
Francis J. G. Smithson

WX 30084 Cpl F. Smithson

My full name is Francis John George Smithson and I was born on 5th February 1922 at Lambellup, W.A. I had public school education and left at just 14 years of age to start work on a farm at East Katanning.

After six years I joined the Army and was posted to a machine gun company. We had our initial training in Melville camp before heading to the eastern states and eventually our Battalion was posted to the Northern Territory where we camped south of Darwin and formed part of the Garrison force there.

Japanese raids were fairly frequent but fortunately missed our position. After some three years I was posted south for a 6 months tour of duty as an instructor in various training Battalions in New South Wales.

My Army service ended there after the war was over and I wasn't discharged until mid 1946. After the war I married and we raised a family on a WSLS Farm at Jerramungup. It was hard work to establish a home, as there was a lack of facilities.

I retired to Bremer Bay in 1981 and have lived in Albany since 2001.