



Geraldton War Memorial, Birdwood House, Chapman Road
(Courtesy of Geraldton Regional Library, P 8433).



WAR YEARS DRIVE TRAIL





Acknowledgements

The War Years Drive Trail was originally created in 1988 as a part of the Western Australian Heritage Trails Network, a Bicentennial Project involving community participants. Research was conducted by students from Geraldton Senior High School, with assistance from Rod Wilson, Clem Burns, Jim Deacon, Mrs Gwyther and the Geraldton Historical Society.

This updated edition was created in 2018 to commemorate 100 years since the cessation of World War and was funded by the City of Greater Geraldton.

Special acknowledgments: Trish Parker (Consultant Historian), Tanya Henkel (Editor), Trudi Cornish (Editor), Keely Grieve (Graphic Design), and Community Reference Group members - Bob Bandy, Stan Gratte, Max Jones, Chris Cox, Barry Stinson, Mark Gilligan, Lorin Cox, Susan Smith, Leigh O'Brien, Rebecca Tuesley, Neville Thompson, Doug Brenkley and Trevor Ralph. All care has been taken to confirm and verify research.

Further Reading

- A Life of its Own: a Social and Economic history of the City of Geraldton and the Shire of Greenough, 1846-1988*, by Mary Albertus Bain, 1996.
- Australia's Forgotten Army*, by Graham R. McKenzie-Smith, 1994.
- A Boy and the War*, by Stan Gratte, 2003.
- Geraldton: a Photographic History*, Local Studies Department, Geraldton Regional Library, 2004.
- Geraldton 1942: a Year to Remember*, by Jan Ryan, 1980.
- Memories of the Midland Railway Co. of Western Australia*, by Philippa Rogers, 2014.
- The Merry-Go-Round in the Sea*, by Randolph Stow, 1965.
- No. 4 Service Flying Training School, Geraldton Western Australia: Pilot Training Base 1941-1945*, by Leslie R. Jubbs, 2005.
- The Original Railway Station Geraldton: Reminiscences about the Past*, Geraldton Regional Library, 2014.
- RAAF Historical Record of No. 4 Service Flying Training School, Geraldton W.A.*, by D.J. Brenkley, 2007.
- Signals section "B" Company, 19th Garrison Battalion and Memories of "B" Company, 19th Garrison Battalion*, by Jim Lowrie, 1989.
- Tenindewa: to Sow the Barley*, by Doreen Lindsay, 1988.
- Troops, Trains and Trades: the Wartime Role of the Railways of Western Australia*, 1939-1945, by Philippa Rogers, 1999.
- World War II Geraldton 1941-45: Early Surveillance of Air, Land and Sea and Secret Operations*, by Doug Brenkley, 2008.

An online version of this brochure is available from the Geraldton Regional Library website.
This trail is also available as an App.

Do you have a story to share? Contact the Geraldton Regional Library,
37 Marine Terrace, Geraldton. Ph: (08) 9956 6659 or library@cgw.wa.gov.au

Introduction

Geraldton has had a long association with the military and war, beginning as early as 1629 when a brave group of soldiers, led by Private Wiebbe Hayes, rose against the mutineers of the shipwrecked *Batavia*. From the 1850s, Pensioner Guards played an important role in the settlement of the district. In 1899 members of the Geraldton Rifle Volunteer Corps joined the 1st (Western Australian Mounted Infantry) Contingent to fight in the Boer War.

"Geraldtonians" have continued to serve their country in the various theatres of war, from the battles of World War I and World War II, to the more recent military conflicts of the Korean and Vietnamese Wars, contributing to the unilateral forces deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan as well as international peacekeeping missions.

However, it was World War II that brought massive and long-lasting change to the City and surrounding district. When Australia joined World War II in September 1939, sections of Geraldton and a large portion of the countryside were commandeered for war purposes. At this time Geraldton only had a resident population of 5000, but a large military personnel contingent rapidly became established in the region.

The loss of HMAS *Sydney* II off Shark Bay in November 1941 came as a huge shock for the town, dispelling any previous thoughts that it would not be affected by the war. When Japan entered the war in December 1941 the threat of attack seemed imminent; many residents evacuated Geraldton to inland and metropolitan

areas, but most returned within months and set about preparing for air attack or invasion.

Despite the terrible loss of life inflicted during the war and the restrictions and deprivations which beset the home front, the presence of large numbers of servicemen and women in Geraldton and the wider district brought activities, industry and experiences which irrevocably changed the City forever.

This drive trail explores places and stories associated with war in the City of Greater Geraldton. Use the trail booklet to guide you to the different sites, some of which have signage to further illuminate the past. On others, no trace remains.

Each stopping point on the trail may acknowledge one or more places of significance. Discovering the whole trail will take a full day, covering some 200km. Outside of Geraldton, there are toilets and rest facilities at Central Greenough, Ellendale Pool, Walkaway and Mullewa.



Souvenir pennant made for the crew of the HMAS *Geraldton* (I), a Corvette also known as Minesweeper (Bathurst Class) (*Courtesy AWM, REL36714*).

We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Southern Yamatji Peoples who are the Traditional Owners and First People of these lands. The Nhanhagardi, Wilunyu, Amangu. We would like to pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the Southern Yamatji Peoples.



Memorial to the Fallen of WWI

STOP 1: L.T. Green Memorial Park, Olive Street, Mahomets Flats

The World War I Memorial recognises Private Leonard T. Green and other citizens of the Geraldton district who lost their lives in active service during the Great War.

Private Green passed away in 1918, aged 19, at the 8th Australian General Hospital in Fremantle.

His father, local businessman Frank Green, gifted land to the City of Geraldton in 1960 to be used for recreational purposes and as the site for a memorial.

At a later date, the gifted land was required for development purposes to facilitate traffic management and agreement was reached to exchange the land with the Olive Street Reserve.

The Park was completed in 2018 by the City - 100 years following Leonard's death - and so a father's wish to recognise his son was realised.

Image opposite: The interpretive sculpture was inspired by this striking image showing members of a field artillery brigade in Chateau Wood, a portion of one of the battlegrounds in the Ypres Salient, Belgium, 1916. (*Courtesy Australian War Memorial - AWM, EO1220*).



Memorial to the Fallen of WWI at L.T.Green Memorial Park (Courtesy GRL).





West End Beaches

STOP 2: Separation Point Lookout, Separation Point, Beachlands

The hill at Separation Point was used as the target area by the Geraldton Rifle Volunteer Corps. Established in 1877, the Corps served in the Boer War in 1899 as 'A' Company 16th Battalion and was one of the most active in the State. The Corps, later renamed the Geraldton Rifle Club, continued to use the Army rifle range at Separation Point until the late 1940s. During World War II the Army called on local members of the Rifle Club to perform voluntary military roles in the town.

From this site, look south-east to view Back Beach and further in the distance, Mahomets Beach.

Back Beach/Mahomets Beach

During World War II, Back Beach was covered with barbed wire entanglements, while

three timber-lined underground bunkers constructed on the beach were mounted with Vickers machine guns. These bunkers were guarded by sentries, who covered the beach from the southern end of Francis Street to the Surf Club area at Back Beach.

The Geraldton Rifle Volunteers Band was established in 1877, soon after the forming of the Corps. The band was very active, often performing at dances and other social events across the district.

Image opposite: Here the band is present at a blessing of the Corps, most likely at the Fitzgerald Street Rifle Range, c1890s (*Courtesy Geraldton Regional Library - GRL, P 851*).

Francis Street played an important role in linking strategically important sites located to the south-west of the town.



View of Francis Street, leading down to Back Beach, 1913, with the Recreation Ground in view to the right (Courtesy GRL, P 134).





Point Moore

STOP 3: Point Moore Lighthouse, Marine Terrace, Point Moore

Point Moore was the location of the Combined Operations Training Centre in 1943 during which time the 30th Infantry Battalion, 44th Infantry Battalion, 18th Forward Regiment, 5th Forward Company, and 101st Mortar Regiment camped and trained here.

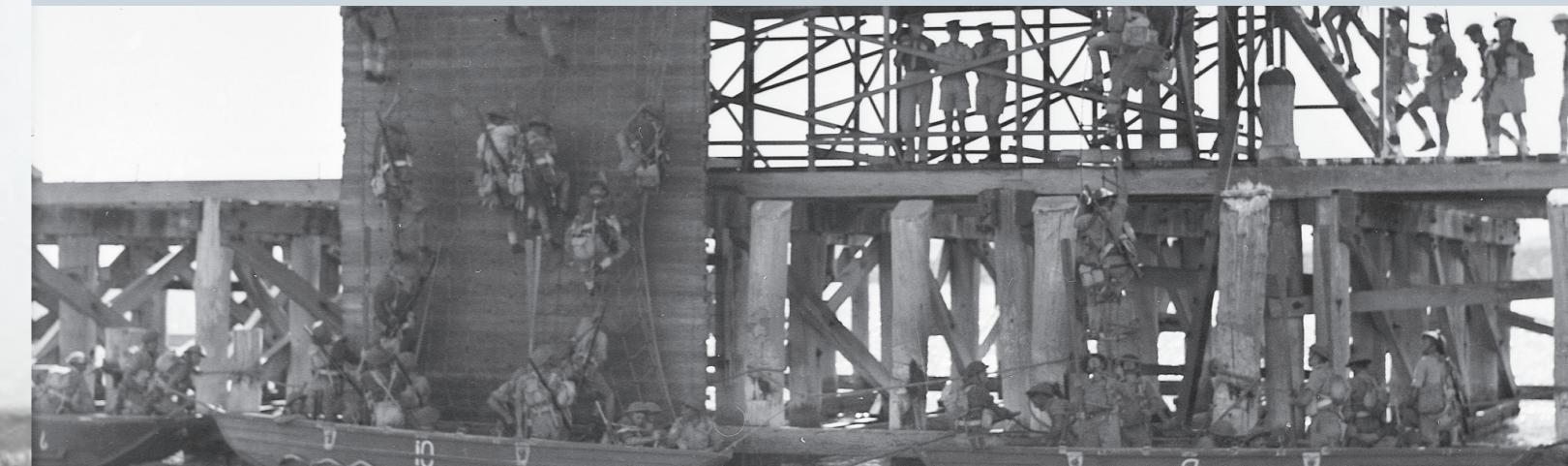
It was a restricted area which required a permit for access.

Most of the infantry later saw active service in New Guinea and the training at specialist schools, such as the Geraldton Combined Operations Training Centre, made these units some of the best prepared to be sent overseas.

The Point Moore Lighthouse has been a prominent landmark and important navigation aid on the local coastline since its construction in 1878. Its beam can be seen 26 kilometres out to sea.

Image opposite: This view (c1940) shows the original limestone lighthouse keepers cottages to the left (*Courtesy H. Potter, P 650*).

Image below: Troops of the 2nd Australian Division engaged in combined operations exercises at 3rd Australian Corps Combined Operations Training Centre. Exercises included descending the side of the Railway jetty (to represent a ship's side), into barges to engage in an assault landing (*Courtesy AWM, 051504*).

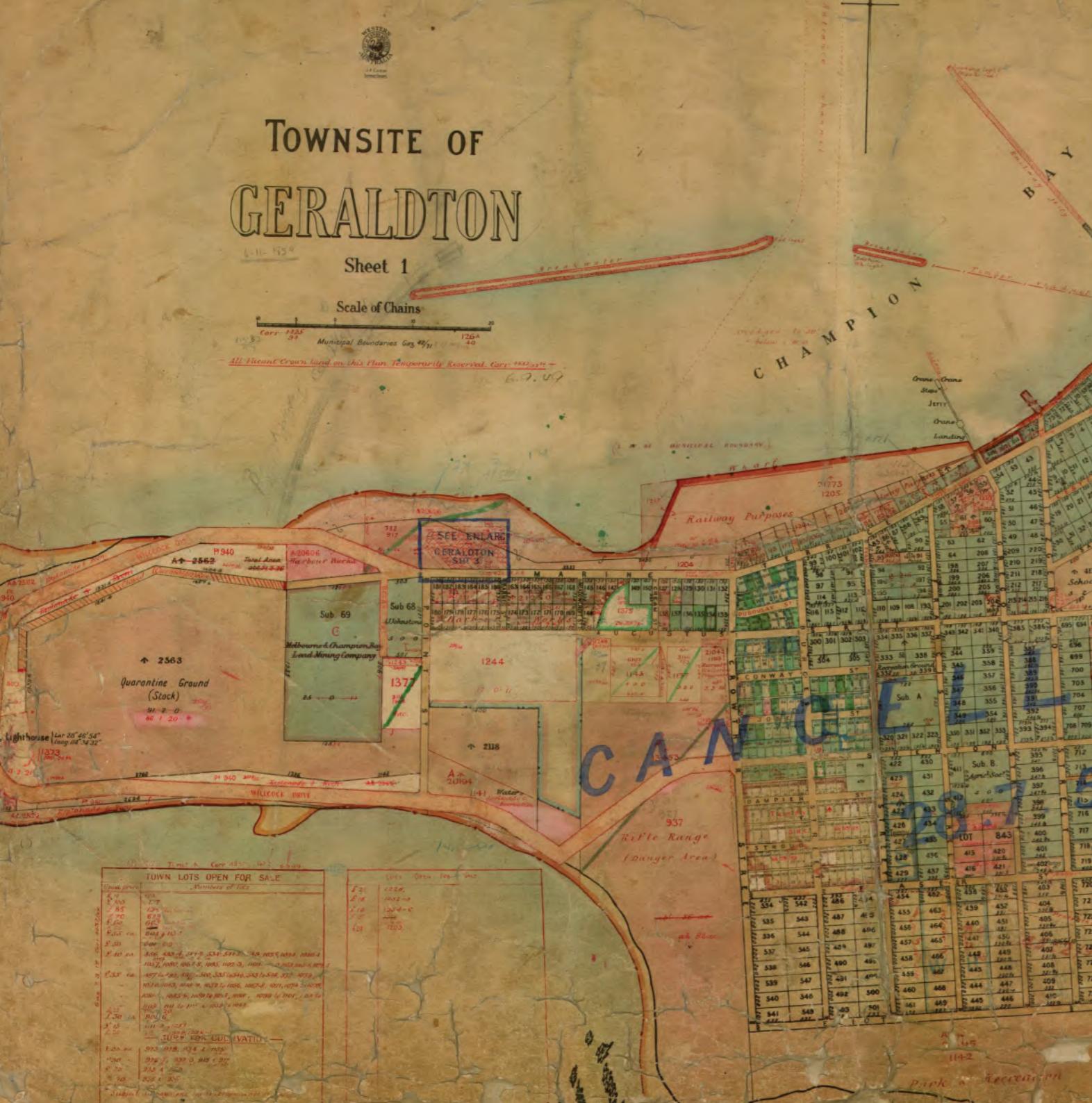


TOWNSITE OF GERALDTON

Sheet 1

Scale of Chains

*Cors 1125
Municipal Boundaries Gag 42% 126A
+0*



Beaches, Wharf and Jetties

STOP 4: Pages Beach, Marine Terrace, Point Moore

Look west to Explosives Beach.

Explosives Beach, West End

There were a number of ammunition dumps established around Geraldton during World War II. One was believed to have been located slightly north of the Point Moore Lighthouse, which is how the nearby beach, called Explosives, was named.

Look across the Point, towards the Harbour.

Beach Cottages, West End

Where the Fishermen's Wharf is now located was once a popular holiday destination known as the West End Beach. About 40 holiday cottages were constructed at this site from 1937 onwards by Geraldton Beach Camps Ltd.

During World War II many of these cottages were commandeered for use as accommodation by the Australian Army. This followed a pattern of commandeering property throughout the town whereby the influx of defence personnel made accommodation extremely scarce.

Nothing remains of the beach cottages which were demolished after the war, however there are several Norfolk Pines from the camp still located on Marine Terrace near the silos, despite most of the trees in this area sadly dying from salt inundation when the land was reclaimed.

Image opposite: Townsite of Geraldton, plan cancelled 1953 (Courtesy State Records Office WA, AU WA S2168- cons5698 0675).



West End Beach Cottages, 1941 (Courtesy H. Potter, P 655).



Look west across the Harbour.

Catalina Base, West End Beach

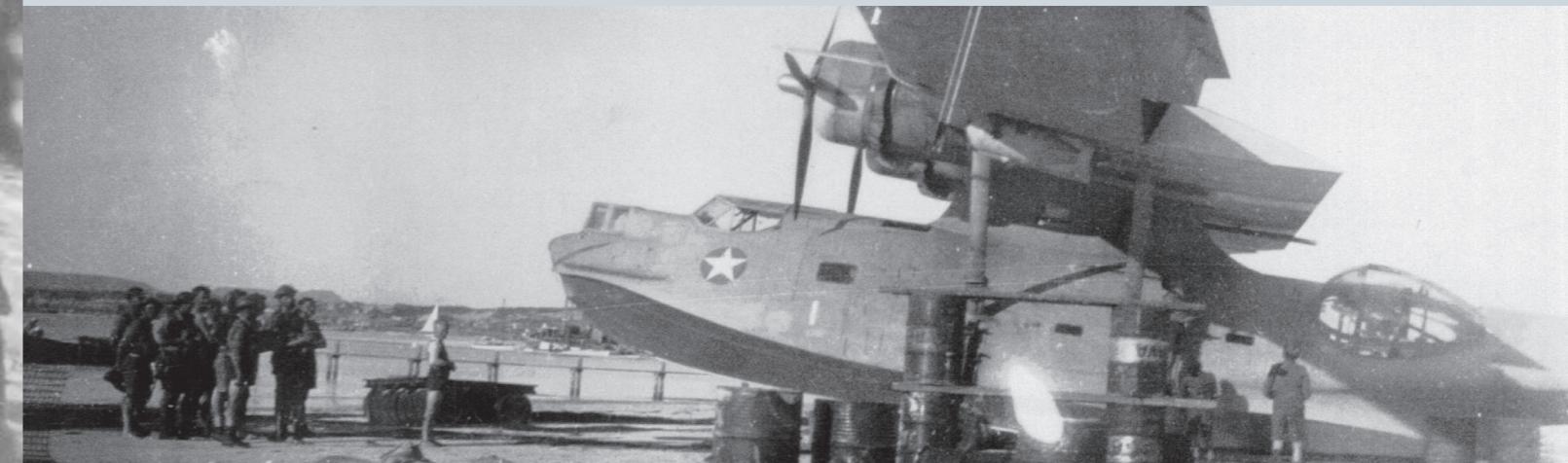
In April 1942 the United States Naval Air Service based three Patrol 10 Catalina Flying Boats in Geraldton as part of the Indian Ocean Patrol. The flying boats landed at this beach and at the western end of the Geraldton Aerodrome. A crawler tractor originally from Yanget Station was used to haul the Catalinas on shore when maintenance was required.

Yanks Jetty was the name given to a wooden jetty that extended from the beach where the Americans moored and refuelled their Catalinas. It was also used by Geraldton residents for recreational activities such as crabbing and fishing.

The story of the beaching of a Catalina on the reef at Beresford Beach, and its subsequent salvage by local man Ned Higgins, is told in signage at Rundle Park, Bluff Point.

Image opposite: Yanks Jetty was the refuelling and servicing pier for seaplanes. The motorised whale boats were used to ferry crews to and from aircraft at anchorage (*Courtesy C.R. Smitty (U.S. Army) and Stan Gratte, P 1132*).

Image below: Catalina with damaged left outer wing panel float, which was shot by an inexperienced pilot. Replacement gunner and aircraft parts were trucked up from Perth (*Courtesy C.R. Smitty (U.S. Army) and Stan Gratte, P 1137*).



West Marine Terrace

STOP 5: The Esplanade, southern end of Foreshore

Walk out along the Esplanade for delightful views of the Harbour and town.

Geraldton Wharf

During World War II the wharf was a restricted area and was guarded by '*D*' Company of 19th Garrison Battalion and 7th (Geraldton) Battalion (VDC), with a permit required to access it. Many merchant and war ships used the wharf during this period. One visitor was the schooner USS *Lanikai*, which in 1941 assisted in the evacuation of Manila after the Japanese air raid, then dodged Japanese forces in the Indian Ocean to reach Fremantle in 82 days.

Look east towards town.

Old Jetties

The 5th Field Company Royal Australian Engineers partially demolished the Durlacher

Street Jetty and the old Esplanade Jetty as part of the west coast defence against an anticipated Japanese invasion. Some of the wood from the jetties was recycled for use in the construction of gun emplacements and bunkers.

Swimming Beaches

Both the Front and Back Beaches were popular swimming locations for service men and women. Cautionary warnings were circulated amongst the personnel about getting badly sunburned, with it being claimed to be a punishable offence under Air Force law. Service personnel also ventured out of town to Drummonds Cove and the mouth of the Greenough River to gather crayfish, which were considered a local treat.

Image opposite: View of Champion Bay across the roof of the Mechanics' Institute Library (now Geraldton Visitor Centre), c1930 (*Courtesy of Slim Thomas, P 560*).



West End Beach, 1941 (*Courtesy of Buchan Family, P 679*).





Geraldton Visitor Centre, Marine Terrace, Geraldton

During World War II this building was the Mechanics' Institute Library. It was used by Voluntary Air Observers Corp spotters and as a Plotting Room for Allied and Enemy shipping and aircraft until this function moved to the Courthouse building in Marine Terrace.

The building included a reading room and billiards tables and was very popular as a place of recreation for visiting service people. Sometimes soldiers would sit in the library and compose letters to home, and in later years, relatives visited the library to see where letters had been written.

Randolph Stow's famous novel *The Merry-Go-Round in the Sea* was set in Geraldton during World War II and immortalised the landmark structure; a replica of the original merry-go-round can be found under the adjacent Moreton Bay Fig Tree.

For more information, contact the Geraldton Visitor Centre, Marine Terrace, Geraldton: 9956 6670.

Look south across Marine Terrace.

Soldiers' Institute (Esplanade Hostel), now site of ABC Midwest WA

Originally an agricultural store and warehouse, then transformed into the Esplanade Hostel, the Soldiers' Institute, was the headquarters of the AIF Returned Soldiers and Sailors Association of WA, Geraldton Branch, from 1917. In 1918 the Association sought additional premises and the site of the old Courthouse and Barracks on Marine Terrace, located on the present-day site of the Department of Agriculture and Food, was considered ideal.

For many years afterwards, this site was used as accommodation for returned soldiers. However, by the 1930s conditions in the old Barracks had deteriorated significantly, and although some improvements had been made over the years, in 1935 the Geraldton Municipal Council moved to declare them no longer fit for habitation.

Birdwood House was constructed on Chapman Road in 1935 as headquarters for the Geraldton Branch of the Returned and Services League (RSL).

During World War II the Soldier's Institute building was used by soldiers as a dormitory and rest rooms, with boarding facilities on the top storey, and a games room, wet canteen and kitchen on the ground floor. Spotting for enemy craft by Volunteer Air Observers Corp was also conducted from here.

Image opposite: View of the Soldier's Institute /Esplanade Hostel, c1930s (*Courtesy Russell Cooper Collection*).



Geraldton Yacht Club Hall, Marine Terrace, Geraldton

The hall held popular dances each weekend for servicemen and women as well as civilians, where food, drink and music were provided. The dances gave Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force personnel a much-appreciated chance to change out of work overalls and into civilian dress. There was a horse trough out the front that was used to revive drunk servicemen, and it is commonly thought that the soldiers wore the floor out with their hobnail boots, requiring it to be replaced.

Radio Theatre, Corner Marine Terrace and Fitzgerald Street, Geraldton

During World War II, the Radio Theatre was one of the main venues for entertainment for servicemen and women in Geraldton.

It screened films every night, and it was so popular on some weekends that the queue for

admission stretched for blocks. The Theatre Sweet Shop became the Red Cross Shop during the war years, when it was manned by volunteers and offered refreshments.

Doug Brenkley recalls:

"In 1942 there was lots of military around every Saturday going to the Pictures at the Radio Theatre. One day as the National Anthem (God Save the King) was being played, everyone stood up - well about three rows in front of us there were two army men. They stood to attention but the bloke in front of them remained seated, so they leaned over, grabbed him by the shoulder and stood him up! He later slunk out muttering".

Image opposite: A view of the town of Geraldton 1913, looking across Flagstaff Hill.

The Soldier's Institute/Esplanade Hostel and the old Barracks were located adjacent to the lower jetty in the image (*Courtesy GRL, P 132*).



View of Anzac Day March down Marine Terrace, taken from Soldiers' Institute building, 1937 (Courtesy GRL, P 316).



Francis Street Precinct

STOP 6: 20 Francis Street, Geraldton

OTC Radio Base Station (now site of Harbour Pines Retirement Village)

The Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) Radio Base Station commenced operations in 1913 as a vital 24-hour communications link with Indian Ocean shipping. Soon after the outbreak of World War I in 1914, members of the local Citizens Force Guard had moved onto the site to secure the area.

They camped in bell-style tents near the base of the steel radio mast and maintained an armed guard at the entrances to the OTC Station, which had large aerials located on an adjacent block.

Customs House 7-9 Francis Street, Geraldton

Customs House was constructed by the Commonwealth Government in 1935 to provide improved customs facilities at the port of Geraldton and reflects the growth of both primary and secondary industries in and around Geraldton in the 1920s and 1930s.

The place represents ongoing customs facilities in Geraldton since 1865, when the first Customs House was built in Gregory Street.

Proddy House 17 Francis Street, Geraldton

During World War II, the long-demolished Protestant's Girls Home in Francis Street, known as "Proddy House" accommodated military personnel. Proddy House was established in 1921 to provide boarding facilities for country students. With the onset of World War II, the Home was considered precariously situated between the wharf and the OTC Station and serious consideration was given to closing it down. Instead the buildings were leased to the Navy and the 40 boarders were relocated to private homes around Geraldton, as well as to Colston House in Augustus Street.

The United States Navy headquarters was based in a large commandeered house near the corner of Marine Terrace and Cunningham Street.

Image opposite: American Navy Personnel at "Proddy House" (*Courtesy C.R. Smitty, U.S. Army and Stan Gratte, P 1140*).



Off duty members of the Citizen Force Guard and their army bell tents at the OTC Station, 1914 (*Courtesy J.S. Battye Library of WA History, 012668D*).



Celebrations and Gatherings

STOP 7: Geraldton Recreation Ground, corner Francis and Augustus Streets, West End

During World War II the Recreation Ground was used occasionally as a campground for the soldiers of the Australian Army and was also the setting for Peace Day celebrations in 1945.

Use of this site as a sporting ground during the war varied depending on troop movements in the region.

In April 1942 the *Geraldton Guardian* reported that because so many young men had been called up for service, Geraldton would have no association football that year.

However, the following year, after a huge number of soldiers had moved into the area, Geraldton boasted 18 teams of some of the fittest young men in Australia.

The player numbers were so great that there were insufficient ovals to hold the teams and many games were directed to outlying areas.

Use of this popular sporting ground actually dates back to the early 1860s. Originally constructed in 1938, the old Grandstand was fully refurbished by the City of Greater Geraldton in 2014.

Image opposite top: Cycling race at the Recreation Ground, c1940 (*Courtesy GRL, P 10522*).

Image opposite bottom left: Band of the 1st Australian Armoured Division competes in a marching competition, 15th August 1943 (*Courtesy AWM, 055833*).

Image opposite bottom right: Original Grand Stand at the Recreation Ground, during renovations in 2014 (*Courtesy Andrew Cornish*).



Peace celebration procession along unknown Geraldton street, 1945. Traffic Inspector McCallum leads on a bicycle, Clayton Garratt on horseback, Stan Gratte walking bicycle, far right (Courtesy GRL, P 1848).



“The cannery bought crayfish for three shillings and a lot of it went to the forces. I was on Bougainville in the Water Transport and we were unloading a ship one night and one of these cases [of crayfish] came down. And a bloke said “What the devil’s this?” And I said “That comes from where I’m from. It’s a crayfish.” But the troops never saw it, I think the Officers got most of the stuff.”

Phil Miragliotta

Oral History Interview with Phil Miragliotta in 1981 (Courtesy of GRL, OH 007 MIR)

WWII Crayfishing Industry

STOP 8: Corner Gregory and Augustus Streets, Geraldton

Crayfish Cannery

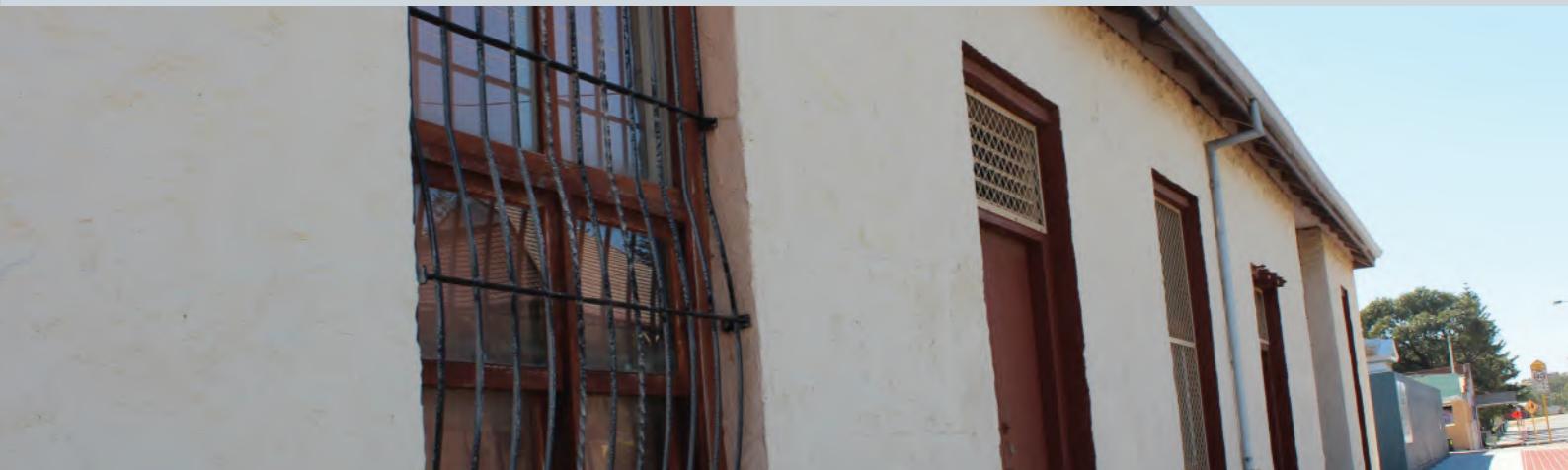
In early 1931, North-West Fisheries opened Western Australia's first crayfish cannery at Port Gregory. After about three months, owners Smith and Weedon decided it would be beneficial to transfer their operations to Geraldton, and by September the business was up and running, in premises previously known as the "Old Cordial and Cool Drink Factory" on the corner of Gregory and Augustus Streets.

Weedon and Smith's cannery only operated for perhaps 12 months at the Gregory Street premises before a new cannery was built on the corner of Marine Terrace and Cream Street. Later named The Redtail Canning and Packing Co Ltd (1933), Sea Coast Canneries of Australia Ltd (1941) and Geraldton Canneries Ltd (1942-48) the business supplied Army

canteens with canned crayfish throughout World War II. This served to increase prices and expose American servicemen stationed in Geraldton and Perth to the product with long-term, positive consequences for the industry. Over the decade leading up to 1945, the number of licenced fishermen in the district had increased 148%.

Internment of Italian Fishermen

Australia's declaration of war on Italy in 1940 had a profound effect on many local fishermen, particularly those of Italian descent. It is recorded that by July the Geraldton Police Office had "arrested and handed over to Military Authorities a total of 136 Italian aliens". Italians from the Midwest were interned in camps at Harvey and Rottnest Island, and some were sent as far away as Darwin and South Australia. For the Italian fishermen who remained in Geraldton, many had their fishing boats confiscated and their licences suspended.



Originally built in the 1870's, the old Trefusis, Chapman & Jose Factory became the premises for Geraldton's first crayfish cannery in 1931 (Courtesy Trish Parker).





From the Air

STOP 9: First Geraldton Scout Group Hall, Sanford Street, Geraldton

The Geraldton Scout Hall was originally a hospital building within the No. 4 Service Flying Training School at the aerodrome during World War II. At the end of the war the majority of the 180 buildings were sold at auction, with many of the huts ending up as storage sheds on properties throughout the district.

This building was purchased by the Geraldton Scout Committee for £60. To relocate the building, it was cut in half, transported to this site on a low loader which was temporarily mobilised in Geraldton, placed on stumps, and then rejoined.

Look across road to the Geraldton Primary School

Geraldton Primary School

In early 1942, community volunteers constructed a public air raid shelter in the grounds of the school in response to a

Government directive. There were several public shelters around town and local residents were instructed which shelter they should attend in case of an air attack. In addition, many people built and equipped air raid shelters at their own properties.

During the war, school students dug metre-deep slit trenches around the school yard perimeter with shovels they had brought from home. The trenches were dug in zig zag patterns to minimize potential damage from blasts. The students were advised that in the event of a blast, they should put a peg between their teeth to prevent teeth breaking and to equalize the pressure in their eardrums.

Image opposite: Graduation Parade at No. 4 Service Flying Training School RAAF, showing relatives and friends in the foreground, 20 August 1943. Many of the buildings in the background were relocated and repurposed after the war concluded (*Courtesy AWM, 056107*).



First Geraldton Scout Group Hall, 2018 (Courtesy Trish Parker).

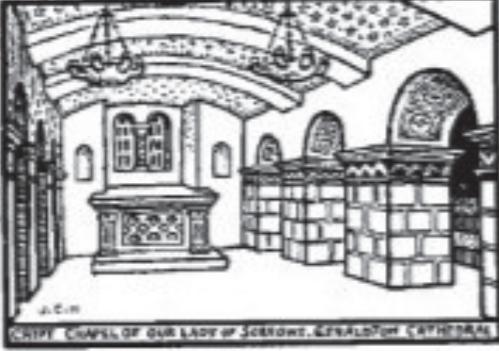


WHO WILL HELP?

A War Memorial to Our Fallen Soldiers.

TO ERECT CHAPEL OF
OUR LADY OF SORROWS
IN GERALDTON CATHEDRAL, W.A.

Wanted: A modest sum of £400.



Crypt CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS, GERALDTON CATHEDRAL

WHAT heart is so filled with sorrow and compassion for the griefs of mankind in this terrible war-time as the Sacred Heart of MARY. She who supported in her arms the dead, blood-stained body of her own dear Son, the Incarnate God, mourns with the bereaved mothers over their heroic soldier sons. The war-devasted areas of France and Belgium were full of ancient and beautiful sanctuaries of the Mother of God, which now lie roofless in desolate ruin. Who will help us to raise a new shrine to Mary in this land of ours, in the West, from whence so many brave men have marched forth to give up their lives, in the cause of justice and righteousness, for the protection of the women and children of Belgium and France?

The Chapel, which will be situated in the subterranean crypt below the High Altar of the New Cathedral, will be A Special Votive Offering in reparation to our Lady of

Sorrows, and a Perpetual Memorial of our Catholic Soldiers of Australia who have fallen in the Great War.

Those who send their shillings will be giving them as offerings to Our Blessed Lady herself; to gain her powerful intercession for the souls of the departed soldiers, her protection for those still fighting at the front, her aid—as Our Lady of Victories—to obtain a speedy victory for our armies, and, as Mother of Peace, the consequent peace that we long for.

All donations of not less than Ten Shillings will entitle the donor to have the name of a soldier (relative or friend) inscribed on the memorial tablets beside the Altar of the Chapel where masses will be offered for their souls.

Please send your offerings to me—

FATHER HAWES,

Bishop's Palace,
GERALDTON W.A.

Maitland Park Precinct

STOP 10: St Francis Xavier Cathedral, 56 Cathedral Avenue, Geraldton

St Francis Xavier Cathedral was designed by the priest and architect Monsignor John Hawes, and is generally regarded as one of his finest works.

Monsignor Hawes and his volunteer parishioners commenced work on the Cathedral in June 1916, under very constrained financial circumstances brought about by World War I.

The first stage of the Cathedral, consisting of the west towers and the nave, was officially blessed in August 1918. However, the Cathedral was not finally completed until 1938.

The Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows is located in the subterranean crypt below the High Altar. Monsignor Hawes designed it to be:



The Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows, 2018 (Courtesy Father Robert Cross).

"A Special Votive Offering in reparation to Our Lady of Sorrows and a Perpetual Memorial of our Catholic Soldiers of Australia who have fallen in the Great War."

Monsignor Hawes raised funds by entitling the donors of not less than ten shillings to nominate the name of a fallen soldier to be inscribed on memorial tablets in the crypt.

Tours of the St Francis Xavier Cathedral are available. Tickets can be purchased at the Monsignor Hawes Heritage Centre. For more information, contact 9937 9504.

Image opposite: Monsignor Hawes' advertisement seeking donations for the erection of Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel. From *Between Devotion and Design* by John J. Taylor.





CIVIL DEFENCE COUNCIL - WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Warden is

If you have not got this information, secure it from your Municipal Council or Roads Ward Office.)

WARNING SYSTEM.

1. ACTION WARNING.—Succession of short blasts for two minutes on public sirens.
2. RAIDERS PASSED.—One long blast for two minutes.
3. PRESENCE OF GAS.—Wardens give warning by hand rattles.
4. ALL CLEAR.—Wardens ring hand-bells.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NOW:

1. Prepare now to black-out your house at any moment.
2. Free your premises of all inflammable matter—burn off all rubbish, grass, and waste matter.
3. Keep sand in buckets or boxes—have your garden hose ready, also any other fire fighting equipment.
4. Have your car ready for use.
5. Prepare your shelter—but secure expert advice.
6. Secure some tinned foodstuffs. Buy a good torch.
7. Know your Warden—ask his advice.
8. Keep the copper filled with water.
9. Equip yourself with a simple first aid kit.
10. Give your windows and all glass an anti-scatter treatment.

AT THE FIRST INDICATION OF AN IMPENDING RAID:

1. IF YOU ARE AT HOME—
 - (a) Turn off gas at the meter.
 - (b) Turn off electricity at the meter if it is day time.
 - (c) If it is at night black-out your house.
 - (d) Go to your shelter or get under a strong table—have with you some means of digging yourself out should the necessity arise.
 - (e) Avoid windows and flying glass.
 - (f) Stay in your shelter until the "All Clear."
 - (g) If you have escaped give all the help you can to anyone else not so fortunate.
2. IF YOU ARE AWAY FROM HOME—
 - (a) Get off the street.
 - (b) Take cover in the nearest house or building.
 - (c) If in the open lie down in gutter or any depression—keep your mouth open and face down.
3. IF YOU ARE IN A CAR OR SIMILAR VEHICLE—
 - (a) Pull your car right off the road and extinguish all lights.
 - (b) Unharness and tether horses.
 - (c) If in a public conveyance, obey the conductor.
 - (d) Take shelter as indicated in (c) above.

IF INCENDIARY BOMBS FALL:

1. Tackle those in the most dangerous positions first.
2. Use dry sand on the bomb. Use water to control the SURROUNDING fire.
3. Do NOT throw or squirt water on the bomb—this is dangerous.
4. Do not go near the bomb for at least two minutes—it may be explosive.
5. Protect yourself as much as possible.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE TO A.R.P. PERSONNEL:

1. Do not use your telephone. Essential Services need use of the lines.
2. Do not call the Fire Brigade, doctors, ambulances, or repair squads. This is the Warden's job—ask him for help.
3. Unless otherwise needed stay in your shelter or indoors until you hear the "All Clear."
4. If there is an incident to report, find Your Warden. Tell him of it, THEN OBEY HIS REQUESTS.

★ TAKE COVER.
LEAVE THE ROADS CLEAR.
DON'T PANIC.

EVACUATION is allowed ONLY by
order of the Police or Wardens.

PASTE OR HANG THIS ON YOUR WALL

Stella Maris Presentation College, Sanford Street, Geraldton

Stella Maris Presentation College (now Nagle Catholic College) was a boarding school for country girls and occupied this site between 1891-1993.

After the bombing of Darwin in October 1942, the College evacuated boarders and teachers to the Presentation Convent in Mount Magnet for the duration of the war.

Similarly, boys who boarded at the Christian Brothers' Saint Patrick's College, which was in Bayly Street, were sent to the Christian Brothers Agricultural School at Tardun.

Stella Maris and St Patrick's amalgamated in 1993 to form Nagle Catholic College.

Geraldton High School

The High School, which opened in 1939, was designated as No. 1 Dressing Station,



Left: Stella Maris Presentation College, c.1939 (Courtesy Tracy Budd, P 747). Right: Geraldton Senior High School, c.1940s (Courtesy Buchan Family, P 647).

a Military Hospital, in the event of an emergency. Equipment was stored in the classrooms. Room 16 was to be an operating theatre and Room 1 was filled with chloride of lime, a bleaching powder to be used to prevent decaying and rotting of bodies which were to be buried near the school.

On the south side of the quadrangle, red-painted cement blocks made a large cross indicating the site was a Military Hospital.

Trenches were dug around the perimeter of the school, and students were taught first aid and how to extinguish incendiary bombs.

There were other Dressing Stations established around Geraldton, for example the No. 2 Dressing Station was located at the Masonic Lodge, in Augustus Street.

Image opposite: Civil Defence Council evacuation information. (Courtesy GRL, G 2473).





Cathedral Avenue Precinct

STOP 11: Parking Station 6 (note ticketed parking), Cathedral Avenue, Geraldton

Walk towards intersection of Lester and Cathedral Avenues

Geraldton Drill Hall Complex

The Geraldton Drill Hall Complex, comprising the Drill Hall, Q-Store and former Parade Ground, is very significant for its association with the establishment of Colonial militia forces in the district following the departure of Imperial British forces from the Australian colonies in 1870. The original limestone building was constructed for the Geraldton Rifle Volunteer Corps in 1892. At this time the building was much larger, with stables adjoining the west elevation. Stone foundations of this structure are still evident at the rear of the building.

Local Soldiers and their Stories

On the 4th August 1914, just six days after the British declaration of war against Germany, young men from across the district eagerly queued at the Drill Hall to join the First Geraldton Contingent of the Overseas Expeditionary Force. Some 28 young men were selected. Included in the First Geraldton Contingent was Roy Thompson and his brother, Claude.

Roy enlisted on 15th August 1914 aged 19 years, embarking from Fremantle with Roy, on the 2nd November 1914 aboard the HMAT *Ascanius* (HMAT - His Majesty's Australian Transport). Both Roy and Claude were photographed along with the 11th Battalion at the Great Pyramid of Giza. Roy survived the

original landing at Anzac Cove only to lose his life just a few short days later, when he was killed in action on 2nd May 1915. Sgt. Roy Thompson is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial located at Gallipoli. Private Claude Thompson returned to Australia on 5th February 1918.

Roy had been a keen musician before the War and his bugle had travelled with him. His bugle returned to Australia with Claude and incredibly many years later, made it's way back to Geraldton where it is now played each year at the Anzac Day Dawn Service.

Image opposite: Studio photograph of Sgt. Roy Thompson (*Courtesy AWM, H06587*).



Image above: William (Bill) Cunningham (1908-99) (BEM - British Empire Medal) (*Courtesy GRL, P 020*). Bill served in the Army (2nd 11th Infantry Battalion) during World War II and was a Prisoner of War (1941-45). He was dedicated to the service of community, taking on many roles including RSL President, Town Councillor (1959-84), and was awarded Freeman of the City of Geraldton in 1989.





WAAAFery, Cathedral Avenue

On the site of the present day carpark (Parking Station 6), the Catholic Cathedral Women's Group offered accommodation to the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force while on leave from the No. 4 Flying Training School based at the Geraldton Aerodrome. Known affectionately as 'The WAAAFery' and also 'Green Gables', it was next to the former St Patrick's School, and was crammed with stretchers and blankets.

Image opposite: Members of the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) take part in physical training exercises on a Geraldton beach, 23rd April 1944.

They were attending a non-commissioned officers (NCOs) course at No. 4 Service Flying Training School (SFTS). Note the American Catalina aircraft in the background (*Courtesy AWM, P02221.010*).

Women made many other valuable contributions to war efforts over the years, including coordinating fund-raising and

Comfort Fund activities, posts in nursing, Signalling Corps and the Land Army, filling traditionally male-held roles, whilst also continuing to support and run households, often as a single parent.



Image above: Meat ration cards, Hegney family, c1948 (*Courtesy Tony Critch and Clem Keefe, P 11359*). The ration system was occasionally avoided through other means. Stan Gratte recalls the local black market trade in butter that occurred during World War II.



St. Patrick's School, on the site of "The WAAAFery", undated (Courtesy Margetic family, P. 58).



Good times at the Old Halls

STOP 12: Parking Station 4 (note ticketed parking), Durlacher Street, Geraldton

Old Town Hall

Now home to the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery, the Town Hall was an important venue where many civic functions were held including 'Farewell' and 'Welcome Home' celebrations as well as fundraising events, particularly during World War I. The town's first Anzac Day Service was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 25th April 1916.

A Krupp Field gun and trench mortar, both probably captured by Geraldton men of the 10th Light Horse in Palestine during World War I, were allocated to the Geraldton Town Council in 1922 by the State Trophy Committee. These trophy guns were displayed

on the lawn outside the Town Hall for many years, until they were removed around 1960 when Anzac Terrace was being developed.

During World War II, the Town Hall was known as the 'Returning Place' because soldiers and airmen sometimes 'borrowed' bikes from locals if they had missed the bus back to the airport base at the weekend. Military trucks subsequently returned the bikes here. Dances and other major social events, such as the Air Force Concert, continued to be held at the Town Hall during World War II.

Image opposite: American Navy personnel and local residents at the Geraldton Town Hall during World War II, c1942 (*Courtesy C.R. Smitty (U.S. Army) and Stan Gratte, P 1144*).

Walk south across Durlacher Street to see the Druids Hall.



Members of the Australian Army Canteen Services serving troops at Geraldton. Shown are W31250 B. Clark (1) and W59415 L.H. Gallop (2) (*Courtesy AWM, 028723*).



Druids Hall

Corner Durlacher and Sanford Streets, Geraldton

During World War II, dances were regularly held at the Druids Hall, where service men and women came to socialize with the local civilians.

One soldier recalled: "It was always packed out. You had to be lucky to get a partner. And how the sheilas suffered from army boots."

The hall also operated a dry canteen during the day where local women made scones and tea for the soldiers.

Several similar voluntary community refreshment services were offered throughout the town, mostly run by church organisations. Mac's Bus Service operated during World War II and transported many airmen to and from the Flight Training School at Moonyoonooka into town for social and other occasions.

Image opposite: 'Enemy' troops take possession of Geraldton during field exercises carried out by 2nd and 4th Australian divisions, 1942. In the background is the old Queens Hotel, Durlacher Street (Courtesy AWM, 028700).



Left: Druids Hall (Courtesy Trish Parker). Right: Geraldton Regional Art Gallery (Courtesy Andrew Cornish).



Businesses During World War II

STOP 13: Walk along Durlacher Street, towards Marine Terrace, north west from Stop 12

With the large number of defence personnel based in the area, Geraldton's town centre boomed.

The eight hotels in Geraldton flourished, while the many military bands in town produced a gala atmosphere with their afternoon practice sessions. Occasionally huge military parades would march through the town; one parade comprised 2000 military vehicles.

The Strand Café, which is now Champion House was a coffee lounge which was very popular with soldiers, and was noted for its steak and eggs.

An Army wet canteen operated from the shop that is now a pharmacy on Marine Terrace.

At one stage it only sold the locally brewed Globe Beer, which was not at all popular with the visiting servicemen, causing them to flock to the pubs that sold Swan Beer. The building was sandbagged to prevent bomb damage.

Brady and Cobley's Garage, which operated on the site of the present Batavia Park on the corner of Marine Terrace and Durlacher Street, was forced to close in 1942 when all the employees enlisted.

During the period of the war the building was occupied by the Military Police.

The business reopened at the end of the war and operated for another 50 years.

Image opposite: Troops of the 25th Australian Cavalry Regiment (AIF) approach the saluting base during a march past, Marine Terrace, 1943 (Courtesy AWM, 051529).



An enemy machine gun post and wire entanglement set up during an exercise at the rear of Brady and Cobley's Garage, corner Durlacher Street and Marine Terrace (Courtesy AWM, 028698).



East Marine Terrace

STOP 14: Walk along Marine Terrace from Stop 13

Old Government Buildings / Courthouse

The Courthouse building became the central hub for plane spotting by the Volunteer Air Observer Corps during World War II. The Corps was based on a system used in Britain and incorporated a telephone network linking observation and control posts. An observer post was first established in the foyer of Birdwood House where observers, recruited from all walks of life, provided 24-hour coverage.

The Reporting Centre was later moved to the upper storey of the Mechanics Institute Library. When it was decided to separate the Control Room, it was relocated to the Courthouse building, initially on the ground floor and then on the upper floor. The room was equipped with a large plotting table covered in an area map while models of various aircraft hung from the roof to aid in identification. Tracking

boards and blackboards were used to record actual and projected movements of aircraft. As activities increased two RAAF officers were appointed; one full time at the control room and the other travelling through the region encouraging and training observers.

In 1942, the RAAF established No.1 Spotting Station WT Post near Turtle Bay on East Wallabi in the Abrolhos Islands, including the first airstrip. This was manned constantly by staff and cadets from the No. 4 Service Flying Training School until March 1943. The RAAF also established spotting stations at Port Gregory, South Greenough and Yuna. Duties included coast watching and patrolling, while radio contact with Geraldton twice a day.

Image opposite: View of Geraldton looking down Durlacher Street, 18th October 1941, with HMAS *Sydney* II believed to be at anchor in Champion Bay on her last visit to Geraldton (Courtesy Willock family, P 829).



The RAAF wireless station on East Wallabi Island, 1942. In the background are some of the luggers which were used by members of the 2nd infantry brigade during exercises around the Abrolhos Islands (Courtesy AWM, P01588019).



Birdwood House

STOP 15: Walk along Forrest Street south from Stop 14

Birdwood House, built in 1935, was one of the earliest known purpose-built Returned and Services League (RSL) halls in Western Australia. It is still used as the headquarters for Geraldton's RSL and houses a significant collection of military memorabilia. For more information, contact 9964 1520.

Spotting of planes and boats by the Volunteer Air Observers Corp was first conducted here in 1942 when a military observation post was established in the foyer.

From sunset to sunrise three or four people would pace the lawns watching for aircraft.

The observation posts later moved to the Mechanics' Institute, the Soldier's Institute, and finally the Courthouse building.

Birdwood House was also used as an

entertainment and meals centre for the army, where local women volunteered in the kitchen to provide meals for defence personnel.

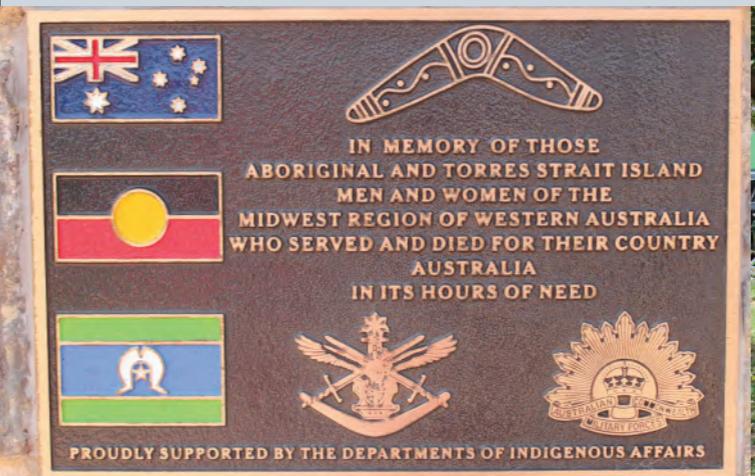
The unveiling of the War Memorial and opening of Birdwood House on the corner of Eleanor (Chapman Rd) and Forrest Streets was held on the 1st September 1935.

A commemorative plaque installed on the Wall of Remembrance in 2004 recognises the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women.

Image opposite: Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood (holding hat and coat), who commanded the ANZAC Corps at Gallipoli and after whom the building was named, visited in 1937 and was presented with a gold key and Freedom of Birdwood House. He is seen here with the RSL Committee (*Courtesy Geraldton RSL*).



Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood with R.S.L. Committee, Birdwood House Geraldton, August 27th. 1937.



Commemorative plaque and military display in the grounds of Birdwood House, 2018 (*Courtesy Trish Parker*).

Geraldton Railway Station (Old)



STOP 16: Walk along Chapman Road east from Stop 15

Railway Station, Chapman Road

Geraldton's third Railway Station was opened for traffic on the 13th June 1915. This new building replaced Geraldton's second Railway Station - a timber station and infrastructure which had opened in 1894 and was located on Marine Terrace (opposite the Government Buildings, present day Courthouse).

Always a place for greetings and goodbyes, recruitment piper, John Wayland, was known to ceremoniously pipe-off locals as they left town to join the armed forces throughout the course of World War I.

During World War II, the railway station was the centre of a constant stream of trucks, troops and supplies, with military police directing traffic. At this time the privately-owned Midland Railway Company of WA

(MRWA) operated three categories of military trains: RAAF leave trains, army pack trains and army leave trains. The trains were notoriously slow, sometimes taking 24 hours to travel the 400km between Perth and Geraldton, and were so uncomfortable they had a reputation as having square wheels.

Doug Brenkley recalls:

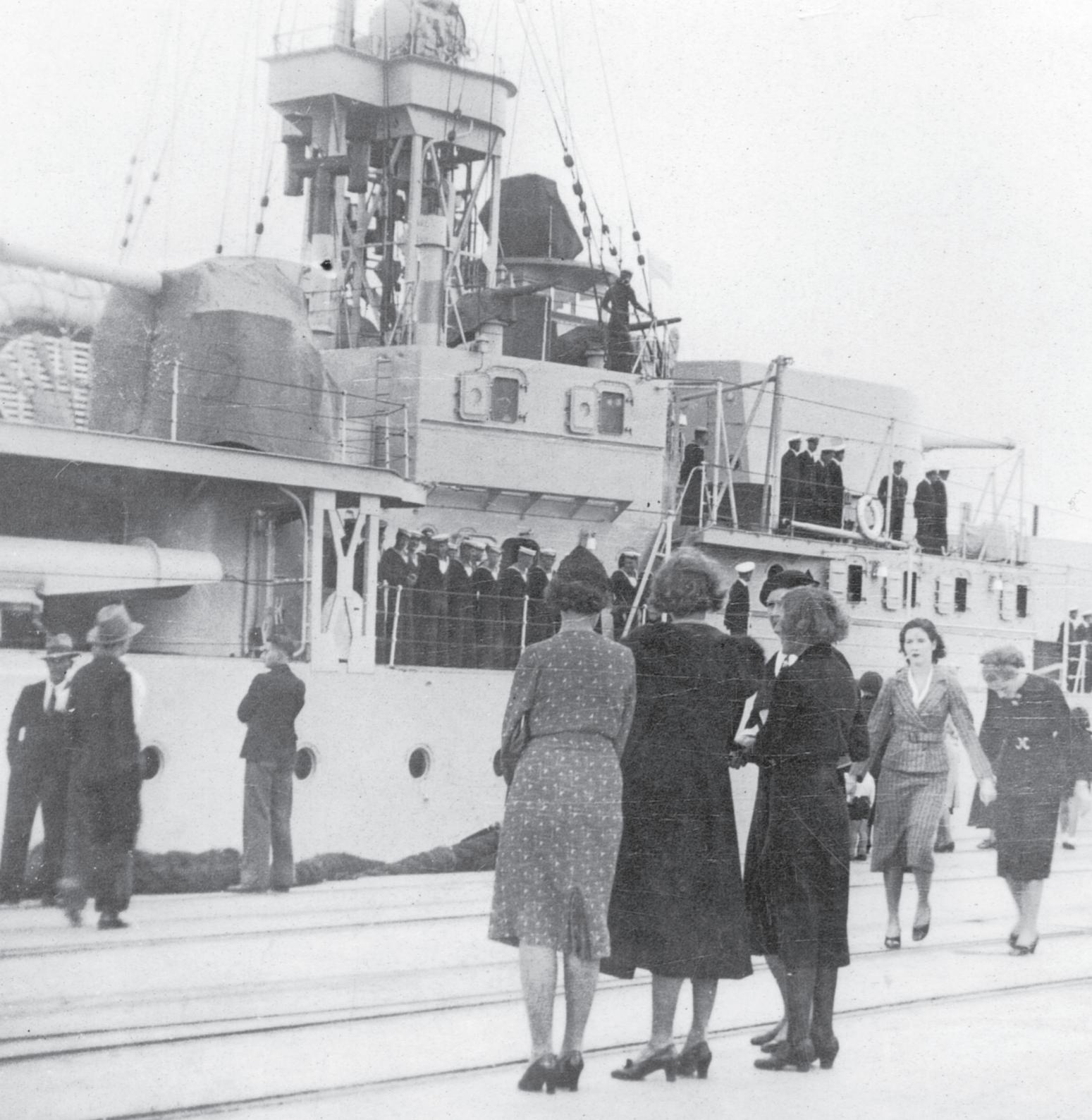
"Late August 1937, Christian Brothers College kids were waiting at the Geraldton Railway Station to catch the train to go home for the school holidays. Field Marshall Sir William Birdwood was visiting. He came over to the school truck asking who was the youngest boy on the truck. It happened to be me, so he gave me a box of chocolate frogs - these were quickly devoured with one for everyone on the truck".

Image opposite: Geraldton Railway Station, not dated (Courtesy Tracy Budd, P 707).



Army pack train with supplies for the many troops camped between Midland and Geraldton, July 1944 (Courtesy J. Goggs, P. 5272, RHWA Archives).





HMAS Sydney II Memorial

STOP 17: Gummer Avenue, Geraldton

The loss of HMAS *Sydney* II was Australia's greatest naval tragedy.

The HMAS *Sydney* II Memorial is a Military Memorial of National Significance dedicated to the memory of 645 men who lost their lives during the engagement with HSK *Kormoran* off the WA coast on 19th November 1941.

The Memorial was dedicated on 18th November 2001, on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the sinking.

It overlooks the Indian Ocean in which HMAS *Sydney* II was lost. The wreck was located in March 2008 off the coast of Shark Bay. The Memorial is a special place of contemplation and reflection, consisting of six symbolic concepts: The Dome of Souls, The Waiting Woman, The Wall of Remembrance, The Stele, The Pool of Remembrance and The Eternal Flame. The Memorial project was originally initiated by the Rotary Club of Geraldton in

1998, with many other community groups contributing to its progress over the years. Design of the Memorial and all its elements was by Smith Sculptors.

The Geraldton Volunteer Tour Guides provide a tour of the Memorial every day. More information is available from the Geraldton Visitor Centre. Also visit Museum of Geraldton for HMAS *Sydney* II and HSK *Kormoran* displays. To contact the Museum of Geraldton, phone 9431 8393.

Image opposite: HMAS *Sydney* II berthed at the Geraldton wharf, 1937, with crew on deck (*Courtesy Dennis Jarvis, P 7136*).

Image below left: Sculptor's drawings for design of the Waiting Woman (*Courtesy Joan and Charlie Smith, Smith Sculptors*). *Image below right:* Memorial elements (*Courtesy Trevor Ralph*).





HMAS SYDNEY II Memorial

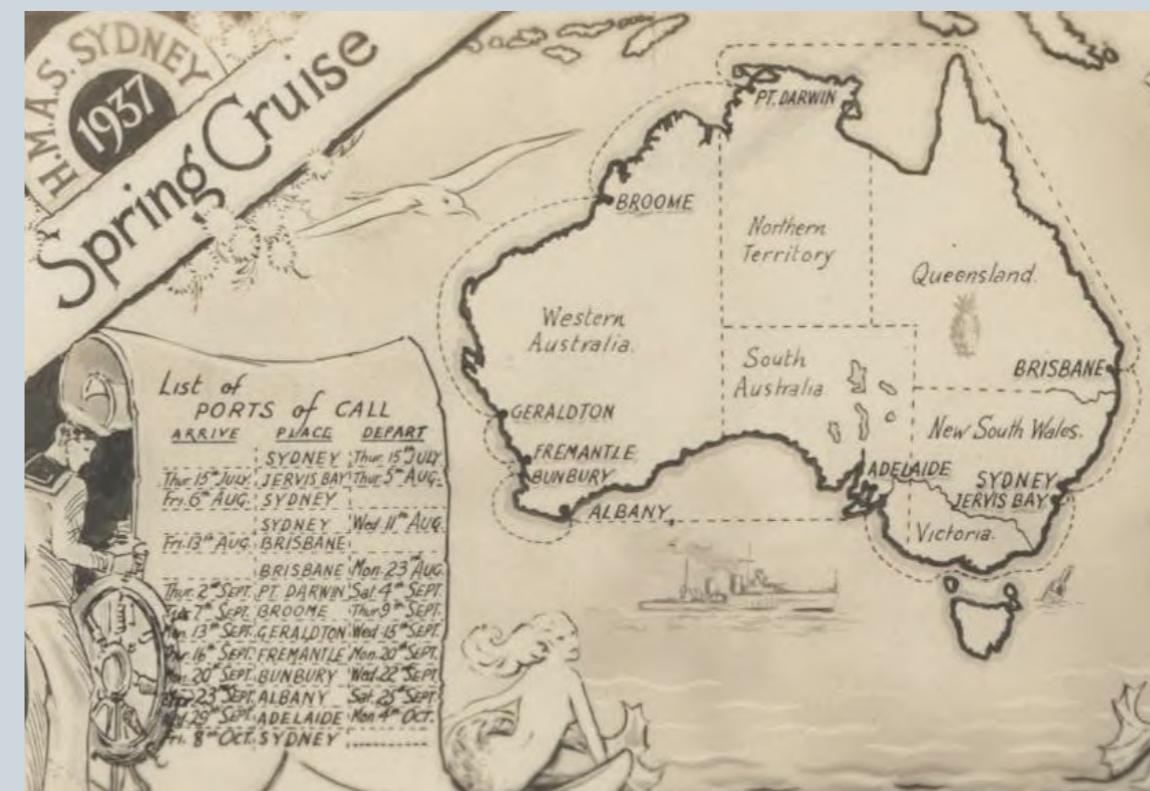
HMAS *Sydney* II called at Geraldton a few days before she was torpedoed and sunk on the 19th November 1941.

As in previous visits to the Port of Geraldton, some of her senior sailors went ashore and spent the night at the Senior Sergeant's mess of the RAAF No. 4 Senior Flying School where this drawing of the ship, made by Chief Petty Officer Louis Nicholas Sampson, was signed and presented.

With the closing of the No. 4 Service Flying Training School at the end of the war, the drawing was handed to the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Fremantle, as a last relic of the *Sydney*.

The frame in which the drawing is now fitted was made up by civilian naval employees in Fremantle.

It is made of jarrah, a timber grown only in Western Australia, and was considered to be particularly appropriate to the circumstances (Courtesy AWM, RELAWM30766).



HMAS *Sydney* Spring cruise, 1937 (Courtesy Sea Power Centre, Canberra).



Camps and Communications

STOP 18: Bill Sewell Complex (Old Victoria District Hospital), corner Chapman Road and Bayly Street, Geraldton

Look south east to Mount Scott

Army Garrison Camp

The 19th Garrison Battalion was composed of companies from Albany, Busselton, Bunbury and Geraldton.

In 1942 they were camped in tents on Eastern Road and at Moonyoonooka, and in the hollow behind George Road, where there was a Field Kitchen, mess and other army facilities. Caterpillar itch caused by the prickle bush and wattle growing in the area was a common problem. At the top of Snowden Street the 19th Garrison Battalion Signals Group operated an underground telephone exchange from a room dug into Mt Scott.

The room was completely lined with sleepers and connected to the outside of the hill by a sleeper-lined tunnel. The exchange was linked to all units, battalion headquarters and also to the Geraldton Post Office located in Marine Terrace.

Additional Sites of Interest

NO. 47 RDF (Radar)

In February 1943, operations commenced at the No. 47 RDF (Radar Station) near Boronia Avenue, south of Waverly Heights. The radar had the ability to monitor 160 nautical miles for signs of enemy aircraft or shipping, and also monitored trainees to ensure safe flying practice. The operations complex on top of the hill were camouflaged, fenced and guarded, and comprised of the Operations Room and radar equipment, which was called 'The Doover'. Some of the houses along Queen, Durlacher and Gertrude Streets which were commandeered for personnel are still used as residences. A full account of the history of the 47 RDF (Radar) has been compiled by Doug Brenkley (see Further Reading).

Image opposite top: Modern view of old No. 47 RDF Radar site (*Courtesy Trish Parker*).

Image opposite bottom: "B" Company 19th Garrison Battalion, Geraldton 1942 (*Courtesy Jim Lowrie, P 2027*).



Left: 'The Doover'. Right: View of 47 Radar up from Hutchison Street (*Courtesy of Doug Brenkley*).

Protecting the Coast

STOP 19: Rundle Park, St Georges Beach, Cecily Street, then onto Bluff Point Lighthouse Keepers Cottage, 355 Chapman Road, Bluff Point

Geraldton Fortress

Early in 1942 two United States 6 inch naval guns were emplaced on the hillside between George Road and Eve Street.

The Geraldton Fortress Engineer Section was given the task of siting and emplacing two Aust. 90 cm searchlights on the seafront between the guns and the beach. Two timber buildings were erected as fettler sheds next to the railway line in order to disguise the light. The firing of the guns in practice caused considerable damage to nearby commandeered houses, most of which needed extensive repair before being returned to the owners in 1945. The Geraldton Coast Battery was manned by Gunners and Fortress Engineers until early 1943 when it was handed over to trained Volunteer Defence Corps personnel. The Fortress was dismantled in 1944, when the guns were returned to the US Navy.

First Bluff Point Scout Hall

This building was originally used at the Geraldton Aerodrome during World War II as accommodation for the No. 4 Service Flying Training School.

After the base was no longer required, the majority of the buildings were sold at auction in mid 1947 dismantled and then began a new life as work and storage sheds on many properties in the district.

Image opposite: The Minister for the Army, the Hon. F. M. Forde, right of the launch, has just disembarked from the Catalina flying boat moored in Champion Bay, to pay a visit to troops in the area, 17th April 1943 (*Courtesy AWM, 051486*).

Bluff Point Lighthouse Keepers Cottage

Built in 1876, the Bluff Point Lighthouse played an important role in the early days of shipping in and out of Champion Bay. Enrolled Pensioner Guard, John Kelly (pictured below, with his wife Anna Fox) was appointed Lighthouse Keeper on 1st May 1876, at a salary of £70 per year.

Now home to the Geraldton Historical Society, the Museum holds many photographs, stories and ephemera relating to the history of the war years in Geraldton. For more information phone 9923 1837.

Image below: John and Anna Kelly (nee Fox) (*Courtesy Geraldton Historical Society*).





Nazareth House

STOP 20: 17 Crowtheron Street, Bluff Point

Run by the Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth, Nazareth House was designed by the Priest Architect Monsignor John Hawes and completed in 1941 with the intention of housing child migrants sent from Britain.

However, during the War it became unsafe to transport children and Nazareth House opened its doors to destitute and orphaned local children, as well as aged and infirm people. From 1947 it housed children from Britain and Malta, many of whom had been uprooted by the war in Europe.

A number of these child migrants were also sent out to the Tardun Farm School. Tardun Farm School was run by the Christian Brothers from 1928 as a Home where boys would learn farm skills. Tardun Farm School closed in 1967 but remained open as an agricultural boarding school where some children were placed by the departments responsible for child welfare. Tardun closed at the end of 2008.

Image opposite: Nazareth House, c1950 (Courtesy Lesley Blakeney, P 793).



Left: Entry to Nazareth House (Courtesy Trudi Cornish). Right: Looking across the Chapman River, 1954 (Courtesy SLWA, 142861PD).





Waggrakine Precinct

STOP 21: Waggrakine Hall, Hackett Road, Waggrakine

In early 1942 the Army set up tents on two acres of farmland surrounding this site and as many as 500 men were accommodated here.

This small camp also contained Bren gun carriers which were used in a mock war called the Robber Baron Exercise involving the 2nd and 4th Infantry divisions defending Geraldton.

The mock war, which lasted six days and aimed to teach survival skills was one of several large training exercises held in the early years of the war.

Look towards the coast and north.

Army Training areas, Drummond Cove and Glenfield

Sandhills located to the immediate north of Drummond Cove were used as a live firing range for small arms, while Glenfield was one of the most utilised anti-tank, artillery and mortar training areas in the Geraldton region during World War II. A large amount of exploded ordnance across several impact areas has been found in the area over the years.

Image opposite: Manoeuvres carried out by the 2nd and 4th Australian Divisions included the defending forces capturing an enemy tank (represented by Bren Gun Carrier), 1942 (Courtesy AWM, 028679).

22

Wonthella Memorial Hall

STOP 22: 253 Fifth Street, Wonthella

This building was constructed in 1960 by the Wonthella Progress Association with funds raised by the local community as well as from the Airforce Association.

It is known as a memorial hall in memory of the RAAF members who lost their lives during World War II.

The hall became the social centre for the Wonthella community, which used it for social occasions, meetings and sports such as badminton and squash.

Later the building housed Geraldton's first television station (GTW 11) and in 2001 was converted into a furniture store.



Serving Country War Memorial and Fountain

STOP 23: Bundiyarra Aboriginal Corporation, Eastward Road, Rangeway

A dedicated Indigenous War Memorial Wall and Fountain at Bundiyarra Aboriginal Corporation honours the Indigenous men and women who served their country in wars throughout the past 100 years.

One family of particular significance is the Mallard family, of which ten of its members have served in the Australian forces since World War I.

Five Aboriginal women from the Mid West served time in the defence forces. Geraldton man David Burns was so inspired by the war

service of local Aboriginal people that he handcrafted re-creations of each medal and award won by the servicemen, and inscribed more than 150 names in a glass-framed memorial plaque.

The plaque was unveiled in 2015 at Bundiyarra's Camp Gallipoli event by Burns, RSL President Ross Davies, and Vietnam Veteran and Wilunyu Elder Graham Taylor.

To organise a visit or for more information, contact Bundiyarra Aboriginal Corporation, Eastward Road, Geraldton: 9920 7900.

(Images courtesy Trish Parker).





Geraldton War Cemetery

STOP 24: Adjacent to Geraldton Public Cemetery, Eastward Road, Utakarra

The Geraldton War Cemetery is a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery which honours those who lost their lives in Western Australia while serving with the Australian Armed Services during World War II. It contains 83 burials, comprising 41 Australian Army and 42 RAAF personnel. Many of the RAAF died in air training accidents. The deceased include 22 airmen who were killed in four separate accidents near Geraldton in 1943; in one of the accidents, eight men were killed when their Beaufort A9/173 crashed east of Yetna. The Cemetery also contains the grave of the unknown sailor from the HMAS *Sydney* II. The cemetery was officially opened in October 1950, although the first burial occurred in December 1942.

The cemetery is the final resting place of Private (Pte.) John Adams, who is believed to have been the only man born and enlisted in

WA to be killed by enemy action in the state during World War II. Pte. Adams was a dairy farmer from the Swan Valley who was only 19 years old when he died during the first of three Japanese attacks on Port Hedland in 1942. He was deployed with the 29th Garrison Battalion, which were stationed in tents near the Port Hedland airfield. Early on the morning of July 30th, when the first bombs fell, Pte Adams sought shelter under his bunk bed. A 60kg daisy cutter bomb exploded about 10m from the tent, sending up a mountain of earth and red-hot metal, including a piece of shrapnel that ripped through the tent, hitting Pte. Adams in the head and killing him instantly. A military funeral was held on the same afternoon. Pte. Adams was buried in the Port Hedland Cemetery, but was re-interred to the Geraldton War Cemetery after the war.

Image opposite: Headstone marking the grave of Private John Adams.



Left: Geraldton War Cemetery (Courtesy Trish Parker). Right: Unveiling of the Cross of Sacrifice, 1st October 1950 (Courtesy GRL, P 9840).



Woorree Tomato Growers: An Italian Migrant Story

STOP 25: Drive to Geraldton Airport along Horwood Road. Imagine the busy growers from the past working in the fields along the way

Early in World War II, 65 local residents, mostly of Italian descent, were taken into custody after Australia declared war on Italy in June 1940.

Western Command pointed out that the Italians in Geraldton produced most of the tomatoes in the state and recommended that 30 of the internees be released immediately - advice that was accepted.

Despite the release of the internees, tomato and vegetable farmers faced shortages of labour. The Department of the Army insisted that 50% of the grower's consignment be sold to the military. This was an advantage to the growers as the fruit did not have to be sun-

ripened and the tomatoes did not have to be packed according to size.

About this time a pulp factory was established at Bluff Point, but labour was so scarce the Australian National League despatched a number of young women to the district to pick and pack tomatoes.

Local children were also requested to volunteer at tomato gardens in the Woorree area as part of the war effort. By June 1943 the lucrative factory had closed due to shortages of labour.

Image opposite: Workers on George Allen's tomato farm, c1935. George Allen was one of the largest tomato growers in the district during World War II. The majority of his share-gardeners were Italians, Macedonians, Greeks and Yugoslavs (*Courtesy Allen family, P 1184*).



Row of eighteen Kurrajong trees adjacent to Flores Road, remnant of the old Wonthella Railway Siding. At the industry's peak, three trains per week were sent south from this siding, loaded with tomatoes bound for Sydney, Melbourne, South East Asia and Singapore (*Courtesy Trish Parker*).

No. 4 Service Flying Training School

STOP 26: Geraldton Airport, Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road, Moonyoonooka

The No. 4 Service Flying Training School was based at the Geraldton Aerodrome from 1940 to 1944.

The school provided intermediate and advanced pilot training on the twin-engined Avro Ansons over a 16 week period. At one stage there were 1,572 personnel at the school, housed in rows of huts, including 178 WAAAF and four nurses.

Personnel included radio operators, flight mechanics, clerks, cooks, motor transport drivers, storekeepers, wireless and telegraph operators, and sick quarter attendants.

Group Captain Norman Brearley came out of aviation retirement to assume the role

of Commanding Officer of the school. He was later knighted for his contribution to aviation and the Geraldton Air Terminal, from where Australia's first air service was flown, recognises Brearley, being renamed Brearley Terminal in 1979.

By the time the school closed in 1944, over 2,000 trainees had completed an integral part of their training at the base. At the end of the War there was a large pile of decommissioned Avro Ansons stacked upon each other near Narngulu.

Image opposite: Group Captain Brearley inspecting air crew trainees at No. 4 Service Flying Training School, Geraldton, 1943 (Courtesy AWM, 056118).



Aerial view of the RAAF Base, Geraldton, c1942 (Courtesy AWM, P01164.016).





Between 1946 and 1948 Captain Charles Snook successfully tendered for 16 Avro Ansons.

Six were used for parts and the others were used as passenger craft by West Australian Air Fleet for many years. Most of the huts and equipment were sold off in 1947 in a large three-day auction.

Three original buildings are still standing in the airport complex, and many foundations remain in the nearby paddock.

Local businessman and engineer, Wally Bawden, bought well over 100 of the Ansons plus brand new Spitfire engines still in their wooden packing crates. He also purchased a host of spare parts and at the time, was regarded as the owner of the largest private aircraft fleet in Australia.

A display inside the passenger terminal recognizes and documents the important role played by the No. 4 Service Flying Training School at Geraldton during World War II.

Image opposite: 48 Course Wings Graduation 1944. Top row: Bruce Cullen, Bob Couper, Ray Elliott, Bob Hardwick, Steve Adams, Chas Bell, Banks. Second row: Bill Bevilaqua, Arthur Andrews, Peter Wharton, Joe Zanich, John Carpenter, Bob Hill, Keith Sharpe. Third row: Bert Lindon, Eric Douglas, Jason Cruikshank, Allan Rowlands, Bob Riessen, George Meadows, Joe Strickland, Dick Brown, Frank Byrnes. Seated: S/L TC Milne, W/C V. Ray, G/C D.R. Chapman CO, W/C E.M. Ball, F/L N.R.M Munts (*Courtesy A.G. Lindon, P 1959*).



At the end of the war, the aircraft were declared surplus and many were sold to private operators (Courtesy Geraldton Regional Library, P 375).



Additional Sites of Interest

General Land Headquarters, Moonyoonooka

Headquarters for the 2nd Infantry Division were established at Moonyoonooka, just east of Moonyoonooka Siding. Major General H.W. Lloyd, Adjutant General Land Headquarters, was stationed here.

Army Camps

There were camps throughout the Geraldton area, including at the racecourse, showground, Moonyoonooka, Narngulu, Bootenal, Utakarra, Ellendale, Glengarry, Wicherina, Bringo, Tenindewa and Mullewa.

It has been estimated that there were up to 40,000 soldiers based in the region at any one time.

Moonyoonooka Store, Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road

The store was very popular with the hundreds of troops camped in the vicinity. A nearby

building served as troop accommodation, and the school, now demolished, was used as a store for hard rations such as biscuits.

Ammunition Dumps, Moonyoonooka and Bringo

Dug into the ground and hidden from sight, dumps held various types of ammunition to suit the guns being used in the area. There were many other ammunition dumps established in the district, usually located in close proximity to gun instalments.

Image opposite : Moonyoonooka, WA. 1943. Informal group portrait of officers of "G" Branch staff, Headquarters, 2nd Division, standing outside a tent. Left to right: Captain (Capt.) J. Whitelaw, Capt. John Quinn, Capt. Allan Thompson, Capt. Gerald Ruse, Capt. Rich Hardy, Capt. Harold Maloney, Capt. James Anderson. (*Courtesy AWM, P02729.026*).



Bruce Tuckwell and friends, who were stationed in Geraldton during World War II, c1942 (*Courtesy GRL, P 1712*).



Central Greenough

STOP 27: Greenough Museum and Gardens, 11 Phillips Road, Greenough

The Greenough Museum and Gardens holds many stories about the area and the people who have lived in the district. This beautifully restored homestead was built between 1862 and 1880 for John and Elizabeth Maley.

One such person with a special connection to the old Maley homestead was Fanny Isabella Hamersley. Fanny served with the Australian Army Nursing Service during World War I.

Born in Guildford in 1884, Fanny grew up at "Fairfield" in Walkaway. Fanny enlisted in 1915 and served in England and France, not returning home until 1919.

Fanny married Septimus Frank Maley (youngest son of John and Elizabeth Maley) and they went to live in a war service home at Three Springs.

Frank Maley was also a World War I veteran, having enlisted in October 1914. Frank served with the 10th Regiment 3rd Light Horse

Brigade across many sites of conflict, including Gallipoli.

More information can be obtained by contacting the Greenough Museum and Gardens: 9926 1890.

Drive east along Georgina Road

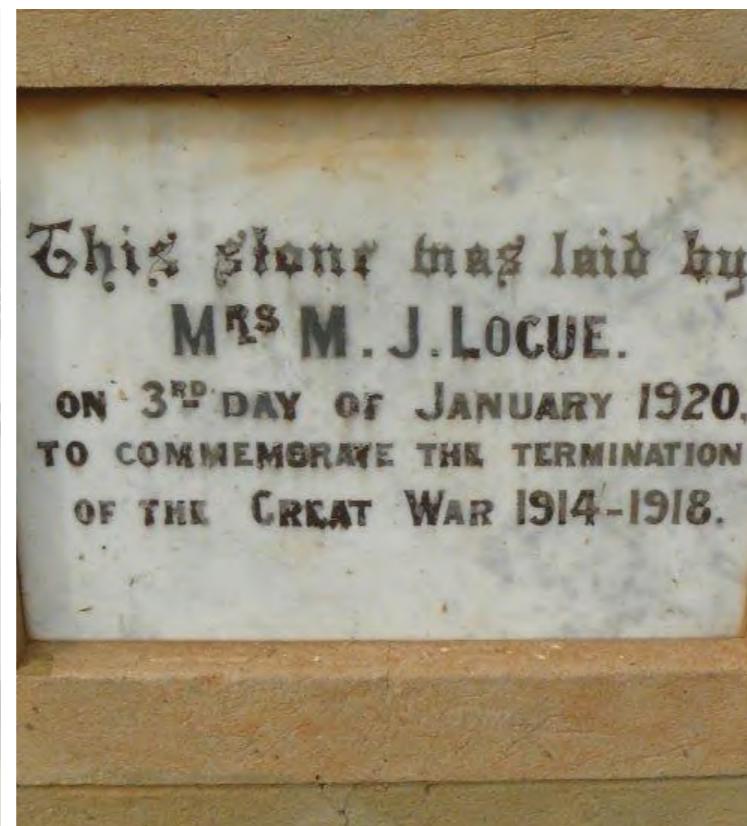
During World War II, in an attempt to alleviate the dust problem at the main airfield and to give No. 4 Service Flying Training School trainees experience at other fields, a series of landing strips was established in the region. The Georgina landing strip was bounded by Georgina Road and Edward Road, and supported 20 Avro Ansons with ground and air crew billeted in nearby tents.

Images opposite top left and bottom: Greenough Museum and Gardens (*Courtesy GRL*).

Right: Fanny Isabella Maley (nee Hamersley) (*Courtesy Greenough Museum & Gardens*).



Signallers at Georgina Satellite Landing Strip in 1943 reporting air movements during a demonstration by 56 Australian Infantry Battalion of the capture of an airfield by airborne troops (Courtesy AWM, 050892).



Walkaway

STOP 28: Walkaway Station Museum, 2 Padbury Road, Walkaway

In World War II the platform of the Walkaway Railway Station was used as an observation post for Voluntary Air Observation Corps, as part of a regional observation network.

At the peak of operations there were 150 observation posts in the region using a wide variety of observers, including station and farm owners, country storekeepers and post masters. This provided for 24-hour coverage using telephone facilities which in many cases were a party line.

Each post was equipped with binoculars which were used as night glasses after sunset. RAAF officers trained observers in aircraft recognition, cloud identification, weather

reporting, use of telephones, radios, plotting tables and emergency procedures for planes experiencing navigational problems. Observers were also trained how to determine the speed of an aircraft, how to estimate the potential destination of a bomb, once dropped during passage of an aircraft, and how to create and maintain log book entries and air flash procedures.

The Walkaway Station Museum also displays a World War I hammered copper Roll of Honour Board 1914 - Irwin and Greenough Districts, which was funded by the community and installed in 1918 before the cessation of the War. For more information about the Museum, contact: 9926 1976.



29

STOP 29: Walkaway Memorial Hall, Padbury Road, Walkaway

The Walkaway Hall was opened by the Hon R.W. Pennefather, attended by the Geraldton Temperance Brass Band, on 22nd October 1901.

It served as a centre for social functions for many years and was the venue for dances, concerts, flower shows, weekly Catholic Mass, Anglican services, the Oddfellows Lodge, Police and Citizens, and Country Women's Association meetings. In 1920 the front porch section of the hall was added in memory of those who fought in World War I.

A memorial plaque on the building reads: "This stone was laid by Mrs M.J. Logue on 3rd day of January 1920 to commemorate the termination of the Great War 1914-18."

In 1983 the Walkaway Recreation Hall was opened and the old hall fell into disuse until 1991 when a small group of volunteers restored the building for the benefit of the local community.

Images opposite top: Farming country near Walkaway. (Courtesy Trish Parker). *Images opposite bottom:* Walkaway Memorial Hall and Plaque (Courtesy Tanya Henkel).



Additional Sites of Interest

Walkaway Bombing Range

The Walkaway Air to Ground armament range was used by the No. 4 Service Flying Training School. The range was located on the south side of the Nangetty-Walkaway Road and in 2011, some 200 obsolete World War II aircraft practice bombs were uncovered and removed from the area.

Burma Road

Burma Road was a track cleared by the Australian Army in about 1942. Built through bush across sandplain country, it runs from Nangetty Road near Walkaway, south-east to Strawberry Bridge. Burma Road was named in memory of the harsh working conditions encountered in constructing the Burmese Road during the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937.

It was used for the movement of the armed forces between the army depots to the south and Geraldton.

In the event of enemy invasion along the coast, Burma Road was to be used as an inland escape route from Geraldton.

In later years the road was upgraded to a good gravel road and the adjoining land was opened up for farming.

Image opposite: Trucks of the convoy that moved 8 Battery, 2/3rd Light Anti Aircraft Regiment from Perth to Geraldton, stopped on the road north. (*Courtesy AWM, P01260.025*).



Farming country near Ellendale Springs (Courtesy Trish Parker).



Farms and the War

STOP 30: Ellendale Pool, Ellendale Road, Ellendale

Journey to Mullewa along Ellendale and Sandsprings Roads, Ellendale.

Early in World War II many families evacuated Geraldton to avoid the danger of a Japanese air raid, with some making their way to inland farming properties.

They often encountered food shortages, overcrowding and the lack of the comforts of home; some families having to make their temporary homes in farm sheds. Most evacuees returned to Geraldton within a couple of months.

The pastoral and agricultural sectors suffered severe shortages of manpower when farmers were occupied in the services or Volunteer Defence Corps, and women, youths and older men often ran the farms in their absence. Others, keen to enlist, were turned away due to labour controls or manpower regulations put in place by the Government.

Soldiers undertook field exercises throughout the district, and it was commonplace to see long caterpillar lines of soldiers appearing in farm paddocks as they trained.



Ellendale

In 1943, 5 Field Company, and subsequently 52 Field Pack Company, were based at Ellendale for field training. Many of the visiting army personnel wrote their names on the front wall of the homestead, but this historic graffiti has sadly been lost as the building has fallen into disrepair.

Sandsprings

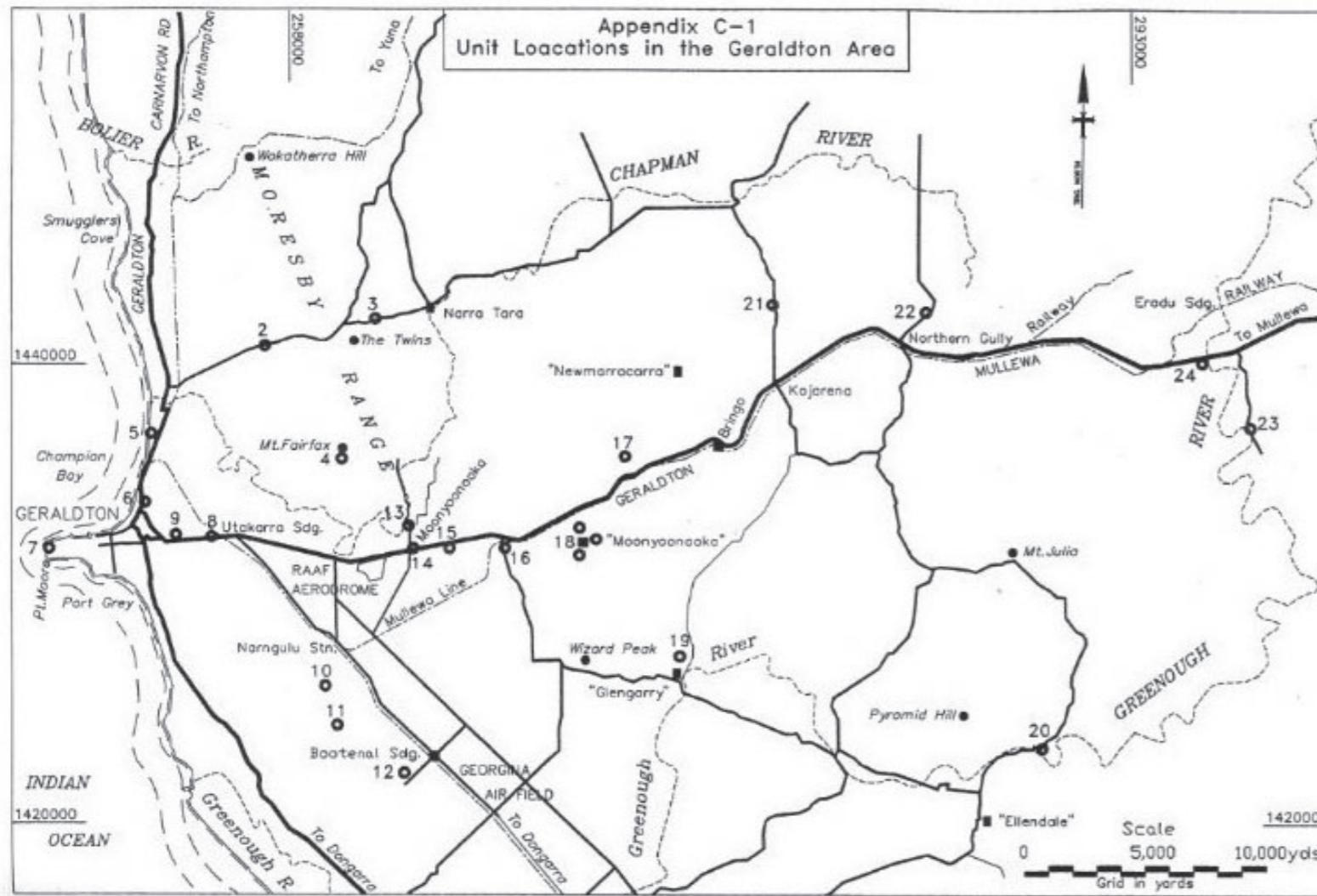
The Sandsprings homestead features in *The Merry-Go-Round in the Sea*, but was renamed Sandalwood by author Randolph Stow. During World War II, when it was feared that the Japanese might invade or bomb the local coastline, many women and children were evacuated from Geraldton to inland properties. Six women and twelve children were evacuated to Sandsprings and nearby Koogereena, including the six-year-old Randolph Stow.

Newmarracarra

During World War II, the 17-room homestead at Newmarracarra was used as an army hospital and as barracks for the NSW Militia Battalion, which was under the command of General Lloyd.

It is also believed that four Italian prisoners of war, who were skilled tradesmen, worked on the property during this period.

Image opposite: Randolph Stow's experiences in the Midwest during World War II, including evacuating to inland stations for periods of time with his family, form the basis of his famous novel *The Merry-Go-Round in the Sea* (Courtesy GRL, P 9597).



Kojarena

STOP 31: St James Chapel, South Road, Kojarena

Italian stonemason Enrico Boschetti, who worked for many years with Monsignor John Hawes, laid the stone for the St James Chapel of Ease at Kojarena in 1935. Boschetti had emigrated from Italy in 1929, and despite living an exemplary life in Australia, he was twice interned during World War II. Father Gallagher unsuccessfully petitioned the government to release Boschetti from internment to allow him to continue working as a builder. When the war ended, Boschetti went on to be a highly respected stone mason and builder in the Midwest.

During World War II, the 104 Tank-attack Regiment was based throughout the Kojarena area. The four batteries that were stationed at Kojarena in 1943 were withdrawn the following year and returned to Sydney.

A satellite landing strip was built to the north near Yanget Homestead for the No 4. Service Flying Training School, and proved successful because it was not as dusty as Geraldton or Georgina. Squadrons based at Kojarena were involved in the sea patrols trying to locate the missing HMAS *Sydney* II in November 1941.

The following March, a damaged American B17 bomber from Netherlands East Indies landed on the airstrip. United States technicians were flown in to repair the aircraft, and 10 days later it flew on to Victoria via Ceduna.

The remains of three Splinter Proof Shelters, or protected bays for planes, on the western side of the field site, can still be seen from the Geraldton/Mullewa Road.

Rita Stinson (nee Patten) recalls:

"There was a military camp on the small farm owned by George and Edith Patten and at the time Edith was on her own as George was in Broome on Army duty. Soldiers would visit the farmhouse but never go beyond the yard gate. Edith gave them fresh eggs and they loved talking to the couple's four small children. They also utilised a large Xanthorrhoea (grass tree) for bayonet practice and this tree was still on the farm many years later."

Image opposite top: Unit Locations in the Geraldton Area (depicted by numbers), from *Australia's Forgotten Army*, by Graham R. McKenzie-Smith.

Image opposite bottom: Old ruins near Walkaway (Courtesy Trish Parker).



Enrico Boschetti (pictured left) with Monsignor John Hawes during construction of St Francis Xavier Cathedral (Courtesy Father Robert Cross, Midwest Times, 31st August 2016).



Leane's Trench

STOP 32: Durawah Northern Gully and Geraldton-Mount Magnet Roads, Northern Gully

The 11th Battalion Living History Unit recreated a living Gallipoli Trench, which was opened in November 2016.

Leane's Trench is a replica of a captured Turkish trench as taken by the 11th Battalion AIF in 1915, and is named for the commander who led the attack, Captain R.L. Leane.

It is complete with authentic paraphernalia of war and is used for re-enactments, including sound systems to help create an authentic atmosphere. Information on Open Days is available on the 11th Battalion AIF Living History Unit webpage.

Image opposite: Re-enactments on site at Leane's Trench (Courtesy 11th Battalion Living History Unit).



33

Eradu Railway Bridge

STOP 33: Turn north off Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road, into Eradu North Road, Eradu (access to Bridge is rough)

Image below: The Eradu Bridge provides rare existing evidence of World War II army

activities in the region. Two of the bridge's concrete pillars still contain holes drilled by Army engineers in which charges could be laid for bridge demolition in the case of a Japanese invasion.



Eradu Railway Bridge over the Greenough River (Courtesy Trish Parker).



Tenindewa

STOP 34: Old Tenindewa School Site, turn north off Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road, into the Yuna-Tenindewa Road. Site is signposted to right.

The 25th Machine Gun Regiment was based at the Woolya Reserve and used the Tenindewa School building, which had recently closed, as a canteen for the soldiers camped there.

In the far north east corner of the reserve, at the base of a steep hill, the remnants of a small rifle range are still evident, while formations of stone have been made on the ground to mark the officers' camps.

Also in the area, the RAAF built a landing strip for the No. 4 Service Flying Training School on Norman Fry's farm, and air raid shelters were

dug out beside the railway line with railway sleepers forming the roof, although the shelters were never used.

Doreen Lindsey (nee Butler) recalls:

"Our lives completely changed into a nightmare of convoys, aeroplanes and fear. The war had begun and our fields were nothing but aerodrome, aeroplanes and army trucks. Our peace and joy had gone. The soldiers occupied all the land behind the shop and around the school."

Image opposite: Avro-Anson (Anson W 2271) crash site, just south of first crossing and east side of Menang Road in Kockatea Creek. The pilot survived. Photo taken 26th October 1941 (**Courtesy tenindewa.com**).



View of old Tenindewa Store, Post Office and Telephone Exchange (2018). When the Exchange and Post Office closed in 1985, it was the last remaining Manual Exchange in West Australia (Courtesy Serena Schewtschenko).



Mullewa Townsite

Like many small communities across Australia, the outbreak of World War I saw the enlistment and subsequent loss of many fine young men from the district.

However, following the armistice, the Commonwealth Government's grant scheme to create work for returned soldiers boosted employment opportunities, bringing new families to town.

During World War II, Mullewa became a hub for army activities in the area. Many businesses such as local hotels prospered. According to Stan Gratte, Lovers Lane (just west of Mullewa along the Geraldton-Mt Magnet Road) was the biggest ammunition dump in the district. The 8th Australian Casualty Clearing Station was established by the Australian Army at Mullewa as a military medical facility to treat wounded soldiers.

STOP 35: Mullewa RSL Memorial Hall, War Memorial and Mural, 12 Jose Street, Mullewa

The Mullewa Sub-Branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia was formed in 1922 and constructed the Memorial Hall in 1938.

The Hall displays the District Honour Board with the names of over 70 soldiers from the district who enlisted during World War I. In the forecourt, the War Memorial is a simple granite obelisk; the ANZAC mural of silhouetted soldiers, created in 2009, provides a backdrop to the memorial.

STOP 36: Fallen Soldiers' Commemorative Walk, Mullewa

The pine poles with platinum engraved plates were produced and erected in 2015 by the Mullewa Men's Shed to represent the 24 fallen Mullewa soldiers from World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War and are placed along the Monsignor Hawes Walk Trail.

STOP 37: World War I Fallen Soldiers' Memorial, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 10 Doney Street, Mullewa

The priest-architect Monsignor John Hawes crafted the unique World War I Memorial in 1928 in memory of those who died in the war. The Memorial sits in the grounds of the magnificent Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

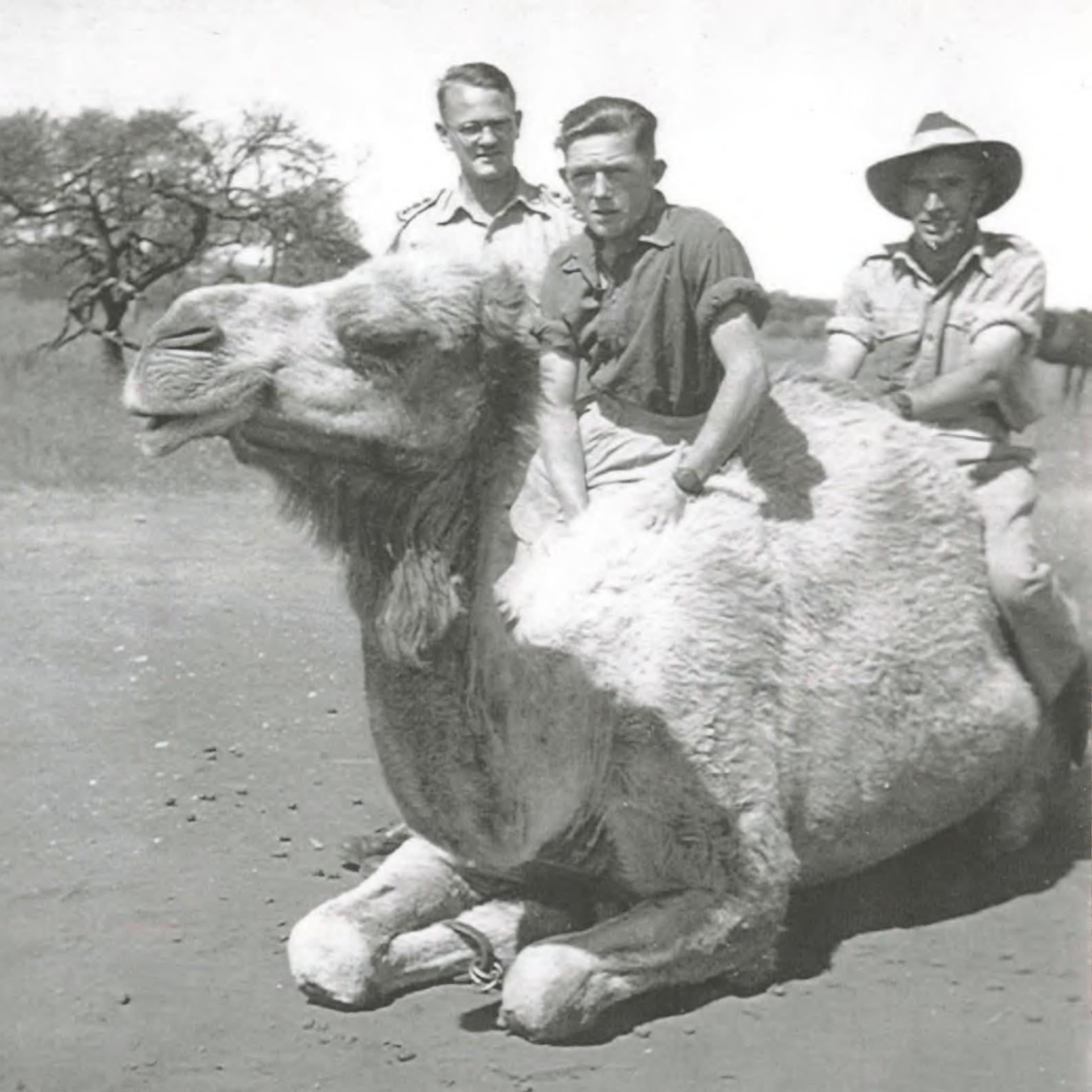
Image Opposite top left: Army Camp, Casualty Clearing Station, Mullewa (*Courtesy Clem Keeffe and Tony Critch, P 11533*).

Top right: Mullewa RSL War Memorial and Mural (*Courtesy Tanya Henkel*).

Bottom left: Detail from the Fallen Soldiers' Memorial (*Courtesy Trish Parker*).

Bottom right: Privates Bing and Bill Duncan, who were Casualty Clearing Station soldiers, on leave (*Courtesy Clem Keeffe and Tony Critch, P 11452*).





Additional Sites of Interest

Old Stock Route Drive Trail

Trail Header signage located in Tourist Pull-Off Bay, Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road, Mullewa

When World War II broke out, renowned local stockman Ned Ridley was seconded by the government to drive mobs of sheep and cattle overland from the far north of WA to the inland railheads at Meekatharra and Mullewa.

In 1942 Ridley made the unusual decision to take his young family with him on a journey which crossed some of the toughest country in Australia.

The trip of 1,130km was from Mullewa to Wallal Station and back to Meekatharra along the old stock route, crossing five river systems and experiencing all four seasons during the rough overland journey.

Ridley's drovers were all women, with the

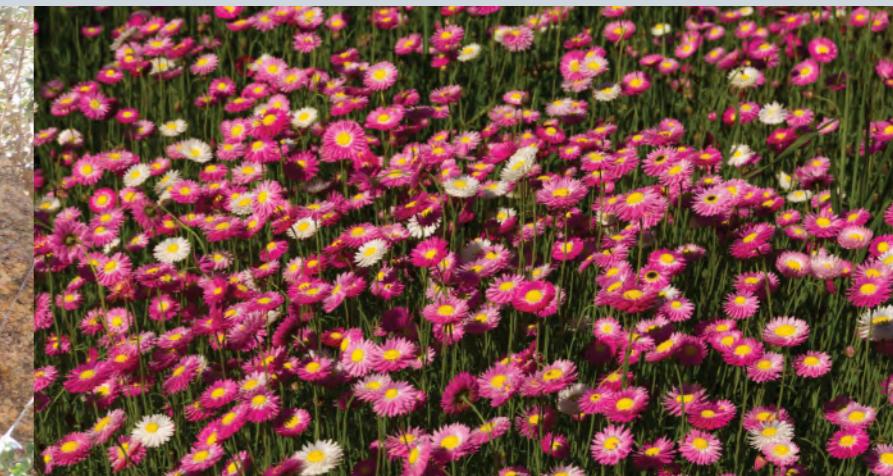
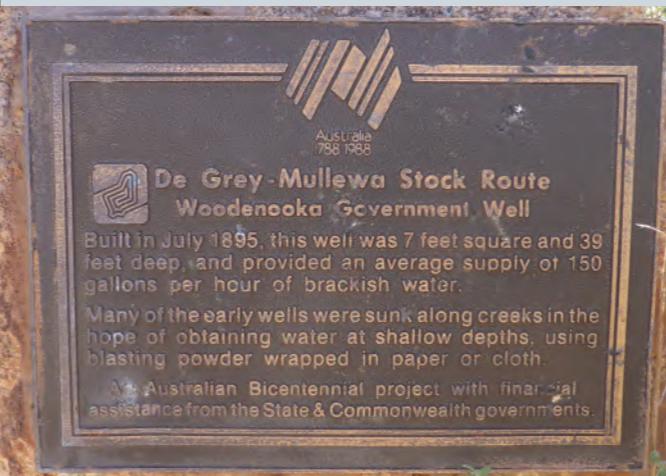
exception of one European stockman and one old Aboriginal man named 'Old Dan'. His plant consisted of a Model T Ford truck - minus the engine and a small caravan pulled by camels and a dray.

The Old Stock Route Drive Trail is a 102 km (return) drive which commences in Mullewa and retraces a portion of the stock route. The Drive Trail booklet is available from the Geraldton Visitor Centre, Mullewa District Office, and on the Geraldton Regional Library website.

For more information, contact the Mullewa District Office, corner Thomas and Padbury Streets, Mullewa: 9956 6643.



Image opposite: Ned Ridley's camel, with Casualty Clearing Station soldiers, Monk, Bill Duncan and Senins (Courtesy Clem Keeffe and Tony Critch, P 11425).



Left: Courtesy Andrew Cornish. Right: Courtesy Serena Schewtschenko.

STOPS 1-21

GERALDTON



TO NORTHAMPTON

STOPS 22-26
GERALDTON



STOPS 27-30 GREENOUGH/WALKAWAY



STOPS 35-37 MULLEWA





Image above: The Stele, HMAS *Sydney* II Memorial (*Courtesy Trevor Ralph*).