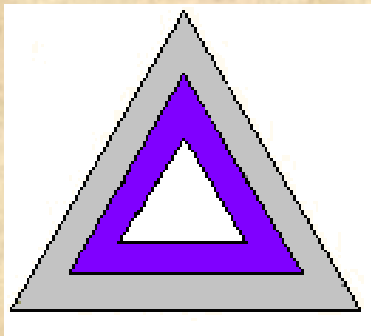
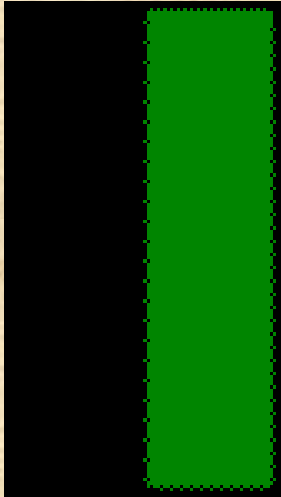


**Joe Tilson LANG MC**



**Captain Joe Tilson Lang, 1940. (John Oxley Library collection)**

<b>Regimental number</b>	1584
<b>Place of birth</b>	15.9.1896 at Dunedin, New Zealand
<b>Religion</b>	Church of England
<b>Occupation</b>	Fitter
<b>Address</b>	'Marmora' , Comer St., Burwood, NSW
<b>Marital status</b>	Single
<b>Next of kin</b>	Mrs Mary H Lang, 'Marmora' , Comer St., Burwood, NSW Brother: Captain William Laing KIA 6 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse 13.8.1915.
<b>Age at enlistment</b>	19 years 1 month
<b>Prior Service</b>	A.G.A. 12 months
<b>Date of Enlistment/ Place</b>	1.2.1915 at Liverpool NSW
<b>Rank on enlistment</b>	Private
<b>Unit name</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, 1st Battalion.
<b>Embarkation</b>	Sydney, NSW per HMAT A8 Argyllshire 10.4.1915.
<b>Rank from Service Records</b>	Temp. Corporal 7.11.1915 Corporal 14.12.1915 Sergeant 16.4.1915? 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant 12.3.1916 (Ismailia Egypt) Lieutenant 6.9.1916 Captain 1.7.1917 Appointment terminated upon having been appointed to a commission in the Indian Army 21.12.1917 served with the 2/9th Rajputs (British Army) before returning to Australia in 1920.
<b>Unit / Casualty from Service Records</b>	Joined 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion – Gallipoli 26.5.1915. Taken on Strength / Transferred 53 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion 13.2.1916. Wounded in action Fromelles 19.7.1916 (gunshot wound thigh) Evacuated for England 24.7.1916. <b>Military Cross</b> Recommended 17.4.1917. <i>"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He has rendered invaluable service while in charge of patrols and has obtained much valuable information."</i> Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 169 - <b>Date: 4 October 1917</b>
<b>Fate</b>	Discharged 21.12.1917. Last Correspondence 4.10.1937 2 <sup>nd</sup> AIF No QX6067 Commander of 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2/2 Pioneer Battalion leading it in the battles for Lae and Shaggy Ridge in New Guinea July – September 1943. Awarded Officer of Order of the British Empire – see below 21.2.1946: Commonwealth Gazette Page 407 position 39 14.2.1946: London Gazette Page 942 position 19 Address 9.4.1967: J T Lang OBE MC, Anzac Ave., Hercules Rd., Redcliffe Qld. Died 19.9.1973 - Death notice published in the Age Melbourne 25.9.1973.

Source: Transcribed from National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455. Accessed 25.6.2023.

NAME	LANG, Joe Tilson						
Award	O. B. E.	Reg. No.	QX 6067	Rank	LT/COL.	Service	A. M. F.
Recommended by Governor-General on						16/11/45.	} G. H. File A. M. F. O/A 35.
Promulgated in <i>London Gazette</i> on						14/2/46.	
Promulgated in <i>Commonwealth of Australia Gazette</i> on						21/2/46.	
Citation (G. H. File	AMF O/A 35	Distinguished service with Australian Base at AITAPF					
Insignia received from London	24/5/48.	FN LONDON.	29/6/49.	G. H. File	L/141.		
Insignia presented by	Registered Post,						
At	-	On	19/5/49.	G. H. File	R/P L/608.		
Address of recipient on presentation date	<u>MT. BEAUTY.</u>						
	<u>Via WODONGA. VICTORIA.</u>						
Remarks							
Other Awards	M. C. , M. I. D. ,						2876.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1068960

Between the wars, Joe Lang was employed as an engineer, most particularly during the construction of the Story Bridge, being erected across the Brisbane River, however at the outbreak of the Second World War Joe re-enlisted and, with the rank of major, embarked with the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion.



**Placing the main pin, Story Bridge Placing the main pin, Story Bridge, c1939; Joe Lang at left, standing, wearing hat. (John Oxley Library collection)**

Joe saw action in the Syria–Lebanon Campaign during the Battle of Merdjayoun, which was fought between Vichy French and predominantly Australian Allied forces on 11–27 June 1941. He was wounded by a sniper in his arm and left thigh and evacuated to hospital in Israel; considered not fit to continue serving, he returned to Australia to recuperate.



*2/2nd Pioneer Battalion cooking Xmas lunch, 25 December 1942*  
*2/2nd Pioneer Battalion cooking Xmas lunch in camp, southwest of Geraldton, Western Australia, 25*  
*December 1942. (John Oxley Library collection)*

While he was convalescing at home, Joe's battalion was posted to Java, where many men were taken prisoner and later died as prisoners of the Japanese. Joe returned to active service, and in July 1942, now in command of the battalion as Lieutenant Colonel, he embarked for New Guinea. Joe led them through the Lae–Ramu Valley campaign before taking over as commander of the Buna Base sub-area.

In March 1945 Joe was 'mentioned in despatches' for exceptional service in the field, and in February 1946 he was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. After the war, he continued to work as an engineer in Queensland until his retirement in 1963.

Selected items from this significant collection have been included in the new digital installation at the state's war memorial, Anzac Square, Brisbane, which opened July 2019.

**LINK State Library of Queensland**

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=f42f97712a598c37JmItDhM9MTY4NzgyNDAwMCZpZ3VpZD0wMGFIN2MyYS1hM2MOLTY5YzltMmJINyO2ZWwRkYTI1NDY4MzcmaW5zaWQ9NTIxNA&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=00ae7c2a-a3c4-69c2-2be7-6edda2546837&psq=Joe+Tilson+Lang+OBE&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2xxLnFsZC5nb3YuYXUvYm xvZy9qb2UtdGlsc29uLWxhbmctY29sbGVjdGlvdG&ntb=1>