NORTH AFRICA AND SYRIA
Australians in World War II
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
INTRODUCTION

These educational activities, aligned to the Australian Curriculum: History at Year 10, are designed to encourage students to become engaged with North Africa and Syria and the rich historical sources it incorporates. North Africa and Syria is part of a series of books published by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs that explore theatres of war during World War II, other than the Pacific war. Please note that the campaign in North Africa lasted from 1940-1943 when Axis forces surrendered in Tunisia. North Africa and Syria concentrates on Australia’s involvement in these regions between 1940-1942 before their withdrawal when Japan entered the war.

OVERVIEW

This educational resource has five investigations, each one focusing on a different theme or aspect of the campaigns.

Investigation 1:
What were the key events in the North Africa and Syria campaigns between 1940-1943?
Students examine the major events and movements during these campaigns.

Investigation 2:
What shaped the way the campaigns in North Africa and Syria were reported in the Australian media?
Students are encouraged to consider the many factors that shape media reports from the front line. They also analyse similarities and differences between media reports of Australian troop actions in World War II and contemporary conflicts.

Investigation 3:
What is the relationship between people and the environment during war?
Students explore how terrain and climate influence military strategy, and how war impacts on the environment.

Investigation 4:
How do the ‘rules of war’ shape the behaviours of those involved in conflicts?
Students analyse a range of primary and secondary sources from North Africa and Syria and consider the development and application of conventions to govern behaviour during times of war.

Investigation 5:
Why were some Australians awarded the Victoria Cross during the North Africa and Syria campaigns?
Students consider the role of military awards in Australia and investigate the service of some of the Australians awarded the Victoria Cross as a result of their actions during the North Africa and Syria campaigns.
AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

This classroom resource has been developed with specific reference to the content descriptions for Year 10 students in the Australian Curriculum: History, where a depth study of World War II is required. The relevant Historical Knowledge and Understanding and Historical Skills are listed for each investigation. The learning content and activities assist students to develop the following general capabilities: literacy, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, and ethical behaviour.

Furthermore, the material can be easily adapted for use with other levels and curriculum areas, particularly English.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 10 History Depth study: World War II</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• An overview of the causes and course of World War II</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The experiences of Australians during World War II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The significance of World War II to Australia's international relationships in the twentieth century, with particular reference to the United Nations, Britain, the USA and Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HISTORICAL SKILLS:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Use chronological sequencing to demonstrate the relationship between events and developments in different periods and places</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Use historical terms and concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Identify and analyse the perspectives of people from the past</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Evaluate the reliability and usefulness of primary and secondary sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Process and synthesise information from a range of sources for use as evidence in an historical argument</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Identify and analyse different historical interpretations (including their own)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Develop texts, particularly descriptions and discussions that use evidence from a range of sources that are referenced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Select and use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify and locate relevant sources, using ICT and other methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify the origin, purpose and context of primary and secondary sources</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

USING THE RESOURCE

The *North Africa and Syria* publication is available online allowing students easy access. With each activity being discrete in nature, teachers using this learning resource are encouraged to adapt them to suit their own purposes.

All images and written sources used in these activities are from *North Africa and Syria*. When quotations are used the relevant page from the online version of the book is indicated. Each image can also be viewed in the online photo gallery, allowing students to view large digital versions. Further historical information about these images can be found by accessing the collection search on the Australian War Memorial website and inserting the image number provided.

DISCLAIMER

This resource encourages students to explore and interpret a range of historical sources. The Department of Veterans’ Affairs cannot be assumed to agree with or endorse any content or opinions expressed in websites or other publications quoted or referred to in this resource.
Investigation 1:
What were the key events in the North Africa and Syria campaigns between 1940-1943?

A. SOME WORDS TO WATCH

The following terms are used in *North Africa and Syria*. Select the word from the list that best matches each of the definitions and complete the table by writing the word beside its definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CORPS</td>
<td>the coalition of forces in World War II who were opposed to Germany — which included the United Kingdom and countries of the British Commonwealth, Poland, the Soviet Union and USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALLIED FORCES</td>
<td>the countries that fought against the Allied forces in World War II — which included Germany, Italy and Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIVISION</td>
<td>a unit consisting of several brigades and regiments, commanded by a Major General</td>
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<tr>
<td>BATTALION</td>
<td>troops who are wounded, killed or missing in action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRIGADE</td>
<td>smaller infantry units that are attached to a brigade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREE FRENCH</td>
<td>a military response to an act of aggression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTER ATTACK</td>
<td>military units who joined the French resistance movement to fight against the Axis powers (including the Vichy French)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICHY FRENCH</td>
<td>a military unit attached to a division that consists of two or more battalions</td>
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<tr>
<td>CASUALTIES</td>
<td>French forces that collaborated with the Axis powers during World War II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIVISION</td>
<td>vulnerable battlefield area surrounded on three sides by territory held by the enemy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORPS</td>
<td>a military unit usually consisting of two or more divisions and their support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## B. Timeline of Major Events from North Africa and Syria in World War II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 September 1939</td>
<td>Australia joins Britain and France in declaring war on Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 January 1940</td>
<td>First contingent of Australian troops leaves Australia for the Middle East where they are stationed in reserve near Bardia from October 1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 June 1940</td>
<td>Italy declares war on Britain (and the Allies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 July 1940</td>
<td>Royal Australian Navy’s HMAS Sydney involved in the sinking of the Italian cruiser Bartolomeo Colleoni during the Battle of Cape Spada in the Mediterranean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 September 1940</td>
<td>Italian forces invade Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–9 December 1940</td>
<td>Italian forces expelled from Egypt by Allied forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 January 1941</td>
<td>First major attack by an Australian division in World War II at Bardia in Libya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 January 1941</td>
<td>Allied forces capture Tobruk and advance west towards Benghazi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 April 1941</td>
<td>German forces enter Benghazi and Australians withdraw towards Tobruk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 April–10 December 1941</td>
<td>Siege of Tobruk: allied troops hold the strategic city under sustained attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April–June 1941</td>
<td>Allied troops defeat a pro-German revolt in Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April–May 1941</td>
<td>Australian troops involved in the Allied campaign in Greece and Crete</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 June–11 July 1941</td>
<td>Australian troops support the Allied offensive in Syria against Vichy French troops</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1942</td>
<td>6th and 7th Australian divisions redeployed from the Middle East to Netherlands East Indies following Japan’s entry into the war</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 October 1942</td>
<td>Beginning of the Battle of El Alamein, the major operation in a prolonged Allied offensive that was the turning point of the war in North Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–4 November 1942</td>
<td>Axis troops retreat from El Alamein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May 1943</td>
<td>Surrender of Axis troops in North Africa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. MAPPING THE CAMPAIGNS

Use the maps provided to locate and highlight each of the places that are bolded in the timeline provided.
Use the maps with the scales on page 5 and 6 to estimate the distances between three different sites where Australian troops saw action in North Africa between January 1940 and November 1942.

1  ........................................... and ................................... = ....................................... km

2  ........................................... and .................................... = ....................................... km

3  ........................................... and .................................... = ....................................... km

When you look at North Africa and the Mediterranean from a global perspective, why do you think that these areas were strategically important to the Allied forces? Share your response with another student.
INVESTIGATION 2:
What shaped the way the campaigns in North Africa and Syria were reported in the Australian media?

A. REPORTING IN TIMES OF WAR

1. Read the following extract from page 1 of North Africa and Syria:

   On 7 January The Canberra Times announced Bardia as a ‘Bloodless Victory’. Bardia may well have been a victory, but it was not bloodless, as the killed in action notices which also began to appear in the papers testified. Private Harold Pagran’s family published a simple tribute in the 20 January edition of The Argus: ‘killed Bardia January 3 loved brother Albert and brother-in-law Mollie, loving uncle Bob and Albie.’ The Pagran family would not have agreed it was a ‘bloodless victory’.

Why do you think that The Canberra Times described the action in Bardia as a ‘Bloodless Victory’?

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- What newspaper is your report from?
- What date was the report published?
- Who was the intended audience?
- What is the main message of the report?

What type of information is reported from the war front?
What details may not be included in war reports? Why?

List three factors that might influence the way that a war is reported by the media?
B. NEWS FROM THE FRONT

1. Imagine that you are a war correspondent for an Australian newspaper during World War II. The readers of your newspaper are concerned about their loved ones serving overseas and anxious about the threat posed to the British Empire by the Axis powers.

Select one of the following incidents described in *North Africa and Syria* and read the text online:

- Capture of Tobruk, *North Africa and Syria* pages 6-7
- The Benghazi handicap, *North Africa and Syria* page 10
- The Syrian campaign, *North Africa and Syria* pages 16-19
- The end of the siege, *North Africa and Syria* pages 24-25

Use the description in the text to prepare an article for your Australian newspaper reporting on the incident you selected. Your article should include:

- a headline;
- a half page written report; and
- an image and caption from *North Africa and Syria.*
2. Write a headline from the Axis perspective about the same incident/s featured in your Australian newspaper report.


3. Respond to the following questions:

   How did you decide what to include in your report?
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   How did the headline for the Axis newspaper differ from the headline for your Australian newspaper? Why?
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   How reliable do you think that media reports are as historical sources?
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C. THEN AND NOW

Find a contemporary media report about Australia’s involvement in the conflict in the Middle East (Iraq and Afghanistan). Use this to compare and contrast Australia’s involvement in the Middle East during World War II and at the present time.

1. Identify the similarities and differences. For example, the reason/s Australia decided to send troops to the region and the role and experiences of the troops.

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2. In what ways are the modes of contemporary reporting of conflict in the Middle East similar to, and different from, newspaper reports from World War II? Why?

Similar to:
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Different from:
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INVESTIGATION 3: What is the relationship between people and the environment during war?

A. A DEFINING ENVIRONMENT

Every war is shaped by the environment in which it is fought. Look carefully at each of the following images. Analyse them to identify how the environment in North Africa and Syria shaped the experiences of the Australian troops. Complete the table on page 18 to record your findings.

SOURCE 1: IMAGE
| SOURCE 1 | WHAT I SEE: describe exactly what you can see in the image | WHAT I THINK: describe what you can imply from the image about how the environment shaped the experience of Australian troops |
| SOURCE 2 | | |
| SOURCE 3 | | |
| SOURCE 4 | | |
| SOURCE 5 | | |
| SOURCE 6 | | |
| SOURCE 7 | | |
B. DIORAMA OF WAR

What were the physical conditions which shaped the Battle of Bardia? Read the text below from page 4 of *North Africa and Syria* and look at the accompanying image of Bardia. Then create a diorama, or 3D model, that depicts the setting and action that the Australian troops experienced when attacking Bardia against Italian troops:

Bardia, a harbour town about 25 kilometres west of the Egyptian frontier, was defended by a 30-kilometre arc of concrete underground bunkers behind an anti-tank ditch and barbed-wire barriers. This was supported by machine-gun posts and other obstacles, with the rear posts some 400 meters behind the main line…

The plan of attack called for the 16th Brigade (2/1st, 2/2nd and 2/3rd Battalions) to cross the anti-tank ditch, blow gaps in the wire and take the posts west of Bardia…

On 3 January the assault began, with the Australians dressed in greatcoats and leather jackets to keep out the intense cold of the desert at early morning, and heavily laden with weapons, tools, ammunition and rations. The guns opened fire at 5:30 am and within thirty minutes the infantry had crossed the anti-tank ditch and had breached the wire obstacles. Bill Travers described the opening scene:

*First one gun flashed and the shells screamed over us to land about half a mile in front. Then millions of shells screamed over us and the sky became red with flashes and streaks.*

Some Italian posts and bunkers fought with determination, while others offered little resistance. The 2/3rd Battalion withstood a counter-attack from Italian tanks.

*Peter Rees, *Desert Boys*, p. 364
C. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

In what ways do you think the conflict in North Africa and Syria impacted on the environment?

Look at the following five sources and discuss the questions on page 23.

**SOURCE 1: IMAGE AND CAPTION FROM NORTH AFRICA AND SYRIA, PAGE 127**

An army boot maker sits upon a pile of footwear worn out after the siege in Tobruk, September 1941. (AWM 020729)
Men of the 2/11th Battalion admire the results of a direct hit on an Italian anti-aircraft gun at Tobruk. (AWM 005612; photographer James ‘Frank’ Hurley)

Once a pleasant seaside locale favoured by Italian officers, by May 1941 when this photograph was taken, the beach at Tobruk was covered with the wreckage and detritus of war and it was the Australians who now occupied the area. Here three members of the 9th Division pose on the litter-strewn sand. (AWM 007473)
In the aftermath of battle an Australian begins salvaging some of the thousands of empty shell cases fired by the 2/2nd Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, during fighting around El Alamein in July 1942. (AWM 024585)

Specially fitted Scorpion tanks work their way through a minefield at El Alamein in October 1942. Mines littered the battlefield in 1942 and many lurk beneath the desert sand to the present day. Every year people, mostly local Bedouin, are killed or injured by these remnants of a battle fought seventy years ago. (AWM 128999)
1. What do these images tell you about the impact that the 1940-1943 campaigns in North Africa and the Middle East had on the environment?

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2. Do you think the current conflicts in the Middle East continue to cause environmental damage? Why or why not?

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3. Who should take responsibility for protecting the environment from the impact of war?

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INVESTIGATION 4:
How do the ‘rules of war’ shape the behaviours of those involved in conflicts?

A. RULES OF WAR

For thousands of years individuals and nations have debated what behaviours are acceptable during times of war. Today there are a variety of international understandings and conventions to guide nations regarding the rules of war, including the Geneva Convention. Analyse each of the nine sources and answer the questions to explore how the rules of war influenced these events in North Africa and Syria.

SOURCE 1: TEXT FROM NORTH AFRICA AND SYRIA, PAGES 4-5

Captain David Green, commanding B Company, 2/7th Battalion, and his second in command, Lieutenant Charles Macfarlane, were watching some Italians with their hands raised emerge from a post when a lone Italian put a rifle to his shoulder and shot Green through the chest. The Italian then dropped his rifle, put up his hands and climbed out of the post, smiling broadly. An angry Australian threw him back into the post and emptied his Bren gun into him. At the same time others demanded of Macfarlane that they should be allowed to bayonet all the other prisoners, but Macfarlane, now the only officer in the company, forbade them to take revenge, and was obeyed.
On 2 August, in what effectively was the last major action involving Australians during the siege, another effort was made by the defenders to expel the Germans and straighten the line. It was a costly attack: two thirds of the attacking infantry became casualties, with twenty-nine killed and seventy-two wounded. The Geneva Convention was seldom dishonoured in the desert war, and next morning the vehicles of Sergeant Walter Tuit and stretcher bearers of the 2/43rd Battalion were allowed within 200 metres of the German positions. The Germans returned to the Australians four of the five wounded and fifteen of the twenty-eight dead who were recovered.

(source image)

But you just imagine having thirty-six thousand blokes there and the rest of ‘em are all Aussie diggers. Now they’ve gotta be fed, they’ve gotta have sufficient covering that they’re not gonna freeze to death and they’ve gotta have latrines dug and fixed up for them. All these things, and there’s nobody else except the poor bloody infantry to do that.
**Source 5: Image and Caption from North Africa and Syria, Page 47**

An Australian private tends a wounded Italian prisoner during the fight for Bardia, 3 January 1941. (AWM 004914)

**Source 6: Image and Caption from North Africa and Syria, Page 98**

Crew members of the Italian submarine Uebi Scebeli stand on their submarine, awaiting rescue. Five destroyers - HMAS Voyager and HMS Dainty, Decoy, Defender and Ilex - were 160 miles (257km) east of Crete when the submarine was sighted. The submarine dived and was attacked with depth charges by HMAS Voyager, HMS Ilex and Defender and was forced to surface. After survivors were rescued, the submarine was sunk by gun fire from HMS Dainty. (AWM P01915.011; photographer Henry Charles Bryce Porter)
Members of Benghazi’s civilian population welcome Australians of the 6th Division in February 1941. Happy perhaps at having been liberated, these people were nevertheless civilians in a town that was heavily looted by the Australians, as had been the case at Derna and Bardia in previous months. (AWM 005848/28; photographer James ‘Frank’ Hurley)

The injured crew of a No. 3 Squadron RAAF air ambulance is treated with first aid after the aircraft was shot down by German planes in Libya, November 1941. Article 36 of the Geneva Convention guaranteed immunity for medical aircraft, providing they displayed the red cross symbol and national insignia, were used in a limited geographical area and were not used to transport troops or supplies. Despite this protection, crew of the air ambulance unit were not always protected from enemy fire. (AWM 021891)
A wounded man receives treatment at an underground operating theatre at El Alamein. Sometimes refuges such as this one became sites of international cooperation, where medical personnel from both sides tended each other’s wounded under the flag of the Red Cross. (AWM 014076)

1. List some of the rules or conventions regarding behaviour during war that are highlighted by the sources.

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2. With reference to the sources, identify factors or situations that may lead to the rules of war not being followed.

3. Why do countries, including Australia, become signatories to international treaties regarding conflicts, including the Geneva Convention?
4. Why might it be difficult to enforce the rules of war and punish those who disregard them?

5. Conduct your own research to find out more about the Geneva Convention.
INVESTIGATION 5:
Why were some Australians awarded the Victoria Cross during the North Africa and Syria campaigns?

A. HONOUR BOARD

The Victoria Cross is Australia’s highest military award. During World War II, twenty Victoria Cross medals were awarded and a number of these related to action in North Africa and Syria. Read the following five sources from *North Africa and Syria* which detail the events leading to the awarding of five Victoria Cross medals.

**SOURCE 1: TEXT FROM NORTH AFRICA AND SYRIA, PAGE 11**

On 13 April, the Germans decided to attack the sector held by the 2/17th Battalion. At 11 pm about thirty infantrymen with two small field guns, a mortar and eight machine guns dug themselves in about 100 meters to the east of the post, nearest to where a gap in the anti-tank ditch was to be blown. The Germans brought their weapons to bear on the Australian post, which returned fire. The post commander, Lieutenant Frederick Mackell, then led Corporal Jack Edmondson and five other men into position to assault the enemy from the flank. Yelling and throwing grenades, the Australians charged the enemy, who turned their weapons on the party and opened fire. Edmondson was seriously wounded in the stomach by a burst from a machine gun that also hit him in the neck. Still he ran on under heavy fire and killed one enemy soldier with his bayonet. When Mackell had his bayonet in one of the enemy, who grasped him about the legs, and was then attacked from behind, Edmondson, in spite of his wounds, immediately responded to the call for help and killed both Germans, saving Mackell’s life. Edmondson died of his wounds the next day and was awarded the Victoria Cross, the first received by an Australian in World War II.
It was at Merdjayoun on 19 June that Captain Charles Clark, Lieutenant Roden Cutler and an artillery team of the 2/5th Field Regiment and the 2/25th Battalion were attacked by Vichy French tanks. Both Cutler and Lance Corporal Victor Pratt opened fire on the tracks of the tanks, forcing them to seek shelter. Cutler and Pratt exchanged their anti-tank rifles for a rifle and Bren gun, and fired on the following Vichy French infantry, who took cover behind a stone wall. The tanks advanced again and opened fire, killing Pratt, mortally wounding Clark and wounding an artilleryman. Cutler hit the tank tracks with an anti-tank rifle, forcing the Vichy French to withdraw. He then personally supervised the evacuation of the wounded members of his party. Undaunted, and with a small party of volunteers, he pressed on to establish an outpost from which he could register the only road by which the enemy transport could enter the town. He carried out this task, and engaged enemy posts until cut off and forced to go to ground until after dark, when he succeeded in making his way through the enemy lines. Four days later at Merdjayoun, and again on 6 July at Damour, Cutler distinguished himself. He was awarded the Victoria Cross, the only Australian artilleryman so honoured.

The campaign was nearly over, but the central sector would see the last fierce fight on 10 July. That night Lieutenant Norman Stable’s company of the 2/31st Battalion, now reduced to sixty men, was ordered to take the high ground north of Jezzine. Intense machine-gun fire from a fortified Vichy French position killed three and wounded two Australians, holding up the advance and making movement impossible. Private James Gordon, on his own initiative, crept forward over an area swept by machine-gun and grenade fire and succeeded in approaching close to the post, which he then charged from the front, killing the four machine-gunners with the bayonet. For his actions, which completely demoralised the enemy, allowing his company to advance and seize their objective, Gordon was awarded the Victoria Cross.

On 22 July, at Tel El Eisa, Private Arthur Gurney’s company of the 2/48th Battalion was held up by intense machine-gun fire from posts less than 100 metres ahead, which inflicted heavy casualties, including all the officers being killed or wounded. Gurney, grasping the seriousness of the situation, charged the nearest enemy machine-gun post, bayoneted three men and silenced the post. He continued on to a second post, bayonet ed two men and sent out a third as a prisoner. Gurney was then knocked to the ground by a grenade but rose, picked up his rifle and charged a third post with fixed bayonet. He then disappeared from view and his body was later found in an enemy post. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

On the night of 25–26 October, the 9th Division made the first of three attacks that would create the conditions for victory at El Alamein. The attack opened at midnight with an artillery barrage. It was made by the 26th Brigade, with the 2/48th Battalion attacking towards Trig 29, a slightly raised feature on an otherwise flat plain, and the 2/24th attacking on the right. Advancing with the 2/48th was Private Percival Gratwick, who charged an enemy post with a rifle in one hand and a grenade in the other. He threw the grenade into an enemy post and then attacked the survivors with his rifle and bayonet, killing them all, including a complete mortar crew. He was then killed by machine-gun fire as he charged a second post, and was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.
Use this information to create a Victoria Cross honour board on the following worksheet. To complete the worksheet:


2. Use sources 1-5 to write a caption to display next to the images of five Victoria Cross recipients. In the caption include information about the values and personal qualities that you think these soldiers displayed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Corporal John 'Jack' Edmondson" /></td>
<td>Corporal John 'Jack' Edmondson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Lieutenant Arthur Roden Cutler" /></td>
<td>Lieutenant Arthur Roden Cutler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Private James Heather Gordon" /></td>
<td>Private James Heather Gordon</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Private Arthur Gurney" /></td>
<td>Private Arthur Gurney</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Private Percy Gratwick" /></td>
<td>Private Percy Gratwick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. HONOURING THE BRAVE

Look at the images in sources 1 and 2 and reflect on them as you answer the questions.

**SOURCE 1: IMAGE AND CAPTION FROM NORTH AFRICA AND SYRIA, PAGE 161**

One of Australia’s most esteemed Second World War soldiers, Roden Cutler VC, who lost a leg after being wounded in Syria, speaks from the Melbourne Town Hall steps during a 1943 Australian Women’s Army Service recruiting rally. (AWM 137752)
Five Victoria Cross recipients visit the grave of Jack Edmondson VC, the first Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross in World War II. The men in this photograph — Frank Partridge, Ted Kenna, JD Hinton (a New Zealander), Richard Kelliher and Reg Rattey, were part of the Australian and New Zealand coronation contingent bound for England in April 1953. (AWM P01895.001)
1. Why does Australia award the Victoria Cross?

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2. Do you think there are any negative consequences of having military awards?

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3. What are some of the benefits of having military awards, including the Victoria Cross?