AFTER THE SURRENDER: AUSTRALIA
AND THE JAPANESE CLASS B AND C
WAR CRIMINALS, 1945-1958

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I declare that this thesis is my own account of my research and contains as its main content work which has not previously been submitted for a degree at any tertiary education institution.

Dean Aszkiełowicz
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# ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANZUS</td>
<td>Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCOF</td>
<td>British Commonwealth Occupation Force</td>
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<td>FEC</td>
<td>Far Eastern Commission (Washington)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMTFE</td>
<td>International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Tokyo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAG</td>
<td>Judge Advocate General</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAA`</td>
<td>National Archives of Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>NARA</td>
<td>National Archives and Records Administration (US)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOPAR</td>
<td>National Offenders’ Prevention and Rehabilitation Commission (Japan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>POW</td>
<td>Prisoner of war</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>People’s Republic of China</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSL</td>
<td>Returned and Services League (formerly Returned Sailors’, Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Imperial League of Australia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCAP</td>
<td>Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (Tokyo)</td>
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<td>SEAC</td>
<td>South East Asia Command</td>
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CONVENTIONS

Japanese personal names are usually given in the text with surname first, in accordance with Japanese custom. The war crimes trial records, however, are erratic in their recording of Japanese names, sometimes putting the surname first and sometimes not. When quoting from the trial records I have given the name in the order in which it appears in those records.

The titles of trial records include the names of all defendants in a case, which produces exceedingly long citations for the larger trials. I have therefore cited these records in an abbreviated format in footnotes and the bibliography, giving the name of the first defendant and the total number of defendants but not listing all names.
TIMELINE OF EVENTS

18 May 1899   First Hague Convention
15 June 1907   Second Hague Convention
23 May 1921   Leipzig Trial
27 August 1928  Kellogg-Briand Pact signed in Paris
27 July 1929  Third Geneva Convention signed
3 September 1939  Outbreak of World War Two
7 December 1941  Japan attacks Pearl Harbor in Hawai‘i, beginning the Pacific War
June 1943  Australian investigations into Japanese war crimes begin
30 October 1943  Moscow Declaration issued
26 July 1945  Potsdam Declaration issued
8 August 1945  London Charter of the International Military Tribunal signed
15 August 1945  World War Two ends
2 September 1945  Japan formally surrenders
November 1945  First Class B and C prosecutions of suspected Japanese war criminals begin
29 April 1946  International Military Tribunal for the Far East opens in Tokyo
12 November 1948  International Military Tribunal for the Far East closes
October 1949  Communist victory in China
December 1949  Liberal victory over Labor in the Australian federal election
June 1950  Manus Island prosecutions begin
June 1950  Outbreak of the Korean War
May 1951  Last Australian war crimes trial (and the last by any of the Allies) finishes at Manus
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1951</td>
<td>San Francisco Peace conference and signing of peace treaty with Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1951</td>
<td>Australia, New Zealand and United States Security Treaty (ANZUS) signed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 April 1952</td>
<td>Occupation of Japan ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1953</td>
<td>Convicted Japanese war criminals repatriated from the Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1953</td>
<td>Convicted Japanese war criminals repatriated from Manus Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 June 1957</td>
<td>Final release of Japanese war criminals in Australian custody, from Sugamo Prison, Tokyo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1958</td>
<td>Last surviving Japanese war criminals released unconditionally</td>
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ABSTRACT

After the war in the Pacific formally ended in September 1945, the victorious Allies occupied Japan and pursued Japanese militarism through democratisation programs and war crimes tribunals. Australian officials took part in the multinational effort to bring members of Japan’s leadership, the 'Class A' war criminals, to account for the war. Between 1945 and 1951 the government and military also ran wholly Australian trials, prosecuting about 800 'Class B and C' suspects for mistreating soldiers and civilians during the conflict. The government needed to be seen to be addressing public outrage over Japanese atrocities, by bringing the perpetrators to justice. In the 1950s, however, as the Cold War escalated and US priorities changed, Australian authorities became conscious that they needed to promote good relations with the US and with Japan. Australia’s harsh polices on war criminals proved to be a significant obstacle, and pressure to show clemency to imprisoned war criminals increased. The government eventually released all surviving war criminals in Australian custody by mid-1957.

Writing on the early post-war period in Australia generally acknowledges that Japan was a focus of an increasingly independent and energetic foreign policy agenda. Nevertheless, the BC trials have received very little scholarly attention. The trials and their aftermath, however, constitute a twelve-year foreign policy project that illuminates Australia’s relations with Japan and the US during an era when Australia sought to establish itself as an independent participant in Asia-Pacific politics. The increasingly political dimension of the BC trials, and their propensity to inflame domestic opinion and to become entwined with high-level policies, means they offer a unique perspective on post-war Australian politics, society and, especially, foreign policy.