

## **FILIPINO-AUSTRALIANS AND FILIPINOS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN TWO WORLD WARS**

**Paul A Rosenzweig MA JP**  
Major, retired

Eight Filipino-Australians from the Northern Territory volunteered for service with the Australian Imperial Force during World War 1. Of these, two lost their lives:

### **William Ga (1891-1916)**

*Served in the Australian Imperial Force as:*  
3051 Private William Gar

Killed in action on 30 November 1916, aged 25 – on the Somme in France, between Mametz and Longueval, while serving with the 4<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Battalion AIF.

Buried in Longueval Road Cemetery, Department of the Somme, France.  
His name is listed on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial (panel 174).

### **Martien Nateo Ga (1889-1917)**

*Served in the Australian Imperial Force as:*  
428 Private Matthew Garr

Killed in action on 29 September 1917, aged 28 – on the Ypres Salient in Belgium during the Battle of Passchendaele, while serving with the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF.

Buried in a makeshift grave near Zonnebeke in Belgium, but never recovered; his name is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in West Flanders, Belgium.  
His name is also listed on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial (panel 143).

During World War 2, at least sixteen Filipino-Australians with a Northern Territory connection served in the Australian military forces. Of these, two lost their lives:

### **Joseph Louis Ceasar Conanan (1926-1946)**

*Served in the Australian Imperial Force as:*  
QX61563 Sapper Joseph Louis Conanan

Died of illness in Cairns on 1 March 1946, aged 19 – while serving with the 12<sup>th</sup> Water Transport Operating Company, Royal Australian Engineers.

He was buried in the Cairns War Cemetery, North Queensland.  
His name is listed on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial (panel 85).

### **Miguel Louis Perez (1924-1945)**

*Served in the Royal Australian Air Force as:*  
432010 Acting Flying Officer Michael Louis Perez

Killed in action on 6 January 1945, aged 20 – during a night bombing mission over Houffalize, Belgium while a Lancaster pilot serving with No. 207 Squadron RAF.

His remains were re-interred in the Houffalize municipal cemetery in Belgium in 1949.  
His name is listed on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial (panel 128).

Five Filipino-Australians – civilian waterside workers – were killed on the wharf during the first Japanese air raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942:

**Burns, Philp & Co Ltd**

**Ricardo Warivin Da Souza Conanan**

Hatchman, working on SS *Barossa*

**Juan Roque Cubillo**

Winchman with No.3 Gang, working on MV *Neptuna*

**Domingo Dominic**

Labourer with No.3 Gang, working on MV *Neptuna*

**Commonwealth Railways**

**Francisco Augustus Chavez**

Winchman on Darwin wharf

**Catalino Puerte Spain**

Labourer with No.3 Gang, working on MV *Neptuna*

Their bodies were never found. Their names are commemorated on a plaque erected by Darwin City Council and unveiled by the Governor-General on 19 February 1971.

In addition, fourteen Filipino nationals – civilian merchant sailors – died in the Arafura Sea north of Darwin due to enemy action on 19 February 1942:

**SS *Don Isidro***

**Antonio Cordova** (Oiler)

**Raul Delgado** (Machinist)

**Loreto Jaime** (2<sup>nd</sup> Engineer)

**Melchor Jaruvilla** (3<sup>rd</sup> Engineer)

**Alberto Jimenea** (Oiler)

**Amado Logno** (Cook / Waiter)

**Maximo Mangan** (Chief Engineer)

**Agapito Masangkay** (Pantryman / Steward)

**Frederico Montalegra** (Chief Electrician)

**Antonio Reynes** (Extra Engineer)

**Quirino Sabando** (Oiler)

*A further two of the crew (unidentified) later died of wounds in Darwin.*

**SS *Florence D***

**Francisco Beltran** (Sailor)

**Librado Briones** (Carpenter)

**Mariano Reyes** (Messboy)

The sacrifice of these Filipinos and Filipino-Australians in two global conflicts represents a significant contribution by the Filipino community to the military history of Australia.