

STOP PRESS

The Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs submitted this article for inclusion after Lancers' Despatch August 2005 went to print.

Medallion to commemorate the 60th anniversary of WWII - have you applied?

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, De-Anne Kelly, is encouraging eligible World War II veterans, widows and widowers to apply for the commemorative medallion issued by the Australian Government to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII.

"The medallions are a symbol of appreciation and gratitude from the Australian Government and people, in recognition of the service and sacrifice of servicemen and women during WWII," Mrs Kelly said.

Designed and produced in Australia by the Royal Australian Mint, the medallion features the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, with the reverse depicting a map of Australia, and elements of sea, land and air to symbolise the armed forces that defended our nation during WWII.

Mrs Kelly said veterans, widows and widowers could choose to have their medallion sent directly to them or distributed by their Federal Member of Parliament.

"The Australian Government expects to issue more than 300,000 medallions to those who served Australia and her allies," she said.

To be eligible, you need to be a surviving veteran, as at 8 May 2005, Victory in Europe (VE) Day, who served during World War II, or the widow or widower of a person who served as:

- a member of the Australian defence forces; or
- an Australian merchant mariner; or
- a member of the Commonwealth or allied forces with qualifying service;
or
- an allied mariner with qualifying service.

Commonwealth and allied veterans, widows and widowers must live in Australia to be eligible for the medallion.

DVA has written to many eligible people who receive a benefit or pension from the Department. If you believe you are eligible and have not been contacted by DVA, please contact the DVA.