

World War 2 Caulfield

1938

- The military had begun searchlight and gunnery practise on Caulfield Park.
- The local Repatriation and Convalescent hospitalCaulfield Hospital ...readied itself for war.

1939

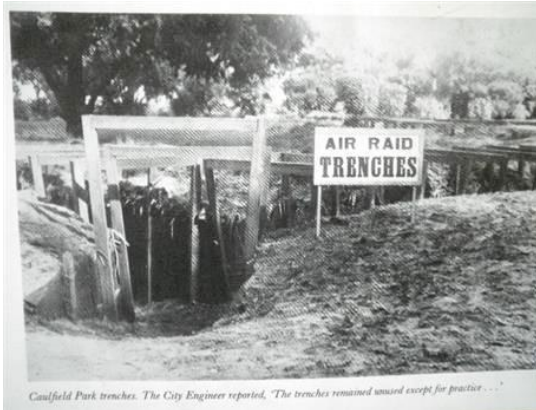


Initial ARP headquarters opposite the Town Hall

1940

- By April a Council clerk was assigned the task of enrolling volunteers for the Red Cross Emergency Service
- In May a Council Committee began coordinating the local Air Raid Precautions Corps (ARP).
- Approximately 70 local area wardens had been appointed by the time PM Menzies announced Australia was at war in September 1939.
- By January the Council had farewelled its first troops and the army had established the Caulfield Race course as a military camp for 600 soldiers.
- A local voluntary group set up a very popular canteen there. Volunteers like Mrs Chadwick were by now busy fund raising through fetes and other activities.
- The Mayor's Patriotic Fund began organising carnivals, athletic meetings, and stage shows.
- Mid 1940 saw the launch of the War Savings Campaign in area
- August 1940 first Local Defence Corps was established, with its members drilling at local parks.

1941-2 onwards



Trenches in Caulfield Park

- Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour Dec 1941 and bombing of Darwin February 1942 heightened fears.
- Residents received pamphlets explaining how to dig trenches in their back yards, sandy soil required the sides of trenches to be reinforced, and the floors drained and duckboards added.
- Eventually the public trenches in Caulfield potentially provided accommodation for about 4,000 people
- ARP headquarters had been relocated to under the Town Hall stage.
- The ARP was also kept busy giving talks to local citizens on how to put out incendiary bombs!
- Nightly first aid classes were run in the Town Hall foyer by the local Red Cross.
- By this time, Labassa's local warden Mr Jones in Manor Grove, was very busy indeed.
- By February 1942 black out regulations were in force

1945



A woman working at a Le Blond Shell Boring machine , Commonwealth Ordnance Factory, Maribyrnong , Sybil Craig, Australian War Memorial

- Sybil Craig a Caulfield resident was an official war artist, Between March and September 1945

If you would like more information on the role of Australian women during World War Two, click [here](#).