

A FATHER AND SON GO TO WAR TOGETHER



VX58285 Corporal Francis Allan (Frank) Burchnall, his father Francis Robert Burchnall (a veteran of the First World War) and mother and a cousin Elaine Simmonds while on a picnic. Frank and his father VX64477 Francis Robert Burchnall both enlisted in the Second World War, serving with the 2/10 Ordnance Workshop; both died whilst prisoners of war.



Vic. Paybook photograph, taken on enlistment, of VX58285 Corporal Francis Alan Burchnall, 2/10th Ordnance Workshop, Australian Corps of Electrical & Mechanical Engineers. He was one of over 2000 Allied prisoners of war (POW) held in the Sandakan POW camp in north Borneo, having been transferred there from Singapore as a part of B Force. The 1494 POW's that made up B Force, were transported from Changi on 7 July 1942 on board the tramp ship Ubi Maru, arriving in Sandakan Harbour on 18 July 1942. Corporal Burchnall, aged 23, died as a prisoner of the Japanese on 4 June 1945. He was the son of Francis Robert and Gertrude Nathelia Burchnall, of Bendigo, Vic. He is commemorated on the Labuan Memorial Panel 28. (Photograph copied from AWM232, items 4 and 5. Personal information from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Database.)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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VX58285 Corporal Francis Alan (Frank) Burchnall Australian Base Line of Communication, Australian Army Ordnance Corps while on a picnic before leaving for overseas service. Frank and his father VX64477 Francis Robert Burchnall both enlisted in the Second World War, serving with the 2/10 Ordnance Workshop; both died whilst prisoners of war.