
Peter Dimopoulos

Full name

Peter Dimopoulos

Date of Birth

29th July 1925

Place of Birth

Greece

Very brief overview of life before WWII started, including education and work experience

Finished public school in Greece, one year schooling in Port Augusta, South Australia. Worked as labourer in mixed businesses.

What did you do in the war? Was it as a member of the armed forces, part of the war effort, land army, nursing, etc?

Merchant Navy for twelve months, joined the A.I.F. in 1941.

Why did you enlist?

I was out of work and decided to join up.

What training did you go through and where?

Rookie training marches for fitness, rifle exercises, machine gun lessons.

Where were you based – in Australia and overseas?

Naval Base Fremantle, Northam, Woodside S.A., Darwin N.T., Singapore, Chankanabouri Thailand.

If overseas, when did you leave and how long did you serve?

Left Darwin December 1941, arrived in Singapore January 1942, four years.

Feelings about going overseas or serving in Australia

Army life was very good to me, made many good friends, excitement of travel within Australia and overseas, excellent experience.

Describe your War experiences

As an ex P.O.W. I do not like to talk about my experiences however there were some very pleasant experiences.

Impact of those experiences – Were they life changing experiences?

Wartime experience as a P.O.W. has left mental scarring which had a lasting detrimental effect on ones working life and education.

If captured, where, by whom, and where was the POW camp?

Captured in Singapore on 15th February 1942 by the Japanese Army. Salangor Barracks, Thompson Road, Saranyoon Rd, Singapore, Kanchanaburi & Kaorin Thailand.

How did you find out the war had ended?

The Japanese Camp Commander informed us the morning of 15th August 1945.

How you felt about the war ending

Elated, the Thai people opened their homes to us, held parties and invited ex P.O.W.s to jointly celebrate the end of the war.

When did you return home – was it from overseas or within Australia?

Flew from Bangkok to Singapore and from Singapore by ship to Fremantle.

On your return, did you notice anything had changed in terms of family, friends, town lived in or way of life?

Ration coupons, petrol coupons, friends and relatives made us welcome, glad to be home.

Very brief overview of what you did with your life on return

After a few months in civil life I re-enlisted in the Army.

Were you involved in other conflicts, eg Korea, Vietnam etc?

No.