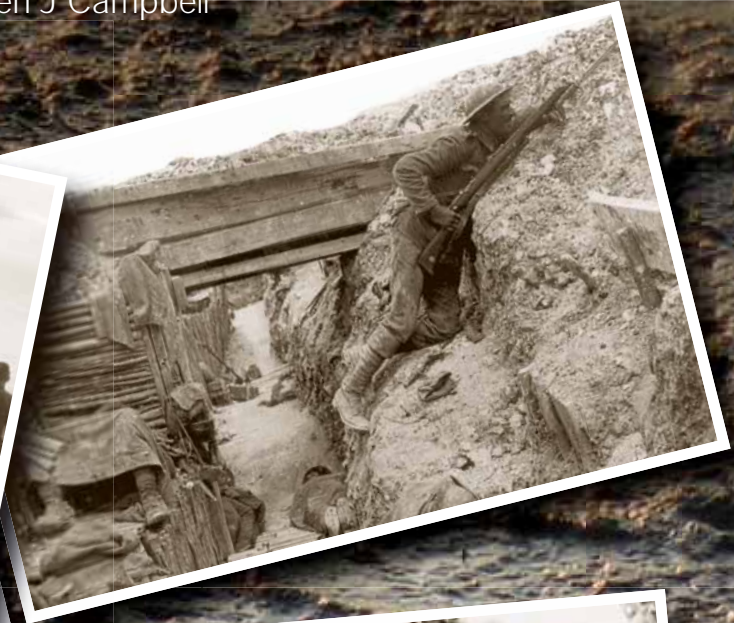# THE COST OF FREEDOM

Compiled by Warren J Campbell

| Victoria Cross (est 1856) | George Cross (est 1940) | Distinguished Service Order (est 1886) | Royal Red Cross 1st Class (est 1883) | Distinguished Service Cross (est 1914) | Military Cross (est 1914) |

| Distinguished Flying Cross (est 1918) | Distinguished Conduct Medal (est 1854) | Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (est 1855) | Distinguished Service Medal (est 1914) | Military Medal (est 1916) | Distinguished Flying Medal (est 1916) |

CHINA 1900-1901   **1ST WORLD WAR** 1914-1918

| China War Medal | 1914-15 Star | British War Medal | Victory Medal | 1939-45 Star | Atlantic Star |

2ND WORLD WAR 1939-1945

| Defence Medal | War Medal 1939-45 | Australian Service Medal 1939-45 | Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 | Korea Medal | UN Service Medal Korea |

SERVICE 1945-1975   **FOR SERVICE POST** 1975

| Vietnamese Campaign Medal | Australian Active Service Medal | Interfet Medal | Afghanistan Medal | Iraq Medal | Australian Service Medal |

| Distinguished Service Medal | Commendation for Gallantry | Star of Gallantry | Medal for Gallantry | | |

Distinguished Flying Cross (est 1918)

Distinguished Conduct Medal (est 1854)

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (est 1855)

Distinguished Service Medal (est 1914)

Military Medal (est 1916)

Distinguished Flying Medal (est 1916)

Mention in Dispatches First World War
Worn on the Victory Medal (est 19th C)

Mention in Dispatches Second World War
Worn on the War Medal (1939-45)

SUDAN 1885

Queen's Sudan Medal

Kherdiv's Sudan Medal

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR 1899-1902

Queen's South Africa Medal

King's South Africa Medal

2ND WORLD WAR 1939-1945

Air Crew Europe Star

Africa Star

Pacific Star

Burma Star

Italy Star

France and Germany Star

FOR SERVICE DURING THE PERIOD, 1945-1975

Naval General Service Medal 1915-62

General Service Medal 1918-62

General Service Medal 1962

Vietnam Medal

Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal

Australian Service Medal 1945-75

Rhodesia Medal

Nursing Service Cross

Conspicuous Service Cross

Conspicuous Service Medal

Commendation for Distinguished Service

Distinguished Service Cross

AUSTRALIAN
SERVICE MEDALS

2

THE COST OF FREEDOM

The 25th April (ANZAC Day) celebrates the country's national unity & what it means to be Australian.

This is the day when we remember those who have served our nation in wartime, beginning with the Boer War, WW1, WW2, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, & other peacekeeping missions throughout the world.

We celebrate because on this day in 1915, ANZAC (Australian & New Zealand Army Corps) landed at Gallipoli, Turkey. This was the first major engagement in the first world war. The ANZAC forces were dispatched to defend the Dardenelles (a strategic narrow sea passage) between the Aegean & the Black sea.

The ANZAC forces were left holding a front that was 1.5 kilometres long by barely 500 metres wide; such was the ferocity of the Turksish defence Australian casualties were 26,111 of which 8,000 were killed in action, died of wounds or succumbed to disease.

Nine Victoria crosses for exceptional bravery were awarded. Nearly 3,000 New Zealanders died, 7,991 casualties with one Victoria cross awarded.

It is right for us to honour & remember those who fought with this ANZAC spirit, for it is important to remember that freedom is never won without cost.

THE COST OF FREEDOM

CONTENTS

THE ODE OF REMEMBRANCE

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them."

(respond)
We will remember them

Lest we forget.

(respond)
Lest we forget.

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR
(Australian National Anthem)

Australia's sons let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in Nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In hist'ry's page, let ev'ry stage
Advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross,
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make our youthful Commonwealth
Renowned of all the lands;
For loyal sons beyond the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia fair!*

THE ANZAC ON THE WALL
By Jim Brown

I wandered thru a country town, 'cos I had some time to spare,
And went into an Antique Shop to see what was in there.
Old Bikes and Pumps and Kero lamps, but hidden by it all,
A photo of a soldier boy … An Anzac on the Wall.

'The Anzac have a name?' I asked. The old man answered 'No',
The ones who could have told you mate, have passed on long ago.
The old man kept on talking and, according to his tale,
The photo was unwanted junk, bought from a clearance sale.

'I asked around,' the old man said, 'But no one knows his face,
He's been on that wall twenty years .. deserves a better place.
For someone must have loved him, so it seems a shame somehow.'
I nodded in agreement and then said … 'I'll take him now.'

My nameless digger's photo, well it was a sorry sight
A cracked glass pane and a broken frame …I had to make it right
To prise the photo from its frame I took care just in case,
Cause only sticky paper held the cardboard back in place.

I peeled away the faded screed, and much to my surprise,
two letters and a telegram, appeared before my eyes
The first reveals my Anzac's name, and regiment of course
John Mathew Francis Stuart of Australia 's own Light Horse.

This letter written from the front … my interest now was keen;
this note was dated August 7th, 1917

'Dear Mum, I'm at Khalasa Springs, not far from the Red Sea
They say it's in the Bible … looks like a Billabong to me.
'My Kathy wrote, I'm in her prayers she's still my bride to be,
I just can't wait to see you both, you're all the world to me.

And Mum you'll soon meet Bluey, last month they shipped him out
I told him to call on you, when he's up and about.'
'That bluey is a larrikin, and we all thought it funny,
He lobbed a Turkish hand grenade into the Co's dunny.

I told you how he dragged me wounded; in from no man's land
He stopped the bleeding, closed the wound, with only his bare hand.'
'Then he copped it at the front, from some stray shrapnel blast,
It was my turn to drag him in, and I thought he wouldn't last.

He woke up in hospital, and nearly lost his mind
Cause out there on the battlefield, he'd left one leg behind.'
'He's been in a bad way Mum, he knows he'll ride no more
Like me he loves a horse's back, he was a champ before.

So Please Mum can you take him in, he's been like my own brother
Raised in a Queensland orphanage he's never known a mother.'
But Struth, I miss Australia Mum, and in my mind each day
I am a mountain cattleman, on the high plains far away.
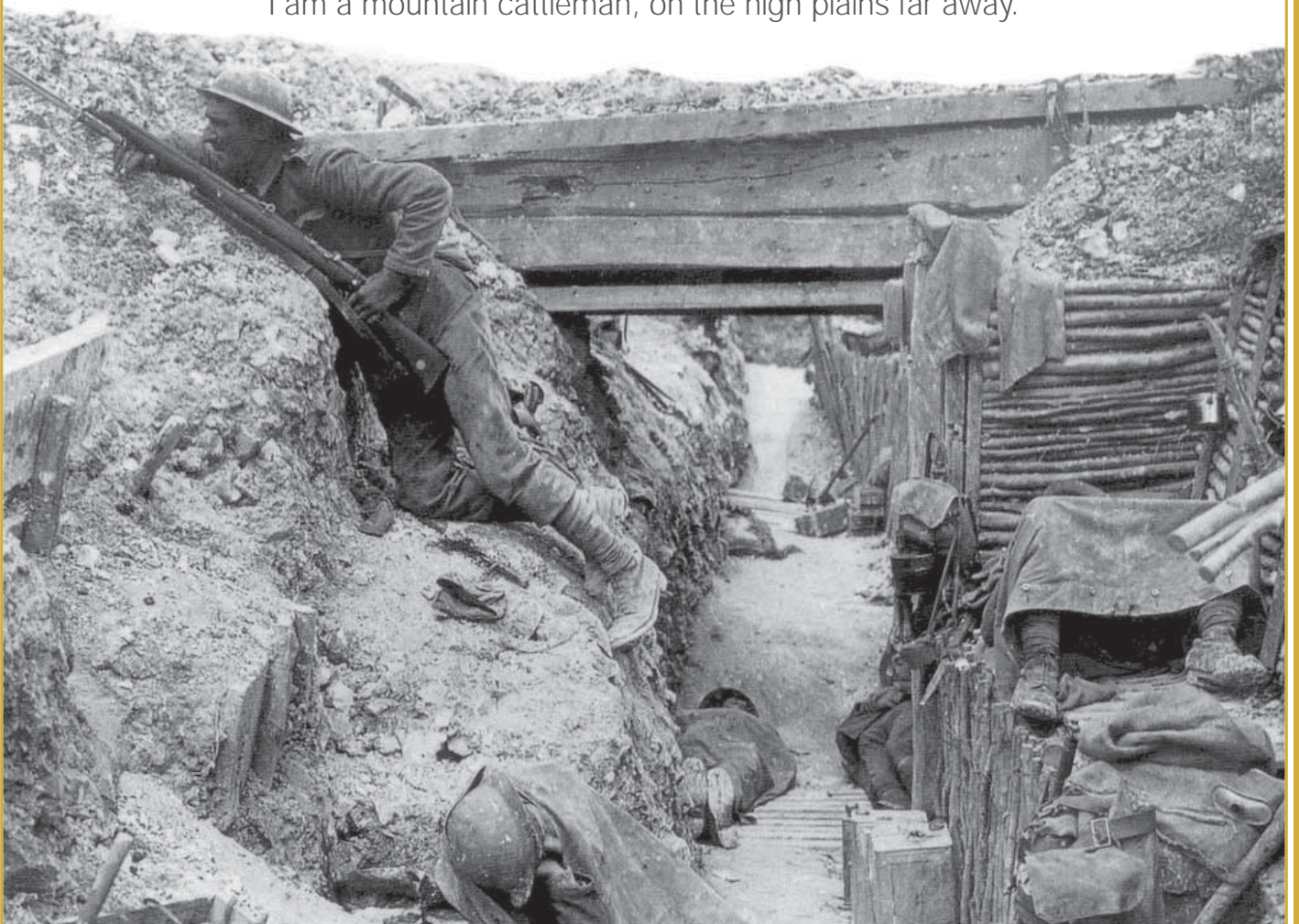
I'm mustering white-faced cattle, with no camel's hump in sight,
and I waltz my Matilda, by a campfire every night
I wonder who rides Billy …!! I heard the pub burnt down!!
I'll always love you … and please say Hooroo, to all in town'.

The second letter I could see, was in a lady's hand,
An answer to her soldier son, there in a foreign land.
Her copperplate was perfect, the pages neat and clean
it bore the date, November 3rd 1917.

'T'was hard enough to lose your Dad, without you at the war
I'd hoped you would be home by now … each day I miss you more'

'Your Kathy calls around a lot, since you have been away,
To share with me her hopes and dreams, about your wedding day.
And Bluey has arrived … and what a godsend he has been
We talked and laughed for days, about the things you've done and seen'

'He really is a comfort, and works hard around the farm,
I read the same hope in his eyes, that you won't come to harm.
Mc Connell's kids rode Billy, but suddenly that has changed.
We had a violent lightning storm, and it was really strange.'

'Last Wednesday, just on midnight, not a single cloud in sight,
It raged for several minutes, it gave us all a fright.
It really spooked your Billy … and he screamed and bucked and reared,
And then he rushed the sliprail fence, which by a foot he cleared'

'They brought him back next afternoon, but something's changed I fear,
It's like the day you brought him home, for no one can get near.
Remember when you caught him, with his black and flowing mane?
Now Horse Breakers fear the beast, that only you can tame,'

'That's why we need you home son …… Then the flow of ink went dry ……
This letter was unfinished … and I couldn't work out why.

Until I started reading, the letter, number three
A yellow telegram delivered news of a tragedy.
Her son killed in action … Oh! What pain that must have been,
the same date as her letter … 3rd November 1917

This letter which was never sent, became then one of three.
She sealed behind the photo's face … the face she longed to see.
And John's home town's children, when he went to war,
Would say no greater cattleman, had left the town before.

They knew his widowed mother well, and with respect did tell,
How when she lost her only boy … she lost her mind as well.
She could not face the awful truth, to strangers she would speak
"My Johnny's at the war you know … he's coming home next week."

They all remembered Bluey, he stayed on to the end.
A young man with wooden leg, became her closest friend.
And he would go and find her when she wandered, old and weak,
and always softly say … 'Yes dear … John will be coming home next week.'

Then when she died, Bluey moved on … to Queensland some did say.
I tried to find out where he went, but don't know to this day.
And Kathy never wed, a lonely spinster… some found odd.
She wouldn't set foot in a church … she'd turned her back on God.

John's mother left no Will, I learned, on my detective trail.
This explains my photo's journey, of that clearance sale.
So I continued digging, cause, I wanted to know more.
I found John's name with thousands, in the records of the war.

His last ride proved his courage… a ride you will acclaim
The Light Horse Charge at Beersheba of everlasting fame.
That last day in October back in 1917,
at 4pm our brave boys fell … that sad fact I did glean.

That's when John's life was sacrificed, the record's crystal clear.
But 4pm in Beersheba is midnight over here ....
So as John's gallant spirit rose, to cross the great divide,
Were lightning bolts back home, a signal from the other side?

Is that why Billy bolted, and went racing as in pain …?
Because he'd never feel his master, on his back again …!
Was it coincidental …? Same time ... Same day … Same date …!
Some proof of numerology … or just a quirk of fate …?

I think it's more than that you know, as I've heard wiser men,
Acknowledge there are many things, that go beyond our ken
Where craggy peaks guard secrets, neath dark skies torn asunder,
Where hoof beats are companions, to the rolling waves of thunder

Where lightning cracks like 303's, and ricochets again,
Where howling moaning gusts of wind, sound just like dying men
Some Mountain cattlemen have sworn, on lonely alpine track,
They've glimpsed a huge black stallion …with Light Horseman on his back.

Yes Sceptics say, it's swirling clouds, just forming apparitions.
Oh No, My friend you can't dismiss all this as, superstition.

The desert of Beersheba … or a windswept Aussie range,
John Stuart rides on forever there … I don't find that at all strange.
Now some gaze upon this photo, and they often question me,
and I tell them a small white lie, and say he's family.

'You must be proud of him.' they say … I tell them, one and all,
That's why he takes … the pride of place …

THE ANZAC ON THE WALL.

STATISTICS FROM THE GREAT WAR (WW1)
CASUALTIES:

Allies	5,712,000 – military dead 12,809,000 – wounded
The Enemy	4,010,000 – military dead 8,419,000 – wounded
Civilian deaths (from both sides) –	6,841,000
Total Deaths –	16,563,000.

The Australian statistics from a population of fewer than 5,000,000 were 416,809 men enlisted, of which more than 60,000 were killed & 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner.

Fortunately the Great War was the last war in which soldiers were called on to charge across open areas in the face of machine gun fire & other weapons & fight in enemy trenches with hand to hand fighting.

Attending & marching on Anzac Day is one way of showing our respect for the thousands of Australians whose lives were ended or horribly affected by war ; this includes both serving personnel & their loved ones.

LEST WE FORGET.

A VETERAN DIED TODAY

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the home,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Bluey has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."

DEATHS AS A RESULT OF SERVICE WITH AUSTRALIAN UNITS

There are a number of sources from which casualty statistics can be drawn. The figures below, the number of deaths as a result of service with Australian units, are derived from the Roll of Honour.

Questions of eligibility for the Roll of Honour are determined solely by the Memorial's Council, and have been considered many times over the years by Council and before it by the Memorial's Board. When a name has been approved by Council as eligible for addition to the Roll of Honour for a current conflict, that name is added on Remembrance Day each year.

Conflict	Dates of conflict [1]	No of deaths
New Zealand	1860–61	Nil
Sudan	1885	9
South Africa	11 October 1899 – 31 May 1902	589
China	6 August 1900 – 25 April 1901	6
First World War	4 August 1914 – 31 March 1921	61,516
Second World War	3 September 1939 – 30 June 1947	39,648
Australia (North Queensland Coast, bomb and mine clearance)	1947 - 1950	4
Japan (British Commonwealth Occupation Force)	1947 - 1952	3
Papua and New Guinea	1947 - 1975	13
Middle East (UNTSO; Operation Paladin)	1948	1
Berlin Airlift	1948 - 1949	1
Malayan Emergency	16 June 1948 – 31 July 1960	39
Kashmir		
(United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan)	1948 -1985	1
Korean War	27 June 1950 – 27 July 1953	340
Malta	1952 - 1955	3

Conflict	Dates of conflict [1]	No of deaths
Korean War (Post-Armistice service - ceasefire monitoring)	1953 -1957	16
Southeast Asia (SEATO)	1955 - 1975	6
Indonesian Confrontation	24 December 1962– 11 August 1966	21
Malay Peninsula	19 February 1964 – 11 August 1966	2
Vietnam War	3 August 1962 – 29 April 1975	521
Thailand	25 June 1965 – 31 August 1968	2
Irian Jaya Operation Cenderawasih)	1976 - 1981	1
Western Sahara (MINURSO)	1991 -1994	1
Somalia	20 October 1992 – 30 November 1994	1
Bougainville	1997 - 2003	1
East Timor	16 September 1999 – 18 August 2003	2
East Timor (Operation Astute)	1999 - 2013	2
Afghanistan	11 October 2001 – present	41[2]
Iraq	16 July 2003 – 31 July 2009	2
Solomon Island (RAMSI - Operation Anode)	2003 - 2013	1
Indonesia (Operation Sumatra Assist)	2005	9
Fiji	2006	2
Total		102,804

1. ^ Dates for Roll of Honour eligibility purposes.

2. ^ The figures for current conflicts do not necessarily correlate with the details of the Roll of Honour as the Roll is updated on Remembrance Day.

THE CONSCRIPT

It was a time of military expansion including two years national service for a portion of Australian 20 year olds and decided by birthday dates drawn from a barrel. They were impressive young men who became tough, disciplined and determined soldiers. History shows that regardless of dangers they never faltered in their duty. They came from all walks of life; quickly adapted to the mad discipline of army routine and yet never lost that wry Aussie sense of humour and could be relied upon to create mischief. They were magnificent. To the credit of the Army at that time, it is true to say that after initial basic training, it was difficult to identify a Regular from a Nasho. Indeed, many conscripts in a short time became junior officers or NCOs and commanded troops in battle. In a troubled and complex world, the thought of a modified national service training scheme to enhance personal and collective values for our youth should always be considered. After all, we wouldn't want such a precious national asset to become soft, indifferent, wrapped in cotton wool and not able to scale those challenging trees of life to compete in an ever shrinking planet where the rule of competition in life is win or lose and where there is "no quarter." Or would we? In the meantime while Canberra blunders and bounces from one brick wall to another, please crack a tinny with me and drink to those magnificent Nasho bastards and their regular ugly counterparts who did our nation proud. *(Thanks to George Mansford)*

OFFICER TRAINING UNIT (OTU)

During the National Service Scheme of 1965-73, some 800,000 young Australians were registered for call up; with 64,000 (8%) selected by ballot based on their 20th birthday date and called up for two years service. Of these 64,000 national servicemen, 2700 (4%) were selected for a 21 week make or break course at OTU Scheyville and, of those 2,700, only 1,800 finally graduated as Second Lieutenants, around their 21st birthday. Statistically they were a unique group of men. The experience at Scheyville had in most cases a major impact on their lives. For many it was one of the most intensive experiences they would encounter. For others it changes their lives forever. Some served on with distinction in the Regular Army and Army reserve' with many reaching senior rank, up to the level of Major General. Many earned gallantry awards in Vietnam and Malaysia. Others went on to make a substantial contribution to Australian society through careers in politics, business, law, public services, education, sport, the arts and sciences and on the land.

This unique group of men won the hard earned respect of the Army and OTU Scheyville has gone in the annals of military history as one of the Army's great successes.

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES IN THE VIETNAM WAR, 1962–72

These statistics were sourced from the appendix of On the offensive: the Australian Army in the Vietnam War 1967–1968. For details of the total number of Australians who died during the Vietnam War, 1962- 1975, please refer to Deaths as a result of service with Australian units.

Statistics: Total Australian service casualties in the Vietnam War, 1962–72

Service	Died	Wounded/injured/ill	Total
Army	478	3,025	3,505
RAN	8	48	56
RAAF	14	56	70
TOTAL	500	3,129	3,629

Note: The total of 500 deaths comprises 426 battle casualties and 74 non-battle casualties.

Australian Army casualties in the Vietnam War, 1962-1972 Battle casualties

Service	Australian Regular Army	National servicemen	Citizen's Military Forces	Total
Killed in action	172	143	1	316
Killed accidentally	15	10	0	25
Died of wounds	40	28	0	68
Died of injury/illness	0	3	0	3
Missing presumed dead	0	1	0	1
Drowned	1	0	0	1
Wounded in action	1,140	880	6	2,026
Wounded accidentally	92	87	1	180
Injured/ill in battle	79	63	0	142

Totals by category 414 killed in battle, 2,348 wounded in battle

Non-battle casualties

Service	Australian Regular Army	National service-men	Citizen's Military Forces	Total
Killed/died	49	15	0	64
Injured/ill	426	249	2	677

Australian Army casualties in Vietnam by year, 1962–72

BC = Battle casualty

NBC = Non-battle casualty

Deaths

Year	BC	NBC	Total
1962	0	0	0
1963	0	1	1
1964	1	0	1
1965	11	5	16
1966	56	7	63
1967	70	11	81
1968	102	5	107
1969	95	9	104
1970	54	11	65
1971	28	12	40
1972	0	0	0
Total	417	61	478

Wounded/injured/ill

Year	BC	NBC	Total
1962	0	2	2
1963	0	1	1
1964	8	1	9
1965	83	17	100
1966	226	62	288
1967	276	131	407
1968	529	170	699
1969	648	145	793
1970	422	69	491
1971	166	60	226
1972	4	5	9
Total	2,362	663	3,025

STATISTICAL DATA ON THE VIETNAM WAR

Official Numbers of Who Served - By Group/Service

Source - Department of Veterans Affairs - Vietnam Veterans Roll - Released 1996

Group/Service	Estimate	Collected	Complete
Australian Regular Army/National Service/CMF			
ARA & NS Male Personnel (approx 18,000 NS)	40,610	40,695	100.2%
ARA Female Personnel	47	47	100.0%
ARA & NS Visitors	1,300	64	45.9%
CMF Observers		629	
Total ARA/NS/CMF	41,957	41,435	98.8%
Royal Australian Air Force			
Male Personnel	4,443	4,281	96.4%
Medivac Flights - Nurses	106	106	100.0%
Medevac Flights - Male Personnel	157	157	100.0%
Total Royal Australian Air Force	4,706	4,544	96.6%
Royal Australian Navy			
Personnel on Operations in Vietnam	2,858	2,880	100.8%
Logistics Support Personnel	10,000	9,496	95.0%
Total Royal Australian Navy	12,858	12,376	96.3%
Philanthropic Organisations			
Australian Red Cross	22	22	100.0%
Everymans Welfare Service/Campaigners For Christ	6	6	100.0%
Salvation Army	13	13	100.0%
YMCA	5	5	100.0%
Australian Forces Overseas Fund	5	5	100.0%
Total Philanthropic Organisations	51	51	100.0%
Civilians			
Merchant Seamen	230	230	100.0%
SEATO Aid Program Surgical Teams	445	441	99.1%
Official Entertainers	349	349	100.0%
War Correspondents and Photographers	92	92	100.0%
Others	2	2	100.0%
Total Civilians	1,118	1,114	99.6
Grand Total	60,690	59,520	98.1%

804,000 Australian men registered for National Service (NS)
63,000 NS were called up - 18,000 NS saw service in Vietnam

Cost of the Australian Commitment - Human Terms

Action	ARA	NS	CMF	ARMY	RAN	RAAF	TOTAL
Killed In Action(KIA)	172	143	1	316	6	4	326
Killed Accidentally	15	10	-	25	-	-	25
Died of Wounds	40	28	-	68	-	-	68
Missing in Action(MIA)			-	4	-	2	6
NonBattle DeathsNBC	50	15	-	65	3	8	76
Totals Deaths Civilian Deaths 7	278	200	1	479	9	14	501 508
Wounded In Action	1140	880	6	2026	13	30	2069
Injured/Ill in Action	171	150	1	322	9	-	331
NBC injured/ill	426	249	2	677	28	26	731
Total Non Fatal	1737	1279	9	3025	50	70	3632

Source: Australian Defence Force Casualties in Vietnam - Revised June 1988. The Official figures still indicate only 1 as Missing in Action (MIA). We have adjusted the figure to show 6, which we believe to be the true figure. We have accounted for a definite 6 MIA. Confusion may exist as some MIAs were listed as KIA, even though their bodies were never recovered from the battle field.

General Statistics - Vietnam casualties

1. Estimated overall at 5,773,190
2. Estimated dead 2,122,244
3. Americans killed - 58,169 at an average age of 23.11 years - 304,000 wounded
4. 11,465 killed were less than 20 years
5. 1 in 10 Americans who served in Vietnam were casualties
6. 75,000 Veterans were severely disabled
7. Amputation and crippling wounds were 300% higher than WW2
8. 51% of deaths and 16% of wounds were caused by small arms fire.(World War II 32% - Korea 33%). The higher rate in Vietnam was contributed to the high velocity rapid fire weapons such as the AK47 and captured M16s.
9. 36% of deaths and 65% of wounds were caused by fragments from artillery
10. 11% of deaths and 15% of wounds were caused by booby traps and mines
11. 2% of wounds were caused by punji stakes
12. 2% of deaths and 2% of wounds were caused by other means
13. There were 18 military hospitals scattered throughout Vietnam
14. Medivac helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions
15. 900,000 patients were airlifted (almost half being American)

16. Average time lapse from being wounded to hospitalisation was one hour
17. Percentage of those seriously wounded who were saved 82 %
18. Percentage of wounded who died after arriving at hospital 2.6
19. There were almost twice as many casualties in South East Asia(primarily Cambodia)in the first two years after the fall of Siagon in 1975 than there were during the ten years the US was involved.
20. 1973 - US POWs in SE Asia 591, missing in action 1,380, unaccounted for 1,929.
21. North Vietnamese military personnel and Vietcong reported to have died in combat 444,000 .
22. Estimated number of Vietnamese civilians killed in the war 587,000.
23. Estimated number of Vietnamese civilians wounded in the war 935,000 .
24. Number of South Vietnamese military personnel killed during the war 220,357
25. Number of South Vietnamese military personnel wounded during the war 499,000
26. Number of South Vietnamese military personnel who deserted between 1965 and 1972 840,000.
27. Number of US NCOs and US Officers killed by their own troops 86.
28. Number of US NCOs and US Officers wounded by their own troops 714 .
29. Number of probable explosive-device assaults (fraggings) against officers by US servicemen 788 .

The Air War

1. The US flew 1,899,688 sorties and dropped 6,727,084 tons bombs on Indo China, compared with the 2,700,00 tons of bombs dropped on Germany during the Second World War
2. US conducted 124,532 B52 missions, expending 2,633,035 tons of ordnance
3. 18 B52s were lost to enemy action with 13 more lost in collisions and accidents
4. 3,750 Aircraft (Fixed Wing) were lost in Vietnam.
5. More than 8,000 US Airmen were killed
6. Approx. 12,000 helicopters saw service in Vietnam (all services)
7. 4865 Helicopters were downed by Communist ground fire at a cost of $250,000 ea.
8. By the end of 1968 Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) 9 Sqn with only 6 helicopters had amassed 100,000 sorties in support of Australian troops, carried more than 150,000 passengers and evacuated from the battle field 2,000 casualties. Overall the RAAF conducted 331,000 missions of which 315,000 were operational sorties.
9. The RAAF No2 Sqn (Canberra Bombers) lost 2 aircraft in Vietnam. 1 shot down by a SAM and 1 lost without trace.
10. RAAF 9 Sqn (Iroquois Helicopters) lost 7 aircraft. No 35 Sqn (Caribou) lost 3 aircraft.

11. 35 Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Helicopter Pilots saw service in Vietnam and flew a total of 33,735 hours.
12. Amount of the damage, in dollars, inflicted on North Vietnam by US bombing raids $600,000,000
13. Cost of US bombing raids on North Vietnam $6,000,000,00.

The Ground War

1. 2.59 million Americans saw service in Vietnam
2. From 1957 to 1973 the NLF assassinated 36,725 South Vietnamese and abducted another 58,499

The Chemical War

1. 3,500,000 acres of Vietnam was sprayed with 19 million gallons of Defoliants, the effects that will last 100 years.

Naval Operations

1. HMAS Hobart served 3 times and fired a total of 42,475 rounds in support of ground troops. HMAS Perth, 3 deployments, firing 30,711 rounds, HMAS Brisbane, twice, firing 15,651 rounds and HMAS Vendetta once, firing 13,709 rounds of ordnance.

The Infantry Combat Soldier

1. Average age of Infantry soldiers was 20 years.
2. Average age during World War 2 was 26 years.
3. The infantry soldier in the South Pacific in WW2 saw about 40 days of combat in four years
4. The American infantry soldier in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in 1 year.
5. The Australian infantry soldier saw an average of 314 days combat in 1 year.

Logistics

1. 352(US) Billion Dollars spent on the war.
2. 760,000 tons of supplies arrived each month.
3. 10 million field rations were consumed each month.
4. 71,000 tons of ammunition was expended each month.
5. 303 million litres of petroleum products were consumed each month.
6. Engineers paved 33,450 hectares of airfields and heliports.
7. Engineers constructed 18,000 hectares of covered and open storage facilities plus 14,150 cubic metres of refrigerated storage.
8. Engineers constructed 2,740 km of roads, built 4,600 metres of bridges and constructed 15 large fortified bases.

9. Average number of artillery rounds expended in one day by the US in Vietnam 10,000.
10. Cost per artillery round $100 .Cost per day $1,000,000
11. Cost of one sortie for a B-52 bomber $30,000
12. Amount of aid, in dollars, provided to North Vietnam and the Vietcong by the Soviet Union and China $3,000,000,000 .

Civilian

1. There were 140,000 Vietnamese evacuees in April 1975.(The Fall Of Saigon).
2. An estimated 10 million Vietnamese were refugees being 55% of the population including 900,000 orphans
3. Estimated number of Vietnamese civilians killed in the war 587,000 .
4. Estimated number of Vietnamese civilians wounded in the war 935,000

At Wars End - Equipment Lost To Communist Forces (Estimated)

1. 550 light and medium tanks.
2. 1,200 Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC).
3. 80 small ships and landing craft.
4. 1,000 aircraft including 200 fighters and ground attacks aircraft.
5. 100 transport aircraft and 500 helicopters.

THE VIETNAM WAR

An American "point of view" of stats & comments with credits to Capt. Marshal Hanson USNR (Ret.) & Capt. Scott Beaton, Statistical Bureau Sources.

9,087,000 military personel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5 1964 to May 7 1975 ; 2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis in 1961. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named in his honour.

240 men were awarded the Medal of Honour ; 58,148 were killed in Vietnam; 75,000 were severely disabled; 23,214 were 100% disabled; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations; of those killed 61% were younger than 21years old; 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old; of those killed 17,539 were married; average age of men killed was 23years old; five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old; the oldest man killed was 62 years old; 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam; 1448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam; the most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 – 245 deaths (start of the TET Offensive); the most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 – 2,415 deaths ; As of January 15, 2004 there are 1875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

Servicemen who went to Vietnam from well-to-do areas had a slightly increased risk of dying because they were more likely to be pilots or infantry officers; Vietnam Vets were the best educated forces our nation had ever sent into combat; 79% had a high school education or better; assuming KIA's accurately represented age groups serving in Vietnam, the average age of an infantryman was actually 22 years old; none of the enlisted grades have an average age of less than 20; the average man who fought in WW2 was 26 years of age.

The average infantryman in the South Pacific during WW2 saw about 40 days of combat in four years; the average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter; although the percentage that died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were 300% higher than in WW2; medivac helicopters flew 500,000 missions; over 900,000 patients were airlifted with the average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was less than one hour; the helicopter provided unprecedented mobility; without the helicopter it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 800 mile border with Cambodia & Laos (the politicians thought the Geneva Conventions of 1954 & the Geneva Accords of 1962 would secure the border).

Kim Phuc, the little nine year old Vietnamese girl running naked from the napalm strike near the village of Trang Bang on June 8 1972 (shown millions of times on news & TV) was NOT burned by American bombing but by VNAF (Vietnam Air Force) flown by Vietnamese pilots who dropped napalm in error trying to force NVA (North Vietnamese Army) elements out of the village over a three day battle.

The domino theory could be seen as accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries – Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore & Thailand stayed free of Communism because of the Allied commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of the Allied Forces commitment in Vietnam. The Vietnam War was the turning point for Communism.

The fall of Saigon happened 30 April 1975 – two years AFTER the Allied Forces left Vietnam, The last troops departed in their entirety 29 March 1973. The peace settlement was signed in Paris on 27 January 1973 & called for release of all US prisoners; withdrawal of all forces, limitation of both sides' forces inside South Vietnam & a commitment to peaceful reunification. The 140,000 evacuees in April 1975 during the fall of Saigon consisted almost entirely of civilians & Vietnamese military.

For most people (particularly Americans) who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created; to those of us who survived the war, & to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons & daughters.

THERE ARE NO NOBLE WARS, JUST NOBLE WARRIORS.

WALTZING MATILDA

by A.B. 'Banjo' Paterson

Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong,

Under the shade of a coolibah tree,

And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled,

"Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?

Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda,

Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?"

And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled,

"Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me?"

Down came a jumbuck to drink at the billabong:

Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him with glee.

And he sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his tucker-bag,

"You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.

Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda,

You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me."

And he sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his tucker-bag,

"You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me."

Up rode a squatter, mounted on his thoroughbred;

Down came the troopers, one, two, three:

"Who's that jolly jumbuck you've got in your tucker-bag?

You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me!

Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda,

You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.

Who's that jolly jumbuck you've got in your tucker-bag?

You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me!"

Up jumped the swagman and sprang into the billabong;

"You'll never catch me alive!" said he;

And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that billabong,

"You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me!

Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda,

You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me!"

And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that billabong,

"You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me!"

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* **Swagman**: *an intinerant farmhand, carrying his "swag" (his blankets) rolled into a cylinder*
* **Billabong**: *a creek (normally with a pronounced "oxbow" bend)*
* **Coolibah tree**: *a eucalypt (gum) tree)*
* **waited till his billy boiled**: *a billy is a tin can used to heat water over a campfire to make tea*
* **Jumbuck**: *sheep*
* **Tucker-bag**: *bag or box used to store food*
* **squatter**: *farmer/grazier who simply found good land and took possession; some became extremely rich*
* **trooper**: *policeman or soldier on horseback*

The Man from Snowy River
by A.B. 'Banjo' Paterson

There was movement at the station, for the word had passed around
That the colt from old Regret had got away,
And had joined the wild bush horses — he was worth a thousand pound,
So all the cracks had gathered to the fray.

All the tried and noted riders from the stations near and far
Had mustered at the homestead overnight,
For the bushmen love hard riding where the wild bush horses are,
And the stock-horse snuffs the battle with delight.

There was Harrison, who made his pile when Pardon won the cup,
The old man with his hair as white as snow;
But few could ride beside him when his blood was fairly up —
He would go wherever horse and man could go.

And Clancy of the Overflow came down to lend a hand,
No better horseman ever held the reins;
For never horse could throw him while the saddle-girths would stand,
He learnt to ride while droving on the plains.

And one was there, a stripling on a small and weedy beast,
He was something like a racehorse undersized,
With a touch of Timor pony — three parts thoroughbred at least —
And such as are by mountain horsemen prized.

He was hard and tough and wiry — just the sort that won't say die —
There was courage in his quick impatient tread;
And he bore the badge of gameness in his bright and fiery eye,
And the proud and lofty carriage of his head.

But still so slight and weedy, one would doubt his power to stay,
And the old man said, 'That horse will never do
'For a long and tiring gallop — lad, you'd better stop away,
'Those hills are far too rough for such as you.'

So he waited sad and wistful — only Clancy stood his friend —
'I think we ought to let him come,' he said;
'I warrant he'll be with us when he's wanted at the end,
'For both his horse and he are mountain bred.'

'He hails from Snowy River, up by Kosciusko's side,
'Where the hills are twice as steep and twice as rough,
'Where a horse's hoofs strike firelight from the flint stones every stride,
'The man that holds his own is good enough.

'And the Snowy River riders on the mountains make their home,
'Where the river runs those giant hills between;
'I have seen full many horsemen since I first commenced to roam,
'But nowhere yet such horsemen have I seen.'

So he went — they found the horses by the big mimosa clump —
They raced away towards the mountain's brow,
And the old man gave his orders, 'Boys, go at them from the jump,
'No use to try for fancy riding now.

'And, Clancy, you must wheel them, try and wheel them to the right.
'Ride boldly, lad, and never fear the spills,
'For never yet was rider that could keep the mob in sight,
'If once they gain the shelter of those hills.'

So Clancy rode to wheel them — he was racing on the wing
Where the best and boldest riders take their place,
And he raced his stock-horse past them, and he made the ranges ring
With the stockwhip, as he met them face to face.

Then they halted for a moment, while he swung the dreaded lash,
But they saw their well-loved mountain full in view,
And they charged beneath the stockwhip with a sharp and sudden dash,
And off into the mountain scrub they flew.

Then fast the horsemen followed, where the gorges deep and black
Resounded to the thunder of their tread,
And the stockwhips woke the echoes, and they fiercely answered back
From cliffs and crags that beetled overhead.

And upward, ever upward, the wild horses held their way,
Where mountain ash and kurrajong grew wide;
And the old man muttered fiercely, 'We may bid the mob good day,
'No man can hold them down the other side.'

When they reached the mountain's summit, even Clancy took a pull,
It well might make the boldest hold their breath,
The wild hop scrub grew thickly, and the hidden ground was full
Of wombat holes, and any slip was death.

But the man from Snowy River let the pony have his head,
And he swung his stockwhip round and gave a cheer,
And he raced him down the mountain like a torrent down its bed,
While the others stood and watched in very fear.

He sent the flint stones flying, but the pony kept his feet,
He cleared the fallen timber in his stride,
And the man from Snowy River never shifted in his seat —
It was grand to see that mountain horseman ride.

Through the stringy barks and saplings, on the rough and broken ground,
Down the hillside at a racing pace he went;
And he never drew the bridle till he landed safe and sound,
At the bottom of that terrible descent.

He was right among the horses as they climbed the further hill,
And the watchers on the mountain standing mute,
Saw him ply the stockwhip fiercely, he was right among them still,
As he raced across the clearing in pursuit.

Then they lost him for a moment, where two mountain gullies met
In the ranges, but a final glimpse reveals
On a dim and distant hillside the wild horses racing yet,
With the man from Snowy River at their heels.

And he ran them single-handed till their sides were white with foam.
He followed like a bloodhound on their track,
Till they halted cowed and beaten, then he turned their heads for home,
And alone and unassisted brought them back.

But his hardy mountain pony he could scarcely raise a trot,
He was blood from hip to shoulder from the spur;
But his pluck was still undaunted, and his courage fiery hot,
For never yet was mountain horse a cur.

And down by Kosciusko, where the pine-clad ridges raise
Their torn and rugged battlements on high,
Where the air is clear as crystal, and the white stars fairly blaze
At midnight in the cold and frosty sky,

And where around the Overflow the reedbeds sweep and sway
To the breezes, and the rolling plains are wide,
The man from Snowy River is a household word to-day,
And the stockmen tell the story of his ride.