

Gun-Ammunition; Ordnance; Explosives; Materials Supply; Machine-Tools & Gauges; Australian Ship-Building Board; Small-Craft Construction; Armoured Fighting Vehicles; Locomotive and Rolling Stock Construction; Radio & Signal Supplies; Technical Practice; Finance; Chemical Defence; Production Orders and Statistics; Labour.

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From the early days of Federation, Government Policy regarding the setting up of Munitions Factories in Australia was broadly to provide capacity adequate to supply the Armed Services in peace-time with the munitions they needed and that could not be expected from commercial industry. There was no encouragement given to pursue the wasteful path of attempting to build up Government Factories that would be capable of meeting expected war-time demands.

In brief, it was expected that the Government Factories would pioneer relatively small-scale production, establish sound production techniques and processes and, in time of emergency, look to industry to abandon its civilian production and to convert its factories for munitions manufacture, with the Government Factories to guide them when needed.

That was a fundamental principle of the Jensen "master plan" for organising Australian industry for war-time production which was adopted, apparently without question, by Director-General of Munitions <sup>Supply</sup> Lewis on his appointment on May 21, 1940. He immediately invited representative leaders of industry to join his team, to head a series of Production Directorates and to accept responsibility for ensuring the availability when needed of the wide range of munitions which would not — and could not — be made in the Government Factories on the large-scale basis necessary to meet the demands of the Services.

At the outset the Technical Directorates and the original Directors were:-

- .. Explosives Thos. Donaldson,  
Technical Director, I.C.I.A.N.Z.
- .. Gun Ammunition W.J. Smith,  
Managing Director,  
Australian Consolidated Industries
- .. Ordnance L.J. Hartnett,  
Managing Director,  
General Motors-Holdens Ltd.
- .. Materials Sir Colin Fraser,  
Chairman of Directors,  
Electrolytic Zinc Co. of A/asia.Ltd.
- .. Machine Tools & Gauges F.G. Thorpe,  
Director,  
McPherson's Ltd.

There were also the Director of Finance (E.V.Nixon) to act as the watch-

GOVERNMENT MUNITIONS FACTORIES

1939 - 45

Locations and Types of Production

When Great War II began in September 1939, there were four Government Factories engaged in the production of munitions of war - those at Maribyrnong (Vic.) making explosives and ordnance respectively; at Footscray (Vic.) making ammunition; and at Lithgow (N.S.W.) making rifles and machine-guns.

At the peak of the national War-effort, there were 47 Government Factories conducted under the control of the Munitions Supply Board.

In the tabulation hereunder are shown the locations of those Factories, the type of production for which they were planned and, broadly, the period during which they were in service -- i.e.

"a" indicates that the Factory was operating  
 "b" " " " " " " " being established  
 "c" " " " " " " " had ceased production

Location of Factory	Type of Production	Production status as at 30th June							
		1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
<u>VICTORIA</u>									
Maribyrnong	Explosives	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
"	Ordnance	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
"	Chemical Defence	-	-	-	a	a	a	a	c
Footscray	Ammunition	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Ballarat	Explosives	-	-	b	a	a	a	c	c
Bendigo	Ordnance	-	-	-	b	a	a	a	a
Echuca	Ordnance	-	-	-	-	b	a	a	a
Hamilton +	Ordnance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horsham	Ordnance	-	-	-	b	a	a	a	c
Mildura	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	a	c	c
Stawell	Ordnance	-	-	-	b	a	c	c	c
Swan Hill +	Ordnance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>NEW SOUTH WALES</u>									
Lithgow	Small-Arms	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Albury	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	c	c	c
Bathurst	Small-Arms	-	-	b	a	a	a	a	c
Broken Hill	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	a	a	c
Cowra	Small-Arms	-	-	-	b	a	a	c	c
Dubbo	Small-Arms	-	-	-	b	a	c	c	c

Location of Factory	Type of Production	Production Status as at 30th June							
		1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
<u>NEW SOUTH WALES (Contd.)</u>									
Forbes	Small-Arms	-	-	-	a	a	a	c	c
Goulburn	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	a	a	c
Hay	Ammunition	-	-	-	-	b	a	c	c
Katoomba	Small-Arms	-	-	-	-	b	c	c	c
Mudgee	Small-Arms	-	-	-	a	a	a	c	c
Mulwala	Explosives	-	-	-	b	b	a	a	a
Orange	Small-Arms	-	-	b	a	a	a	a	c
Parkes	Small-Arms	-	-	-	b	a	a	c	c
Portland	Small-Arms	-	-	-	-	b	b	a	c
Rutherford	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	a	c	c
St. Mary's	Explosives	-	-	b	b	a	a	a	a
Tamworth	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	c	c	c
Villawood	Explosives	-	-	b	b	a	a	c	c
Wagga Wagga	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	c	c	c
Wellington	Small-Arms	-	-	-	a	a	a	c	c
Young	Small-Arms	-	-	-	b	a	c	c	c
<u>QUEENSLAND</u>									
Rocklea	Ammunition	-	-	b	a	a	c	c	c
<u>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</u>									
Hendon	Ammunition	-	b	a	a	a	a	a	c
Finsbury	Ammunition	-	b	a	a	a	a	a	c
Salisbury	Explosives	-	b	a	a	a	a	a	c
Clare	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	a	a	c
Kepunda	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	a	c	c
Moonta	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	a	a	c
Mount Gambier	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	a	c	c
Murray Bridge	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	a	c	c
Port Pirie	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	a	a	c
<u>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</u>									
Welshpool	Ammunition	-	-	-	a	a	a	a	c
Kalgoorlie	Ammunition	-	-	-	b	a	a	a	c
<u>TASMANIA</u>									
Derwent Park	Ammunition	-	-	b	b	a	a	c	c