

Topic 2: Impressions of war

Source Sheet 2D: Impressions of World War II – Telling the Story

This sheet contains 15 sources about World War II. They provide different perspectives and messages about the various theatres of war in which Australians were engaged. Study them closely and complete the information for each source on the table in *Work Sheet 2E*.

The information about each source also contains the relevant web address so that you can conduct more detailed research on these sources and the people and events they depict.

Source 1

Bill Marien, official war correspondent, wrote this article about the Timor commandos. It was published in *The Argus* on 31 December 1942. www.ww2australia.gov.au/japadvance/guerillas.html

THE ARGUS 31 DEC 1942

"YOU ALONE DO NOT SURRENDER!"

A I F Commandos Harry Japs in Timor

In the mountains of Timor a big Japanese force is today being pinned down by an AIF commando force which was "lost" for 59 days, and by Dutch guerilla forces.

Against odds of 100 to 1 they are killing Japanese at the rate of much more than 100 for every Australian or Dutchman lost in action. . . .

These forces are denying the Japanese the conquest of Timor and are making hazardous any attempt to invade Australia from that base. . . .

For 6 hours after the Japanese had landed at Dillil 20 Australians held off 500 Japanese at the aerodrome. . . . Ammunition had been hidden in the hills. . . . They were still a fighting force. They decided to fight on!

These are the men who for 59 days Australians thought were either dead or prisoners—the men who themselves did not even know whether Australia was still in the war. . . .

They have rejected all Japanese demands for their surrender and are still fighting, hedged on 3 sides by the Japanese.

And the enemy has paid them his most graceful tribute: "You alone do not surrender to us."

These are extracts from an amazing story of tenacity and heroism by Australians in the mountain jungles of Portuguese Timor told by Bill Marien, official war correspondent, who recently visited Portuguese Timor.

His story appears in full on page 12.

NAA A5954 Item 2232/2

Source 2

March 1941, Allied troops rushing through the streets of Bardia in Libya in search of any remaining enemy troops. www.ww2australia.gov.au/scrapiron



AWM 006083

Source 3

Bomber's Moon, oil on canvas painting by Allan Moore, 1962. When war broke out in Europe in 1939, Royal Australian Air Force aircrews were the first Australians to go. They flew in operations over German and Italian cities; they sank enemy ships and submarines and shot down many enemy aircraft; and RAAF bombers dropped many tons of bombs. www.ww2australia.gov.au/raaf



AWM ART26265

Source 4

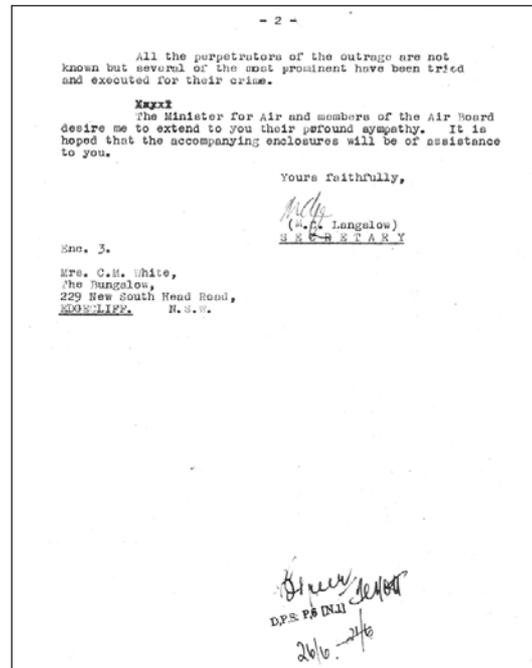
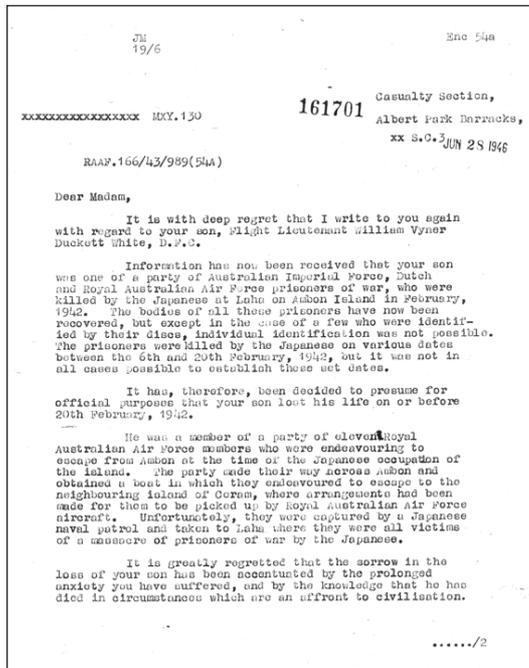
Captain Kay Parker and Lieutenant Mavis Cullen, were captured by the Japanese at Rabaul in January 1942.
www.w2australia.gov.au/japadvance/yokohama.html



AWM P02306.001

Source 5

Flying Officer William White, was captured and killed by the Japanese at Ambon during the Pacific war. White's mother received this letter in 1946 describing the circumstances of her son's death.
www.w2australia.gov.au/japadvance/remembered.html



NAA A70515 Item 166/43/989

Source 6

Salvation Army Representative Albert Moore lights a cigarette for Lieutenant Valentine Gardener, 2/14th Battalion, on the Kokoda Track, October 1942.
www.w2australia.gov.au/asfaras/salvos.html



AWM 013287

Source 10

Propaganda leaflets using a rough copy of the 9th Division platypus and boomerang emblems. The Germans dropped these over the Australian troops at El Alamein in September 1942.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/beyond



AWM 025015



AWM F00322

Source 11

This *Movietone News* film clip features the work of the RAN during World War II.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/waratsea

Source 12

Sending and receiving signals on the destroyer HMAS *Arunta* during operations off Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, June 1944. Image 5 in gallery 'afloat'.

www.ww2australia.gov.au/waratsea



AWM 017315

Source 13

On 21 October 1944, during the Battle of Leyte Gulf, in the Philippines, HMAS *Australia* became the first Allied warship to be hit by a kamikaze aircraft. Reg Walker, who was serving in *Australia*, described the scene on board when the kamikaze hit the ship. (Reg Walker, interview June 1989)

www.w2australia.gov.au/waratsea/kamikaze.html

And suddenly gunfire opened up, and there was ... all hell broke loose, and the next minute there's one helluva bang, and the mast, which was a tripod mast, part of it came down into ... into our radar room, and – part of the tripod – and that shook and threw us around a little bit. And our door was jammed. I opened our door, and we got out with our anti-flash gear that we wear to stop any flames and that sort of thing, and we were called to ... that there was fire on the bridge, which ... it was fortunate in one sense, because whenever there was a fire during training it was always on the bridge, and the guys were trained so wonderfully well they had the fire out pretty quickly and it was very well done.

I thought we'd been hit by a ... a bomb or something, I didn't know what it was at the time. But then when we got up and there was such a helluva fire blazing – I suppose the petrol that ... or fuel that exploded on the plane, and we learnt later that it had been hit and it was already alight as it crashed in onto the ... onto ... onto the bridge or the compass platform, and down past B turret, and onto the deck, and the foredeck, and then went over the side.

Some of us were instructed to ... to help ... anyone that wasn't going out on gun and firing duties to get up there as quickly as we can and do what help what we could.

Source 14

Kamikaze attack on HMAS Australia, Lingayen Gulf, January 1945.

(Oil on canvas by Frank Norton, 1963) www.w2australia.gov.au/waratsea



AWM ART27552

Source 15

Exhausted Allied forces were evacuated from Crete and returned to fight in the North African campaigns in June 1941. Troops here are being transported on SS *Lossiebank*.

www.w2australia.gov.au/greatrisk



AWM 043237