

### Pilot Officer Albert George Gillespie

Albert was born at Rose Park (SA) on 7 June 1912. His widowed mother moved to Victor Harbor and operated (and later purchased) the Warringa Guest Home (now Anchorage). Albert studied medicine in Adelaide & Melbourne and travelled to London in 1937 to further his studies. With Nazi Germany a threat to peace in Europe, Albert enlisted in the Royal Air Force and was mustered for pilot training.

On 7 August 1938, Albert was co-pilot of a Handley Page Harrow bomber from 37 Squadron RAF participating in the largest home defence exercise held in the UK. In the early hours of the morning, the aircraft crashed due to poor visibility. All five crewmembers were killed. Albert was buried with full Royal Air Force honours in St Nicholas Church Communal Cemetery, Feltwell, Suffolk.

Albert's brother Keith Gillespie served in the Royal Australian Air Force during World War Two.

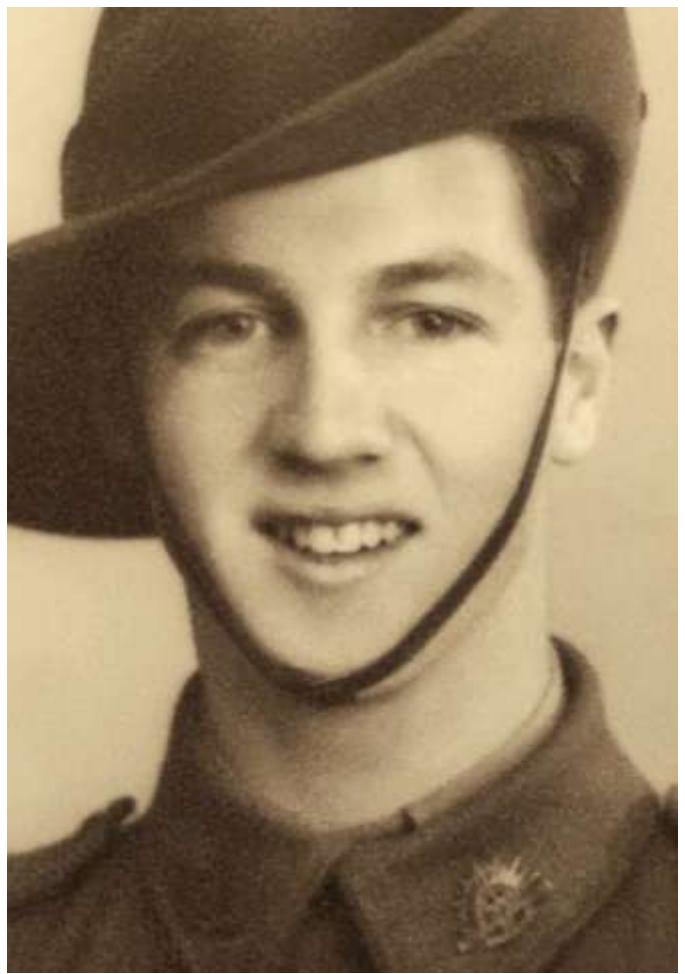
Remembered by his nephew, Laurence (Laurie) Kingston Gillespie of Victor Harbor.



407421 Flying Officer Keith Herbert Gillespie

Keith was born at Cockburn (SA) on 11 February 1914. His widowed mother, Agnes Gillespie, moved to Victor Harbor and operated the Warringa Guest House (later Anchorage). Keith enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 12 October 1940 and was mustered as a wireless operator & air gunner. He embarked for service in the UK and trained further and was then posted to an RAF bomber squadron. He undertook many missions over enemy territory.

Keith was demobilised on 3 February 1947 and moved to Western Australia.



SX29595 Sergeant Laurence (Laurie) Kingston Gillespie

Laurie was born in Adelaide on 20 December 1923 and lived his early years at Victor Harbor where he attended Coorlock Catholic School. His grandmother, Mrs Agnes Gillespie, owned the Warringa Guest Home (now Anchorage) and he often stayed there. He was 18 and still at school when he enlisted in the militia forces on 6 January 1942. After basic training he was posted to Ordnance Corps and served with the units maintaining the vital road link between Alice Springs and Darwin. In June 1942, he was promoted to corporal. On 21 April 1943, Laurie transferred to the 2nd AIF. In August 1943, he sailed for New Guinea where he served in the campaign there until repatriation to Australia in January 1945. He was promoted to sergeant in June 1945 and served in SA & Vic ordnance units until his discharge on 19 September 1946.

Laurie lives in retirement and divides his time between Victor Harbor and Adelaide.



410783 Warrant Officer Norman (Norm) Leslie Ginn

Norm was born at Mildura (Vic) on 16 August 1923 and enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 31 January 1942, age 18 years 6 months. He was selected for aircrew and was mustered as a wireless operator and air gunner. He underwent intensive training in Australia before embarking for the UK and after further training, was posted to 460 Squadron RAAF attached to RAF Bomber Command.

On the night of 2 December 1943, Norm was a crewmember of Lancaster JB608 E-Easy, when it was attacked by two German night fighters and shot down over Berlin. It was Norm's 15th mission. Two of the crew were killed and Norm and the others baled out. Norm managed to evade capture for a short time before he was taken prisoner. After interrogation, he was sent to Stalag Luft 1VB POW Camp, at Muhlberg. Norm spent the rest of the war in captivity. After liberation, Norm was repatriated home to Australia. He was demobilised on 17 December 1945. Norm and his wife Betty retired to Victor Harbor in 1979.



SX9885 Gunner George Henry Glover

George was born in Devonshire, England on 11 June 1920. His parents migrated to Australia after the First World War. George enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 30 July 1940 and was posted to the 2/7th Field Regiment, an artillery unit. He sailed with the Regiment to the Middle East and fought in the Battles of Mersa Matruh, Halfaya Pass and the two Battles of El Alamein (July & October 1942). The Regiment returned to Australia in February 1943 for reforming and training in readiness for jungle warfare. In April 1945, George sailed with the Regiment to Morotai, then onto Tarakan Island, to reclaim the island and the oilfields from the Japanese. George returned to Australia at war's end and was demobilised on 21 September 1945. George and his wife Rae moved to Victor Harbor in 1964.



SX10437 Lieutenant William (Bill) Powell Goode

Bill was born at Port Pirie on 9 July 1913 and was farming at Waitpinga when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 30 November 1940. After basic training, Bill underwent officer training and was commissioned a lieutenant. He was later posted to the 2/14th Field Regiment, an artillery unit. The Regiment was in Darwin during the Japanese air raids against northern Australia. By January 1944, the Regiment was in New Guinea and supported the advancing infantry units in the push against the Japanese. In January 1945, the 2/14th was in New Britain, and was the only field regiment supporting the 5th Australia Division. It was heavily engaged in fighting around Waitavlo in March 1945. After the Japanese surrender, the Regiment moved to Rabaul where it remained until its return to Australia. Bill was demobilised on 3 December 1945 and returned to farming.

## **Major William Hay Gosse MC - Killed in Action on 5 April 1918**

William Hay Gosse was born at Kent Town, South Australia on 21 October 1875, the son of famous explorer William Christie and Agnes Gosse (*nee Hay*). He received his early education at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School and Geelong Grammar School. In 1886, he commenced his studies at the Collegiate School of St. Peter in Adelaide. William later attended the University of Adelaide and from 1895-1897, he was the well-regarded stroke of the University Men's Rowing Team. Adelaide did not compete in the 1899 Inter-colonial University Boat Race and this allowed William the opportunity to row with the Melbourne team. Despite a strong head wind and five prior losses in succession, William stroked the Melbourne crew to a five-length win on their three-mile home course. In 1896, he had competed in the Oxford-Cambridge boat race at Henley on Thames.

In late 1899, William enlisted for service in the South African War (Boer War) as 104 Trooper William Hay Gosse. He was posted to the 2nd South Australian Mounted Rifles Contingent and embarked from Adelaide on 26 January 1900. The Contingent included Trooper Harry "The Breaker" Morant.

The conflict in South Africa is generally divided into three phases:

The early phase, from October to December 1899, when the British armies, mainly infantry, were defeated or besieged by highly mobile Boer mounted troops.

The second phase, from December 1899 until September 1900, which involved a British counter-offensive, resulting in the capture of most of the major towns and cities of South Africa.

The third and longest phase, from September 1900 to May 1902, when the war was mainly a guerrilla conflict between British mounted troops and Boer irregulars.

The outbreak of war had long been expected in both Britain and Australia. Believing that conflict was imminent, Queensland had offered troops in July 1899, and the same month Britain had requested the participation of New South Wales and Victoria. Each of the colonies ultimately sent between four and six contingents. The first groups arrived in South Africa between November 1899 and March 1900; the second, including the 2nd South Australian Mounted Contingent, between December 1899 and February 1900; the third between April and May 1900; and the fourth between May and June 1900. The 4th Tasmanian, 6th Queensland, South Australian, and Western Australian contingents did not reach South Africa until March–April 1901. A further three contingents were raised by the new Commonwealth in 1901, but as they did not embark until 1902, most arrived too late for any action; indeed, some were still at sea when the war ended on 31 May 1902.



SX6465 Sergeant Ronald (Ron) Herbert Graetz

Ron was born at Murray Bridge on 4 January 1919. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 22 June 1940 and was posted to the newly formed 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion. The men trained hard and readied themselves for overseas service. They sailed for the Middle East in April 1941 and fought in the campaign against the Vichy French. The fighting was hard and many casualties were suffered. In February 1942, the 2/3rd sailed for Australia but elements were diverted to Java in what would prove an ill-fated campaign. Ron's company arrived home and the Battalion reformed and readied itself for jungle warfare. Ron's leadership qualities saw his promotion to sergeant. In December 1944, the 2/3rd landed in New Guinea and fought another hard and costly campaign.

Ron returned to Australia and was demobilised on 9 January 1946. He moved to Victor Harbor in 2003.



PA2723 Sick Berth Attendant (Dental) Wallace (Wal) Dale Grant

Wal was born at Prospect on 24 September 1923. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve on 11 March 1942, aged 18. After his basic and sick berth attendant training at HMAS *Cerberus* he served at HMAS *Assault* (Port Stephens) until July 1944, when he joined the heavy cruiser HMAS *Australia* which supported the Morotai landings in September 1944. During the Philippine landings in October 1944 and January 1945, the *Australia* was hit by Japanese kamikaze aircraft, causing heavy casualties. On 10 May 1945, Wal transferred to sister ship HMAS *Shropshire*, which then supported landings at Labuan and Balikpapan. His ship was at Tokyo for the Japanese surrender. Wal left *Shropshire* on 10 March 1946 finally going ashore (demobilised) on 3 September 1946.

Wal and his wife moved to Victor Harbor in 1984.



SX39301 Warrant Officer Clifford (Cliff) Ivo Grosvenor

Cliff was born at Victor Harbor on 19 August 1898 and had served in France in World War One. He fought with the 50th Battalion in the major battles of 1918. Cliff enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 20 September 1940 after serving in the militia. He served in New Guinea. His son Robert Archer Grosvenor (RAAF) was killed in a flying accident in Scotland on 29 March 1944. After the end of World War Two, Cliff volunteered to serve with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) in Japan. Shortly after his return to Australia, he died as a result of an accident on 26 May 1947 at the age of 48. Cliff is buried in the Sydney War Cemetery. Cliff has been accorded the distinction of a war grave.

The above photograph is from the Brenda Grosvenor family collection (Brenda is the daughter-in-law of Cliff, having married Peter Grosvenor, youngest son of Cliff).



442442 Warrant Officer John (Jack) Prouse Grosvenor

Jack was born at Victor Harbor on 6 February 1922. He served in the militia (serial number S47648 from 3 October 1941 to 21 January 1943) prior to his enlistment in the 2nd AIF (serial number SX19110 22 January 1943 to 1 August 1943). He then enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 2 August 1943 and trained as Wireless Operator and Air Gunner. Jack undertook further training in Canada and was later posted to RAF Mediterranean Command. He returned to Australia in late 1944 and served with 37 Squadron. Jack was demobilised on 13 May 1946.



115245 Corporal Peter Milton Grosvenor

Peter (brother of Robert Archer Grosvenor, cousin of Jack Prouse Grosvenor) was born at Victor Harbor on 17 October 1921. He enlisted in the Royal Australia Air Force on 23 July 1942 and trained as a cypher operator. Peter served with various RAAF signals units in Northern Australia, New Guinea, Morotai and the Borneo campaign. The signals units were responsible for the transmission and receival of classified and secret information for the RAAF operational squadrons throughout the war. Peter returned to Australia and was demobilised on 8 May 1945.



#### 417954 Flight Sergeant Robert (Bob) Archer Grosvenor

Bob (son of Cliff Grosvenor) was born at Victor Harbor on 15 August 1923. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 15 August 1942 (on his nineteenth birthday) and was mustered for pilot training. He didn't qualify as a pilot and thereafter trained as a wireless operator & air gunner. Bob went to England and underwent further training with 1652 Heavy Conversion Unit. On 29 March 1944, whilst on a training flight, the Halifax he was a crewmember of, crashed near Ayrshire, Scotland. The inner portside propeller had sheared off and hit the fuselage. All six crewmembers were killed. Bob is buried in Harrogate Cemetery, England.

The above photograph is from the Brenda Grosvenor family collection (Brenda is the daughter-in-law of Bob's father).



SX2448 Lance sergeant Clarence Gregory Hackett MM

Clarence was born at Wilmington (SA) on 20 March 1919. He was working at Victor Harbor when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 23 April 1940.



He sailed with the 2/10th Battalion as part of the 6th Division on 5 May 1940 to the Middle East, but en-route the convoy carrying the Division was diverted to the United Kingdom to bolster its defences. In December 1940, the Division sailed for Egypt and was later at Tobruk where it fought there. During an action on 3-4 May 1941, his conspicuous bravery was rewarded with a Military Medal. On returning to Australia, the Battalion was sent to New Guinea in August 1942. They

suffered heavy casualties at Milne Bay and Buna, the latter costing 113 men killed and 205 wounded in ill-conceived attacks. By now Clarence was a lance sergeant. The 2/10th fought in New Guinea again in 1943-44. After a spell in Australia, it sailed for Morotai and then landed at Balikpapan (Borneo) on 1 July 1945 and stormed the heights of Parramatta Ridge. The fighting was hard with many casualties suffered. Sgt Hackett was one of those killed. He is buried in the Labuan War Cemetery.

The above photograph was purchased from The War Graves Photographic Project (UK).

We are trying to locate the family and a photograph of Clarence Hackett.



4071193 Squadron Leader Edwin (Ned) Laurence Hammat

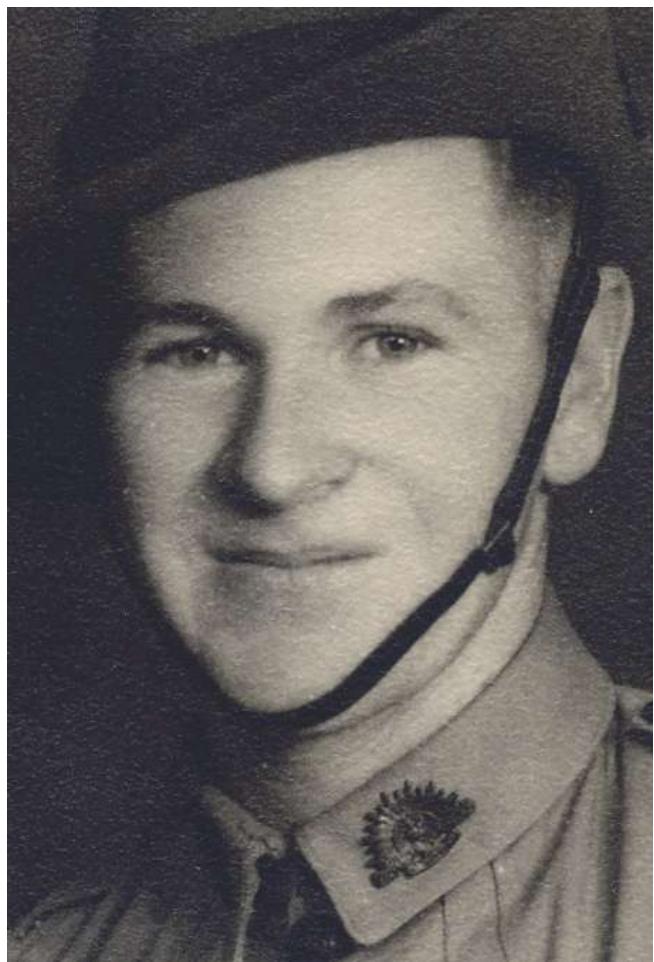
Ned was born in Port Pirie on 20 April 1920 and grew up in Victor Harbor. Ned enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 20 July 1940 and was mustered for aircrew training as an observer. He was later commissioned and served in North Africa with RAF Blenheim squadrons against the Axis forces. He was transferred to India Command and undertook many hazardous missions against Japanese targets in Burma. He returned to England and flew with 464 Squadron RAAF (Mosquitos) and undertook missions there against the German forces as they retreated across Europe. Ned was repatriated to Australia and demobilised on 31 January 1946. After the war he studied pharmacology and worked for Ron Goldsack at Victor Harbor.



115909 Leading Aircraftman Edwin (Ted) James Harding

Ted was born at Victor Harbor on 26 July 1924. He was dairy farming with his father at Port Elliot when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 31 August 1942, age 18. Ted was mustered for training as an airframe electrician. In February 1944 he was posted to No 6 Squadron (Beauforts) on Goodenough Island. The Squadron carried out strikes against Japanese targets. In August 1944, Ted was posted to No 76 Squadron (Kittyhawks). The unit was engaged in strafing attacks against enemy targets and escorted bombers. The ground crews worked tirelessly under difficult conditions to keep the aircraft operational.

Ted returned to Australia in March 1945 on compassionate grounds and was posted to 3 Reserve Personnel Pool (RPP). He was discharged on 23 August 1945 and returned to farming. Ted lives in retirement at Port Elliot.



QX29517 Sergeant Allan Keith Harley

Keith, as he was known, was born at Murwillumbah (NSW) on 1 August 1922. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF 1 January 1942 and after his basic training, was posted to the Australian Army Service Corps' Postal Division. His organisational and leadership skills from his previous PMG employment later saw him promoted to sergeant. Keith served in New Guinea and later in Bouganville. His unit provided that all-important service to the troops in the field – mail from home. After the surrender of Japan, he volunteered for service with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) in Japan. He was appointed orderly room sergeant in MacArthur's headquarters and saw the devastation of Hiroshima. Keith returned to Australia and was demobilised on 25 May 1948.

Remembered by his daughter, Joanne Chalmers (*nee* Harley), and her husband, Chaplain Brian Chalmers, a member of this RSL.



VAD Jean Olive Harley (*nee* Morgan)

Jean was born at Maitland (NSW) on 25 September 1924. In 1943, she was invited to join the Volunteer Aid Detachment, an organisation that provided valuable support to medical staff of the defence forces in the hospitals and convalescence units throughout the country. The VAD's counselled and consoled the wounded and injured soldiers returning from the front. Jean served at the Concord Repatriation Hospital, Sydney, and looking after the injured servicemen and their relatives, became an everyday event. In September 1945, Concord RGH cared for the first repatriated former POWs of the Japanese. Jean was demobilised after war's end.

Remembered by her daughter, Joanne Chalmers (*nee* Harley), and Chaplain Brian Chalmers, a member of this RSL.



SX18610 Private Cleveland Colin Francis Hackett

Cleve, as he was known, was born at Port Elliot on 3 June 1913. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 30 March 1942 and after his basic training was posted to the 4th Port Operating Company. The unit was responsible for the loading and unloading of vital war supplies and materiel for the troops overseas. The unit embarked for New Guinea and Cleve served in the campaign there. Their tasks were demanding and they often operated around the clock in order to maintain supplies to the frontline units. Cleve was repatriated to Australia and was demobilised on 8 March 1946.

Remembered by his niece Colleen Pearson (*nee* Reed).



SX37135 Sapper Francis (Frank) Arthur Albert Haskett

Frank, brother of Cleve, was born at Port Elliot on 15 March 1922. He was serving in the militia forces when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 23 February 1944. After basic training, he was posted to the 1st Australian Port Maintenance Company. At this time, not a great deal is known about this small unit or of Frank's service. We understand the Company was comprised of men from the Royal Australian Engineers and they were responsible for maintenance of equipment around the wharves where materiel and supplies were loaded for our troops overseas. There was a detachment serving at Port Moresby from 1943 onwards. Frank was demobilised on 11 January 1946.

Remembered by his niece, Colleen Pearson (*nee* Reed).



S112060 Pte Raymond Sylvester Roy Haskett

Roy, as he was known, was born at Yankalilla on 5 December 1924. He enlisted in the militia on 18 January 1943, age 18. After his basic training he underwent driver training near Cowra. He went A.W.L. for three months in 1944 to help on the family dairy farm at Hindmarsh Tiers. His mother was very ill and his father elderly. His mother later died. Roy was sentenced to 120 days detention, which he served. He was later posted to the 37/52nd Battalion and in February 1945, embarked for service in New Britain. The Battalion contained the Japanese forces and carried out patrolling. It actively engaged the enemy in May 1945, at Open Bay. Roy remained on New Britain until June 1946 when he was repatriated to Australia. He was demobilised on 5 Aug 1946.

Remembered by his niece, Colleen Pearson (*nee* Reed).



SX8587 Private George Wilfred Haywood

George was born at Loxton on 9 March 1917. He was living at Mt Compass when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 12 July 1940. After basic training he was posted to the 2/48th Infantry Battalion. His brother Les followed him to the unit. The unit embarked for the Middle East on 18 November 1940. The Battalion later fought at the siege of Tobruk until its withdrawal on 23 October 1941. In July and October 1942, George and Les fought in the First and Second Battles of El Alamein. On the night of 26 Oct 1942, George was killed in an assault on an enemy defensive position. He is buried in the El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt.

Remembered by his niece Dawn Queale (*nee* Haywood) of Goolwa.



SX9752 Private Leslie (Les) Henry Haywood

Les was born at Serviceton (Vic) on 14 February 1913. He was married and living at Victor Harbor when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 26 July 1940, two weeks after his brother George had enlisted. Les was also posted to the 2/48th Infantry Battalion.

The two brothers embarked overseas for the Middle East and both fought in the Battles of Tobruk. On 1 April 1942 (April Fool's Day), Les was accidentally injured. He recovered and they fought in the First and Second Battles of El Alamein. George was killed in action on 26 October 1942. After the unit returned to Australia, Les' health deteriorated and there were hospital admissions. He was discharged on 16 December 1943 to allow for him to return to farming (a reserved industry).

Remembered by his daughter Dawn Queale (*nee* Haywood) of Goolwa.



407289 Flight Sergeant Robert (Bob) Joseph Hehir

Bob was born on 19 May 1918 at Ashford (SA). He was educated at Victor Harbor and was a house painter when he enlisted in the RAAF on 17 August 1940. Bob was mustered as aircrew and underwent wireless & air gunnery training at No 1 W.A.G.S. (Ballarat). He embarked for overseas service on 27 June 1941. After arrival in Egypt he was posted to 14 Squadron RAF. He flew on a number of missions against Axis Forces in North Africa. On 13 June 1942, his Blenheim Z6044 was involved in a night landing practice when an air raid warning was given. All aircraft were ordered to return to base but the aircraft with Bob and his fellow two crewmembers failed to return to base.

Bob has no known grave and is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt.

We are trying to locate the family of Bob Hehir.

## 3325 Private Frank Stanley Henderson

Frank Stanley Henderson was born on 28 February 1897 in Victor Harbor, the eldest child of George and Martha Henderson (*nee* Pearce) of 'Riverside', Victor Harbor. Frank was educated at the local Public School and during his senior years he joined the Victor Harbor cadet unit. He is featured in a photograph circa 1911 held by the National Trust Victor Harbor which shows a number of local senior school students in the unit equipped with their muskets.



In 1911 the *Defense Act* of 1903 had been amended following British Field Marshal Lord Kitchener's report to the Australian Parliament. On 1st January 1911, by proclamation, compulsory military training was established in Australia. It prescribed junior cadet training for boys twelve and thirteen years of age, followed by senior cadet training from fourteen to eighteen years of age, and thereafter adult training for two years in the citizen forces, to equal sixteen days annually, followed by a muster parade each year for six years. Whilst the militia forces were required to serve anywhere in Australia they could not be sent overseas<sup>1</sup>.

Black and white photograph taken by Trooper Frank Henderson of German-Australian internees gathering wood for their camp fires at Torrens Island Concentration Camp c. 1915. From the collection of Mrs Millie Smith (*nee* Henderson).

After leaving school Frank was employed as a labourer working and in 1914 at the age 17, he enlisted in the militia forces and was posted to the 22nd Light Horse Regiment. Trooper Henderson was initially stationed at Torrens Island where a detachment of the unit was detailed to guard the German civilian internees. The former quarantine station had been converted to an internment camp and became known as Torrens Island Concentration Camp. The camp housed around 400 German-Australian men who had been arrested and detained under wartime emergency provisions<sup>2</sup>.



407767 Flying Officer Leslie (Les) Walter Hewton

Les was born in Yorketown (SA) on 30 November 1908. He was a teacher and married with two children when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 4 January 1941. He was mustered as aircrew and trained as a wireless operator & air gunner. On 20 December 1941, he sailed for Egypt and trained further in Kenya. On 1 October 1942 he was posted to 55 Squadron RAF, which was equipped with Martin Baltimore bombers. Les and his crew undertook many missions against enemy targets in North Africa and the Mediterranean. After completing 62 missions, Les was posted to a training unit as an instructor. He returned to Australia in September 1944 and was discharged on 22 January 1945 and then resumed teaching. Les died on 17 December 1988, age 80.

Remembered by his son, Paul Hewton, a member of the Victor Harbor RSL.



### SX13297 Lieutenant Geoffrey (Geoff) Gordon Hoad

Geoff was born at Victor Harbor on 18 December 1921. He was farming at Sanderston (SA) when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 18 June 1941. After basic training, Geoff underwent officer training and was commissioned and later promoted to lieutenant. He was posted to the 2/4th Independent Company (later the 2/4th Commando Squadron). In September 1943, the unit landed at Lae, New Guinea. Thereafter, the 2/4th conducted numerous long-range patrols against the Japanese. Lt Hoad was killed in an action on 23 December 1943. He is buried in the Lae War Cemetery.

We are trying to locate the family of Lt Geoffrey Hoad.

## **5331 Corporal William Holliday – Killed in action on 1 October 1917.**

William Holliday was born at Unley on 4 February 1895 the eldest of five children of James Hodgson Holliday and Ada Eliza Holliday. The family later moved to Victor Harbor where James Holliday built the Warringa Guest House on Flinders Parade<sup>1</sup>. William was educated at the Victor Harbor Public School and whilst there he joined the junior cadets<sup>2</sup> and later enlisted in the militia forces. Prior his enlistment on 24 January 1916 he ran a chicken farm just outside of Victor.



Studio portrait of Corporal William Holliday made by Fruhling Studios, Adelaide taken in March 1916. Image scanned by Digital Print Australia, Adelaide from a family photograph owned by Mark Hardy, great nephew of William Holliday.

On enlistment he undertook the routine medical examination and given the serial number 5331. His description was recorded as:

Hair

brown

Height

5 feet 8.5 inches

Weight

150 pounds

Chest measurement

34-37 inches

Complexion

fresh

Eyes

hazel

Religion

Methodist



### SX7516 Sergeant Victor (Vic) William Honeyman – MID

Vic was born at Victor Harbor on 5 May 1902. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 2 July 1940, age 38, and was posted to the 2/3rd Machine Gun Regiment. His leadership qualities led to his promotion as sergeant.

He served with the Battalion in the Middle East in the campaign against the Vichy French in Syria. The fighting was bitter and there were many casualties. Vic then served in the Java campaign with the Battalion and was taken prisoner. Vic slaved on the notorious Thai-Burma Death Railway. He was liberated at war's end, repatriated to Australia and demobilised on 9 January 1946. Vic was Mentioned in Despatches for his splendid work undertaken in helping other prisoners of war.

Remembered by his son, Lindsay Honeyman, a member of the Victor Harbor RSL.



SX4760 Sergeant Frederick Campbell (Cam) Hughes

Cam was born at Laura (SA) on 25 February 1912 and was farming at Waitpinga when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 10 June 1940. Posted to the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion, he sailed to the Middle East. The Battalion fought the Vichy French in the bitter and costly Syrian campaign. In February 1942, the 2/3rd sailed for Australia and elements were diverted to Java in what would be an ill-fated campaign. Cam's company fortunately arrived home. The Battalion reformed in Queensland and underwent jungle warfare training. The unit then landed in New Guinea in December 1944 and fought the Japanese until war's end.

Cam returned to Australia and was demobilised on 12 September 1945. He resumed farming at Waitpinga. Cam died on 20 March 1984. His brother, Ralph Laurence Hughes, also served in the army during World War Two.



SX27854 Private Ralph Laurence Hughes

Ralph was born at Laura on 18 June 1922 and was farming with his brother Fred at Waitpinga when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 21 December 1942. He had transferred from the Citizens Military Forces. We do not have access to his service file at this time and are unable to research his service.

The National Archives website shows that he was the subject of a court martial on 15 January 1946 whilst at 11th Ordnance Vehicle Park. His unit at the time of his discharge on 23 May 1946 is shown as the 2/1st Tank Transport Company, Australian Army Service Corps.

Ralph later married Alison Mary Adams. He died on 30 March 1995.



SX16221 Craftsman Allan William Jagger

Allan was born at Victor Harbor on 8 April 1919. He was farming at Inman Valley when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 10 January 1942. After basic training he was posted to the Corps of Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (AEME). In the absence of access to his service file from the National Archives, we assume he most likely trained as a mechanic or an armourer, and was posted to the 2/9th Armoured Regiment's Workshop. The Regiment trained hard in the Atherton Tablelands (Qld) and readied itself for jungle warfare. In March 1944, the Regiment replaced its US Grant tanks with the British Matilda's.

On 26 October 1944, Allan was discharged and returned to farming at Waitpinga. He died on 21 January 1988, age 68.



SX16063 Craftsman Lester Frederick James

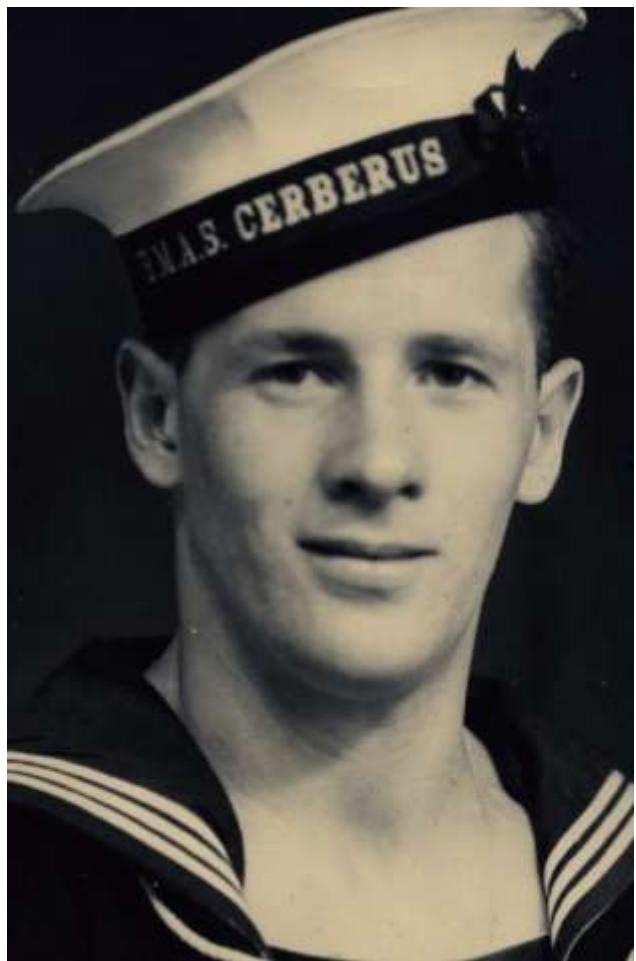
Lester was born at Berri on 15 October 1922. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 6 January 1942, age 19. Lester was trained as an electrical fitter with the Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (A.E.M.E.) and was later posted to anti-aircraft regiments around Australia, including the Broome area following enemy bombings of that town. He later served in Darwin in the A-A defence regiments there as the town was still threatened by Japanese aerial attacks. Lester was demobilised on 5 November 1945. He farmed in the southern Fleurieu and later became a councillor for Encounter Bay and Yankalilla Councils. Lester is a member of this RSL.



48753 Leading Aircraftman Gordon Wilfred Jenke

Gordon was born at Eudunda on 11 April 1924. His family were farming at Hindmarsh Valley when Gordon enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 16 June 1942. He was mustered as an aircraft electrician and was rated an above-average student. Gordon was then posted to No 13 Aircraft Repair Depot at Tocumwal. The unit moved to Bradden (Qld) where it supported the air forces operating in northern Australia against the Japanese in New Guinea and the islands. They recovered downed aircraft in remote areas and on one occasion they hacked an airstrip from the bush to enable recovery. In May 1944, Gordon was posted to 12 Squadron, based at Merauke, New Guinea. The Squadron, equipped with Liberators, undertook maritime patrols. He returned to Australia in August 1944 and was demobilised on 5 Jan 1945 in order to return to farming.

Gordon and his wife Pat live in retirement in Murray Bridge.



PA3431 Able seaman Alan William Jenkins

Alan was born at Victor Harbor on 4 December 1924 and joined the Royal Australian Naval Reserve on 9 December 1942, five days after his 18th birthday. Following recruit and gunnery training in Victoria, he joined the heavy cruiser HMAS *Shropshire* in Britain. After its return to Australia, the ship provided bombardment support for many allied landings in New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. Alan left the ship in June 1944 and trained as a radar plotter. He then joined the corvette HMAS *Parkes*, stationed at Darwin. Following a sports injury in July 1945, he spent five months in hospital and rehabilitation before being demobilised on 20 March 1946.



SX3213 Corporal Dudley James Jenkins

Dudley (cousin of brothers Alan and Eddy Jenkins) was born in Adelaide on 29 October 1919. He was living at Victor Harbor when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 22 May 1940. He was posted to the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion and embarked for the Middle East in April 1941. He fought in the Syrian campaign against the Vichy French. After the Japanese entered the war, elements of the Battalion, including Dudley's company, were brought back to Australia, whilst some went to Java and were later captured. Dudley fought with the Battalion in New Guinea and was killed in action on 10 June 1945. He is buried in the Lae War Cemetery.



153430 Leading Aircraftman Edward (Eddy) Ross Jenkins

Eddy was born in Unley on 26 June 1926 and was living at Victor Harbor when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 25 July 1944. We do not have access to his service file from the National Archives yet, but we do know he was mustered as aircrew. At war's end, Eddy volunteered for service with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) in Japan. On completion of his tour he returned to Australia and was posted to RAAF Laverton HQ. He was discharged on 28 August 1947. He then worked for local grocer Sol Eddy and then went fishing with brother Alan and their father.

Eddy's brother Alan served in the navy during World War Two, and their cousin, Dudley James Jenkins, was killed in action in New Guinea just before war's end.



SX19802 Private Laurence (Laurie) John Jennings

Laurie was born at Kensington (SA) on 22 March 1925. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 9 June 1943, age 18. He underwent his basic training at Cowra and after further training, was sent to the Jungle Training Centre, Canungra (Qld). He embarked for New Guinea and was posted to Headquarters, 6th Aust Division, at Wewak. Laurie worked in the orderly room, cookhouse and did just about everything. He returned to Australia in June 1946 “there was not a soul on the wharf to greet us – all the crowds had gone”. Whilst at Randwick Camp, he had his kit and souvenirs stolen from the barracks. Laurie suffered from a lung problem and was hospitalised for ten months at Daw Park. He was demobilised on 20 March 1947.

After his retirement, he moved to Victor Harbor. Laurie is a member of this RSL.



#### 415032 Warrant Officer Clifford (Cliff) Cecil Jones

Cliff was born at Windsor (Qld) on 18 July 1920. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 23 June 1941. After basic training he was mustered for pilot training at No 8 EFTS, Narrandera (NSW). He didn't qualify as a pilot and was re-mustered as an air observer and trained at No 2 AOS (Mt Gambier). Cliff embarked for overseas on 21 April 1943 for the UK where he undertook further training. He was posted to 467 Squadron RAAF (Lancasters). On the night of 7-8 July 1944, the aircraft was tasked to attack a German flying bomb site at St-Leu-d'Esserent, France. The plane was shot down and crashed, narrowly missing the small village of Courgent. All the crew were killed.

The villagers buried all seven crewmembers (including six Australians) in the communal cemetery. They conducted a memorial church service despite the Germans' objections and after the war, re-named a village street "Rue des Sept Aviateurs 8 Juillet 1944". His connection to Victor Harbor was that his father, the Reverend Abraham Clifford Jones, was appointed the Newland Congregational Church Minister in August 1945. WO Jones is commemorated on our local war memorial.

Photographs of the airmen's graves were taken by a member of the local RSL's History Research Team on 26 Oct 2008.



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cemetery. They conducted a memorial church service despite the Germans' objections and after the war, re-named a village street "Rue des Sept Aviateurs 8 Juillet 1944". His connection to Victor Harbor lays in the fact that his father, the Reverend Abraham Clifford Jones, was appointed the Newland Congregational Minister in August 1945. WO Jones is commemorated on our local war memorial. Photographs of the airmen's graves were taken by a member of the local RSL's History Research Team on 26 Oct 2008.



SX5769 Corporal Alfred (Alf) Andrew Joy

Alf was born at Victor Harbor on 25 August 1906. He was 33 years old and married when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 17 June 1940. After basic training he was posted to the 2/43rd Infantry Battalion and embarked for the Middle East on 29 December 1940. He left Egypt on 10 March 1942 and disembarked in Ceylon where he undertook guard duties with the 2/2nd Australian Guard Battalion at AIF Headquarters in Colombo. He returned to Australia in August 1942, and was transferred to the 9th Australian Works Company, then the 35th Works Company. These units provided labour for non-skilled and semi-skilled tasks where required around the country. Alf was demobilised on 12 September 1945.



SX11966 Corporal Francis (Frank) Arthur Joy

Frank was born at Victor Harbor on 23 April 1917 and was farming at Waitpinga when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 26 March 1941. After basic training he was posted to a workshops unit and embarked for the Middle East in September 1941. Now part of the 9th Australian Division, they trained further in Egypt, Palestine & Syria. They fought in the First & Second Battles of El Alamein (July & October 1942). In February 1943, the Division returned to Australia and Frank's unit was reformed to become the 2/118th Brigade Workshops. They trained in Qld and readied themselves for jungle warfare. In October 1943 they landed in New Guinea and served in the campaign there until returning to Aust in January 1944. A sporting injury at an army football match saw Frank on the X list for six months. He was discharged on 15 January 1945.

Frank died on 18 June 2010, age 93, and is buried in the Victor Harbor Cemetery.



SX33557 Private Peter Stephenson Joy

Peter was born at Encounter Bay on 9 October 1925 and enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 12 April 1944, age 18. He was training at Cowra when the Japanese POWs broke out in a mass escape. Peter then went to the Jungle Training Centre at Canungra (Qld) and was posted to the 2/3rd Pioneer Battalion. In April 1945, he embarked for Morotai, and then Tarakan. On 4 May, the Battalion relieved the 2/23rd Infantry Battalion and started clearing the Japanese from the high ground to the east of Tarakan township. Enemy resistance was overcome with persistent attacks by the Pioneers, supported by artillery and naval gunfire and napalm strikes. At war's end, Peter returned to Morotai and was repatriated to Australia in May 1946. He was demobilised on 28 November 1946. Peter later served in the army from 1947-1954. He is a member of this RSL.



SX9356 Gunner Walter Clarence (Snow) Kluske

Snow was born at Pinnaroo on 3 February 1918. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 20 July 1940 and after basic training was posted to the 2/14th Field Regiment, an artillery unit. The Regiment was stationed near Darwin during the Japanese aerial attacks. In 1943, the Regiment was in New Guinea in the drive to push the Japanese back. It then went to New Britain where it backed the infantry in the offensives there. The fighting was hard, and casualties were suffered by the Regiment. After the Japanese surrendered, the Regiment returned to Rabaul.

Snow returned to Australia and was demobilised on 1 February 1946. In 1959, Snow and his wife, Gwen, moved to Back Valley and took up dairy farming. Snow died on 27 April 2009, age 81. He is buried in the Victor Harbor Cemetery.



431569 Flight Sergeant Robert Keith Little

Keith, as he was known, was born at Dandenong on 13 June 1925. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 16 July 1943, age 18, and was mustered for aircrew. Keith underwent pilot training at No 1 Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS) at Parafield and No 7 Service Flying Training School (SFTS) at Deniliquin and was awarded his flying badge on 31 May 1944. He was 19 years old. Keith was appointed an instructor at the Air Gunnery School, West Sale, and later at the Air Flying & Refresher Unit, where he taught many students mustered into the Empire Air Training Scheme (E.A.T.S.). He was demobilised on 21 May 1945.

Keith and his wife Yvonne moved to Victor Harbor in 1986 where he was a Uniting Church minister. Remembered by his wife Yvonne.



SX16222 Private Arthur Egbert Lush

Arthur was born at Yankalilla on 6 November 1914 and was farming at Waitpinga (although he showed his occupation as a butcher) at the time he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 10 January 1942. He was posted to the Army Service Corps and from March to August 1942, worked continuously on the Alice Springs-Darwin road link, which transhipped vital war materiel and troops to the northern units defending Australia's north. As the northern threat diminished, Arthur was granted seasonal leave so he could tend his farm. In November 1944, he was posted to the Fortress Workshops in Adelaide.

Arthur was demobilised on 12 July 1945 and resumed farming at Waitpinga.



### 26746 Corporal Douglas (Doug) Harry Lush

Doug was born in Adelaide on 16 April 1909 and was farming at Waitpinga, and age 31 and married at the time he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 11 June 1940. Little is known about his service, as we do not have access to his National Archives service file at this time. It is most likely he was mustered as ground crew and his unit at the time he was demobilised on 12 November 1945 was No 6 Service Flying Training School (SFTS) at Mallala.

His brother, Arthur Egbert Lush, served in the army during World War Two.

We would like to contact the family of Cpl Doug Lush.



### 45373 Aircraftman John Greig MacFarlane MM

He is not listed on our local war memorial. He was born in the United Kingdom and served with the British Army's Black Watch Regiment in the First World War and was awarded a Military Medal for bravery. After the war he migrated to Australia and enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 23 July 1941, age 46. He was based at No 4 Initial Training School, Mt Breckan.

On Sunday 27 September 1941, he died of a cerebral haemorrhage whilst attending a dance at the Victor Harbor Town Hall. AC Macfarlane was buried in the Victor Harbor Cemetery and was accorded the distinction of a war grave.



SX21030 Warrant Officer Cyril John Mack

John, as he was known, was born at Glenelg on 24 November 1916. He was serving in the militia when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 18 August 1942. His photographic skills saw him posted to Headquarters Northern Territory Force where he worked with film across Northern Australia and the Tiwi Islands. Film was an integral medium for documenting the war and he improvised due to short supply of materials, inventing unique solutions for various tasks. John provided Bell & Howell with technical information on experimental sound to film at the time of recording. He photographed and filmed extensively during his service. John was demobilised on 25 July 1945. He moved to Victor Harbor in 1982 and is a member of this RSL. John has donated photographic militaria equipment to our Sub-branch.

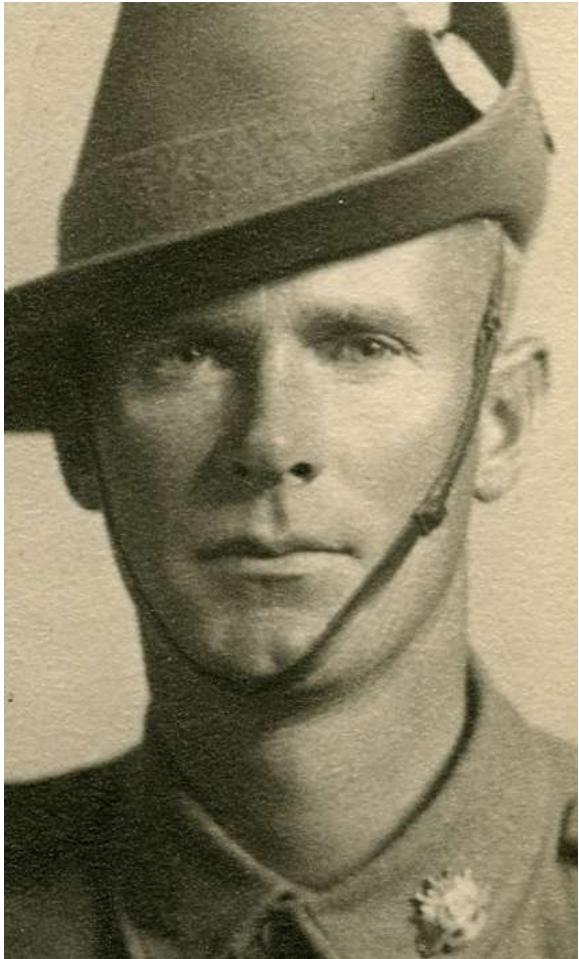


NX138842 Lieutenant Helen Bliss Mayfield

Helen was born at Victor Harbor on 6 September 1916. She trained as a nurse at Loxton and Port Pirie before travelling to Sydney to train as a midwife. Helen was serving in the Citizens Military Forces (serial number N410094) and living at Concord West (NSW) when she enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 21 October 1942. She was thus eligible for overseas service. Helen married Hector Hamilton-Browne, a lieutenant in the 2nd AIF's 2/1st Tank Attack Regiment.

We are unable to access her service file at the National Archives and her service during the rest of the war is unclear. Her date of demobilisation is not known.

Helen died on 14 February 2004, age 87.



SX862 Pte Daniel (Dan) William McCormack

Dan was born at Brunswick (Vic) on 18 November 1906. He was 33 years old and living at Victor Harbor when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 27 October 1939 – as such he was considered one of “the thirty-niners”. After basic training he was posted to the 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion. He was on the ship ready to sail to the Middle East when it was discovered his eyesight was defective. He was taken off the ship. Dan then transferred to the militia on 26 May 1940 and served with the 4th Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps until 3 October 1943 when he took his discharge. In later life he was awarded the British Empire Medal for exceptional service with the Post Master General (PMG) Department (the precursor of Australia Post and Telstra).

## **SX24416 Gunner John Fraser McEwin**

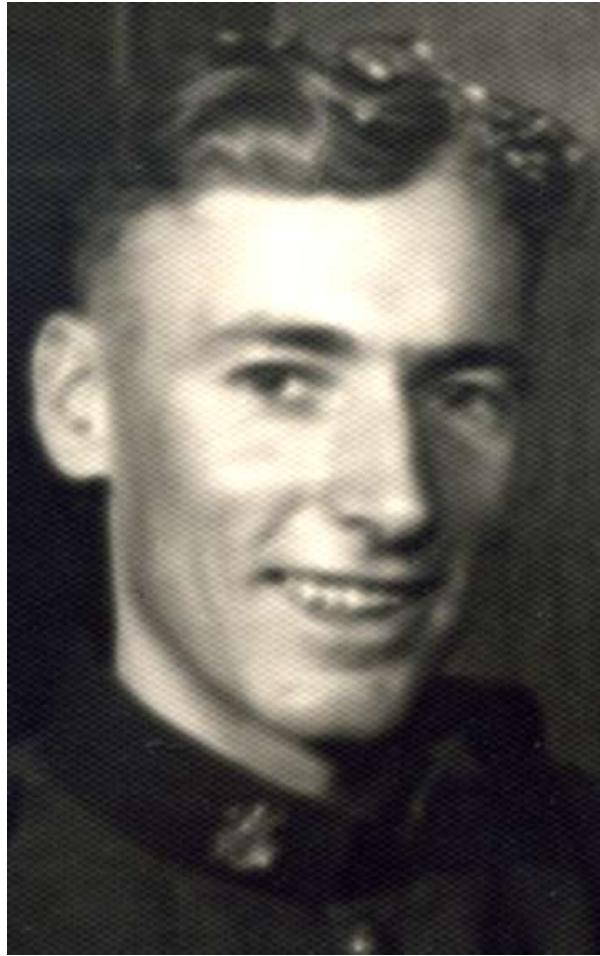
John Fraser McEwin was born at Hyde Park, South Australia on 2 April 1924, the youngest of five children of Donald McEwin and Margaret McEwin (*nee* Fraser). He was educated at Scotch College as a day student where he served two years in the school cadets. After leaving school, at age 16, he gained employment as a clerk with G Wood & Son Pty Ltd, merchants, on North Terrace, Adelaide.

John enlisted in the Australian Militia Forces on 16 December 1941, eight days after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour. He had stated his year of birth to be 1923 declaring he was over 18 years of age when in fact he was only 17 years and eight months old, too young to have enlisted in the army. He was given the serial number S40259 and after basic training, was posted the 4th Military District Motorized Ambulance Convoy Transport Wing, soon to be renamed the 16th Field Ambulance, a new unit recently established at Woodside. On 20 February 1942, John was promoted to the rank of lance-corporal. From 2-27 March, he attended No. 5 Driving & Maintenance Course at Morphettville and on completion he was rated as a qualified driver mechanic first class. His promotion to corporal (temporary) followed on 7 April.

Following seven months full-time service with the militia, John volunteered for service with the 2nd AIF on 27 July 1942. The important distinction between the militia forces and the AIF was that militia soldiers could only serve on the Australian mainland and in its territories (including New Guinea), whereas servicemen and women in the AIF were volunteers and could be posted anywhere overseas. John's older brothers were serving in the 2nd AIF; Robert (born 9 August 1909) had enlisted on 20 January 1941 and later served with the 2/14th Field Regiment, Peter (born 2 October 1912) had enlisted on 17 May 1940 and was commissioned as a lieutenant and was serving with the 2/7th Field Regiment, whilst Cameron (born 10 October 1914) had enlisted on 27 January 1941 and was also serving with the 2/14th Field Regiment. Cameron had served for two months in the RAAF prior to his transfer to the army. All four brothers would serve in artillery regiments.

John's service record reveals that on 19 August 1942 he was charged "Without orders from a superior officer, he left his picquet (guard post)". He was reprimanded for this infraction. On 5 January 1943, he was evacuated to 32nd Convalescent Hospital suffering from bronchial asthma and remained there for four days before returning to his unit. On 1 March 1943, John was detached for 15 days to the 24th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers, for driving duties.

Having already completed his basic training, John requested a posting to the 2/7th Field Regiment, the transfer being effected on 27 March 1943. On 9 April, he voluntarily relinquished his rank of corporal and reverted to the artillery rank of gunner, the equivalent of a private soldier.



SX4827 Private Maxwell (Max) Laurence McGee

Max was born at Victor Harbor on 4 June 1920. He was serving with the 18th Light Horse Machine Gun Regiment when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 8 June 1940, age 20. He was posted to the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion and sailed with them for the Middle East where he fought in the Syrian campaign against the Vichy French. He was sent to Java and became a POW of the Japanese. Max slaved on the infamous Thai-Burma Railway. At war's end he was repatriated to Australia and demobilised on 11 January 1946.

We would like to contact the family of Max McGee.



140863 Leading Aircraftman John McCormick

John was born in Melbourne on 29 June 1925. He was living at Yunta and had just turned 18 when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 27 July 1943. John was mustered as a flight mechanic and underwent further training at Ascot Vale. He was then posted to No 6 Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS), Mallala. In December 1944, he was posted to 2 Reserve Personnel Pool (RPP) and 6 CU in the Northern Territory. In June 1945, John was posted to No 21 Squadron. Equipped with Liberators, the Squadron bombed targets at Labuan and Balikpapan in support of the Allied landing assaults and thereafter attacked enemy positions in support of the advancing troops. The Squadron was based out of Morotai first, then Balikpapan. The ground crews worked under difficult conditions, but always managed to keep the Squadron aircraft ready for operations. John returned to Australia in Nov 1945 and was demobilised on 25 February 1946.

John, and his wife Mary, moved to Victor Harbor in 2003. He is a member of the Victor Harbor RSL.



SX2240 Private Clifton (Cliff) England McKellar

Cliff was born at Cootamundra (NSW) on 15 October 1910.

His father (4949 Private Peter McKellar) died in France during World War One. Cliff was working for George Battye at Victor Harbor when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 1 April 1940. After basic training Cliff was posted to the 2/31st Infantry Battalion. The Battalion landed in New Guinea in September 1942 to reinforce the units fighting on the Kokoda Trail. It played a vital part in smashing the last Japanese defensive position on the Kokoda. On 22 November, the Battalion was about four miles from Gona, fighting in kunai grass country. The enemy put up fierce resistance during the day and the 2/31st lost 22 men killed, including Cliff. He is buried in the Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery.

Remembered by his nephew, Colin Drechsler of Victor Harbor.



PA3421 John (Jack) Middleton McLean

Jack, as he was known, was born at Minlaton (SA) on 24 September 1924. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve on 15 December 1942 as a Supply Assistant. After training at Flinders Naval Depot he was drafted to the Melbourne depot HMAS *Lonsdale* for two months. In June 1943, he returned to Flinders Naval Depot to train as a Radio Mechanic (W) qualifying on 13 January 1944. That same day, he joined the permanent Navy (serial number 26962) and was promoted to Leading Seaman. Following postings to Sydney depots, he arrived at Madang, New Guinea on 27 November 1944. He was promoted to a/g Petty Officer on 14 January 1945. Jack did not return to Australia until 25 February 1946, finally going ashore (demobilised) at Birkenhead Naval Depot on 4 February 1947.

After his retirement, Jack moved to Victor Harbor in 1983. He is a member of this RSL.



SX19665 Gunner Ian George Millard

Ian was born at Victor Harbor on 6 November 1924. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 17 May 1943. After infantry training, he embarked for New Guinea where he joined the 2/12th Field Regiment, an artillery unit. The Regiment supported the advancing battalions as the Japanese withdrew up the coast. In February 1944, the unit returned to Australia for reforming. In early May 1945, Ian went ashore with the 2/12th at Morotai, and then onto North Borneo in the campaign to reclaim the islands. The Regiment again supported the infantry during a hard campaign. At war's end, Ian was posted to the 2/32nd Infantry Battalion. He was repatriated to Australia on February 1946 and demobilised on 28 August 1946.



SX38739 Corporal Donald (Don) Campbell Miller

Don was born at Gawler on 18 January 1921. He had been serving with the militia in New Guinea since December 1942 with the 2/3rd Field Ambulance. The unit was to land at Rabaul, but the town had been bombed by the Japanese. They landed at Port Moresby instead. He was then posted to the newly formed 147th Australian General Transport Coy. He returned to Australia in July 1943 on leave and on his return to New Guinea, found the 147th AGT had already left for Morotai. Don was then posted to HQ Moresby Sub Area Command. He transferred to the 2nd AIF on 1 February 1945 and remained in New Guinea until he was repatriated to Australia in July 1945. Don was demobilised on 9 April 1946.

After his retirement, he moved to Victor Harbor. Don is a member of this RSL.



SX9348 Private Ian Colin Milnes

Colin, as he was known, was born at Victor Harbor on 2 January 1919. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 20 July 1940 and after his basic training was posted to the 8th Division Salvage Unit. In January 1941, Colin married Laurel Cox (sister of Bill Cox and Doug Cox, see profiles on display). The unit embarked for Singapore on 30 July 1941. The Salvage Unit worked in the Jahore Bahru area supplying ammunition and stores to the frontline units.

After the surrender of Commonwealth Forces in Singapore on 15 February 1942, Colin and his fellow soldiers went into captivity. He was sent with "D Force" and slaved on the notorious Thai-Burma Railway. Less than fifty-percent of the unit survived the war. Colin was liberated in late August 1945, repatriated to Australia and demobilised on 28 February 1946. He returned to work at *The Victor Harbor Times* and was its editor prior to his retirement in 1979.

Colin died on 14 November 2005 and is buried in the Victor Harbor Cemetery.



### 153621 Leading Aircraftman John Milte

John was born at Karoonda on 27 January 1926 and was working for the Post Master General (PMG) Department prior to his enlistment in the Royal Australian Air Force on 22 August 1944. He was mustered as a telegraphist and trained at the RAAF Signal School at Point Cooke. In June 1945, John was posted to No 58 Operational Base Unit (Truscott Airfield) and then Northwest Area Command HQ, Darwin. This command covered RAAF forces and operations for all of northern Australia, New Guinea and the Netherlands East Indies. Signal traffic between headquarters, Allied Command and the squadrons was always heavy and the telegraphists were under constant pressure. John remained with HQ NWA until April 1946 when he returned to Adelaide and was demobilised on 13 May 1946.

After retirement, John and his wife Mary moved to Victor Harbor. He is a member of this RSL.



SX12113 Lieutenant Roy Victor Milton

Roy was born at Victor Harbor on 31 July 1921. His early education was at Coorlock Catholic School, Victor Harbor and his secondary schooling was at Christian Brother's College, Adelaide. He enlisted in the Citizens Military Forces on 1 May 1939 and then in the 2nd AIF on 3 April 1941.

In the absence of his service file from the National Archives we do not where he served specifically, but he would have most likely served abroad.

He was commissioned and a 1941 CBC Yearbook picture shows him with the rank of lieutenant. An April 1946 newspaper report states his rank as captain. He transferred to the regular army after the 2nd AIF was disbanded.

Roy served in the Korean War with the 3rd Battalion RAR as a lieutenant, most likely as a platoon commander or a company 2IC.

We would like to contact the family of Lt Roy Milton.

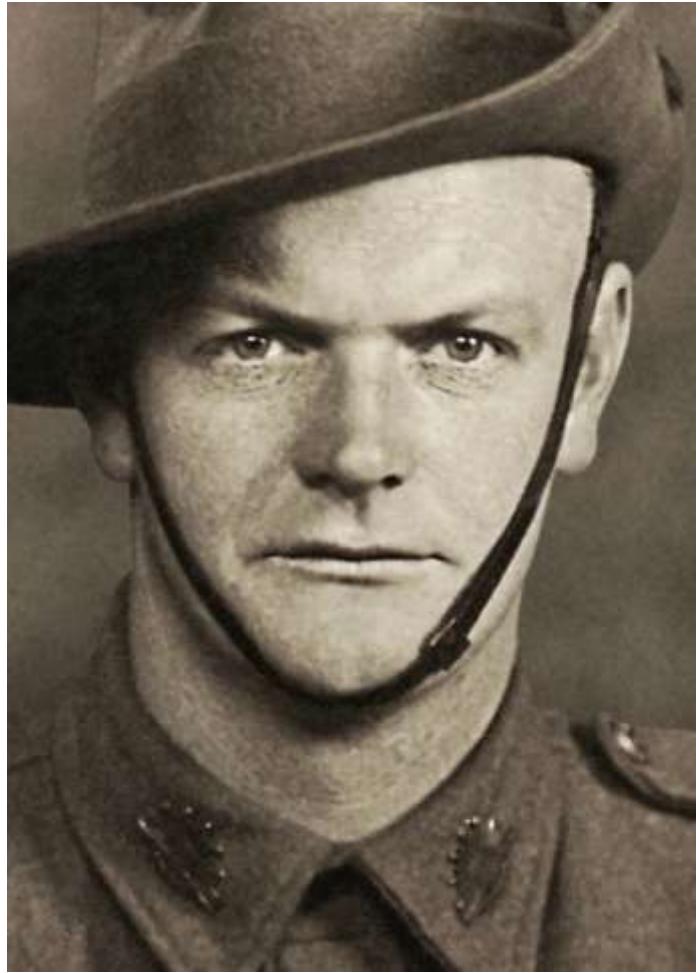


SX20157 Corporal Douglas (Doug) Thorne Morgan

Doug was born at Prospect on 24 August 1921. We do not have any information about his life pre-war. Doug enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 18 July 1942. After basic training he was posted to the 110th Casualty Clearing Station (CCS). We do not have access to his service file from the National Archives at this time, however we assume he sailed with the unit for New Guinea where the 110th CCS was responsible for rendering immediate attention to battlefield casualties and medical evacuations, a traumatic task for all personnel. The unit later served on Tarakan, and we again assume Doug served there.

He returned to Australia and was demobilised on 20 March 1946. He farmed at Waitpinga as his name and image are on one of the Waitpinga Honour Roll Boards. His brother Gordon also served during World War Two as SX32762 Pte GR Morgan.

We would like to contact the family of Corporal Douglas Morgan.



SX13851 Private Robert (Bob) James Muir

Bob was born at Victor Harbor on 6 February 1917 and enlisted in the Citizens Military Forces on 9 August 1940, served with the 3rd Field Ambulance and the Darwin Overland Maintenance Force (DOMF) until his transfer to the 2nd AIF on 26 July 1941.

Bob sailed for the Middle East on 2 November 1941 and joined the 2/27th Battalion in Palestine. They returned to Australia in early 1942 and by August, the men were in New Guinea fighting the Japanese. He was evacuated to Australia with malaria. He then joined the 2/17th Battalion and returned to New Guinea. Evacuated again with malaria, Bob would see many more hospital admissions. He remained in the army after the war and served in Japan with the BCOF. On return to Australia, he served in various units and commands. In 1953, Bob married Thelma Blanche Henderson (see separate profile).

Bob was discharged on 4 February 1972 after 31 years 6 months continuous service in the army.

Bob died on 29 February 2004, age 87.



SF113525 Private Thelma Blanche Muir (*nee* Henderson)

Thelma was born at Victor Harbor on 14 October 1925. She enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) the same day as her sister Millie, on 21 January 1945. Members of the AWAS were paid wages equal to two-thirds that of their male counterparts. After her initial training, Thelma was posted to the 18th AWAS Barracks Unit and served in an administrative capacity.

"My job was never glamorous, but I always believed I contributed to the war effort" Thelma later said.

She was demobilised on 9 April 1946. In 1953, she married local soldier Sgt RJ (Bob) Muir, a World War Two veteran. Thelma died on 6 May 1997, age 72.



SX13769 Corporal Leonard (Len) George Neate

Len was born at Jamestown on 10 January 1918. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 21 July 1941 and was posted to the 10th Reinforcements Draft to join the 2/48th Infantry Battalion, which was already in the Middle East. Len embarked for overseas on 2 November 1941 and joined the Battalion. The 2/48th was heavily engaged in the First Battle of El Alamein (1-27 July 1942) and suffered many casualties.

During the Second Battle of El Alamein (23 October-4 November 1942), Len was wounded in action on 31 October and evacuated, but rejoined the Battalion on 2 November 1942. The 2/48th returned to Australia and then served in the New Guinea campaign (December 1943 to February 1944). Back in Australia, he was accidentally injured but later returned to his unit. The 2/48th embarked for service in the Netherlands East Indies and Len was again wounded on 6 May 1945. He rejoined his unit on 20 August and then served with the 2/3rd Pioneer Battalion. Len returned to Australia in December 1945 and was demobilised on 21 March 1946.

Len and his wife Isa moved to Victor Harbor in 1985. He died on 19 July 1997.

Remembered by his daughter Julie Carmichael (*nee* Neate).



SX9755 Private Howard Nightingale

Howard was born in Adelaide on 30 August 1920 and grew up in Victor Harbor. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 26 July 1940 and after his initial training, was posted to the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion. The Battalion sailed for the Middle East in late April 1941 and Howard fought in the campaign against the Vichy French in Syria. When Japan entered the war, elements of the Battalion were sent to Java, in what would prove to be an ill-fated campaign. Howard was captured and slaved on the notorious Thai-Burma Death Railway. He was later sent to Japan as forced labour and was killed in an air raid on 3 October 1944, when US bombers raided Yokohama. Howard is buried in the Yokohama War Cemetery.



407064 Flight Lieutenant Kevin Nightingale

Kevin was born at Northcote (Vic) on 20 December 1916 and was living at Victor Harbor when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 27 May 1940. He was mustered as aircrew and trained as a pilot at Somers, Parafield and Point Cook and later posted as an instructor.

In December 1943, he was posted to 100 Squadron RAAF (Beauforts) where he undertook many bombing missions against the Japanese in New Guinea and the islands. In May 1944, the Squadron moved to Nadzab (NG). On 1 July 1944, he bombed Japanese HQ at Narech River (NG). On one bombing mission, the bombs failed to release (hung-up) from the rack of his aircraft. He returned to base fully laden with ordnance, but unable to land. The crew dismantled the entire bomb rack and jettisoned it. He later returned to Australia and was a flying instructor. Kevin was demobilised on 6 Nov 1945.

Remembered by his daughter Susan Rogers (*nee* Nightingale).



SX21054 Gunner Frank Aplin Osborne

Frank was born at Unley on 26 June 1923 and had enlisted in the Citizen's Military Forces on 14 July 1942 and later transferred to the 2nd AIF. He was posted to the 53rd Anti Aircraft Regiment. The unit was sent to Whyalla to defend the town's industry. Frank was then posted to Sydney, Brisbane and later to Wondecla, on the Atherton Tablelands. They trained for jungle warfare and in late 1943 sailed for New Guinea where they defended the airstrips until returning to Australia five months later. In April 1945, the 53rd sailed for Morotai as part of the 9th Division and went ashore on Tarakan to recapture the island from the Japanese. The fighting was hard against a determined enemy.

After repatriation to Australia, Frank was demobilised on 21 January 1946. Frank moved to Victor Harbor with his wife Margaret in 1989. He is a member of this RSL.



SX38836 Private Mayer Keith Osborne

Keith, as he was known, was born at Royal Park (SA) on 8 March 1925. He was serving in the CMF (S114111) when he transferred to the 2nd AIF on 27 November 1944, age 19. He was posted to the 14/32nd Infantry Battalion, which was in East New Britain. The 6th Brigade has been tasked to contain enemy forces in the area. The Battalion conducted ambush and reconnaissance patrols against the remaining Japanese forces. Actions were mostly platoon size with several patrols out in the advanced areas at any one time. A large-scale assault was launched against Bacon Hill, the main enemy defensive line. The Hill was taken on 18 March 1945. A line was established across the Gazelle Peninsula which the Battalion held and patrolled for the rest of the war. Keith returned to Australia and was demobilised on 28 August 1946.

Keith and his wife Joyce moved to Victor Harbor in 1976. Keith died on 12 October 1997, age 72.



SX5338 Sergeant Arthur Leslie Parker

Arthur was born at Parkside on 22 March 1917. At some time before or after his army service, he farmed at Waitpinga, as he appears on the Waitpinga Honour Roll Board. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 14 June 1940 and was posted to the 2/43rd Infantry battalion. Arthur most likely (we do not have access to his service file) sailed with the 2/43rd to the Middle East and fought at Tobruk and El Alamein. In February 1943, the Battalion returned to Australia and trained for jungle warfare. In September 1943, it landed in New Guinea and fought against the Japanese. Along the way, he was promoted to sergeant. The 2/43rd returned home in January 1944 and regrouped on the Atherton Tablelands.

Arthur may have been medically reclassified as unfit for further active service as he was discharged on 9 October 1944.



144000 Leading Aircraftman Harold Thomas Parsons

Harry, as he was known, was born at Warragul (Vic) on 1 June 1925. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 12 August 1943, age 18. He was trained as a flight mechanic and was later posted to New Guinea. Travelling there by PBY Catalina flying boat, he landed at Port Moresby and went onto Lae and Nadzab. He helped maintain various aircraft for squadron readiness, a job made difficult by the harsh working climate and conditions. Harry then travelled to Bougainville to work with the squadrons there. He was repatriated to Australia at war's end and remained in the air force until 4 March 1948.

After his retirement, he moved to Victor Harbor. Harry is a member of this RSL.

## **Major Harry Meshach Parsons DSO**

Harry Parsons was born at Inman Valley on 22 March 1880. He was the second youngest of nine children, including four boys, born to Thomas and Mary Parsons of Inman Valley. Thomas was a pioneer of the Victor Harbor district having arrived in the area in 1858 from Guildford, WA. He was initially involved in whaling pursuits but took up farming at Inman Valley in 1865. His wife, Mary Elizabeth Smith, moved with her family in 1863 to Victor Harbor, then known as Police Point. Her father built Victor Harbor House, a hotel that was the first privately owned stone building in the town. It later became the Hotel Victor.

Harry Parsons was educated for four to five years at the Church of England school (later to become St Thomas's Church) at Inman Valley. He then helped his father with farm work at their property, Holowilena, and by the age of 16, when his father retired, was running the farm with his brothers John and Arthur. Harry and John Parsons joined the SA Mounted Rifles at this time and often rode to Warradale for training with other young men from the district. They would overnight at the Victoria Hotel on Tapley's Hill or sometimes bunk down in farm sheds. Harry had enlisted in 1897 and served as a trooper and NCO before transferring in 1901 to the 16th Australian Light Horse Regiment where here rose through the ranks and was promoted to captain on 1 February 1914.

In 1913, the then Lieutenant Harry Parsons was selected as an exchange officer and was attached for six months to the 17th Lancers, a top British cavalry regiment serving in India. His service records include a memorandum from the commanding officer of the Lancers that says in part: "Lt. Parsons...has performed the duties of a regimental officer in all its branches with much zeal and ability...He was popular with both the officers and men and should make a thoroughly efficient cavalry officer in the Colonial forces."

Harry Parsons signed his attestation papers for enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force on 28 September 1914, less than eight weeks after World War 1 was declared. He was aged 34 and six months and had served in the Australian Mounted Forces for 17 years and 6 months. His enlistment rank was lieutenant. (On 9 October 1914 he was promoted to captain and on 1 January 1915, to major). Immediately after enlistment he was posted to assist with the formation of the 9th Light Horse Regiment. Orders were issued for the formation of the 3rd Light Horse brigade to consist of the 8th, 9th and 10th Light Horse Regiments. Victoria provided the 8th and one squadron of the 9th with South Australia providing the balance. The 10th was raised in Western Australia.

Boer War veteran Lieutenant-Colonel A. Miell, Commanding Officer of the 24th Light Horse Regiment, Citizen Forces, was



SX33652 Private Wallace (Wally) Read Peake

Wally was born in Adelaide on 2 March 1926. He was 18 when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 12 June 1944. He was at Cowra undergoing training when the Japanese POWs broke-out in the mass escape. Wally was later posted to the 2/2nd Motor Ambulance Company. He embarked overseas for Morotai on 26 May 1945 and then joined the invasion force for Labuan. His unit transported casualties from the front to the field ambulances and hospitals. Their splendid service saved many lives. On 7 February 1946, he embarked from Morotai for service with the British Occupation Force (BCOF) in Japan. Wally saw Hiroshima and the complete devastation of the city. He returned to Australia in July 1947 and was demobilised on 28 July 1947.

Wally retired to Victor Harbor and was a long-serving treasurer of this Sub-branch.



115505 Leading Aircraftman James (Jim) Edward Pearson

Jim was born at Blackwood (SA) on 26 April 1915. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 12 August 1942. His service file has not yet been examined so we don't know a great deal about Jim's service at this time other than it is believed he served in a radio and communications unit in Queensland. He was later transferred to 1 Operational Training Unit (OTU). The OTU's were responsible to form crews for multi-engined aircraft and brought together pilots, air observers and wireless operators/gunners and train them further. His job in communications would have been intense based on the significant volume of flying hours of the unit. Jim was demobilised on 12 December 1945.

Remembered by his daughter Jan Natt (*nee* Pearson) of Clayton, and his daughter-in-law, Colleen Pearson (*nee* Reed) of Victor Harbor.



SX4393 Sergeant Clarence Jack Pengilly

Jack was born at Minlaton (SA) on 11 September 1916. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 4 June 1940 and after his basic training was posted to the 2/31st Infantry Battalion. He embarked overseas and served in North Africa with the Battalion at Mersa Matruh. Jack then fought in the Syrian and Lebanon campaigns against the Vichy French. The 2/31st returned to Australia in March 1942. His leadership abilities saw him promoted to sergeant. Jack sailed with the unit to New Guinea later that year and fought on the Kokoda Trail and later, at Lae. The fighting was hard and many casualties were suffered. In June 1945, Jack sailed with his unit to Balikpapan. The fighting was bitter and there was determined Japanese resistance and many casualties resulted. Jack returned to Australia and was demobilised on 7 November 1945.

His son, Michael Pengilly, is our local State Member of Parliament.



417231 Flight Lieutenant Leonard (Len) Charles Perks

Len was born in Broken Hill on 29 July 1914 and enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 31 January 1942. At No 4 Initial Training School (ITS) Victor Harbor, he was mustered as aircrew and then trained as a pilot. Len was posted as a flying instructor and in October 1943, was commissioned a pilot officer. He continued as an instructor at flying schools and training units around the country. In May 1945, Len was posted to 3 RPP at Morotai and then to 30 Squadron (Beaufighters) at Tarakan. On 22 September 1945, Len was piloting a Mosquito when it crashed on landing. He was uninjured.

Len was demobilised on 22 February 1946 and moved to Victor Harbor with his family in 1947 where he operated the newsagency in Ocean Street. Len died on 20 April 1968, age 53. Two of his sons, Bruce and Kim, served as doctors in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps - Bruce in South Vietnam and Kim in Papua New Guinea.



PA3011 Able seaman Alan Malcolm Philp

Alan was born at Woodville on 28 January 1923 and enlisted in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve on 3 November 1942. He completed recruit, seamanship and gunnery training at HMAS *Cerberus*. On 14 June 1943, Alan joined the destroyer HMAS *Vendetta*, which spent the remainder of the year escorting troop transports on Australia's east coast. He was promoted to Able Seaman on 2 October 1944. In June 1945, the ship landed intelligence personnel behind Japanese lines, but was mainly employed on escort duties, broken by the occasional shore bombardment. HMAS *Vendetta* reached Brisbane in March 1945, completing its war service. Alan was drafted to the ammunition carrier HMAS *Poyang*, on 26 March 1945, which sailed along New Guinea's north coast and at Morotai. In mid-December 1945 Alan was landed to the Darwin Naval Hospital with pleurisy, being discharged on Christmas Day. Returning to Adelaide in early March 1946, Alan was discharged on 17 April 1946.

Remembered by his son, Graham Philp, Mayor of the City of Victor Harbor.



SX1151 Lance Sergeant Donald Campbell Philps

Donald was born in Adelaide on 2 November 1918 and was farming at Waitpinga when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 3 November 1939, thus qualifying as one of the “*thirty-niners*”. Soon after his basic training he was posted to the newly formed 2/3rd Field Regiment. They sailed for Britain on 5 May 1940 and in November, sailed for the Middle East via Capetown. After the disastrous Greece campaign, Australian troops retreated to Crete. Many of the 2/3rd men were captured by German forces after bitter fighting. Donald spent the rest of the war in a German POW camp, most likely Stalag Luft IVA. He was liberated when Germany surrendered, repatriated home and demobilised on 8 October 1945.

It is believed Donald died in Sydney on 22 January 2001, age 82.

We would like to contact the family of Donald Philps.



SX3563 Sergeant John Bryan Philps

John was born in Adelaide on 3 March 1916 and was also farming at Waitpinga when he enlisted six months after his younger brother Donald. We do not have access to his service file at this time, but after basic training he most likely embarked with other troops for the UK. The 9th Division was formed in the UK in late 1940. John was posted to the 9th Division, probably headquarters. The Division fought at Tobruk and the First and Second Battles of El Alamein (July & October 1942) and in early 1943, sailed for home. By July 1943, it was in New Guinea fighting alongside the 7th Division. It then served in Borneo and Tarakan. At war's end, John was repatriated home and demobilised on 8 October 1945.

We would like to contact the family of Sgt John Bryan Philps.



114448 Aircraftwoman Elsie Joyce Plew (*nee* Gum)

Elsie was born in Adelaide on 1 February 1922. She was living at Millswood when she enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) on 26 June 1944. She trained as an aircraft mechanic at the RAAF Technical Colleges in Sydney and Melbourne and was later posted to No 6 Service Flying Training School (SFTS) at Mallala. Elsie worked on a variety of aircraft including Tiger Moths, Wirraways, Ansons, Beauforts, Spitfires and Oxfords. She enjoyed service life and believe she contributed to the war effort. After retirement, Elsie moved to Victor Harbor and is a member of this RSL.



SX8039 Private Donald Frederick Priester

Don, as he was known, was born at Berri on 10 February 1920. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 5 July 1940 and after his basic training was posted to 2/48th Infantry Battalion. The Battalion sailed for the Middle East in November 1940 and in April 1941, it formed part of the defence of Tobruk. The fighting was intense and many casualties were suffered. In October 1941, the unit was withdrawn for rest and refit. In July 1942, the 2/48th was rushed from Syria to help stop the German advance and it fought in the First and Second Battles of El Alamein (July & October 1942) and suffered heavy losses. Don returned to Australia with the unit in February 1943. He then served in New Guinea in the campaigns where the fighting was hard and intense. Don returned to Australia in February 1944. He was discharged from the army as medically unfit on 11 July 1944.

Remembered by his sister, Betsy Schild (*nee* Priester), a member of this RSL.



#### SX11733 Pte Frederick Priester

Fred, as he was known, was born at Renmark on 24 May 1900. He was married and age 40 when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 11 March 1941. After basic training, Fred was posted to the 2/4th Reserve Motor Transport Coy. His unit sailed for

Singapore and after the fall of the garrison, Fred became a POW. He was sent with "B Force" to Sandakan in July 1942 to be used as forced labour. The POWs suffered badly from maltreatment and disease. Fred died on 22 March 1945. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Labuan Memorial.

Remembered by his daughter Betsy Schild (*nee* Priester) of Victor Harbor, a member of this RSL.



SX23206 Private Melville (Mel) Jonathan Prior

Mel was born at Georgetown (SA) on 27 September 1921. He was serving in the militia when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 1 August 1942. After his basic training, Mel was posted to the 2/1st Docks Operating Company; this was subsequently reformed as the 2/10th Docks Operating Company. The unit was responsible for the loading and unloading of vital supplies and materiel at the wharves for the troops. It followed the overseas task forces and Mel served in New Guinea, Morotai, Borneo and Labuan. He returned to Australia and was demobilised on 6 March 1946.

After his retirement, Mel and his wife Joy moved to Victor Harbor in 1990. He is a member of this RSL.



SX30919 Sergeant Eric Anthony Rake

Eric was born at North Adelaide on 17 April 1911. He had enlisted in the militia on 9 February 1942 and embarked for service in New Guinea on 12 August 1942 with the 110th Casualty Clearing Station (CCS). His leadership and organisational qualities saw him promoted to sergeant. He was still in New Guinea when he transferred to the 2nd AIF on 11 January 1943. The 110th CCS was responsible for rendering immediate attention to battlefield casualties and medical evacuations, a traumatic task for all personnel. He returned to Australia and was demobilised on 12 December 1944. Eric moved to Victor Harbor in 1948.

Eric's three sons - Wesley, Ross and Harold, were all called up for national service and served in the army.



VX70240 Private Clifton Berry Reed

Berry, as he was known, was born at Geranium (SA) on 14 May 1911. He went across the border and enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 30 December 1941, age 30. Why he enlisted in Victoria is not known, but it might be assumed that he failed the army medical in SA because of the enteric fever he had suffered in earlier years. Berry underwent his basic training. A later medical examination revealed his earlier illness and he was discharged on 12 June 1942 as medically unsuitable for service. He later moved to Victor Harbor.

Remembered by his daughter Colleen Pearson (*nee* Reed).



S151 Lieutenant Leonard Victor Reid MC

Len had served in the First World War with the 13th Light Horse Regiment. He served at Gallipoli, Egypt and later in France. He was commissioned in the field in France and was awarded a Military Cross for valour in 1918. He enlisted in the army again on 28 June 1940 and served in Headquarters, 4th Military District (Adelaide). He retired from the army on 13 April 1941.



SX26890 Sergeant Oliver Kenneth (Ken) Reynolds

Ken was born at Ardrossan on 18 February 1922. He served in the militia prior to his enlistment in the 2nd AIF on 30 July 1942. After his initial training he was posted to the 14th Field Bakery Platoon. Ken served on the Darwin Overland Maintenance Force (D.O.M.F.), which transhipped vital supplies and materiel to Darwin from the southern states. He later served in Queensland. His organisational qualities and special skills gained him quick promotion to sergeant. Ken was demobilised on 12 December 1945.

After his retirement he moved to Victor Harbor and is a member of this RSL.



#### 416706 Flight Sergeant Ross Lange Robertson



Ross was born at Woodville on 18 June 1923. His family were farming at Inman Valley when he enlisted in the RAAF on 16 August 1941. Ross was mustered for pilot training and after gaining his flying badge, he trained further in England, where he was later posted to 466 Squadron RAAF, a bomber unit. He was piloting a Halifax (LV900, call sign HD-H) on a bombing mission over Berlin on the night of 24-25 March 1944 when his aircraft was shot down by a night-fighter and crashed four kilometres north of Werne, near Nordhausen. Ross and six other crewmembers (four were Australians) were killed. They are buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

His parents later donated their family home as the site for the future Ross Robertson Memorial Nursing Home, Victor Harbor.

The above photograph of Flt Sgt Robertson is from a graduation class photograph taken in June 1942 at No 1 Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS) where fellow pilot cadet Jack Milton Frisby trained. Jack would later retire to Victor Harbor and was a past Sub-branch President.



### 437319 Flight Sergeant George Henry Rose

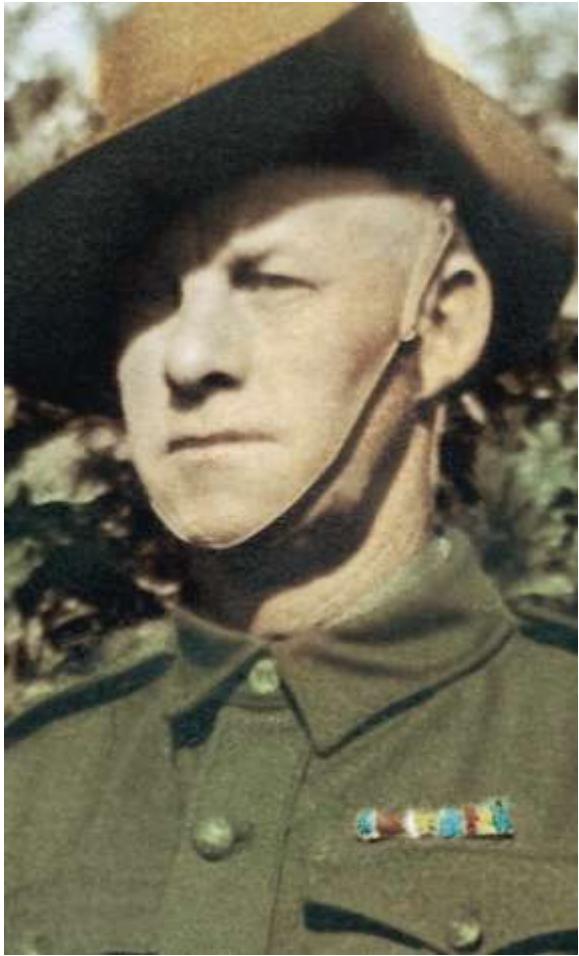
Henry, as he was known, was born at Belvidere on 1 September 1921. He attended high school at Victor Harbor and enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 2 January 1943. He was mustered for aircrew and trained as an air gunner. He embarked for service in the UK on 10 September 1943 and undertook further training there. On 30 April 1944, Henry was posted to the newly formed 640 Squadron RAF (Halifax bombers). The Squadron took part in the interdiction campaign against enemy targets leading up to D-Day. Henry and his fellow crewmembers were on their third mission on the night of 12-13 May 1944; the target was the railway marshalling yards at Hasselt, Belgium. Their aircraft was shot down 30 kilometres northwest of St Trond by a nightfighter piloted by an Oberleutnant Tober. Of the seven crew, one survived.

Henry and his fellow crewmen are buried in Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp, Belgium.



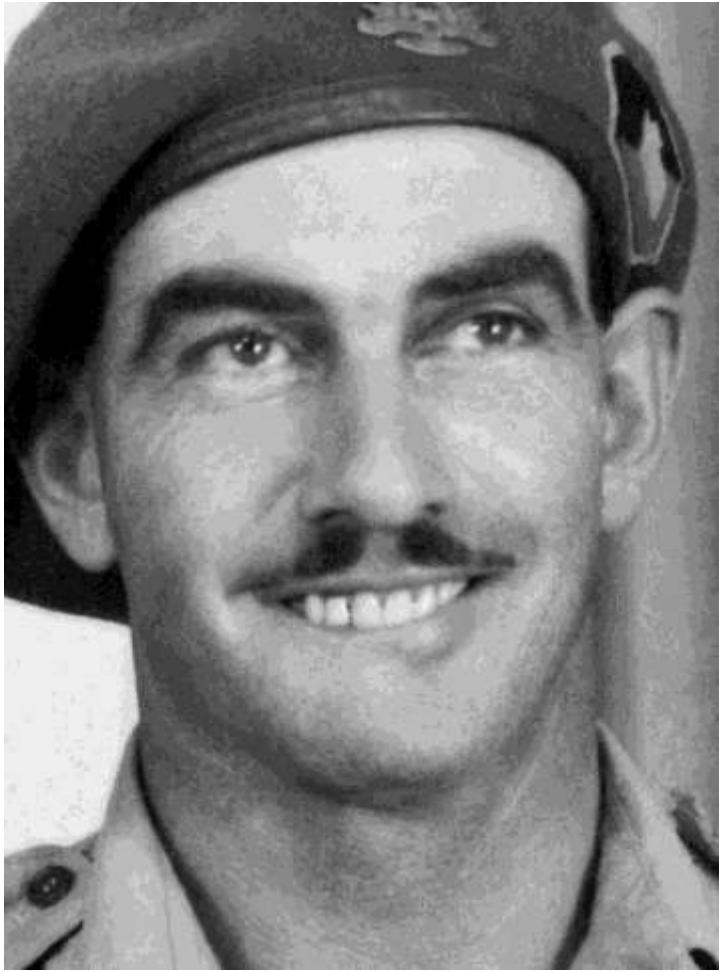
154807 Aircraftman John Boucher Reynolds Rose

John was born at Victor Harbor on 6 February 1927. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 11 June 1945, age 18. John wanted to be mustered into aircraft maintenance but it was found he was colour blind. John was posted to No 2 School of Technical Training (STT) at Kingston, ACT for training as a fitter and turner. With the surrender of Japan on 14 August 1945, it was decided later that month to close the School. John was demobilised on 18 September 1945. In 1950, he enlisted in the Australian Army and served for three years.



S56392 Private Ralph Reynolds Rose

Ralph was born at Geelong, Victoria, on 30 July 1883. He had served with 14th Field Company Engineers in France during the First World War. After the war he returned to Victor Harbor. He enlisted in the army on 15 January 1942 and served with the local contingent of the 4th Battalion, Volunteer Defence Corps. His duties included manning the Bluff Watch Station. He was demobilised on 19 May 1944.



SX23634 Sergeant Hector Edwin Allen Rowett

Hector was born at Dimboola (Vic) on 17 June 1909 and was farming at Victor Harbor when he enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 18 July 1942. He had served previously in the militia. Hector was posted to the 2/9th Armoured Regiment and quickly gained promotion to sergeant. The unit trained hard on the Atherton Tablelands and readied itself for jungle warfare. His family needed him on their farm and as farming was a reserved occupation, Hector was subsequently released and discharged on 10 July 1944. Hector was a good friend of local soldier Colin Coote and was best man at Colin and Ellen Coote's wedding on 28 Feb 1942.

We would like to contact the family of Sgt Hector Rowett.



SX8057 Private Geoffrey (Geoff) Malin Rumbelow

Geoff was born at Victor Harbor on 12 June 1917 and was working at Waitpinga at the time of his enlistment in the 2nd AIF on 5 July 1940. He was posted to the 2/48th Infantry Battalion and sailed with them for the Middle East in November 1940. Part of the 9th Division, the 2/48th fought at Tobruk (April to October 1941), where the Battalion distinguished itself. It then fought in the First and Second Battles of El Alamein (July & October 1942). The fighting was hard and many casualties were suffered throughout the campaigns. The Battalion returned to Australia in February 1943, reformed in Queensland, and trained for jungle warfare. During an army sporting fixture, Geoff broke a leg and was in hospital and on the X-list for eight months. He was demobilised on 2 October 1945. He worked in Adelaide until 1947 when he returned to Victor Harbor.

Geoff died in a drowning accident off Encounter Bay on 19 May 1975 during a severe storm. He is buried in the Victor Harbor Cemetery.