battery. He married Ethel Madge (nee Gray) at St. John's Anglican Cathedral Church Parramatta on the 12 September 1931. After World War Two began Leslie enlisted in Parramatta in the Australian Army on the 27 March 1942. He was attached to the 19 Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps, service number N192033, and named his wife Ethel Saunders as his next of kin. [3] When war broke out the Australian Army was four separate armies, with the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) being one of the four. The VDC was a part-time volunteer military contingent based on the British Home Guard, and was run by the Returned & Services League of Australia ([RSL](#)).

Leslie and his brother Reginald, who had also enlisted in the VDC, were both discharged from the Australian Army on the 30 September 1945. Both held the rank of Lance Corporal at the time of their discharge. After World War Two ended, and the demise of their father Harold in January 1946, Leslie and his brother Reginald inherited the Saunders Bros. Garage. Leslie also went on like his father and brother to compete in motor cycle racing events, and was also a member of the Cumberland Golf Club and the Parramatta Bowling Club.

Leslie died on the 28 February 1969 and was buried on the 3 March 1969 at All Saints Anglican Cemetery in Fennell Street North Parramatta.

Reginald Oliver Saunders



*Members of the 19 Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps Awaiting Inspection.
(Source: Australian War Memorial [125458](#))*

Reginald Oliver Saunders was born on the 16 January 1910 in Parramatta to Harold Oliver Saunders and Ida Fairless Greenman of 40 High Street, Harris Park. He became an apprentice mechanic at his father's garage, the well-known **Saunders Bros. Garage** at 272 Church Street Parramatta, and whilst an apprentice on the 1 February 1924 he signed the form for the registration of the Universal Obligation in Respect to Naval or Military Training which was under the Defence Act 1903-1918. He was fourteen years of age. [1]

On the 21 September 1935 Reginald, most often referred to as Reg, married Nellie Linda May Prudin at St. John's Anglican Cathedral Church Parramatta. A few years after World War Two started Reginald enlisted in the Australian Army on the 21

January 1942 in Parramatta, and named his wife Nellie Saunders as his next of kin. During the war he was attached to the 19 Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps, service number N192098, and by the time of his discharge on the 30 September 1945 he had attained the rank of Lance Corporal. [2]

When war broke out the Australian Army was four separate armies, with the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) being one of the four. The VDC was a part-time volunteer military contingent based on the British Home Guard, and was run by the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL). In February 1942 the VDC amalgamated into another part of the Australian Army, the Citizen Military Forces (CMF), but with different conditions of service. [3]

After his discharge Reginald remained a Parramatta resident, living for decades at 141 Victoria Road North Parramatta. [4] He was a member of the Cumberland Golf Club and Parramatta Bowling Club, and as a result of his keen interest in fishing he also became a member of the Parramatta Amateur Fisherman's Club. He also competed successfully in motor cycle racing events. [5]

Reginald died in Parramatta on the 5 January 1996, and is buried at Pinegrove Memorial Park in Minchinbury, Blacktown City.

Kevin Maurice Spurway



*2/4 Australian Infantry Battalion troops, Aitape New Guinea, 23 November 1944.
(Source: Australian War Memorial 083738)*

Private Kevin Maurice, also known as Morris, Spurway was born in Parramatta on the 17 December 1919. He was living on Webb Street Parramatta and working with

his four brothers at their father's Parramatta nursery F.E. Spurway and Sons, which grew citrus and roses, when he enlisted in the Australian Army on the 29 April 1940. His service number was NX13589. [1]

Kevin remained in the Australian Army for 5 years, eventually being discharged on the 16 October 1945. In that period his military career included being a transport driver, stretcher bearer, a gunner and a rifleman. [2] Whilst participating in internal security and coastal defence in Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory he experienced the heavy Japanese air raids that occurred on mainland Australia in 1942 and 1943. During one air raid Kevin was trapped in a flat-bottomed assault barge whilst the Japanese bombed defence installations. [3]

Kevin also served overseas in New Guinea, as did three of his brothers who also joined the Australian Army. He served with the 2/4 Australian Infantry Battalion which landed at Aitape, New Guinea, on 2 November 1944 to undertake its only campaign against the Japanese. The 2/4 Australian Infantry Battalion maintained its presence in the Aitape-Wewak region until the Japanese surrender and fighting ceased in August 1945. The unit then began to be demobilised, and by November 1945 was fully disbanded. [4]

After the war Kevin continued to live at Webb Street Parramatta, and worked in his father's nursery and as a labourer. [5] He also resumed playing golf with the Oatlands Golf Club at Bettington Road Oatlands. [6] He died on the 31 January 1968 and was buried at All Saints Cemetery, 56 Fennell Street Parramatta aged 49 years.

Richard Andrew Phipps Waugh



Richard Andrew Phipps Waugh.

(Source: *The University of Sydney Book of Remembrance Entry*)[1]

Major Richard Andrew Phipps Waugh was born on the 11 April 1876, and attended the King's School Parramatta where he was for a period captain of the day boys.

At the time of his enlistment in World War One on the 1 May 1915, he was living with his wife Elaina Mary Waugh on Marsden Street Parramatta, and worked as a medical practitioner at the Parramatta District Hospital where he was a member of its board. Richard's service throughout World War One was in association with the Australian Army Medical Corps, and he was enlisted at various periods with Number 2 and 3 Australian General Hospital and the Number 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Prior to World War One he had also been a member of the Parramatta squadron of Lancers, and took part in the Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 1897. On the 1 January 1916 he was promoted to Major. Richard returned to Australia from England on the 8 December 1916 and his appointment was terminated on the 12 February 1917. Medals received for his military services included the Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. [2]

After the war Richard served as an alderman of Parramatta Council from 1930 until December 1941. When World War Two began Richard continued his dedication to civic duty by joining the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) as Parramatta's Area Medical Officer, in addition to repatriation duties. [3] When war broke out the Australian Army was four separate armies, with the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) being one of the four. The VDC was a part-time volunteer military contingent based on the British Home Guard, and was run by the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL). It was initially composed of ex-servicemen who had served in World War One. [4]

In 1946 Richard resigned from the Parramatta District Hospital after 41 years' service as an Honorary Medical Officer and occasional President of the Board. Throughout his career he was also Captain of the King's School Rugby Union team, a foundation member of the Parramatta Rugby Union Club, a keen golfer who played with Parramatta in grade competitions, and he also gave many years of voluntary service to the RSL where he was a was a life member of the Granville Sub-branch of the League. [5]

Richard Waugh died on the 15 September 1948. He was a resident of Parramatta at the time. His service was held at St. John's Anglican Cathedral Parramatta and he was buried at Rookwood Cemetery, Lidcombe. At his service the rector praised Richard saying:

"Parramatta has lost a very worthy son in the passing of Dr. Waugh, who was a downright, sincere and kindly man. Especially during the recent war, he carried on when he could have been enjoying a well-earned retirement" [6]

William Thomas Anthony Watts



Corporal William Thomas Watts, No.76 Squadron RAAF, in the Admiralty Islands 18 March 1944. (Source: Australian War Memorial [OG0825](#))

Corporal William Thomas Watts was born in Forbes on the 29 October 1920, and enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in Parramatta on the 2 June 1940. William was living at 101 Church Street Parramatta at the time with his father

Thomas Watts whom he listed as his next of kin. William was trained as a Fitter by the RAAF and conducted his engineering training at the No. 1 Engineering School Royal Australian Air Force Showgrounds in Ascot Vale NSW with the service number 15423. Prior to enlisting William had been working at the Locomotive Workshops in Eveleigh for the NSW Department of Railways. [1]

William was promoted to Corporal on the 1 August 1943, and on the 3 September 1941 he was transferred to the No. 1 Air Observer School in Cootamundra, NSW. He was transferred again on the 1 August 1943 to the No. 76 Kittyhawk Squadron RAAF. It was with the No. 76 Squadron that he took part in the Allied operations in the Admiralty Islands around New Guinea in 1944. The Admiralty Islands are a group of 18 islands to the north of New Guinea, and the 76, 77 and 79 Squadrons were selected to garrison the Japanese occupied Admiralty Islands for 90 days from February 1944. [2] This was part of a campaign known as the Admiralty Islands campaign, and resulted in an Allied victory on the 18 May 1944.



William Thomas Watts. (Source: National Archives of Australia)

William was posted at the RAAF 2 Personnel Training Depot at Bradfield Park NSW, now known as Lindfield, at the time of his discharge on the 11 December 1945. He received the service medal the Pacific Star which was received by British and Commonwealth personnel who served in the Pacific between 8 December 1941 and 2 September 1945. [3] He also received the War Medal 1939–1945 for his military service.

William married Ruth Verlie Briscoombe in Sydney in 1945, and worked initially as a boilermaker's assistant and then as a plumber in the decades following World War Two. [4] He died on the 25 October 2003 and is buried at the Palmdale Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park in Palmdale, Central Coast Council, NSW.

World War Two Nurses with Parramatta Connections

Caroline Finlay

Isabella Mary Pinkerton



*Sister Isabel Pinkerton and Sergeant Archie Burchall in the Middle East, 1941.
(Source: The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate)*

Isabella Mary Pinkerton who mainly went by the name of Isabel, was born in 1913 as the youngest daughter to Robert and Sarah Pinkerton. After finishing school, she attended the Parramatta Domestic Science School and then a business college and was in the process of developing a promising business career when she decided to change careers and become a nurse. She completed the majority of her training at the Parramatta District Hospital, and became the first Parramatta Hospital graduate nurse to enlist in World War Two. Isabel was working at Goulburn Hospital when she received the call from the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) that she would be serving her country overseas.

Before leaving Sydney in August 1940, Isabel who at the time was a resident of Wentworthville, was farewelled by a large crowd at a ceremony at the Wentworthville School of Arts. She received a wristlet watch from the Wentworthville Patriotic Committee, from the Commandant of the Wentworthville Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Mrs Allen she received a handbag, and from the residents of Jordan Street, where her parents lived, she received a travelling case.

Isabel sailed with a contingent of the AIF as nurse but was quickly promoted to Sister. She served with the AIF in the Australian Army Nursing Service (ANNS). At the beginning of World War Two, the AANS was the only women's nursing service, with the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service (RAAFNS) and the Royal Australian Navy Nursing Service (RANNS) forming later. The AANS however for the duration of the war remained the largest Australian nursing service, and represented the majority of nurses who served overseas.

Whilst overseas Isabel served in both the Middle East and New Guinea. Throughout 1941 she was stationed at the 1 Australian General Hospital in Palestine. In May 1941 she was under a blanket burrowed in the desert sand with four other Australian Army Nursing Sisters, whilst enemy raiders rained down incendiary bombs all around them for five hours. During this period Isabel wrote to her parents:

"When I see how daring and brave our boys are, and how they stick at nothing in the course of their duty, it makes me proud to be an Aussie."

She also added that all the nursing staff working at the hospital were in excellent health, happy and in good spirits, and she paid tribute to the Red Cross, whom she said were doing excellent work.

After two years' active service overseas Isabel returned to Australia. In June 1942 Isabel received a welcome home party at the Wentworthville School of Arts where she said *"I wouldn't have missed the trip for worlds"*.

She also added:

"Wounded Germans with whom I talked said that they soon face anything rather than the bayonets of the Diggers."

In April 1944 Isabel married Colin Roland Coutts at Scots Church in Boort Victoria. Colin had also returned from the war serving as a gunner for the AIF in both the Middle East and New Guinea. A few months later Isabel received a formal reception and a Certificate of Honour from Holroyd Council for her contribution to the war.

On the 17 March 2001 Isabel died at her home in Boort Victoria aged 87, survived by her two children Jocelyn and Robert. She is buried at Tarnagulla Cemetery in Inglewood, Victoria.

Lilian Gladys Smairl



*Sister Lilian Smairl, Australian nurse who has been awarded the Royal Red Cross
(Source: The Australian Women's Weekly, 23 August 1941, page 8) [1]*

Lilian Gladys Smairl, who was born on the 11 January 1898, began her nursing career training at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Sydney. After working there for almost 6 years she was appointed to Parramatta District Hospital as a Sister in February 1924. In August 1936, Parramatta Hospital announced in its annual report that a new X-ray building with new equipment at the cost of almost 2,800 pounds had been completed. [2] Lilian, who had completed a three-month X-ray course at Prince Alfred Hospital was put in charge of the machine and paid an extra 10 shillings a week. [3]

Lilian was very independent, and by the 1930s was driving a car. She bought a Morris Cowley car with fellow nurse Matron Morse for 40 pounds, which required sand bags in the passenger seat to keep the car balanced when only the driver was in the car. [4] Lilian, who was described by the Sydney afternoon newspaper *The Sun* as having a magnetic personality and sympathetic nature, was also a keen golfer. Before her departure to work overseas Lilian had played golf for eight or nine years from a handicap of 19 at the [Oatlands Golf Club](#) on Bettington Road Oatlands. She was one of the club's earliest women supporters. [5]

In March 1937 Lilian left Parramatta Hospital after having worked there for 13 years, and migrated to England to enlist in the Queen Alexandra Royal Naval Nursing Service. She was registered by the London Royal College of Nursing on the 24 September 1937, and stationed at the Royal Naval Hospital in Chatham Medway, England. [6] Whilst she was stationed at the Chatham Naval Hospital, World War Two was declared.

From the beginning of World War Two in September 1939 until March 1940 Lilian served at the Chatham Naval Hospital base and was nursing on a warship in the North Sea, witnessing some of the worst sea tragedies of the war. She described her experience in a letter, saying:

"I haven't had much sleep lately, as the drone of the planes with bangs and pom-poms isn't exactly a bedtime story...We have a very mixed bag at present, including Dutchmen, Frenchmen, Norwegians and Poles. The Dutchmen were rescued from an oil tanker and were badly burned. I am writing this letter on my bunk at midnight, and the watch has just told me that the signal is up, which means that the enemy is around. I can hear guns in the distance, and the other night between the bangs I could hear the comforting sound of our men singing in the gun-turrets." [7]

During the Dunkirk evacuation from the 26 May to the 4 June 1940, Lilian served on a hospital ship and was injured. Her injuries resulted in her being off-duty for five months. She went on to serve on other hospital ships throughout the war including the "Vasna", and saw active service working at the Chatham Naval Hospital during the 'Blitz', the series of German bombing attacks on London and other cities between 7 September 1940 and 11 May 1941. For her service, Lilian was awarded the Associate Royal Red Cross Medal (ARRC) on the 1 July 1941. This decoration which was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1883 is bestowed on nurses in recognition of highly distinguished service.

It was also during her service with the Royal Navy in World War Two that Lilian acquired the rank of Lieutenant-Commander. [8]

Lilian died on the 9 February 1987 at the age of 89, and is buried at Waverley Cemetery, Sydney.

World War Two and Victory in the Pacific Day Images



A section of the crowd watching the combined services Victory Pacific day March through the City of Sydney, 16 August 1945. (Source: Australian War Memorial, 113739)

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C216197>



Men of Second Army Headquarters taking part in a Victory Loan March through the streets of Parramatta, NSW, 1945. Identified personnel: Major C. K. Rutherford, Camp Commandant Headquarters Second Army (1); (Photographer Sgt R. Rice) (Source: Australian War Memorial, 125461) <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C225815>



Men of Second Army Headquarters taking part in a Victory Loan March through the streets of Parramatta. Identified personnel: Lieutenant Colonel T. A. Goyne, Assistant Adjutant General (1); Captain D. B. Hunter (2); Major W. L. Christie (3); Nx18002 Captain D. Humphreys (6). (Photographer Sgt R. Rice) (Source: Australian War Memorial, 125470) <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/125470/?image=1>



Support staff parading outside "Gowan Brae" in Parramatta, N.S.W., 1945, a Victorian mansion taken over as Headquarters of 1 Division. Second Army Military Secretary, Army Legal Service, Education Service, Amenities Service, Catering Service and Provost Corps, branches were also located here. On the disbandment of 1 Division, the building became one a billet for personnel of Second Army Headquarters. (Photographer Sgt R. Rice)

(Source: Australian War Memorial, 125476)

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/125476/?image=1>



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

019211

Yokohama, Japan. 1945. Australian soldiers wave goodbye as they pull out of Yokohama shipping docks on a truck headed for home.

(Source: Australian War Memorial, 019211)

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/019211/>



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

018320

New Britain. Private Leon Ravet of Parramatta, NSW (left), and Pte Bernard Kentwell of Cronulla, NSW, on the alert while on patrol duty with their Owen sub machine guns.

(Source: Australian War Memorial, 018320)

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/018320>



Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) staff parading outside "Gowan Brae", Parramatta, N.S.W. in 1945. (Photographer Sgt R. Rice) (Source: Australian War Memorial, 125475) <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C225821>



A.I.F. Concert at Parramatta Town Hall, 18 February 1941.

(Source: State Library of New South Wales, 9582183)

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Chapter 11

Images retrieved from

- Australian War Memorial
- State Library of New South Wales

Back cover images: *Colourised photograph of the men of the Second Army Headquarters taking part in a Victory Loan March through Church Street of Parramatta, N.S.W. in 1945. (Top) first pass the official party outside the Parramatta Town Hall; (Bottom) then along Lennox Bridge. (Photographer Sergeant R. Rice)*

(Source: Australian War Memorial, 125465 and 125470)

