



### Oivi (Station 17): List of Australian deaths

The first contact between Australian and Japanese troops was on 23 July 1942, two days after the Japanese landing. By late afternoon the following day, three depleted platoons of the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion and members of the Papuan Infantry Battalion under Captain Sam Templeton had withdrawn from Awala and Soroputa to Oivi. The Japanese attacked their position on 26 July. About 5.00pm Templeton went to check the rear defences. Gunfire was heard and Templeton did not return, apparently wounded, captured and executed. He was one of five Australians to die at Oivi.

Name	Service No.	Rank	Bn/ Regt	Date of death
Herbert, Thomas C.	V69576	Pte	39 <sup>th</sup> Bn	27/07/42
Lubansky, Harry	V155173	Pte	39 <sup>th</sup> Bn	27/07/42
Moffatt, Sydney M.	V68457	Pte	39 <sup>th</sup> Bn	25/07/42
Speechley, Leslie A.	VX63644	Pte	39 <sup>th</sup> Bn	27/07/42
Templeton, Samuel V.	V50190	Capt	39 <sup>th</sup> Bn	26/07/42