

Gunner of Renown



Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company

Major General Edward James MILFORD, CB, CBE, DSO

(1894-1972)

Milford graduated from RMC, Duntroon, in July 1915 and sailed for the Middle East in November with the 4th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB). In March 1916, he was sent to the Western Front where he served in a number of artillery regimental and staff postings before being promoted major in September 1917. That month he was wounded in action and evacuated to hospital in London. Returning to duty with the 4th FAB, he was awarded the DSO and mentioned in dispatches for his work as a battery commander and brigade major in operations in France and Flanders.

After the war he chose to remain in England for a specialist course in ordnance at Woolwich. Following ordnance and equipment-related appointments in Australia and Britain, he attended the British Army Staff College, Camberley, in 1930-31. He was at Army Headquarters, Melbourne, in 1936-40 as assistant director, then director, of artillery. In April 1940, he was promoted temporary brigadier as CRA 7th Division.

After four weeks (November –December) in the Middle East, Milford flew back to Australia and on 1 January 1941, he was promoted temporary major general and appointed to command 5th Division at Townsville. Once the threat to Australia passed, in January 1943 the division was deployed to New Guinea and in November he was posted as a staff officer to Headquarters, New Guinea Force, and in 1944 took command of the 7th Division.

In May 1945, Milford moved to Morotai, Netherlands East Indies, to conduct final planning for the landing at Balikpapan, Borneo, that began on 1 July. On 8 September 1945, Milford accepted the surrender of all Japanese troops in Borneo, Netherlands East Indies, from Vice Admiral Michiaki Kamada on the quarter-deck of HMAS *Burdekin*.

He later became a member of the Military Board but was placed on the Retired List on 23 April 1948.

Sources: S. N. Gower, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, M.U.P., Vol. 13, p. 368-9.

For more information follow this link: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/milford-edward-james-11121>