

Australian Medals – World War II

The 1939/45 Star

Awarded for service as follows:

- Navy – awarded for six months service afloat in areas of active operations from 3 September 1939 to 2 September 1945.
- Army – awarded for six months service in an operational command during the period 3 September 1939 to 2 September 1945.
- Air Force – awarded to all aircrew who have taken part in operations against the enemy, subject to at least two months in an operational unit and to all non-air crew who served six months in the area of an Army operational command. A gold rosette worn on the ribbon signifies participation in the Battle of Britain, 1 July 1940 to 31 October 1940.
- Merchant Marine – awarded under the same conditions as Navy provided that at least one voyage was made through a specified area of active operations.

The Africa Star with 8th Army Clasp

Awarded for service as follows:

- Navy and Merchant Marine – service at sea in the Mediterranean between 10 June 1940 and 12 May 1943, or in support of Army operations in Abyssinia, Somaliland and Eritrea or for shore service as for Army.
 - Army – entry into the operational area on the posted strength of a unit or formation in the area between the Suez Canal and the Straits of Gibraltar between 10 June 1940 and 12 May 1943 or for service in operations in Abyssinia, Somaliland, Eritrea, Malta or Syria.
- An arabic numeral '1' or '8' may be worn on this ribbon to denote service with the British 1st Army or 8th Army respectively.

The Pacific Star

Awarded for service in the Pacific theatre between 8 December 1941 and 2 September 1945 as follows:

- Navy and Merchant Marine – service in the Pacific Ocean, South China Sea and part of the Indian Ocean, or for shore service under same criteria as Army. The 1939–45 Star must be earned first.
 - Army – operational service in territories, not including Burma, that have been invaded by the enemy or the allies.
 - Air Force – air crew service in operations against the enemy (one operational sortie qualifies)
- A person qualifying for both the Pacific Star and the Burma Star is awarded only the first Star earned. A Clasp is worn denoting service for the other Star.

The Defence Medal War Medal 1939/45

Awarded to members:

- serving for six months in specified non-operational areas subjected to enemy air attack or closely threatened;
- who served for six months at any time between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945 in the Northern Territory north of 14° 30' South and the Torres Strait Islands;
- serving for 12 months non-specified non-operational service overseas from or outside Australia; or
- of Mine and Bomb Disposal units employed in areas subjected to enemy air attack or closely threatened for three months within the periods stated.

The War Medal 1939/45 (Returned from Active Service Badge)

Awarded to members who served full-time in operational or non-operational service between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945. The qualifying period is 28 days.

For the Merchant Marine, the 28 days must be served at sea.

A member Mentioned in Dispatches for service during World War II wears a bronze oak leaf emblem on the ribbon. Only one emblem is worn no matter how many times a member may have been 'mentioned'.

Australian Service Medal

Awarded for 30 days full-time or 90 days part-time service at home or overseas in the Australian Armed Forces and the Australian Mercantile marine between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945.

