

Louden Park Cochrane

14th July 1924

Moodiarup

Went to school in 1932, left school in 1938, 14 years old. First job was as a farm labourer, at ten shillings a week, later thirty shillings. Joined the Army in March 1943 as a Vickers Machine Gunner to do my bit for the Country.

Training Infantry based Northam, Guildford, Wanneroo in WA, Bathurst NSW, Canungra Qld. JWF School overseas Bougainville at Torokina, Part 1 Numa Numa Trail Pearl Ridge, Part 2 Soraken Peninsula Saposai, Part 3 Ratsu-Ruri Bay. At wars end moved to Rabaul, New Britain guarding prisoners of war. 27/9/45 promoted from Pte to Cpl. Left Brisbane for overseas 13/12/44, returned home for discharge 16/7/46. Did not mind going overseas, but would not like to live in climate, relieved at war ending.

Were not treated very well on return at Sydney, cold weather in tropical dress, were told no winter clothes until we got to Melbourne.

On discharge worked on farms for two years. Married in 1948, purchased a farm, still live on farm in retirement.

No red lines in my pay book in the Army. 57 years driving license with no convictions.