The Nazi Government was effective in bringing change to a nation that was crippled by world-wide Great Depression and restrictions from the imposed Treaty of Versailles. The Nazis were particularly appealing for the employment they brought to the struggling lower classes, especially with new jobs in manual labour. In a time of struggling industries around the globe, Germany flourished with more careers and growth in alternative industries such as automobile manufacturing and infrastructure. Hitler was appointed chancellor of the German government in 1933, when he was originally Constitution abiding. He was recruited into this position by President Hindenburg after they had lost 34 seats in the election. After a "mysterious" fire that destroyed the Reichstag, Hitler declared a state of emergency and suspended acts such as the freedom of speech, an event also used to stomp out opposing communists. A few months later the first concentration camps were set up, imprisoning political opponents and other groups the Nazis tagged as undesirable, entered the camps. During this time Hitler had been granted plenary powers and received full dictatorial power when President Hindenburg died in 1934, claiming himself as Fuhrer. The Munich agreement was created and permitted the annexation of Czechoslovakia along the country’s borders where native German speakers were abundant, an act dubbed as a failed appeasement. With few Western ally troops stationed around Germany, the Blitzkrieg took Poland within five weeks. War was then declared on both sides, but no Allied power committed to facing the German army. In 1939, Australian Prime Minster Robert Gordon Menzies announced the start of Australia’s involvement of the war on every radio station in the nation. From there on approximately one million Australian served in campaigns against Italy and Germany in North Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean, as well as the Japanese in South-East Asia. Britain then came under new leadership ending the Phoney War, with Chamberlain resigned and Winston Churchill to take his place, the war branched into action with several major sea battles such as the Battle of the Atlantic as well as bombing raids.

In the first couple of years of WW2, Australia closely followed United Kingdom in their military affairs. Australia, as a dominion of Great Britain, had the right to determine its own foreign policy. However tied to Britain through shared interests in economics, culture, military and politics, it was unlikely for Australia to decline aid. Australian political parties and newspapers supposed the notion of involvement. Prime Minister Menzies was quick to get involved in the war by turning in the Australian Navy over to effective control by Britain for the Royal Navy. It was in 1941 when Australia declared war on Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbour, this is important to Australia’s national independence as there was no wait for British declaration or pacts with the British.

Due to this Australian-British relationship, most Australian units in 1940-41 were sent to the Middle-East and the Mediterranean where they contributed to the Commonwealth forces. Australia entered first in to North Africa where HMAS Sydney destroyed an Italian destroyer and a submarine within the first few days of the Battle of the Mediterranean. The first on-ground action was Operation Compass, where the Commonwealth offensive conquered over the Italians. Here the fresh 6th division relieved the 4th division, and with success was moved then moved on to deployment in Greece. In 1940 on British soil, England was facing conflict with Germans. During the Battle of Britain, 100 Australian airmen fought with the RAF in defence of Britain, as well as the service of a number of Australian Army forestry group and the formation of more Australian fighter squadrons.