



SEPTEMBER 2025

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80th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific



Japanese Lieutenant General Hatazō Adachi, commander in chief of the 18th Army on Rabaul and the north coast of New Guinea, surrendering to Major General Horace Robertson, GOC 6 Australian Division at Cape Wom airfield, by Wewak, New Guinea, 13 September 1945

On 7 December 1941 the US Navy based at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, came under attack by the Japanese and thus brought the United States of America into conflict across the Pacific.

Seeing possible threats to our shores and sovereignty the Government took immediate steps to move troops fighting in the Middle East and the Mediterranean to help reinforce our borders and those of neighboring Asian countries in the hope of stopping the enemy. Thus began 4 years of fighting seeing the fall of Singapore, the horrors of the

Thai-Burma railway, Sandakan, Kokoda and Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea.

On 15 August 2025, we acknowledge the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific. This date commemorates Japan's acceptance of the Allied demand for unconditional surrender on 14 August 1945.

The Army Museum arranged a special display including photographs, uniforms, artifacts and storyboards about Western Australian's who

served during this conflict. The display was open to the public from 06 August until 17 August.

NAIDOC Week Display -Focus on Indigenous Military Service

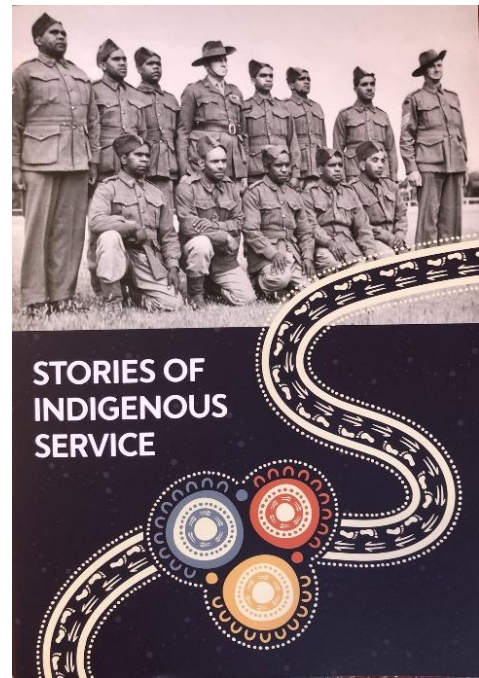
NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In support of this the Army Museum of WA organised a special display which focussed on indigenous military service.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have served in the Colonial and later Australian Defence Forces from the South African War (2nd Anglo Boer War) 1899-1902, World War 1, World War 2 and later operations including Korea, Vietnam and more recent peace keeping and other combat operations.

During World War 2 they saw service on two fronts – in war zones and on the home front. Many saw active service making the “supreme sacrifice” and many manning coastal defence, particularly in North of Western Australia where a large number enlisted in the battalions of the Volunteer Defence Corps. Many aboriginal men were recruited into the 2/1st North Australia Observer Unit, putting their knowledge of country to good use. Many serve in the current Australian Army Reserve within NORFORCE (North-West Mobile Force) and the Pilbara Regiment continuing to apply their knowledge and skills.



The display included items that are integrated throughout our different galleries as part of telling the story of Western Australians in the Army. As part of the display were some special posters of portrait photos of indigenous service men and women that had been included in the Jan 'Kabarli' James' book *Forever Warriors* published in 2011.

The Department of Defence have for many years acknowledged the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women to the Defence of Australia and a plaque supporting this is mounted on the wall adjacent to the entrance to the museum's Lecture Room.





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From the Museum Manager

It is great to see that the volunteer newsletter has been revived as it is a very important tool for keeping everybody informed about what is happening in the Museum.



The biggest news from a manager's perspective is the renovations that are planned to start soon. The stone

wall along Burt St and Quarry St is about to be repaired, which should not impact on our operations much, but there will be a small area cordoned off near the battery shed while this work is in progress.

In addition to this, work is due to start in early 2026 on renovations of the Officer's mess, admin building and the main museum building. This work will take around 12 months to complete and will cause considerable disruption, but it is well overdue and much needed. Although there will be no need to close the entire museum for an extended period, there will be a requirement to close various galleries and parts of some buildings at various times, so I would ask you to remain flexible and remember that the end result should be a big improvement on what we currently have.

Finally, I'd like to thank you all once again for all of your hard work, patience and good humour. Feedback from visitors often makes mention of the very friendly and knowledgeable staff at this museum, and I can honestly say that the Army staff alone could never run this place to the same high standard without your efforts.

World War One Embroidery Exhibition

Several embroideries from the World War One period selected from the museum's textiles collection were placed on display in the temporary exhibitions area from 14 August until end of September.

Visitors can scan the QR codes to access further details from the information recorded for these items in Collections WA.





Our Volunteers - Cameron Banks



Cameron, born in 2004, is among the select group of younger volunteers contributing to the Army Museum.

He currently lives with his parents in Rivervale and attended several different primary

schools with his secondary education being completed at Sevenoaks Senior College in Cannington.

Cameron has had a long interest in military history. This included the Australian Army in general but

also a particular interest in armoured vehicles ranging from tanks, armoured personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles and different weaponry associated with these.

When he was around 16, while browsing on-line he came across reference to the Army Museum of Western Australia and visited the museum with his mother that year. That obviously whet his appetite to show further interest, and he later became aware of the potential for volunteering at the museum.

He subsequently applied for volunteering and commenced at the museum in early 2023. He performs various tasks as a museum gallery guide showing visitors through the museum's various galleries or checking that the displays are not damaged. When not in the galleries, Cameron can often be found alongside one of the museum's armoured vehicles imparting to the visitors some of his detailed knowledge of the vehicle and the different types of weaponry that they use and the various types of ammunition.

When not at the museum, Cameron works as a sales assistant at Spudshed in Bentley, having negotiated with his employer to have every Wednesday off to do volunteering at the Army Museum and his contribution is most appreciated.

Coming Up

Perth Annual Militaria Fair 13-14 September 2025

Put on by the WA Arms and Armour Society this event to be held at Cannington Exhibition Centre & Showgrounds features extensive and interesting militaria displays and a swap meet. The Army Museum of WA will have a stand.

Army Display, Perth Royal Show October 2025

The Army Museum of WA has been invited to be part of this for Thursday 2 October 2025

Have a Go Day – Wednesday 12 November 2025

Part of Seniors Week 9-16 November