

Corporal William George CARMAN
NX98984 - 2/31 Australian Infantry Battalion

Biography:

William George Carman (known as George) was born on 2 Nov 1922 at Molong. He was the son of Harold Victor and Eliza (nee Harris) Carman, and he had one sister, Phyllis. The family lived in Cudal for many years before moving to Katoomba.

George had previously tried to enlist in the Australian Army at Bourke, on 2 Feb 1942. He had been working with the Commercial Bank of Sydney for three years and at the time working as a Junior Ledger-keeper at the Bourke branch. His war record does not state why he wasn't accepted into the Army at that time.



William George Carman moved to Cumnock in March 1942 to work as a bank officer at the Commercial Bank of Sydney. He was only in Cumnock for a few months before enlisting in the Australian Army on 3 Dec 1942. He was 20 years of age, single, 5 feet 8 inches tall, had grey eyes, fair hair and complexion, and was of the Church of England religious denomination. He was assigned as a Private to the 2/31st Battalion.

Pte Carman trained in North Queensland until embarking at Townsville on *HMAS Katoomba* on 23 Jul 1943, and disembarking at Port Moresby on 26 Jul 1943.

www.awm.gov.au/collection/U56074:

"The 2/31st returned to Port Moresby on 26 July in preparation for the 25th Brigade's next operation – the advance on the Japanese base at Lae, in New Guinea. The 2/31st flew into Nadzab on 12 September and, after a hurried advance, joined the fighting east of Lae, which fell on 16 September.

On 29 September the 2/31st was flown from Nadzab to Kaipit and spent the rest of the year principally engaged in patrol actions in the Ramu Valley and the foothills of the Finisterre Range."

Pte Carman suffered an episode of malaria while in New Guinea in December 1943. He embarked at Port Moresby on 27 Jan 1944, arriving in Townsville on 31 Jan 1944. He had a second episode of Malaria in May 1944 and was hospitalised at the 113 Australian General Hospital, Concord, Sydney. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 15 Sep 1944.

L/Cpl Carman was hospitalised in September and October 1944 at the 2/2 Australian General Hospital, with a further episode of Malaria. He embarked at Townsville on 9 June and disembarked at Morotai on 18 Jun 1945. He then was transferred with 2/31st to Balikpapan in Borneo on 25 Jun 1945.

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"The 2/31st's operations were concentrated around the Milford Highway – the site of the most determined Japanese resistance – and it suffered the heaviest casualties of any unit involved in the campaign. It was withdrawn to rest on 26 July. The war ended on 15 August and from October, drafts of long-service personnel began returning to Australia."

However, Cpl Carman was wounded in action from a grenade, injuring his left arm and hip, on 3 Jul 1945. at Balikpapan. He was moved by field ambulance to a hospital ship on 5 July and disembarked at Morotai and admitted to the 2/9 Australian General Hospital on 10 July. He was evacuated by Air Ambulance from Morotai to Townsville on 14 August. He was then airlifted to Brisbane and admitted to the 103 General Hospital on 7 Sep 1945.

When he recovered, he was transferred to 2 Aust Psychology Unit, Sydney on 8 Mar 1946. He was discharged from the Army on 19 Sep 1946. George Carman received the 1939-1945 Star, the Pacific Star, the Defence Medal and the Australia Service Medal 1939-1945. He is honoured on the Cumnock Memorial Gates WW2 Honour Plaque.

By April 1948, George was working as second officer at the Gulgong branch of the Commercial Banking Company but left Gulgong in December 1948. His move was reported in the *Mudgee Guardian & North-Western Representative* – 23 Dec 1948, p8, ["Mr George Carman to leave Gulgong. Mr G. Carman, second officer of the Gulgong branch of the Commercial Banking Coy. of Sydney, has received notice of transfer to head office, Sydney."](#)

During his all too short stay in the town, Mr Carman has been a most capable, conscientious officer and could be called upon to exercise tact and diplomacy whenever these qualities were called for. Customers of the branch and all who know George will greatly regret his departure. Many members of the public have already expressed their sorrow and spoken highly of his unfailing courtesy. His likeable personality and kindly disposition endeared him to innumerable friends. He has been a tower of strength to the local sub-branch of the RSL and other organisations, including the Gulgong Cricket Club. He leaves for Sydney tonight."

William George Carman married Margaret Rae McMullen at St David's Presbyterian Church Albury on 12 Apr 1950. Margaret Rae McMullen was the daughter of Jessie and William McMullen, of Wodonga. Margaret had also served with the Australian Women's Army Service as a Corporal, VF396037, from 26 Nov 1942 – 29 Jan 1946.

William George Carman worked as a Bank Officer/Manager in several Sydney suburbs. In the 1980 Australian Electoral Rolls for Berowra/Pennant Hills, William George and Margaret Carman are listed as living at 6 Peppermint Gum Place, Westleigh, Sydney.

Margaret Rae Carman died, aged 89 years, on 13 Dec 2010.
William George Carman died, aged 93 years, on 25 Sep 2016.
They are both interred at the Castlebrook Memorial Park Cemetery and Crematorium in Kellyville Ridge, Blacktown.

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www.cumnocknswmemorials.com

Right: William George Carman, 2016. Studio photo taken for the Honouring our World War Two Veterans Project. AWM2017.520.1.3796

Below left: Cemetery Plaques for Margaret Rae and William George Carman.

Below right: Memorial Gates, Obley Street, Cumnock.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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