
Thomas Culbertson

Thomas H Culbertson, born 8/8/1920 at Fremantle, Western Australia.

Moved to Queens Park in 1926 attended Queens Park Primary School, finished at age 14 years.

Had various jobs then did a fibrous plastering trade with H.B. Brady and Co.

Enlisted in the Army in WW2, enlistment number:- WX12561. I Trained at Northam Army Camp doing infantry training. I served from 9/5/1941 until 6/3/1946 mainly overseas. I think we all enlisted because it was the patriotic thing to do and it was a great adventure to go overseas.

During the war I spent time in Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, also while stationed in Palestine we went on leave to Jerusalem where we visited Bethlehem, the Dead Sea, Mount of Olives and the Wailing Wall.

On returning to Australia Japan then became involved in the war and we were sent to Papua New Guinea.

As a forward scout in Papua New Guinea I had some close shaves but the worst thing was seeing some of your mates get killed. The mud and rain of the Kokoda Track is something you can never forget, also the disease's up there, malaria etc.

It was certainly a great relief when the war finished as we could return home to our family and friends. It was very hard to settle down after 5 years in the armed Services.

I met my future wife who had served in the Australian Women's Land Army during WW2. We married on the 8/3/1947 and have three sons and three daughters.

I resumed my trade of fibrous plasterer and after travelling around the country we finally settled in Melbourne but return to Perth quite often to visit family and friends.