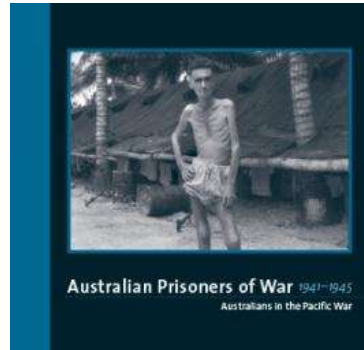


1943 – 1944 (September 30)



Surrender at Stalingrad marks Germany's first **major** defeat. The Allies victory in North Africa enable troops to invade Italy. Australian troops were mainly engaged in land battles in New Guinea, the defeat of the Japanese at Wau, and clearing Japanese soldiers from the Huon peninsula.

In the VFL, there were 16 rounds with a bye in each round due to Geelong not being able to field a team. After 11 rounds, the bottom team was eliminated and there were no longer byes for the rest of the season.

The MCG, Lake Oval and Junction Oval were all appointed for military use; consequently, the Grand Final was held at Princess Park. Richmond defeated Essendon by 5 points.

President Arthur E Davis President 1943 – 1944

President Davis took the reins of the Rotary Club with the nation in the middle of the War. During the year, all members involved in the Services were provided with a regular bulletin. At Xmas time, a special letter was sent to each serving member. Furthermore, the Club raised 156 Pounds for the upkeep of 3 prisoners of War through the Red Cross.

President Arthur was very conscious of ensuring members did not form cliques within the Club. The Music Committee always provided a favourable atmosphere for good fellowship. Also, new members that joined the Club, were carefully instructed on the obligations which came with being a Rotarian.

When the President heard of a local child was at risk of leaving school due to the loss of his father in War, significant funds were raised to contribute to the costs of the child's education.

Locally, the Club provided a special Xmas treat for the children at St Aidan's Orphanage with the Bendigo Pipe Band attending. Also, the Club provided all toddlers at least 1 pair of shoes through a special Shoe Fund for the Toddlers Home. The President did not forget the elderly in Bendigo and provided tobacco and pipes for the Benevolent Home.



(Sandra Brown): 25-April-2016