

The Secretariat

Tune Review of the National Archives of Australia

Dear Sir

I am currently employed by the National Archives of Australia (AGS: 855-99445) on a non-ongoing basis in the Property and Security Section. I make this submission to the Tune Review of the NAA as a public researcher of data that is available through various web sites. My submission is not related to the work I perform at the NAA.

I wish to draw attention to my concerns on WW2 Service Records and in particular:

- the time that it is taking to make full WW2 service file records freely available to relatives (the war finished 74 years ago);
- the accuracy of digital NAA service records currently available as they relate to my father, particularly his birth date and next of kin/spouse;
- The need for a single source for WW2 service records as they are currently available through the NAA (recordsearch.naa.gov.au), DVA (nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au) and Virtual War Memorial (vwma.org.au);
- the cost of obtaining service records at this time and the cost to try and correct errors in the records; and
- the apparent lack of commitment and funding by this and previous governments to prioritise and complete the digitization of all WW2 service records.

In recent years I accessed the WW1 service records of two uncles who died during that conflict. One served in Gallipoli and was later killed in action in the Somme. The other died in transit across the Red Sea on his way to Gallipoli. My mother was born in 1914 and she did not know her two eldest brothers. I was able to share the WW1 records with her before she passed away in 2011 at age 97.

Similarly I wish to access my father's service records as I know little about him and his WW2 activities. I would also like to share this information with my own extended family before too long. My father died in tragic circumstances when I was 10 year's old. My father did not serve overseas and my mother related to me that he was disappointed not to be sent to PNG. He served in the munitions pipeline between Adelaide and Darwin.

Before my interest in WW2 service records developed and without my knowledge, my eldest brother searched the NAA service records. He found errors in our father's birthdate and the name of his next of kin (our mother). He tried to rectify this through providing a certified extract from the birth register, but did not pursue it.

After I commenced at NAA I developed a new-found interest in my father's service records. As my brother had experienced earlier I found the inaccuracies in the birthdate and spouse name irritating and I would like to see righted. Attached to this email submission is a dialogue with the DVA raising the issue of incorrect data, which led to me providing a certified copy of my parents' Marriage Certificate (cost of \$49.75) as proof of the names. The DVA Support Officer Nominal Rolls advised me that my brother had earlier provided an extract from the Birth Register showing our father's registered birthdate. At this stage I communicated with my brother and learnt of his efforts to correct the data.

As our father's service records are not yet digitized I recently placed an order with NAA (cost of \$36.25 and a wait of 3 months) for a copy of his service records. My concern is that an error occurred when basic service information was read from files and incorrectly entered into the nominal service records. The NAA nominal roll shows my father's birth date as 26 May 1909 whereas the birth certificate shows that it is 26 April 1909 and the records show my mother's name as Hilda whereas the marriage certificate shows that it is Rilda. The DVA records also have the error in the birthdate, but had my mother's name right. The Virtual War Memorial correctly showed birthdate and mother's name. I have attached copies of these records.

My understanding through the dialogue with the DVA is that the nominal service records cannot be amended (even if in-correct) and an annotation only can be made in the service records to indicate that alternative data has been provided.

I would hope that the Commonwealth when digitizing records will thoroughly check the accuracy of the services records and rectify any incorrect information in the nominal service rolls. In my father's records there were at least two errors. There may be many more people who have experienced the same and there may be many more in the future as people develop their interest in their family history.

I urge that the Tune Review recommend that the Commonwealth provide the necessary funding and resources to complete the accurate digitization of all WW2 service files as a high priority.

Yours sincerely

Doug Crabb

From: [Doug Crabb](#)
To: [Douglas Crabb](#)
Subject: CRABB, Percival Arthur George SX16637- Error in records [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Error in war service records.pdf](#)
[PAG & RD Crabb Marriage Cert 17May1939 \(1\).pdf](#)
[1939 17May.jpg](#)
[1938 23Aug Extract from Birth Registration.pdf](#)

From: Taylor, Wendy
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2019 6:59 PM
To: Douglas Crabb
Subject: RE: CRABB, Percival Arthur George SX16637- Error in records [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Doug

The marriage registration is just what we needed. Along with the birth registration that your brother supplied.

Thanks

Yours sincerely

Wendy Taylor

Support Officer Nominal Rolls
Data, Informatics and Research Branch
Department of Veterans' Affairs



From: Douglas Crabb
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2019 11:34 AM
To: Taylor, Wendy
Subject: CRABB, Percival Arthur George SX16637- Error in records [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Wendy
Grateful if you could confirm please that you received the attached birth certificate.
Regards
Doug

From: Doug Crabb
Sent: Sunday, 24 February 2019 10:59 PM
To: Wendy Taylor
Subject: CRABB, Percival Arthur George SX16637- Error in records [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Dear Wendy

Thank you for your message.

Please find attached a copy of the Marriage Certificate documenting the marriage of Percival Arthur George Crabb to Rilda Doris Wade on 17 May 1939.

Yours sincerely

Doug

Doug Crabb

From: Taylor, Wendy **On Behalf Of** Nominal.Rolls
Sent: Friday, 25 January 2019 4:01 PM
To: Douglas Crabb
Subject: CRABB, Percival Arthur George SX16637- Error in records [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Dear Doug

Following our phone conversation. I have checked your father's records, from which our Nominal Roll was transcribed, and the records show his date of birth as the 26 May 1909.

As discussed your brother Gordon has supplied a copy of your father's birth certificate but as his records do not mention who his parents were, I will need a copy of his Marriage certificate to Rilda. This will enable us to establish that the birth certificate belongs to the P A G Crabb that served as SX16637.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Taylor

Support Officer Nominal Rolls
Data, Informatics and Research Branch
Department of Veterans' Affairs



From: Douglas Crabb
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 8:47 AM
To: Nominal.Rolls
Subject: PAG Crabb SX16637- Error in records [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good morning

I am new to NAA and as part of my induction I browsed through external links available through the ICT

network.

I logged into the ww2roll.gov.au to search for my father's WWII record.

I noticed an error in his birth date, showing as 26 May 1909 whereas it should be 26 April 1909.

The record in the Virtual War Memorial shows the correct date.

Extracts from both sites are attached for your information.

Would it be possible to correct the date in the WWII Nominal Roll.

Regards

Doug

Doug Crabb



Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 PO
Box 4924 Kingston ACT 2604 | naa.gov.au

[We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this land and celebrate their ongoing culture and contribution to society.](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

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WW2 Overview	
About this Nominal Roll	Glossary of Ranks
Contacts and Links	

NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	HONOUR	PLACE
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Service record

In addition to viewing this service record, you can also

- [produce a certificate](#) of this service record
- [get help with the certificate](#)
- [view an explanation](#) of the service record details
- [request a full service record](#) from the National Archives of Australia
- [permission for use of service badge](#) for commemorative purposes

Service Record

<u>Name</u>	CRABB, PERCIVAL ARTHUR GEORGE
<u>Service</u>	Australian Army
<u>Service Number</u>	SX16637
<u>Date of Birth</u>	26 May 1909
<u>Place of Birth</u>	PETERBOROUGH, SA
<u>Date of Enlistment</u>	24 Jan 1942
<u>Locality on Enlistment</u>	PETERBOROUGH, SA
<u>Place of Enlistment</u>	WAYVILLE, SA
<u>Next of Kin</u>	CRABB, RILDA
<u>Date of Discharge</u>	9 Nov 1945
<u>Rank</u>	Staff Sergeant
<u>Posting at Discharge</u>	1 AUST BASE AMM DEPOT
<u>WW2 Honours and Gallantry</u>	None for display
<u>Prisoner of War</u>	No

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Percival Arthur George (Perce) CRABB Update Details



Make a Dedication

CRABB, Percival Arthur George

- Personal Details
- Service History
- Personal Stories

Service Number: SX16637

24 January 1942,

Enlisted: Wayville, South Australia

Last Rank: Staff Sergeant
1 Base Ammunition

Last Unit: Depot
(/explore/units/2
Peterborough, Sc

Born: Australia, 26 April 1909
Peterborough
(Formerly

Home Town: Petersburg)
(/explore/places/
South Australia

Schooling: Not yet discovered

Occupation: Not yet discovered
16 March 1961, a
51 years, cause of

Died: death not yet
discovered, place
death not yet
discovered

Cemetery: Not yet discovered

Memorials:

Show Relationships

Biography

Australian Military Forces

Certificate of Discharge No.
317530

SX16637 Staff Sergeant
Percival Arthur George Crabb

1 Australian Base
Ammunition Depot

Served on Continuous Full
Time War Service in the
Australian Imperial Forces
from 24 Jan 42 to 9 Nov 45.

1939. Married in the District (No 17) Frome in the State of South Australia 2102

When Married.	Name and Surname to be written in full.	Age last Birth-day.	Place and Country of Birth.	Condition. (See footnote.)	Trade or Calling.	Residence at time of Marriage.	Names and Surnames of Fathers of both Parties.	Place in which Celebrated.
May 14 th	^{SR} Arthur Charles George Brabb	30	Peterborough South Australia	bachelor	Railway employee	Peterborough	Arthur Charles Brabb	Methodist Church Peterborough South Australia
1939	Rilda Doris Wade	24	Solomontown South Australia	Spinster	domestic	Peterborough	Arthur Charles Wade	

This Marriage was celebrated between us Reverend Arthur George Brabb and Rilda Doris Wade

In the presence of us

Name.	Trade or Calling.	Residence.
<u>D. J. Brabb</u>	<u>clerk</u>	<u>Brighton</u>
<u>E. Flamer</u>	<u>clerk</u>	<u>Peterborough</u>

The above-named ^{SR} Arthur Charles George Brabb

and Rilda Doris Wade

were duly Married

by or before me, at the time and place above named, and in the presence of the witnesses whose signatures are above written.

Witness my hand this seventeenth day of May 19 39

Daniel T. Readin
Officiating Minister.

NOTE.—The declaration on the back hereof must be duly made and signed, otherwise the person celebrating the marriage shall be guilty of an offence.

NOTE.—Under the heading "Condition" state whether Bachelor, Spinster, Widow, Widower, or Divorced Person.

200-4.27 6096 57

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION OFFICE, ADELAIDE

I hereby certify that the above particulars are contained in an entry in the Register kept in this Office in the State of South Australia

Given under my hand and seal this 14th day of February, 2019

C. H. Paves
REGISTRAR





20025016336



W. J. & S. J. Jones
211 PRINCE
SYDNEY.

Nº 6916

FEE: 3/-

EXTRACT FROM BIRTH REGISTRATION, Book No. 821, Page 475

Name Percival Arthur George Crabb

Date of Birth 26th April 1909

Arthur Charles Crabb

NOTE.—A certified complete copy under Seal
is obtainable for 5/-

A. W. BOWDEN, Principal Registrar,

per *[Signature]*

Please return.
P.A.G. Crabb.

Statistical Department,
Registration Branch,

Adelaide, S.A.,
23 AUG. 1938



Your story, our history

RecordSearch

Item list

Select	Series no.	Control symbol	Item title	Date range	Digitised item	Item barcode	Format
<input type="checkbox"/>	B883	SX16637	CRABB PERCIVAL ARTHUR GEORGE : Service Number - SX16637 : Date of birth - 26 May 1909 : Place of birth - PETERBOROUGH SA : Place of enlistment - WAYVILLE SA : Next of Kin - CRABB HILDA Access status: Not yet examined Location: Canberra	1939 - 1948		6409232	
<input type="checkbox"/>	D1358	SX16637	CRABB Percival Arthur George - Service Number: SX16637 Access status: Not yet examined Location: Adelaide	1939 - 1945		22617867	



RecordSearch

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Item details

Item details for: B883, SX16637

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Title	CRABB PERCIVAL ARTHUR GEORGE : Service Number - SX16637 : Date of birth - 26 May 1909 : Place of birth - PETERBOROUGH SA : Place of enlistment - WAYVILLE SA : Next of Kin - CRABB HILDA
Contents date range	1939 - 1948
Series number	B883 Click to see which government agency or person created this item.
Control symbol	SX16637
Citation	NAA: B883, SX16637
Item barcode	6409232
Location	Canberra
Access status	Not yet examined
Date of decision	01 Jan 1970
Physical format	PAPER FILES AND DOCUMENTS (allocated at series level)
Records authority class number	1010873
Date registered	16 Sep 2002



RecordSearch

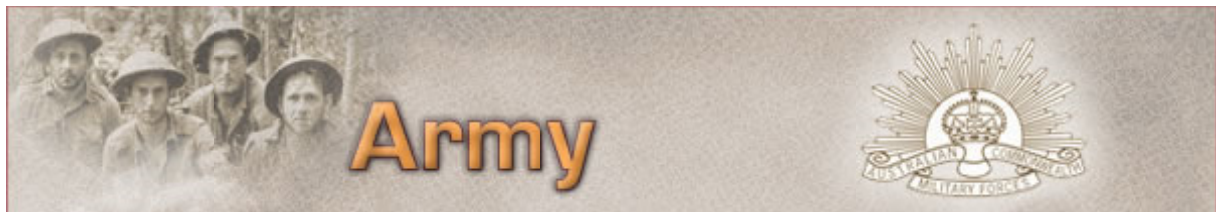
Your story, our history

Item details

Item details for: D1358, SX16637

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Title	CRABB Percival Arthur George - Service Number: SX16637
Contents date range	1939 - 1945
Series number	D1358 Click to see which government agency or person created this item.
Control symbol	SX16637
Citation	NAA: D1358, SX16637
Item barcode	22617867
Location	Adelaide
Access status	Not yet examined
Physical format	PAPER FILES AND DOCUMENTS (allocated at series level)
Records authority class number	1009549
Date registered	30 Jan 2018


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Service record

In addition to viewing this service record, you can also

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- [permission for use of service badge](#) for commemorative purposes

Service Record

Name	CRABB, PERCIVAL ARTHUR GEORGE
Service	Australian Army
Service Number	SX16637
Date of Birth	26 May 1909
Place of Birth	PETERBOROUGH, SA
Date of Enlistment	24 Jan 1942
Locality on Enlistment	PETERBOROUGH, SA
Place of Enlistment	WAYVILLE, SA
Next of Kin	CRABB, RILDA
Date of Discharge	9 Nov 1945
Rank	Staff Sergeant
Posting at Discharge	1 AUST BASE AMM DEPOT
WW2 Honours and Gallantry	None for display
Prisoner of War	No

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World War Two Service

[Help ?](#)[About Fields i](#)

Veteran Details


Name	CRABB, PERCIVAL ARTHUR GEORGE
Service	Australian Army
Service Number	SX16637
Date of Birth	26 May 1909
Place of Birth	PETERBOROUGH, SA
Date of Enlistment	24 Jan 1942
Locality on Enlistment	PETERBOROUGH, SA
Place of Enlistment	WAYVILLE, SA
Next of Kin	CRABB, RILDA
Date of Discharge	09 Nov 1945
Rank	Staff Sergeant
Posting at Discharge	1 AUST BASE AMM DEPOT
Prisoner of War	No
Honours	None for display

Print Certificate  (certWW2?id=679895&c=WW2)

Generate a certificate for this Service Record that can be printed for display

Submit Feedback  (feedback?id=679895&c=WW2)

Submit feedback regarding this Service Record

Permission to Use Service Badge  (letterInfo?id=679895&c=WW2&sn=true)

Get information on using a badge for commemorative purposes, and generate a permission letter for this Service Record

World War Two Service

STAFF SERGEANT
PERCIVAL ARTHUR GEORGE CRABB
SX16637



SERVICE	AUSTRALIAN ARMY
DATE OF BIRTH	26 MAY 1909
PLACE OF BIRTH	PETERBOROUGH, SA
DATE OF ENLISTMENT	24 JANUARY 1942
LOCALITY ON ENLISTMENT	PETERBOROUGH, SA
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	WAYVILLE, SA
NEXT OF KIN	CRABB, RILDA
DATE OF DISCHARGE	09 NOVEMBER 1945
POSTING AT DISCHARGE	1 AUST BASE AMM DEPOT



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Percival Arthur George (Perce) CRABB Update Details



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CRABB, Percival Arthur George

- [Personal Details](#)
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Service Number: SX16637

24 January 1942,

Enlisted: Wayville, South Australia

Last Rank: Staff Sergeant
1 Base Ammunition

Last Unit: Depot
(/explore/units/2
Peterborough, Sc

Born: Australia, 26 April 1909
Peterborough
(Formerly

Home Town: Petersburg)
(/explore/places/
South Australia

Schooling: Not yet discovered

Occupation: Not yet discovered
16 March 1961, a
51 years, cause of

Died: death not yet
discovered, place
death not yet
discovered

Cemetery: Not yet discovered

Memorials:

[Show Relationships](#)

Biography

Australian Military Forces

Certificate of Discharge No.
317530

SX16637 Staff Sergeant
Percival Arthur George Crabb

1 Australian Base
Ammunition Depot

Served on Continuous Full
Time War Service in the
Australian Imperial Forces
from 24 Jan 42 to 9 Nov 45.

Active Service in Australia for
1306 days

Percival Arthur George (Perce) CRABB update Details



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CRABB, Percival Arthur George

- [Personal Details](#)
- [Service History](#)
- [Personal Stories](#)

World War 2 Service

24 Jan 1942: Enlisted 2nd AIF WW 2, Private, SN SX16637, Wayville, South Australia

25 Jan 1942: Involvement 2nd AIF WW 2, Private, SN SX16637

Discharged 2nd AIF WW 2, Staff Sergeant, SN SX16637, 1 Base

Nov 1945: Ammunition Depot (/explore/units/2335)

Biography

Australian Military Forces

Certificate of Discharge No. 317530

SX16637 Staff Sergeant
Percival Arthur George
Crabb

1 Australian Base
Ammunition Depot

Served on Continuous Full Time War Service in the Australian Imperial Forces from 24 Jan 42 to 9 Nov 45.

Active Service in Australia for 1306 days

Percival Arthur George (Perce) CRABB update Details



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CRABB, Percival Arthur George

- [Personal Details](#)
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Help us honour Percival Arthur George Crabb's service by contributing information, stories, and images so that they can be preserved for future generations.

[Add my story](#)

Biography

Australian Military Forces

Certificate of Discharge No.
317530

SX16637 Staff Sergeant
Percival Arthur George
Crabb

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