Researching Australian military service: Second World War, Troopships

Ships


Convoys

Official records

Series AWM4 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

- 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.