

JOHN VINCENT COSTELLO

Born 16th February 1923 at Marlow
Raised on a dairy farm at Wandah in
the Brisbane Valley.

Attended school at Fairney View and also
Haiglea.

He left school at 13 years old, and worked
on the main roads as lilly boy on the
Fairney Swanbrook Rd.

He then worked as a telephonist on the
switch board at Marlow Post Office for 2 years.

He went on to work with Arthur Perlock
doing milking and general farm work.

He then took on the running of Haiglea
Post Office until he enlisted in the army in
April 1942.

He left for New Guinea in August 1942 and
arrived in Port Moresby that same month.

He was a clerk for a three man mobile
optical team and they set up the 2/9 AGH
hospital at the 16 mile.

He joined the searchlights in Port Moresby
and worked on them. When it was hot you wore
asbestos shoulder length gloves and face masks.

He was later transferred to the .155 mm guns
at Bodless Bay, then north of Port Moresby, a break
in the Coral Reef. They decided to install dual
purpose guns for sea and air protection.

We worked day and night with jackhammers,
picks and shovels.

The site was heavily camouflaged with only enough
room to get under. He was at that site for 7 months
and spent his 21st birthday there.

He arrived back in Brisbane in late July 1944 and
was soon in hospital with malaria and dengue fever.

He was sent for more retraining courses after which
he was to go back to the islands as reinforcement to

an infantry unit.

Fortunately the war ended and he returned home to Warrora after being discharged in 1946.

He started work at City Electric Light Co. in 1947.

He met and married Nola Marie Maloney on 26th June 1948.

They lived on the farm at Warrora where they had 2 sons.

They moved to Yppurichi in 1954 where they lived with his parents until they moved into their new home at North Yppurichi in 1957 where they had 3 more sons.

He stayed in the electrical industry for 36 years working as a labourer and went on to be foreman.

He retired from his job on the 17th November 1983.

Sadly Jack passed away on 4th August 1997.