The fear installed by the attack on Pearl Harbor and the growing dominance of Japan in the pacific, echoed the feelings felt in the previous century and the need for fortification arose once more. Physical structures not only acted as protection but as symbols of strength, of safety and of resistance against a frightening enemy.

Acknowledgements
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How Adelaide reacted to the threat from Russian and Japanese aggression in 1870s and 1940s.

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Russia

The ‘Russian Scare’ was in direct response to the persistent rumours of a Russian naval squadron operating in and around the South Pacific, and the perceived threat of Russian Imperialism to the Australian colonies after the withdrawal of British troops from the continent in 1870.

Seven years later, under the auspices of the Jervois plan, the Colony of South Australia began building fortifications at Taperoo (Fort Largs) and Semaphore Park (Fort Glanville). A military road connecting the forts and a Torpedo Station on the Port River were also constructed. The threat, however, never materialised.

Fort Glanville

Two forts were built and manned by volunteers, were operational by 1880. Although the Russian threat quickly passed and the third fort at Glenelg was never built, the defences remained in place until Federation when they were taken over by the Commonwealth Government.

Japan

By the late 1930s Japan had become a prominent and ever-increasing power in Asia and in the opening years of World War II came to quickly dominate most of the European-held colonies in Southeast Asia. Many believed Australia would be next, and in response to this air raid shelters were constructed throughout Adelaide and its suburbs to better protect the civil population in the event of a direct attack.

Anderson Air Raid Shelters

Air raid shelters in the Second World War varied in size, materials and design. The shelter featured at the Maritime Museum was named for John Anderson who was the British Home Secretary and Minster for Home Secretary. These shelters were designed in England prior to WWII but constructed in Australia. For Australian families these shelters coast around £15 11s 6d while for British families they were issued free.