



In Memory of

**Lance Sergeant  
FORBES JOHN MONLEY**

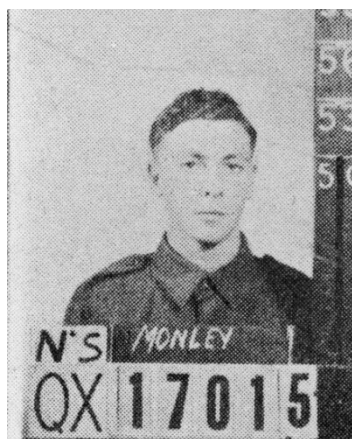
**QX17015**, 2<sup>nd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, A.I.F.  
who died age 26  
on 22 February 1945

Son of John Monley and Florence Forbes Monley,  
of Annerley, Queensland, Australia

Remembered with honour  
LABUAN MEMORIAL, BORNEO



LANCE SERGEANT  
**FORBES JOHN MONLEY**  
2<sup>ND</sup>/10<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REGIMENT  
REGIMENTAL NUMBER: QX17015



Australian War Memorial photograph P02468.03 of Lance Sergeant Forbes John Monley.

Lance Sergeant Forbes John Monley, the son of John Monley and Florence Forbes Monley (nee Smith), was born at Brisbane in Queensland on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1918. He was educated at the Toowoomba Grammar School. At the age of 22 years and 2 months he voluntarily enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Kelvin Grove in Queensland on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1940 after swearing the statutory oath of allegiance. He had previously served in the Citizen Military Force in the 11<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade of the Royal Australian Artillery. At the time of his enlistment he was unmarried, employed as a Furniture Manufacturer at A.J. Smith, Annerley Road, South Brisbane and resided at 126 Ferndale Street, Annerley, Brisbane. His physical description at the time of enlistment was that he had brown hair and hazel eyes. He stated that he was of the Church of England religion. He gave his next of kin as his mother, Mrs Florence Forbes Butler, residing at 14 Annerley Road, South Brisbane.

Lance Sergeant Forbes Monley was allotted the regimental number of QX17015 and he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment at Redbank Camp on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1940. He was promoted to the rank of Acting Bombadier on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1940. He was given sick leave during the period 11<sup>th</sup> August until 19<sup>th</sup> August 1940. He was hospitalised at the Camp Dressing Station at Redbank during the period 7<sup>th</sup> December until 14<sup>th</sup> December 1940. He was given sick leave during the period 14<sup>th</sup> December until 17<sup>th</sup> December 1940. He was granted pre-embarkation leave to farewell his family and finalize his personal affairs during the period 13<sup>th</sup> January until 20<sup>th</sup> January 1941 before movement overseas for service in the Australian Imperial Force. He was promoted to the rank of Lance Sergeant on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1941. His regiment left Redbank by rail transport on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1941 and proceeded to Sydney where on the following day it boarded His Majesty's Transport "Queen Mary" for overseas service in South East Asia. He disembarked from the ship at Singapore on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1941.

Lance Sergeant Forbes Monley was admitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> Australian General Hospital in Malacca suffering from tinea on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1941 and he remained a patient at the hospital until 16<sup>th</sup> April 1941 when he re-joined his regiment. He was granted local leave during the period 20<sup>th</sup> November until 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1941. He became a prisoner of war of the Japanese when the Allied forces at Singapore surrendered on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1942 and was interned at Changi with the rest of his

regiment. On 29<sup>th</sup> March 1943 he was sent to Borneo as a member of "E" Force to Kuching and later to Sandakan in Borneo.

Lance Sergeant Forbes Monley died on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1945 during the 1<sup>st</sup> march from Sandakan to Ranau. The Japanese recorded that his death was the result of acute enteritis and that he died at Ranau No. 1 Camp and that he was buried in the first cemetery at Ranau 1 Camp. At the time of his death he was 26 years of age. After the war the Graves Registration Unit was unable to locate/identify his body therefore his name is commemorated on the Labuan Memorial to the missing. It was not until the war had ended that Lance Sergeant Forbes Monley's next of kin were advised of his death on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1945.

Lance Sergeant Forbes Monley, for his service during World War 2, was awarded the 1939/945 Star, the Pacific Star, the War Medal and the Australian Service Medal 1939/1945. His name is commemorated on Panel No. 17 at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and locally on the Toowoomba Grammar School World War 2 Honour Board.

Toowoomba Grammar School archive records show that he enrolled as a student on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1934 and left the school on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935.



*Australian War Memorial photograph 005454*

*Members of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment march from the train to the Ferry Wharf to be ferried to the ship that will transport them to Malaya.*

**Note:**

A detailed history of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment in World War 2 is contained in Dr Bob Goodwin's publication, "Mates and Memories". 2<sup>nd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment Association, Rochedale, Queensland. 1998. ISBN 0 646 22166 3.

**A detailed history of the prisoners of war sent to Sandakan and the subsequent 'death marches' is contained in Lynette Ramsay Silver's publication, "Sandakan – A Conspiracy of Silence". Sally Milner Publishing. 2000. Isbn 1 86351 244 6.**

**External Links:**

[CWGC](#)

[Australian War Memorial Honour Roll](#)

[NAA Military Records](#)