VIRTUAL
WAR MEMORIAL
AUSTRALIA

Australian Curriculum:

History: Year 10

WORLD WAR II
1939-1945

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Introduction

About the Virtual War Memorial

"Comprehensive coverage of the communities and of the men and women that they gave up to write history in our name"

The Virtual War Memorial Australia (VWMA) is a unique endeavour designed to combine the power of digital technologies with public and private collections to enable unparalleled access to the stories, photographs, audio-visual sources of those who have served Australia since 1899.

The Virtual War Memorial aims to be the definitive resource and repository for anyone wanting to research, study or contribute to the commemoration of South Australia's and the Northern Territory's socio-military history, from the Boer War to the present day.

The VWMA founding principles are:

Education - local context for school students studying under the National Curriculum

Commemoration - give greater depth of meaning to our memorial infrastructure

Community Engagement - crowd sourcing of community family and personal information

Accessibility – connect 24/7 anywhere with internet access via mobile devices

This site is unique in its ambition, scope and reach. It complements and will interact with other sites such as the Australian War Memorial and National Archive of Australia sites with whom we are actively collaborating. The Virtual War Memorial is both a repository and a resource for students, family, researchers, teachers, historians, genealogists and communities. It is the research project that will never end, as we strive to make stories as complete as we can.

Our "Virtual Memorials" provide a digital home for all who served, whether or not they are recorded on physical memorials. We also have a feature which, when enabled though mobile devices, will provide relevant streaming digital content triggered by geo-spatial proximity to physical memorials.

About this document

This document is intended to support teachers interested in using the Virtual War Memorial as a resource for teaching the Year 10 Depth Study on World War II. It outlines the links between the Australian Curriculum: History, and the Virtual War Memorial. It also includes opportunities for learning outside of the classroom and a number of support resources. The Virtual War Memorial aims to cater, as much as possible for the needs of teachers, so all feedback and suggestions would be gratefully appreciated.

The Virtual War Memorial and the Year 10 WWII Depth Study

The Virtual War Memorial lends itself particularly well to the Australian Curriculum: History depth study on World War II, and effective use of the Virtual War Memorial can help teachers to foster in students each of the historical skills expected of students at the Year 10 level. The following pages highlight where and how explicit links can be made between the Virtual War Memorial and the Australian Curriculum.

Historical Knowledge and Understanding

Overview of the causes and course of World War II (ACDSEH042):

- Identifying key events in the European theatre of war

- Identifying key events in the Asia-Pacific theatre of war.

Through the Virtual War Memorial Schools Program, students:

- Use sources generated from and about those who were directly involved in key events in the European and Asian-Pacific theatres of war.

- Are exposed to the war as seen through the eyes of their individual, families, comrades, commanding officers etc.

The experiences of Australians during World War II (ACDSEH107):

- Prisoners of War

- The Battle of Britain

- Kokoda – its significance and role in fostering the ANZAC legend

- The Fall of Singapore

Through their research into an individual, students:

- Develop a deeper understanding of the experiences of individuals involved in significant campaigns.

- Who profile a Prisoner of War will also develop a greater understanding of the conditions they faced in battle and internment and, for those who survived, their lives after the war.

QX17307 *Bombardier Hugh Vincent Clarke - 2/10th Field Regiment*
b. 1/7/1919 Brisbane, QLD
Enlisted at the age of 21.
Captured by the Japanese with the fall of Singapore, a POW at Singapore, Thailand & Japan.
Oct 1945 boarded *HMS Formidable* at Nagasaki, for return home to Australia.

The impact of World War II, with a particular emphasis on the Australian home front (ACDSEH109):

- The bombing of Darwin

- The Japanese submarine attack on Sydney

- The sinking of ships off the Australian coast

- The 'Battle of Brisbane'

- The Cowra breakout

- The Brisbane Line

- Changing roles of women

- Wartime government controls – conscription, manpower controls, rationing, censorship
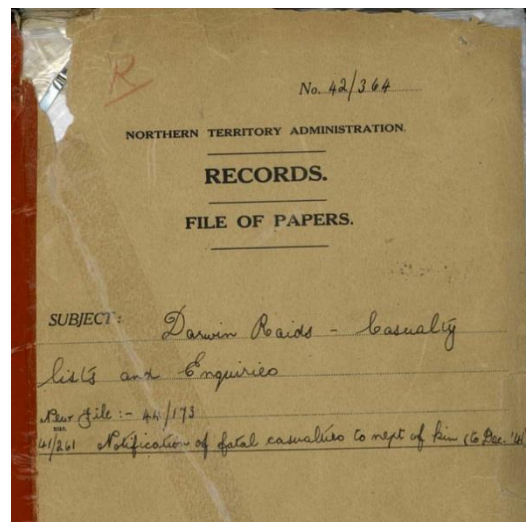
1. Darwin Raids - Casualty Lists and Enquiries, NAA: F1, 1942/364

The Virtual War Memorial attempts to illuminate the lives behind the names and service numbers. By developing a profile, composing a biography and discovering the personal stories of the men and women who have served Australia, students are able to:

- Develop their understanding of Australia in the mid-twentieth century and how it was changed by the conflict.

- Investigate individuals involved in events that significantly affected Australia at home, such as the air raids on Darwin in 1942.

- Make a real contribution to our understanding of Australia's wartime history by compiling a profile which reflects the personal experience of service men and women and their families and communities World War II.

2. The HMAS Swan (left), SS Mauna Loa (centre) and HMAS Warrego (right) - Unlike the SS Mauna Loa, the sloops HMAS Swan and HMAS Warrego survived the Japanese bombing raids on Darwin in 1942 but 3 of the HMAS Swan's crew were killed and another 19 were wounded, AWM P05303.021

Historical Skills

Chronology, terms & concepts (ACHHS164; ACHHS182):

Students develop their understanding of World War II chronology, terms & concepts:

- compiling individual timelines of life and service

- developing familiarity with conflict timelines and the chronology of campaigns

- interpreting military terminology from a range of primary sources

- examine contemporary perspectives of a number of contested concepts specific to conflict studies including invasion and remembrance

- key historical concepts covered include:

    o significance

    o evidence

    o continuity & change – at personal, communal and global levels

    o cause & consequence – as seen through the perspective of individuals

    o ethical understanding – developing historical empathy

HIBBENS, Vivian Joseph

Service Numbers: 400712
Enlisted: 13 October 1940, Melbourne, Victoria
Last Rank: Warrant Officer
Last Unit: No. 145 Squadron (RAF)
Born: Bemboka, New South Wales, 16 January 1922
Home Town: Corowa, Corowa Shire, New South Wales
Schooling: Corowa Primary & Corowa High Schools
Occupation: Bank Clerk
Died: Heart attack, Huskisson, New South Wales, 10 June 1972, aged 50 years
Cemetery: *Not yet discovered*
Memorials:

World War 2 Service

13 Oct 1940: Leading Aircraftman, Aircrew Training Units, Enlistment/Embarkation WW2

11 Apr 1941: Sergeant, Aircrew Training Units, Empire Air Training Scheme

30 Sep 1941: Sergeant, No. 234 Squadron (RAF), Air War NW Europe 1939-45

10 Apr 1942: Sergeant, No. 145 Squadron (RAF), Middle East / Mediterranean Theatre

18 Jul 1942: Sergeant, No. 145 Squadron (RAF), Prisoners of War

10 May 1943: Flight Sergeant, No. 145 Squadron (RAF), Prisoners of War

10 May 1944: Warrant Officer , No. 145 Squadron (RAF), Prisoners of War

Make a Dedication

Historical questions & research (ACHHS165; ACHHS183):

The process of developing a profile of a service man or woman enables students to develop their research skills through:

- Developing their own questions of historical inquiry

- Evaluating & developing these questions

- Identifying and locating a range of primary and secondary sources through the resources provided by the Education Portal and links to digital and physical collections, archives and museums.

Analysis and use of sources (ACHHS169; ACHHS170; ACHHS171; ACHHS187; ACHHS188; ACHHS189)

In order to build a successful profile, students:

- Analyse a wide range of primary and secondary sources on or through the Virtual War Memorial website to help them contextualise the life of a service man or woman

- Use these sources as evidence and synthesise information about an individual

- Evaluate the reliability and usefulness of these sources in developing a biography.

3. RAAF Record of Service - Dibbs, George Robert, NAA: A9300, Dibbs G R

4. 153 Squadron aircrew chatting with their ground crew while the aircraft undergoes maintenance. Source: http://aircrewremembered.com/editorial/resources/chatting-with-ground-crew-w640h480.jpg

5. Biography of Robert Cowper, Squadron Leader 453 Squadron, formerly Pilot Officer 153 Squadron

Perspectives & interpretations: ACHHS172; ACHHS190; ACHHS173; ACHHS191)

Students are introduced to multiple, and sometimes competing, perspectives from varied sources. Through their research and development of an individual's profile, students:

- Investigate the role of human agency in the course of war

- May also be led to investigate the role of human agency in technological, social and political developments on the front and at home

- May be introduced to a range of differing accounts of events and can analyse these in the context of differing historical interpretations.

Explanation & Communication (ACHHS174; ACHHS175; ACHHS192; ACHHS193)

History: Sequence of content 7-10 Strand: Skills

As part of their involvement in the Schools Program, students communicate their research through the profile they compile and enter onto the Virtual War Memorial website. Students:

- Construct a biography of an individual who served in World War Two, using evidence from a range of sources to support their interpretation.

- May also present "personal stories" related to the life of the individual in variety of communications forms, including audio-visual formats.

Teaching Resources

The following resources have been developed to help teachers guide students through the process of researching and writing about an individual who has served Australia. We have also provided source analysis worksheets tailored to the sources that students are likely to encounter in their research.

Work of a high standard will be published to the Virtual War Memorial.

To participate in the program please contact the Schools Program Manager to arrange for your school and class to be registered. The Schools Program Manager will provide training to staff and in-class support in the classroom.

If there are any resources that you would like to see provided by the Virtual War Memorial to support student education, please do not hesitate to contact us.

These resources are updated regularly. For the most up-to-date version of each item, please visit our site and download a copy of the relevant resource.

Schools Program Manager
Direct Dial Number| 0419 620 297
Email| schools.program@vwma.org.au

Name of Serviceperson:

Service number of Serviceperson:

Where to begin?

Use the following websites to find basic details about your serviceperson. As you find relevant documents about your serviceperson and keep a record of the sources you find for your biography's reference list. Record the links to documents about your serviceperson to the VWMA profile (Step 5. Links). Refer to Contributing information to a Profile *for more guidance regarding how to enter details to the VWMA.*

1   Virtual War Memorial Australia

Search Find a person on the home page. Record the details already recorded on the serviceperson's profile on page 2. Search by last name, first name and service number.

Check whether the profile has any "Personal Stories" for your soldier – is there any interesting information recorded there that you could use in your biography? If you use this information, you must directly quote from the story and attribute the information to the contributor with an in-text citation and include it as a source in your reference list.

Personal Details	Service History	Personal Stories

2   DVA Nominal Roll

Lists basic information about servicepeople. Search using your person's service number. Load the link to the serviceperson's profile (5. Links).

3   National Archives Australia (NAA)

Search to find your person's Service Record. Click on 'guest' to begin a search session and place the service number into the 'keywords field'. A list of possible matches will be provided. Look for the search result for your serviceperson with a 'digitised item' icon. Click on the icon and an original version of the Service Record will open. Click on the image of the Service Record and it will load so you can navigate through the pages and zoom in and out to read it.

Create a timeline for your individual's service. Continue to record information about your serviceperson on page 2 and load information to the profile for your serviceperson (1. Details and 2. History). Add the Service Record to the person's profile (5. Links). For help with reading the service record refer to Reading a Service Record – Second World War

For help with understanding the abbreviations used refer to the VWMA guide Abbreviations and Glossary. The NAA abbreviation guide, and the Australian War Memorial Glossary may also be helpful.

Personal Details

The details in blue below are included on the serviceperson's profile (1. Details and 2. History) this along with other information you discover is needed to write a biography of your serviceperson.

Place of birth:

Job/occupation before enlisting:

Address/hometown:

Unit:

Embarkation details:

Date of death:

Place of death:

Rank on enlistment:

Conflict:

Medals:

Religion:

Marital Status:

Age at embarkation:

Next of kin:

Enlistment date:

Place of enlistment:

Unit name:

Fate:

Date of death:

Other details from their service record (NAA)?

What questions did they answer yes to on their Attestation Form (first couple of pages of their service record)? For example: previous military service on record (e.g., involvement in cadets or another war) or previously been rejected as unfit for service, etc.

Have you recorded the URLs for the Nominal Roll and the Service Record as a link on the person's profile?

Life during the war

Use the following websites to research your serviceperson's war experience. This involves a two-part process:

1. *To research information to build an understanding of what happened to them during the war. Answer as many questions as possible on pages 4 and 5.*
2. *Locate and add links to information specifically about the person to their profile (5. Links)*

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4   Australian War Memorial (AWM) Advanced Search.

Search for both your serviceperson and their unit using the AWM advanced search

Serviceperson Search

Search using the service number of your person. You may find information such as the *Roll of Honour* details and any *Honours or Awards* given to your serviceperson. If your serviceperson was a Prisoner of War (POW) you may find a *POWs and Missing Persons Roll*. There may also be 'Private Records' for your personal including letters or diaries, etc.

Remember to add any missing detail to the serviceperson's profile (2. History) and load the URLs with information about your person to the VWMA profile (5. Links).

Unit search

Search for your serviceperson's unit. You might find heraldry, photographs and other images related to the unit or personal diaries from other people in your serviceperson's unit. Scroll down further to locate 'Digitised Collection', to find the Unit Diary for your person's battalion.

Alternatively, a simpler way to find the Unit Diary, is to google 'AWM Unit Diary [name of the unit]'. Check the results carefully to select the Unit Diary from the Second World War.

Find the monthly sections of the Unit Diary relevant to your serviceperson. Cross check with the person's Service Record timeline to work out when they were active with the unit.

Refer to Guide to Reading a Unit Diary and/or view How to Access War Diaries (5:17mins) but be aware that how the researcher in the clip navigates the AWM to find the war diaries has now changed. For help with understanding the abbreviations used refer the VWMA guide Abbreviations and Glossary. The NAA abbreviation guide, and the Australian War Memorial Glossary may also be helpful

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5   VWMA Battles

Click on the relevant battles for your person's unit on the right-hand side of the page to find out more, or alternatively use the timeline feature on the VWMA.

6	[Trove](#)

Refine your search to 'Newspapers and Gazettes' and your serviceperson's home state. Many local newspapers published articles about the men and women who went away to war. You may even find articles referencing your serviceperson before and after they went to war. Search with different with different variations of your serviceperson's name and initials enclosed in inverted commas. Try their first and last name; use their initials only with their last name and try including their rank. For example: "Private Hewitt Henry Bell", or "H. H. Bell" or "H. Williams", or "Pte Hewitt Henry Bell", or "Pte H.H. Williams", or "Pte H. Williams".

Click on [i] to find the reference details to use in your biography reference list and the page identifier URL to load to your serviceperson's profile.

7	[VWMA](#)

Revisit your search about your serviceperson. Were there any *Personal Stories* loaded to their profile? The information here could be useful to understand more about their life before, during and after their service.

Information to look out for:

Where did their unit fight and what was the outcome? Create a brief timeline. Remember to cross check with your person's Service Record to ensure that your person was not absent during the battles the unit was involved with.

Were they posted (moved) to another unit (Hint: look for TOS or Taken on Strength):

Details of training and detachment to other units:

Did they get sick? How long were they in hospital?

Were they wounded or killed in action? What happened and where? Where are they buried/commemorated?

If they were killed or died, can you find out anything about their family and community? For example, is there an obituary notice in a local newspaper or an account of the funeral that lists family members?

Did they return from service? Die of illness?

Any other information you have found (e.g.: Absent without leave AWL)

Any honours or awards? This may be mentioned in their service record but also refer to [AWM Honours and Awards](#)

Life after the war

Use the following websites to research your serviceperson's life after the war and answer the questions which follow. Record any other interesting information that you could include in their biography. Remember to add links to information that is specifically about the person to their profile (5. Links).

8	Trove

Check Trove again for any articles about their life after their return from war. Their Service Record (NAA) may also provide some information about their life once they returned to Australia.

9	Find a grave
	Cemetery Search

If your serviceperson <u>survived</u> the war use the above websites to find where they are buried:

10	VWMA

 Revisit your search about your serviceperson to check if there is an RSL badge showing.

This indicates that the serviceperson joined the RSL. The RSL records information about their members including details related to their family members. Contact us to find out what information the RSL has schools.program@vwma.org.au or phone 0439 559 759.

Information to look out for:

What did they do when they returned to Australia (if applicable)? There could be articles referring to their involvement in the community or their working life. Did they get married, remain married, have children? Did they serve in another conflict?

If they were killed or died, can you find out anything about their family and community? For example, is there an obituary notice in a local newspaper or an account of the funeral that lists family members?

Any other interesting information you have found?

11	**Finding Photographs**

Not every serviceperson has an individual photo, but you should be able to find relevant photographs of their unit, ships they were on, places they trained or fought etc. Refer to the guide Finding Photographs. Load photographs to the serviceperson's profile (4. Photos) following the instructions once on the page.

Prepare your biography for your serviceperson – For guidance refer to Writing a VWMA Biography

Contributing Information to a Serviceperson's Profile

Activating Your Account

You will automatically receive an email with a link to set up a password and activate your account. **Tip:** Save your password on your device or keep it in your phone.

The next time you sign into the Virtual War Memorial, you will be taken straight to your project.

If you navigate away from your project to look at other information on the site, you can quickly return by selecting the 'Your Project' link in the top right-hand corner of the page.

Completing the Profile

Navigate through the profile by completing fields and clicking 'Save' at the bottom of each section, or by using the links under 'Progress' in the left-hand navigation menu.
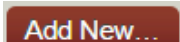
1. Details

Complete as many of the personal details about your individual as you can discover from your research. Most of the section is very straightforward; below are some tips to help you with the trickier sections.

Hometown

Start entering the name of the town and then select the appropriate option from a drop-down list. If the town is not listed, add the town by clicking [Add Town...] g the name of the town, state, and country.

Cemetery

As with hometown, start to type in the name of a cemetery and then select from a drop-down list. If the cemetery is not listed, click [Add New...] the details name, address, state, and country.

Remember to [Save] what you have done.

2. History

Some details may already be entered, and these will not be able to be altered. These may include enlistment, embarkation, conflict involvements, discharge, or other events. However, this is unlikely to be a complete list.

To build an individual's history:

1. Click [Add a History Event]
2. Define the type of event by selecting an option from the drop-list. The selection will determine which fields need information. Select from:

- **Discharge** – Leaving military service. Enter the date. In the service field, start typing the service, e.g. 2nd AIF WW2, then select from the drop-down list. Select the conflict from the drop-down list.

- **Embarkation** – The individual was loaded on to transport to be sent overseas. Enter the date, service, rank, conflict, and unit with which they served, e.g. 10th Field Ambulance.

- **Honours and Awards** – This includes medals. Enter the date, conflict, and campaign e.g. Battle of Romani. In the Medal field, start typing the name of the honour e.g. Distinguished Service Order and select from the drop-down list.

- **Involvement** – The conflicts in which they served. Enter the date, service, rank e.g. Squadron Leader and select from drop down list, campaign, unit, and date their involvement ended.

- **POW** – Internment as a Prisoner of War. Enter dates from and to, conflict and campaign.

- **Promotion** – Promotions received from one rank to another, e.g. promoted from corporal to sergeant. Enter date, service, rank promoted to, conflict and unit.

- **Transfer** – Movement of individual between units. Enter date, service, rank, conflict, and unit.

- **Wounded** – Wounds received in service. Enter the date, conflict, campaign.

The required details are very brief. You can enter more information into the details field at the bottom of the page.

3. Click **Save**

4. Add more history events by repeating the process.

3. Biography

Enter the biography you have created for your individual. For help with composing a biography see our 'Writing a VWMA Biography' resource.
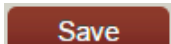
It is recommended that you complete this task in a Word document (or similar). Proof-read and edit, before copying and pasting into the Biography field.

You will then need to format the biography using the menu at the top of the field.
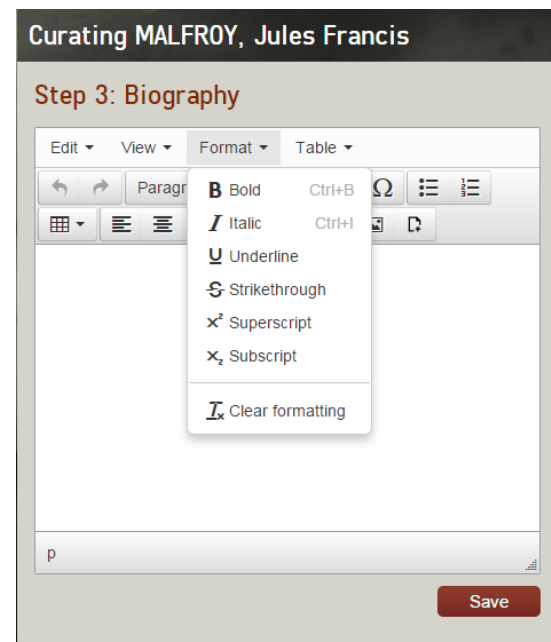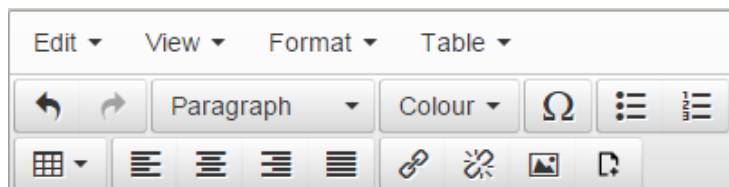
4. Photos

To add images:

1. Click

2. Select the image from your computer, click Open.

3. Enter details including the date taken, if known, and a caption.

4. Include an attribution. This is where the image came from and who owns it. If you do not add an attribution, the image will not be saved.

5. Set the image as the profile photo by selecting the check box (if there is more than one, select the best one).

6. Click

5. Links

1. Click **Add a Link**

2. Enter the name of the link in the 'Link Text' section, e.g., Australian War Memorial – Nominal Roll or National Archives of Australia – Service Record

3. Enter the URL

4. Click **Save**

6. Documents

To add files:

1. Click **Add a Resource**

2. Select the file you want to add and click Open.

3. Enter the name of the file, e.g. Diary of Lieutenant Commander CJP Hill HMAS Parramatta.

4. Click **Save**

7. Submit

Click 'Submit to Teacher' button.

The project will be ready to be assessed and moderated.

No changes are possible unless the teacher sends it back to you.

Curating MALFROY, Jules Francis

Step 7: Submit

Draco, your name will ALWAYS be associated with Jules Francis MALFROY.

So to honour his memory make sure that you have done your best in finding all you can and that the information is correct and presented properly.

If you are satisfied that you can do nothing more, please submit to your teacher.

Submit to Teacher

Written Source Analysis Worksheet

Title of Document:

Type of Document:

☐ Service Record

☐ Letter

☐ Unit Diary

☐ Personal Diary

☐ Newspaper

☐ Other :_____

Date Written:

Author:
Include name, relationship to your person (eg. your person's commanding officer, rank/service number if appropriate; a journalist; a relative or friend of your person; another person in their unit.)

Intended Audience:
For whom do you think the document was written?

Further Questions:
After completing the next page, what questions have not been answered about your person and their experiences? How could you find the answers?

Photo Source Analysis Worksheet

TITLE/DESCRIPTION/NUMBER:

STEP 1: OBSERVATION

1. Record your overall impression

2. Divide the photo into four sections (quadrants) and look carefully at each one.
   Record the people, objects and activities you observe in the table

People	Objects	Activities

STEP 2: INFERENCE

What might you infer from this photograph? Try to list at least three things.

STEP 3: QUESTIONS

1. What questions does this photograph raise?

2. How could you find answers?

Primary Source Organiser

TITLE OF SOURCE	TYPE (Eg. honour roll, service record, letter)	AUTHOR	DATE	SUMMARY

Writing a VWMA Biography

A biography is the story of a person's life, told by someone else. You have already completed the difficult task of collecting the information. Now, the aim is to convert that information into an interesting story people will want to engage with!

Step 1 – Gather your information

Bring together all the information you have discovered on your person. You may have completed this in your serviceperson research guide template. You will need to complete a reference list so ensure you have all the details you need.

Is anything missing? Could there be letters, diaries, oral histories, interviews available? A general internet search might help.

Step 2 – Prepare an outline and consider how to present your work

Presentation: Do you want to present your work in a written or audiovisual format?

Create a **timeline** of your person's life – which events would you like to talk about in more detail? Which events sound more interesting or exciting? Plan your work.

If preparing an audiovisual presentation gather the images, you will use to complete it.

Remember! A biography is a recount – events need to be in **chronological order** and in the **past tense**.

Step 3 - Prepare the biography

If preparing a written biography, complete it in Word to assist with the checking of spelling and grammar. Tell a story using continuous prose with short paragraphs, rather than using dot points. There is no need to have titles in your biography, but you can use them if you wish.

What to include:

Life Before the War

Birth, parents, siblings, and residence. Relationships to others who served Australia are also helpful.

School records and previous employment help set the scene of your person's life before the war. Did they serve in the cadets or militia before going to war?

<u>Life During the War</u>

Enlistment, embarkation, re-assignment (where and when it took place). Many soldiers embarked with one unit and ended up in another.

Absences such as illness, courses/training and detachment to other units are generally recorded in the service record. Before you assume that they were involved in a particular battle, <u>check to make sure that they were not absent</u>.

Any decorations (Honours or Awards)? These are a great opportunity to tell the story of why your person was awarded that honour.

<u>Life after the War</u>

Did your person make it home? If not, what were the events surrounding their death?

If they did make it home, what kind of life did they lead after the war? Did they get married, have children, start a business, serve in another war or conflict?

Step 4 - Added Extras

Quotations are great evidence of your individual's life and service – but one or two are generally enough, so pick the best ones.

Personal details are a great way to add depth to your biography. Some questions to consider:

- What did the person like, and dislike?
- What did others think of them?
- What was important to them?
- Why did they sign up for service?
- Who did they leave behind?

Checklist – Have I…

Written the biography as a recount using past tense?

Kept to the verifiable facts?

Referenced the sources used to write the biography?

Uploaded links to documents and sources you used?

Uploaded the photographs and images you have found with referencing?

AWM A00714 – Australian 10th Battalion Headquarters at ANZAC

Personal Stories

Tom Tobin after he was commissioned with the rank of Pilot Officer, probably August 1944, Jane Eblen (nee Tobin) private collection

Tom Tobin's Log Book

Tom kept an exquisitely detailed log book of his flying career, together with memorabilia such as maps, photographs and the like.

His log book is now in the possession of his daughter, Jane. He recorded in great detail and in very fine neat hand writing every mission he flew.

These will be recorded progressively on this site.

He also kept track of the tail numbers of the aircraft he flew and their eventual fate. Lancaster 642 was the aircraft in which he flew most of his missions.

One evening in March 1945, he and his crew were due to fly but his navigator called in sick and rather than split the crew, they were stood down and another crew took 642. It didn't return. No wonder flight crews had a reputation for being superstitious.

He is mentioned repeatedly in the 153 Squadron website as one of the characters (and survivors) of the Squadron.

At war's end his grateful crew (he had brought them home safely 30 times) presented him with a beautiful scale replica of their aircraft. On its base is inscribed the targets of the 30 missions he 'skippered'. It is now in the possession of his grandson Heath Eblen.

From information provided by Jane Eblen, Tom's daughter.

What is the difference between a personal story and a biography?

A personal story can be anything that gives us a glimpse into the life and character of an individual who served.

While a biography narrates the events of a person's life, a personal story allows you more freedom to help us understand your individual. A personal story could include a story passed down through generations, a poem or, as in the case of Flying Officer Tom Tobin, it could come from their own personal records of service, in which their individual character shines through.

Personal stories:

- Stories can be found anywhere. Look for letters, postcards, art work, sketches, poems, oral histories or audio recordings, personal objects, diaries or memoirs, newspaper articles, magazine articles, artefacts, memorabilia, maps, government publications and reports.
- Stories do not need to be very long to give us a sense of the person they are about.
- Stories can be updated and added to at any time. The more stories about an individual, the easier it is for us to begin to understand who they were.