

A brief summary of the life of the herein mentioned  
Samson Victor (VIC) HORN.

Born at Toowoomba, Queensland on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1912.  
was educated at Brisbane.

During his early working days: he found it very  
difficult to get a career occupation. The best  
type of employment offering - was work on the  
land: Fencing, tree-felling, scrub-felling, ring-bark-  
ing, road-making, wheat harvesting, tractor  
driving and dairy work: (as a general farm hand),  
working long hours for little pay. In the thirties  
one had to accept what was offering or go on  
the Dole. One days work on council relief at  
13 shillings and sixpence: then the second week  
ration tickets to the value of six shillings and  
sixpence: This meant single persons were re-  
cipients of £1 per fortnight.

I loved the country life and found it to be a  
good healthy life. During the years 1930 to 1939, I  
worked in many areas and made a friendship  
with many people.

In September of 1939, then it was on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day  
the Hon. R G Menzies P.M. declared Australia was  
at war: To support Britain and her Allies in the  
fight against German aggression.

It was on the 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 39 that I rode into Toow-  
oomba from Southbrook, <sup>NSW</sup> to enlist. At the  
drill <sup>Hall</sup> in Margaret <sup>St</sup> I was examined by Dr Alan  
Rowe (a Captain in world war 1). I remember  
he telling me I was very fit and they could be  
wanting me as a stretcher-bearer in France.  
(I did not get to France).

On the week-end of the 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 1939, I was at-  
tested and after a luncheon at Perrins Cafe,  
Margaret St. Toomb, it was on - an Army life for me,  
we were paraded and marched up to the Town

Hall to be farewelled by the Mayor, Doug  
 Annand (of the Messers Annand Brothers, Red-  
 ven St., Ipswich) we were then marched down to  
 the Railway Station to entrain for the  
 journey to Redbank Military Training Depot.  
 We were met at the station by Lieutenant  
 Burns who informed that from <sup>now on</sup> we were in  
 No 10 Training Company. Whilst at Redbank we  
 were medically examined - and the M.O.s were  
 awaiting troops interested in being in the A.A.M.  
 C. (2/3rd Amb.). I decided to be a member of that  
 Unit. On or about the 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1939. We were march-  
 ed out of Redbank - Paraded through Brisbane  
 to Melbourne St, Railway station to board a troop  
 train, to journey south to be camped at Ruther-  
 ford. We were vaccinated here and many of us got  
~~as sick as dogs.~~ During the Unit stay at this Camp  
 I was stationed at Raymond Ice as P.A.P. Order-  
 ly for the Engineer Unit. Major G. Gorman was  
 the C.O. I was privileged to use the Sergeants  
 Mess though only ranked a Private. Then in  
 January 1940: after the 6<sup>th</sup> Div 2nd A.I.F. left In-  
 gleburn to embark on a Convoy to the Middle  
 East. We Troops (Es. Queenslanders) were trans-  
 ferred to the Barracks at Ingleburn. The 2/37d Amb.  
 operated the Camp Hospital. I was a Medical  
 Orderly. Fully trained Nursing Sisters (Rank Lieuts),  
 were in charge of the wards. We Orderlies had to  
 attend Lectures Etc; and twice weekly had to be  
 at Prince's Hospital for Medical and Surgical In-  
 struction. Prior to Embarkation for Service over-  
 seas we were given short leave to say good-bye to  
 Relatives and Friends. Many as well as I found it rat-  
 her saddening to leave home and loved ones. To be  
 one of 4,500 Officers and O.R.s. to embark on the 4<sup>th</sup> May  
 1940, on the Queen Mary was a big event. I found in

Army one had to put up with a lot of guess work  
 at to what was going to <sup>be</sup> the next move. We sailed  
 out of Sydney at 0700 hrs. on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> <sup>MAY</sup> arriving  
 of Fremantle on Friday 10<sup>th</sup>. Then the Convoy left on  
 Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> for what we believed the Middle East.  
 When Italy joined Forces with Germany - our con-  
 voy was instructed to change course and we ar-  
 rived at Capetown S.A. on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Refuel-  
 ing of the Queen Mary could not be done: so we  
 sailed around to the Naval Base at Simonstown,  
 (Port Elizabeth). We were at anchor there for five  
 days. We helped ourselves to Unofficial Leave. I  
 was fined 25 Shillings, for this offence: but my  
 mate George Barker (a Tasmanian) and me, were  
 petted well by a Mr. Adair, General Manager of  
 Bradford Walls in Capetown. I was glad to be  
 able to take the cableway up to Table Mountain.  
 The Scenery was magnificent. Two very enjoyable  
 days at little cost. The next Port of Call was  
 Freetown Sierra Leone. We had no sooner arrived  
 and the Natives were out in their Craft selling  
 beautiful large bunches of Bananas. As soon as  
 they came on board, the bananas were confis-  
 cated. I believe after these was treated in Condy's  
 Crystal, they were served in the Officers Mess.  
 The Natives were good Divers - throw silver coins  
 in the water and next thing they would re-  
 surface with the money in their mouths. The Convoy  
 left Freetown - shortly after some days on the move  
 we heard were not so far off New York. I for one  
 doubted this: however! Our Convoy was well a-  
 bove Ireland and it was on June 16<sup>th</sup> that we  
 anchored in the Firth of Clyde (Gourock). On the  
 18<sup>th</sup> June we disembarked - then placed on a Train  
 for the Salisbury Plains Area. We had to pioneer  
 a new Camp Site at Lopscombe Corner. Our Reg-

ade Commander was Brig. Leslie Marshead. It was in England that the 18<sup>th</sup> Brigade was split into two -  $\frac{1}{2}$  to form the Nucleus for the 9<sup>th</sup> Div. I. & A. I. F. From that time on, I was a member of the  $\frac{1}{11}$  Fd. Amb. 24<sup>th</sup> Brigade. We Nursing Orderlies were given some training at the Tedworth Military Hospital. At the Barracks, we had to dance on a concrete floor. Military boots were not very good dancing pumps. Whilst stationed at Tedworth Park, we were bombed; we were on 48hr Standby; as it was the first time we thought we would soon be tasting combat service. Day Leave to Salisbury was always appreciated by me. Met some nice people of the Baptist Church. Joe Norris and me were guests for tea with one of the Stewards (an Insurance Commissioner). On sat. 21<sup>st</sup> Aug. '40, Joe and self were in a batch from the  $\frac{1}{11}$  Fd. Amb. We were billeted with Joe's Aunt at a London suburb Dalston. On that afternoon we were on a bus trip to see Buckingham Palace. At approximately 1430 hrs. an air raid warning sounded - we had to take shelter at Stoke Newington Park; when the all clear was sounded, it was too late to visit the Palace area; as we had to get back to the Norris home for tea then off to a dance at the Hammersmith Ballroom (Victor Lytton and his Orchestra).

We left Tedworth Park to enter Barracks at Colchester for the coming winter months. It would certainly too cold to be in tents. There was central heating (Steam) in all sections of Sobran barracks. We left Colchester in January '41 - to embark on the Nea Helles Troopship. This was an old Greek Liner 2,000 tons. We practically lived entirely in

the limited Mess Hall for the 2/11 Fd. Ambly,  
 at night we had to swing our Hammocks  
 above the tables. We remained in Port at  
 Partick a whole week, through Fog and Snow.  
 I had never seen such large Icicles as were  
 hanging on that ship in my life. A lot of  
 the boys went down with a kind of pneumonia  
 or Flu. Hence we orderlies of 2/11 were kept  
 busy with such day duties. The Convoy was  
 a long time getting to Port Tropic where we  
 disembarked for Palestine. Rail travel was in  
 open trucks over miles of desert. We were in  
 ● Julius & Camp. On the 24<sup>th</sup> March, we were draft-  
 ed to Tobruk; we arrived at what was named  
 Trevor's Waddy on the 26<sup>th</sup> March. Our C.O. Lt. Col.  
 Trevor Parry (a doctor from Rockhampton) in-  
 formed us, this open desert, no buildings  
 etc was to be our unit site. We soon had our  
 taste of war; as the retreat from Benghazi was  
 taking place. In Tobruk I was promoted to  
 Corporal. Served as P.O. orderly for several  
 months. I well remember the three  
 ● weeks I was on loan to the 104 P.H.A. We  
 used to score a lot of Rations, because,  
 when time was up for unloading the  
 supply ships (destroyers); all remain-  
 ing cargo etc had to be thrown overboard.  
 We, the 104 boys did well from this, until  
 the Div H.Q. found out what was going  
 on. The 2/11 Fd Ambly staffed the Caval Hospital  
 atal, in off the road to Bardia; as well many  
 of us worked at 2/4 P.H.A. Joe Norris and  
 me were on duty in the S. I. W. ward, when  
 one day at approx 0800 hrs the Hospital  
 was bombed. If memory serves me right  
 it was on or about the 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct '41, we came

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came out of Tabruk on the Shropshire (I think). 9<sup>th</sup> Div had to take over from the 7<sup>th</sup> Div in Syria. 2/11. Fd. Amb. staffed the Italian Hospital in Tripoli. I liked the theatre work better than ward duty. Pte Barrett Wallace and me requested from our C.O. Major Leslie Hill a shift from being in charge of the P.A. Centre at El Mina. In July '42 the move was on to the western Desert. By this time we were well and truly accustomed to Desert life. It was at El Alamein I had a wonderful experience working under Major Gibbon and Capt Berryman in the Fd. Surgical Unit. It was at Alamein I was transferred to be R.A.P. Corporal for the 2/8 Fd. ~~Regiment Unit.~~ We remained at Alamein until December. Our position at Alamein enabled us to go swimming in the Mediterranean Sea. A very good mate of mine - Private William Lee - duck-dived; he suffered a broken neck, and died a few days later at the A.G.H. He was sadly missed by many of us.