Australian Curriculum: History

Year 10

WORLD WAR II
1939-1945

A product of the RSLSA-DECD Learning Partnership

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Introduction

About the RSL 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 RSL Virtual War Memorial 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 RSL 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.

Founding principles:

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 others 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 RSL 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 RSL Virtual War Memorial. It also includes opportunities for learning outside of the classroom and a number of support resources. The RSL 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 RSL Virtual War Memorial and the Year 10 WWII Depth Study

The RSL Virtual War Memorial lends itself particularly well to the Australian Curriculum: History depth study on World War II and effective use of the RSL 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 RSL Virtual War Memorial and the Australian Curriculum.

Historical Knowledge and Understanding

Overview of the causes and course of World War II

-   Identifying key events in the European theatre of war

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

Through the RSL 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

-   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.
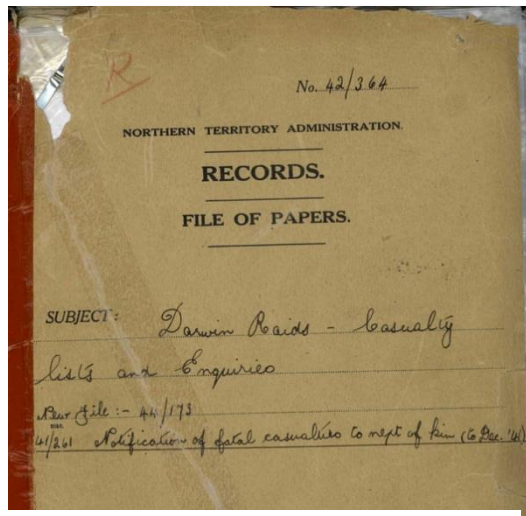

QX17307 Bombardier Hugh Vincent Clarke
- 2/10th Field Regiment
b. 1/7/1919 Brisbane, QLD
Enlisted at the age of 21.
Captured by the Japanese with the fall of Singapore, a POW at Singapore, Thailand & Japan.
Oct 1945 boarded *HMS Formidable* at Nagasaki, for return home to Australia.

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

- 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 RSL 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

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

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

- Encouraging & supporting students to develop 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

In order to build a successful profile, students:

- Analyse a wide range of primary and secondary sources on or through the RSL 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

Biography

This biography thanks to Steve Lewis, Bob's biographer in "Chasing Shadows"

Born in Broken Hill in June 1922, from an early age Bob enjoyed a semi-rural upbringing north of Adelaide, where his father, Henry Cowper, worked at Roseworthy Agricultural College. Bob's Father, himself a veteran of World War 1, was one of thousands who suffered horrendous gas burns on the Western Front, and was no doubt an inspiration to the young Bob Cowper.

On the day of his eighteenth birthday, Bob cycled from the family home north of Adelaide to North Terrace in Adelaide City, signalling his intentions to enlist at Number 5 Recruiting Depot of the RAAF.

He was accepted for basic air force training in December 1940 alongside other South Australian volunteers who would ultimately contribute to Australia's reinforcement of the RAF.

Before his nineteenth birthday, Bob graduated from EATS (Empire Air Training Scheme) which he undertook in Western Australia and Canada, and with the extra bonus of a commission (Pilot Officer) was on his way to Scotland for further assessment and ultimately for training as a night fighter.

Decades later, he describes this Atlantic crossing as one of the most harrowing experiences of his eventful wartime career, with freezing weather, overcrowding and the constant fear of attack from German U-boats.

Perspectives & interpretations

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

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

- Construct a biography of an individual who served in World War One 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 students are likely to encounter in their research. If there are any resources that you would like to see provided by the RSL Virtual War Memorial to support student education, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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RSL Virtual War Memorial
TEACHER RESOURCE

Researching an Individual

This fact sheet will guide you through researching an individual and uploading information to create a profile on the RSL Virtual War Memorial.

More information may be found in the histories of the unit and in the unit war diaries in the Australian War Memorial Collections. See the Research page on the RSL Virtual War Memorial website for details.

1 **RSL VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL**

Start here to find out what information the RSL Virtual War Memorial already has about an individual. Search by last name, first name and service number. You can filter by conflict, unit, campaign and home town.

https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people

| Enter last name... | Enter first names... | Enter service no... |

Showing 10 people of interest

WILLIAMS, Ronald George
Service number TX2146
Lieutenant
2nd/40th Infantry Battalion
2nd AIF WW 2
Born 7 Aug 1920

DURDIN, Ar
Service numb
Lieutenant
27th Infantry
AIF WW1
Born 26 Mar

2 **AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL**

Search for a Person will search the Roll of Honour, the Nominal and Embarkation roles, records of Honours and Awards.

https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search

Search for a person

If you are looking for a family member, friend or relative who served, this will guide you to the relevant areas of our website that contain information.

Name:

Service number:

Unit name:

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Search

3 **THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**

Use the **Find War Dead** search for those who were died during World War ll.

http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx

Find War Dead | Find a Cemetery

Casualty name

Search

Advanced Search

4 **THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA**

Click on the **Name Search** tab at the top of the page, select Australian Defence Force personnel records from the drop-down menu for **Category of records.** After you click **Search,** refine the search using first name or the service number.

http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au

NameSearch

Family name

Category of records   Australian Defence Forces personnel records

Use exact spelling   ☑

Search   Clear

5 **TROVE AUSTRALIA**

A searchable collection of newspapers. Use **Advanced Search,** type the person's name into **Keywords.** Under **Limit your results** select a range of years to make your search easier.

http://trove.nla.gov.au/?q&adv=y

Advanced search

Enter search terms in at least one of the fields below

Keyword: | All of the words
Title: | All of the words
Creator: | All of the words
Subject: | All of the words

Extending Your Research

This page is for those who want to take their research to the next level. The following resources will help you to develop a better understanding of the experiences of your serviceman or servicewoman.

| 6 | **AWM – Unit Diaries** |

These record the daily activities of headquarters, formations and units. You will need to know the unit and class (eg. Infantry) in which your individual served.

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/awm52/

| 7 | **AWM – Collections** |

The AWM holds thousands of sources including photographs, letters and personal diaries. Even if your person did not leave a record, there may still be evidence about them in the records of others. Check records linked to their unit

https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search

| 8 | **State Library of South Australia** |

The State Library holds a large collection of books, digital resources and private collections. Use the advanced search to find out more about the unit and perhaps uncover a personal collection

http://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/search/X

Need More Help?

The RSL Virtual War Memorial website has a range of links to help you research individuals and the units in which they served.

Other Useful Links

AWM Research Guide – guides you through the research process using sources held by the Australian War Memorial.

AWM Memorial Glossary – explains military abbreviations and acronyms

State Records of South Australia – holds state and local government records as well as photographs of South Australian service men and women from World War II.

Building a Profile

From the homepage (https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au) type the last name, first name and service number of the individual into the "Find a Person" search box. If you cannot find the person, please read the page https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/research, focusing on step 4.

UPDATING DETAILS

Click the "Update Details" button in the top right corner to add information or a biography.

> **Please Note:** If you are not already registered, complete and submit the online registration form. You will be sent a "Confirmation Instructions email. Click the "Confirm my account" link in the email.

If you are registered, you will be asked to sign in and will be taken to an edit screen for your individual

STEP 1. DETAILS

Fill in the form with as much information
as you have about:

- Birth, Schooling, Occupation, Home Town
- Enlistment, Honours, Service Outcome, eg. killed in action
- Place of Death, Place of Burial

Click **Next**

STEP 2. BIOGRAPHY

Add a biography of the individual you have been researching. There is information to help you on the screen, and the profile of Lyell Keith Swann (2156) is a good example.
Type directly into the text box or copy and paste from a document.
Click **Next**

STEP 3. REASON & EVIDENCE

Provide the reasons and evidence you have used to make changes to the profile, eg. family or community knowledge. Please make sure you understand the terms & conditions of posting, and our moderation policy as we may need to make changes to the information you have uploaded. Click **Submit**

ADD A PICTURE, LINK OR PERSONAL STORY

Return to the profile page to add a picture, link or a personal story to the profile.

Upload a Picture	Add a Link or Resource	Add my story
• Click **Upload a Picture** • Select the file • Click **Open**	• Click **Add a Link or Resource** • Select the appropriate option • Paste the URL or select the file • Name it by typing in the **Link Text** or **Name** fields • Click **Submit**	• Click **Add my story** • Insert the title • Paste text into the **Content** box • Click **Submit**

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. commanding officer, rank/service number if appropriate.

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

Further Questions:
After completing the next page, what questions have not been answered? How could you find the answers?

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 Biography

When adding a biography, try to tell a story of a life and not repeat data that is already known. Avoid a string of dot points or date related information that is already on the record. A narrative is always easier to read. Readers will want you to 'tell the story'.

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?

Letters, diary notes and oral histories / interviews all add a personal dimension and, if you can, they should be included. First-hand accounts are a lot more compelling than retrospective speculation. Personal impressions of the situation they were in add to the depth and substance of the narrative.

The aim of this site is to be more than a presentation of data.
We want to tell a story and give life to the name...

Process

- Assemble your sources and collate the information.
- Prepare an outline and use headings if it helps.
- Write it in Word. Check the spelling and grammar before uploading to the site.
- Try and tell a story - use prose rather than dot points but keep paragraphs short.

What information should I include?

1. **A timeline based narrative** is probably the best. There is usually a typed chronology of the soldier's service in their service record – it is a basis to work from.

2. It is always useful to start from the beginning! **Birth, parents, siblings and residence**. Relationships to others who served Australia are also good to include. A clue is to search the **National Archive** service record by entering the name of next of kin.

3. **Growing up** - school records are terrific if you can find them – check out Arthur Harris' school cadets photo!

4. **Pre enlistment** employment and /or service in the cadets or militia etc adds context to life before conflict.

5. **Enlistment, embarkation, re-assignment** (where and when it took place). Many soldiers embarked with one unit and ended up in another. Working out whether they were involved in particular campaigns is a bit more difficult.

6. Absences such as **illness, courses / training and detachment** to other units is generally recorded in the service record. So before assuming they were in, it is best to see if they were definitely 'out'.

7. **Decorations** are often best treated as "stories" – what they were awarded for – action place date, are more important that when they were gazetted or actually presented. Check on the AWM Honours and Awards site.

8. As far as **post service life**, that is where family records or perhaps "Trove" kicks in.

Writing Tips

> More detail can be added as a **Resource** in your individual's profile, eg. a standalone document such as memoir.

1. Keep it **concise** – if it's too long, people won't stick with it.

2. If there is a lot of information, look for **key or quirky events** - they serve as the 'hook' to keep people reading

3. An appropriate point of focus might be a particular **incident** or some **distinguishing characteristic** of his/her service.

Added Extras

1. **Photos with multiple people** - those people who are help us to build biographies and stories of other men and women who served - and yours might be the only photo that exists of them!

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

5 Malaya, an A.I.F. anti-tank gun crew, 03/1941, AWM 006372

Don't Forget

> Additional quotes can be added as stories. We found an absolute gem - a letter from WWI Private Max Allan's Platoon Commander Sergeant John Ponton, addressed to none other than Miss Vera Deakin - the founder of the Red Cross Missing investigations.

1. Captions and attributions are necessary for any images - respect Copyright and acknowledge the source.

2. Tell us if photos are from a personal collection.

Personal Stories

6 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:

- Can be found in anything from letters to diaries to official reports.
- Do not need to be very long to give us a sense of the person they are about
- Can be added to at any time. The more stories about an individual, the easier it is for us to begin to understand who they were.