MINISTER FOR ARTS AND MUSEUMS

MILITARY HISTORY ENTRENCHED IN NEW WEBSITE

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Territorians and visitors have a new tool to unlock the military history of their family and friends following the launch of a new website at the Northern Territory Library today.

The new website is the first comprehensive list of military units and ships that served during the Northern Territory during World War II.

Minister for Arts and Museums Matt Conlan said the new website was a fitting tribute to the Territory’s proud military past.

“This website is a unique and valuable resource of information with no other Australian state or Territory having produced such a comprehensive list of units serving within their borders during WWII,” Mr Conlan said.

“The histories and bibliographies for each unit allow families anywhere around the world to locate information about their relative’s military service at the touch of a button.

“The website answers the common question from families of ‘Where did my relative serve?’ without them having to trawl through archives, books, newspapers or old photographs to find the answer. They’ll be able to locate where their relative’s unit was stationed and any published and unpublished information on that unit with ease.

“The Northern Territory Library is an award winning Territory tourism attraction and I’m sure this latest addition will make it even more popular with visitors and locals.”

According to the new website, 548 military units came to the NT during WWII including Australian, British, American and Dutch personnel from Army, Air Force, Navy, Civilian and Medical units. Ships from the Danish, Norwegian, Filipino, Canadian, New Zealand, Portuguese, French and Malaysian merchant navies were among the 522 ships to visit Darwin as part of the war effort.

Some of the interesting visitors to the Territory discovered when collating the information for the new website include: Australian Prime Ministers Gough Whitlam and John Gorton who both served in the RAAF in the Territory; US President Lyndon Baynes Johnson who came to the Territory whilst on a mission; Field Marshall Montgomery reviewed troops in Darwin; and Douglas Macarthur landed on one of our dirt airstrips.

The new website lists books, unit histories, ships logs, manuscripts, photographs, websites, and newspaper and journal articles for each unit.

The new website can be viewed at http://www.ntlexhibit.nt.gov.au/exhibits/show/unit

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