



MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMEMORATIONS PROGRAM

OUR WAR IN THE PACIFIC, 1942

Resource book



MEMORIAL BOX	06
OUR WAR IN THE PACIFIC, 1942	



James Cook, *Patrol resting*,
1945, oil on canvas, 188 x 133 cm,
Australian War Memorial
(ART30667).



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Introduction

Our war in the Pacific, 1942 Memorial Box looks at the historic events which occurred in the Pacific in that year, including the fall of Singapore, the battle of the Coral Sea, the defence of Milne Bay, and the challenges of the Kokoda Trail. These momentous air, land and sea battles were fought close to Australia's shores in a desperate attempt to curb the Japanese advance. The box looks at the guerilla war fought on Timor and the experience of Australians who became prisoners of the Japanese in 1942. The box also examines Australia's changing relationships with her allies and the political and military tensions which developed between them during this critical phase of the war.

The box contains a range of resources that will stimulate research and learning to promote understanding of the critical events of that year. A detailed timeline and the introductory overview "Our war in the Pacific, 1942" puts these events into their historical context. Then, a series of case studies and theme booklets tell the stories from a personal point of view. Original film footage, recorded interviews with veterans, stimulus photos and lots of "hands on" objects complete the package.

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- Return your box on time, as the next borrowers are also keen to take delivery of their Memorial Box.

Background material

A) The extent of Japanese expansion, 1942





B) Timeline

1941	December 7–8	Japanese land in Thailand and Malaya, and attack the US naval base at Pearl Harbor.
	December 10	Japanese bombers sink battleship HMS <i>Prince of Wales</i> and battle cruiser HMS <i>Repulse</i> off the coast of Malaya.
	December 25	Japanese capture Hong Kong.
	December 27	Prime Minister Curtin states that “Australia looks to America” for help in defeating Japan.
1942	January 14–15	MALAYAN CAMPAIGN , battle of Gemas. 2/30th Battalion ambushes Japanese forces, inflicting heavy casualties.
	January 18–22	MALAYAN CAMPAIGN , battle of Bakri. Japanese forces encircle and overwhelm Allies. Australians disperse and withdraw. Lt Col Anderson awarded VC.
	January 20	Japanese submarine I-124 is sunk off Darwin in the Arafura Sea.
	January 23	Invasion of RABAU L and NEW IRELAND . Lark Force, a 1,500-strong garrison, is overwhelmed by 5,000 Japanese in a single day.
	January 26–27	MALAYAN CAMPAIGN , battle of Jemaluang. Australian forces ambush a Japanese landing force on the east coast of Malaya but are forced to withdraw.
	January 31	MALAYAN CAMPAIGN . British, Indian, and Australian forces in Malaya withdraw to Singapore.
	January 30–31	Invasion of AMBON by Japanese.
	February 3	WAR IN NEW GUINEA . First raid by Japanese aircraft on Port Moresby.
	February 3	AMBON . Gull Force, composed of 2/21st Battalion and ancillary forces, as well as Dutch forces, surrender. The Australian and Dutch defenders of Laha Airfield are massacred.
	February 15	MALAYAN CAMPAIGN . Surrender of Singapore.
	February 19	AUSTRALIA ATTACKED . First Japanese air raids on Darwin. Air raids on Australia continue for the next six months. Among the targets are Broome and Wyndham, Horn island, Katherine, Townsville, Port Hedland, and Mossman.
	February 20–23	Invasion of TIMOR . Sparrow Force, totalling only 1,400 men, is overwhelmed by a massive Japanese invasion force. 2/2nd Independent Company retreat to the mountains and begin a guerilla war.
	February 27	NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES . Battle of the Java Sea. A combined US, British, Dutch, and Australian fleet is forced to retire by Japanese invasion fleets and their escorts heading for Java.
	February 28	NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES . Battle of Sunda Strait. HMAS <i>Perth</i> and USS <i>Houston</i> sunk by overwhelming Japanese forces.
	March 1	NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES . Japanese forces land in Java.
	March 4	NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES . HMAS <i>Yarra</i> and her convoy of three ships is sunk by Japanese fleet in the Indian Ocean south of Java.
	March 8	WAR IN NEW GUINEA . Japanese troops land at Lae and Salamaua.
	March 8	Japanese occupy Rangoon, capital of Burma.
	March 12	NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES . Allied troops—British, Australian and American—surrender on Java.

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- March 17–18 US General Douglas MacArthur arrives in Australia and is appointed Commander-in-Chief of Allied forces in the South-West Pacific Area.
 - March 21–May 9 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Port Moresby air battles.
 - March 23 Andaman Islands in the Indian Ocean are occupied by the Japanese.
 - March 26 General T. A. Blamey is appointed Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces.
 - April 5 **CEYLON.** Japanese carrier aircraft bomb Colombo.
 - April 6 41st US Division arrives in Australia
 - April 9 **CEYLON.** RAAF airmen defend Trincomalee against a Japanese air raid. HMAS *Vampire* and the British aircraft carrier HMS *Hermes* are sunk during this raid.
 - April 9 US forces on Bataan in the Phillipines surrender.
 - April 18–19 **TIMOR.** “Winnie the War Winner” begins transmission. 2/2nd Independent Company signallers in the mountains of east Timor arrange for supplies to be sent to the Australian guerillas.
 - May 3 **THE SOLOMONS.** Japanese forces land on Tulagi.
 - May 4–8 Battle of the **CORAL SEA**, a series of battles fought entirely by carrier aircraft, to prevent the Japanese seaborne invasion of Papua. The Japanese are eventually turned back but the Allies suffer major losses, including the aircraft carrier USS *Lexington*.
 - May 6 US forces on Corregidor in the Phillipines surrender.
 - May 20 British and Indian forces withdraw from Burma.
 - May 27 **TIMOR.** RAN vessels land supplies for Australian guerillas on the south coast of east Timor.
 - May 31–June 1 **AUSTRALIA ATTACKED.** Three Japanese midget submarines raid Sydney Harbour. Two are destroyed (the other is never found), but not before one of them sinks HMAS *Kuttabul*, killing 21 RAN and RN ratings.
 - June 3 **AUSTRALIA ATTACKED.** The freighter *Iron Chieftain* is sunk off Australian coast, southeast of Newcastle by a Japanese submarine. Six more vessels are attacked in June and a total of 19 vessels succumb to the submarine campaign over the following twelve months.
 - June 3–6 **BATTLE OF MIDWAY ISLAND.** A fleet action in the central Pacific. A turning point in the war. (No Australian units fight at Midway.)
 - June 7 Japanese land on Aleutian Islands, Alaska.
 - June 8 **AUSTRALIA ATTACKED.** Japanese submarines shell the coastal suburbs of Sydney and Newcastle.
 - June 29 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Australian troops raid the Japanese garrison at Salamaua, inflicting heavy casualties and damage.
 - July 21 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Japanese land near Gona, Papua, and begin advancing towards Kokoda.
 - August 7 **THE SOLOMONS.** US marines land in the Solomons, on Guadalcanal and Tulagi, after a bombardment by ships, including HMAS *Australia*, *Canberra* and *Hobart*.
 - August 8 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Japanese advance from Kokoda. Australian forces try to retake Kokoda village but are driven back to Deniki.
 - August 8–9 **GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN.** Battle of Savo Island: HMAS *Canberra* and three US cruisers are sunk in a night battle with a Japanese fleet, with no Japanese losses.
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SURRENDER

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- August 14 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Japanese advance to Kokoda Trail, and push the defenders over the Owen Stanley Range to Isurava.
 - August 25–26 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Japanese landing at Milne Bay, Papua, opposed by Australian troops. RAAF fighter units and US support troops.
 - August 26 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Japanese advance along Kokoda Trail.
 - August 29 HMAS *Arunta* sinks Japanese Submarine RO-33 off Papua.
 - August 30 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Japanese advance along Kokoda Trail, forcing Australian forces to withdraw to Eora Creek.
 - September 2 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Japanese advance along Kokoda Trail, forcing a withdrawal to Templeton’s Crossing.
 - September 2–4 **SINGAPORE.** Selarang Barracks incident: 15,400 British and Australian prisoners of war forced into the barracks square because of their refusal to sign an undertaking to not attempt to escape.
 - September 4 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** The Japanese are defeated at Milne Bay and evacuated by sea or forced to retreat into the jungle. This is the first significant reverse on land suffered by the Japanese in the war.
 - September 5 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Japanese advance along Kokoda Trail, forcing a further withdrawal to Efogi.
 - September 10 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Japanese advance further along the Kokoda Trail, and Australian forces are withdrawn to Ioribaiwa. Fighting around the village of Ioribaiwa continues for a week.
 - September 17 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Japanese advance along the Kokoda Trail is halted at Imita Ridge.
 - September 23 **TIMOR.** HMAS *Voyager* runs aground while landing troops on Timor.
 - September 24 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Japanese withdraw along Kokoda Trail, and Australian forces begin counter-offensive. It takes more than five weeks to drive the Japanese back to Kokoda village.
 - October 9 Australian Government enacts the Statute of Westminster, asserting that Australian and the other Dominions are independent of Britain.
 - October 12–28 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Australians fight offensive battles at Templeton’s Crossing and Eora Creek, on the Kokoda Trail.
 - November 2 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Kokoda is recaptured.
 - November 12–15 Naval battle at **GUADALCANAL.**
 - November 16–21 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Australian and US troops advance on Japanese beachheads at Gona, Sanananda, and Buna; Japanese are forced back to their beachhead supply bases, which had supported their campaign on the Kokoda Trail.
 - November 22–December 9 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Allied troops fight through jungles and swamps against well-fortified Japanese positions at Gona and Sanananda. Japanese fight to the death at Gona.
 - November 26–27 “Battle of Brisbane” erupts between Australian and US troops.
 - December 1 HMAS *Armidale* is attacked and sunk by Japanese aircraft.
 - December 9 **WAR IN NEW GUINEA.** Australian troops recapture Gona. The fortified Japanese positions around Buna are eventually captured on 2 January 1943, and organised Japanese resistance around Sanananda ceases on 21 January, six months to the day after the start of the campaign in New Guinea.
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C) Our war in the Pacific, 1942



www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia

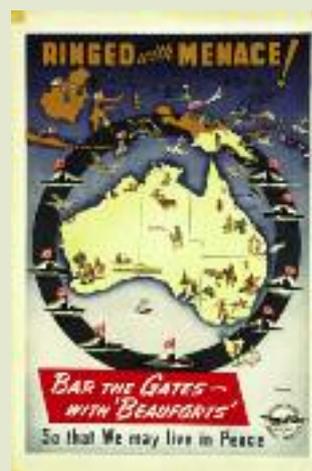
look under "Second World War 1939–1945"

Introduction

1942 was a year of momentous events for Australia and Australians. It was Monday, 8 December 1941, when Japanese military and naval forces began their invasion of south-east Asia. Australian flyers and seamen were among the first to meet them as they advanced rapidly down the Malayan Peninsula. On the same day, but on the other side of the International Date Line, it was still Sunday, 7 December, when Japanese bombs and torpedoes rained down on the US fleet at anchor in Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands. Japan swiftly achieved a series of victories that resulted in the occupation of most of south-east Asia and large areas of the Pacific by the end of March 1942.

For Australia's small army, navy (the RAN) and air force (the RAAF), the entry of Japan into the war was a disaster. Our most experienced and best-equipped soldiers, sailors and airmen were away fighting in North Africa and the Middle East, at sea on the Mediterranean or Atlantic, or in the skies over Europe. The few trained Australian servicemen and women who remained to face the Japanese thrust were scattered in small groups on selected islands in the Pacific. Between January and March 1942, Rabaul, Malaya, Singapore, Ambon, Sumatra, Timor, and Java all fell to the Japanese, at great cost to Australian forces, including the loss of most of the 8th Division, Australian Imperial Force (AIF), at the fall of Singapore. At the same time, Japanese forces landed in New Guinea, and the first air raid on Darwin took place on February 19, giving rise to fears that an invasion of Australia was imminent.

Japan's entry into the war in December 1941 confirmed the fears of an Asian invasion held by several generations of Australians. The progress of the war from December 1941 through 1942 also showed up the inability of the British to defend Australia and the necessity for Australians to defend themselves. With British forces concentrating on the European theatre, Australians began to feel isolated and vulnerable. On the political front the war in the Pacific strained Australia's traditional relationship with the British Empire. On 27 December 1941, a newspaper article by Prime Minister, John Curtin, declared:



James Northfield, *Ringed with menace*, 1942, poster, 76.4 x 51 cm, Australian War Memorial (ARTV09061)

Without any inhibitions of any kind, I make it quite clear that Australia looks to America, free of any pangs as to our traditional links or kinship with the United Kingdom.

In response to the heightened threat, most RAN ships in the Mediterranean theatre, as well as the 6th and 7th Divisions, AIF, returned to defend Australia. Relations between Australia and Britain were further strained by an attempt by Britain to divert 1st Australian Corps, en route to Australia from the Middle East in February 1942, to help prop up the defences of Burma and Java. Prime Minister Curtin reacted strongly to Churchill's actions, taken without consulting Australian authorities. The return of experienced Australian troops was seen by Australian military authorities as essential to the defence of Australia. In the event, a few units were landed in Java and went into captivity a few weeks later. Meanwhile, as a means of patching strained relations between Britain and Australia, two brigades were landed in Ceylon until the garrison there could be reinforced by British units.

The Australian government also expanded the army and air force and called for an overhaul of economic, domestic and industrial policies to give the government special powers with which to mount a total war effort at home. Further relief came with the creation of the South-West Pacific Area under US Army control, with General Douglas MacArthur as Commander-in-Chief. His instructions were to hold the "key military bases of Australia as bases for future offensive action", and to stem the tide of the Japanese advance to Australia's north and east. The Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces, General Sir Thomas Blamey, who was appointed Commander, Allied Land Forces, was effectively only in command of the Australian Military Forces and was usually excluded from the

consultations which regularly took place between Curtin and MacArthur. It was a measure of the very real fear of invasion at the time that Curtin agreed to what some feel was the surrender of Australian national sovereignty by accepting MacArthur as the supreme commander of all Allied forces in the South-West Pacific Area.¹

During the course of 1942, the threat of invasion gradually receded as the Allies won a series of decisive battles: in the Coral Sea, at Midway, on Imita Ridge and the Kokoda Trail, and at Milne Bay and Buna. In the second half of the year the Japanese advance was stopped, but it would take three more years of hard and bloody fighting before the Allied powers could claim victory in the Pacific.

The Malayan campaign and the fall of Singapore

Within four days of the landing of Japanese forces in northern Malaya on 8 December 1941, the fate of Malaya was decided. Two days later, off the east coast of Malaya, Japanese planes sank the battleship *HMS Prince of Wales* and the battle cruiser *HMS Repulse*, Britain's only capital ships in the area. To add to the demoralisation of the Allied troops, the Japanese achieved complete superiority in the air within 48 hours of the start of the campaign. They put one-third of the Allies' front-line planes out of action on the first day and forced the abandonment of all of the airfields in northern Malaya. They outmaneuvered and out-fought the British and Indian troops they faced, forcing them to retreat southward along the Malaya Peninsula.

The first clash between Australian troops and Japanese forces took place in western Malaya near Gemas on 14–15 January 1942, when the 2/30th Battalion ambushed a numerically superior Japanese force. This was followed in the next few days by other brilliant tactical efforts, such as a fighting stand at Bakri by two Australian battalions and an artillery battery, the 22nd Australian Brigade's ambush at Jemaluang, and the action at Muar, where Lieutenant Colonel Charles Anderson was awarded the Victoria Cross for his leadership and personal bravery. These were, however, local victories which merely delayed the Japanese temporarily. The retreat down the Malayan peninsula was a dispiriting affair. The wounded Australians and Indians who were left behind with medical assistance, because they could not be evacuated in time, were with few exceptions bayoneted or shot by the advancing Japanese.



February 1942. A.I.F. Anti-tank gunners overlooking the causeway at Johore. (AWM 012449)



Singapore, 15 February 1942. British troops surrender to the Japanese in the city area as part of the unconditional surrender of all Allied forces following the successful invasion of Malaya and Singapore Island by the Japanese 25th army. (AWM 127902)

By the end of the month all of the Allied forces in Malaya had been forced to withdraw to Singapore Island and the connecting causeway at Johore was ineffectually blown up. In the preceding weeks, defensive positions had not been developed to resist an attack across the Johore Strait. To make matters worse, the British empire forces had suffered heavy casualties during their withdrawal. Although the famous naval guns, contrary to popular belief, were not facing out to sea, they were not effective because they were designed for use against ships and not against land targets.

¹ Jeffrey Grey, *A military history of Australia*, (Melbourne: Cambridge University Press, 1999), p. 173.

D.M. Horner, *Australia under threat of invasion*, in M. McKernan & M. Browne (eds), *Australia: two centuries of war and peace*, (Canberra: Australian War Memorial, 1988), pp. 260–3.

Kevin Long: *The six years war: Australia in the 1939–45 war*, (Canberra: Australian War Memorial & Australian Government Publishing Service, 1973), p. 181.

Singapore was subjected to an intense aerial bombardment and then, on the night of 8/9 February, the Japanese crossed the Johore Strait. Despite a massive superiority in numbers, the British and Allied forces were outmatched by three Japanese divisions. Although many units fought very bravely, the British command consistently underestimated the Japanese forces and was no match for the Japanese command. With water supplies becoming critical and a civilian population of one million in Singapore to consider, the British were forced to surrender on 15 February.

The surrender at Singapore came as a profound shock to the whole of the British empire. In sixty-eight days the Japanese had advanced 1,000 kilometres and conquered Malaya. The Japanese suffered 10,000 casualties and the Allies lost 8,000 killed in the campaign. The remaining 130,000 British and Allied troops were taken prisoner, enduring a captivity of such brutality and deprivation that more than a third of them did not survive. Australia's share in this was considerable: 1,789 were killed, 1,306 were wounded, and the survivors of the 8th Division, 15,395 strong, became prisoners of war and were herded into barracks at Changi and Selarang. Over the next three and a half years the prisoners were deployed, in groups or "Forces", as labourers around the Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere². Forces were sent to locations that became infamous, including the Burma-Thailand "Death" Railway and Sandakan in Borneo.

SEE CASE STUDY "THE FALL OF SINGAPORE"

The loss of Lark Force

While most of the 8th Division, AIF, had been sent to Singapore, smaller groups from the division had been deployed to other islands with strategic airfields or harbours. These small forces were given code names: Lark Force was sent to Rabaul and New Ireland; Gull Force to Ambon; and Sparrow Force to Timor.

Lark Force was a 1,500-strong garrison based at the port town of Rabaul on the northern end of the island of New Britain. Rabaul was regarded as being of great strategic importance by both the Japanese and the Allies because it had one of the best natural harbours in the south Pacific, as well as several airfields. Its capture would give Japan an excellent base from which to defend its new gains and to

isolate and then occupy the Netherlands East Indies. On 23 February Major General Tomitaro Horii's 5,000-strong South Seas Force invaded the island and overwhelmed the garrison in a day. It became a huge sea and air base for the Japanese for the next two and a half years.

Many members of Lark Force attempted to escape captivity by fleeing along the coast or inland. On 4 March a number of these groups of escapers who had gathered at Tol and Waitavalo plantations were rounded up in a surprise raid by the Japanese. All of them were unarmed; 160 were massacred by the Japanese.



A portrait photo of Private W. Cook, a member of the force defending New Britain in 1942. Private Cook was in a group captured by the advancing Japanese and taken to Tol Plantation for execution. Despite being bayoneted 11 times, Cook survived and joined up with a retreating Australian unit. He returned home safely but had lost the use of his voice as a result of a bayonet wound to his throat. (AWM P01395.003)

NEW GUINEA
KOKODA

² The area of Asia and the Pacific that Japan planned to incorporate into its territories during the late 1930s and the Second World War. The Japanese presented the plan to many Asian and Pacific countries as an opportunity for liberation from European dominance.



Rabaul, New Britain, 1942. Three of the six Australian army nurses who as part of Lark Force were at the Camp Hospital when the Japanese invaded in January. The hospital was evacuated and the nurses were interned there until July 1942, under appalling conditions. They were then transferred to Japan, where they remained prisoners until the end of the war. (AWM P02806.001)

Through March and April over 400 members of Lark Force who had evaded capture escaped or were rescued. The Japanese transferred those who remained in captivity off the island. One group of about 60 officers and nineteen women, including six nurses, were transported to Japan, where they spent the rest of the war. Most were crowded aboard the Japanese steamer *Montevideo Maru*, which was torpedoed off Luzon by a United States Navy submarine on 1 July 1942. Over 1,050 prisoners of war and civilian captives were lost.

The invasion of Ambon

The importance of the island of Ambon lay in its location, between New Guinea, Timor, and the other islands of the Netherlands East Indies. It also had two airfields and an excellent enclosed harbour, capable of accommodating a large fleet and a flying boat base. From 31 January to 3 February 1942, it was the scene of bitter fighting between the island's Australian and Dutch garrison and invading Japanese forces. Gull Force, consisting of 1,100 Australians and 2,600 Dutch troops, was inadequate for the task, being insufficiently trained and equipped, and lacking both air and naval support. The Japanese quickly gained command of air and sea, as they did in every other island campaign at this time.

In the last week of January, Japanese air raids on the island increased in frequency and intensity, causing considerable damage and forcing the remaining Allied aircraft to leave the island. As they flew away they reported sighting an invasion fleet. That night,

three Japanese army battalions and a battalion of naval troops landed at several points around the island. The surrender of the island was only a matter of time. The Dutch troops on the island surrendered on 1 February, while the Australian part of Gull Force fought on for another two days.

Around Laha airfield, fierce fighting resulted in the death of 309 Australians, 150 of whom were massacred by the Japanese in two mass executions on 6 February and 15–20 February. Some Australians managed to escape and make their way back to Australia, while 790 members of Gull Force captured on other parts of the island were sent as prisoners to Hainan in October.

Sparrow Force fights on in Timor

The decision to send Sparrow Force to Timor was based on the recognition of the importance of its airfield, which, if captured by the Japanese, would put Australia within range of their fighter aircraft. The task facing Sparrow Force in Timor was a far more complex one than that faced by the other "bird" forces in Rabaul or Ambon. Defence of Timor was complicated by the political situation there, with the western half of the island being part of the Netherlands East Indies, an ally of Australia, while the eastern half was a territory of neutral Portugal. Portugal was opposed to the stationing of a Dutch or Australian garrison as this risked provoking invasion by the Japanese.



Laha, Ambon, 7 December 1945. A Japanese working party excavates a site where Australian and Dutch servicemen were executed by the Japanese in February 1942. A member of the War Graves Commission is in attendance, trying to determine the relationship of bones found intermingled in the pit. (AWM 030388/06)



Timor, 9 December 1942. Australian guerillas in Timor at a native village. (AWM 013790)

Nevertheless, 150 members of Sparrow Force were landed near Dili in December 1941. The Portuguese garrison was not strong enough to resist and the local population did not object. Sparrow Force, consisting of 1,400 men from the 2/40th Battalion and the 2/2nd Independent Company, divided itself between east and west Timor.

On 20 February 1942 the Japanese invaded the island, attacking east and west Timor simultaneously. The 2/40th Battalion group fought a gallant three-day defence against the greatly superior Japanese invasion force, which included paratroops. They were eventually overrun and killed or captured. The 2/2nd Independent Company attempted to deny Dili aerodrome to the Japanese but were driven back. They retreated to the mountains and pursued a guerilla war against the invaders that lasted over a year.

The Company had been trained to conduct commando operations and to operate on its own, despite the fact that it lacked heavy weapons or vehicles. They were greatly assisted by the locals, who provided them with Timor ponies, native carriers and intelligence. The guerillas scrounged and stole enough parts to build a wireless transmitter, which they named "Winnie the War Winner", after the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill. On 18 and 19 April they made radio contact with Darwin. They convinced Allied command that they were still alive and fighting, and arranged for supplies to be sent.

At the end of May, navy vessels landed supplies for Australian guerillas on the south coast of east Timor. The supply runs were very dangerous but allowed the Australians on Timor to continue the fight against overwhelming odds. The guerillas skilfully observed, tracked and ambushed Japanese troops, boosting their own morale enormously and harassing the enemy. Although their operations did not greatly influence the course of the war, they did tie down a large force of Japanese, who might have been deployed elsewhere, and caused them heavy

casualties. For the loss of forty of their own men either killed or wounded, the guerillas had put more than 1,500 Japanese troops out of action.

By December the Australian guerillas began to run out of luck. From mid-1942 the Japanese built up their occupation force from 1,500 to 12,000 and in August began operations to wear down the Australians and separate them from their local support. Japanese reprisals against the civilian population of east Timor gradually reduced local support for the Australian guerillas. As supplies and intelligence dried up, their task became more difficult. At the same time, decisions were being taken in Australia which would affect their ability to continue operations. In December 1942, it was realized that there were insufficient resources to continue the campaign in Timor and to fight the costly bridgehead battles then in progress at Buna, Gona, and Sanananda in Papua. They were withdrawn from the island early in the new year, having been more successful than other Australian operations in Ambon, Rabaul, or Java.

SEE CASE STUDY "DOUBLE RED DIAMONDS: AUSTRALIAN GUERRILLAS ON TIMOR"

The battle for the seas of the Netherlands East Indies

By the end of February 1942, the Japanese plan to gain control of the resource-rich and strategic territories of Malaya, Borneo and the Netherlands East Indies was ahead of schedule. Java was isolated, following the occupation of southern Sumatra and Bali, and the fall of Timor. Massive bombing of Darwin on 19 February meant that reinforcements would not be forthcoming from northern Australia.

The battle to prevent the occupation of Java by intercepting the Japanese invasion forces was undertaken by a combined American, British, Dutch and Australian (ABDA) fleet. It was an unequal contest from the start, the Japanese fleet having superiority in terms of its surface power, air support, level of training, cohesiveness, and experience. On 27 February the ABDA fleet fought running battles with Japanese invasion fleets and their escorts heading for Java. In the battle of the Java Sea the ABDA fleet was forced to retire after the Dutch flagship and her admiral were lost.

Heading for Australian waters the next day, Java Sea battle survivors, HMAS *Perth* and USS *Houston* encountered a large fleet of enemy ships in Bantam Bay at the entrance to Sunda Strait. HMAS *Perth*, commanded by Captain "Hec" Waller, was in the lead. They were low on fuel and ammunition and were hoping to avoid contact with the enemy. As they were attempting to pass through the Sunda Strait, they ran into a large Japanese invasion fleet.





Dennis Adams, *HMAS Perth*, 1942, oil on canvas, 50.4 x 61.2 cm, Australian War Memorial. (ART26927)



1940. In the engine room undergoing training at sea on the HMAS *Yarra*. Within two years the *Yarra* would be lost. (AWM 000876)

An hour before midnight on 28 February, the cruisers HMAS *Perth* and USS *Houston* found themselves engaging an enemy naval force of at least 15 cruisers and destroyers accompanying troop transports. Both Allied vessels were lost after a valiant but very one-sided fight lasting less than two hours, during which they sank four Japanese transports and a minesweeper, and damaged others. Of the 680-strong crew of HMAS *Perth*, 353, including Captain Waller, were lost in action, and another four men died of wounds after reaching shore. The remainder were made prisoners of war by the Japanese. Of the survivors, 105 died while in captivity from ill-treatment, illness or as a result of Allied fire. This action, known as the battle of Sunda Strait, spelt the end of Allied naval strength around Java. The Japanese had been delayed by 24 hours, but their plans had received no serious setback.

On 4 March, in the Indian Ocean, RAN sloop HMAS *Yarra* was intercepted by a Japanese fleet while escorting three other vessels, 500 kilometres south of Java. *Yarra's* doomed defence of her charges, like that of the *Perth*, has entered naval legend. All four Allied vessels were lost. Of *Yarra's* complement of 151, most, including the captain and all of the officers, went down with the ship or died subsequently on the rafts as a result of wounds, exposure and thirst. Only 13 survived.

In just three months the Japanese had gained possession of the resources of the rich southern area for which they had gone to war, and they were within striking distance of Australia.

SEE CASE STUDY "THE SINKING OF HMAS PERTH"

Australia under attack

Since December 1941 the Australian Prime Minister, John Curtin, had warned that Australia faced the threat of attack. With most of the resistance overwhelmed and having captured many airfields within easy flying distance of Australia, the Japanese began air and submarine attacks on the Australian mainland.

On 19 February Darwin was bombed. Japanese fighters and bombers attacked the port and shipping in the harbour twice on this day. Two hundred and fifty-two Allied service personnel and civilians were killed in those attacks, and at least 250 were injured. Considerable damage was done to shipping in the harbour. Four of the five Allied fighter planes opposing the attack were shot down, as were five others still on the ground and attempting to get airborne when the attack commenced. Allied fighter opposition was effectively destroyed. During the second air attack on the same day, another nine Allied aircraft were destroyed on the ground. The aim of the Japanese attack was to eliminate Darwin as a base which might interfere with their planned invasion of Timor (due to begin the following day), as well as their invasion of Java later in the same month. Understandably, most residents of Darwin at the time believed that this was a prelude to a sea-borne invasion.

Of the more than 200 Japanese attacking aircraft, between 5 and 10 were lost. The pilot of a Japanese Zero crash-landed on Melville Island, where he was captured by a Tiwi aborigine, becoming the first prisoner of war taken on Australian soil. The attack was also the first attack on Australia by a foreign enemy. During the next twenty months, Darwin experienced a total of 64 attacks. However, the raids became increasingly ineffectual, as Allied air units progressively built up in the area and became more proficient.

Over the next months many towns in northern Australia suffered air attacks. On 3 March, Broome was strafed. The port facilities and flying boats on Roebuck Bay and aircraft on Broome airstrip were attacked. Many of the flying boats held Dutch women and children fleeing the Netherlands East Indies. Between 70 and 100 people were killed. Centres like Wyndham, Port Hedland and Derby in Western Australia, Katherine in the Northern Territory, Townsville and Mossman in Queensland, and Horn Island in the Torres Strait were a few of those subjected to Japanese air strikes.



Sydney Harbour, June 1942. The naval depot ship *Kuttabul* was damaged by a torpedo during the raid on Sydney Harbour by Japanese midget submarines. (AWM 0429745)

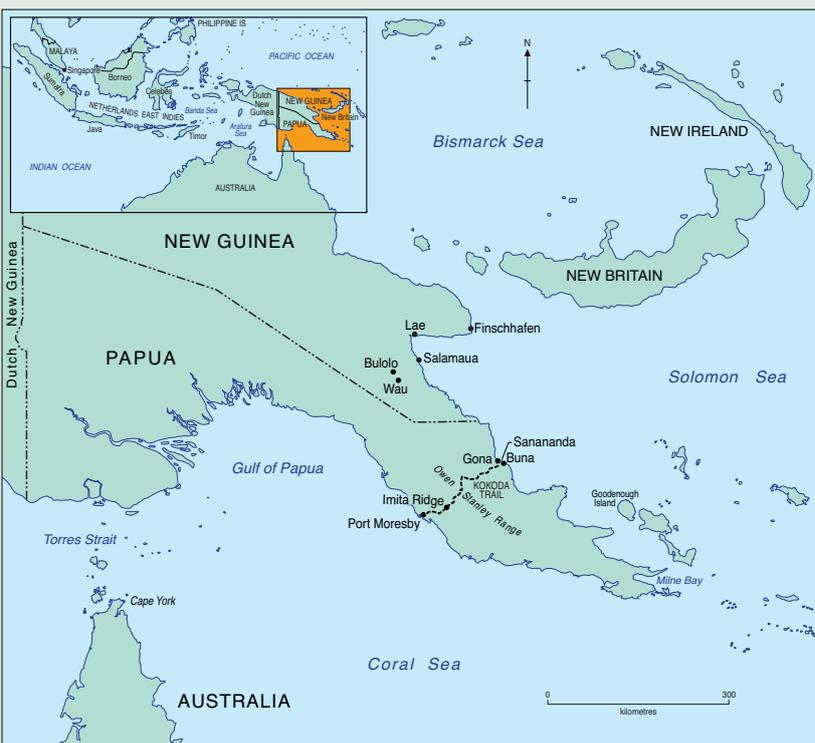
The other form of attack on Australia was by submarine. Japanese submarines began combat patrols along the Australian coast in early 1942 and these continued until June 1943. On 21 January the corvettes HMAS *Deloraine*, *Katoomba* and *Lithgow* sank the Japanese submarine I-124 as it attempted to lay mines off Darwin. The first week of June was a particularly bad time in the coastal waters off south-eastern Australia. On the night of 31 May – 1 June, three Japanese midget submarines entered Sydney Harbour. Two of these were destroyed (the other was never found), but not before one of them sank HMAS *Kuttabul*, a ferry converted into an accommodation ship, killing 21 sailors. On 3 June the Australian freighter *Iron Chieftain* was torpedoed and sunk. It was one of seven ships attacked that month. Five days later, I class Japanese submarines shelled the coastal suburbs of Sydney and Newcastle. The damage was minimal and there were no casualties. The submarine campaign sank 19 vessels off the coast of south-eastern Australia in 1942-3, including the hospital ship *Centaur*, which was sunk off Moreton Bay, claiming 503 lives.

These events brought the war home to Australians, whose feelings of vulnerability were at least justified by Australia's military weakness, if not by any real threat of invasion. It is now known that the Japanese military never planned to invade Australia, but there was no way that Australians could have known this in 1942. In fact, the Japanese lacked the resources to mount such an operation. Their plan was merely to isolate Australia and hinder its war effort through air and naval action, and the seizure of several bases in New Guinea, including Port Moresby, New Caledonia, Fiji, and the Solomons.

Papua and New Guinea under attack

Through the 1930s, Australian awareness of the strategic and economic importance of Papua and New Guinea grew, but few Australian army, navy and airforce resources had been allocated to the task of defending the territories when the war with Japan broke out. Australia had avoided making defence preparations, particularly in New Guinea, which was administered under a mandate from the League of Nations.

Following the capture of Rabaul, the Japanese moved to occupy strategic points in Papua and New Guinea, which would be used to provide defensive depth for Rabaul, their key sea and air base in the region, and for their positions in the Netherlands East Indies. Air raids on Lae, Salamaua, and Bulolo, in eastern New Guinea, and on Port Moresby, the capital of Papua, took place during January and February. On the east coast of New Guinea Japanese troops landed at Lae and Salamaua in early March. The only Australian troops in the area to oppose them were groups of poorly equipped local volunteers. When possible, they observed and harassed the enemy activity until they were reinforced and could attempt



Papua and New Guinea



Port Moresby, 1942. One of the first attacks on Port Moresby by Japanese aircraft. The target was a convoy of ships which had transported troops and supplies to the port. (AWM P02018.068)

more aggressive operations. A spectacular example of their tactics was a successful attack in June by a small force of Australians on the Japanese garrison at Salamaua; it inflicted heavy casualties and damage.

From 21 March to 9 May Australian pilots fought almost daily air battles with attacking Japanese aircraft above Port Moresby, or raided the enemy's bases at Lae. 75 Squadron, RAAF, inflicted considerable damage on enemy aircraft, but this came at the cost of 21 aircraft and twelve pilots. The immediate threat to Port Moresby was effectively ended when the Japanese invasion fleets were stopped during the battle of the Coral Sea.

The battle of the Coral Sea

While Japanese land forces consolidated their hold on the north coast of New Guinea, they planned a seaborne invasion of Papua and occupation of the Solomon Islands in order to consolidate their perimeter and cut communications between the US and Australia. Japanese naval forces entered the Coral Sea after passing through the Solomon Islands. Forewarned of this because they had broken the Japanese navy's principal operational code, the Allies deployed two carrier groups to the Coral Sea.

On 4–8 May they fought a series of large naval engagements against the Japanese fleets heading for Port Moresby. US and Japanese carrier-borne aircraft played a major role in this, the first naval battle in which the ships involved did not sight the enemy, never coming within more than a hundred kilometres of each other. The Japanese were eventually turned back, although both sides suffered major losses. The Japanese lost a light aircraft carrier, while another was badly damaged and a third lost most of its planes. The US aircraft carriers USS *Lexington* and *Yorktown* were badly damaged, the *Lexington* so badly that it had to be abandoned and sunk. Most importantly for the Allies, the Port Moresby invasion was abandoned, and the Japanese were now forced



Coral Sea, South-West Pacific Area, May 1942. Smoke billows across the water in the final destruction of the Japanese carrier *Shoho* during the battle of the Coral Sea. (AWM P02018.100)

to try to capture Port Moresby by means of a ground campaign. The Allied victory also provided a much-needed psychological boost to the Australian population; it was one of the decisive battles of 1942 that ultimately led to the defeat of Japan.

One month later US and Japanese aircraft carriers fought another great naval battle near the island of Midway in the central Pacific. It was a catastrophic loss for the Japanese (they lost four carriers to one) and a turning point in the war. There is little doubt that the battle of the Coral Sea, from which the Allies learnt much about combat, was an important preliminary to Midway.

SEE CASE STUDY "THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA"

Australians fight the Japanese in the Indian Ocean

Meanwhile, the Japanese had been extending their range beyond the Pacific, to the Indian Ocean. By March their land forces had captured Burma and were advancing on northern India. This was followed by the occupation of the Andaman Islands in the Indian Ocean. At sea, their naval airforces were striking the Allies in the Indian Ocean. On 4 April Colombo (in Ceylon, now Sri Lanka) suffered a Japanese air raid. RAAF airmen flying with RAF squadrons were part of the air defence. Four days later Trincomalee was raided, and again Australian airmen helped in its defence. HMAS *Vampire* and the British aircraft carrier HMS *Hermes* were sunk during this raid. British shipping losses during the month of April amounted to 140,000 tons, and the RAF was overwhelmed, suffering heavy losses. The Japanese objective of clearing the British from the Indian Ocean was successfully achieved by May 1942.

The battle of Savo Island, Guadalcanal campaign

Despite the setbacks they had received in the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway, the Japanese were determined to consolidate their position in the Solomons, which they proceeded to do during May 1942. Allied plans to counter this threat to the lines of communication between the United States and Australia were well in train by July. On 7 August US Marines landed on Guadalcanal in the southern Solomon Islands, where they struck very stiff Japanese opposition. In an attempt to ease the pressure on their ground troops, a Japanese fleet attacked the Allied ships supporting the marine landings. On 10 August, HMAS *Canberra* was lost off Savo Island along with three US navy cruisers in a night battle with the Japanese fleet.

In a naval battle in the Solomon Islands fought between 12 and 15 November, RAN vessels assisted US fleet elements to engage a Japanese fleet. The campaign for Guadalcanal swung in favour of one adversary then the other, with terrible losses to both sides, until the eventual US victory on 9 February 1943.

This campaign, fought over six months at the same time as the equally gruelling Papuan campaign, ended the threat to Australia and its lines of communication, and wrested the strategic initiative from the Japanese.

The Papuan campaign: the Japanese advance

As a result of the setback at the battle of the Coral Sea, alternate Japanese plans to move overland to Port Moresby from bases in the north and east of the island went ahead. On 21 July the Japanese landed in the Buna–Gona area on the north coast of Papua, and within a week they had moved inland and seized Kokoda.

By 14 August the Japanese advance along the Kokoda Trail pushed the Australian defenders over the Owen Stanley Range to Isurava. As well as relentless attacks by a skilled and tenacious enemy, Australian troops on the Kokoda Trail were faced with almost insurmountable problems of supply. The health of the men deteriorated in the extreme climate with inadequate food, clothing and shelter. The increased troops only exacerbated the deteriorating supply problems the Australians were experiencing. Conditions on the Kokoda Trail and the strength of the Japanese forces in Papua were drastically underestimated at headquarters in Port Moresby and Australia.



Sydney, 28 August 1942. Survivors of the sinking of the HMAS *Canberra* were returned to Sydney on the American transport *President Grant*. A wounded sailor is surrounded by his mates and family as he is transferred to a waiting ambulance. (AWM 150401)

By the end of August the Australians had been forced back to Eora Creek, then through the first three weeks of September they fought a costly retreat to Templeton's Crossing, Efogi and Ioribaiwa. Men fought to the death at very close range, frequently hand to hand. Occasionally, the Japanese would outflank and surround an Australian unit, which would then have to fight its way out or be wiped out. Neither side could afford prisoners. By the time they reached Ioribaiwa on 10 September 2/14th and 2/16th Battalions were reduced to a combined strength of 307 men and were still taking casualties. Fighting around the village continued for a week. Less than a month earlier they had started up the Trail with almost 600 men each.

New Guinea

The Australians fell back to a more effectively defended position along Imita Ridge on 17 September, the last effective barrier, which was virtually within sight of Port Moresby. This turned out to be the limit of the enemy's advance, because by mid-September the Japanese were experiencing the same problems with extended supply lines as the Australians had suffered weeks earlier. Following the Japanese reverses at Guadalcanal, the Japanese commander received instructions to establish a defensive position on the north coast, and began withdrawing along the Kokoda Trail on 24 September. Australian reinforcements had begun to arrive in significant numbers by mid-September, and they pursued the enemy back up the trail until Kokoda was retaken on 2 November.



Kokoda, 14 November 1942. Australian troops watch as the Australian flag is raised after the retaking of Kokoda. (AWM 013572)

Back in Australia, the Commander-in-Chief, South-West Pacific Area, US General MacArthur, and the Commander-in-Chief of Australian troops, General Blamey, had little idea of what New Guinea Force had endured. In the campaign to this point 607 Australians had been killed and 1,015 were wounded, while the rate of sickness was two to three times that of combat casualties. Estimates of casualty rates for two of the five Japanese battalions indicate that the numbers killed, wounded or sick were more than 75 per cent of original strength.

SEE CASE STUDY "ON THE KOKODA TRAIL, 1942"

The defence of Milne Bay

While General Horii's South Seas Force was advancing over the Kokoda Trail toward Port Moresby another Japanese force was being deployed to Papua to capture the Australian and US-built airfields and the natural harbour of Milne Bay. This time it was the Japanese who underestimated the Allied strength. Just before midnight on 25 August 2,000 Japanese

marines landed at the wrong beach. They had to march and fight over 11 kilometres to get to the closest of the three airstrips. Although the Australian and US garrison numbered over 8,800, most had to be held in reserve in the event of another Japanese amphibious landing somewhere else around the bay.

With the support of two light tanks, the initial Japanese advance along the coast toward the airfields was successful. By 28 August they had reached the first strip and a day later they were reinforced with another 800 marines and naval gunfire support. Two days later they renewed their assault on the airstrip. The defenders received close air support from the Kittyhawk fighters of 75 and 76 Squadrons, RAAF, at Milne Bay, and they were reinforced by RAAF light and medium bombers. As with the fighting on the Kokoda Trail, contact between Japanese marines and Australian and US soldiers was bloody and savage and was fought at very close quarters. On 30–31 August, having received 2,000 reinforcements the Japanese launched a major assault, which was strongly repelled because the Australian commanding officer had prepared for such an eventuality and concentrated additional firepower at that point. The Japanese were driven back with heavy losses. Being unable to make a further stand, they began to evacuate their forces by sea on 3–6 September. Those who were not picked up by their navy were hunted and killed trying to make their way overland to the Japanese beachhead at Buna.

For the first time in the war a Japanese amphibious landing had been repulsed. There were a number of reasons for this. Conditions on the peninsula were appalling, resulting in a loss of advantage to the Japanese when their tanks became bogged. Allied ground forces were undoubtedly greatly aided by the presence of RAAF Kittyhawk fighter planes.

The action resulted in 373 Australian casualties, of whom 167 were killed or missing, and 14 Americans killed. The Japanese casualty rate was much higher, with only 1,318 of the 2,800 troops put ashore in the area being evacuated by their naval vessels. Although a relatively minor affair, the battle over Milne Bay was important as the first significant reverse on land that the Japanese had suffered in the war. Defeat at Milne Bay denied the Japanese the use of a naval and air base from which to provide support to the attempt being made simultaneously to capture Port Moresby by the overland route across the Owen Stanley Range (the Kokoda Trail).

SEE CASE STUDY "CLOSE AIR SUPPORT IN THE DEFENCE OF MILNE BAY"



Unloading supply ships at Milne Bay, Papua, September 1942. (AWM 026697)

The Papuan campaign: the Australian advance

Having pursued the Japanese along the Kokoda Trail and re-taken Kokoda village, by mid-November Australian and US troops were advancing on the Japanese beachhead supply bases at Gona, Sanananda, and Buna. These were the bases that had supported their campaign on the Kokoda Trail. As the largely Australian force drew in on the Japanese positions they encountered a well-entrenched enemy occupying heavily fortified positions. The last Australian battles of 1942 were as bloody as any that had gone before.

Unlike the Kokoda Trail, the terrain around the Japanese positions at Gona, Sanananda, and Buna comprised flat coastal plains, occasionally timbered with coconut plantations, and dotted with swamps. The Japanese had sited their defensive positions on the only dry land available, ensuring that attacking Allied forces would have to advance through disease-ridden swamps. Japanese defence of these beachheads was suicidal. Their food supplies were low and they fought to the death among the bodies of their comrades. They inflicted up to 60 per cent casualties on some of the Australian units they fought. Attempts to reinforce them by sea were foiled by an Australian coast watcher and the RAAF, and the Gona garrison was eventually overcome on 9 December.

At Buna, US troops had been attacking courageously since November and taking heavy casualties but for little success. From 18 December 1942 until 2 January 1943, Australian and US forces fought a series of grim battles to take the Japanese defensive positions. With the arrival of reinforcements on 1 January 1943, the Australians fought their way through the coconut plantation in two days, destroying bunker after bunker until they linked up with the US troops pushing from the west.

The battle of Buna cost the Allies 2,870 battle casualties, of whom 913 were Australian. They recovered 1,390 Japanese bodies and took no more than 50 prisoners, terrible testimony to the determination of the Japanese defenders to prefer death to surrender, as well as to the savagery of the combat. The fortified Japanese positions around Buna were eventually captured on 2 January 1943 and organised Japanese resistance around Sanananda ceased on 21 January, six months to the day after the start of the Papuan campaign.

Australia suffered 5,698 battle casualties in New Guinea in 1942. Of these, 1,731 were killed in action, 306 died of wounds and 128 from other causes. Over 15,000 Australian service personnel also contracted infectious diseases during 1942.



Gona, Papua, 11 December 1942. Australian troops move down the coast towards Buna. (AWM 013821)

The long road back

After 1942 the immediate threat of invasion or at least sustained attack on Australia was reduced. The war in the Pacific continued through 1943, 1944 and 1945; however, this time the Australians, with support from their US allies, were on the offensive.

Thousands of Australian servicemen and nurses were to endure a further two and a half years of captivity before the arrival of victory in the Pacific, on 15 August 1945.

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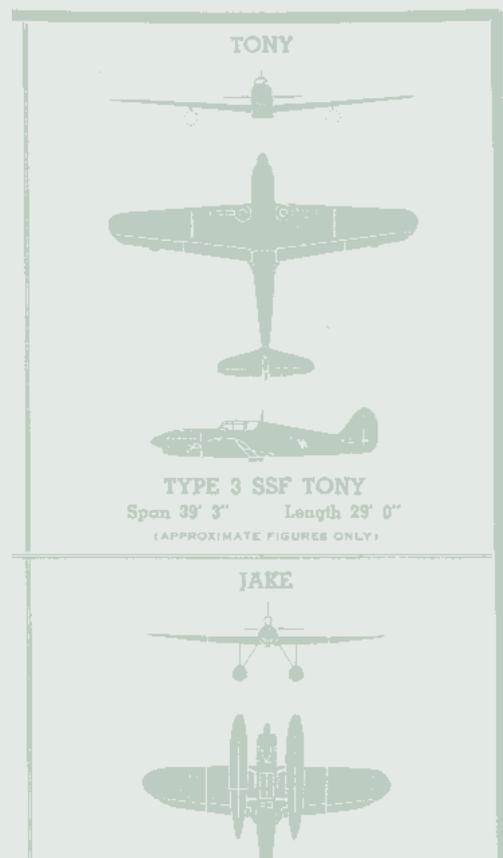
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What's in the box

SURRENDER

Not all items are included in every box. Check the contents list of your box.

Printed material

- Australian War Memorial
- Resource book
- Case studies
 - The fall of Singapore
 - The sinking of HMAS *Perth*
 - The battle of the Coral Sea
 - Close air support in the defence of Milne Bay
 - Double red diamonds: Australian guerillas on Timor
 - On the Kokoda Trail, 1942

Objects

Australian identity tag

Australian soldiers, sailors, and airmen wear tags with their personal details around their necks. They are frequently referred to as "dog tags" or "dead meat tickets". The practice began just before the 1915 Gallipoli landing. The identity tag allows the wearer to be identified if he is dead or too badly injured to do so for himself.

In 1942 the identity tags worn by Australian soldiers were made of composite fibre. Each soldier was issued with two tags, one circular the other hexagonal. Both tags carried the same information: the soldier's service number, surname and initials, and also his religion to ensure that in the event of death, he received an appropriate burial service.

On the reverse was the soldier's blood group; recording this enabled medical staff to treat a badly wounded soldier who was unable to provide such information.

This disc is a copy of the identity tag worn by Sergeant Bede Tongs of 3rd Battalion, Australian Military Force (AMF). (See Bede Tongs' story in the case study "On the Kokoda Trail, 1942"). Bede's service number was "N 43917", indicating he was drafted in New South Wales. When his name was stamped into the disc a letter "S" was not available, so an ampersand ("&") was used instead. "C E" on the disc shows that he was a member of the Church of England. "A 2" on the reverse of the tag tell us that his blood group was A.

Web equipment

Introduced for use by British and Commonwealth troops in June 1938, this set of belts, pouches, and other devices for carrying a soldier's load, was the type worn by most Australian soldiers by 1942. Its official title is "Web Equipment Pattern 1937 (for Infantry)".

The set of equipment is made of woven cotton webbing and has brass buckles. It consists of a waistbelt and a pair of shoulder braces to support the load. Buckled and hooked onto the front of the belt and braces is a pair of basic pouches. These usually carried small arms ammunition, such as clips of bullets for the soldier's rifle or Bren light machine gun. Hand grenades could also be carried in the pouches.

Buckled to the right side of the set was an enamel water bottle in its carrier. It held a quart (a little over a litre) of water, the soldier's allowance for a day. On the left side of the set was a haversack which carried a soldier's mess kit (eating utensils), rations for a day, and toiletries. Occasionally the ground sheet or a pullover was carried folded under the flap.

A larger pack was worn on the soldier's back; in it he carried spare clothing and other items that were not considered essential to his ability to fight. When going into battle an Australian soldier of 1942 usually stored his pack with his unit's transport and transferred his haversack onto his back. This was the difference between "Full Service Marching Order (FSMO)" and "Battle Order".

Check the chart: *Equipment, clothing and necessities issued to AMF for operations in jungle territory*

- Identify the pieces of Web Equipment Pattern 1937 that you have in your box.
- Make your own list of essential and less essential items.
- What effect would constant tropical rain have on equipment like this?
- Are the brass buckles on the pieces you are examining blackened. If so, why do you think this is the case?
- How do you think this equipment would have felt against your skin if you wore it without a shirt, as many Papuan, New Guinean, Aboriginal and Torres Strait soldiers had to do?



Malaya, 1942. Australian troops, kitted out in pattern '37 equipment, alighting from a truck during the Allied retreat to Singapore. (AWM 011303/29)

Map case for Web Equipment Pattern 1937 and Buna map

Maps are essential to the army, air force and navy (maps used at sea are usually called charts) in planning and coordinating movement or battle. They provide information about topography, population centres, and enemy and allied positions. In 1942 most maps were made of either paper or fabric such as cotton or silk.

Enclosed in the map case is a copy of the map supplied to the Australian forces engaged in the battle for Buna from December 1942 to January 1943. The map was created and reproduced by the 2/1st Australian Army Topographical Survey Company during the battle. It shows the cultural features and physical landscape of the area.

Unlike the Kokoda Trail, the terrain around the Japanese positions at Gona, Sanananda, and Buna comprised flat coastal plains, occasionally timbered with coconut plantations, and dotted with swamps. Can you identify these natural features on the map? What other man-made features can you find?

The Buna map is protected in the field by a map case. This allowed the map to be folded to show the relevant part, and it also included pockets for pencils and other tools useful when studying or marking maps. The map case was usually carried by officers or senior non-commissioned officers (NCOs), thereby indicating leadership status.

What sort of tools would you need to carry in your map case to help you study and mark maps? What symbols or colors are used to mark features or obstacles like tracks, vegetated areas, and enemy positions?

Oil bottle & pull-through cleaning tools for the .303-inch Lee Enfield rifle

A soldier must maintain his weapon in the best possible condition at all times. The most common weapon carried by Australian soldiers in 1942 was the .303-inch calibre Short Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) rifle. This is a bolt action weapon with a magazine that holds ten bullets (i.e., rounds of small arms ammunition).

To make it function properly the barrel must be kept clean and the moving parts well oiled and free of dirt. The tools for maintaining the weapon include a small cylindrical brass oil bottle and a brass and cord pull-through.

The pull-through is a length of cord with a brass rod on one end and loop on the other. The brass rod is dropped down the barrel and provides the weight to draw the cord through. The loop is fitted with a piece of cleaning cloth. The soldier then draws the cord the length of the barrel pulling the cleaning cloth through the rifle. The cleaning cloth was referred to as "four be two" as it was usually used in pieces measuring approximately four inches long by two inches wide (50x100cm).

The brass oil bottle has a long spike with a spoon-shaped end inside the lid. The spike is used to lever obstructions like broken cartridge cases out of the action of the weapon.

Although lighter and more conveniently portable than the metal clearing rods used in earlier types of rifles, the pull-through was often criticized by diggers. As it was not rigid, it could not be used to push an obstruction out of a rifle barrel, and the cord was prone to rotting in the tropical environment.

Note the storage hole for these tools in the butt of the rifle on the chart *Equipment, clothing and necessaries issued to AMF for operations in jungle territory*.

Field dressing

Every soldier in battle is at risk of death or injury. For an Australian soldier in the war in the Pacific in 1942, first aid in the event of injury usually meant the hasty application of a "First Field Dressing". This type of dressing was a bandage with a gauze pad attached: it was used to cover and bind the wound and stop the bleeding.

Field dressings were carried in special purpose pockets on a soldier's uniform. Every soldier was familiar with where he and his mates carried their dressings, so that they could be found and applied quickly and in any conditions. If treating a wounded mate, a soldier would use his mate's dressing when possible—he may need his own if he gets wounded!

Water-bag filter

The soldier's daily allowance of about a litre of water was rarely adequate to sustain a man undertaking strenuous activity in tropical heat. The supply of clean water was unreliable as watercourses were often polluted by waste from local villages, rotting animal carcasses, or because they had been fouled intentionally by the enemy.

Water-bag filters were used to strain locally collected water. The water was poured into the bag then allowed to drip from the shaped end into a mug or water bottle. A purification tablet of chlorine or iodine was then added before the water was ready to drink. It may have tasted terrible but could mean the difference between life and death!

Groundsheet

The groundsheet was one of the few items of waterproof clothing available to an Australian soldier in 1942. It was made of rubberized canvas. The groundsheet could be worn as a cape to keep off the rain and, with a blanket, was often a soldier's only bedding. Two groundsheets buttoned together could be used to form a tent-like shelter.

Kokoda map

This is a copy of the map supplied to the Australian forces engaged in the battle for the northern end of the Kokoda Trail late in 1942. It shows the man-made features and physical landscape of the area. Note how close the contour lines are and imagine how steep this country is.

See the case study "On the Kokoda Trail, 1942" to compare the profile of the Kokoda Trail with this map.

2/2nd Independent Company colour patch [replica]

A system of distinctive colour patches to represent each unit in the AIF, and later the AMF, was introduced in 1915. By the time of the Second World War the ever-increasing diversity of units led to a very wide range of shapes and colours in use by the Australian army.

Colour patches were designed to be worn on the upper sleeve of the service dress tunic and overcoat. During the Second World War they were also worn on the hatband of the slouch hat.

One of the most distinctive colour patches of the 2nd AIF were the double diamond shaped patches of the independent companies. The No. 2 (later 2/2nd) Independent Company became famous for its guerilla war against Japanese forces on Timor in 1942. It wore a red double diamond with a grey border.

SEE THE CASE STUDY "DOUBLE RED DIAMONDS: AUSTRALIAN GUERRILLAS ON TIMOR"

Papua and New Guinea bearer's badge [replica]

The Allied war effort in Papua and New Guinea received vital support from the local population. Some served as soldiers with the Papuan Infantry Battalion, a unit of the AMF. However, one of the greatest contributions made by the people of Papua and New Guinea to Australia's war in the Pacific was as carriers of supplies and wounded soldiers.

The bearers carried food, ammunition and other essential war material forward from bases such as Port Moresby to the front line on the Kokoda Trail or into the valleys and razorback ridges of the Owen Stanley Range. They stretchered wounded Australian soldiers back. This service was essential and played a vital role in winning the war in New Guinea.

The slang term used by Australians for the indigenous populations of northern Australia and the south Pacific at the time was "boongs". You will hear this used in some of the historical footage. As more Australians were wounded and came under the care of the Papuan or New Guinean stretcher-bearers they received another nickname—"fuzzy-wuzzy angels". This name became the title of a popular poem printed in many of the Australian army publications of the time.

These bearers were organised into village or regionally-based teams. Much of the organization was done by Australians from ANGAU—the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit. The team leaders were issued a circular bronze badge with the Australian coat of arms on it. The badge could be worn around the neck or woven into the wearer's hair. The team leader was the village headman or Lului. His deputy or the local translator who spoke the local dialect and Pidgin, or occasionally English, was the Tul Tul. The status of these leaders was indicated on their badges.

Find a copy of the poem *Fuzzy-wuzzy angels*. How would the language have changed since 1942 and why?

Leaflet in Pidgin – Warning!

Leaflets were designed to provide information to the indigenous people of New Guinea about the war. Some leaflets warned of the advancing Japanese army and advised the local people how to react. Most advised the villagers to hide in the jungle and inform the nearest Australian soldier or government official as soon as possible. Other leaflets offered rewards to local people who assist in the rescue or recovery of lost Allied soldiers or shot-down airmen.

Creating these leaflets presented a problem because of the large number of languages and dialects spoken in remote parts of New Guinea and the low literacy rates. Pidgin was an attempt at a common language and usually someone in the village or nearby community was able to read enough of it to decipher the meaning. Still, the message had to be kept simple.

Later in the war leaflets were distributed in English, Japanese and Pidgin to encourage Japanese soldiers to surrender. The messages in Pidgin urged indigenous peoples to assist Japanese who intended to surrender but warned about Japanese who intended to fight on.

The leaflets were created by Australian and Allied units like ANGAU—the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit and FELO—the Far East Liaison Office. Most leaflet distribution was achieved using aircraft drops.

Pacific Star [replica]

The Pacific Star is the award for all British and Commonwealth service personnel who saw service in the Pacific between 8 December 1941 and 2 September 1945. It was not awarded as a single medal and should be worn with the other campaign stars and medals to which the serviceman or woman is entitled.

The Pacific Star is a six pointed bronze star designed by the Royal Mint engravers in Britain. Australia is one of the few countries to impress the recipient's name and service number into the back of the campaign star.

The colours of the ribbon for the Pacific Star are symbolic. The green and yellow represent the jungles and beaches of the Pacific islands, the other colours are those of the three fighting services. The dark blue represents the navy. It is on the left because it is the oldest service. The red represents the army. Red has been the traditional colour of the British and Commonwealth armies for centuries. (Where can you see British soldiers still wearing red tunics today?) Pale blue is the colour used to represent the air force. As it is the youngest service, it is placed on the right.

Victoria Cross [replica]

The Victoria Cross (VC) is the highest award for military or naval valor in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth service personnel. The VC was introduced by Queen Victoria in 1856. It is made from gunmetal taken from a Russian cannon captured during the Crimean War (1854–56) and bears Queen Victoria's crown. Can you find out about the symbolism of the other components of the VC?

At Isurava on the Kokoda Trail in Papua, 24-year-old VX19139 Private Bruce Steel Kingsbury of the 2/14th Battalion AIF became the first Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross for an act of military valour performed on an Australian territory.

The citation for Kingsbury's VC tells the story:

In New Guinea, the battalion to which Private Kingsbury belonged had been holding a position in the Isurava area for two days against continuous and fierce enemy attacks. On August 29, 1942, the enemy attacked in such force that they succeeded in breaking through the battalion's right flank, creating serious threats both to the rest of the battalion and to its headquarters. Private Kingsbury, who was one of the few survivors of a platoon which had been overrun and severely cut about by the enemy, immediately volunteered to join a different platoon which had been ordered to counterattack. He rushed forward, firing the Bren gun from his hip, through terrific machine-gun fire and succeeded in clearing a path through the enemy . . . Continuing to sweep enemy positions with his fire and inflicting an extremely high number of casualties on them, Private Kingsbury was then seen to fall to the ground shot dead by the bullet from a sniper hiding in the wood. Private Kingsbury displayed a complete disregard for his own safety.

Bruce Kingsbury's VC was presented to his father in 1943.

SEE KINGSBURY'S STORY IN CASE STUDY "ON THE KOKODA TRAIL, 1942"

Bruce Kingsbury was not the only Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross for valour in Papua in 1942. Less than a week after Kingsbury's death on the Kokoda Trail, 28-year-old Queenslander Corporal John Alexander French from the 2/9th Battalion was killed attacking Japanese machine gunners near Milne Bay. French destroyed two enemy machine-gun posts but was killed as he knocked out the third. Like Kingsbury, he was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

Japanese uniform and equipment

The uniform worn by the combatants in the war in the Pacific in 1942 offered the wearer some protection from the climate and the jagged edges of service life in the field. It also allowed him to carry the equipment he needed to perform the tasks required of a soldier, sailor, or airman. One of the most important functions of military uniforms is to allow combatants to tell friend from foe quickly and easily so that battlefield mistakes are kept to a minimum.

Japanese military and naval uniforms were very distinctive. For the typical Japanese soldier in the South-West Pacific Area the common headdress was a simple field cap with a short peak, bearing a gold five-pointed star. Many of these caps were fitted with neck flaps to protect the wearer from the fierce tropical sun. Some also wore helmets, either of steel to protect against bullets, or of cork to give shelter from the sun. The steel helmets were of a distinctive dome shape, again making recognition easy.

Japanese equipment was made of leather or canvas and their khaki uniforms were of cotton drill. They wore puttees or strips of woollen cloth wound around their lower legs. In the jungle many wore black canvas and rubber shoes called tabi. Tabi were very distinctive as they are made with a separate big toe.

The Japanese water bottle was made of aluminium with a brown finish and held 5 Go, slightly less than 1 litre. Even though the Japanese and Australian water bottles looked quite different, they had the common characteristic of being flat or concave on one side. Why do you think this is so?

Japanese sailors and marines wore field caps like their army comrades but these were usually made of white cotton with a blue band around the base. Instead of a star on the front sailors and marines wore an embroidered anchor.

Japanese occupation or invasion money

When the Japanese invaded and occupied the various countries of South East Asia they introduced methods of social, economic and political control. One method used by the Japanese was the introduction of their own version of existing currencies, rather than inflicting the Yen on occupied countries. They used currencies like the Guilder in the Netherlands East Indies, the Dollars in the Philippines and Pounds, Shillings and Pence in former British and Australian territories. The new notes and coins became known as invasion or occupation money. Usually they bore some resemblance to the previous currency but all had the legend JAPANESE GOVERNMENT at the top so that everyone was clear who had issued it.

Some people had little faith in the value of the invasion or occupation money. The people of Portuguese Timor, for example, were prepared to accept Surats or promissory notes from the Australian guerillas who lived with them in the mountains and paid for their purchases with the notes. When regular supply was re-established with Australia the Surats were exchanged for silver.

RAN flash hood and gloves

The flash hood and gloves, made of fire resistant fabric, are worn over the head, neck and shoulders and slipped onto the hands and forearms. They are designed to give the wearer some protection from a sudden flash of flame. On a warship engaged in battle, flame can be produced by the firing of the ship's guns or from a fire on board ship as a result of enemy gunfire.

Flash hoods are usually worn under steel helmets and, like helmets, were only worn when expecting or engaged in battle or on a training exercise.

Imagine how uncomfortable they must have been in the tropics.



A sailor aboard HMAS Perth wearing flash gear. (AWM 008178)

RAN steel helmet c. 1942

The steel helmet was designed to protect the wearer's head from small-calibre bullets and shell splinters. Steel helmets were only worn by naval personnel in battle or on training exercises.

The steel helmets worn in the navy during the Second World War were similar in shape to those worn by the army, but there were some important differences. The helmet worn by Australian soldiers was usually painted mustard yellow (if the soldier was serving in the desert) or olive green (if he was fighting in the jungle). The paint on soldier's helmets was often mixed with sand to make the surface rough and prevent reflection and shine.

Sailors on ships did not have the same need for camouflage. Their helmets were grey, as it was usually the most readily available paint, and their helmets were left smooth.

[NOTE: This helmet is of post-war manufacture but is very similar to the RAN helmet worn in the battles in the Pacific in 1942.]

HMAS *Perth* tally band

RAN seamen wear a brimless circular cap. During the Second World War white caps were worn in summer and in the tropics.

A tally band with the name of the ship had been worn around their hats by British seamen since the early 19th century. Commonwealth countries adopted the tradition. This practice continued into the Second World War until the need for security saw tally bands with simply "HMAS" or "RAN" replace them. However, in 1942 many sailors still proudly wore the name of their ship around the rim of their caps.

Why would wearing the name of your ship on your cap be considered a security risk?

SEE CASE STUDY "THE SINKING OF HMAS PERTH"

RAN trade badges

Sailors of British and Commonwealth navies began wearing trade badges on the sleeves of their uniform jackets and tunics in the 19th century. By the Second World War this system of badges had become very detailed. It allowed the sailor's qualifications, and skill levels within those qualifications, to be recognized at a glance by those familiar with the symbols: crossed naval cannon indicate that the wearer is a member of a ship's gun crews. A three-bladed propeller indicates the wearer is qualified to operate the engines within the ship, and crossed flags indicate the wearer is a signaller.

The badges occasionally include other symbols like crowns and stars. These extra symbols indicate the wearer's skill level within the qualification, for example, crossed naval cannon with a six-pointed star show the wearer is not only a qualified gunner but a gun layer 1st class.

Use the chart *Insignia of rank of navy* to see what naval qualification is represented by the badge in your box.

Identification chart – ships

Instantaneous identification of ships, aircraft and other military and naval vessels was essential during the war. Both service personnel and civilians had to be able to distinguish friend from foe and act appropriately (although hiding first was always a good policy even if they might have been friendly!).

Identification charts were made up to train key people in recognition or to provide them with a quick reference tool in the field. The charts took many forms, from bound books to photographic postcards, to wall charts and three-dimensional silhouette models.

US Navy "gob" cap

The gob cap or, more formally, the "United States Navy Enlisted Man's Summer Issue Fatigue Cap", was introduced around 1917. It is still worn by US navy personnel today. As elements of the US navy were based in Australian ports and operated from Australian bases in the Pacific, gob caps and the Yanks who wore them were a familiar sight to Australians.

Can you find other differences between the uniforms worn by Australian personnel and those worn by our allies and our enemies?



US sailors were clearly recognizable when they arrived in Australia during the Second World War. (AWM 011546)

NEW GUINEA
KOKODA

RAAF side cap c. 1942

Blue woollen side caps were worn by members of the RAAF as an alternative to peaked caps. It was usually part of their working dress or less formal uniform.

The RAAF side cap was worn by both ground staff and aircrews. It was not intended to be worn by aircrew when they were flying, as their leather or fabric flying helmets were designed for this.

Photographs show us, however, that many airmen wore these caps while flying at low altitudes in the Pacific because they were not as hot as flying helmets or as intrusive as peaked caps. They provided some padding for the headband of the earphones aircrew had to wear while flying.

After the war, the RAAF changed the colour of their uniforms to pale blue/grey. Today they are returning to the dark blue uniforms worn by Australia's airmen of the Second World War.

RAAF pilot's wings badge c. 1942 [replica]

A qualified RAAF pilot wore a pair of embroidered wings above the left breast pocket of his uniform during the Second World War. The badge consisted of a pair of wings around a wreath, with the initials "RAAF" inside. Above the wreath was a crown of the type used on badges during the reign of King George VI.

Most RAAF fighter aircraft had a crew of one, the pilot. Bombers and transport aircraft usually had crews of several men. Each had a special task and so had a different qualification badge. Only the pilot's badge included a pair of wings. A wireless operator air gunner, for example, had a badge with "WAG" inside a wreath beneath a crown, all attached to a single wing.



Victoria, 1942. Employees at a women's clothing factory check numbers and trim air force wings before their issue to the RAAF. (AWM 136635)

Earphones

Earphones are speakers worn against the ears. They connect to radio receiving equipment and allow the wearer to hear messages sent by transmitting equipment. The message can be heard clearly through earphones as they limit interference from sources like engine noise or gunfire. These earphones are typical of the style used by airmen at Milne Bay, 1942.

Earphones are still part of the communication equipment used today in aircraft, ships, and armoured fighting vehicles.

Department of Defence issue: men's underwear

This pair of men's underpants was made in 1942 for the Australian Department of Defence. They are made from a blend of wool and cotton, with buttons made from an early form of plastic. Most equipment made for the Australian Department of Defence is stamped with a broad arrow. Some of it is also stamped with the initials "D↑D".

Men's underpants were made in either long or short leg patterns. The short legged variety was popular in the tropics.

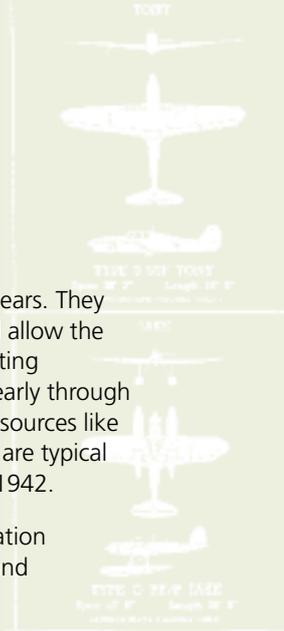
One unexpected hazard of underwear like this is described by Frank Allchin, MM, an officer of the 2/10th Battalion, fighting at Milne Bay in 1942. He remembered, "there were few air raids...but the 2/10th were bivouacked in thick jungle, completely impenetrable from air view, providing nobody hung his white underclothes to dry in one of the little clearings."

Poster – Advance in New Guinea

This wartime poster shows at a glance where Australian forces and those of their US allies were fighting in New Guinea in 1942 and 1943. It provides a very brief summary of some of the victories achieved by the Allied soldiers, sailors, and airmen in this region.

The confidence of Australians had been shaken by Japanese attacks on the Australian mainland since February 1942. Publications like this offered some positive and morale-building information for the Australian public. It was designed to lift public spirit and encourage support for the war effort.

The intended audience for publications like this was very wide: it included Australian school students, soldiers in training, and the general public.



Wartime publications for service personnel

Wartime publications for service personnel took a variety of forms. Instructional pamphlets helped soldiers, sailors, and airmen gain a better understanding of their weapons, tactics, first aid, field hygiene, and indeed an almost infinite number of other subjects to help them play their role in the war. Depending on the subject and level of information provided, these instructional pamphlets might have restricted circulation.

Newspaper or magazine style publications were often specific to a place, like the forces newspaper *Guinea Gold*. They carried general information about the course of the war and news from home. Their purpose was to entertain the troops, build morale, and break down the feeling of isolation. Many of these publications were made available to the troops in front-line areas by the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Censorship was a very important issue for authors and publishers in wartime. The possible benefit of the information to the enemy was something that had to be considered at all times. Can you find examples of censorship or restricted access in the publication you are studying?

Wartime rationing of materials had a noticeable affect on the quality of the paper, printing and binding of these publications. Can you notice the difference between the quality of the wartime publication and those of today?

Malaria literature

Malaria is a disease caused by a parasite transmitted by the bite of a female anopheles mosquito. The main symptom of the disease is recurring fever. The frequency of the attacks varies and can have dangerous complications, in some cases proving fatal. The disease is common in tropical areas.

Australia suffered 5 698 battle casualties in New Guinea in 1942, but over 15 000 Australian service personnel contracted infectious diseases. Malaria was the most common of these.

Preventing malaria was a major aim of the Australian forces in the Pacific. Service personnel took courses of Atebrin, an anti-malarial drug, in tablet form. They slept under mosquito nets whenever possible and wore mosquito repellent. Information about these and other malaria prevention techniques was widely distributed among service personnel to minimise the impact of infection.

In the box is an example of the malaria literature available to Australian personnel in the Pacific during the Second World War.

Training poster for the Mills '36 hand grenade

The Mills '36 grenade was issued to Australian soldiers during the Second World War. It was designed as an anti personnel weapon that could kill or wound up to twenty metres from the point where it burst. When it exploded on hard ground, it could inflict casualties up to 250 metres.

Used correctly, these grenades were very effective in killing soldiers and destroying equipment. However, they were dangerous to use and thorough training was required to ensure safety. Posters like this aided that training.

The '36 grenade weighs 700 grams. It has a grooved cast iron body filled with high explosives. The grooves assist in the fragmentation of the grenade. Inside there are two sleeves, one for the detonator, the other for the igniter set. The striker and spring are held in position by the striker lever, which is secured to the grenade by a safety pin with an attached ring.

The thrower holds the grenade firmly in one hand ensuring his hand keeps the striker lever in place after the pin is withdrawn. (The grenade will not detonate while the lever is in place, even after the pin has been pulled.) Once thrown, the lever flies off releasing the striker and starting the detonation.

The time delay between releasing the lever and the bursting of the grenade varies: from instantaneous (handy if the grenade is used as a booby trap) to a delay of several seconds (in the case where the grenade is fired from a discharger cup fitted to the muzzle of a rifle).

Bluey and Curley

Cartoons, comic strips, and caricatures can be found wherever and whenever Australians have served. Whether they were drawn by newspaper cartoonists or scribbled by soldiers to be pinned up in the mess tent, they provided light-hearted relief, and for us, insight into the culture and values of the soldier's life.

Probably the most popular and long-running comic strip was *Bluey & Curley*. First appearing just months after the outbreak of the Second World War, the strip focused on two diggers. Bluey was a veteran from the First World War, while Curley was a new recruit but just as streetwise. Bluey and Curley served in every Australian campaign and readers followed their adventures from North Africa, Middle East, New Guinea, Northern Australia, the Pacific Islands, and eventually to the Victory March celebrations in London in 1946.

Bluey and Curley epitomised what was seen as the typical Australian soldier. They liked a drink, a gamble and a chat (in colourful Aussie slang of course), and

they always had some scheme afoot. They had a healthy disregard for officers and regulations and were quick to bring down any mates who were getting too big for their boots. Despite their larrikin streak, they were fearless, resilient and skilled in battle.

Alex Gurney, the creator of *Bluey & Curley*, produced the strip from 1940 until his death in 1955. It was syndicated across Australia and appeared in New Zealand, New Guinea, and Canada (but was considered too Australian for American newspapers).

HMAS Perth – outnumbered and outgunned at Bantam bay

Diorama – Bunker busting at Buna

Your Memorial Box will contain one of these models. Look underneath it to find details about your model.

Stimulus photos

1. Sembawang, Singapore, October 1941. Pilots of 453 Squadron, RAAF, run to their Brewster Buffalo aircraft in response to a scramble order. AWM SUK14775

This photo was taken before Japan had entered the war. However, exercises were being undertaken in anticipation of an invasion by Japan. This scene was repeated constantly after the Japanese invaded Malaya, as these Buffaloes were in action almost continuously. Tragically, casualties among these men were very high as the Japanese Zero fighter plane outclassed the Buffalo and shot them out of the skies.

2. Singapore, 3 February 1942. Two women sit on the street among rubble and debris. They are grieving for the small child, whose dead body lies in front of a damaged rickshaw after a Japanese attack. AWM 011529/22

Civilian deaths are an all-too-frequent tragedy of war in populated areas; this was especially so in such a large crowded city as Singapore. Civilian loss of life here was extensive, particularly during the Japanese aerial bombing that preceded the ground battle between the invading Japanese army and the British and Commonwealth garrison. The British soldier on the left stands helplessly by. A first aid kit must have felt quite useless when confronted with this much death and devastation.

3. Batavia, Java, 10 March 1942. Japanese Bicycle Unit personnel move along a road in Batavia (now Jakarta). AWM 127909

Bicycles helped the Japanese Army to move rapidly down the Malay Peninsula and through the islands of the Netherlands East Indies. The Japanese soldiers in

this photograph are wearing their distinctive domed helmets and have slung their long Arisaka rifles over their shoulders. They have left their big packs with their unit transport (to be brought forward later), allowing them to travel lightly and quickly.

4. South-West Pacific Area, 1944. Forward 8 inch turrets of HMAS Australia searching for the enemy. AWM 017623

HMAS *Australia*, a veteran of the battle of the Coral Sea, continued to serve in the South-West Pacific Area for most of the war. She was subjected to several Japanese kamikaze attacks and sustained considerable damage and loss of life, but returned to service until she was finally disabled in January, 1945.

This photograph shows the view of the forward section of the ship from the bridge. Mounted on top of the second turret are two light anti aircraft guns. Fending off the enemy with anti aircraft guns was the main tactic in the battle of the Coral Sea in an action during which enemy ships did not sight each other.

The captain stands on the bridge surrounded with all of the equipment required to con the ship. Also visible are the ammunition boxes behind the anti-aircraft guns and anchor cables leading to the bow.

5. Milne Bay, Papua, September 1942. Flying Officer D. Pank of 75 Squadron, RAAF, taxiing his P-40 Kittyhawk after a flight. AWM026644

The US-built, Australian manned Kittyhawk fighter planes were used almost continuously during the battle of Milne Bay. Pilots had to fight fatigue, disease and the tropical climate, as well as the Japanese. Their main task at Milne Bay was to attack the Japanese forces advancing to attack the Australian and US positions around the bay. They operated from very basic airstrips without substantial control towers and hangars in which to house and service the aircraft. The runways were made of strips of perforated steel plates clipped together and laid on top of a reasonably bare and flat paddock.

6. Menari, Papua, 22 September 1942. A wounded Australian soldier is attended to by Salvation Army Chaplain Albert Moore while stretcher bearers and other soldiers look on. AWM 013287

The soldier on the stretcher is Lieutenant Valentine Gardner, 2/14th Battalion. He is being carried down the Kokoda Trail to a field hospital by a team of Papuan bearers, one of whom can be seen in the background. The care the Papuans took of Australian wounded earned them the nickname "fuzzy-wuzzy angels". Beside Gardner is one of the "walking wounded", a soldier with a head wound who is no longer able to fight but can make his own way to medical care. The Salvation Army established aid stations along the Kokoda Trail from which their

officers distributed what small comforts they could, such as tea and cigarettes, for the soldiers traveling along the track.

7. Kokoda, Papua, November 1942. Engineers building a bridge to ford one of the many rivers between Kokoda and Buna. AWM 013598

The landscape and climate were major obstacles in the war in Papua. Mountain trails that were no more than footpaths had to be turned into major supply routes to keep the troops fighting at the front and along which the wounded could be withdrawn for treatment. Watercourses that could transform from dry beds to raging torrents in hours had to be bridged. Overcoming these obstacles was the task of the field companies of the Royal Australian Engineers.

8. Gorari, Papua, November 1942. Japanese steel helmets are placed on top of their owners' graves by an Australian burial party. AWM 013645

Intense hand-to-hand fighting in the Gorari region resulted in the deaths of over 500 Japanese. They were buried in common graves, with up to ten bodies in one grave. Steel helmets were used to mark the gravesites. It was essential to bury the dead as quickly as possible in tropical areas to prevent the spread of disease. Notice that the burial party is very well armed. Their weapons include a Bren light machine gun (left), a Short Magazine Lee Enfield rifle (right); the others have US-made Thompson sub-machine guns.

9. Gona, Papua, 5 December 1942. Padre J Lynch conducts a church service for soldiers going into battle. AWM 013737

Many armies appreciate the significance of a soldier's religious beliefs; the Australian Army is no exception. During the Second World War each battalion had a padre to minister to the spiritual needs of the men. They often shared the hardships of the campaign, but not the fighting, with the soldiers.

Every soldier has his religion noted on his identity discs. If the soldier is killed, a padre of the appropriate religion can then be found to conduct the burial service.

10. Papua, 14 December 1942. Another plane being loaded to supply troops at the front line in the Buna-Gona area as General Blamey looks on. This load is made up of ammunition wrapped in blankets. AWM 013836

Papuan bearers did not have the carrying capacity to provide adequate supplies of food, medicine, ammunition and other essentials to the Australian soldiers fighting at the front. RAAF transport aircraft, nicknamed "biscuit bombers", were also used. This method of delivering supplies could be haphazard as many of the containers burst when dropped, damaging the contents. Some were lost in swamps

or jungle, and others landed on the troops they were supplying and caused casualties. One of the methods used to minimize damage to dropped supplies was to wrap them in blankets to provide some limited cushioning and to contain the contents should the box rupture on impact.

11. Gona, Papua 16 December 1942. Wounded Australians receive treatment near the front line. AWM013861

These wounded Australian soldiers are likely to be in the care of Australian nurses from a field ambulance. They are preparing the stretcher cases for their journey to further treatment in a Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) or a Field Hospital. The wounded men on the stretchers are having tags attached to them with information about the extent and seriousness of their wounds and, occasionally, with notes about the treatment they have received to date.

12. Port Moresby, December 1942. The operating theatre in No. 5 Casualty Clearing Station. This soldier had been bayoneted while fighting on the Kokoda Trail. AWM P02038.139

The wounded soldier is having his wounds attended to by a doctor, assisted by a nurse. An anaesthetist sits near the patient's head and drips measured amounts of anaesthetic (e.g., chloroform) onto a gauze pad over a wire cage that covers the patient's mouth and nose. This renders the patient insensible to the pain of the operation.

The patient is lying on a stretcher, not a purpose-built operating table. The conditions for surgery may be less than ideal; however, the seriousness of the soldier's injuries require urgent attention and cannot wait until he is transferred to a better equipped Australian General Hospital (AGH).

13. Timor, December 1942. Local Timorese people bring in fresh fruit to Australian guerillas. AWM013799

This photograph was taken shortly before the withdrawal of Australian guerillas from Timor. Short of supplies after being cut off by the Japanese advance, the 2/2nd Independent Company relied heavily on the support of local Timorese villagers to enable them to undertake their guerilla campaign. The Timorese put themselves at serious risk of Japanese reprisals by aligning themselves with the Australians.

The war caused conflict between the Timorese themselves, as different villages gave their support to the opposing forces. Support from the local population is essential for any successful guerrilla operation. As the Japanese reprisals became more savage, fewer Timorese were able to support the Australians. Waning local support and the changing priorities of commanders in Australia led to the eventual evacuation of the guerillas.

Artwork

1. Murray Griffin, *Robert's Hospital, Changi, 1943*, oil on hardboard, 65 x 82.1 cm, Australian War Memorial. ART24491

Robert's Barracks, used as the main general hospital in Changi, provided one of the most comfortable prisoner-of-war experiences in Malaya. However, it was still a depressing and unhygienic place. With an interruption to the normal water supply and the lack of soap, it was even impossible to remove stains and dirt from the bedding.

2. Dennis Adams, *HMAS Australia in action, Guadalcanal, 8 August 1942, 1943*, oil on canvas, 61.2 x 60.8 cm, Australian War Memorial. ART22189

The image shows Japanese torpedo bombers making a low-level attack on the RAN warship HMAS *Australia*. The Japanese aircraft are flying through the bursting shells directed at them by the anti-aircraft defences on HMAS *Australia* and other vessels nearby.

3. Harold Freedman, *Beaufighter pilot, 1945*, oil on canvas, 91.6 x 60.8 cm, Australian War Memorial. ART26985

The Beaufighter was a twin-engine fighter that could be equipped with torpedoes or light bombs. They were used extensively by the RAAF to attack enemy positions on the ground or enemy ships at sea. This pilot is wearing his RAAF side cap and wireless receiver headset rather than a leather or fabric flying helmet. He may have chosen this headset because he is flying at low level in a tropical area where the temperature would make a helmet very hot. He is also wearing a life jacket in case his aircraft is forced down on the sea.

Video

Our war in the Pacific, 1942

This video is a compilation of films released by the Department of Information during the war. The department was selective in the footage it released in order to boost morale and put events in a positive light. The language and attitudes expressed in the films reflect the times in which they were recorded.

Fall of Singapore (3 mins)

This film shows the rapid advance of the Japanese through Malaya and Allied resistance before the eventual surrender on Singapore. (Extract from AWM F00190)

Changi (2 mins)

Recorded in Changi camp in 1945 after the liberation of its inmates, this film graphically shows the conditions endured for years by Allied prisoners of war. (Extract from AWM F00190)

The defence of Milne Bay (4 mins)

This film emphasizes the role of ground forces and the support given to them by the RAAF in the defence of this strategically vital area. (Extract from AWM F000190/02/03; AWM F0013/14)

Men from Timor (8 mins)

Cinesound production of the Damien Parer film on 2/2nd Independent Company which conducted a guerilla war on Timor over several months. Parer spent some time on the island with the company and was able to capture rarely-seen battle footage. (AWM F01615)

Kokoda front line (7 1/2 mins)

This film won an Academy Award for cinematographer Damien Parer. It shows life on the Trail, the hardships endured, and the support systems which helped sustain life. (AWM F01582)

WARNING: THIS VIDEO SHOWS FOOTAGE WHICH MAY DISTURB SOME VIEWERS. PLEASE PREVIEW IT TO ASSESS SUITABILITY FOR YOUR AUDIENCE. EACH TRACK CAN BE VIEWED AND DISCUSSED INDEPENDENTLY.

GUINEA GOLD

For school users

Memorial Boxes can be used in different ways by students of all ages, from kindergarten through to senior secondary. They can be adapted to cover a wide range of curriculum areas, including history, social studies, politics, language, visual arts, and culture studies. The boxes have been specifically designed to enable teachers to use the contents to suit their own classroom strategies. Remember that you don't have to use all the objects in the box; select those, which are appropriate for your class and curriculum area.

The Memorial Boxes are designed to promote the use of primary resource material and student-centred, hands-on learning. Any of the booklets, photographs or documents may be photocopied for classroom use.

The Education Section of the Australian War Memorial recommends an average time of two weeks for a class to use the Memorial Box.

A) Curriculum links

The learning experiences offered by this Memorial Box are applicable to many different areas of curriculum, but the strongest links are to the studies of society and environment (SOSE), especially in the area of history.

While schools in the various states and territories have developed their own history curricula, a common strand is "Time, Continuity and Change". An associated strand is "Investigation, Communication and Participation", where students learn about the techniques of inquiry and how to participate in collaborative learning and decision-making. This Memorial Box is directly relevant to teaching both of these strands.

The following curriculum links refer to the document *Studies of Society and Environment—a Curriculum Profile for Australian Schools*. This profile was developed in a national curriculum development project initiated by the Australian Education Council. This document has formed the basis for individual state and territory curricula for the teaching of SOSE.

The outcomes describe the progression typically achieved by students during the years of schooling approximating Year 3 to Year 10. (NB The numbering system for these outcomes does not equate directly to year level.)

Strand: Time, continuity and change

OUTCOMES FOR STRAND ORGANISER:

UNDERSTANDING THE PAST

- 3.1b Interprets accounts and artefacts of people in other times
- 4.1a Describes significant events and ways of life in some periods of Australia's past
- 4.1b Describes the achievements of selected people and groups
- 5.1a Describes the significant ideas, people or events that have contributed to Australian identity
- 5.1b Describes the ideas, people or events that have influenced the identity of a country
- 6.1a Describes and explains lasting and changing aspects of Australian society and environments
- 7.1a Critically analyses the ways core values of Australian society have endured or changed over time
- 8.1 Analyses people, issues and events in the context of their time

OUTCOMES FOR STRAND ORGANISER:

TIME AND CHANGE

- 3.2 Constructs a sequence from a set of events
- 4.2 Constructs a sequence of some major periods and events
- 7.2 Analyses how causes, motives and consequences maybe related
- 8.2 Analyses why causes and consequences can vary in importance

OUTCOMES FOR STRAND ORGANISER:

INTERPRETATIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

- 3.3 Gives reasons why the local community and environment have changed and are likely to change
- 4.3 Portrays an event or occasion from a particular perspective
- 5.3 Interprets people's motives and actions from various perspectives
- 6.3 Critically compares representations of people, events and issues
- 7.3 Uses knowledge about the past to explain contemporary events
- 8.3 Explains why different individuals, groups and societies have interpreted and reinterpreted history in different ways

Strand: Investigation, communication and participation

OUTCOMES FOR STRAND ORGANISER: INVESTIGATION

- 3.16 Frames questions and identifies sources of information
- 4.16 Identifies the types of data and sources required by a task and decides how they will be used to gain information
- 5.16 Recognises significant issues in an area of investigation and selects suitable ways of investigating them
- 6.16 Explains the various ways of viewing an issue and the information associated with it
- 7.16 Uses the methodologies of the learning area to investigate different perspectives on an issue

OUTCOMES FOR STRAND ORGANISER: COMMUNICATION

- 3.17 Presents information to explore a key idea
- 4.17 Translates information from one form to another
- 5.17 Uses supporting evidence to argue for a personal point of view
- 6.17 Discusses the logic of and evidence for an argument or viewpoint

OUTCOMES FOR STRAND ORGANISER: PARTICIPATION

- 6.18 Comes to an informed personal decision through discussing and considering viewpoints and evidence presented by others
- 7.18 Judges actions of self and others in the light of available choices and avowed value positions
- 8.18 Plans action in the light of conflicting and inconsistent information and values

B) Suggested Class activities

Using the photos

- Interpret photos by considering the following:
 - Where was the photo taken?
 - When?
 - Who is the photo of?
 - How can you tell?
 - What is it showing?
 - What are the conditions like?
 - Why was it taken?
- Make up a story based on a photo and act it out.
- Photocopy the photos and using balloons above the heads of people write in what they are thinking or saying.
- Develop a collage based on "remembrance", using the photos as a stimulus.

- Sequence the photographs to tell a story.
- Look for links between photographs and other objects or stories within the Memorial Box.
- Discuss the usefulness of photographs as historical evidence. Do photos ever lie? Do they tell the whole story?

Using the objects

- Classify the objects in the box according to:
 - whether it was used by the army, navy or airforce
 - whether it belonged to a civilian or serviceman, an Australian, an ally or the enemy, its size, weight, purpose, material made from etc.
- Interpret each object by considering:
 - What is it?
 - How do you think it was used?
 - Where was it made?
 - Are there any markings to give us clues?
 - How old is it?
 - What is its equivalent today?
 - Why has it changed?
- Try on the items of uniform and encourage students to go back to the situation and time the uniforms represent.
- Test observation skills through activities based on the objects.
- Observe the insignia on the badges and medals and take a pencil rubbing (use a soft pencil).
- Ask students to consider what they would pack into the 37 pattern webbing if it had to sustain them for a three month excursion.

Using the Documents

- Interpreting the documents by considering:
 - What is it about?
 - Who wrote it?
 - When and where was it written?
 - What was its purpose?
 - Is it reliable?
 - How is it useful to historians?

Using the video

- Who was the target audience when these films were released originally?
- What was their main purpose?
- Separate the facts from the opinions in the films.
- Discuss the language and attitudes expressed in these films.
- Does the public have a right to be given a more realistic view of events? Are we still subjected to official censorship?
- Research the life and work of award-winning cinematographer Damien Parer, or that of other war photographers, artists or correspondents. How important is it to accurately record our role in world conflicts? Why is it recorded through different media, such as film, photography or art?



Other Activities

- Ask students to put themselves in the position of a character they have learned about through material in the box and, as that person, write a letter to a loved one from whom they are separated.
- Plot the locations mentioned in the box on a map of the Pacific to see where Australians served during the year of conflict in 1942. Indicate which of the three services were represented in each place. Also pinpoint the places where our allies, particularly US and Dutch, fought alongside Australians.
- Investigate the meaning of any words you come across that may have a special use in a military context, e.g., “con” and “consort”. The glossary at the end of this resource book will help you.
- Encourage students to ask their parents, grandparents and family friends to show any memorabilia and to share stories about their experience of war in the Pacific or any other conflict.
- The Bluey and Curley cartoon is an example of humour generated from the horror of war situations. Find other examples of humour that comes from adversity. Students could ask a friend or relative who has been involved in conflict to recount something funny that happened to them.
- Make a model of the Kokoda Trail using the cross-sectional profile in the “On the Kokoda Trail, 1942” case study. Find a landform near you that offers similarly steep grades. Try climbing up carrying a heavy pack, or helping a mate. Try it on a very hot day (but wear a hat). Try to imagine the rest of the hardships that the men on the Trail would have endured.

C) Beyond the Memorial Box

- Design and pack a time capsule to be opened at some time in the future. Ask students what they think future students would like to see and know about their current experience at school. Gather the material and seal it in the school grounds.
- Investigate how your local community has remembered the past by looking in the school grounds, the local park, public buildings, the cemetery and street names. You may find honour boards, avenues of trees, guns in parks, names on headstones which indicate that the experience of war touched many lives in your town. The students may like to continue the tradition and design an Honour Roll using the names of those veterans from your school or area who served in more recent wars, such as Korea, Vietnam or in peacekeeping operations.

 www.skp.com.au/memorials/index.html

- Plant trees in your school grounds and dedicate each one to a veteran from your area. Investigate the military history of the individuals. Design a suitable plaque.
- Initiate an oral history project of local men and women who experienced war in 1939–1945. Your State branch of the Oral History Association of Australia may be willing to give advice.



Set up your own Memorial Box or mini museum

1. Gather material

Ask around your local area for war-related material; these may include medals, badges, discharge certificates, photos, old cigarette tins, uniforms, diaries and letters. You could also record some oral histories.

2. Documentation

To help keep track of the items donated or lent you will need to set up a register so that you can record information such as: who donated the item, what is the item, what condition it is in, and any background information about the item which will help you understand more about the impact of war.

3. Conservation

Once you have registered the items you will need to assess their condition to know how best to store or display them. There are different storage requirements for different materials.

Paper – remove metal paperclips and staples—plastic paperclips are safer. Metal paperclips, pins and staples can rust and cause damage. Store items flat and keep away from direct light.

Photographs – remove photographs from adhesive (sticky) photo albums. These albums damage photographs by changing their colour and making them difficult to remove if left too long. Store photographs in flip albums or acid-free paper albums. Store away from direct sunlight in a dry, dark place. Direct sunlight fades and discolours items.

Protective wrapping – to store items such as photographs, metal objects and important papers use polyethylene plastic such as “GLADWRAP”. Do not store items in Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic as it causes damage; examples of PVC are cheap cling wrap and plastic shopping bags.

4. Devising an exhibition

Once your collection has started to grow you can start planning your own exhibition. This is the most exciting and rewarding part of museum work. What do you want to say through your museum display? What will visitors to the exhibition need or want to know about? What do you want to tell them—is there a story or theme that links the items together?

You will need to consider carefully what items to include and what they explain about the experience of war. You may need to purchase items from a disposal store to help illustrate the story. You might also consider using video or sound as part of your exhibition.

The location of your exhibition is important. Who do you want to see it? Suggested venues are at school during parent teacher nights or drama nights when there is a captive audience. The local library or town hall may also be available for a display. Consider having your exhibition coincide with ANZAC Day or Remembrance Day as people are already thinking about the impact of war on these anniversaries.

5. Other places to go for information:

- the Australian War Memorial’s website has extensive databases to help with your research
- 
- your local war memorial may list the names of soldiers who enlisted from your area
 - the library will hold books and perhaps other resources which will give more information about the war
 - the RSL will have members who went to war and who could be called upon to tell of their experience
 - the local newspaper office should have copies of newspapers from the war years in which you might find stories of local interest relating to the war in the Pacific. The newspapers could also be used to send an SOS calling for more information on a specific topic or person.

NEW GUINEA
KOKODA

Glossary

Note that these definitions applied in 1942. There may have been some changes in meanings and usage of words since that time.

ABDA Command	American-British-Dutch-Australian Command was established on 15 January 1942 to coordinate military resistance to Japan's advance in SE Asia. With nothing left to command following the fall of Singapore on 15 February and the defeat of the Dutch in Netherlands East Indies, it was dissolved on 25 February 1942.
ANGAU	The Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit. An element of the AMF that assisted with liaison between the Allied forces and indigenous Papuans or New Guineans, gathered intelligence, and performed other tasks that required local knowledge.
artillery	Guns that are larger than personal weapons and other small arms.
Arisaka	A Japanese bolt action service rifle in either 6.5-millimetre or 7.7-millimetre calibre.
Australian Imperial Force (AIF)	This was an Australian military expeditionary force raised to fight overseas during the First World War, after which it was disbanded. When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Australia raised a Second AIF. Most of the units of the Second AIF had the prefix "2/" attached to their title.
Australian Military Force (AMF)	This was the name of the Australian army with the responsibility for the defence of Australia and its territories. At the outbreak of the war in 1939 the bulk of the AMF was a part-time force of citizen soldiers or militia. The militia could be called up for full-time service in time of war, but there were restrictions on where they could be deployed. The AMF also had a small regular component of artillerymen and instructors.
battalion of infantry	A battalion is an army unit usually with 550–1,000 soldiers, commanded by a lieutenant colonel. A battalion is made up of several rifle companies and a headquarters or support company. Three battalions combined with artillery, transport and ambulance units made a brigade. Most Australian battalions were state or regionally raised, so if a battalion was "wiped out" it was very keenly felt in particular communities.
battery	A battery is a group of artillerymen and/or their guns and transport. An Australian field battery was used to provide gunfire support for a battalion of infantry. A coastal battery was a unit of guns in fixed positions to defend a strategic port or potential landing beach.
battle cruiser	A warship with speed and firepower similar to that of a battleship, but with lighter armour. Battle cruisers were used to patrol sea-lanes, hunt raiders and protect troop convoys. They provided useful anti-aircraft support for battleships and carriers and had a useful shore bombardment capability.
battleship	A class of warships which are the most heavily armoured and equipped with the most powerful batteries. Until the development of the large aircraft carriers during the 1930s, battleships were the most powerful units in any fleet.
beachhead	The area occupied by a military force on a hostile shore. It is usually fortified using trenches, barbed wire, machine gun positions or in other ways to prevent its capture. Beachheads can be used as bases for operations into a country or island or as a defensive position.
Bren gun	A magazine-fed .303-inch calibre light machine gun (LMG), used as a section weapon by British and Commonwealth troops during the Second World War. Named after [Br]no in Czechoslovakia, where the gun was designed, and [En]field in Britain, where it was manufactured.

brigade of infantry	An Australian brigade is an army unit usually consisting of three battalions commanded by a brigadier. An Australian brigade had its own artillery, engineer, communication, transport, and ambulance units. Three brigades combined to make a division. An Australian brigade of infantry was similar in strength to a Japanese infantry regiment.
capital ships	Battleships, battle cruisers and aircraft carriers.
“Chocos” or “Chocolate soldiers”	A derogatory name for militiamen of the AMF.
company of infantry	A company is a sub-unit of an infantry battalion. It is usually made up of three rifle platoons and a headquarters. The strength of a company is usually 100–200 soldiers. The officer commanding a company is usually a captain, occasionally a major.
con	To steer a seagoing vessel.
conscription	Compulsory military service. There have been several periods in Australian history during which young Australians were drafted or “called up” for compulsory service in the Australian army. From 1939 to 1945 a fit Australian male of military age could be conscripted into the AMF, but not the AIF.
consort	A ship sailing with another.
corps	An Australian corps is the largest organizational unit in the Australian army. It is made up of two or more divisions and is commanded by a lieutenant general.
corvette	A small, lightly armed vessel used mostly for convoy escort as minesweepers and later for submarine detection. A very simple design that was quick to build in large numbers, the RAN built almost 60 during the Second World War.
destroyer	A small, fast warship, originally designed to destroy torpedo boats. They are able to charge ahead of their fleet’s capital ships and attack the enemy’s torpedo craft. They can also fire torpedoes of their own and offer protection against air attack and submarines.
detachment	A number of troops separated from a main force for some special combat or other task.
division of infantry	An Australian division is an army unit usually consisting of three brigades of infantry plus support troops. A division can number 10,000–20,000 soldiers and is commanded by a major general. An Australian division had its own armour/cavalry, artillery, engineer, communication, transport, and ambulance units.
dysentery	A disease characterised by inflammation of the intestines, causing severe diarrhoea with blood and mucus.
enveloping moves	Battlefield maneuvering to completely surround an enemy.
field regiment (Australian)	A regiment is a body of artillerymen (usually 500–600 men) and their field guns and transport. It was used to provide artillery gunfire support for a brigade of infantry. A field regiment was made up of a number of batteries. In 1942 most Australian field regiments were equipped with 25-pounder field guns.
fighting withdrawal	A retreat while still in contact with the enemy.
forward area	Part of a theatre of operations that is close to the enemy.
freighter	A cargo ship.
garrison	A body of troops stationed in a fortified place.
Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere	The area of Asia and the Pacific that Japan planned to incorporate into its territories during the late 1930s and the Second World War. The Japanese presented the plan to many Asian and Pacific countries as an opportunity for liberation from European dominance.
guerilla	A member of a small, independent band of soldiers that harassed the enemy with surprise raids and attacks on communication and supply lines.
headquarters	In the field, this term is applied to the command element of a military formation.
HMAS	Her Majesty’s Australian Ship.
infantry	The fighting soldiers of an army. Their role is to seek out and then capture or kill the enemy or capture and hold ground. Their main weapon is a rifle.

independent company	An independent unit of the AIF, approximately 280 strong, commanded by a major. Its soldiers were trained in guerilla tactics. They were Australia's first "special forces " soldiers of the Second World War.
kunai grass	Tall wild grass of Papua New Guinea.
M1 Garand	A US .30-inch calibre self-loading rifle the standard service rifle used by troops in the Pacific.
malaria	A disease caused by a parasite transmitted by the bite of a female anopheles mosquito. The main symptom of the disease is an intermittent and remittent fever. The frequency of the attacks varies and the disease can have dangerous complications and, in some cases, prove fatal. The disease is common in tropical areas.
militiamen/militia	Citizen soldiers, as in the AMF.
NCO	Non Commissioned Officer, that is, an officer of junior rank, often the leader of a small sub-unit, who does not hold a commission. In the Australian Army, the most commonly encountered NCOs are sergeants and corporals.
P-40 Kittyhawk	A US built single-engined fighter aeroplane. Many Australian fighter squadrons were equipped with Kittyhawks.
paratroops	Soldiers who are deployed from the air by parachute.
platoon	A platoon is a sub-unit of an infantry company. It is usually made up of three rifle sections and a headquarters. Platoons are commanded by lieutenants or second lieutenants, but in the absence of an officer can be lead by a sergeant.
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force.
RAN	Royal Australian Navy.
rating	An enlisted sailor (i.e., one who does not hold commissioned rank).
regiment (infantry)	Both the Japanese and US Army had regiments of infantry. In strength they were similar to an Australian brigade. (This term was not applied to Australian infantry units in the Pacific in 1942.)
reinforcements	Additional personnel either to replace those killed or to strengthen an existing body of troops.
RN	(British) Royal Navy.
section	An Australian infantry section consists of 8–15 privates, a lance corporal, and a corporal. Most of the privates are equipped with rifles. The NCOs are armed with sub-machine guns and one of the section members has the task of providing machine-gun fire support with a Bren light machine gun.
Short Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) rifle Mk III*	British and Commonwealth .303-inch bolt action service rifle. Most Australian rifles were made at Lithgow in NSW.
signallers	Service personnel trained to operate communications equipment.
sloop	A naval escort vehicle, smaller and slower than destroyers; they also had a minesweeping capability.
squadron	The basic administrative and tactical unit of the air force. The number of personnel and the size of the squadron depends on their role and the type of aircraft that they operate.
Victoria Cross	This is the highest decoration for valour in the face of the enemy that can be awarded by the British Commonwealth. It was instituted in 1856 by Queen Victoria. To date 96 Australians have been awarded the Victoria Cross.
Zero	The famous single-engined Japanese fighter plane.



MEMORIAL
BOX

06

OUR WAR IN THE PACIFIC, 1942

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