

Virtual War Memorial Australia

Researching a Person – WW2

This fact sheet will guide you through researching an individual who served Australia in World War Two. The first page points you in the direction of resources that will give you basic details about the individual and their service. The second page helps you to take your research further and find extra information.

1 DVA NOMINAL ROLL

Lists basic information about all servicemen and women who served in World War Two, the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Select the conflict, then search using service number or name.

<http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/>

The screenshot shows a search form titled "Search". It has a "Conflict" dropdown menu with "World War Two" selected. Below it is a "Service Number" input field with the placeholder text "Service Number".

2 AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Search for a Person will search the Roll of Honour, the Nominal and Embarkation roles, records of Honours and Awards, and the Red Cross Wounded or Missing records.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people>

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.

The screenshot shows a search form titled "Search for a person". It has input fields for "Name:", "Service number:", and "Unit name:". There is a "Conflict:" dropdown menu with "Second World War, 1939-1945" selected. A blue "Search" button is at the bottom.

3 THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

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

<https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead>

The screenshot shows two tabs: "Find War Dead" (active) and "Find a Cemetery". Below the tabs is a "Casualty name" input field and a red "Search" button. An "Advanced Search" link is at the bottom right.

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

The screenshot shows a search form titled "NameSearch". It has a "Family name" input field, a "Category of records" dropdown menu with "Australian Defence Forces personnel records" selected, and a "Use exact spelling" checkbox which is checked. There are "Search" and "Clear" buttons at the bottom.

5 TROVE AUSTRALIA

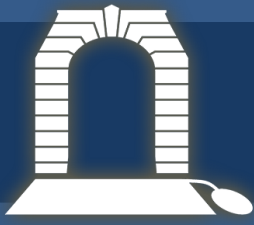
A searchable collection of newspapers. Use **Advanced Search**, type the person's name into **Keywords**. Under **Limit your results** select a range of years to make your search easier.

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

Advanced search

Enter search terms in at least one of the fields below

The screenshot shows an "Advanced search" form with four rows of search criteria: "Keyword:", "Title:", "Creator:", and "Subject:". Each row has a dropdown menu with "All of the words" selected and an input field.



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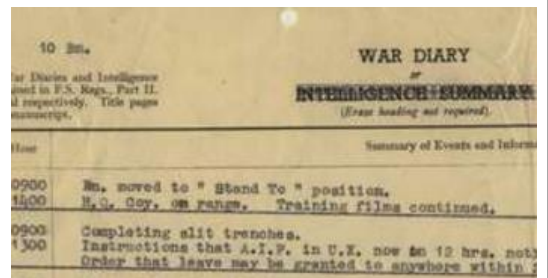
Extending Your Research

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/collection>



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>

State Library of South Australia

[New search](#) [Contact us](#) [Help topics](#)

[Advanced keyword search](#)

Enter search terms

Need More Help?

The Virtual War Memorial website has a range of links to help you research individuals and the units in which they served – www.vwma.org.au

Other Useful Links

AWM Research Guides – <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/understanding-the-memorials-collection>

AWM Memorial Glossary – <https://www.awm.gov.au/glossary/>