Researching Australian military service:
Second World War, Troopships

Ships

Roger W. Jordan, *The world's merchant fleets 1939*: *the particulars and wartime fates of 6000 ships.* (London: Chatham Publishing,1999). Includes specifications, date of building and builder and some photographs, arranged by name of shipping company.

Convoys

Official records

Series AWM54 963/23/* contain statistics, lists of ships in some convoys, administrative arrangements for some convoys e.g. units embarking on ships.

General

Peter Plowman, *Across the sea to war: Australian and New Zealand troop convoys from 1865 through two world wars to Korea and Vietnam* (Dural, NSW: Rosenberg Pub).

Voyages

- *Unit diaries* for individual ships, (Official records AWM52 37/1/*). Only diaries for some voyages are held. Those held are listed on RecordSearch [www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/] under name of ship or its number for the voyage.
- *Voyage reports* (Official records AWM 54 963/13/* - AWM 54 963/19/*) Statistics, conditions and medical reports for some voyages.
- *Routine orders* (Official records AWM54 707/11/*)

General

- Letters, diaries and other papers of some who travelled on troopships are held in the Private Records collection. Use Collections Search [www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search] to identify items.
- Newspapers and magazines were published aboard troopships to help relieve the boredom of the long journeys. Use the Books Database [www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search?query=&library=true] to identify items: search by name of publication or name of ship.

Embarkation rolls

Apart from several miscellaneous items in the Research Centre, embarkation rolls from 1 December 1939 – 31 December 1944 are held at the National Archives of Australia in **series AT226/10.** Use RecordSearch [www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/] to find details.

Photographs and film

- **Collections Search** database [www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/] contains over 500 photographs and some films showing transport ships, including images of life on board

- **PhotoSearch** [www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/] is the online photographic catalogue of the National Archives of Australia, and contains digital images of photographs from the collections in all state and territory offices of the Archives.
- **Trove** [trove.nla.gov.au] can search photographs and other images held by a range of major Australian libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions.