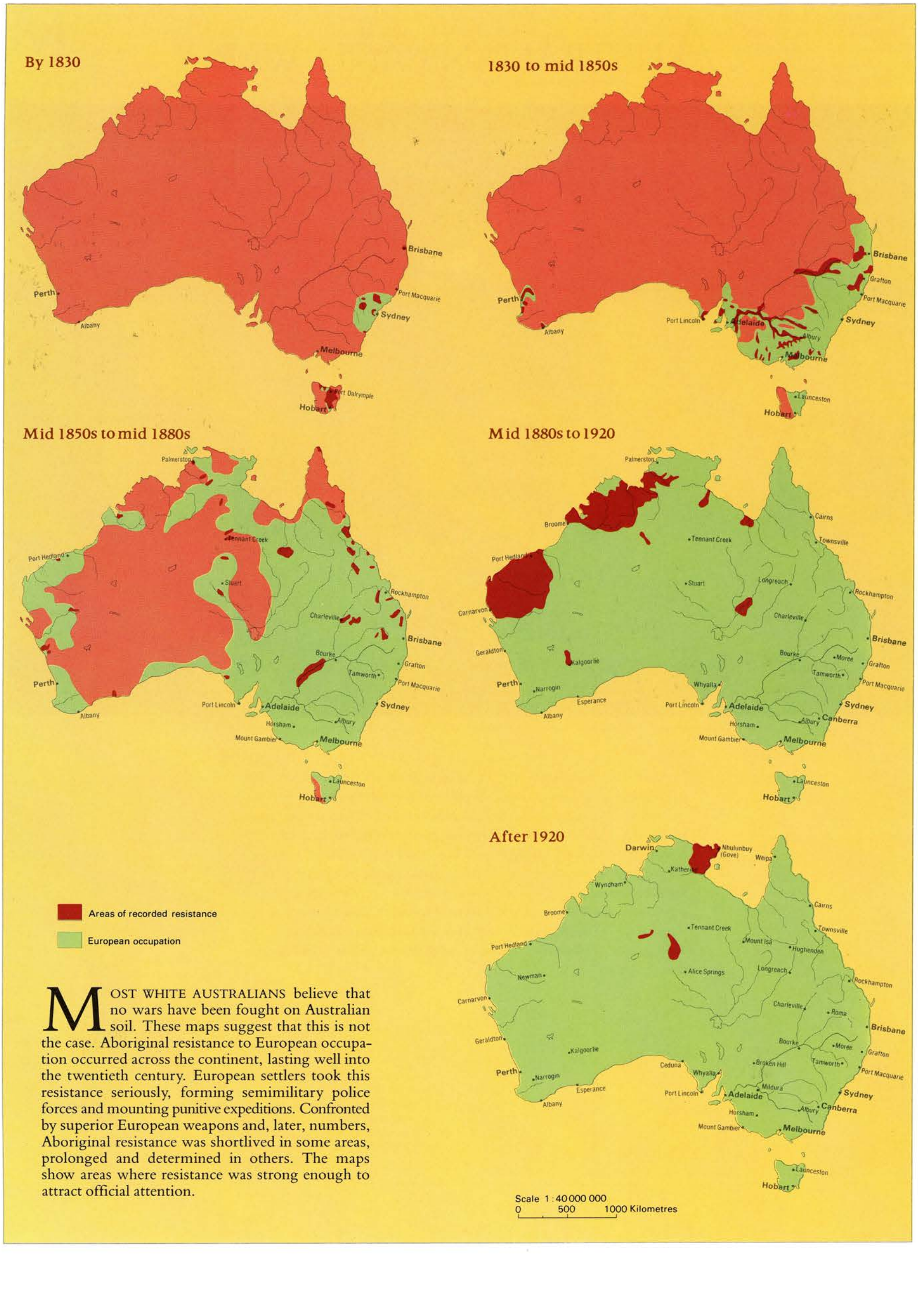
CHAPTER 11

AUSTRALIANS AND WAR

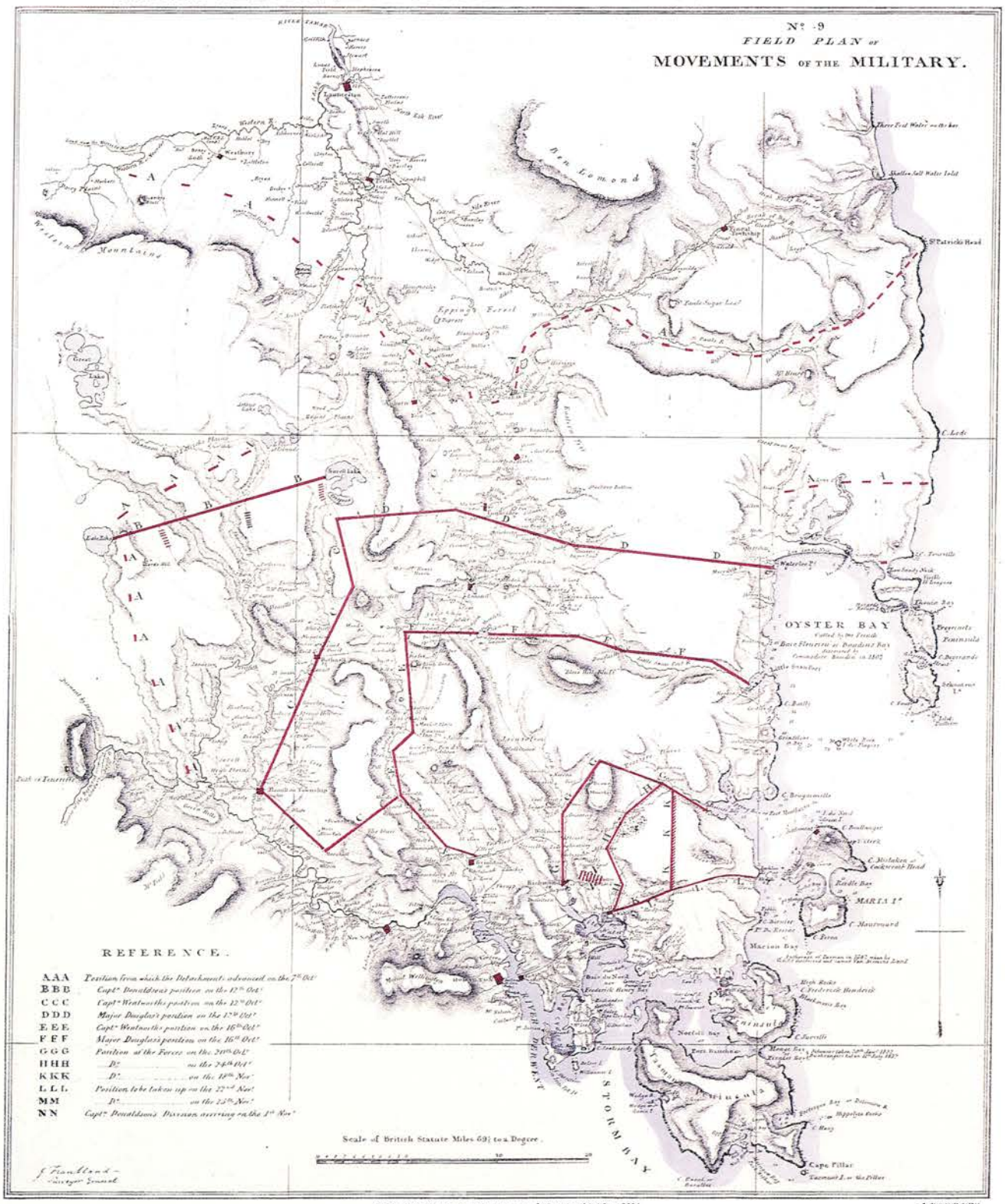
Anzac Day dawn service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney. Photograph by Kevin Diletti, 1986.

GOVERNMENTS IN AUSTRALIA have a long tradition of sending expeditionary forces to distant wars even though this has sometimes caused division among the people at home. Australian participation in World War II aroused the least controversy, participation in Vietnam the most. During World War I and the Vietnam War there was vigorous debate about whether men should be conscripted to fight. Australian soldiers have acquired a well-documented reputation for hardiness and valour. However, one element in the Australian experience of war has almost been forgotten: the Aborigines' resistance to white settlement. That story begins this chapter.

Aboriginal resistance to European occupation



MOST WHITE AUSTRALIANS believe that no wars have been fought on Australian soil. These maps suggest that this is not the case. Aboriginal resistance to European occupation occurred across the continent, lasting well into the twentieth century. European settlers took this resistance seriously, forming semimilitary police forces and mounting punitive expeditions. Confronted by superior European weapons and, later, numbers, Aboriginal resistance was shortlived in some areas, prolonged and determined in others. The maps show areas where resistance was strong enough to attract official attention.



Aboriginal resistance to European occupation of the continent was widespread. In northern Australia they attacked outposts of European settlement, mounting a short-lived but effective form of guerilla warfare. This drawing shows an attack on the Gilbert River telegraph station. Australasian Sketcher, *21 March 1874.*
NATIONAL LIBRARY

Field plan of military operations against the Aboriginal inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land. *On 4 October 1830 George Arthur, lieutenant governor of Van Diemen's Land, mounted the largest military operation against Aborigines ever undertaken in Australia. After years of hostile contact between Tasmanian Aborigines and Europeans, Arthur had decided to rid the island of Aborigines. They were to be driven south into Tasman Peninsula where capture would be easy. The military, police and civilians (who included convicts) combined to form a line across the north of the island. The line was to move slowly south, driving the Aborigines before it. This map shows the position taken by the line on 4 October and its subsequent positions as the drive progressed. The operation was concluded in November. It succeeded in capturing two Aborigines, for an expenditure of £30,000. The line had been badly co-ordinated and traversed rough, broken country, enabling the Aborigines, with their superior bush skills, not only to slip through the line but to attack it from the rear.* British Parliamentary Papers 1831 (IV) 259, p 59.

Aborigines attacking a European explorer's rowing boat. *Joseph Lycett shows a popular nineteenth-century view of the relationship between Aborigines and explorers: the explorers, hopelessly outnumbered, face a fierce Aboriginal attack. Actually, relations between Aborigines and explorers were complex. Sir Thomas Mitchell always saw Aborigines as potentially treacherous. Edmund Kennedy was killed by Aborigines. Yet Charles Sturt relied on Aborigines' goodwill and had little trouble with them during his journeys, and Edward John Eyre owed his life to his Aboriginal guide during a harrowing trek from Adelaide to Albany. Watercolour by Joseph Lycett, c1820.*
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Service overseas

Major conflicts

Land	Naval	Air	
	--	--	Boer War 1899-1902
			World War I 1914-1918
			World War II 1939-1945
			Korean War 1950-1953
			Vietnam War 1965-1972
	--	--	Others

Great Britain

Boxer Rebellion 1900-1901

Korea

Japan

China

Sudan 1885

India

Malayan Insurgency 1950-1962

Indonesian Confrontation 1965-1966

New Guinea

Fiji

Limit of conscription service, World War II

South Africa

Maori Wars 1863-1864

New Zealand

West Indies

ARCTIC OCEAN

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

INDIAN OCEAN

SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

NORTH SEA

BALTIC SEA

BLACK SEA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

RED SEA

ARABIAN SEA

SOUTH CHINA SEA

CORAL SEA

TASMAN SEA

BERING SEA

CARIBBEAN SEA

Equator

Van Der Grinten Projection

Service overseas

The famous 'rising sun' badge, first worn by the Commonwealth Horse in 1902 and adopted by the army in 1904, was also worn by the First AIF. It is still worn by members of the Australian Military Forces. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a rising sun, but a half-circle of swords and bayonets radiating from a crown.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

AUSTRALIA HAS SENT TROOPS overseas to fight in ten wars. On each occasion Australia joined in to support a powerful ally whose assistance was seen as essential, should Australia ever come under attack. Until December 1941, this ally was Britain; since then it has been the United States of America.

Five of the wars were minor, and their impact on Australian society was minimal: the Maori wars in New Zealand, the Sudan campaign, the Boxer Rebellion in China, the Malayan insurgency and Indonesia's confrontation with Malaysia.

Australian participation in the Boer (South African), Korean and Vietnam wars was more substantial. The number of men sent was greater, they saw more action and casualties were higher. The morality of Australia's participation was questioned during the Boer War. The Vietnam War provoked deep division in Australian society. Whether Australia should be involved at all was questioned. So, too, was the use of conscription.

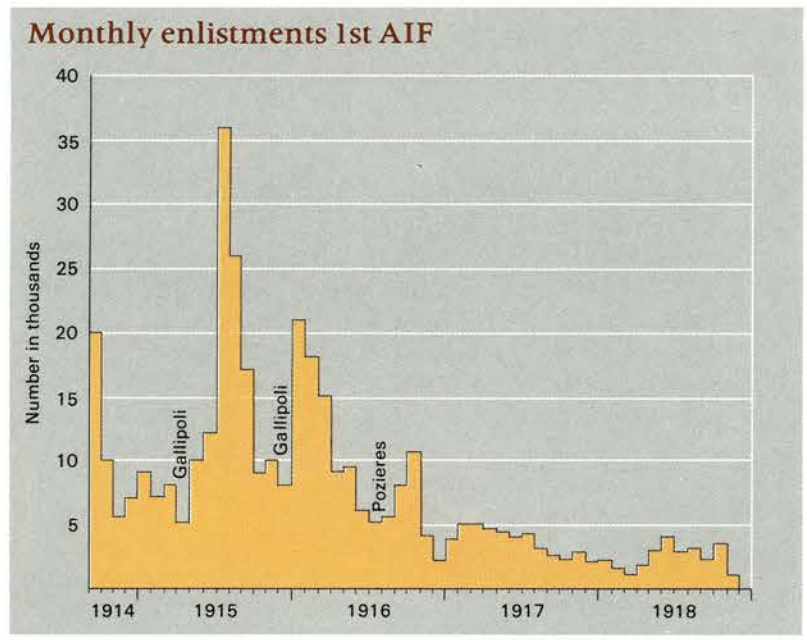
The two world wars were the most serious conflicts in which Australians had yet participated. Australians first fought in the war of 1914-18 when men and ships of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force occupied German New Guinea in September 1914. The Australian Imperial Force (AIF) served in Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Turkey and on the Western Front in Europe. By mid-1916 the AIF comprised five infantry divisions and supporting arms, and an almost complete light horse division. In 1918, members of the AIF joined British forces in Caucasia to train the Persian army, and others joined the British North Russian Expeditionary Force as part of a half-hearted attempt to overthrow the Russian Revolution. Many campaigns in which Australians fought between 1914 and 1918 became household words. The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) served in various ways around the world, particularly escorting convoys and policing sea lanes. Its most famous exploit was the sinking of the German raider *Emden* by the cruiser *Sydney* near the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in November 1914. The Australian Flying Corps, forerunner of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), was formed in 1915 as part of the AIF, and served in Egypt, Palestine and France.

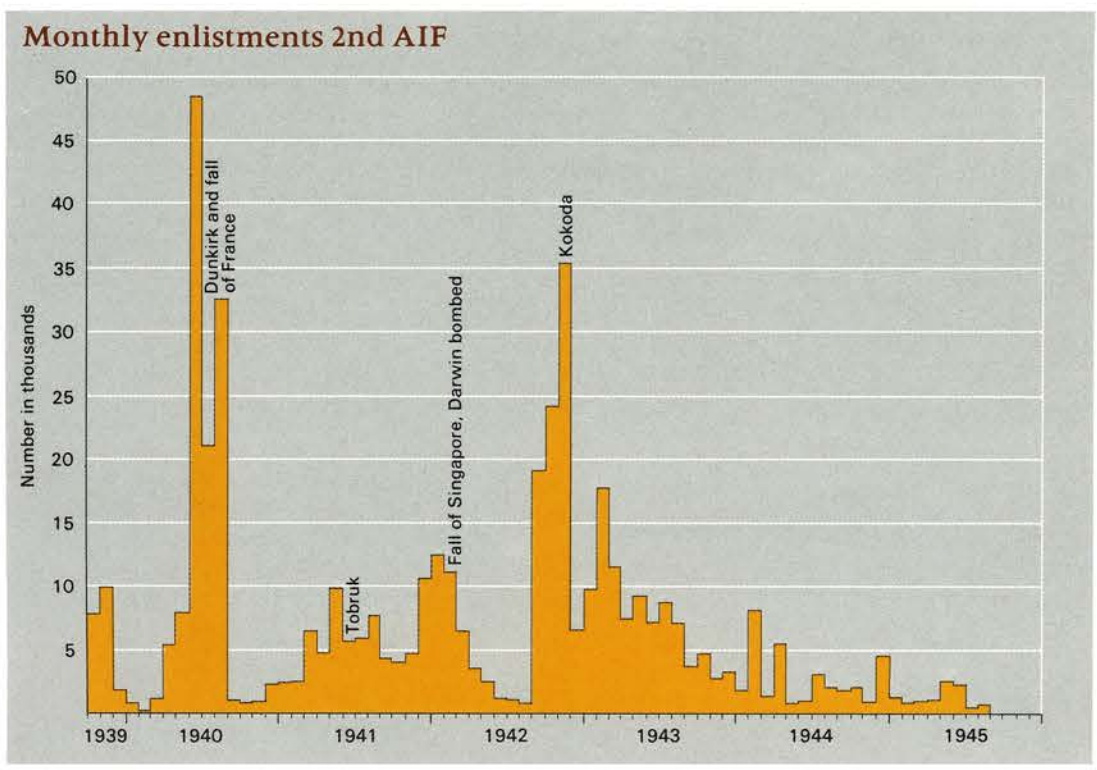
A second AIF was formed soon after World War II began in September 1939, and by early 1942 it comprised four infantry divisions and supporting arms. By 1943, AIF units had served in England, North Africa, Greece and Crete, Syria and Lebanon. In 1942 Australian soldiers fought closer to home, as the Japanese swept through southeast Asia and New Guinea, provoking fears that they would invade Australia. Conscription into the Australian Military Forces for home defence had been introduced in 1939, and the number conscripted rose substantially in 1942. In 1943 the Curtin government extended the area in which members of the AMF could serve to the equator and the meridians 110° and 151° east. Subsequently, members of the AMF and the second AIF served together in New Guinea and the Indonesian archipelago.

The RAAF and the RAN saw active service in every part of the globe. In addition, many Australians flew with the Royal Air Force. The Navy took part in several battles including, in a minor role, the battle of the Coral Sea which halted the Japanese naval advance to the south. The Navy also assisted the Americans in the Solomon Islands and in the invasion of the Philippines, and took on patrol and logistics tasks around the world.

Casualties suffered during both world wars were heavy, as the table shows, but those of World War I exceeded those of World War II. The figures for wounded in World War I included more than 16 000 victims of poison gas, a weapon not used in World War II. The ratio of casualties to the total number of servicemen was higher for Australia than for any other participant, except Romania and Austria-Hungary. Illness took its toll during both wars but was more serious during World War II, mainly because outbreaks of malaria were common. The number of prisoners of war was higher during World War II. Most were prisoners of the Japanese.

The graphs of monthly enlistments for both wars show markedly differing patterns. Early enthusiasm for World War I is reflected in enlistments for the first eighteen months. The slight peak late in 1916 was the result of a mistaken belief that conscription was inevitable. From the end of 1916, weariness of the war is evident in low enlistments.





Australian casualties		World War I	World War II
Battle	Dead	53 993	27 291
	Wounded	155 133	23 377
	POW	3 647	22 264
Non-battle	Dead	6 291	10 137
	Sickness	393 155	436 041
	Other	4 387	36 912
	Total	616 606	556 022

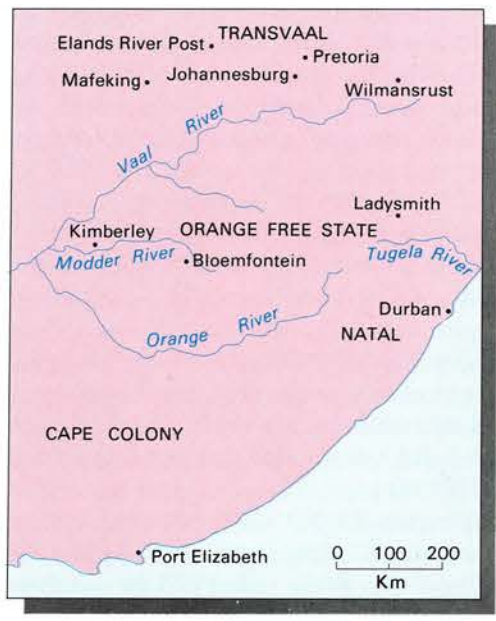
The beginning of World War II was greeted with caution. The German invasion of France led to increased enlistments, but the fall of France caused a sharp decline. Only when Australia seemed in danger of invasion did enlistments increase again.

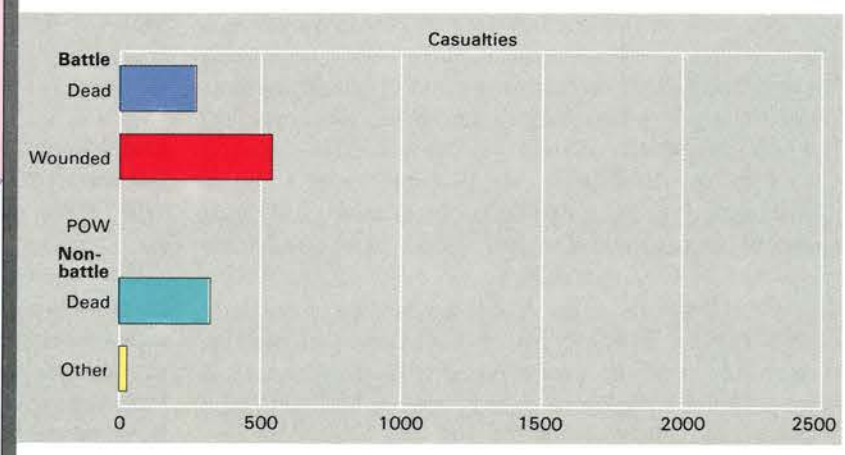
On 11 October 1899, war began between Britain and the Boer republics of Transvaal and Orange Free State. Britain wanted to expand the empire and to protect the rights of British citizens in the republics; the Boers were determined to keep their independence.

At the end of World War II, Korea was occupied north of the 38th parallel by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The United States of America occupied Korea south of the parallel. In June 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea. The United Nations resolved to send a multi-national force to defend South Korea.

A fear of communism led to Australia's involvement in Vietnam. In 1954 Vietnam had been temporarily divided. North Vietnam was governed by the Viet Minh, a coalition of communists and their allies. South Vietnam was governed by anti-communists. Friction between the two escalated into warfare.

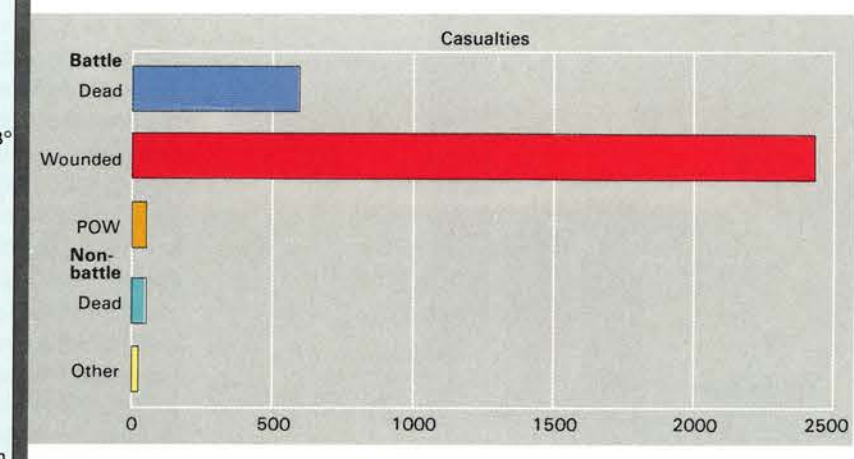
Boer War





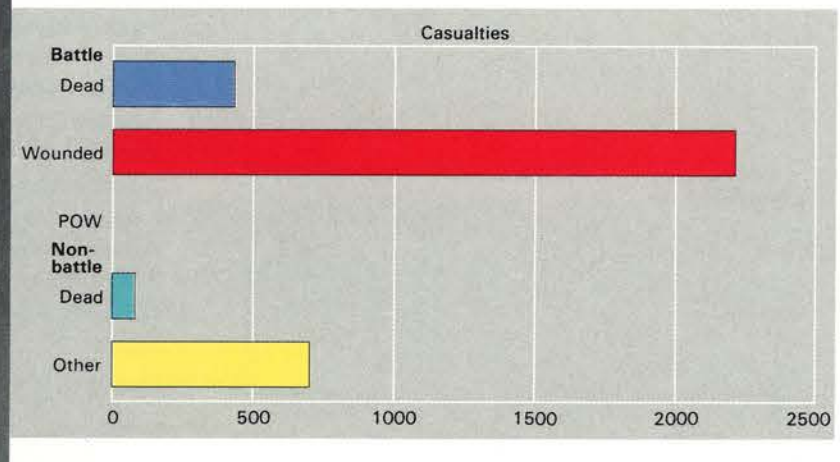
In 1899 the Boers defeated British troops and laid siege to Mafeking, Kimberley and Ladysmith. The British mounted an offensive in 1900 to relieve these towns and to capture the Boer capitals of Bloemfontein and Pretoria. Australians took part in this offensive. With the defeat of the main Boer armies by 1900, British efforts focused on Boer guerilla units. In August 1900, about 500 Australians repulsed an attack by 3000 Boer guerillas at Elands River. Doubts raised in Australia about the war were strengthened by the court-martial and execution of Lieutenants Harry Morant and P.J. Handcock for the murder of captured Boers. The war ended with the Boer surrender on 31 May 1902.

Korean War



By August 1950 only a small area around Pusan remained in South Korean and American hands. The United Nations counter-offensive began in September, and by October it had pushed beyond the 38th parallel. Australian troops took part in the push north to Kumch'on, Sariwon and Chongju. In November the Chinese came to the aid of North Korea. The United Nations force was driven southwards. Seoul fell to the North Koreans in June 1951. Australian forces fought in the defence of Kapyong, Wonju, Changhowoi and Yongju. By late 1951 the war had reached a stalemate. A truce was declared on 27 July, 1953.

Vietnam War



In May 1965 the first troops arrived at Bien Hoa in a war that was to produce the deepest divisions in Australian society since World War I. In the same year, national service (conscription) had been introduced to expand the army by two battalions.
Australia's initial commitment to Vietnam was one battalion with naval and air support. Australians served in the Bien Hoa region under American command until May 1966, when the Australian Army commitment was increased to two, then three battalions, known as the First Australian Task Force. The task force was moved to Phuoc Tuy province, between Saigon and the port of Vung Tau, and based at Nui Dat. Viet Cong guerillas and units of the North Vietnamese army controlled the province and the road from the port to Saigon. The Australians' job was to clear the province and secure the road. In general they succeeded.
In Australia, however, the tide of opinion had begun to turn against the war, particularly with the deaths of national servicemen in Vietnam. In late 1971, the withdrawal of the task force began. It was completed in December 1972 by the Whitlam Labor government.

Australian Imperial Force

After World War I most communities in Australia built memorials to honour the men and women who had served. They ranged from the imposing Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne to memorial gates, avenues of trees and, in many rural areas, community halls. The most popular memorial was the digger at rest, the barrel of his gun turned to the ground as a sign of respect for the dead, as on this memorial in Bombala, NSW. Photograph by Adrian Young. 1982.

WHEN BRITAIN declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914 (and subsequently on Austria-Hungary and the Turkish empire), Australia was automatically also at war. The declaration was greeted with enthusiasm by almost all Australians and all political parties. Andrew Fisher, leader of the Labor party and soon to become Prime Minister, pledged Australia to 'the last man and the last shilling'. On 5 August the government placed the navy at the disposal of the British Admiralty and promised Britain 20 000 men. The first men of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), with troops from New Zealand, sailed for the war from Albany on 1 November 1914. They landed in Egypt to continue training and were there formed into an army corps. Soon afterwards the term ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) was coined. The AIF was composed entirely of volunteers. The men were well paid and usually intensively trained. From April 1915 they earned a reputation as tough and courageous soldiers.

At home, enthusiasm for the war waned as the fighting dragged on and casualties mounted; opposition to the war grew from mid-1916 and by 1918 weariness of the war was widespread.

Although more than 1700 nurses embarked, serving in hospitals and hospital ships in the Mediterranean, the Middle East, India, France and England, the war itself brought little change to the status of women in Australia. The number of women in clerical and low-grade white-collar jobs increased but most women contributed to the war effort by writing letters, making up food parcels, knitting and assisting at recruiting rallies. Changes in the status of women came after the war.

Enlistments and Embarkees

Between 1914 and 1918, 416 809 men enlisted in the AIF. They enlisted in one of six military districts, each district approximating state boundaries.

Recruitment began on 11 August 1914. Physical standards for enlistment were high and many men were turned away. But by the end of 1914, 52 561 men had enlisted and Australia had more than doubled its promise of 20 000 men. The peak year for enlistments was 1915 with 165 912 men. Numbers were boosted by recruiting campaigns and reports of fighting at Gallipoli. But by the end of 1915 the numbers enlisting began to drop. Casualty lists contained too many brothers, fathers, friends or cousins. Physical requirements for recruits were made less stringent but enlistments continued to fall.

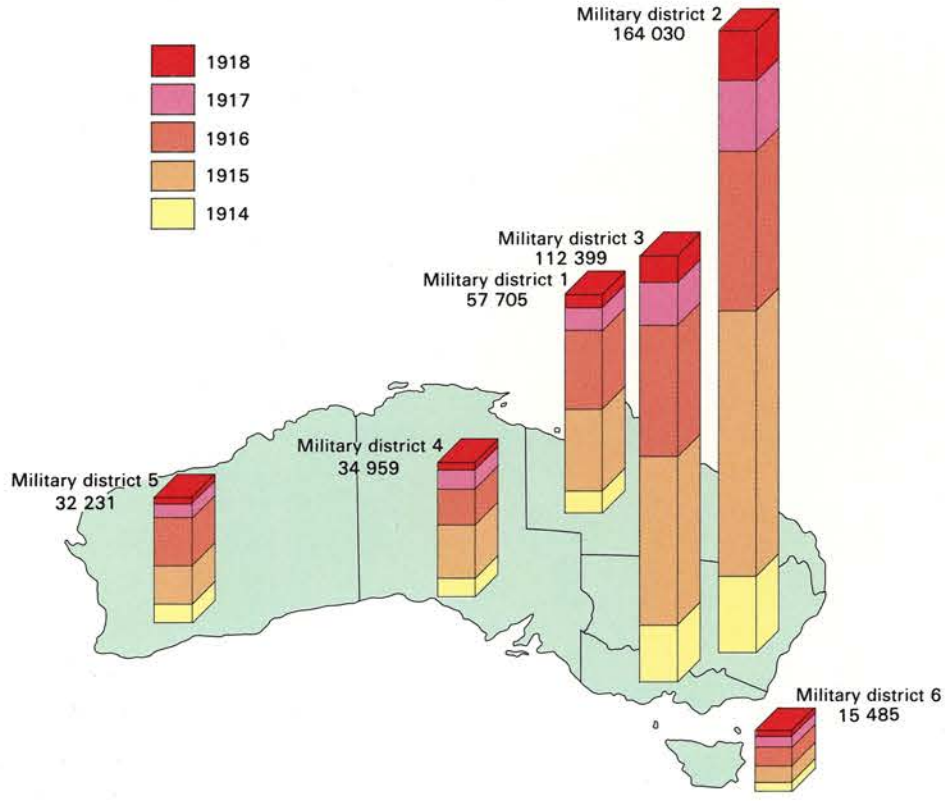
In 1916 124 082 men enlisted, a marked drop. Only in Tasmania did figures exceed those for 1915. Australia had largely exhausted its sources of volunteers. A vigorous recruiting campaign failed to raise the numbers the government desired. In October an attempt to introduce conscription failed.

By 1917 enlistment figures were down to 45 101. In November a second attempt to introduce conscription failed. By 1918, recruiting was almost at a standstill with 28 883 men enlisting.

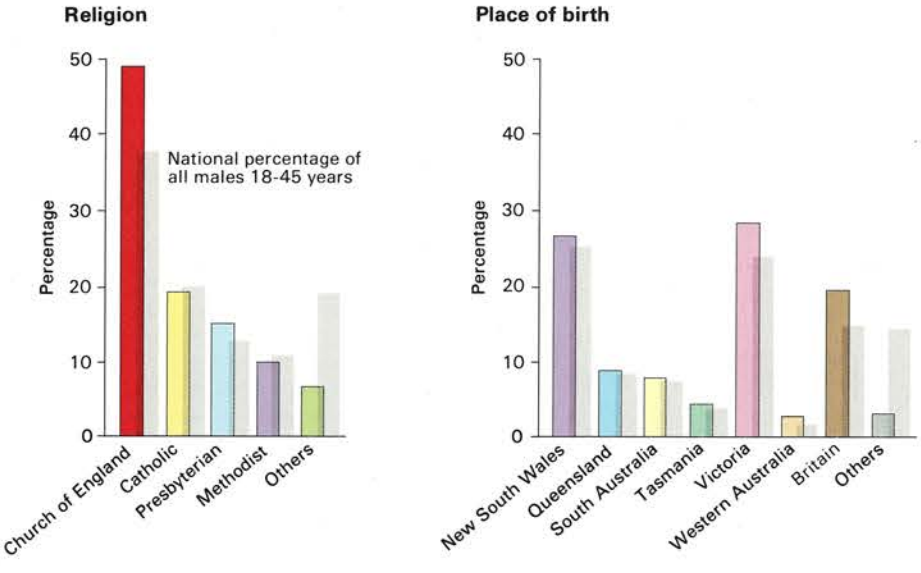
About 80 per cent of the men who enlisted were sent overseas. Some went to Egypt, Gallipoli or Palestine. Most served on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918.

The social characteristics of the AIF were recorded in considerable detail. Tradesmen accounted for 34 per cent of those who enlisted, labourers for 30 per cent. Just over 17 per cent came from rural occupations. The two characteristics shown here are religion and birthplace, set beside the national averages for the corresponding age group. Presbyterians were overrepresented in the AIF, Methodists and Catholics were close to their national averages. Those listed as Church of England were strongly overrepresented although the figure may, in part, reflect recruiting clerks assigning to that denomination men who had not nominated a religion. In terms of birthplace, those born in Britain, Victoria and Western Australia were strongly overrepresented, the other states approximated their national average. Men born outside Britain and Australia made up only a small proportion of the AIF and in terms of their national average were strongly underrepresented.

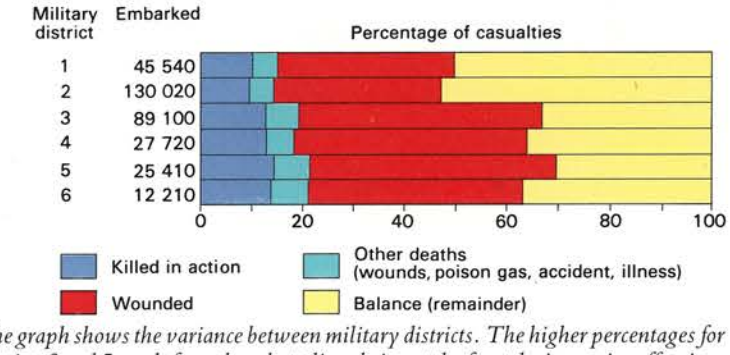
AIF enlistments



Social characteristics AIF



Embarkees and their fate



The graph shows the variance between military districts. The higher percentages for districts 3 and 5 result from these battalions being at the front during major offensives.

The Western Front

BY 1915 THE WAR on the Western Front was dominated by defence. Both sides had built forts, trenches and belts of wire from the North Sea to the Swiss border. Whichever side decisively broke through the opposing defence system would win. The first Anzac troops arrived in France in April 1916. For the rest of the war they served in the British sector of the front and were part of every major British offensive from mid 1916. Until the end of 1917, Australian troops were assigned to various British army corps. In January 1918 they formed their own corps under the command of General Sir William Birdwood, and from May came under the command of General John Monash. The map shows the battles in which they fought.

On 1 July 1916 the British launched a major offensive against the Germans on the Somme. Australians were part of a diversionary attack at Fromelles and the main attack to the south. After bitter fighting they took Pozières and Mouquet Farm. They were withdrawn from the Somme battle front in September. During the winter of 1916–17 they manned various sectors and made local raids in the Flers-Gueudecourt area.

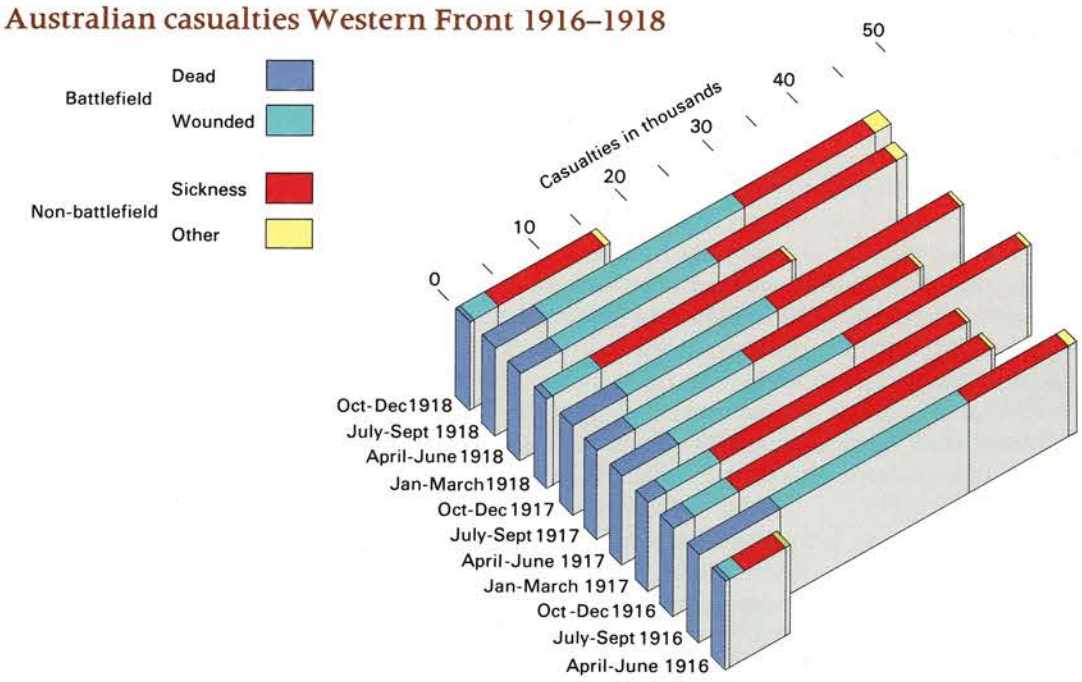
In March and April 1917 during the Allied offensive the Germans withdrew to the Hindenburg Line, a formidable series of reinforced trench systems. Australians following this retreat occupied Bapaume, Lagnicourt and Hermies. On 11 April they unsuccessfully attacked the Hindenburg Line near Bullecourt, but in May they captured the area. Australian troops took a leading part in the June attack at Messines and in September and October captured Menin Road Ridge, Polygon Wood and Broodseinde Ridge during the third Battle of Ypres.

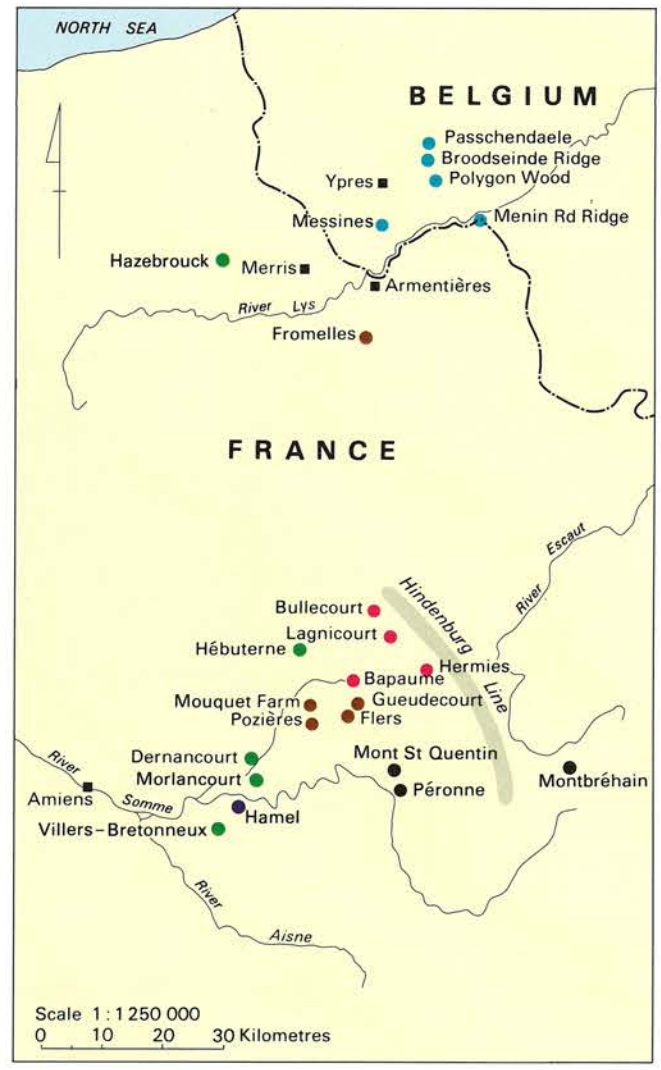
The Germans launched a major offensive towards Amiens on 21 March 1918, hoping to split the British and French armies. Australians were prominent in stopping the offensive. On 10 April Australians helped to halt a new German offensive along the river Lys before it reached Hazebrouck. By May individuals and small groups were raiding German positions, capturing the town of Merris. On 4 July a carefully planned attack captured Hamel.

On 8 August 1918 the Allies launched a major offensive at the Somme. Led by five Australian and Canadian divisions, they broke through the German lines and rapidly drove the Germans back. Mont St Quentin and Péronne fell to the Australians in September. On 5 October they captured Montbréhain in the heart of the Hindenburg Line. This was the last Australian infantry action of the war: on 11 November an armistice was signed.

The Australians on the Western Front suffered enormous casualties. As the graph shows, battlefield casualties as a proportion of total casualties were high. In the seasons when offensives were launched by both sides, more than 45 per cent of Australian casualties occurred on the battlefield. During the Battle of the Somme, the proportion reached 74 per cent. Illness also made a significant contribution to casualty figures, particularly during the winter months. Water-borne diseases such as dysentery were prevalent. So, too, was trench foot, a fungal infection that came from prolonged standing in water. Pneumonia was common, as was stress, frequently described as 'shell-shock'. The number classified as 'other' included men accidentally injured and a small number of men (701) who were discovered to have deliberately wounded themselves. Many Australians who served on the Western Front might have agreed with Winston Churchill who considered that the victory of 1918 had been 'bought so dear as to be almost indistinguishable from defeat'.

Australian casualties Western Front 1916–1918





Battle of the Somme 1916
- Fromelles July
- Pozières July-August
- Mouquet Farm September
- Flers Gueudecourt November

Joint Allied Offensive 1917
- Bapaume March-April
- Hermies April
- Bullecourt April
- Lagnicourt April
- Bullecourt May

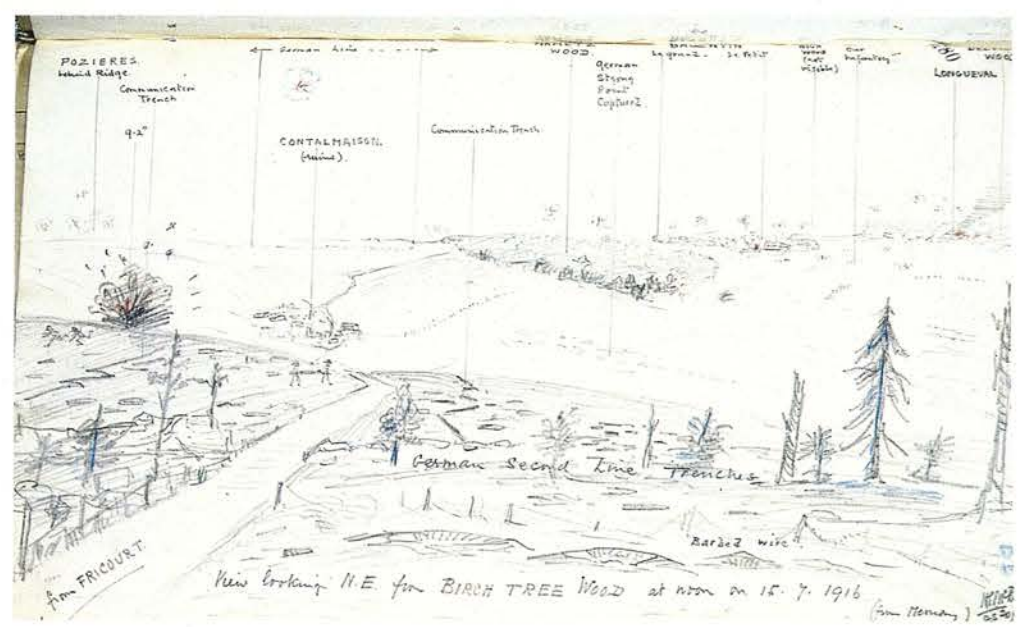
Messines and Third Battle of Ypres 1917
- Messines June
- Menin Rd Ridge September
- Polygon Wood September
- Broodseinde Ridge September
- Passchendaele October-November

German Offensive 1918
- Hébuterne March
- Dernancourt March
- Morlancourt April
- Villers-Bretonneux April
- Hazebrouck April

Hamel 1918
- Hamel July

Final Allied Offensive 1918
- Mont St Quentin August
- Péronne September
- Montbréhain October

The devastation that accompanied trench warfare on the Western Front is clearly brought home in this 1916 sketch by Major H.S. McRae in his unit's war diary. The communications trenches, the German lines and strong points and the Australian positions are shown in a desolate landscape. Pozières, where the Australians suffered over 20 000 casualties, is named towards the horizon. Sketch from AWM4 Unit war diaries 1914-1918: General Staff, 4th Australian Division.
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



Gallipoli

ALTHOUGH THE Western Front claimed more lives and decided the outcome of the war, the campaign that passed into Australian folklore was Gallipoli.

Early in 1915 Russia requested that Britain and France relieve German pressure on it by attacking Germany's ally, Turkey. In February, Allied navies failed to capture the Dardanelles forts which would have opened the straits leading to the Turkish capital of Constantinople. The French and British armies, which included Anzac troops, were given the job of taking Gallipoli Peninsula. The Anzac troops were to mount an assault on the east coast at Gaba Tepe while British troops attacked the southern tip at Cape Helles. The soldiers came to call the two fronts Anzac and Helles.

The first Anzac troops waded ashore at 4.29 am on 25 April 1915 at Ari Burnu, more than 1.5 kilometres north of their planned landing area. Steep cliffs were defended by about 300 Turks. The principal objective became the Third Ridge.

They quickly took Plugge's Plateau and Walker's Ridge. Pushing along Russell's Top and across the Nek, troops reached Baby 700. In the rush to reach the Third Ridge, a few men reached Battleship Hill on its western flanks, but were forced back to Baby 700. The primary objective of the left or northern flank then became holding Baby 700.

As men were landing at Ari Burnu men were also landing on the extreme left flank, on open beach in front of Number 1 Outpost and Fisherman's Hut. Defending Turks killed nearly all of them. Both positions later fell to Anzac troops.

The battle for Baby 700 lasted most of the day. Reinforcements were continually moved along Russell's Top and up Monash Valley. Bitter fighting took place at the head of Monash Valley, from MacLaurin's Hill to the Bloody Angle and Pope's Hill. Mortar Ridge to the east was also an important objective for the Anzacs, as it joined Baby 700. Some men reached German Officers' Trench before being forced back to the head of Monash Valley.

The Anzac push towards the Third Ridge on the right or southern flank concentrated on 400 Plateau which included Johnstons Jolly and Lone Pine) and Pine Ridge to the south. Small parties of men actually pushed beyond 400 Plateau reaching the Third Ridge, but were forced to retreat by the Turks. By early afternoon, the Anzac position ran in a broken line from Fisherman's Hut and Number 1 post to Baby 700 and Pine Ridge along the Second Ridge.

The main Turkish counter-attack came in the afternoon. By early evening, the thin Anzac line had been pushed back from Number 1 post to Walker's Ridge. Baby 700 had been lost as far as the Nek. A line of Anzac posts, at the Bloody Angle, Quinn's and Courtney's, clung around the head of Monash Valley. On the right flank, the Turks had retaken the eastern side of 400 Plateau and driven the Anzacs back from Pine Ridge to Bolton's Ridge. By nightfall, the Anzac position ran in a broken line from Walker's Ridge to Russell's Top, the Bloody Angle and Bolton's Ridge. For a week after the landing, attack and counter-attack followed in unwearying succession. By early May both sides had established their positions and dug in. The map shows those positions.

The Dardanelles landings failed. The British thrust at Helles was also stopped. Months of fighting followed but in December 1915 the Allies withdrew from Anzac and in January 1916 from Helles. The number of Australians killed at Anzac was 8709. The number of New Zealanders was 2701.

Days after the landing at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915 troops and supplies are still being taken ashore by boat and tow. One transport has fallen victim to Turkish shelling. A pontoon jetty is under construction to help with the unloading of supplies. At the southern end of the beach men rest and bathe. Out to sea, British warships shell Turkish positions.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Conscription

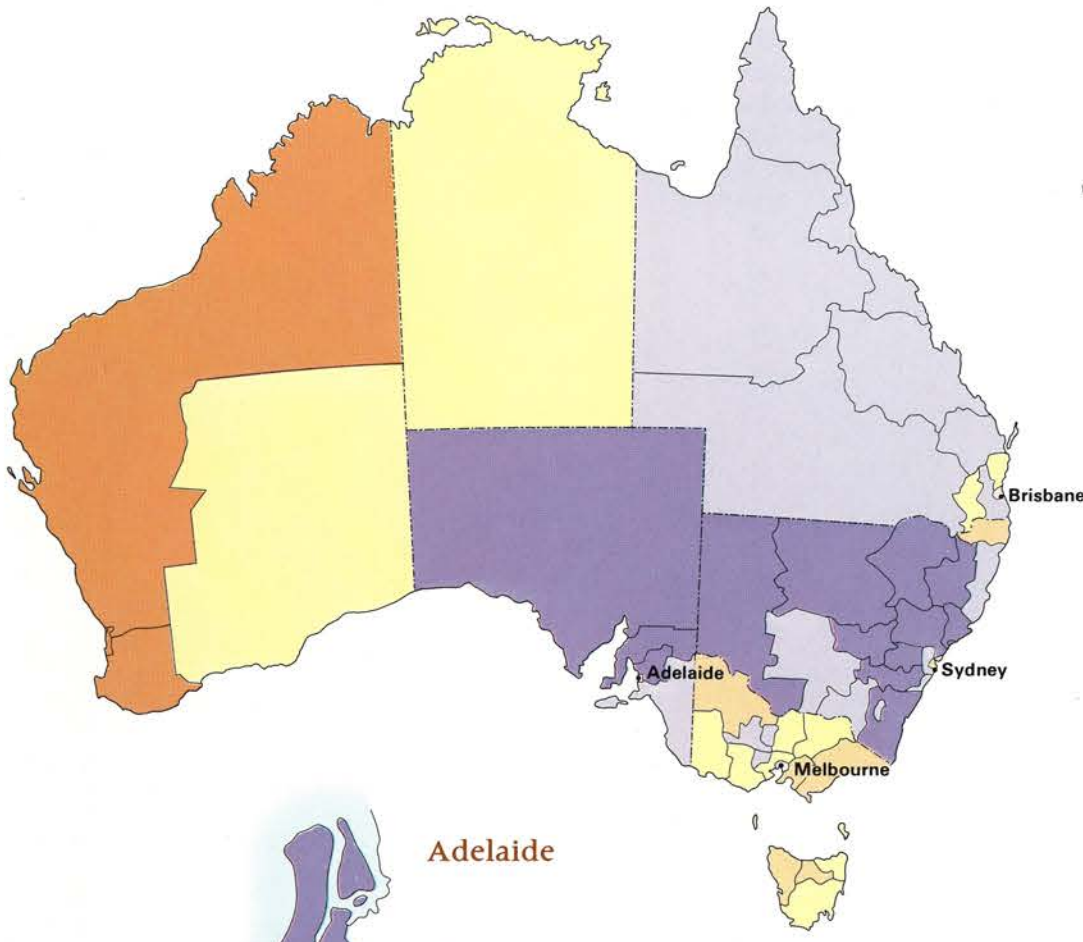
THE CONSCRIPTION DEBATES were not concerned with the right of the government to conscript men for military service. The government already had that power, but it was restricted to conscription for home defence. The contentious issue was conscription for service overseas.

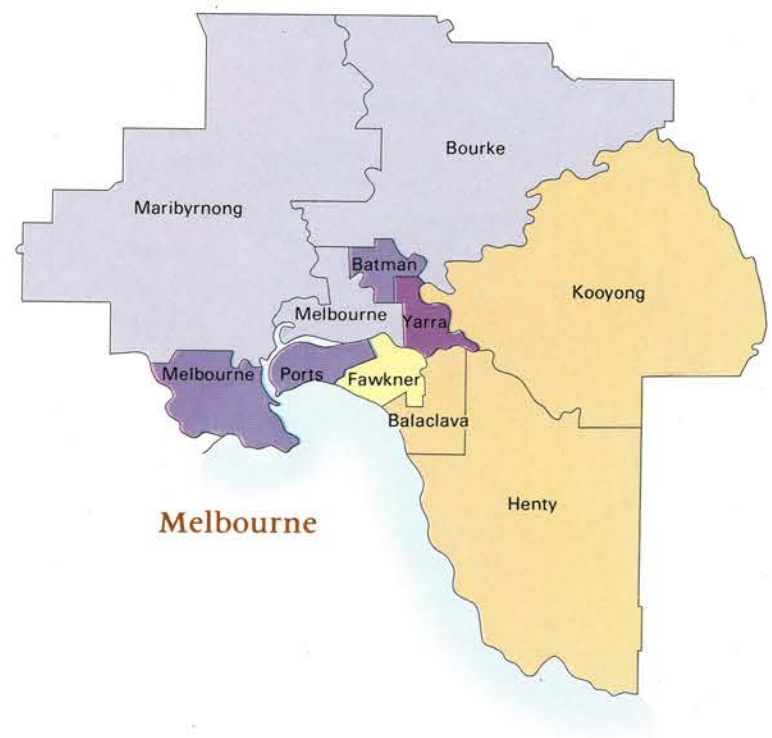
Calls for conscription for overseas service had been made from 1915 but were rejected by the prime minister W.M. Hughes and his Labor party. By mid-1916, Hughes, after visiting England, had changed his mind. He considered that men enlisting had fallen well below the number required to maintain the AIF. Aware that many members of his own party were opposed to conscription for overseas service and that the Senate would reject any legislation to allow it, Hughes decided to put the question to the people in a plebiscite in October 1916.

The debate was passionate and divisive and the proposal was narrowly defeated. Votes in favour totalled 1 087 557, votes against 1 160 033. Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia voted 'No'.

Hughes contributed to his own defeat. Anticipating a 'Yes' majority, he had begun to call up all single men between 21 and 35 years of age. Hughes, with 23 parliamentary followers, left the Labor party, joined forces with the Liberals and formed the Nationalist Party. He won the May 1917 federal election and in November again put the conscription proposal to the people. Again it was rejected. In both plebiscites soldiers on the Western Front voted against conscription although the AIF as a whole voted narrowly in favour.

As the maps show, overall voting figures obscure regional variations. In Tasmania and Western Australia, all electorates voted in favour. The 'Yes' vote in Western Australia, where enthusiasm for the war had always been high, was strong. Electorates in Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales, fearing the loss of their workforce, voted 'No'. So, too, did working class electorates in the capital cities and those electorates based on provincial cities. The richer electorates in the capitals voted 'Yes', as did Victoria's rural electorates.

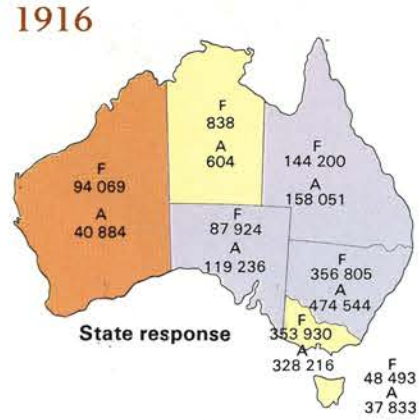




Conscription plebiscite 1916

Referendum results

For		Against
	50-59%	
	60-69%	
	Greater than 70%	



'The enemy within'

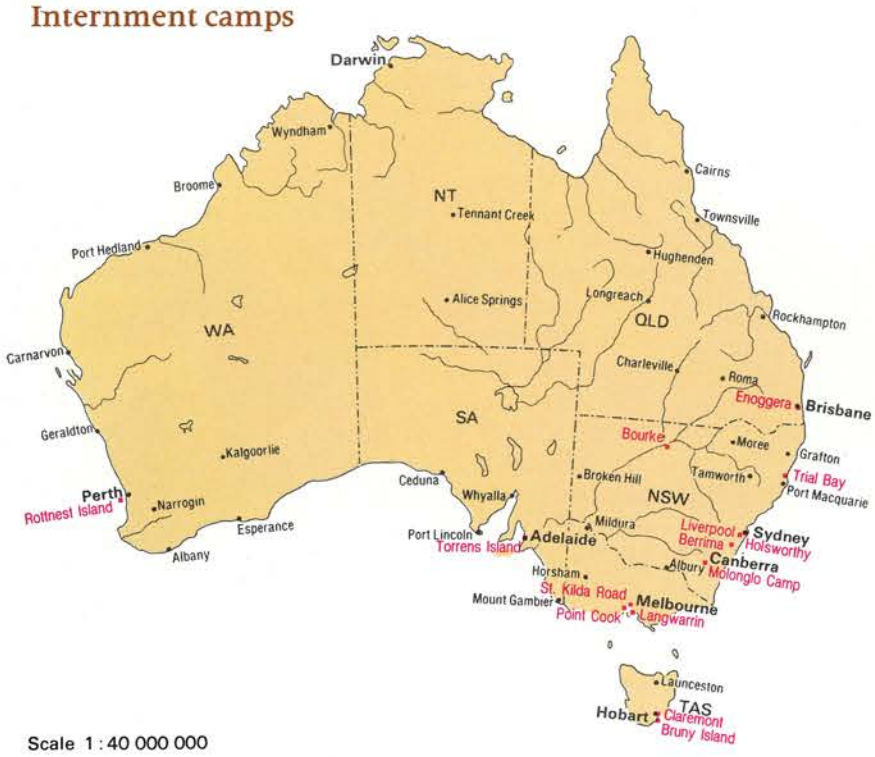
THE ENTHUSIASTIC PATRIOTISM that greeted World War I had its darker side. People born in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey or Bulgaria were seen as 'the enemy within the gates'. The more than 40 000 people of German birth or origin received particularly hostile and at times venomous attention.

Official treatment of enemy aliens was at first haphazard. Using the 1911 census, each state government estimated the number of enemy aliens within its borders. The pies on the right show that the Germans were the majority in every state, although the Austro-Hungarians on the Western Australian goldfields were a significant group. More than 35 000 people were classified as enemy aliens. Some were interned, some were deported or repatriated via neutral countries, and others were paroled and ordered to report regularly to their local police stations. The majority, however, were ignored.

Internment camps were established in each state, to hold both civilians and prisoners of war. The majority of inmates were Germans or people of German descent and included German nationals resident in Australia, Australians born of German parents, merchant seamen and internees brought from Hong Kong, Singapore and Ceylon.

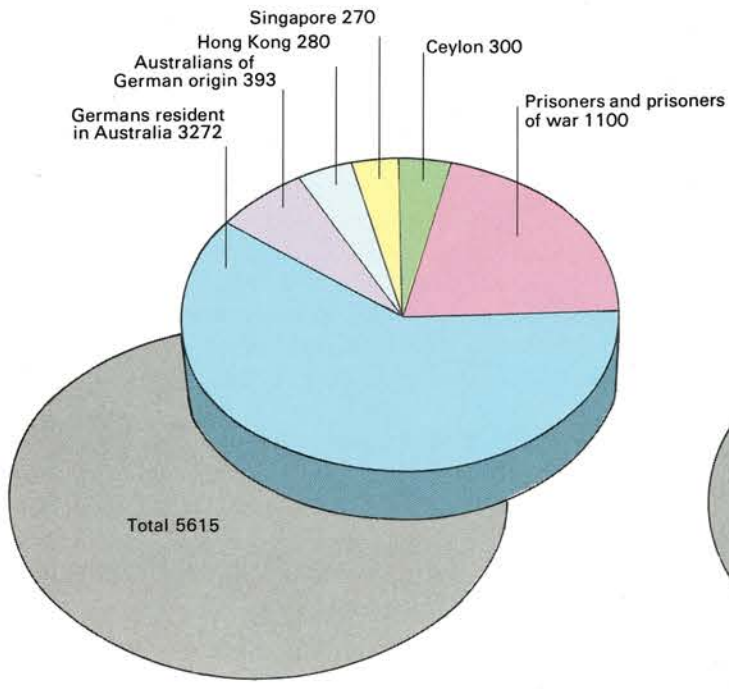
Antagonism towards Germans was shown in many ways. German language newspapers were suppressed. In South Australia, where German communities had established their own schools, all schools teaching in German had been closed in 1917. They never reopened. Antagonism was also shown in more petty ways. People refused to drink lager beer, or eat frankfurters or German sausage (until its name was changed to Devon). One striking manifestation of anti-German feeling was the changing of German place names, particularly in South Australia and Queensland where many Germans had settled. The map on the facing page shows German place names in 1914, the changed names and the names in use today. The places mapped are those whose names were officially changed. Unofficial changes to the names of local geographic features were also made but never systematically recorded.

Internment camps

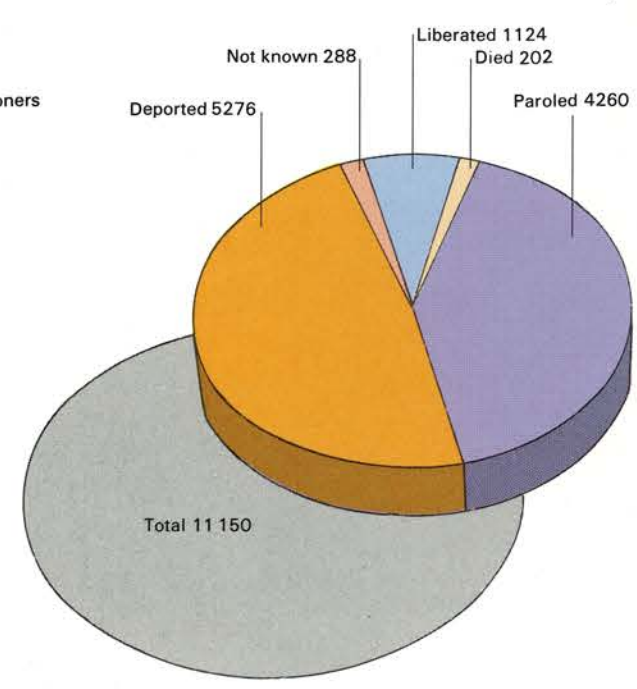


Scale 1 : 40 000 000

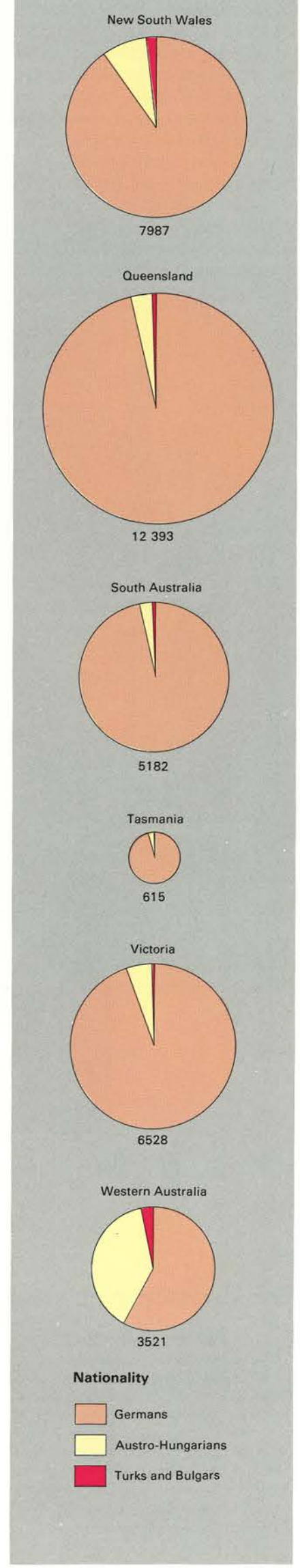
Origins of Germans interned 1914–1918



Fate of aliens under government control



Nationalities of aliens




World War I place name changes
German name
Changed name
Hochkirch
Tarrington
Changed name still current
Mueller Park
Kitchener Park
Original name later reinstated
Gruenberg
Karalta
Original name reinstated with amended spelling
Scale 1 : 10 000 000
Kilometres 100 0 100 200 300 400 Kilometres
Simple Conic Projection with Two Standard Parallels (18°S and 36°S)
1 Seppelts Dorrien
2 Siegersdorf Bultawilta
3 Bethanien Bethany
4 Krondorf Kabminye
5 Kaiserstuhl Mt Kitchener
6 New Mecklenburg Gomersal
7 Schreiberhau Warre Schreiberaus
8 Langdorf Kaldukee
Krichauff Beatty
Friedrichswalde Tarnma
Steinfeld Stonefield
Neukirch Dimchurch
German Pass Tappa Pass
Grünberg Karalta Gruenberg
Rhine River North The Somme
Rhine Hill Mons
Rhine Villa Cambrai
Rhine Park Kongolia
Rhine River South The Marne
Hoffnungsthal Karawirra
Buchfelde Loos
Rosenthal Rosedale
Oliventhal Olivedale
Blumberg Birdwood
Hildesheim Punthari
ADELAIDE
Neudorf Mamburdi
Lobethal Tweedvale
Bismarck Weeroopa
Heidelburg Kobandilla
Klemzig Gaza
Summerfeldt Summerfield
Germanton Hill Vimy Ridge
Grunthal Verdun
Hahndorf Ambleside
Friedrichstadt Tangari
Jaenschtown Kerkanya
Murray Bridge
New Hamburg Willyaroo
Scale 1 : 2 000 000
DARWIN
Bathurst I
Melville I
ARNHEM LAND
Groote Eylandt
Daly River
Roper River
Mornington I
Thursday Island
CAPE YORK PENINSULA
Archer R
Coen
Normanby R
Cooktown
Mitchell River
Gilbert River
GREAT DIVIDING RANGE
Cairns
Burketown
Normanton
Croydon
Ingham
Greenvale
Townsville
Ayr
Bowen
Charters Towers
Burdekin River
Camooweal
Leichhardt River
Cloncurry R
Flinders River
Cloncurry
Hughenden
Mackay
Georgina River
Winton
QUEENSLAND
Belyando River
Isaac R
Diamantina River
Thomson River
Longreach
Emerald
Fitzroy R
Rockhampton
Gladstone
Fahley Kilburnie
THE CHANNEL COUNTRY
Barcoo River
Blackall
Nogoa R
Comet R
Dawson River
Bundaberg
Hapsburg Kowbi
Burnett R
Fraser I
Maryborough
Birdsville
Eyre C
Charleville
Roma
Gympie
Quilpie
Maroochydore
Condamine
Bismarck Maclagan
Bergenside Neuve
Bergen Murra Murra
BRISBANE
Toowoomba
Hesrenberg Ingoldsby
Gehrkevale Mt Mort
Englesburg Kalbar
GOLD COAST
1 Gramzow Carbrook
2 Stegeht Woongoolba
3 Kirchheim Haigslea
4 Murden Frenchton Minden
Bulloo River
Thargomindah
Warrego River
Cunnamulla
Goondiwindi
Roessler Applethorpe
German Creek Empire Vale
Lismore
Ferdinand Creek Ernabella Creek
Mt Ferdinand Mt Warrabillinna
Oodnadatta
Cooper Creek
Lake Eyre
Mt Meyer Mt Kauto
Bartschs Creek Yedlakoo Creek
Hergott Springs Marree
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Hasse's Mound Larelar Mound
Muellers Hill Yandina Hill
Wusser's Nob Karun Nob Wusser Nob
Ooldea
L Torrens
L Frome
Paroo River
Culgoa River
Moree
Inverell
Glen Innes
Grafton
Bourke
Namoi R
Narrabri
Bogan R
Macquarie R
Coonamble
Armidale
L Everard
Ranges
Wilcannia
Cobar
Coonabarabran
Gunnedah
Tamworth
Macleay R
L Gairdner
Flinders
Broken Hill
Darling
Nyngan
Port Macquarie
Port Augusta
Cape Bauer Wondoma Cape
Ceduna
Petersburg Peterborough
Whyalla
Gottlieb's Well Parnggi Well
Port Pirie
NEW SOUTH WALES
Dubbo
Mudgee
Hunter R
Muswellbrook
Maitland
NEWCASTLE
Klaebos Kilto
Vogelsang's Corner Teerkoore
Clare
Gebhardts Hills Polygon Ridge
Parkes
Germans Hill Lidster
Forbes
Bathurst
Krause Rock Marti Rock
Schoenthal Boongala
Berlin Rock Panpandie Rock
Port Lincoln
ADELAIDE
Lachlan River
Cowra
SYDNEY
Young
WOLLONGONG
Balranald
Hay
Murrumbidgee R
Cootamundra
Bowral
Goulburn
Ouyen
Wagga Wagga
Tumut
Nowra
Murray Bridge
Kangaroo I
Teutelberg Willa
Swan Hill
Murray River
Deniliquin
Germanton Holbrook
Albury
ACT
CANBERRA
Warracknabeal
Echuca
Shepparton
Wangaratta
Cooma
Horsham
Bendigo
Benalla
Langmeil Bilyarta
Naracoorte
Maryborough
Seymour
Bega
Ararat
VICTORIA
Snowy
Carlsruhe Kunden
Ehrenbreitstein Mt Yerila
Mt Bismarck Mt Kitchener
Mount Gambier
Ballarat
MELBOURNE
German Creek Benara Creek
Hochkirch Tarrington
Bairnsdale
Orbost
GEELONG
Warragul
Sale
Germantown Grovedale
Portland
Colac
Warrnambool
King I
Flinders I
Burnie
Devonport
Launceston
St Marys
Queenstown
Oatlands
TASMANIA
HOBART
Bismarck Collins Vale
Northam
PERTH
Mueller Park Kitchener Park
Mandurah
Narrogin
Lake Grace
Bunbury
Collie
Blackwood R
Manjimup
Albany
Scale 1 : 10 000 000

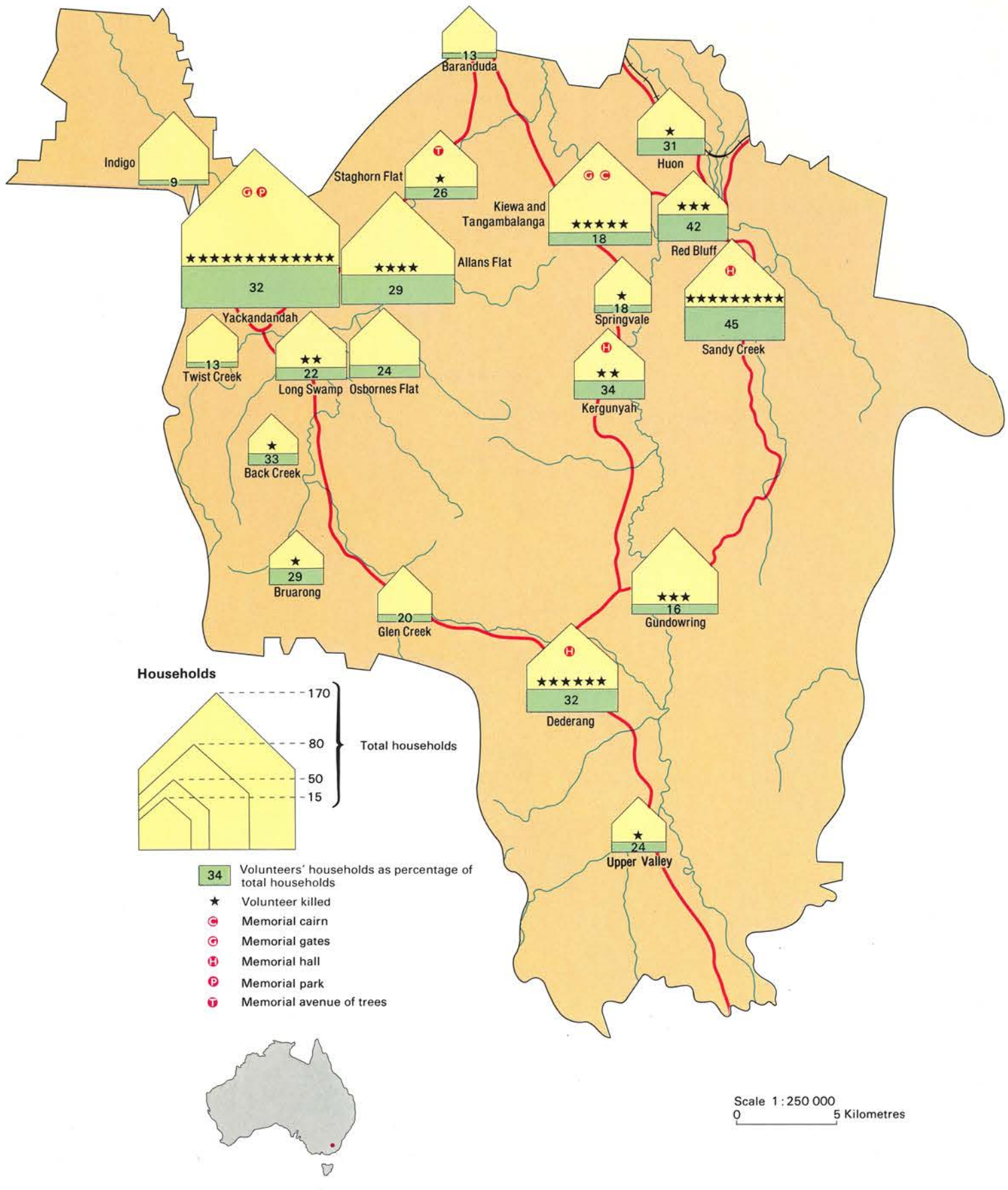
Yackandandah

YACKANDANDAH WAS a rural shire. Gold had been discovered in the district during the 1850s and many men were still employed as miners in the communities around Yackandandah and Sandy Creek. Glen Creek was a saw-milling centre, Springvale a recently established closer settlement estate where land had been sold to small farmers. The rest were well established farming communities dating back to the 1870s and 1880s.

The strongest enlistment responses in Yackandandah came from Sandy Creek and Red Bluff. Both communities were enthusiastic supporters of the war but they were also communities where jobs were irregular and unemployment was higher than elsewhere in the shire. Yackandandah, the shire centre, also responded strongly. Many men who enlisted gave their occupations as miner or labourer. A similar pattern was repeated in Staghorn Flat, Allans Flat, Osbornes Flat and Long Swamp. Lower enlistment rates were recorded in Glen Creek and Springvale where the proportion of young families was higher; husbands remained at home to provide for their families and the children were too young to enlist. The response of the farming communities was more complex. In Dederang and Kergunyah over 30 per cent of households provided volunteers. In Indigo, the rate was as low as 9 per cent. The need for farm labour partly accounts for the variance in enlistment rates, but ethnicity was also influential. Baranduda and Kiewa and Tangambalanga contained many German Australians, and there the war was largely ignored. Indigo and, to a lesser extent, Gundowring had a sizeable Irish-Australian population. Communities like Kergunyah and Dederang, however, were predominantly British-Australian, with older families in which sons were eligible to enlist and did so. They also suffered the highest casualty rates.

After the war, several communities erected memorials to those who had died during the war. They range from Yackandandah's elaborate gates with the names of the dead engraved in gold to the simple cairn at Tangambalanga and the halls at Sandy Creek and Kergunyah.

Yackandandah shire 1914–1918



World War II

AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE to the declaration of war against Germany on 3 September 1939 lacked the enthusiasm of 1914. The government formed the Second Australian Imperial Force (AIF), calling for 20 000 volunteers, but enlistments were slow. Recruiting for the more glamorous Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) was brisker.

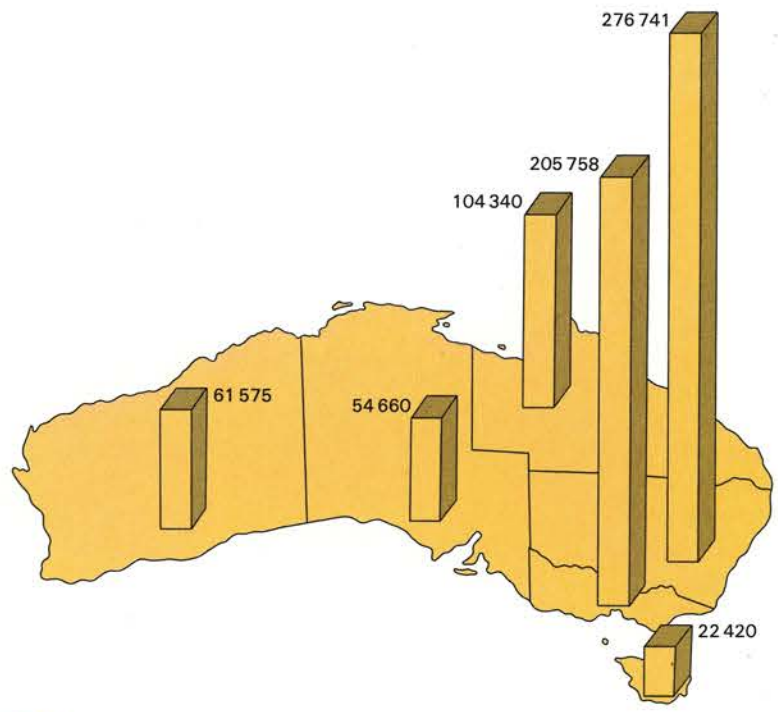
Japan's entry in December 1941 transformed the war for Australians. Enlistments rose sharply, particularly in the army. Numbers peaked in 1943 and fell over the next two years, although the number of service personnel in 1945 was still one and a half times that of 1941.

The middle years of the war, 1942 and 1943, were crisis years for Australia. The government mobilised Australia's manpower and resources to meet the Japanese threat and Second AIF divisions were brought home to defend Australia. Numbers conscripted into the Australian Military Forces rose. With the arrival of American troops from late 1941 Australia became the base for the war against Japan. By 1943 there were more than 120 000 American troops in Australia. From March 1942 all Australian forces in the southwest Pacific came under the command of the American General Douglas MacArthur. The government established production targets for weapons, ammunition, equipment and clothing needed for the war effort and directed labour to various industries to ensure that these targets were met. People in jobs seen as essential for the war effort were classified as working in reserved occupations and could not change jobs or join the forces without government permission. Prices were controlled and petrol, clothes and some food items were rationed. These measures attracted little opposition: the nation was in a state of siege.

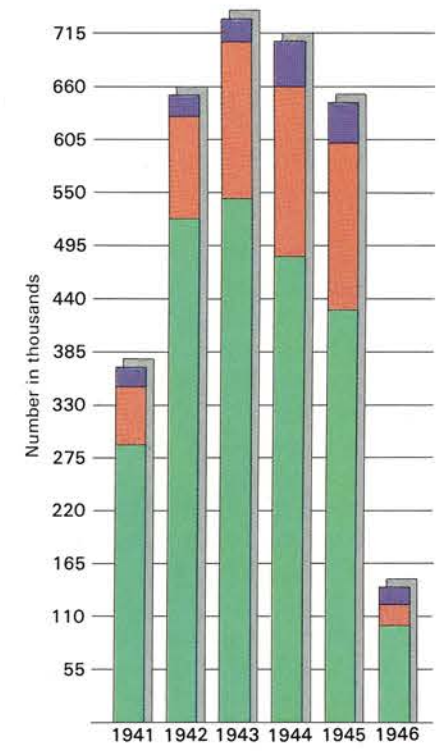
Women played a significant part in the war effort. More than 9000 joined the nursing services either as nurses or in an auxiliary capacity. A small number of these became prisoners of the Japanese. Women also joined the services for the first time, as shown on the graph below, and more than 3000 joined the Women's Land Army established to boost food production by providing labour for farmers. Men going on active service left vacancies in the labour force which women filled, sometimes in jobs from which they had previously been excluded. The number of women in the workforce rose substantially. Nonetheless, the labour shortage was alleviated only by the release of men from the forces in 1944 and 1945.

Australian society had changed by 1945. The war boosted manufacturing, giving it a new importance which remained over the next two decades. The status of women had changed, particularly in the workforce. Although many women left the workforce after 1945, a substantial number did not. Those employed in manufacturing, for example, numbered 200 629 in 1947, 48 114 more than the number employed in 1939. In the same year, 31 800 were employed in the transport and communications industries, 19 200 more than in 1939. And the number of female wage and salary earners had risen from 437 100 in 1939 to 644 000 in 1947.

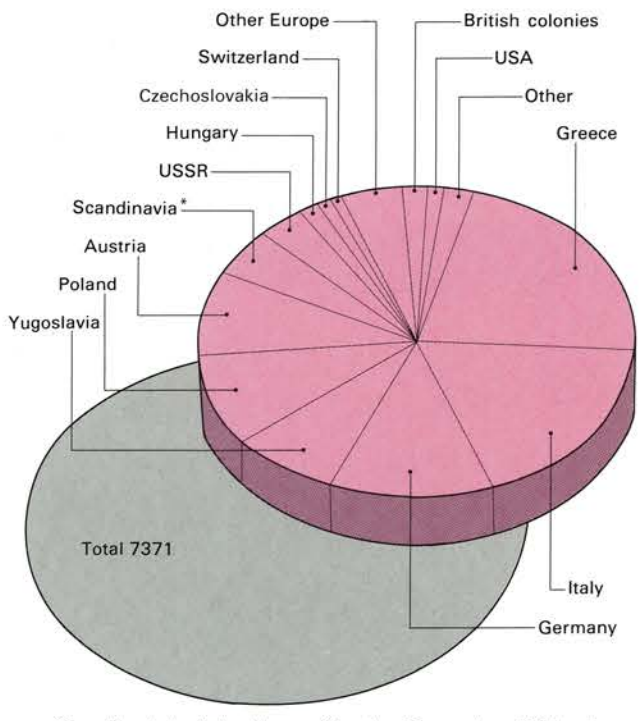
State enlistments, Australian Military Forces 1939-1945



Number in the armed forces



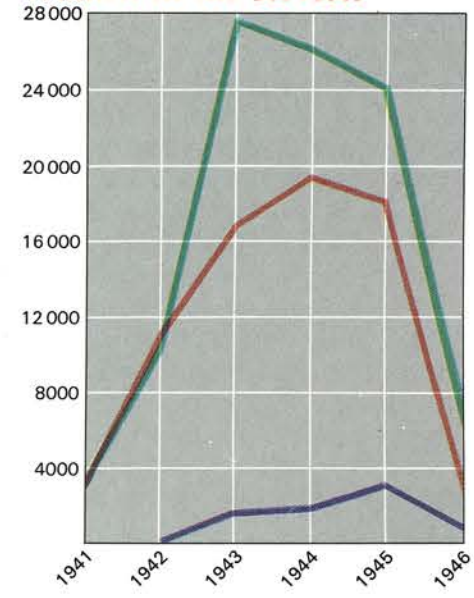
Aliens serving in the Second AIF



*Scandinavia includes Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland

More than 7000 men born outside Australia served in the Second AIF. Although a number were naturalised; they were still listed as aliens in army files. Some were refugees, for example many Germans, Austrians and Hungarians. Others were born in countries at war with Germany, for example Greece, Poland, Yugoslavia and Norway. Still others came from neutral nations, such as Sweden and Switzerland. They acted as translators, supervised internment camps or saw active service.

Women in the services



From 1942, the number of women recruited into the services rose sharply in the face of the Japanese threat. Most joined the Australian Women's Army Service, (with enlistments peaking in 1943) and the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (with enlistments peaking in 1944). Numbers entering the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service were lower. Women's rates of pay were set as two-thirds of the male rates and women were assigned to non-combat duties, mainly in Australia.

Australia under attack

LATE IN 1941, events moved with extraordinary rapidity in the Pacific. On 7 December the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and launched offensives through southeast Asia towards the Philippines and New Guinea. By the end of January 1942, Rabaul in New Guinea had been captured. On 15 February, Singapore, long regarded as Australia's first line of defence, fell and the Japanese were poised to sweep through the Indonesian islands. During the next two years, Australia came under both air and sea attack.

Air raids

On 19 February 1942, the heaviest raids launched against the Australian mainland occurred when Darwin was bombed. At 9.58 am a formation of approximately ninety Japanese aircraft swept over the unprepared town. Their targets were the airfield and harbour. Darwin had become an important Allied port and air base. Two hours later a second formation of 54 Japanese planes attacked the town. They sank and damaged 16 ships, destroyed 20 planes, damaged the airfield and killed 243 people. Believing an invasion was imminent, many civilians and servicemen fled. Japanese air raids on Darwin continued until November 1943, numbering 64 in all, but none created the havoc of the first raids.

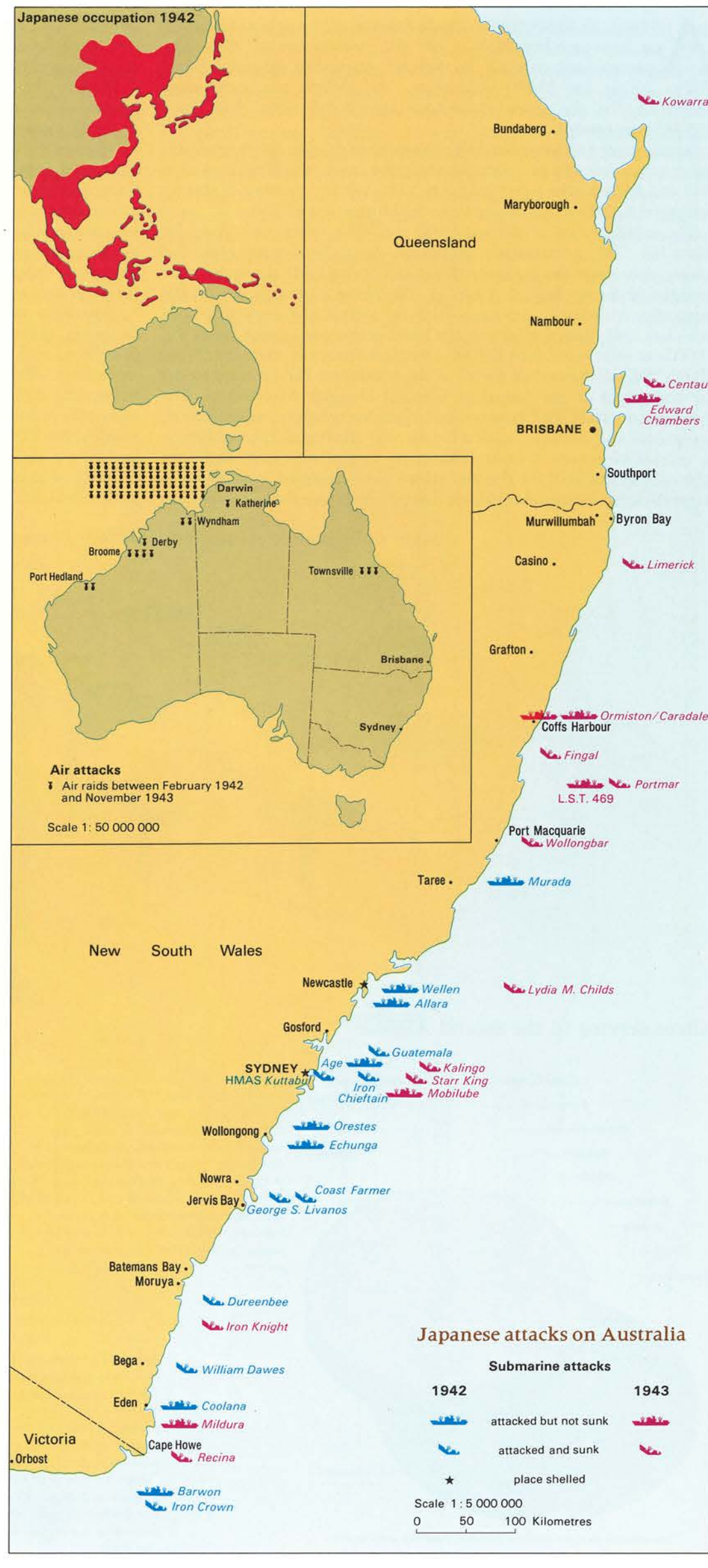
Darwin was only one of seven Japanese targets in northern Australia in 1942 and 1943. Broome, Wyndham, Derby and Katherine were bombed in March 1942; in July, Port Hedland and Townsville were attacked. Air attacks on Broome and Port Hedland continued until August 1943.

Submarine attacks

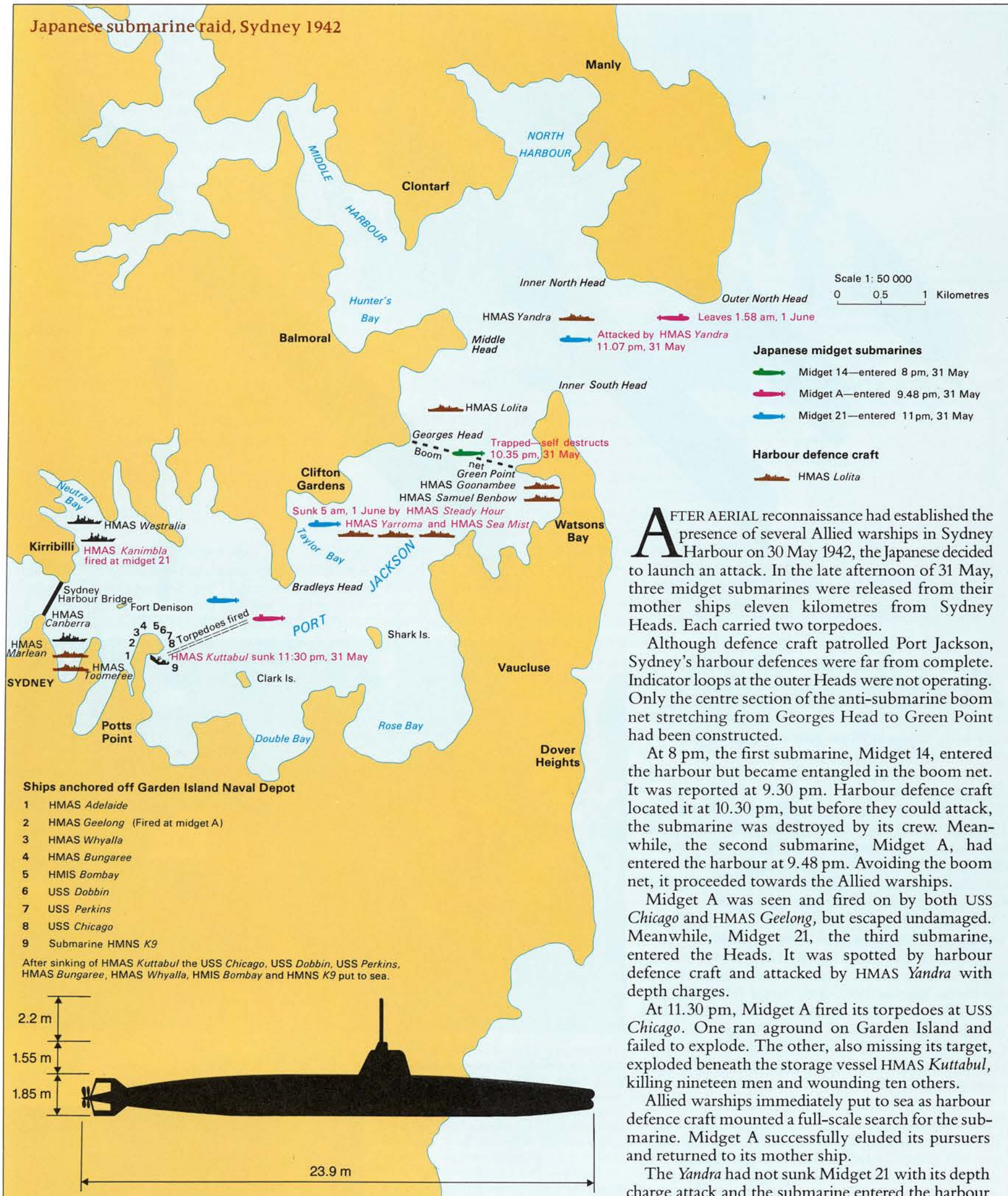
The first Japanese submarine attack in Australian waters was on the *Wellen* on 16 May 1942. The raid in Sydney Harbour by midget submarines fifteen days later confirmed that the Japanese had launched a major offensive against shipping off the eastern coast of Australia. The main targets were merchant vessels carrying supplies and materials for the Australian war effort. On 3 June, the Japanese sank their first vessel, the *Iron Chieftain*. On 12 June, they shelled Sydney and Newcastle. To protect shipping, convoys escorted by warships were introduced. In mid-June, the attacks stopped. The Japanese submarines had been recalled for duty elsewhere in the Pacific but they returned in mid-July, sinking the *Livanos* and *Coast Farmer* on 20 July. Attacks continued until August, when the submarines were recalled.

The Japanese submarines returned in January 1943, sinking the *Kalingo* and *Starr King* on 18 January. Attacks continued sporadically until June. The sinking of the hospital ship *Centaur* was the most infamous of the submarine attacks. Marked according to the Geneva Convention, it should have been safe from attack, but on the night of 4 May it was sunk and 268 lives were lost. The attacks on the *Portmar* and *LST 469* on 16 June were the last in Australian waters. In 1942–43, Japanese attacks claimed 80 874 tonnes of shipping and 503 lives.

It was believed that the air attacks in the north and submarine activity off the east coast were a prelude to invasion. In fact, Japan's strategy was to isolate Australia, not invade it. The air raids were mounted against ports and airfields that could have been used by the Allies to hinder the Japanese conquest of the Indonesian archipelago and New Guinea. Submarine attacks on merchant shipping were designed to hinder the Australian war effort. With the islands occupied, Australia's northern ports and air bases crippled and the sea lanes uncertain, the Japanese believed that Australia, cut off from Allied assistance, would be forced out of the war.



Raid on Sydney Harbour



At least 62 'Midget A' type submarines were built in Kure between 1934 and 1943. They participated in the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Sydney and Diego Suarez, and were used for local defences in the Solomon and Aleutian islands, as well as other areas of the Pacific. Powered by battery and electric motor, they were carried by seaplane or in some cases by submarine.

Displacement: 46 tonnes Speed: 19 knots

AFTER AERIAL reconnaissance had established the presence of several Allied warships in Sydney Harbour on 30 May 1942, the Japanese decided to launch an attack. In the late afternoon of 31 May, three midget submarines were released from their mother ships eleven kilometres from Sydney Heads. Each carried two torpedoes.

Although defence craft patrolled Port Jackson, Sydney's harbour defences were far from complete. Indicator loops at the outer Heads were not operating. Only the centre section of the anti-submarine boom net stretching from Georges Head to Green Point had been constructed.

At 8 pm, the first submarine, Midget 14, entered the harbour but became entangled in the boom net. It was reported at 9.30 pm. Harbour defence craft located it at 10.30 pm, but before they could attack, the submarine was destroyed by its crew. Meanwhile, the second submarine, Midget A, had entered the harbour at 9.48 pm. Avoiding the boom net, it proceeded towards the Allied warships.

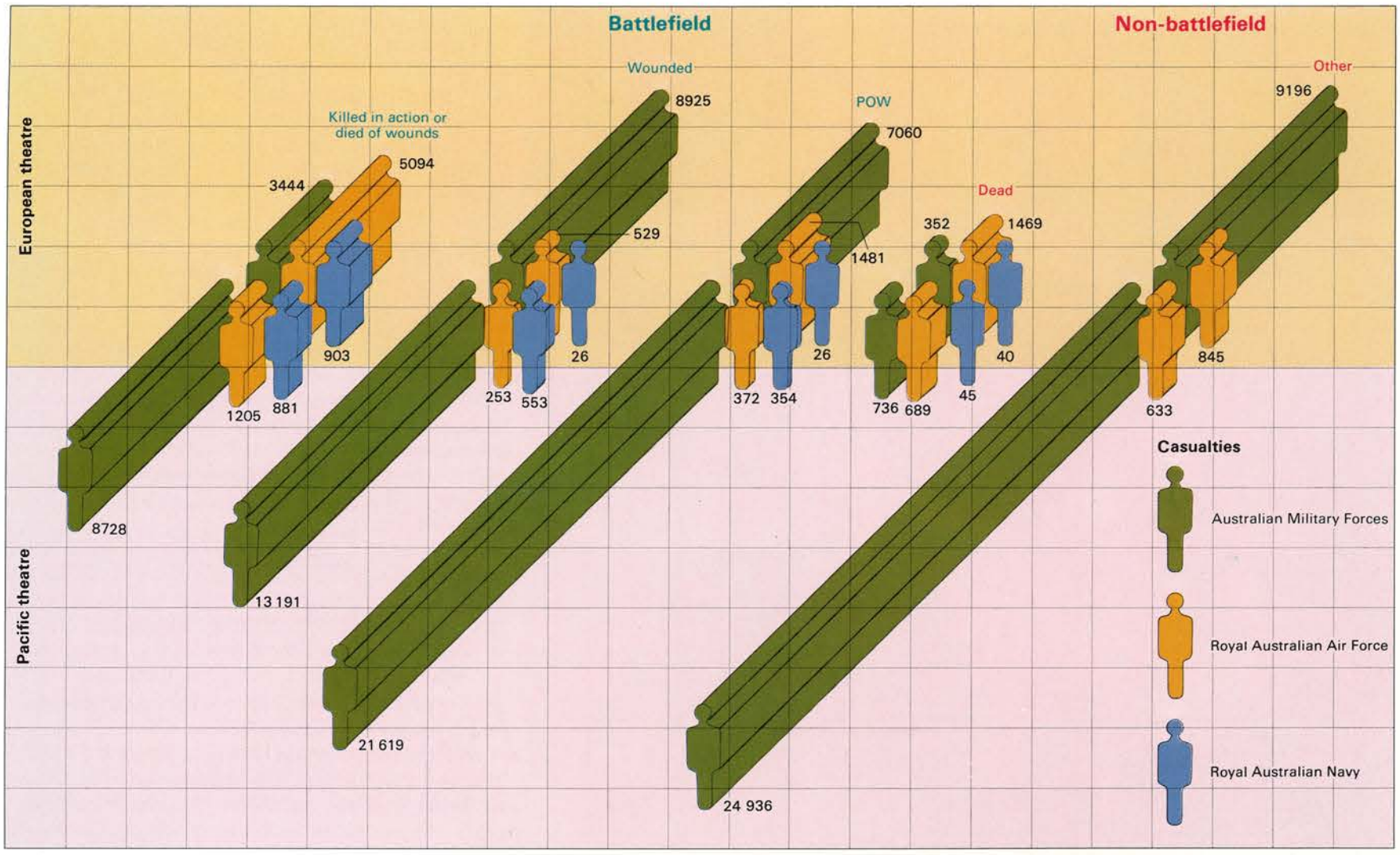
Midget A was seen and fired on by both USS *Chicago* and HMAS *Geelong*, but escaped undamaged. Meanwhile, Midget 21, the third submarine, entered the Heads. It was spotted by harbour defence craft and attacked by HMAS *Yandra* with depth charges.

At 11.30 pm, Midget A fired its torpedoes at USS *Chicago*. One ran aground on Garden Island and failed to explode. The other, also missing its target, exploded beneath the storage vessel HMAS *Kuttabul*, killing nineteen men and wounding ten others.

Allied warships immediately put to sea as harbour defence craft mounted a full-scale search for the submarine. Midget A successfully eluded its pursuers and returned to its mother ship.

The *Yandra* had not sunk Midget 21 with its depth charge attack and the submarine entered the harbour at 3 am. Several sightings were reported and HMAS *Kanimbla* fired at what was believed to be Midget 21 in Neutral Bay. At 5 am, HMAS *Sea Mist* made a positive sighting of the submarine in Taylor Bay and attacked with depth charges. HMAS *Yarroma* and HMAS *Steady Hour* joined *Sea Mist* and the three defence craft continued the search until 8.27 am when the submarine was located. Both crew members were dead.

Australian casualties



AUSTRALIANS FOUGHT in both the European and Pacific theatres of war. The graph shows the casualties sustained in each. The category 'other' was mainly illness. As a percentage of Australia's casualties, illness at 78 per cent was more significant than in World War I at 64 per cent.

European theatre

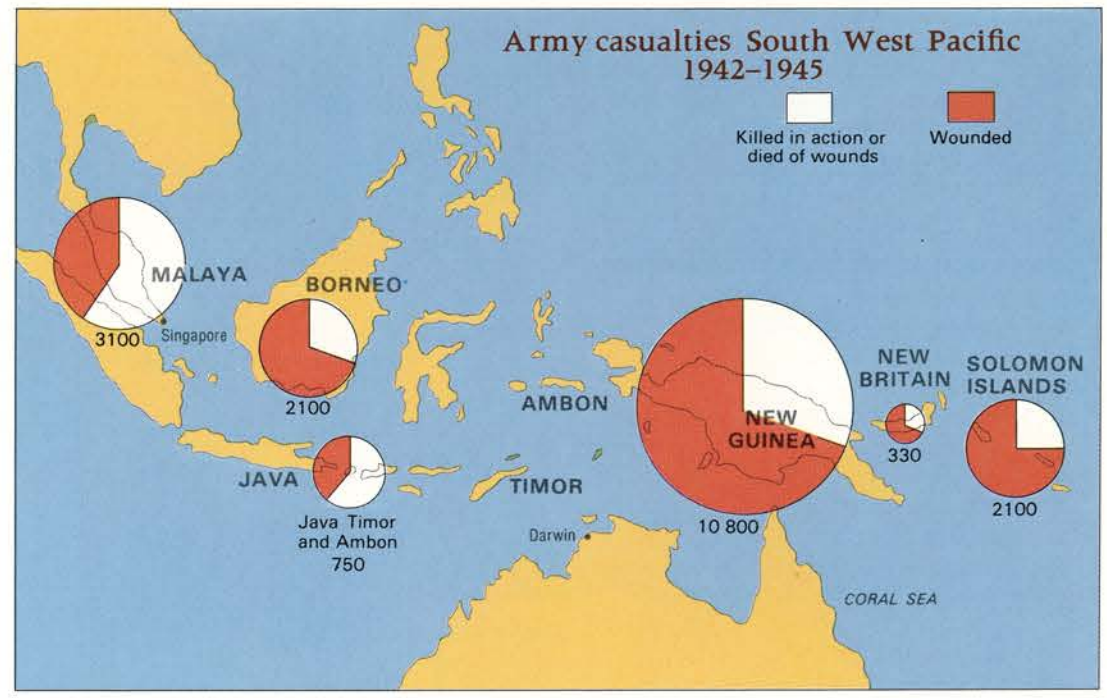
The second AIF fought in North Africa, the Middle East and Greece and Crete. Illness took a heavy toll in Tobruk, where troops were besieged by the Germans during the North African campaign. The heaviest casualties followed the disastrous attempt to halt the German invasion of Greece and Crete in 1941. More than 500 were killed and over 1000 were wounded. More than 5000 were captured.

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) served mainly in the Mediterranean, playing a part in the defeat of the Italian fleet in 1941. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) flew fighters, and bombing and reconnaissance missions over Europe. Bomber Command sustained heavy casualties. On a proportionate basis they were the heaviest of any of the services at over 50 per cent.

Pacific theatre

The southwest Pacific was Australia's main combat area and Australia suffered its heaviest casualties in this region. Illness was widespread. Malaria alone accounted for 70 per cent of all illness. Typhoid, dysentery and skin infections associated with tropical conditions were also common.

The RAN participated in most of the southwest Pacific's major naval battles, including that of the Coral Sea in May 1942. Ships lost in this theatre because of enemy action included the *Sydney* (lost with all hands), *Perth, Vampire, Hobart* and *Canberra*. The RAAF played a significant role in the defence of New Guinea and subsequent Allied offensives, but most casualties were sustained by the Army.



The map gives a general overview of those killed and wounded. Casualties in Malaya, Java, Timor, Ambon and New Britain were mainly inflicted during the Japanese advance of early 1942. Those in New Guinea, the Solomons and Borneo resulted from fighting after mid-1942. In Malaya, Java, Timor and Ambon, those killed accounted for over half the casualties. This comparatively high proportion is only partly accounted for by the fierce nature of the fighting that took place. The Japanese also sometimes shot their prisoners.

Stretcher bearers in the Owen Stanleys, *oil painting by William Dargie. Papuans played a vital role in bringing wounded Australians from the front lines to medical posts. It was difficult and dangerous work and many were not paid. They were gratefully called 'fuzzy wuzzy angels' by the troops.*
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Kokoda

ALTHOUGH THE battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942 prevented the Japanese invading Port Moresby from the sea, in July they mounted an overland attack from northern New Guinea to capture the port. The route over the Owen Stanley Range to Port Moresby was at best a narrow trail, often barely a metre wide, that wound its way through difficult jungle terrain. It was generally known as the Kokoda Track (in 1973 the Papua New Guinea government officially renamed it the Kokoda Trail). The name quickly became a part of Australian folklore.

The immediate objective of the Japanese was the aerodrome at Kokoda, which they were hoping to use to supply their troops on the push further south and to fly sorties against Port Moresby. Facing them was the 39th Battalion, a militia battalion whose members were completely inexperienced. Lacking reinforcements and supplies, the Australians fell back before a Japanese force superior in both numbers and experience. To speed up the supply of provisions the Royal Australian Air Force and American planes began to drop supplies to the Australians, but the difficult nature of the country limited the effectiveness of air drops. Malaria and dysentery took a heavy toll. Moving the wounded and sick back along the track to Port Moresby was an extremely difficult task. Kokoda fell to the Japanese on 30 July 1942.

Militia reinforcements from the 53rd Battalion arrived on 6 August and the Australians mounted a defence at Deniki and Isurava. Later in the month they were further reinforced by the experienced units of the second AIF recalled from North Africa. But the Japanese attack was too strong and broke through Australian defences on 30 August. The Australians retreated, abandoning the air drop clearings at Efogi and Myola. On 17 September they dug in along Imita Ridge, the last barrier to Port Moresby.

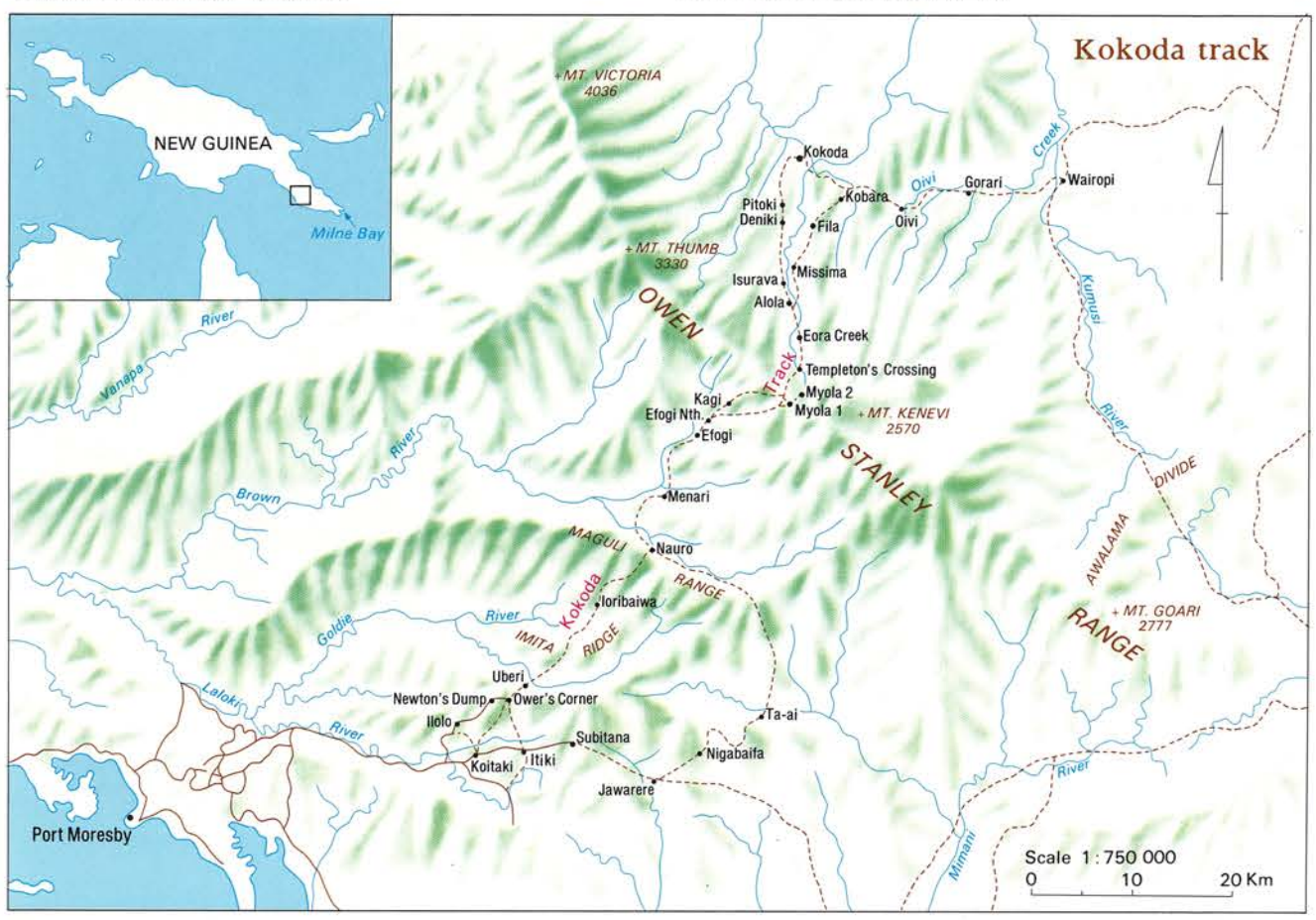
But the Japanese had now overreached themselves. Their advance had been so rapid that they too had severe supply and reinforcement problems. Their soldiers were starving and expected troop reinforcements did not arrive. Sickness had also become a major problem. On 26 September they withdrew towards Kokoda.

The most difficult stretch of the Kokoda Track ran from Uberi to Ioribaiwa. It rose more than 360 metres for the first five kilometres, dropped 450 metres for the next two and rose over 600 metres in the final six kilometres. Engineers cut more than 2000 steps in this thirteen-kilometre section of the trail, and it took up to twelve hours to negotiate.
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

By 10 October the Australians had retaken Efogi and Myola and late in that month reached Templeton's Crossing and Eora Creek which the Japanese defended. Both fell to the Australians after savage fighting. Kokoda was retaken on 2 November.

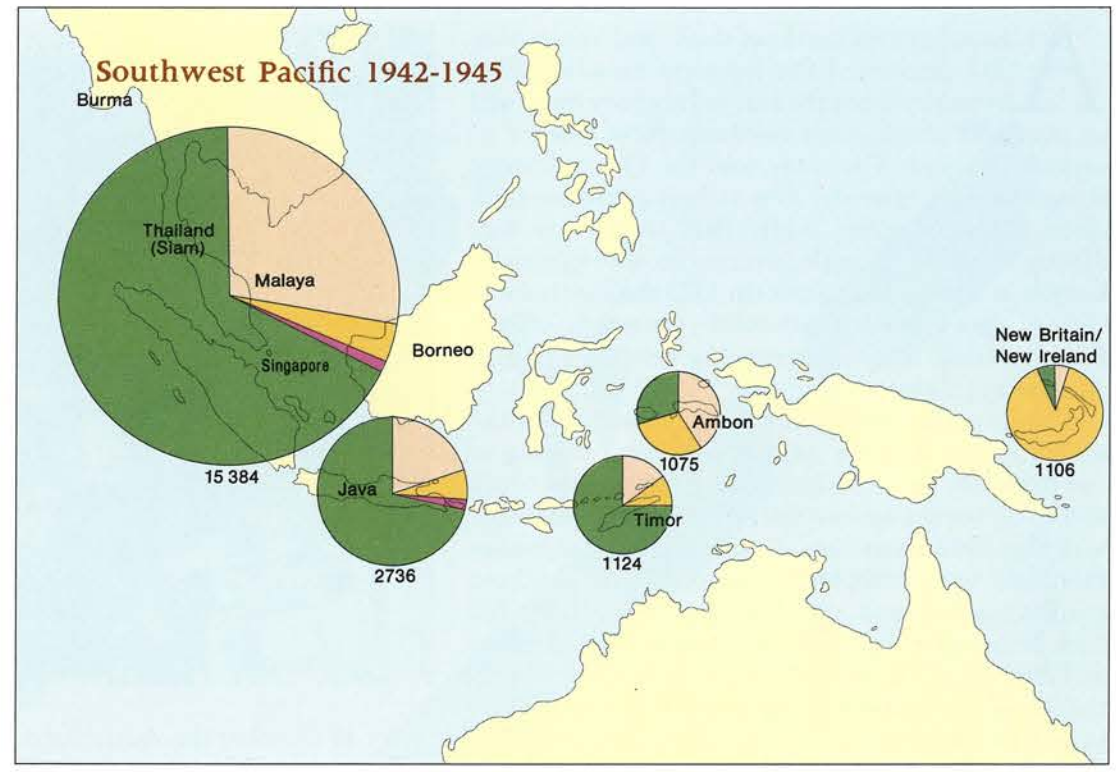
Although now retreating, the Japanese resisted the Australian advance with savage determination at Oivi and Gorari. Many Japanese soldiers fought to the death. The rest were driven back across the Kumusi River and retreated to the northern coast strongholds. As bridges near Wairopi had been destroyed by Allied bombing, many Japanese were drowned attempting to cross the river.

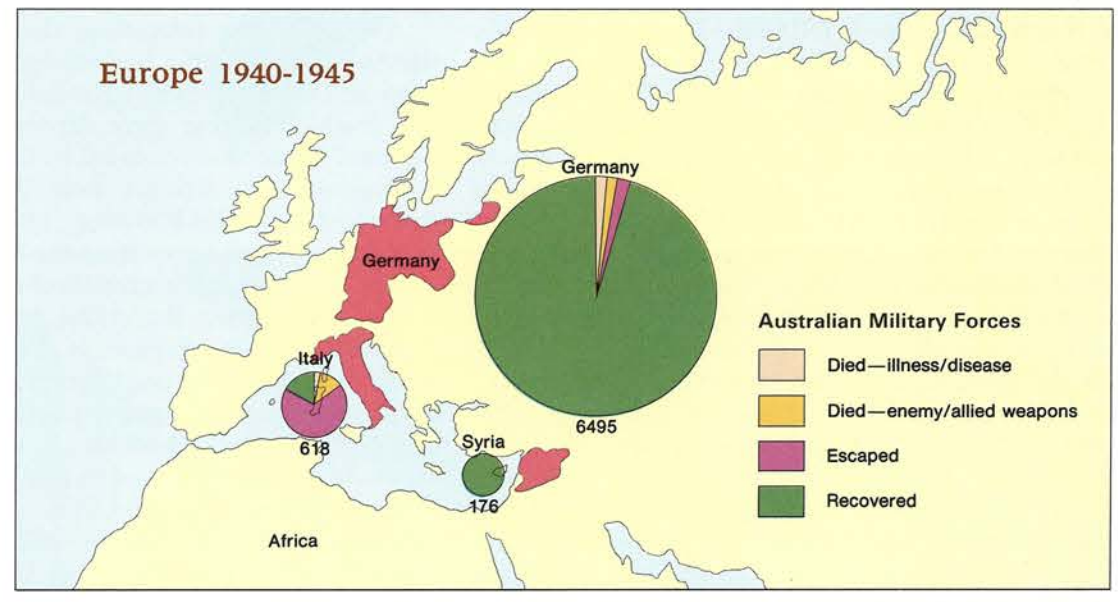
Kokoda was a significant psychological victory. It was the first time the Allies had turned back a Japanese military advance. It also soured relations between Australian and American commanders. Anxious for victory, ignorant of physical conditions along the track and unaware of the number of Japanese soldiers involved in the offensive, General Douglas MacArthur was critical of the fighting qualities of the Australian soldiers. MacArthur never visited the battle area and Australians fighting there resented his remarks.



Australians as prisoners of war

AS A PROPORTION of battle casualties, the number of Australians captured during World War II was higher, at 31 per cent, than in World War I at 1.7 per cent. Of all Australians taken prisoner during World War II, 72 per cent were captured in the southwest Pacific. Seventy per cent were army personnel. The maps on this page show their fate.





Pacific theatre

The first map shows the number and location of men captured during the Japanese offensive of early 1942. The largest number of prisoners was taken in Malaya and Singapore. More than 2000 were captured in Java and more than 1000 became prisoners in Timor, Ambon, New Britain and New Ireland.

The Japanese established many prisoner-of-war camps. Changi in Singapore held the largest number of Australians and is the most widely known. The Japanese often used their prisoners as forced labour. In May 1942, for example, 3000 men left Singapore for Burma where the Japanese were building a rail link with Thailand. They were the first of many prisoners to work on the Burma railway. The construction of the line was one of the war's most infamous episodes. More than 60 000 Allied prisoners helped build it and more than 12 000 died. Australian dead numbered 2800, killed by starvation, disease, exhaustion and brutality. Prisoners were also transferred to new camps in Borneo and Japan for use as labour.

Many men died as prisoners of the Japanese, as the pies on the map show. Deaths have been calculated here for the place of capture rather than the place of death. Malnutrition was common, camp conditions primitive and medical facilities almost non-existent. Diseases killed many, particularly beri beri, dysentery, cholera and malaria. Some camps, for example those on Ambon, were worse than others and the number of deaths was proportionately higher. Death rates were highest in the forced labour camps.

A high proportion of prisoners who died were killed by the Japanese. In Ambon, killings accounted for half the deaths, in New Britain for 85 per cent of all deaths. Men and women were sometimes executed soon after capture, sometimes in internment and sometimes not long before they could be liberated. In Borneo, prisoners were forced to retreat before Allied advances and few survived these death marches. A few prisoners were accidently killed during Allied bombing raids or were drowned when Japanese ships carrying them were torpedoed.

The treatment of Australian prisoners created a deep hatred in Australia for the Japanese. The fate of Australian nurses, some of whom were executed, others beaten, particularly appalled Australians. Prisoners who survived the camps faced health and psychological problems, often for the rest of their lives.

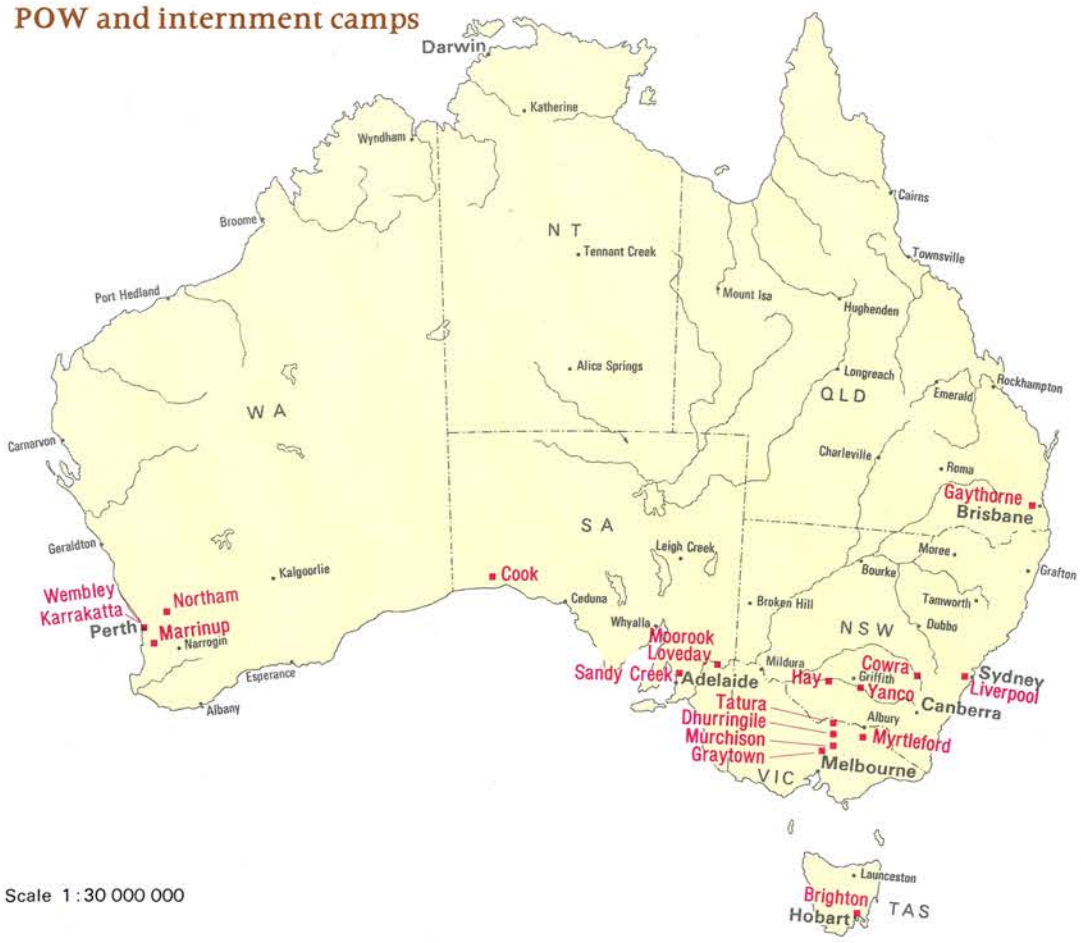
European theatre

The second map shows the fate of AIF members in the European theatre by country of internment. The largest number of Australians captured was 5174 in Greece and Crete. Another 1886 were captured in North Africa and the Middle East. Most prisoners of war were interned in Germany.

Although prisoners of war in Europe experienced hardship and, as the war drew to a close, found their food rations sharply reduced, their conditions were far better than those in the Japanese camps. The proportion of deaths was far lower, death rates in Germany, for example, being one-thirtieth of those on Ambon. Less than 4 per cent of Australian prisoners of war escaped from German camps. In Italy, however, more than half of the Australian prisoners of war escaped. One final comparison neatly illustrates the difference between prisoners of war in the European and Pacific theatres of war: 95 per cent of those interned in Europe survived; only 60 per cent of those interned by the Japanese survived.

Photographs of Australians held as prisoners of war by the Japanese, such as these men in Changi camp, horrified the nation. Prisoners' rations were often below subsistence level, and disease, malnutrition and emaciation were common. Photograph c1945.
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Enemy aliens



INTERNEES AND PRISONERS OF WAR IN AUSTRALIA 1939–1946

Year	German		Italian		Japanese	
	Interned	POW	Interned	POW	Interned	POW
1939	278	—	—	—	—	—
1940	3245	—	1976	—	—	—
1941	3698	1539	1957	5195	968	—
1942	2661	1642	3836	5217	4022	30
1943	2286	1649	852	6617	3141	1112
1944	1851	1568	226	15 701	2800	4322
1945	1576	1567	99	17 022	2764	5569
1946	202	1467	2	4634	—	9

Note: Internee figures include those interned in the Pacific, parts of the subcontinent and Asia and sent to Australia.

Italian prisoners of war at the Myrtleford camp wait to be searched by their guards before reporting for work at district farms. Italian prisoners of war occupied a unique position in wartime Australia because they usually worked without supervision. Photograph c1943.
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

WITH THE DECLARATION of war in 1939, the Australian government responded with greater caution to the problem of enemy aliens than had been the case in 1914. Aliens were required to register with the police and to report their movements. Some were interned. Aliens were sent to Australia for internment from Pacific countries and British colonies in Asia and refugees whose status was uncertain were also interned. The number of prisoners of war held in Australia, however, was greater than during World War I.

Camps were established in all states. Some functioned as labour camps. Others were prisoner-of-war camps. Most, however, served both functions during the war. The capacity of the camps ranged from 200 to 4000.

In New South Wales, Liverpool (opened in 1939, closed in 1946) was a transit camp, handling all nationalities. Hay (1940–46) held Italians and Japanese. Cowra (1941–47) held Japanese, Italians, Koreans and Formosans and Yanco (1943–45) Italians. In Victoria, Tatura (1940–47) was established for German prisoners but later held Japanese families as well. The nearby camp at Dhurringile (1941–45) housed German officers. Murchison (1941–47) held Germans, Italians and Japanese at various times. Myrtleford (1942–46) was predominantly an Italian camp. In South Australia Loveday and Moorook (1942–46) held Germans, Italians and Japanese. Sandy Creek (1944–46) was primarily a transit camp. In Western Australia transit camps were built at Wembley and Karrakatta (1943), and Northam (1945) held Italians. In Tasmania Brighton (1944–46) was established for Italians, and Gaythorne in Queensland (1941–44) held Italians and Germans.

The number of German internees rose sharply in 1940 and included both people in Australia and those sent to Australia. Numbers began to decline from 1942. Many internees had been refugees from Hitler's Europe and were released on parole as 'friendly' aliens. In 1941, the government agreed to accept German and Italian prisoners of war. The number of German prisoners of war remained fairly constant during the war after the first intake in 1941.

The number of Italian internees increased sharply between 1940, when Italy entered the war, and 1942. Most were resident in Australia. Their number dropped significantly in 1943 with the release of almost 3000. More than 5000 Italian prisoners of war arrived in Australia in 1941. Their numbers remained stable until the arrival in 1944 of more than 9000 men from India. Italian prisoners were often released for day work on farms. Many of them stayed on or returned as migrants after the war, transforming the ethnic base of some towns.

The number of Japanese internees increased dramatically in 1942. They included fishermen, pearlers and traders from northern Australia and New Guinea. The majority remained interned until the end of the war. The number of Japanese prisoners grew substantially in 1943 and 1944.

The Japanese were the only prisoners who attempted a mass escape. On 5 August 1944, about 1100 Japanese attempted to break out of Cowra camp. Three hundred and seventy-eight escaped; of these 25 were killed and the rest recaptured. In the breakout overall 234 Japanese died and 108 were wounded. Four Australian guards were killed and three were wounded.

Repatriation of prisoners and a small number of internees at the end of the war was slowed by a shortage of ships. The Japanese were repatriated in February and March 1946, the Italians between September 1946 and January 1947 and the Germans in January 1947.

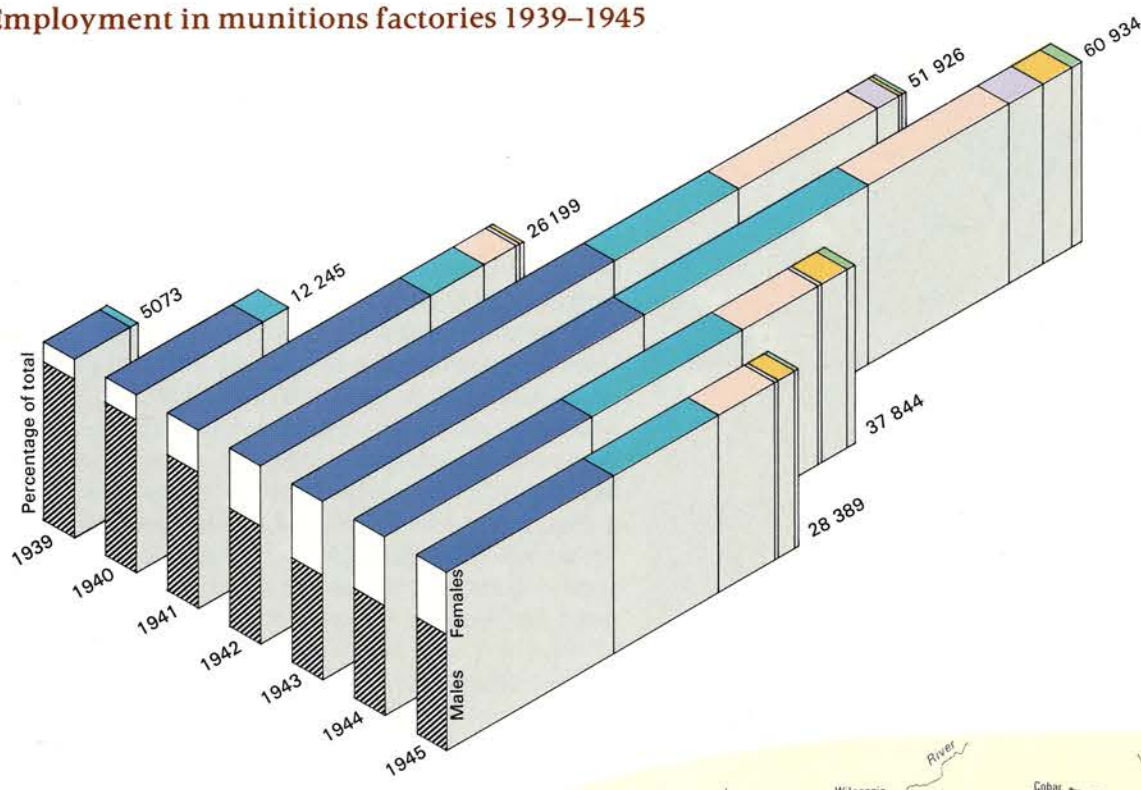
The munitions industry

THE FALL OF SINGAPORE and the bombing of Darwin in February 1942 changed Australia's war effort. Fearing a Japanese invasion, the government established priorities, and precedence was given to munitions production.

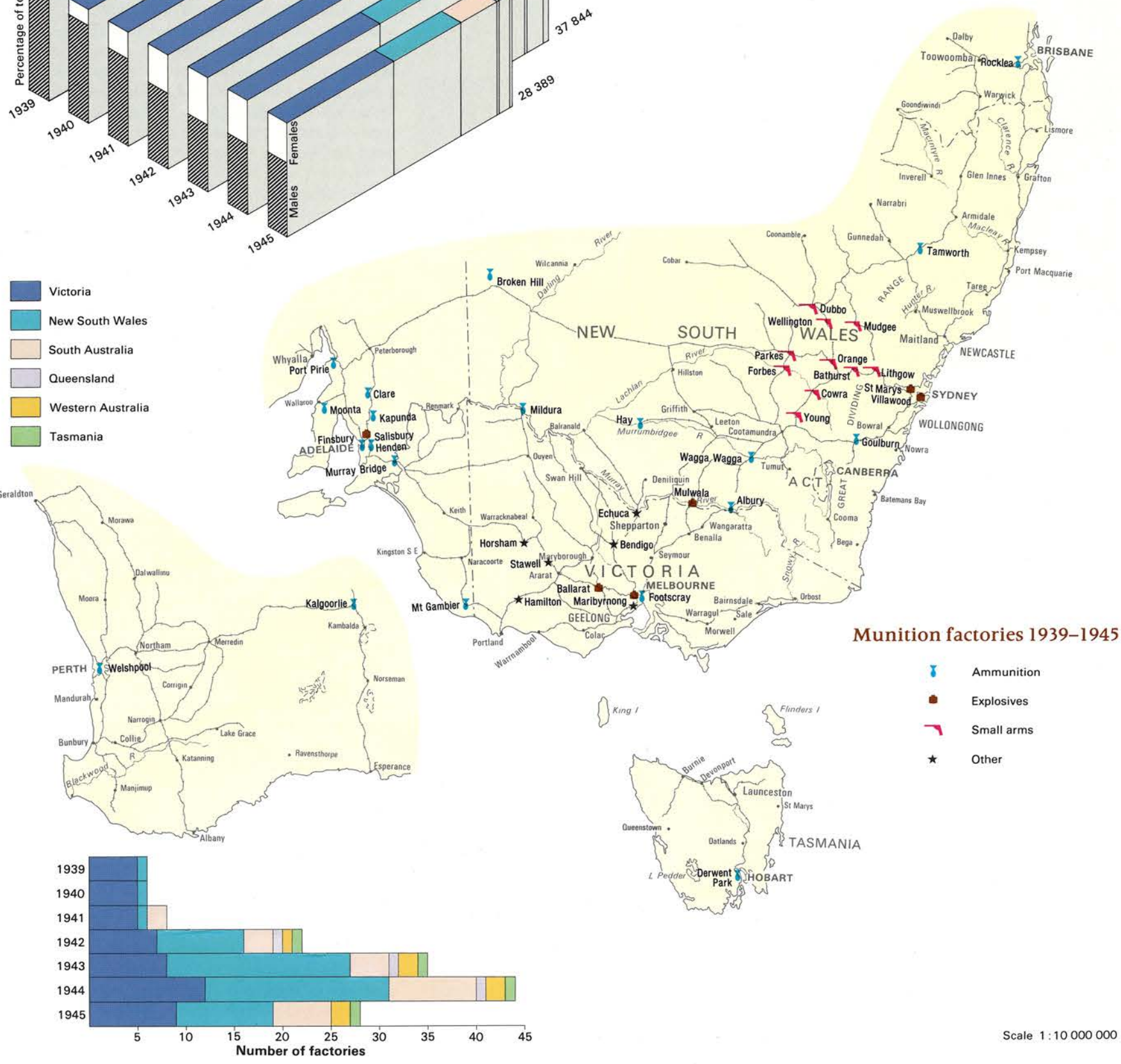
With the exception of the small arms factory at Lithgow, in 1942 the munitions industry was concentrated in Melbourne. But from 1942 the government decentralised the industry for strategic reasons establishing factories across the continent, many in rural towns. Most were located in South Australia, where the town of Salisbury was established for the purpose of ammunition production. Explosives factories were established at Ballarat and Mulwala, which both had the water supplies required. Factories producing specialised items such as ball-bearings were located in towns close to Melbourne, which produced the heavy forgings required.

Production rose sharply and the numbers employed passed 50 000. Women were encouraged to move into the industry and factories were working 24 hours a day. In 1943, the industry's peak year, over sixty thousand people were employed and the number of factories had risen from six in 1939 to thirty-five. During 1944, however, the fear of invasion dwindled and government priorities began to shift. Just as the factories built in 1943 were coming into production, employees were reallocated to other work for the war effort.

Employment in munitions factories 1939–1945



As part of the war effort, the government encouraged the extensive employment of women in industries previously dominated by men. One such industry was munitions, where the number of women employees rose from 6249 (24 per cent of the munitions workforce) in 1941 to a peak of 25 627 (42 per cent) in 1943. They worked long hours, six days a week, yet never achieved wage parity with the men. When the war was over, these women were expected to give up their jobs.



Munition factories 1939–1945

- Ammunition
- Explosives
- Small arms
- Other

Scale 1 : 10 000 000