Corporal John Alexander French

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL   100643

Service number	**QX1071**
Birth Date	15 July 1914
Birth Place	Australia: Queensland, Crows Nest
Death Date	04 September 1942
Death Place	New Guinea: Papua New Guinea, Papua, Milne Bay
Final Rank	Corporal
Service	Australian Army
Units	• [Australian Army](#) • [Australian Army](#) • [2/9th Australian Infantry Battalion](#)
Places	• [Milne Bay](#) • [Crows Nest](#)
Conflict/Operation	Second World War, 1939-1945
Gazettes	Published in London Gazette in 1943-01-14 Published in Commonwealth Gazette in 1943-01-21

Description

Cpl John Alexander FRENCH (1914-1942) VC recipient, was typical of many single young men who had enlisted early in the war. He went on to serve in Britain, Egypt, and Libya with the 2/9th Battalion. By the time that he was sent to Papua in August 1942, he was an experienced infantry non-commissioned officer (NCO).

On the afternoon of 4th September, Cpl French's company came across Japanese positions near Goroni and was held up by intense fire from three machine-gun posts. Ordering his own section to take cover, French successfully assaulted two positions with grenades. He then attacked the third with a sub-machine gun but finally fell dead in front of the enemy gun pit. He is buried in the Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery Grave A2. E. 16.