

Researching Australian military service Korean War, 1950-1953

Overview of the conflict

Australian military history overview: Korean War, <http://www.awm.gov.au/atwar/index/korea.asp>

Nominal Roll

The Nominal Roll of Australian Veterans of the Korean War, <http://www.koreanroll.gov.au/>, was prepared by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) in Canberra. It contains information from the service records of more than 17,000 individuals who served during the Korean War. The roll was created to commemorate the men and women who served in the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force in Korea, or in the waters adjacent to Korea, during the conflict and after the ceasefire, between 27 June 1950 and 19 April 1956.

Personal service records

Service records of those who served with Australian forces are held by the National Archives of Australia. You can apply to the National Archives for copies of personal service records, <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/army-after.aspx>.

Those who died while serving

The Roll of Honour, <http://www.awm.gov.au/roh/>, records the names of service men and women who died during or as a result of service with Australian military forces. The Roll of Honour introduction provides detailed information about Roll of Honour eligibility, <http://www.awm.gov.au/roh/intro.asp#eligibility>.

The Commemorative Roll, <http://www.awm.gov.au/croll/> commemorates Australians who died during or as a result of wars or warlike operations in which Australians have been on active service but who were not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour. The Commemorative Roll introduction provides detailed information about Commemorative Roll eligibility, <http://www.awm.gov.au/croll/intro.asp#eligibility>.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Debt of Honour register, http://www.cwgc.org/debt_of_honour.asp, lists all British Commonwealth soldiers who died in the First and Second World wars only. The register provides details about where the individual is buried or commemorated, and includes plans and photographs of the cemetery or memorial.

Where they served

Army

War diaries were kept by the commanding officer of the unit to record their daily activities and location. The war diaries of Army units in the Korean War have been digitised and are available for viewing at <http://www.awm.gov.au/diaries/korea/>.

There are a limited number of unit profiles of Korean War units available on the Memorial's website, <http://www.awm.gov.au/units/korea.asp>. The profiles include a short history of the unit, details of its casualties, decorations, battle honours and commanding officers.

Royal Australian Navy (RAN)

Reports of Proceedings (ROPs), known earlier as "Letters of Proceedings", are summaries of a ship's or shore base's activities. The reports were submitted by commanding officers to the Chief of Naval Staff. To identify relevant ROPs in the Memorial's collection search the RecordSearch database using the name of the ship as your keywords and AWM78 in the reference numbers field. These records are available for viewing in the Research Centre.

Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)

RAAF Formation and Unit records (AWM64) were kept to record operations and activities of RAAF units. The records are available for viewing on microfilm in the Research Centre. The original records have been withdrawn from public access due to their fragile nature. Original records are only issued when no microfilm copy is available.

For further information refer to our Information Sheet Researching the history of a unit, http://www.awm.gov.au/research/infosheets/unit_history.asp.

Medals and awards

- Information sheet: Campaign and service medals, <http://www.awm.gov.au/research/infosheets/medals.asp>
- Information sheet: Australian military honours and awards http://www.awm.gov.au/research/infosheets/honours_awards.asp

Where to look for photographs

- Collections Search, <http://www.awm.gov.au/database/collection.asp>, gives access to digitised images of photographs held by the Memorial.
- Picture Australia, <http://www.pictureaustralia.org>, has images held by a range of major Australian libraries, archives and other cultural institutions.