

Words: 1487

Part A:

Harold Martin Steinert

27th October 1917 – 5th April 1986

SN: S37132



Figure 1: Harold Martin Steinert

of the Mechanical Engineering platoons. It was here in PNG that his efforts, along with those of many other service men, were invaluable in the war efforts.^x



Figure 6 (left): Harold Martin Steinert, SA Enlistment Photos
 Figure 7 (above): Australian Service Enlistment Photo.

REPORT		Report of all casualties recording promotions (acting, temporary, local or substantive), appointments, transfers, postings, assignments, etc., forfeiture of pay, wounds, accidents, admission to and discharge from Hospital, Officers' Quarters, etc., Date of disembarkation and embarkation from a theatre of war (including furlough, &c.).
Date	From whom received	
14-11-41	Self	
20-11-41	6 W/S & PK	Qualified D.M. Driver
23-12-41	"	Adm. to Troop, W. Ayrville (U.R.S.T)
29-12-41	"	Rejoined Unit from Troop, W. Ayrville
12-2-42	"	C. Home Leave obs. hrs. 12-2-42 to obs. hrs. 17-2-42, Subs. 5 days
17-4-42	N/15	C. Home Leave, obs. hrs. 17-4-42 to obs. hrs. 27-4-42
27-5-42	6 W/S & PK	Went to overseas for duty
29-6-42	TTC	Home Leave, obs. hrs. 29-6-42 to 24-6-42, Subs. 5 days
10-8-42	6 W/S & PK	Went to M.I. A. S.H. (Ayrville)
10-8-42	TTC	Rejoined Unit from Troop
15-8-42	6 W/S & PK	Went from M.I. A. S.H.
17-8-42	"	Home Leave, obs. hrs. 17-8-42 to obs. hrs. 15-9-42, Subs. 3 days

Figure 8: (Right) Record of Harold's driver training qualification attainment form.

POSITION AND RANK

When he first enlisted in the War effort, Harold was given the title of Recruit, along with every other new enrolled person. This was a title he held until he had completed his basic training.

On the 14th of November 1941 he was officially 'Called Up and Commenced FTD' (See Figure 8).

After completing basic training, all soldiers begin with the rank of Private. This can sometimes be referred to as Gunner, Trooper, Craftsman, Signaller, Patrolman, Sapper or Musician depending on their Corps or Regiment.^{xi} For Harold, the title of Sapper was recorded as being officially given to him on the 8th of December 1942, where he joined 2nd/2nd Field Park Company.

In Harold's case, he was recognized as a Sapper due to his position as a Field Engineer. A Sapper is 'a soldier who does jobs such as building bridges, repairing roads, and laying and clearing landmines'.^{xii} Harold worked as a Sapper in World War 2 on a range of projects both here in Australia and overseas in PNG.

The [AWM52 5/18/1/10](#) is a unit war diary kept by the 2/2 Australian Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers, during the Second World War, specifically from 1942. It shows that Harold was initially involved in the construction works establishing facilities at 'Old Minimbah Camp' in New South Wales. Some of the initial tasks recorded in the diaries, indicate he was involved in building toilet blocks, showers and water tanks, fireplaces and undertaking general maintenance at the campsite.^{xiii} All very essential jobs for the ongoing success of a large troop of soldiers.

His previous experience in camp establishment came to the fore, in Rocky Creek as the team were again critical in the establishment of the camp (See Appendix 1 – for detail on the significance of Rocky Creek).^{xiv}

Life continued with regularity for Harold as a soldier at Rocky Creek with exploration works being undertaken by Captain Ballantine R.L. (See Figure 9 below) in preparation for the troop's movement to PNG.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendixes, Diaries, etc.
Old Minibah	20 Jan. 43	1400	1 Officer & 42 O'Rs moved out to load trucks on Rail Pkwy: 24 Trucks	
	22 Jan. 43	1430	Remainder of Coy. moved out at 2100 entrained 2230hrs Singleton. Arrived at Glasgow - Brisbane Q'Land.	
"	"	1700	Transhipped Transport to Harroes Gauge Rail. Proceeded on narrow gauge Rail to Townsville.	
	25 Jan. 43	2100	Arrived at Townsville. Q'Land	
	"	2215	Proceeded to Innisfail.	
	26 Jan. 43	1120	Arrived at Innisfail. Unloaded Transport by 1500 Hrs.	
"	"	"	Refueled at Innisfail Petrol Depot and moved off by road in convoy to destination - Rocky Creek. Q'Land. Arrived Rocky Creek 1945 Hrs.	
"	"	"	Evening meal prepared by 15 Aust. Field Coy. 2000 Hrs.	
	27 Jan. 43	0700	Establishing New Camp at Rocky Creek. New Cookhouse Staff selected.	
	28 Jan. 43		A/Cpl. Cook appointed. Setting out of Camp Roads, Erecting Showers, Latrines etc.	
	29 Jan. 43	0900	Party of 14 personnel moved out to Job for 2nd Aust. Corps not returning until job is completed.	
	30 Jan. 43	1400	Party of 23 personnel moved out to Job for the above Corps not returning until job is completed.	
	31 Jan. 43		General improvement to Camp Site.	

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Figure 9: Company Movements.

Of interest in Harold's war service is the number of movements that he experienced within Australia as a Field Engineer. In January of 1943 he was involved in an operation where the transportation of heavy vehicles and trucks commenced between Brisbane, Townsville, Innisfail and then finally to Rocky Creek.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendixes
Rocky Creek			<p><u>REPORT OF CAPT. BALLANTINE R.L. (CONF.)</u></p> <p>Flew to Port Moresby via Townsville, Cairns arriving Oct. 14th.</p> <p>Oct. 15th. Attached to 2/1 Aust. Fld. Coy. supervising construction of Corduroy Road on Section 1 Lolo - Owers G.H.R. Two D. 8 Angle Dozers were used for the formation through thick jungle country. Ground was very clayey and hilly.</p> <p>Oct. 22nd. Supervision road re-construction from 12 M (Ex Moresby) to 1 Lolo 30.7 (Ex Moresby) taking over from Maj. R.A.J. Thompson. Mechanical Equip. consisted of Bulldozers, Graders, Power Shovel, Crushers and Tip Trucks. Pavement consisted of either 5" metal and 3" gravel or 8" gravel loose.</p> <p>Nov. 9th. Completed report on road and water supply requirement of Moresby Defence Area for G.S.O. 1. 6 Aust. Div.</p> <p>Nov. 11. Fly to KOKODA and attached to RAB. 7 Aust. Div.</p> <p>Went forward with 25 Aust. Inf. Bde. to make recon of Kamasi</p>	

Figure 10: Captain Ballantine's report – See Appendix 2 for more detail

MOVEMENT TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA DURING HIS SERVICE

Just prior to the troops movement to PNG they continued to construct significant infrastructure at Wondecla in Queensland, including building suspension bridges one jeep wide, box culverts, suspension and truss bridges as well as general jungle engineering training and night training, which was all essential skill building in preparation for construction in PNG.^{xv}

As Field Engineers, Harold and his team were instrumental in enabling the safe movement and passage of soldiers through often marshy and damp tropical forests, by constructing 'Corduroy Roads' (See figure 11, 12, and 15).^{xvi}

On the *20th of October 1944*, the regiment was officially prepared and moved to Redlynch, Cairns, awaiting movement to PNG.

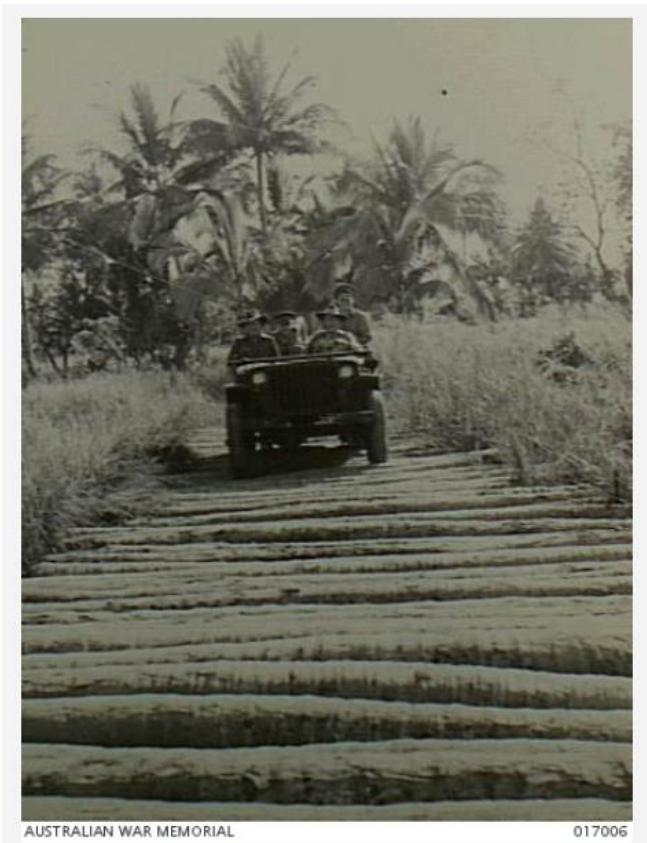


Figure 11 (left): New Guinea. A Jeep negotiates a 'corduroy' road across a swamp. The only successful way of building a road in this type of country. The road is made by placing coconut logs across the swamp and it needs constant attention. The censor has deleted the number from the jeep.

Figure 12 (bottom left): Bulldog-Wau Road, New Guinea, 1943-07-12. Corduroyed section of road and bridge at the 14 1/2 mile point.



Figure 13 (above): M.V. Duntroon. *On the 3rd of November 1944*, Harold embarked on the M.V. Duntroon and began movement at sea, finally anchoring in Aitape Bay on 7th November with embarkation happening the following day on *November 8th, 1944*.

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY			ORIGINAL
(Name leading not required)			Army Form 62118 (Adapted)
2/28 Aust. Fd Bn Coy RUC.			1 Oct, '44 To 30 Nov, '44.
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Bedlynah	1-11-44		Both Adv. & Main Parties awaiting notice for embarkation
"	3-14-44		" " " " embarked at CAIRNS on M.V. MONTROSE.
At Sea	7-15-44		Anchored in AITAPE BAY.
Aitape	8-11-44		Disembarked.
"	9-11-44		Improved and enlarged camp already established by Recce Party.
"	10-11-44		Commenced operation as a Field Park Coy.
"	12-11-44		No. 1 Operational Bn established Koronal Creek.
"	14-11-44		No. 2 Operational Bn established at Dringisor River.
"	15-11-44		Mech Platoon (Det) moved out to assist in Bridge Building.
"	2-11-44 to End of month		Workshop Platoon was engaged in the manufacture of Soles "A" (Kitchens, Latrines, Ablution and Washup Benches, Showers, Urine Traps and Water Tanks)

Figure 14: Summary of Harold's transit from Australia to PNG. The nature of the work they were immediately beginning was very similar to everything they had been previously doing in Australia – camp construction, drainage works and bridge building.



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Figure 15: Wewak Area, New Guinea. 1945-05-30. Members of 2/2 Field Company Royal Engineers and 2/8 Infantry Battalion using a bulldozer to clear debris and mud during preparation to bridge a creek.

Below is a summary table gathered from the various unit war diary entries detailing the variety of work that soldiers in the 2/22 Australian Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers undertook during *January to February 1945*. The tasks are extensive and varied.^{xvii}

Workshop Platoon	Part of bridge refabricated after Raihu River swelled and washed away part of the bridge
	Box girder washed away and needed replacing
	Commenced work on bailey Bridge
	Emergency Ferry service over Raihu River
	Operating saw mill
	Manufacturing
	Cutting Bolts
Bridging Platoon	Maintenance of equipment
	Carting of stores and equipment
	Operating Ferry over Raihu
Stores Platoon	Operating Stores Dump
	Carting Stores
Mechanical Engineering Platoon	Construction of road to Danmap and beyond
	Maintenance of roads in the area
	Hauling timber
	Working on the Airstrip

xviii

On the *26th of May 1945* the regiment was moved on to Cape Wom and it is here on the *26th of September 1945*, that we have the first known confirmation of Harold's involvement in PNG through the diaries (See figure 16).^{xix}

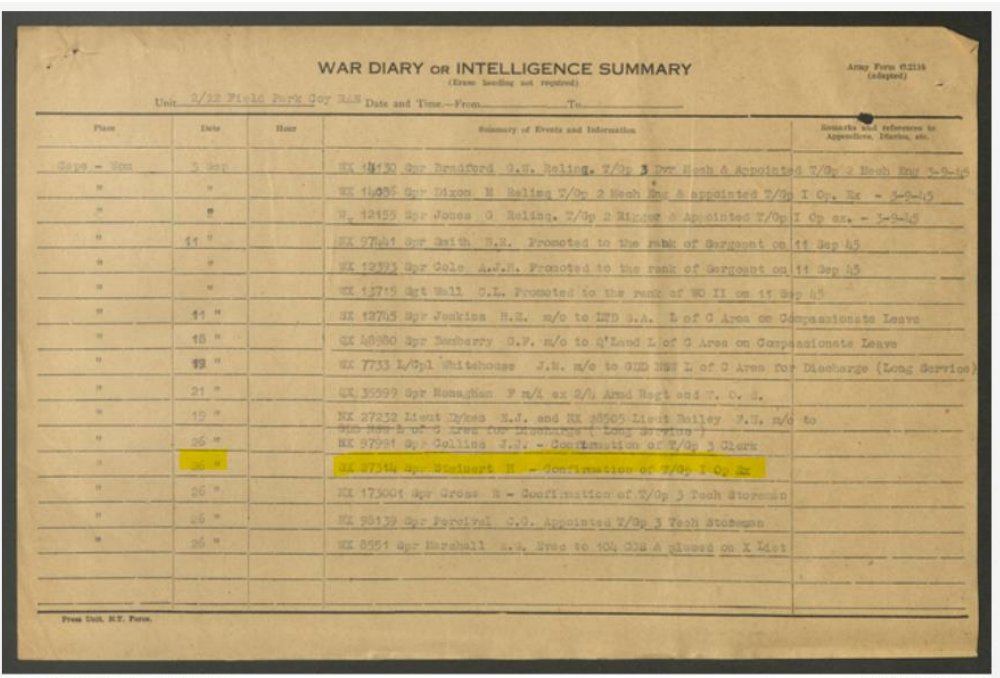


Figure 16: Confirmation of Harold's Involvement in PNG.

The diaries end after this and Harold's final movements of active service are unknown, however, a photo of him on a dozer with a handwritten note of Wewak on the back of the photo indicates that he completed his service in a third location in PNG (See figure 17).

Harold's overseas service ended when he boarded the SS Taroona in Wewak (See figure 19) on the *31st of December 1945* and he disembarked in Brisbane. Moving on to the South Australian Discharge

Depot on 15th of January 1946, Harold was officially discharged the next day on 16th of January 1946.^{xx}



Figure 17 (Left): Picture taken of Harold standing on a dozer at Wewak Gravel Pit PNG.

Figure 18 (Middle): Description of photo locality.

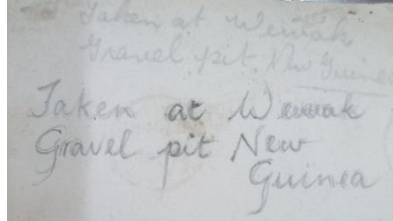
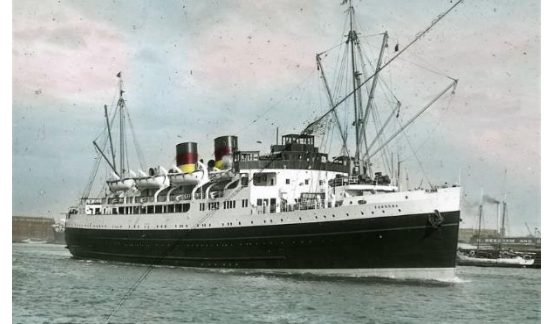


Figure 19 (Below): SS Taroona.



LIFE AFTER THE WAR

When Harold returned from the war, he recommenced work with the Hepner family and even branched out and completed work on a family farm into which his own daughter Raelene McPherson (nee Steinert, born 10.2.1947) married into. The McPherson family continues to work the land today and knowing that Harold was able to return to Waikerie after the war must have been a wonderful relief for his young wife and daughter.

After Harold came back from the war however, he was a very unhappy man as were a lot of the service people. Rightfully so because they had seen such awful things. Sadly, in the early days of Harold's return he was unable to overcome his experiences of war and he became an alcoholic.^{xxi}

Harold's second daughter Raelene says that she knows very little of what actually happened to him during the War as he never spoke of it when he returned home. However, a strong memory of hers is of a bayonet gun being in the house. "I often think to myself, how horrific it must have been and how he must have seen some awful things if he was required to carry with him a bayonet."^{xxii}

On page 109 of a document that was gifted back to Australia from the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia is a record of 'Material dealing with Japanese war crimes in New Guinea'. The information contained here confirms that serious atrocities happened in PNG and it would have been an awful place to serve.^{xxiii}

Many years later, however, with the unending support of his family; his wife Lorna, his daughter Raelene and his grandchildren; in particular his grandson Craig, Harold was able to eventually overcome his demons and he became a reformed alcoholic and a committed Christian.^{xxiv}

During his final five years in which he was sober, Harold, is said to have had a significant impact in the lives of many other recovering alcoholics and was a staunch believer in the Alcoholics Anonymous program, being a mentor for many participants.^{xxv}

ANZAC SPIRIT

Harold reflected the ANZAC spirits of perseverance and courage not only during his time in service but also after the war when he returned home.

Day on day of hard labour would have become very tiring and difficult for the men in Harold's regiment (See figure 20), but with the knowledge that they were assisting in the war efforts, the men must have shown great perseverance to keep working for their country because they have to have known that every bit counts toward a better ending.

The weather conditions that resulted in constant bridge failures and flooded rivers meant that the troops would have had to persevere through unpleasant conditions on a daily basis (See figure 21 and 22). They never gave up and they continued to build, and manufacture in support of the overall war efforts, which is a great example of the ANZAC spirit.

While the records I have come across are very detailed in the daily physical activities of the soldiers, there is little evidence of what they witnessed. And with Harold choosing not to discuss his experiences with his family, but rather to block the memories with alcohol, it can only be assumed that the soldiers needed great courage to get through their days.

Harold's personal choice to ultimately overcome his addiction and become a role model to other people in the same situation is testament to the courage that he had and the true meaning of the ANZAC spirit.



Figure 22: Wet conditions in Southeast PNG.



Figure 20: Tents set up for soldiers in Southeast PNG.



Figure 21: Wet conditions at Milne Bay.

HASS word count: 2004

Appendix 1: Rocky Creek

Rocky Creek (See figure 23 and 24) was a significant landmark in Australia during WW2 as it was a military hospital complex on the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland. It served as the largest military hospital in the Southern Hemisphere, treating over 60,000 patients. The hospital played a crucial role in supporting Allied forces in the Pacific theatre, particularly those returning from New Guinea.^{xxvi}



Figure 23: Images of Rocky Creek Camp as it stands today. Left: Rocky Creek Second World War Hospital Complex

Figure 24: Images of Rocky Creek Camp as it stands today. Below: Rocky Creek World War two hospital complex.



Life for the soldiers while stationed at Rocky Creek, was highly structured and daily movement and activity was dictated by a series of whistles and gongs. There were long 12 hour days starting at 6.20am and not finishing until the final whistle when tea was called at 6.30pm. (See Figure 25)

Camp Standing Orders.

Reveille	0620 Hrs	4 Gongs
Roll Call	0630 "	2 "
Breakfast warning	0645 "	3 Whistles
Breakfast	0650 "	2 "
Warning for start of work	0725 "	3 Gongs
Start of work	0730 "	2 "
Knock off	1200 "	1 "
Dinner warning	1225 "	3 Whistles
Dinner	1230 "	2 Whistles
Warning for start of work	1325 "	3 Gongs
Work starts	1330 "	2 "
Knock off	1800 "	1 "
Warning for Tea	1825 "	3 Whistles
Tea	1830 "	2 "
Defaulters (Reported 1800 " and 2000hrs)		1 "

Figure 25: Daily life for the soldiers constructing Rocky Creek Camp.

Appendix 2 – Captain Ballantine

Captain Ballantine's notes detail a great deal of heavy manual labour, combined with the use of mechanical equipment such as Bulldozers, grades, power shovels, crushers and tip trucks that would be required in PNG.^{xxvii}

Harold's expertise as someone who could manage a heavy vehicle, places him well as a Sapper in PNG.

Captain Ballantine was involved in further assessing the Kumusi River at Wairope to build a bridge across the river and an assessment and determination of a suitable area for a transport plane strip to be constructed at Poppendetta. These are all important landmarks that Harold assisted with the construction of.^{xxviii}

FIGURE REFERENCES

Figure 1 – Harold Martin Steinert

Figure 2 - Harold and Lorna

Willoughby, L. (2011). *The Steinert Family in Australia*.

Figure 3 – Official Oath of Enlistment

Terrace, V. (2025). *Digital Item Page Gallery*. [online] Naa.gov.au. Available at:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Gallery151/dist/JGalleryViewer.aspx?B=6387697&S=1&N=15&R=0#/SearchNRetrieve/NAAMedia/ShowImage.aspx?B=6387697&T=P&S=2> [Accessed 25 May 2025]. Page 12

Figure 4 - NominalRolls - WW2 - Certificate

Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (n.d.). *SAPPER HAROLD MARTIN STEINERT SX27314*. [Accessed 25 May 2025].

Figure 5 – Notification of Next of Kin changes to reflect his personal circumstances.

Terrace, V. (2025). *Digital Item Page Gallery*. [online] Naa.gov.au. Available at:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Gallery151/dist/JGalleryViewer.aspx?B=6387697&S=1&N=15&R=0#/SearchNRetrieve/NAAMedia/ShowImage.aspx?B=6387697&T=P&S=12> [Accessed 25 May 2025]. Page 6

Figure 6 – SA Enlistment Photo

Terrace, V. (2025). *Digital Item Page Gallery*. [online] Naa.gov.au. Available at:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Gallery151/dist/JGalleryViewer.aspx?B=6387697&S=1&N=15&R=0#/SearchNRetrieve/NAAMedia/ShowImage.aspx?B=6387697&T=P&S=12> [Accessed 25 May 2025]. Page 2

Figure 7 – Australian Enlistment Photo

Virtual War Memorial Australia (2025). *Harold Martin STEINERT*. [online] Vwma.org.au. Available at: <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/582620> [Accessed 25 May 2025].

Figure 8 - Record of Harold's driver training qualification attainment form

Terrace, V. (2025). *Digital Item Page Gallery*. [online] Naa.gov.au. Available at:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Gallery151/dist/JGalleryViewer.aspx?B=6387697&S=1&N=15&R=0#/SearchNRetrieve/NAAMedia/ShowImage.aspx?B=6387697&T=P&S=12> [Accessed 25 May 2025]. Page 6

Figure 9 - War diary records of the company movement.

Awm.gov.au. (2020b). *AWM52 5/18/1/11 - [Unit War Diaries, 1939-45 War] 2/22 Australian Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers, January - April 1943*. [online] Available at:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2713717?image=3> [Accessed 28 May 2025].

Figure 10 - Captain Ballantine's report

Awm.gov.au. (2020d). *AWM52 5/18/1/11 - [Unit War Diaries, 1939-45 War] 2/22 Australian Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers, January - April 1943*. [online] Available at:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2713717?image=93> [Accessed 29 May 2025].

Figure 11 - A jeep negotiates a 'corduroy' road across a swamp.

Awm.gov.au. (2025). *New Guinea. A jeep negotiates a 'corduroy' road across a swamp. The only successful way of ...* [online] Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/017006> [Accessed 29 May 2025].

Figure 12 – Corduroyed section of road and bridge at the 14 ½ mile point.

Awm.gov.au. (2025a). *BULLDOG-WAU ROAD, NEW GUINEA, 1943-07-12. CORDUROYED SECTION OF*

ROAD AND BRIDGE AT THE 14 1/2 ... [online] Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C209321> [Accessed 29 May 2025].

Figure 13 - M.V. Duntroon

Awm.gov.au. (2025b). *LAE, NEW GUINEA, 1945-05-07. THE MV DUNTROON ANCHORED OFF MILFORD HAVEN. THE VESSEL CARRIED 342 ...* [online] Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C20913> [Accessed 1 Jun. 2025].

Figure 14 - Summary of Harold's transit from Australia to PNG

Awm.gov.au. (2020d). *AWM52 5/18/1/16 - [Unit War Diaries, 1939-45 War] 2/22 Australian Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers, October - December 1944.* [online] Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2713722?image=3> [Accessed 29 May 2025].

Figure 15 – Members of the 2/2nd Field Park Company using a bulldozer

Awm.gov.au. (2025c). *WEWAK AREA, NEW GUINEA. 1945-05-30. MEMBERS OF 2/2 FIELD COMPANY ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS AND ...* [online] Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C69255?image=1> [Accessed 1 Jun. 2025].

Figure 16 – Confirmation of Harold's involvement in PNG

Awm.gov.au. (2020i). *AWM52 5/18/1/25 - [Unit War Diaries, 1939-45 War] 2/22 Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers, September - October 1945.* [online] Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2713731?image=3> [Accessed 1 Jun. 2025].

Figure 17 - Picture taken of Harold standing on a dozer at Wewak Gravel Pit PNG

Author/ Photographer unknown

Figure 18 – Handwritten description written by Harold's daughter, Raelene McPherson (nee Steinert)

Figure 19 – SS Taroona

Tyler, M. and Tyler, M. (2025). *SS Taroona 1934.* [online] Mastermariners.org.au. Available at: <https://www.mastermariners.org.au/stories-from-the-past/4586-ss-taroona-1934> [Accessed 1 Jun. 2025].

Figure 20 – *Amazonaws.com*, 2025, s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/awm-media/collection/026311/screen/4120827.JPG. Accessed 18 Aug. 2025.

Figure 21 – *Amazonaws.com*, 2025, s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/awm-media/collection/027061/screen/4094876.JPG. Accessed 24 Aug. 2025.

Figure 22 – *Awm.gov.au*, 2025, www.awm.gov.au/sites/default/files/styles/hub_grid_image/public/2022-07/milnbay.jpg?h=7674f6e3&itok=E7_45v3W. Accessed 24 Aug. 2025.

Figure 23 – Images of Rocky Creek Camp as it stands today.

Queensland Government (2025). *Rocky Creek World War Two Hospital Complex (former) | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government.* [online] Qld.gov.au. Available at: <https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/heritage-register/detail/?id=601815> [Accessed 28 May 2025].

Figure 24 – Rocky Creek World War Two Hospital Complex

Wikipedia Contributors (2025). *Rocky Creek World War Two Hospital Complex.* [online] Wikipedia. Available at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocky_Creek_World_War_Two_Hospital_Complex#/media/File:Rocky_Creek_World_War_Two_Hospital_Complex_\(former\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocky_Creek_World_War_Two_Hospital_Complex#/media/File:Rocky_Creek_World_War_Two_Hospital_Complex_(former).jpg) [Accessed 29 May 2025].

Figure 25 - Daily life for the soldiers constructing Rocky Creek Camp.

Awm.gov.au. (2020c). *AWM52 5/18/1/11 - [Unit War Diaries, 1939-45 War] 2/22 Australian Field Park*

Company, Royal Australian Engineers, January - April 1943. [online] Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2713717?image=25> [Accessed 29 May 2025].

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ⁱⁱ Steinert Family records

ⁱⁱⁱ Terrace, V. (2025b). *Digital Item Page Gallery*. [online] Naa.gov.au. Available at: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Gallery151/dist/JGalleryViewer.aspx?B=6387697&S=1&N=15&R=0#/SearchNRetrieve/NAAMedia/ShowImage.aspx?B=6387697&T=P&S=10> [Accessed 25 May 2025].

^{iv} Terrace, V. (2025). *Digital Item Page Gallery*. [online] Naa.gov.au. Available at: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Gallery151/dist/JGalleryViewer.aspx?B=6387697&S=1&N=15&R=0#/SearchNRetrieve/NAAMedia/ShowImage.aspx?B=6387697&T=P&S=12> [Accessed 25 May 2025]. Page 12

^v Willoughby, L. (2011). *The Steinert Family in Australia*.

^{vi} McPherson, R. (2025). 16 Apr.

^{vii} Willoughby, L. (2011). *The Steinert Family in Australia*.

^{viii} Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs (n.d.). *SAPPER HAROLD MARTIN STEINERT SX27314*.

^{ix} Terrace, V. (n.d.). *Digital Item Page Gallery*. [online] Naa.gov.au. Available at: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Gallery151/dist/JGalleryViewer.aspx?B=6387697&S=1&N=15&R=0#/SearchNRetrieve/NAAMedia/ShowImage.aspx?B=6387697&T=P&S=12> [Accessed 29 May 2025].

^x “ENGINEERS in NEW GUINEA - the Saga of the Australian Sapper BIG RESULTS with LITTLE EQUIPMENT - the Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) - 18 May 1944.” Trove, 2025, trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17907683. Accessed 17 Aug. 2025.

^{xi} Australian Army (2023). *Ranks | Australian Army*. [online] Army.gov.au. Available at: <https://www.army.gov.au/about-us/ranks> [Accessed 28 May 2025].

^{xii} Cambridge Dictionary (2025). *sapper*. [online] @CambridgeWords. Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sapper> [Accessed 27 May 2025].

^{xiii} Awm.gov.au. (2020). *AWM52 5/18/1/10 - [Unit War Diaries, 1939-45 War] 2/2 Australian Field Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers, September - December 1942*. [online] Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2713716?image=95> [Accessed 28 May 2025]. Page 95

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Part B:

In order to gather evidence on my chosen person (Harold Martin Steinert) I pulled together information from multiple different sources.

These included war diaries found on the Australian War Memorial (AWM) website, as well as general information from the Virtual War memorial (VWM), I also used a book from my Grandma named 'The Steinert Family in Australia', and conducted interviews with her as she is Harold's daughter, plus a couple general google searches about specific elements through Harold's journey.

When this task was first introduced to my class, I was quite daunted by the 1500 word count and that I wouldn't be able to reach that goal, but as I continued through the starting process, I quickly realised that I would have more than enough to write about.

My school started off my understanding of the achievements of those involved in both world wars by taking my year level to the local Returned and Serviced League of Australia, at Victor Harbor. Through this excursion and class history lessons it gave me knowledge of the treacherous and brutal conditions that soldiers faced when at war and gave me a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices of those servicemen and women.

As I searched the internet, I found war diaries from the AWM website. The [AWM52 5/18/1/10](#) diary was the main source of my research as it gave a detailed record of information about the company's activities, including operations, deployments, and daily routines at every stage of Harold's journey through the war. The diary even gave confirmation of his involvement in Papua New Guinea (PNG) by his name being recorded on one of the pages.

A crucial website that I came across was the National Archives of Australia which had records that gave me a mass of information on Harold's enlistment and deployment out into Australia and PNG as well as his discharge from service.

Right at the start of this assignment I interviewed my Grandma Raelene McPherson, on all the information she knew about her father, she said to me that she knew very little about what her father really went through because he never talked about it at home. But nonetheless she was a great help in aiding me with all the knowledge about how Harold acted after the war. More information about Harold after the war came from my Dad Harold's grandson, Craig McPherson who helped him in becoming a reformed Christian when Craig was only a teen. He achieved this by challenging Harold's post war behaviours and the negative impact it was having on his family.

HASS word count: 427