Robert Allan Jeffs volunteered for war service with the R.A.N.V.R on 9/9/1941, enlisting at Port Adelaide. He did training at FLINDERS NAVAL DEPOT, before being drafted to Darwin and H.M.A.S Southern Cross 27th June 1942. His rank was ordinary seaman. R.A. Jeffs had previously been in Darwin 11 years earlier as a young boy when his father H.E. Jeffs was storeman for the railways. It is believed Robert (Bob) was based in Darwin until at least September 1943. During his posting Bob witnessed bombing raids and did coastal runs on the Southern Cross. On 28th July 1942, H.M.A.S Southern Cross along with H.M.A.S Chinampa left Darwin bound for the Dutch East Indies. The ships were to land soldiers at Saumluki on the island of Pulau Yamdena. Unfortunately Japanese soldiers were already there, and people on both sides were killed. The 2 ships made it back to Darwin, while evading the Japanese navy and airforce. Bob rarely spoke about the war, and like most service personell, the war affected him deeply. Bob died at Murray Bridge South Australia on 19/2/1988 aged 66.

Paul Jeffs

(son of R.A.Jeffs)