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Dangers and revelations: World War II in Indigenous autobiography

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Rowse, Tim

Abstract: For indigenous Australians, experience of the Second World War went beyond service in combat roles. Consider the Davis brothers in Western Australia: as Jack Davis tells us in *A Boy's Life* (Magabala Books, 1991), his brother Harold 'was

taken prisoner at Tobruk and was imprisoned in North Africa and then in Italy. He escaped and fought with the partisans. He saw the bodies of Mussolini and his mistress hung up by their heels in the streets of Milan...' For Jack, the war was humdrum by comparison. Remaining in the Gascoyne region, where he had lived since January 1937, Jack Davis continued to work as a stockman.

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