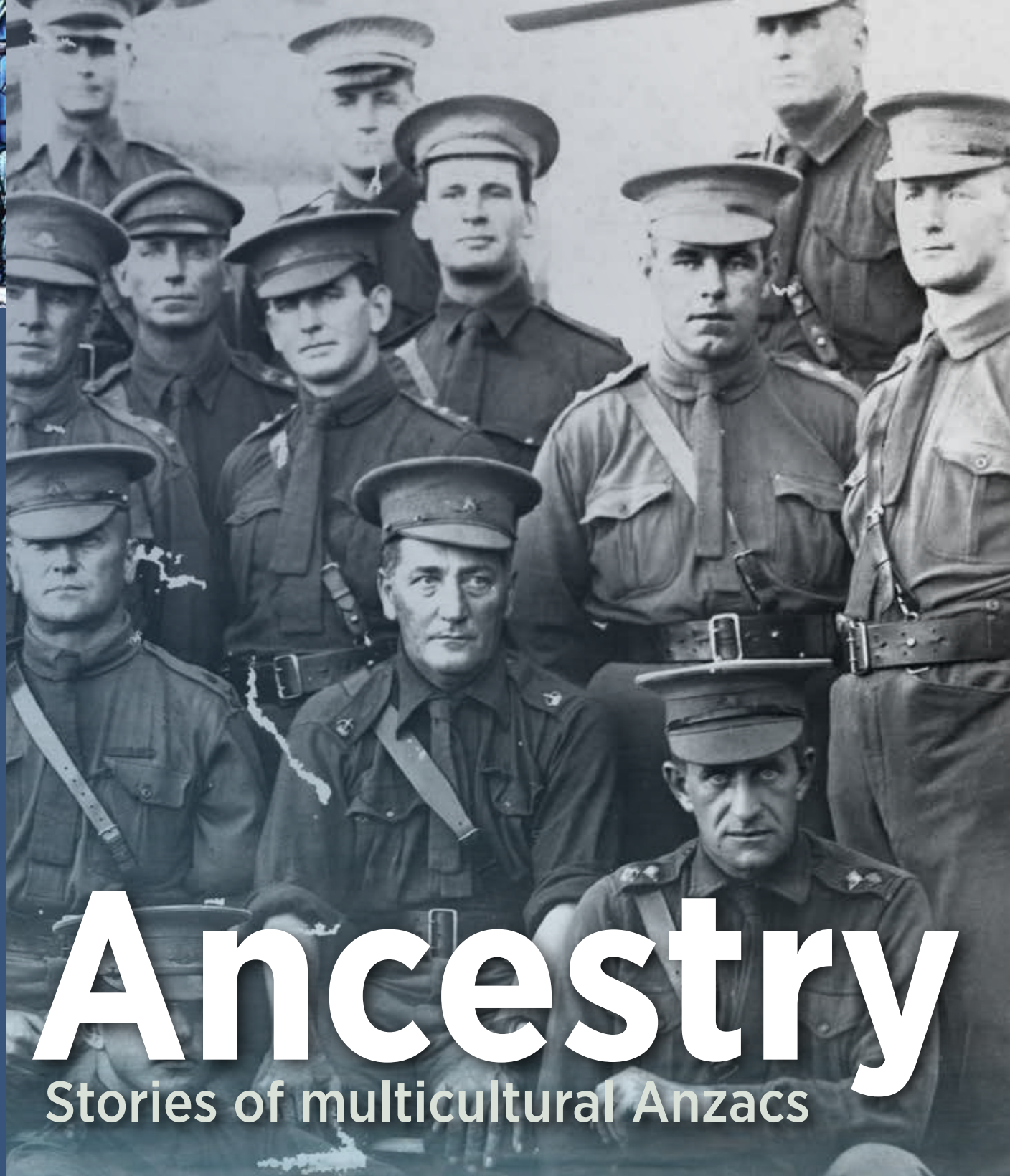




CENTURY OF SERVICE



# Ancestry

Stories of multicultural Anzacs





Ancestry: Stories of multicultural Anzacs

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Napier Waller, Hall of Memory: west window (1950, stained glass, commissioned 1937, AWM ART90410.002 [detail]).

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**



**AUSTRALIAN  
WAR MEMORIAL**

Comradeship

Ancestry

Patriotism

Chivalry

Loyalty

Resource

Candour

Curiosity



AMM ART90410.002 [detail]



In the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra there are 15 stained-glass windows. Each shows a figure dressed in military uniform, and under each figure is a word which describes a quality displayed by Australians during wartime. One window features a sailor in a gunner's uniform. He represents all the men and women who have crossed the sea in the service of our nation.

This window bears the word *Ancestry*.

# Ancestry

## Stories of multicultural Anzacs

Written by Robyn Siers  
and Carlie Walker

Devotion

Independence

Coolness

Control

Audacity

Endurance

Decision





1914



1915



1916



1917



1918



1919



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### Note to the reader:

Most of these stories take place during wartime. You may feel sad after reading some of them. Teachers may wish to be sensitive to those students who have parents serving overseas in war zones.

Readers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent should be aware that this book contains images of deceased Indigenous ex-servicemen.

AWM PB0522

# Introduction

People from all around the world have made Australia their home, and their stories and diverse cultures have enriched and influenced the Australian way of life.

At Federation in 1901 Australia’s population was less than five million, and most of its citizens had European heritage. The Gold Rush and various other business and employment opportunities in Australia during the 1800s had attracted people from other countries who now came to start new lives. Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people however, had very few civil rights. They were excluded from voting in elections and not counted as citizens in the census.

Britain’s declaration of war on Germany in August 1914 meant that Australia, as a **dominion** of the British Empire, was also at war. Around the country there were displays of patriotism and loyalty, and volunteers enthusiastically rushed to enlist in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), and what would later become the Australian Flying Corps (AFC). By the end of the war in 1918 around 420,000 Australians had enlisted – almost 39 per cent of the total adult male population.

The AIF was specially raised for overseas service, and every member was a volunteer. Many had no previous military experience. Most were of British heritage, but Australians from other backgrounds also enlisted. Women also wanted to do their bit: around 3,000 nurses joined the AIF as part of the Australian Army Nursing Service, and over 88,000 joined the Red Cross to contribute to the war effort at home.

Although they were prevented from entering military service by the 1909 *Commonwealth Defence Act*, more than 1,300 Indigenous Australians still managed to enlist. In the AIF many experienced, for the first time, equality and freedom from discrimination.

Several hundred Chinese Australians, despite also being excluded from enlisting on racial grounds, were accepted into the AIF, many because one of their parents was European. Billy Sing, the son of a Chinese father and English mother, became the most well-known Australian sniper on Gallipoli and was awarded the **Distinguished Conduct Medal** (DCM).

Battalions of around 1,000 men each were raised all around Australia. The 47th Battalion was typical in its diversity. Raised in 1916 from volunteers from Queensland and Tasmania, most of its soldiers were of British heritage, but also included in its ranks were men like Caleb Shang, whose father was Chinese; Lauritz Hagen, from Denmark; Konrad Karelson, a Norwegian; Italian Angelo Silva; and Russian-born Nicholas Lagutin. Lagutin was one of at least 1,000 Russian Australians in the AIF.

The AIF also included men with German heritage, like South Australian Edward Mattner. His exceptional military service resulted in him being awarded the **Military Cross**, the DCM, and the **Military Medal**. However, like many German Australians at the time, his family faced discrimination and suspicion, and had their loyalty to the British Empire questioned. Some soldiers changed their names in an attempt to disguise their origins: German Heinrich Otto Zink became Frank Raynor, and Leopold Augustein, also from Germany, took the name Leo Austen.

Australians from all kinds of backgrounds served together during the Great War. For many, wartime service gave them the equality that was not available to them in Australian society either before or after the war. They became mates serving alongside each other, wearing the same uniform, and experiencing the same conditions and hardships.

Discover how the Anzac story of service and sacrifice unites Australians, regardless of their backgrounds.

A more detailed overview on multicultural Anzacs written by historian Ian Hodges is available at: [www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au/teachers/resources](http://www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au/teachers/resources).





1914



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## Maker of the records:

# Honorary Captain Charles Bean

**Charles Bean was born in Bathurst, New South Wales, in 1879. His English-born father, Edwin, was Headmaster at All Saints' College, and Charles and his younger brothers Jack and Montague spent their childhood surrounded by farmland, with hot, dry summers and frosty winters.**

When Charles was ten years old the family relocated to England, where Charles completed his schooling. He was a quiet, observant boy, with a love of cricket and history. On family holidays in Europe, Charles was fascinated by museums and the collections of objects on display. He went on to study **classics** and law at Hertford College in Oxford, and then worked for a while as a teacher. In 1904 he returned to Australia, taking up a position as a lawyer. For the next two years his job took him to many towns in New South Wales, and he developed a keen interest in the stories and people of rural Australia.

With his interest in history and his love of writing stories, Charles pursued a career in journalism rather than the law. He joined the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1908 as a reporter and travelled around the country, writing articles about local events and activities. Charles became fascinated by the people he met; they were resourceful and hardworking, but also looked after each other when times were tough.

George Lambert, *Charles E W Bean* (1924, oil on canvas, 90.7 x 71.1 cm, AWM ART07545)

Artist George Lambert depicted Charles Bean with pencil and notebook at the ready in this portrait from 1924. The two men had travelled back to Gallipoli as part of the Australian Historical Mission to gather artefacts and information about the battles that had occurred there, and to check on the condition of Australian war graves.

### What can we tell about Charles Bean from this portrait?

Schoolboys: Charles (left) and his younger brother Jack. During the war Captain Jack Bean served as a doctor with the Australian Army Medical Corps.

AWM A05393



In 1921 Charles married Ethel Young in Sydney. "Effie" had worked as a nurse at the Queanbeyan Hospital, and she and Charles met over a game of tennis in nearby Tuggeranong.

AWM A05398



Charles Bean's spectacles with case.

AWM REL39646



Charles Bean.

AWM PS1398





1914



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In September 1914, not long after the First World War broke out, Charles was chosen to be Australia's first official **war correspondent**. His job was to travel with the AIF and report back to those at home. Although given the **honorary** rank of captain, Charles was not a soldier, but was armed instead with a notebook and pencil. In November 1914 he travelled to Egypt with the first contingent of Australian soldiers to head overseas. There he observed and reported on the progress of their military training as well as some of the mischief the men got up to. He went ashore on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and stayed until the Australians were evacuated in December. Already he had begun to observe in the men the qualities he so admired from his time spent in the Australian bush.

From 1916 until 1918 Charles worked alongside the AIF on the **Western Front** in France and Belgium, sending back stories about the Australians' involvement in the war. He became increasingly proud of the way the Australian soldiers and nurses did their jobs. They persevered and held on through horrible conditions. He later wrote about the Australian soldier as being "full of colour, entirely positive, constantly surprising those who knew him by some fresh display of qualities which even his own officers (who in most cases had been his mates) had never suspected".<sup>1</sup>

Charles noticed that the soldiers often collected souvenirs from the various battlefields where they served. He encouraged this activity, and gave the men labels to attach to the relics they collected for future cataloguing and reference. Charles had already begun to think about a possible museum back in Australia to display the objects and the battle records, but one which could also act as a memorial to the thousands who had lost their lives. The Australian War Records Section was officially set up by Charles and his colleague Captain John Treloar in May 1917.

After the war Charles returned to Australia, and with the help of some staff began to write up the official history of the Great War, using all of the notebooks and diaries he had kept so carefully during the war years. This task took more than 20 years to complete. Just before the final volume was published, Charles' dream for a national museum and memorial was realised, with the opening of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 11 November 1941. Included in its vast collection are the notebooks, letters, and diaries of Charles Bean.

**Charles at work after the war at Tuggeranong Homestead in the Australian Capital Territory.**

AWM P02751.459

**Leather satchel and fountain pen belonging to Charles Bean.**

AWM REL39654; AWM REL39644



Charles watches the advance of Australian troops near Martinpuich, France, on the Western Front in 1917.

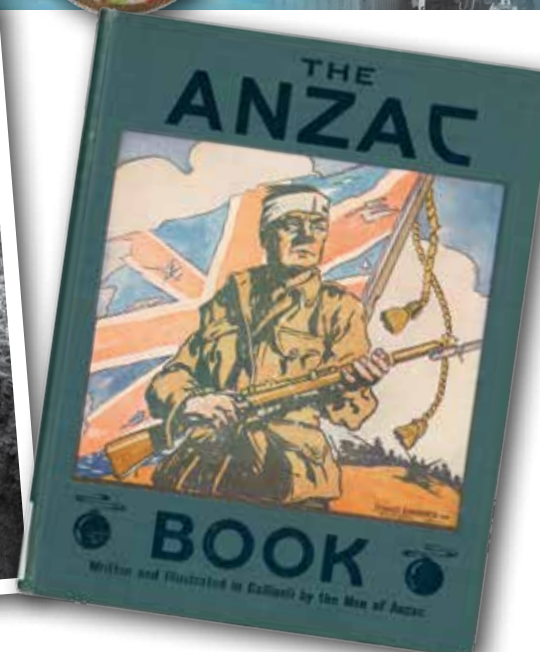
AWM E00246

**What dangers do you think Charles might have faced working so close to the front-line?**

Charles (below, far right) visits the front-line trenches held by the 39th Battalion at Houplines in France in December 1916. The men are looking towards the German lines.

AWM E00087

**Why do you think it was important to have a war correspondent working alongside the Australian soldiers during the war?**



In November 1915 Charles Bean gathered contributions from the soldiers on Gallipoli for a publication which he hoped would lift their spirits at Christmas as they endured enemy attacks, poor conditions, and freezing weather. The men sent in stories, poems, drawings, and cartoons which Charles edited and compiled into a book. It was published in London in 1916.

Reproductions of *The Anzac book* are still available today.

AWM RC02987

**Why do you think the British flag is featured on the front cover?**

**How do you think *The Anzac book* might have helped the soldiers?**



IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ...

*But for the most part, the wealthy, the educated, the rough and the case-hardened, poor Australians, rich Australians, went into the ranks together unconscious of any distinction.*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914-1918*, vol. 1, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1924, p. 45.







1914



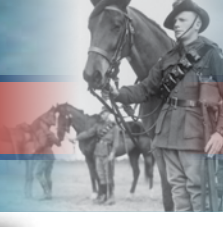
1915



1916



1917



1918



1919



# Committed to service: the Coriglianos

The Corigliano family were no strangers to life at sea. Sicilian-born Charles left Italy and sailed around the world, arriving in Albany, Western Australia, in 1876. Within 12 months he had moved to South Australia, settling in the coastal town of Beachport, where he worked on fishing boats. He was also sometimes called upon to carry out sea rescues as coxswain of the town's lifeboat. In 1879 Charles married Irish immigrant Mary O'Connell, and in 1880 John Vincent Corigliano, the first of the couple's 15 children, was born.

John, more commonly known as Jack, inherited his father's seafaring ways, and followed him into the fishing business after leaving school. At 18 years of age Jack joined the South Australian Naval Forces and, as an **able seaman** aboard **HMCS Protector**, served in China in 1900 during the **Boxer Rebellion**. In 1907 Jack was selected as part of a small group from the Commonwealth Naval Forces to be sent to England for special training, during which he was promoted to **mechanician**. He was also given the special honour of joining the Australian naval contingent at the coronation of King George V at Westminster Abbey in London in 1911.

In 1912 Jack married English **governess** Gertrude Haddow in Portsmouth. By the following year he was back in Australia on board the RAN's new battle cruiser **HMAS Australia**. With over 800 crew and eight 12-inch guns, it was the most powerful warship in the Pacific. Jack worked below deck in the hot and noisy engine and boiler rooms.

After war was declared in August 1914, *Australia* led the force that captured German New Guinea in September. This was Australia's first campaign of the war. Jack's ship was then tasked with hunting the ships of the German East Asia Squadron in the vast Pacific Ocean. They proved to be elusive, but in December news was received that the German fleet in the Atlantic Ocean had been defeated. Early in 1915 the *Australia* steamed towards Britain to join the **Grand Fleet**, conducting exercises and patrols in the North Sea.

Jack's younger brother Charles had also decided on a naval career, joining the RAN in 1911, aged 20. In 1913 he joined the crew of **HMAS Sydney** as a **stoker**. He worked deep below deck shovelling coal into the ship's furnaces in order to keep the huge steam engines running. The work was hard and the air often thick with coal dust.

Following the outbreak of war, the *Sydney* took part in the operations against German colonies in the Pacific, before joining the ships of the first Australian convoy gathering at Albany in Western Australia in October 1914. On board the 36 transports were more than 30,000 men of the AIF and the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF), along with around 8,000 horses, all bound for war service overseas.

**Mechanician Jack Corigliano c. 1911-13. By the time he retired, Jack had given almost 37 years of his life to naval service.**

AWM P10690.002



Ship's bell from HMAS *Australia*.

AWM RELAWM04469

Jack's wife, Gertrude Corigliano, 1919.

They did not have any children of their own, but took an active interest in their many nieces and nephews.

AWM P10690.001

Stokers scrape out the ash from the furnace grates in HMAS *Australia*. Coal was stored in the bunkers on the right. The success of naval operations was dependent on supplies of fuel.

AWM EN0535

How do you think the ships were resupplied with coal while at sea?



Engineers, mechanics, and artificers at work in the workshop on HMAS *Australia*.

AWM EN0022

What difficulties would these men have faced working in this environment?







1914



1915



1916



1917



1918



1919



Less than two weeks into the voyage, on 9 November, wireless operators received signals indicating the presence of an enemy ship close by as the convoy passed the Cocos Islands. HMAS *Sydney* was dispatched to investigate. Within hours, a wireless message arrived from the *Sydney*: "Am briskly engaging enemy", followed soon after by, "Emden beached and done for."<sup>2</sup> News of the sinking of the German light cruiser SMS *Emden* was met with triumph by Australians. The convoy arrived in Alexandria in Egypt four weeks later.

Back home in Beachport, the Corigliano family would have kept a close eye on newspaper reports of the war, looking particularly for news of the *Australia* and the *Sydney*. News of the action on Gallipoli during 1915 was sent to papers back in Australia by war correspondents including Charles Bean. With rising casualty rates, the need for more volunteers was increasing. Jack's younger brothers Maurice and Peter both enlisted in the AIF on the same day: 1 September 1915.

Peter, aged 22, served as a gunner with the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade on the Western Front during 1916 and 1917. Early in 1918 he was hospitalised after being wounded in a gas attack. He recovered and returned home at the end of the war.

Maurice, aged 32, left Adelaide with the 3rd reinforcements for the 32nd Battalion in February 1916. Seven months later he was reported as missing after the battle of Fromelles in France on 20 July. At first it was thought he may have been taken prisoner by the Germans; his death was later confirmed, but his grave could not be located.

Further sadness touched the Corigliano family in 1916. Jack's sister Clotilda was married to Arthur Hateley and they had two young daughters. Arthur enlisted in 1915 and joined the 3rd Light Horse Regiment. No sooner had he arrived in Egypt than he was hospitalised with **tuberculosis**. In April, while being transported home on the hospital ship *Karoola*, he died and was buried at sea.

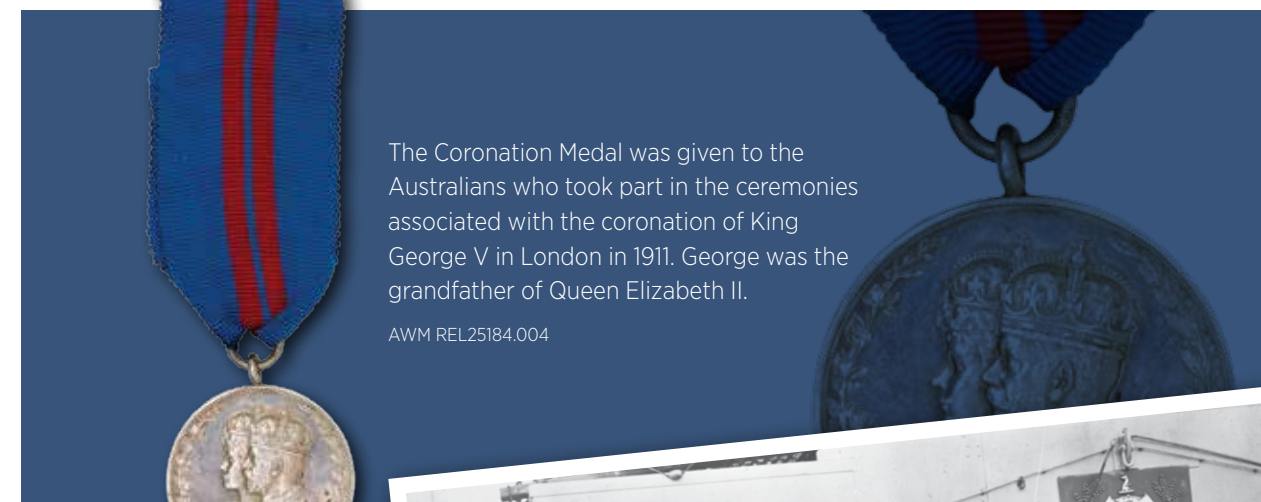
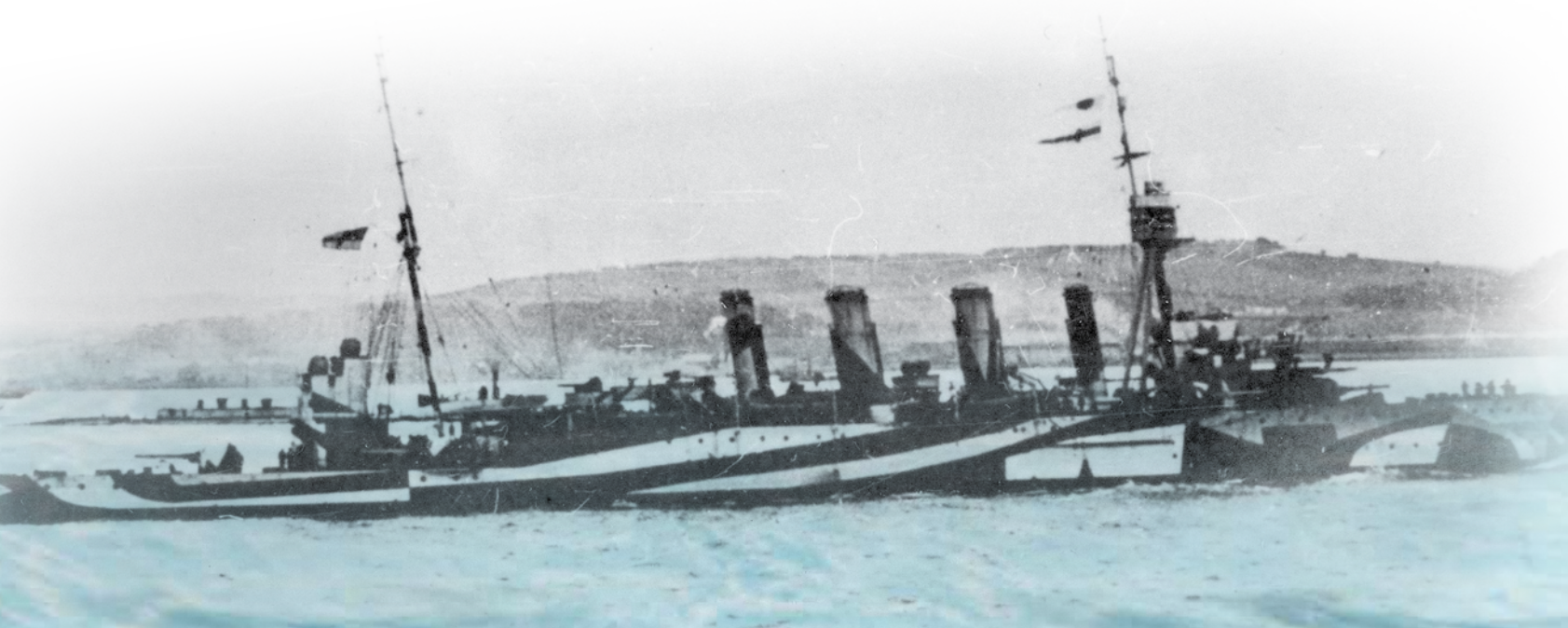
At war's end in November 1918, Jack, now serving on HMAS *Melbourne*, witnessed the surrender of the German fleet in Scotland. He continued to serve in the navy until retiring in 1935 with the rank of lieutenant commander. He and Gertrude eventually moved back to Beachport, where "his gentlemanly manner and keen wit made him much liked and respected by all".<sup>3</sup>

**HMAS *Melbourne* off the coast of Scotland. She was the only RAN ship to be camouflaged using the dazzle scheme.**

AWM 301010

**What animal's camouflage does the ship resemble?**

**What do you think was the purpose of this camouflage pattern?**



The Coronation Medal was given to the Australians who took part in the ceremonies associated with the coronation of King George V in London in 1911. George was the grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II.

AWM REL25184.004



Private Maurice Corigliano was killed in action on 20 July 1916. In 2008 a burial ground containing the bodies of 250 British and Australian soldiers was located at Pheasant Wood, near Fromelles. Maurice's remains were identified using DNA testing in 2010 and he is now officially commemorated in the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery.

AWM P08039.001



Officers aboard HMAS *Melbourne* in 1917. Jack is in the back row, second from the left.

Nursing the ship's cat in the centre is Captain Edward Rushton.

AWM EN0323

**Why were cats important to the sailors on board ships?**

IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ...

*The Australia never saw a battle or fired a gun in action. Notwithstanding this, her services to the Commonwealth were of inestimable value in the Pacific; and her work at the other side of the world must nevertheless be taken into account as the major part of Australia's contribution to the defence of the Empire ...*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australians in the war of 1914-1918*, vol. 9, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1943, p. 262.







1914



1915



1916



1917



1918



1919



# A Maori Anzac: Private Karanema Pohatu

**Born in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, Karanema was one of nine children born to Henare and Mahue Meriana Pohatu. He moved to Australia as a young man and began working as a shearer. Four years later, just two months after the First World War began in 1914, Karanema enlisted in the AIF. He was 21 years old.**

There were strict measures against indigenous people enlisting in the AIF, but Karanema was not dark skinned, so was able to disguise his Maori heritage. He also changed his name to Robert Stone; "pohatu" being the Maori word for stone.

Robert was part of the 1st reinforcements for the 3rd Battalion, and landed on Gallipoli at dawn on 25 April 1915. The men who went ashore were under fire from the Turkish troops on the ridges overlooking the beach. After fighting hard all day, Robert and the other soldiers in his unit managed to take over some Turkish trenches. They dug in for the night, but remained under attack.

Things did not improve overnight, and Robert was killed in the fighting that took place the next day. His body was hastily buried, but in the chaos that followed, his grave was lost.

Communication between Robert and his family back in New Zealand had been sparse after his enlistment, and it was not until the war was over, when they tried to track down his whereabouts, that the family discovered what had happened, and Robert's Maori heritage was revealed.

Robert's name is listed on the memorial at Quinn's Post Cemetery on the Gallipoli peninsula, as well as on the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour.



Members of the 1st reinforcements for the 3rd Battalion at the training camp in Broadmeadows, Victoria, in December 1914.

When trying to locate Karanema after the war, his older brother Tohana wrote to Australian authorities in 1922, noting that, "we never received any letter from him. The only thing we received was a photograph of a group while in camp ..."

AWM DAX2492



Two unidentified soldiers beside a Maori carving in the trenches on Gallipoli. At least 2,500 Maori men served during the First World War with the NZEF.

AWM C01157

**Why do you think soldiers would make such a carving?**

## Did you know?

The word "Anzac" was used to refer to the Australians and New Zealanders who landed on Gallipoli in 1915. An Anzac would eventually mean any Australian or New Zealand soldier of the First World War, and now applies to all wars and conflicts.

The remains of an entrenching tool used for digging, found on Gallipoli after the war. The wooden handle in the centre has almost completely disintegrated.

AWM REL/10073



The traditional Maori greeting, where two people press their noses and foreheads together, is called the "hongi". Here, Private Alfred Stanley (right), originally from Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, greets Private Nesbitt Lumsden. Both men served with the 8th Light Horse Regiment, AIF.

AWM DA09666



## From Schmelzkopf to South

Some volunteers wishing to enlist changed their names, hoping that this would make it easier to be accepted into the AIF.

In September 1914, at the age of 19, Albert Carl Schmelzkopf of Adelaide joined up. Even though Albert and his father, Carl, had been born in Australia, their ancestors were immigrants from Germany. In June 1915 Carl Schmelzkopf changed the family name by deed poll: "I absolutely denounce and abandon the use of my said name and assume and adopt the name of Charles George William South."<sup>4</sup>

Albert served on Gallipoli and in Palestine as part of the 3rd Light Horse Regiment before transferring to the Machine Gun Squadron of the 1st Light Horse Regiment. He was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty in November 1917. In the last year of the war, Albert became a pilot in the AFC.

Lieutenant Albert South wears his pilots' wings badge in 1918.

AWM P09220.001

**Why do you think Albert's father wanted to change the family surname?**



## IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ...

The name, A. and N. Z. Army Corps was far too cumbersome for constant use, especially in telegrams, and a telegraphic address was needed ... a convenient word was wanted as a code name for the Corps. One of the clerks suggested: "How about ANZAC?" Major Wagstaff proposed the word to the general, who approved of it, and "Anzac" therefore became the code name of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914-1918*, vol. 1, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1924, p. 124.







1914



1915



1916



1917



1918



1919



# A family legacy: the Righettis

During the 1850s Alan Righetti's grandfather, Serafino, migrated with his family from Europe to Australia to join the gold rush at the age of 15. The Righettis settled in the Victorian town of Daylesford. Nestled at the base of the Great Dividing Range, Daylesford was much like the village of Someo, their former hometown in the southern foothills of the Swiss Alps.

When the search for gold proved unsuccessful, Serafino moved to the town of Heywood in the western district of Victoria, where he set up the general store *Righetti and Co*. He married Lucy McCord and they had five children: Edmund, Ernest, Lucy, Walter, and Leonard, all of whom grew up to work in the family business.

In 1899 Serafino's eldest son, Edmund, farewelled his wife and children, including ten year old Alan, and set sail for the Boer War in South Africa. Well known for his adventurous spirit, horsemanship, and shooting skills, Edmund travelled three times to this war. On his last trip he was severely wounded in action. Eventually he returned home, having been promoted through the ranks to captain. He later gave his revolver to Alan as a **memento** of his Boer War service.

Having inherited his dad's horsemanship, Alan attended Light Horse School and served in the **Militia** for two years. When Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914 Alan immediately volunteered his services. Edmund, now 50 years old, enlisted three months later with the 5th Light Horse Regiment.

Alan joined the 3rd reinforcements for the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, and boarded HMAT *Itria* in February 1915 for the long voyage to Egypt. Six months later he was sent to Gallipoli. There, his regiment defended allied positions and successfully attacked one of the most challenging positions along the Anzac line: the Turkish trenches near Quinn's Post.

Second Lieutenant Alan Serafino Righetti in his 1912-14 Militia uniform.

AWM P01098.002



The Webley Mark IV revolver and holster which Edmund Righetti took with him to the Boer War. These items remained in the Righetti family until they were donated to the Australian War Memorial.

AWM REL/16961.001-002



Colour patch for the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, AIF.

AWM RELAWM07941.003

Alan's father, Edmund Righetti (second row, seated far right), travelled to Egypt on board SS *Persic* with the 5th Light Horse Regiment in 1914.

AWM P01541.001







1914



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1917



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1919



The Australians were evacuated from Gallipoli in December, and Alan was promoted to lieutenant. His regiment was then sent to Egypt to defend the Suez Canal against an expected Turkish attack.

Early on 4 August 1916 Alan was involved in the battle of Romani in the Sinai desert. When the Turkish attack was launched, the regiment was quickly outnumbered and forced back. During the battle, Alan Righetti was killed. It was exactly two years since Britain had declared war on Germany. Edmund left Egypt just three weeks after his son's death, returning to Australia and his family.

After the war, Imperial German Army Officer Heinrich Romer Andreae returned Alan's identity disc to his family, having received it from a Turkish officer after the battle. Andreae also wrote to Alan's mother, Mary, describing the circumstances of Alan's death. He wrote:

*Scarcely had we looked over the top of the range when a tremendous machine gun fire was experienced by us ... The (Australian troops) showed such courage as we had never seen since the beginning of the war in France - they fought without regard for ... personal losses ... I hope it will be a solace to you to know that your son fell as a hero and without suffering pain.*

AWM PR89/179

Alan was initially buried on the battlefield at Romani, and later reinterred in the Kantara War Memorial Cemetery in Egypt, where a headstone was erected. When Mary heard that her son's remains had been moved, she wrote to Base Records requesting a photograph of Alan's new resting place.

In the final year of the war, Edmund's brother Leonard and his wife had a son. They named him Alan in honour of his cousin. Young Alan inherited his uncle Edmund's revolver and went on to serve in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) during the Second World War. Leonard, his other three sons, Ivo, Syd, and Lloyd, and his daughter, Yvonne, also served in the Second World War.

**The enclosure around Alan's original grave in Romani was made by the men of the 2nd Light Horse Regiment using the hoop iron that had originally enclosed the horse feed.**

AWM P01098.001



### IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ...

*Another factor which gave the Australian countryman natural fitness ... was that he was bred in a land of strong sunshine. From his birth he had been accustomed to very high summer temperatures, to dusty roads, and to the exercise of careful thought concerning water-supply ... The Australian possessed, therefore, remarkable qualities, both natural and acquired, for a mounted war in a hot, dry country.*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914-18*, vol. 7, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1941, p. 32.



George Lambert, *Battle of Romani, 4 August 1916* (1925-27, oil on canvas, 122 x 234 cm, AWM ART09556)

**What would be some of the challenges for light horsemen and their horses while serving in the desert?**

In 1967 the Australian government issued Anzac Medallions to Gallipoli veterans or their next of kin to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the landing at Anzac Cove. At this time, Alan's sister Eleanor was his only surviving relative, and she requested one in recognition of her brother's service.

AWM REL28920

**What would this medallion have meant to Alan's sister?**



Flying Officer Ivo Righetti (seated in front) of No. 4 (Tactical Reconnaissance) Squadron, RAAF, in Nadzab, New Guinea, 5 October 1943.

AWM P02531.015

**Why do you think so many members of the Righetti family chose to serve during wartime?**





1914



1915



1916



1917



1918



1919



# “Conspicuous bravery”: Lieutenant Leonard Keyzor

Leonard was born in 1885 into a well-off Jewish family in Paddington, London. Growing up, he enjoyed family holidays at Brighton on Britain’s south coast. During his school years at Tonnleigh Castle in Ramsgate, Leonard excelled in cricket as a bowler and fielder, skills that he would later use as a soldier on Gallipoli. After leaving school, Leonard spent ten years in Canada before migrating to Sydney in March 1914. By this time his brother Stanley and sister Margery were also living in Australia.

In August 1914 the First World War broke out and the call to arms could be heard across the country. Just two weeks later Leonard left his job as a clerk and enlisted with the 1st Battalion, the first infantry unit raised in New South Wales for the war. Boarding SS *Afric* in October, Leonard joined the first group of the AIF to depart on overseas service. As the ship set sail, the last he saw of Australia was the port town of Albany on the south coast of Western Australia.

Leonard trained for several months in Egypt before taking part in the landing on Gallipoli on the morning of 25 April 1915. In August he joined his unit in the attack at Lone Pine, part of a general attempt to break through Turkish lines. At dusk on 6 August the 1st Division attacked and seized the Turkish trenches at Lone Pine. This was followed by three days of heavy fighting as the Turkish troops retaliated. As bombs landed in the trench, Leonard would use either sandbags or his overcoat to smother them or, if there was time, throw the bombs back. Although wounded twice, he refused treatment and kept going for 50 hours until the fighting lessened. For his “most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty at Lone Pine Trenches”,<sup>5</sup> Leonard was awarded the **Victoria Cross** (VC). He was one of seven Australians awarded the VC for bravery at Lone Pine.

In October Leonard was evacuated to England with **enteric fever**. He re-joined his battalion in France early the following year, and by July was involved in heavy fighting at Pozières, which saw the 1st Division lose some 5,000 men within five days. Though Leonard survived, by the end of six weeks of fighting, 23,000 Australians had become **casualties**, 6,800 of whom had been killed.



Lieutenant Leonard Keyzor, c. 1917.

After the war Leonard changed the spelling of his last name from “Keyzor” to “Keyzor”. His name was incorrectly spelt with an “s” in the **citation** for his Victoria Cross, so to avoid confusion he permanently changed his name to this spelling.

AWM P02939.007



Wallace Anderson and Louis McCubbin, *Lone Pine* (1924–27, diorama, 380 x 880 x 510 cm, AWM ART41017)

A “jam tin” bomb found at Lone Pine in 1919 by the Australian War Records Section.

Having not been provided with enough bombs for the Gallipoli campaign, soldiers used leftover jam tins, barbed wire, and metal to create “jam tin” bombs. A factory was then set up on the beach at Anzac Cove to produce the bombs required for the fighting.

AWM RELAWM00409.001



Troops landing on Gallipoli on the morning of 25 April 1915.

AWM J03022

How and why is this event commemorated in Australia today?







1914



1915



1916



1917



1918



1919



Over the next two years Leonard participated in a number of battles on the Western Front and was twice wounded, for the last time in May 1918 after a gas bombardment near Villers-Bretonneux.

Five months later Leonard and nine other VC recipients were invited by Australian Prime Minister William Hughes to return to Australia to assist with the recruiting campaign. They returned on board HMAT *Medic*, the same ship that had brought Leonard to Australia four years earlier. After being discharged from the AIF in December Leonard again took up work as a clerk. He returned to London in 1920, where he married Gladys Benjamin at Hill Street Synagogue. The couple settled close to where Leonard had grown up.

Leonard was later asked to re-enact the actions for which he was awarded his VC for a silent film titled *For valour*. He was severely injured during the filming when a replica bomb exploded close to his face. Leonard volunteered for service in the Second World War but was rejected on medical grounds. He died in London in 1951, aged 65.

**A cigarette card showing Leonard Keyzor. This was one in a series of cards depicting Australian VC recipients.**

**Cigarette cards were collectables included in cigarette packages.**  
AWM RC09119

**Why do you think VC recipients were featured on these cards?**

**What does this suggest about how VC recipients were viewed in Australia during the First World War?**



Leonard (middle of third row from the front) and nine other Victoria Cross recipients on board HMAT *Medic*, October 1918.

AWM P00398.001

**Why would the Australian Prime Minister have asked VC recipients to assist with the recruitment campaign?**



### The Anzac Buffet

In 1915 Leonard and five other VC recipients attended the Anzac Buffet in London. Established by Australians living in London, the Anzac Buffet provided free meals and entertainment for Australian servicemen.

AWM H18652



Leonard's medals, including (left to right) the Victoria Cross, ribbon for the 1914-15 Star (medal missing), British War Medal, Victory Medal, and George VI Coronation Medal.

After the war, when Leonard was living in England, his house was robbed and his Victoria Cross was stolen. It was later returned to him in an envelope with an apology scrawled on the front.

AWM REL/03255.001-004

*IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ... (before the action at Lone Pine)*

*As they waited in the crowded bays, there was not the least sign of nervousness in face, speech, or action. The prevailing thought was: "it's the turn of the 1st Brigade to show what it can do."*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914-1918*, vol. 2, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1924, p. 502.





1914



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1916



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1918



1919



# A service family: the Christensens

The lush, tropical landscape of south-eastern Queensland must have seemed a world away from her homeland for 28 year old Ernestine Julianne Schwarz when she arrived in Australia in April 1886. Born in Rendsburg, in Schleswig-Holstein, northern Germany, Ernestine married Poul Christensen, a Danish migrant, one month after arriving in Australia. The couple set up home in the small timber town of Tiaro in Queensland, where Poul worked as a carpenter.

Within eight years the family had seen the birth of two daughters and three sons. After they left school, sons Andreas (known as Andrew), Poul (known as Dan), and Victor took up jobs in the local agricultural and sawmilling industries, and eldest daughter Victoria left home to train as a nurse in Brisbane. She worked in the Children's Hospital for five years, eventually becoming a matron.

After the First World War broke out, Victoria, aged 28, was the first in the family to volunteer to serve, enlisting in the Australian Army Nursing Service in 1915. She was one of more than 3,000 Australian nurses who enlisted during the war. Nursing was then a profession just for women, and provided a way for them to directly participate in the war effort. Many of the women also saw it as a way to be closer to loved ones serving overseas.

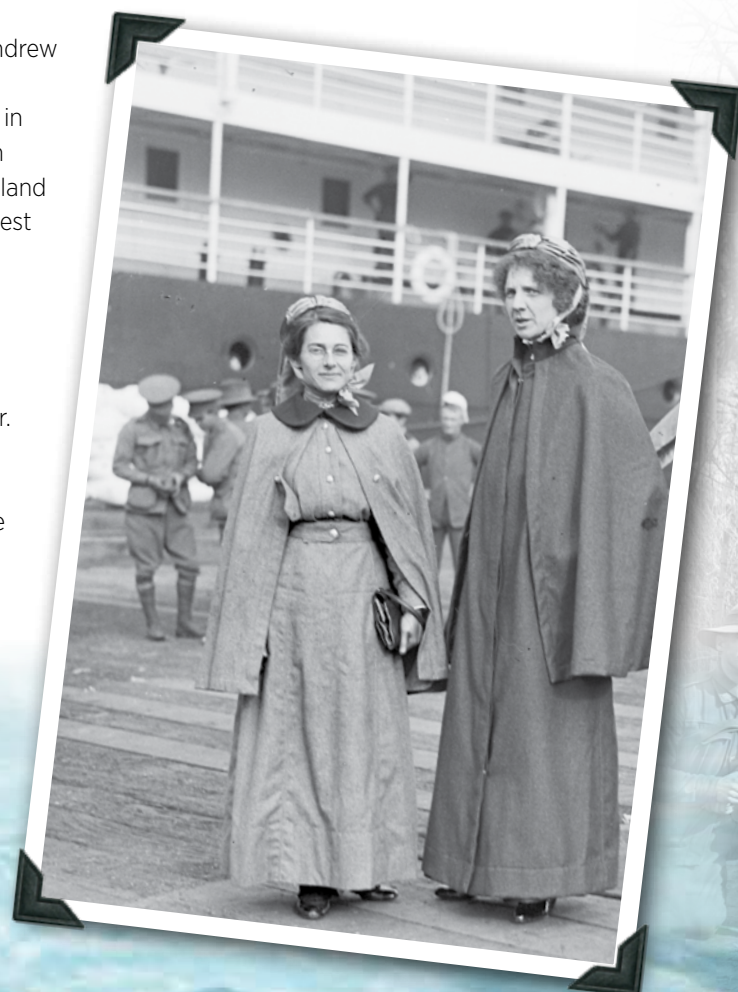
The Christensens were a close-knit family. In the next 12 months all three sons had also enlisted. Eldest son Andrew left Australia with reinforcements for the 15th Battalion. He served in France and Belgium until he was wounded in the leg by an exploding artillery shell during an action in August 1917. Andrew was evacuated to a hospital in England before returning to Australia in December 1917. For the rest of his life he had only limited use of his damaged leg.

Middle son Dan was living in Bundaberg with Margaret, his wife of just two months, when he left Brisbane with Andrew in October 1916. Like Andrew, he also served with the 15th Battalion, but worked as a stretcher-bearer. Life in the trenches on the Western Front was hard, the men often knee-deep in cold, wet mud. Dan suffered from trench fever for much of 1917, but went on to serve with his unit for the remainder of the war. He returned home to his family in Queensland in mid-1919.

Staff Nurse Victoria Christensen (right) with another nurse prior to boarding HMAT Orsova, July 1915.

Victoria served in hospitals in England and Bombay, India and was discharged from service in 1919.

AWM PB0345 [detail]



Just like the soldiers of the AIF, members of the Australian Army Nursing Service wore a "rising sun" badge on their uniforms. The nurses' badges were coloured silver, and the men's were made of brass.

AWM REL30251

Stretcher-bearer's brassard.

AWM REL/01274

Why would it be important for stretcher-bearers to be clearly identified?



A ward at No. 2 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, England, where Victoria served.

AWM D00570

What activities can you see the patients doing to pass the time?

Members of the 15th Battalion band in Belgium, March 1918. Band members often worked as stretcher-bearers. Dan Christensen is in the front row, third from left. He played the tuba.

AWM E01748







1914



1915



1916



1917



1918



1919



“Dummy” trees were used as observation posts on the battlefield. This one was built in the Messines area in December 1917.

AWM E03861

What might be the advantages and possible disadvantages of this method of observation?



This concrete pillbox was overturned by the force of the underground explosion at Messines in Belgium.

AWM E01269

Why do you think the pillboxes were so hard for the Australians to capture?

Youngest son Victor enlisted in September 1915, just three months after Victoria. Tall and fair haired, Victor was only 20 years old at the time, and working in the local saw mill. He left for Egypt in March 1916 and spent some time training before joining the 42nd Battalion and embarking for service on the Western Front.

Sickness dogged Victor for much of his time overseas. He was hospitalised several times with pneumonia, prompting his mother Ernestine to enquire after his condition in March 1917:

*A little more than a month ago, I had a telegram from you advising me that my son Corporal Victor Christensen was seriously ill with bronchitis, pneumonia ... since then I have heard no news. Please can you tell me anything, or what may be likely to be the reason?*<sup>6</sup>

By June Victor was serving on the front line at Messines in Belgium. Just before dawn on 7 June 1917, the allies detonated 19 enormous mines under the German trenches. The explosions could be heard kilometres away. British, Australian, and New Zealand soldiers eventually recaptured the area. A few weeks later, on 31 July, while carrying out further attacks on concrete pillboxes in nearby Warneton, Victor was killed.

News of Victor’s death was reported back home in Queensland in the local paper:

*The news that Private Victor Christensen had been reported killed in action somewhere in France was received at Tiaro with many expressions of regret. Private Christensen was a native of Tiaro and was well known and respected by the residents of the district.*<sup>7</sup>

Victor and Victoria seem to have had a strong bond. In June 1917 Victor had nominated Victoria as the recipient of his personal belongings should he die. A package was later sent to her at No. 2 Australian Auxiliary Hospital in Southall, England. Among its contents were photos, a mirror, a scarf, a **balaclava**, and mittens. In August Victoria wrote to a friend, “My baby brother was killed just a month ago, and I can hardly realise it even yet.” (AWM PR03076)

Victor has no known grave, but his name is listed on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, Belgium and on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.



Charles Wheeler, *The battle of Messines* (1923, oil on canvas, 137 x 229 cm, AWM ART03557)

Australian troops on the front line observe the explosions on the horizon, and begin their attack after the detonation of underground mines at Messines Ridge.



The colour patch of the 42nd Battalion, AIF.

AWM RELAWM13307.101

Members of the 42nd Battalion wash the mud off their boots after returning from the front line.

AWM E00117



### IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ...

*For some reason the French – not only the people, but even some of the military leaders – before they knew anything of the Australians except by sight or from press reports, and certainly long before the troops had given any proof of their quality in France, accepted them as among the finest fighters in the war.*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australians in the war of 1914–1918*, vol. 3, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1929, p. 74.





1914



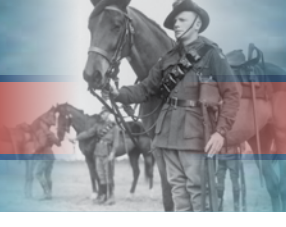
1915



1916



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1918



1919



# “Gallantry in action”: Captain Marcel Aurousseau

**Marcel’s grandfather Hippolyte Aurousseau emigrated to Australia from central France in 1850. Not long after, Sarah Doubleday, a French scholar and teacher, arrived in Sydney from her home in London. Hippolyte struggled to learn English and was introduced to Sarah for help. The pair fell in love and married the following year. They had two sons: Francois and George. Hippolyte was naturalised in 1874 and formally became a British subject.**

George grew up to be an artist, teacher and jeweller, and had a love of the Australian landscape. He married fellow artist Kathleen Bourke, whose parents had emigrated from Ireland in the 1850s. Their son, Marcel, born in 1891, inherited his father’s love of nature. After working as an office boy at the Australian Museum, he studied a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Sydney. He was working as a lecturer in geology at the University of Western Australia when the First World War began.

In August 1915 Marcel joined the AIF, aged 24, and was given the rank of second lieutenant. After a long sea journey, he joined the 51st Battalion on the Western Front. Marcel was promoted to lieutenant in July 1916, and the following month, during the battalion’s first major battle at Mouquet Farm, he earned a Military Cross for bravery. The citation for his medal read:

*For conspicuous gallantry in action. He took command when his company commander was killed and inspired all ranks by his fine example. During a night attack he led his company forward with great dash until he was severely wounded.*<sup>8</sup>

Marcel was evacuated to England. Between August and September, approximately one-third of his battalion became casualties. After several months in hospital, Marcel returned to France and was soon promoted to captain. In 1917 he was transferred to the 13th Training Battalion in England, where he served until June 1918. He rejoined the 51st Battalion in France, and two months later, as the allies launched their August Offensive, Marcel was again wounded in action and hospitalised.

Marcel recovered from his wounds and returned to Australia in June 1919. For **conspicuous service** Marcel was Mentioned in Despatches by Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, Commander in Chief of the British Expeditionary Forces in France and Belgium, and was awarded the French Croix de Guerre.

Marcel returned to his job at the University of Western Australia, continuing his work as a well-known geologist and scientist in England and Washington DC. During the Second World War Marcel helped produce geographical dictionaries on foreign countries for the Allied forces in London. He returned to Australia in 1956, having been awarded the Victoria Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. Marcel passed away in 1983, aged 92.

**Lieutenant Marcel Aurousseau, 51st Battalion, AIF.**

AWM P00088.004



The French Croix de Guerre (left, shown here with an oak leaf) was introduced in April 1915 by the French government. It recognised acts of bravery against the enemy that were Mentioned in Despatches. All allied soldiers, sailors and airmen were eligible for the award.

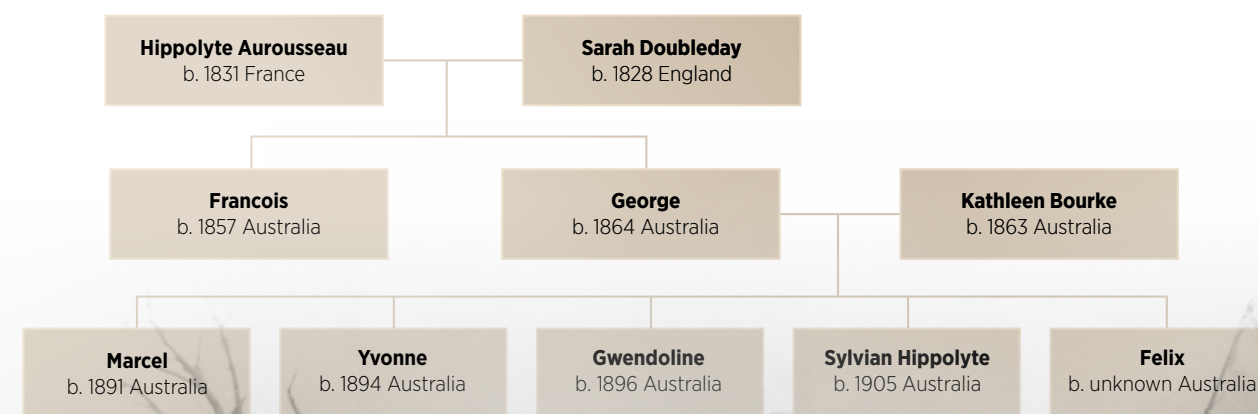
AWM REL46471

**What do you think this medal may have meant to Marcel’s grandfather? Why?**

The Military Cross (right).

AWM REL/08947

## Aurousseau family tree



**Australian stretcher-bearers coming in from Mouquet Farm under a white flag, in August 1916.**

AWM E04946

**What would the white flag have symbolised?**

## IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ...

*Brought in on the night of August 5th, the 4th Division [of which the 51st Battalion was a part] had in nine days not only borne the brunt of the German countermeasures against Pozieres heights, but in six successive night attacks – with only one night’s interval – had brought the line within striking distance of Mouquet Farm. Its losses were considerably lighter than those of its two predecessors, 4,649 in all.*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914–1918*, vol. 3, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1929, p. 770.





1914



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1919



# “The gentleman in gloves”: Major William Oldfield

**William Oldfield, known to his family and friends as Bert, was a keen cricketer. Born in 1894 to Englishman John Oldfield and his wife, Mary, Bert grew up with his six older brothers and sisters in the inner-city suburbs of Sydney. He was known as a calm and polite boy, and first learnt to play cricket at Cleveland Street School. He showed great potential as a bowler and batsman, and went on to play with the Newtown Methodist Church team in the Churches Cricket Union (CCU) competition. Early in the twentieth century, cricket was believed to be a game played by men of high moral standards, and the CCU was established to encourage understanding between religious denominations.**

Taking up work as a tramways clerk when he finished school, Bert also played for Glebe Cricket Club. There, his finest cricketing skill was revealed when the regular wicket-keeper failed to show up for a game. Bert took over the position and was so impressive in the role that he became the club’s permanent wicket-keeper. By 1915 he had also become club secretary, and twice played for the first-grade side.

In 1915, however, Bert’s life changed forever. He, like other young Australians, had heard the stories of the Anzacs on Gallipoli, and on 7 September, at 20 years of age, Bert enlisted in the AIF at Victoria Barracks in Sydney.

**Bert Oldfield (back row, far right) with other members of the AIF cricket team, at Lord’s Cricket Ground, London, May 1919.**

AWM D00685

**Why would a cricket competition have been created so soon after the end of the First World War?**

**What is Bert wearing?**



Members of the AIF Cricket Team walk onto the field at Bramall Lane, Sheffield, for a game with Yorkshire County Cricket Club, June 1919.

AWM P08561.001



AWM RELAWM34559



The cricket ball and stumps in the Ancestry window in the Australian War Memorial’s Hall of Memory represent recreation. Sport and games provided a much needed break away from training and warfare for servicemen and women during the First World War.

Napier Waller, *Hall of Memory: west window* (1950, stained glass, AWM ART90410.002 [detail]).





1914



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Just three days before Christmas that year Bert bid farewell to his family. On board HMAT *Ascanius*, he set sail for Egypt to undergo training as a medical attendant in Cairo. He went on to England and then France, joining the 15th Field Ambulance as a stretcher-bearer, helping to treat wounded soldiers close to the battlefields.

The war on the Western Front was raging by 1917. On 26 September Bert was wounded in action and evacuated to the Voluntary Aid Hospital in Cheltenham, London. He recuperated, but remained in England until the end of the war, at times working at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital.

After the Armistice in November 1918 many Australians began to be **repatriated**. Others, like Bert, stayed on in Europe. Still in England in early 1919, Bert heard rumours that a new first-class cricket season was being planned. The AIF Cricket Team was established, and having played a trial game Bert was selected after well-known wicket-keeper Ted Long resigned his position. The team played over 40 matches in Great Britain and South Africa, and another three back home in Australia, before disbanding in 1920.

Just a few months later Bert was selected to play cricket for Australia in three Test matches of the 1920–21 Ashes series against England. Known as the “gentleman in gloves”,<sup>9</sup> he played over 50 Tests for Australia and was considered by many to be the world’s leading wicket-keeper of his time.

Bert eventually opened his own sports store on Pitt Street in Sydney. He married his sweetheart, Ruth Hunter, in 1929 and they had two daughters. Bert served again during the Second World War, this time as a major, and was involved in the Bougainville campaign in 1945.

Remembering his connection to the church from his early years playing for the CCU, Bert spent his later life assisting the congregation at Saint Martin’s Anglican Church in Killara. In 1970 Bert became a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his services to cricket.

### Did you know?

Of the Australians who served overseas in the A.I.F during the First World War, around 35 per cent had been born in the British Isles.<sup>10</sup>



A Bert Oldfield “personality badge”. These badges were sold to help raise money for the war effort.

AWM REL37512 [detail]

Why would sportsmen have been featured on these badges? Who would be featured today?

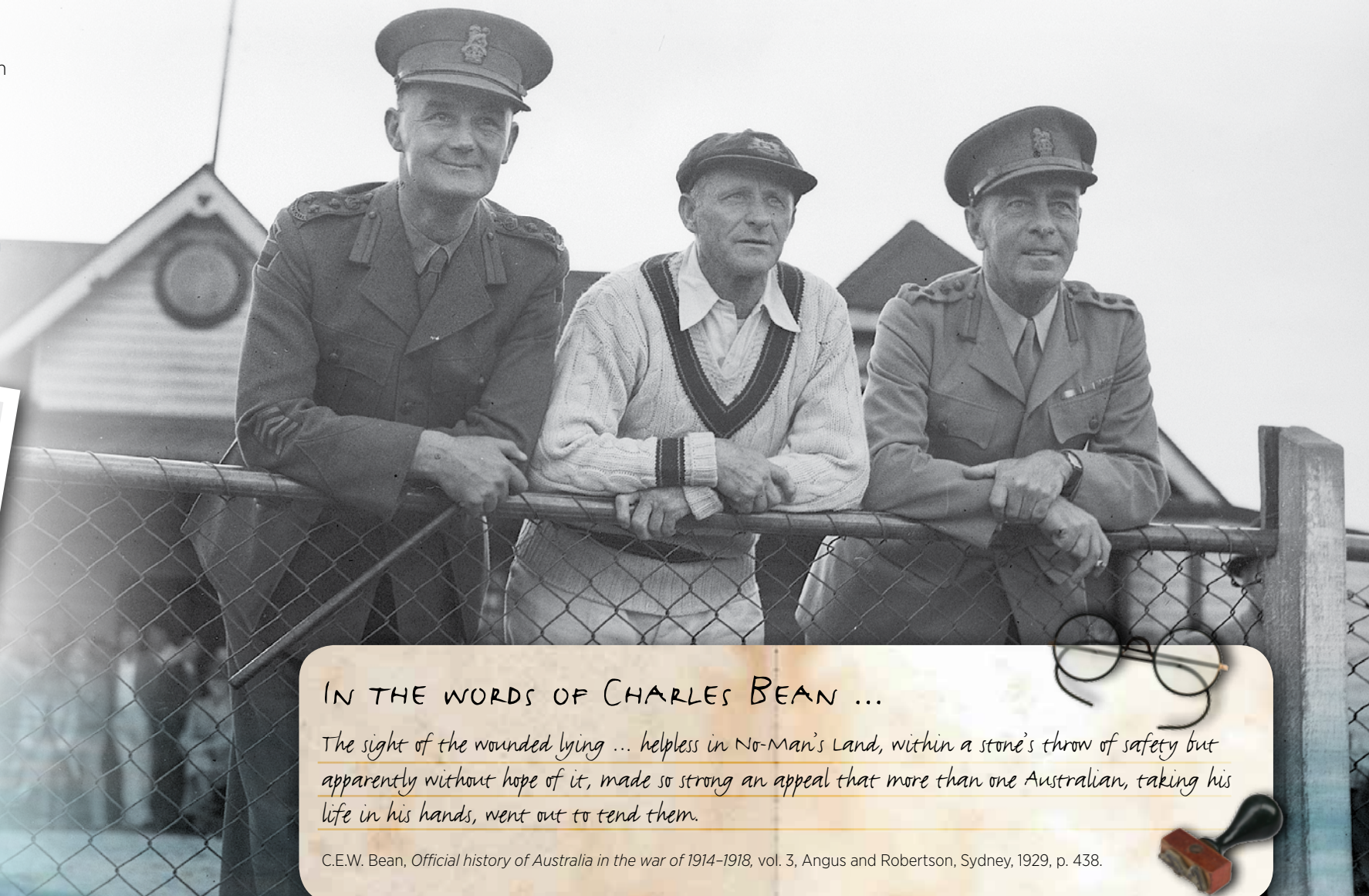
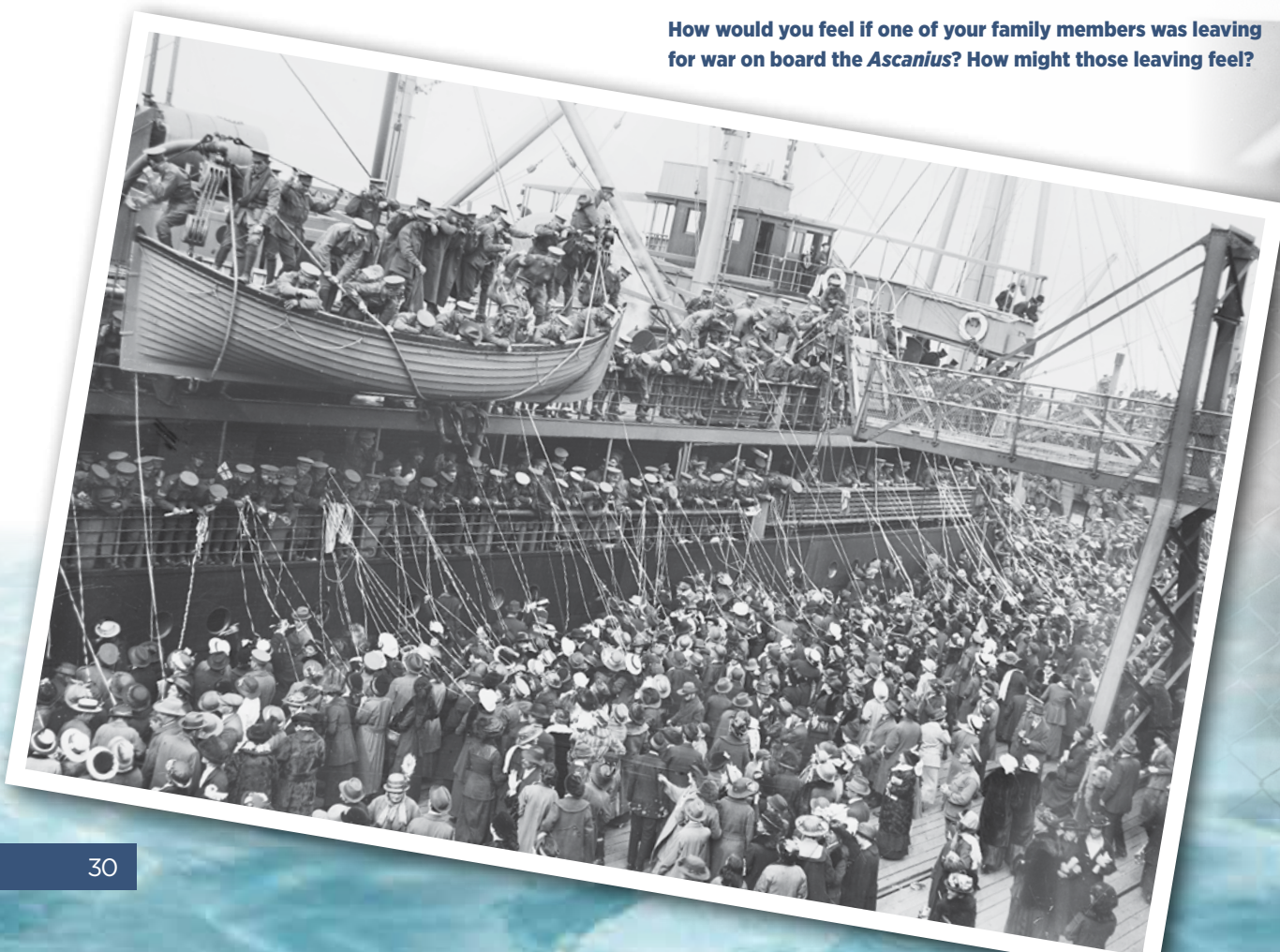
Bert (middle) with Brigadier Charles Geyton and Colonel Charles Hicks, watching the army cricket grand final for the 1944–45 season, Melbourne.

AWM 087057

Families farewell loved ones as they board HMAT *Ascanius*, 1916.

AWM PB0135

How would you feel if one of your family members was leaving for war on board the *Ascanius*? How might those leaving feel?



### IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ...

*The sight of the wounded lying ... helpless in No-Man's Land, within a stone's throw of safety but apparently without hope of it, made so strong an appeal that more than one Australian, taking his life in his hands, went out to tend them.*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914–1918*, vol. 3, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1929, p. 438.





1914



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1918



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# “Band of brothers”: the Langtips

In 1856, at 19 years of age, Chin Lang Tip farewelled his family in China and set sail for Australia. Once he arrived in Victoria Chin quickly made his way to the goldfields, hoping, like thousands of others, to strike it rich. Though unsuccessful, Chin stayed on in Victoria, and changed his surname to “Langtip”. He married and settled in the tiny town of Tarraville, where he leased a house and some land, and established a successful market garden. Chin became well known and highly regarded in his community, and went on to have a large family whose members helped run the family business.

In January 1916 six of Chin’s sons volunteered to serve during the First World War. Two of them did not pass the medical test, but the other four, Henry, Ernest, Leslie, and Bertie, were accepted into the AIF and served in the 4th Light Horse Regiment. Henry was 27, Ernest 21, Leslie 20, and Bertie just 18 years old. On Ernest’s enlistment form the words “of substantial European origin” were written. This referred to the 1909 *Defence Act*, which prevented those considered not of substantial European descent from enlisting in the armed forces.<sup>11</sup>



The Distinguished Conduct Medal. Leslie was one of 19 Chinese-Australians decorated for bravery during the First World War.

AWM REL/06428



Leslie Langtip, c. 1916-17.

Photograph from the private collection of Dorothy Langtip.



Henry Langtip, c. 1916-17.

Photograph from the private collection of Dorothy Langtip.



Bertie Langtip, c. 1916-17.

Photograph from the private collection of Dorothy Langtip.



Ernest Langtip, c. 1916-17.

Photograph from the private collection of Dorothy Langtip.





1914



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1916



1917



1918



1919



Mena Camp, Egypt, December 1914.

Many Australians brought kangaroos and other animals with them to Egypt. When the units went on to Gallipoli some of them were given to Cairo Zoo.

AWM C02588

After a trip to the zoo on 14 January 1917 Henry wrote in his diary:

*The poor kangaroos look out of place and I was sorry to see them there.*

AWM PR00053

**Why would Australians have taken native animals with them to Egypt?**

After some time spent training in Australia, it was time to say goodbye. In March the local community gathered to wish the boys well. The *Gippsland Standard* reported that the Langtip brothers were admired for their “manly qualities” and they were each presented with a wristwatch as a gift from the town. Henry took some time to say a private goodbye to his sweetheart, Eileen.<sup>12</sup>

The following month, the four boys boarded HMAT *Itria* at Port Melbourne Pier. Many of their family and friends came to bid them farewell. Their sister Lily threw four paper parcels up to them – each had one of the boys’ initials written on the front. As the ship pulled away from the pier Henry looked back at his family. He later wrote in his diary:

*Ruth and Lily kept a straight face with an effort. Didn't think I would feel it so much, never forget it, could see Ruth and Lily after all others were lost to sight as they were standing together on end of pier ...*

AWM PR00053

In Egypt the boys were issued with rations and blankets and taken to their camp. For the next year they served in a Light Horse squadron before being transferred to the Imperial Camel Corps, where they trained and performed guard duty along the Suez Canal. During their spare time, the boys watched and participated in football, cricket, and boxing matches, attended concerts, went sightseeing to the pyramids, and swam in the canal. They also wrote letters and waited for news and packages from home. Soon after arriving in Egypt, Henry wrote:

*Received the first mail from home, postcard from Ruth and 1 letter from Eileen. It takes a long time to get a letter from home. Tonight I don't know why but I feel as if I was sick of the whole job. East, West, home's best.*

AWM PR00053



AWM J06053

### Christmas billy tins

The Langtip brothers were among those who received Christmas billy tins in 1916.

The iconic Australian billy tin was used early in the First World War to send some “Christmas cheer” to Australian servicemen overseas. Each billy was filled with gifts by members of the Australian public and sent to a soldier for Christmas. These billys could be filled with things like plum pudding, chewing gum, pencils, paper and envelopes, handkerchiefs, clothing, insect powder, and bootlaces.

**What would this gift have meant to Australians serving overseas?**

**Why?**

**A Christmas billy tin put together by the Melbourne Alexandra Club for soldiers on Gallipoli, 1915.**

AWM P09871.001

**What can you see depicted in the illustration on the billy tin? What story does it tell?**







1914



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1917



1918



1919



In February 1917 the Langtip brothers were transferred back to the 4th Light Horse Regiment, and on 31 October participated in their first major battle at Beersheba. In one day the regiment forced its way through Turkish defences and successfully took the strategically important town. This victory enabled allied forces to advance into Palestine. Henry described his experiences that day in his diary:

*We rode all night to get right around Beersheba, 32 miles in all. It is 9.30 am and we are all standing to. Our horses ready to go into the line to attack within the next few minutes. It was a terrible ride in heavy dust all the way ... The attack started at 4.30 pm and within half an hour the first trenches were cleared and then they never stopped till they got Beersheba. Our casualties were fairly light considering the ground was as level as a table.*

AWM PR00053

Over the next year the brothers were involved in several other battles, and during this time Leslie was wounded in the left thigh and evacuated for treatment. He soon re-joined the regiment and they were trained in traditional cavalry tactics with swords for the advance towards Damascus on 30 September 1918. During this battle, Leslie was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery. Part of the citation for his award read:

*... this non-commissioned officer gave valuable assistance in the capture of a field gun, and showed great initiative and courage.<sup>13</sup>*

The war ended on 11 November 1918 and all four brothers began to think about returning home. They left Egypt together in June 1919 on board H.M.A.T. *Essex*. Henry married Eileen the following year. Ernest also married, and his twin sons, David and Graeme, went on to serve in the Second World War. Leslie married in 1929 and the following year he changed his surname to "Langton". In 1963 Bertie and Leslie applied for financial assistance under the **Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act** for wounds sustained during their First World War service.



George Lambert, *The Charge of the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba, 1917* (1920, oil on canvas, 139.5 x 261.7 x 10 cm, AWM ART02811)

Swimming with horses in the Suez Canal, 1917.

AWM J02693

On 22 July 1917 Henry wrote:

*In for a swim this morning and it is lovely. We had a bonza time swimming horses.*

AWM PR00053



Members of the 1st Light Horse Regiment sightseeing in Egypt, c. 1915.

AWM P04878.003

On 13 January, 1917 Henry wrote:

*Going to be a lovely day and we are going out to the Pyramids ... they are taller than I expected. I went half way to the top and started to get giddy so came down. The inside is wonderful ... The Kings chamber is built of granite and is in the centre of the Pyramid. I got bits of stone from several parts of it. We had a grand day. One sees more in one day here than you could see in a lifetime at home.*

AWM PR00053

IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ...

*The light horse force, as it sailed from Australia in the end of 1914 and early 1915, was, in brief, a remarkable band of brothers in arms, a capable band drawn from a wide and fragrant countryside, animated by a noble cause, thrilled and expectant with the sense of a grand adventure in foreign lands, and knit together by the common interest of their peace-time callings and the still closer ties of personal friendship and affection.*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914-1918*, vol. 7, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1941, p. 33.







1914



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1916



1917



1918



1919



# “Great bravery and dash”: Sergeant Nicholas Rodakis

Greek-born Nicholas Rodakis started work as a ship’s fireman while still a teenager. His seafaring job took him to many countries, including Australia, where he arrived in 1902. He settled in Melbourne, married Lydia, and continued to work on various ships up and down the Australian coast. In 1909, Nicholas, now aged 30, applied to become a naturalised citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia. The police report attached to his application showed him to be “of good character”.<sup>14</sup>

Like thousands of other men in Australia during the First World War, Nicholas enlisted in the AIF. He left his job as an engine driver, farewelled his wife and young son, and departed from Melbourne as part of the 17th reinforcements for the 4th Battalion on 4 April 1916. By the end of July he was stationed in France with the 4th Machine Gun Company.

Despite recurring bouts of severe tonsillitis, Nicholas proved to be a tough and skilful soldier. He was promoted to lance corporal in May 1917, and was awarded a Military Medal “for conspicuous gallantry and skill as a machine gunner” on 27 September 1917. His citation read:

*... he proved himself of distinctive value near Zonnebeke on the afternoon of 27th September 1917, when a heavy counter attack was impending and our parapet was being swept by enemy snipers and machine guns in addition to artillery barrage. He mounted his gun in a very exposed position ... although his tripod was hit several times, and his tunic ripped, he fearlessly stood to his post ... The work done by this NCO was of considerable value in repulsing a determined counter attack by the enemy.*<sup>15</sup>

In 1918, the last year of the war, Nicholas was promoted to corporal and then to sergeant. Along with members of his battalion he was attached to the 105th United States Infantry. In an action near Ronssoy, France, on 29 September Nicholas again showed “extraordinary heroism”, for which he was awarded the United States Distinguished Service Cross (Army) by the President of the United States. The citation read: “Organising troops from different units, Sergeant Rodakis exhibited great bravery and dash in leading them into effective combat, inspiring all by his courage and fearlessness.”<sup>16</sup> As well as a medal, this award entitled Nicholas to a pension of £25 per year, and a free pass for the American Railways.

Nicholas returned home to Melbourne in June 1919. He died in 1961 at the age of 83.

Nicholas Rodakis in France, September 1917. Machine-gunners needed to be fit and strong. Each gun required a team of at least six men to operate: one firing, one feeding the ammunition, and the others helping to carry the gun, ammunition, and spare parts. Altogether, the equipment weighed around 20 kilograms.

AWM P01820.001 [detail]

Members of the 2nd Section, 4th Australian Machine Gun Company, at Fruges, France, on 13 September 1917. Nicholas is in the front row, third from the left.

AWM P01820.001



The Military Medal (left) and United States Distinguished Service Cross (Army).

AWM RELAWM06315.006; AWM REL25146.002



Colour patch for the 4th Australian Machine Gun Company, c. 1916–18.

AWM RELAWM13307.162

Australians assist a wounded American soldier (centre) near Ronssoy, France, on 30 September 1918.

AWM E03384



How are the soldiers’ uniforms different?

IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ...

(on the arrival of assistance from two new American divisions in September 1918)

Their men had much the same physique and bold, free, aggressive appearance that marked the Australians; indeed their obvious affinity made this a particularly suitable combination. Most Australians felt that the fresh spirit and numerical strength of the Americans would make up for their lack of experience.

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914–1918*, vol. 6, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1942, p. 943.





1914



1915



1916



1917



1918



1919



# From shopkeeper to soldier: Private Vincent Mahboub

**Vincent Mahboub was just a baby when his parents, Michael and Rose, brought him and his older sister, Elizabeth, to Australia in 1900.**

Leaving their home in the Ottoman province of Syria (now Lebanon), the Mahboub family came, like many migrants, in search of a better life and new opportunities. Many of the early Syrian and Lebanese settlers opened clothing shops, some even travelling around to country towns selling fabric and accessories such as shoes and handbags.

Michael Mahboub became a shopkeeper in the small village of Capertee, west of Lithgow in New South Wales. The railway line through the Blue Mountains had not long been open, connecting Sydney with western New South Wales. Small towns like Capertee sprang up and caught the passing trade. By 1909 four more children had been born to Michael and Rose; Mary, Ada, Gabriel, and Eileen.

Vincent attended school in nearby Lithgow, after which he started work as a shop assistant. When the First World War broke out, Vincent was 15 years of age and too young to enlist. Men had to be 21 years old, but could be accepted at 18 if their parents gave permission. In June 1917 Vincent signed up. By the following March he was on his way overseas on board the troopship HMAT *Nestor*. Tall and well-built, Vincent often took part in boxing matches organised by the men to pass the time on the long voyage.

In July 1918 Vincent joined the 35th Battalion and by early August moved on to the Western Front in Rouelles, France. The war had dragged on for four long years, with victories gained by both sides in the trenches of France and Belgium. Plans were underway for the Australians, led by Lieutenant General Sir John Monash, to assist in a huge combined attack designed to push through the German front lines once and for all. Tanks, infantry, and aircraft were all organised to work together in the area around Amiens and Villers-Bretonneux.

The attack began at first light on 8 August. Thick foggy conditions concealed the Australians as they moved forward. Vincent set off with his platoon, but his time as a soldier was to be short lived. As he emerged from a trench in Accroche Wood, Vincent was killed instantly by an exploding shell. He was just 18 years old, and had been on the front line for a little over a week.

In an Australian Red Cross Society inquiry into the circumstances of his death, eyewitnesses recorded that Vincent Mahboub was buried in a French cemetery near Bray, and that his battalion colours were attached to the small cross on his grave. Private Madden of the same platoon noted that "he was well liked" (AWM 1DRL/0428).

**Private Vincent Mahboub, 1918.**

AWM H06564



Louis McCubbin, *Accroche Wood* (1918, pencil on paper, 27.9 x 35.5 cm, AWM ART03086)

**What words would you use to describe the scene that the artist has sketched?**



**Colour patch for the 35th Infantry Battalion, AIF.**

AWM RELAWM13307.092

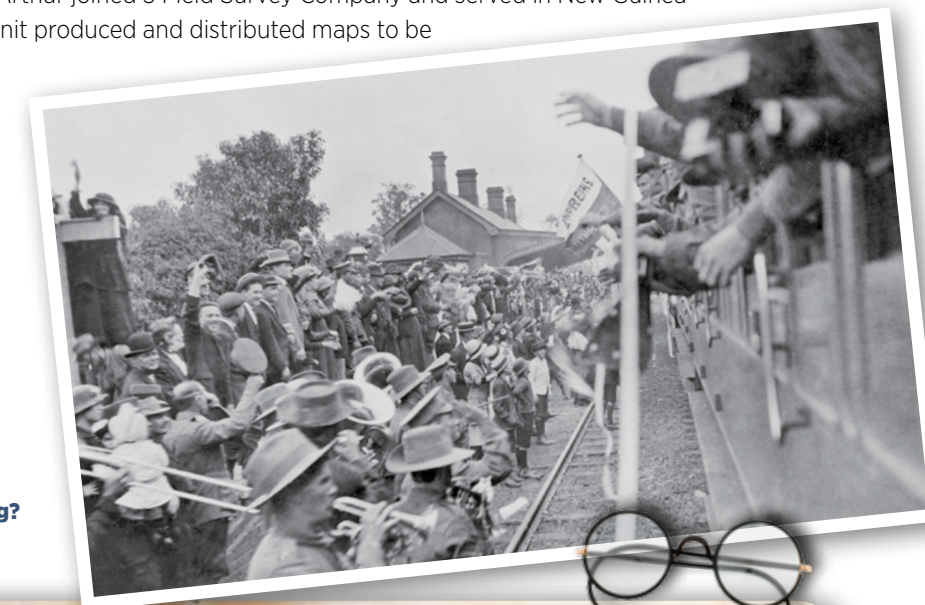
Two months after Vincent's death, his mother gave birth to another boy. He was named Vincent Michael, in honour of her son that had died. Three years later, baby Arthur was born. Both boys were still teenagers when their parents died within a week of each other in June 1937. During the Second World War, Vincent Michael served with the 2/18th Infantry Battalion and was captured by the Japanese in Malaya in 1942. He was held as a prisoner of war at Keijo camp in Korea until the end of the war. Arthur joined 3 Field Survey Company and served in New Guinea and Bougainville during 1944–45. This unit produced and distributed maps to be used by the soldiers in the field.

Despite suffering from various bouts of illness and enduring difficult conditions, both brothers returned home safely at the end of the war.

**Large crowds of well-wishers turn out to farewell the soldiers as they leave to serve overseas. Bands play and people wave and cheer. This group, in 1916, is from the 35th Battalion.**

AWM P03796.011

**How do you think the soldiers were feeling?**



*IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ... (ON THE 8 AUGUST, 1918 ATTACK)*

*The sight of the various services streaming up when the mist rose never passed from the mind of the 50,000 Australians who saw it. Their admiration for the enterprise of tanks, artillery, and aeroplanes is outspoken ... The usual comment (wrote a Digger at the time) was, "it was a très bon stunt," "I wouldn't have missed it for worlds!"*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914–1918*, vol. 6, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1942, p. 605.





1914



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# Equal in service: Trooper Frank Fisher

**Born in 1880 into the Wangan and Jagalingou Aboriginal communities in the town of Clermont, Queensland, Frank Fisher grew up under the watchful eye of his elders. He spent much of his time with friends and family, playing sport and swimming in the local Hoods Lagoon. As a young man Frank moved to the coastal town of Ayr in northern Queensland. There he married his first wife, Rosie Shilling, and the couple had three children: Willie, Frank Junior, and Dorris.**

In 1911 Frank and his family were removed from Ayr and sent to Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, north-west of Brisbane. Barambah was a government-run reserve, and the authorities there controlled many aspects of the inhabitants' lives, from their finances, work, and marriages to their language and the practice of traditional customs. Residents received a rudimentary education with an emphasis on manual activities, but often did not learn to read and write.

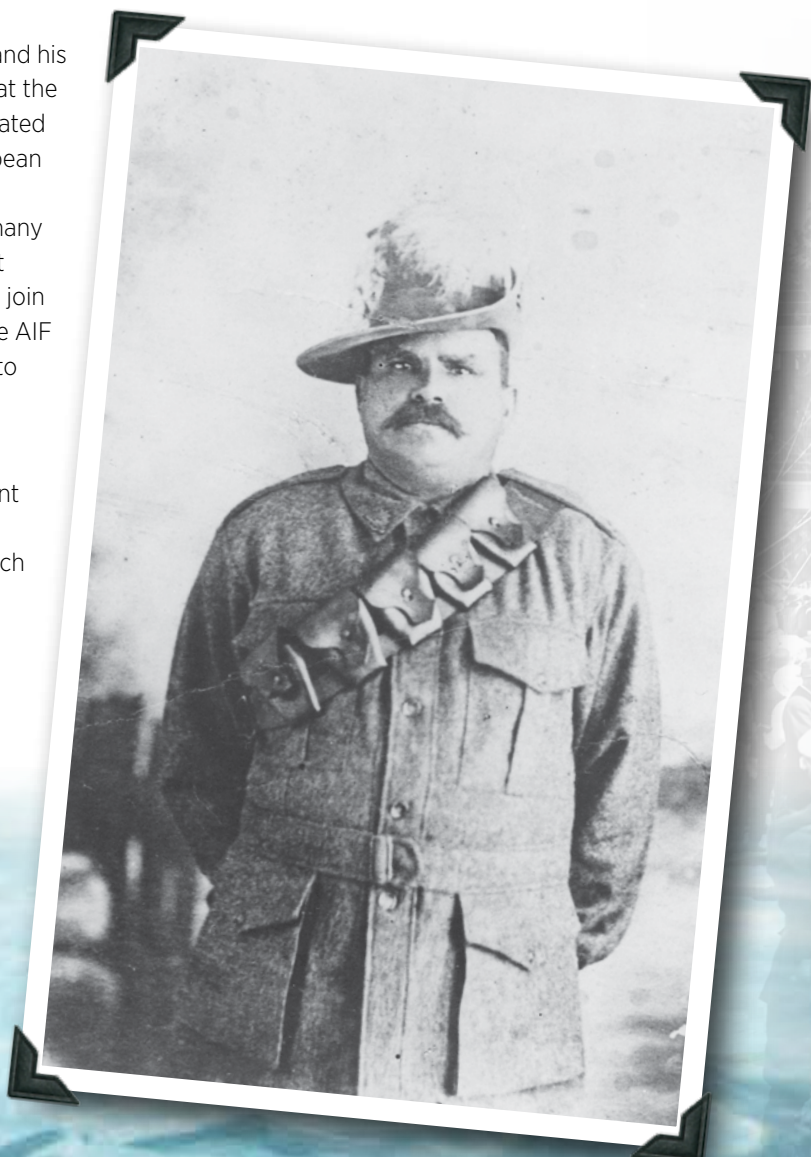
Frank was still living at the reserve with his children and his second wife, Esme Haywood, working as a labourer, at the time of the First World War. The 1909 *Defence Act* stated that individuals who were "not substantially of European origin or descent" were excluded from training and service in the armed forces.<sup>17</sup> This policy prevented many Indigenous Australians from enlisting during the First World War. Regardless, more than 1,300 managed to join up. One of them was Frank Fisher, who enlisted in the AIF on 16 August 1917, at almost 38 years of age. Unable to write, he signed his enlistment form with an "x".

Four months later, Frank set sail from Sydney with a reinforcement group for the 11th Light Horse Regiment on board the troopship *Ulysses*, bound for Egypt. After training, Frank placed an emu plume in his slouch hat to distinguish himself as a light horseman, and served with the 11th Light Horse Regiment until the end of the war. Many Indigenous Australians recalled that their time spent serving in the AIF during the First World War was the first time they felt they had been treated as equals.

**Trooper Frank Fisher dressed in the uniform of the Light Horse Regiment.**

AWM P00889.015

**Why do you think some Indigenous Australians were denied enlistment into the AIF?**



## Did you know?

More than one-quarter of the 1,300 Indigenous Australians who served in the AIF during the First World War did so with mounted units, including the Light Horse. There were rigid requirements for service with mounted units: a man had to be a good shot, a good horseman, and a bushman, able to find his way in unfamiliar territory.<sup>18</sup> Many Indigenous Australians who volunteered to enlist easily met these requirements due to their pre-existing skills and rural occupations.

## Football.

AWM REL/00651



**A soldier feeding officers' horses on board HMAT *Ulysses*, c. 1915.**

AWM A01234

**Why would thousands of Australian horses or "walers" have been sent overseas for use during the First World War?**



**HMAT *Ulysses* at Port Melbourne Pier, December 1914.**

AWM PB1083







1914



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For Frank and many others, this feeling of equality disappeared upon return to Australia. Returning to Barambah, Frank's pay was not given to him as a lump sum, as it was to others; instead it was placed in a trust and controlled by local **Aboriginal protector** John Bleakley, who claimed it would otherwise be spent on "vice and drink".<sup>19</sup> The same had been the case for his family when trying to access Frank's military wages. In a letter, Frank's wife had complained: "I don't see why I can't draw my husband's pay."<sup>20</sup>

Sport served as an escape for Frank. Football, cricket, boxing, and running were popular pastimes. He particularly loved Rugby League, and this love was passed on to his two sons, who joined the Green and Gold Rugby League Team, the first to play football for Barambah. Frank Junior became one of Queensland's legends of the game. Nicknamed "Bigshot" Fisher, he was recommended to play in Salford, England. However, the Queensland government refused his travel under the 1897 *Aboriginal Protection and Restrictions of the Sale of Opium Act*.

In 1940 Frank Junior followed in his father's footsteps, and with three of his football mates attempted to enlist for service in the Second World War. All four were denied. According to the *Courier Mail*, the official reason given was that the men were not "of sufficiently European origin,"<sup>21</sup> the same stipulation that had prevented many Indigenous Australians from enlisting in the First World War.

The Fisher family faced racial discrimination for most of their lives. In 1996 the bridge over a creek near Barambah was named "Frank Big Shot Fisher Bridge" in honour of Frank Junior's football achievements.

Frank Junior's sporting legacy lives on today in the achievements of his well-known granddaughter, Olympic gold medallist Catherine Freeman.



1912 Universal pattern leather saddle.  
AWM REL31912

A light horseman tending to the horses at Mena Camp, Egypt, c. 1915.  
AWM H02723A



### Boomerangs

Boomerangs are commonly presented to an individual or crew before their departure for war service to symbolise their safe return home. This boomerang was presented to First World War soldier Captain Ambrose Campbell Carmichael. It is inscribed with the Aboriginal word *Thynlungatha*, translated from the Aboriginal dialect of the Brewarrina district of New South Wales as "come back here".  
AWM REL26304.001



Boomerangs have also been used in designs for sweetheart badges. These were worn by female relatives of men serving in wartime as a symbol of hope for the safe return of their loved ones.  
AWM REL/05581



Catherine Freeman, 1993.  
NAA: A6135, K4/3/93/172.  
Image courtesy National Archives of Australia.

IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ...  
*The Australian Light Horse ... was in body and spirit the true product of the wide Australian countryside ... Some of the regiments, whose recruiting areas were close to cities and towns, included a small number of townsmen; but the light horse as a whole was essentially a force of countrymen, most of whom actually bred and owned the horses on which they did their few weeks of compulsory annual training.*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914-1918*, vol. 7, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1941, p. 29.







1914



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## The war in colour:

# Honorary Lieutenant Harold Septimus Power

Harold Septimus Power was born in Dunedin, New Zealand, in 1877. After gold was discovered near the town in 1861 its population quickly grew, attracting immigrants from Britain, Europe, and Asia. Harold's parents, Englishman Peter Power and his Scottish wife, Jane, settled in Dunedin as a young couple. The family moved to Victoria when Harold was a small boy, and he and his seven brothers and sisters grew up there. Suffering from an unusual form of deafness, Harold did not excel at school; instead he spent hours illustrating his books. Though his father was a painter and art teacher himself, he discouraged Harold from pursuing a career in art. But Harold ignored his father's advice, and at the age of 14 he ran away to the bush to paint the Australian countryside and animals.

After moving to Melbourne, Harold took a job painting animals on the sides of butchers' vans. He also worked as a veterinarian's assistant. Harold did some formal art training and exhibited his work with the Melbourne Art Club, where he won the animal and landscape sections and drew the attention of his peers. Well-known artist Walter Withers convinced Harold's father that his son had the talent needed to become a successful artist.

In 1900 Harold moved to Adelaide. There he worked as a political cartoonist for various newspapers, including the *Observer*, the *Register*, and the *Critic*, producing amusing sketches of politicians, local people and events. Four years later Harold married Isabel Butterworth and the young couple moved to Europe. Their first stop was Paris – the art centre of the world – where Harold attended the Académie Julian, a modern school which taught the newest developments and techniques in art. In London he continued his art studies and exhibited at the prestigious **Royal Academy of Arts**.



AWM REL30341

AWM REL/03408.005

Harold Power, while working as an official war artist during the First World War.

As a young artist, he began signing his name as H. Septimus Power, hoping the new name would impress art dealers.

AWM P09558.001



H. Septimus Power, *Soldier's head* (1918, oil on canvas, 57.4 x 46.8 x 6.2 cm, AWM ART50024)

This soldier is wearing an "A" badge on his sleeve. Australians who had served during the Gallipoli campaign in 1915 were authorised to wear this on their unit colour patch to identify them as "Anzacs".

Why would it have been considered important that veterans of Gallipoli be recognised in this way?



H. Septimus Power, *Camp stories* (1917, pastel, charcoal, and pencil on paper, 35.3 x 51.5 cm, AWM ART03319)



AWM REL30226



H. Septimus Power, *Battle of Menin Road* (1917, watercolour, charcoal white gouache on paper mounted on board, 54.2 x 76 cm, AWM ART03327)

This scene shows the action on 20 September 1917 during the battle of Menin Road on the Western Front.

Examine the painting. Describe what you can see happening.

What does this scene suggest about the nature of fighting on the Western Front during the First World War? What were conditions like? What technology was used?





1914



1915



1916



1917



1918



1919



Between 1913 and 1914 Harold travelled between England and Australia, and was living in London when the First World War began. For the next three years he followed news of the Australians on Gallipoli and on the Western Front battlefields. On 3 September 1917 Harold, now 40 years old and an established artist, was appointed an official war artist. He was attached to the 1st Division, AIF, given the honorary rank of lieutenant, and provided with the necessary art supplies. His role was to capture the Australian experience of war.

Harold made the first of two trips to France at the end of September 1917 alongside fellow artist Fred Leist and Australia's official war correspondent, Charles Bean. Their first night in France was a memorable one – the three men were forced to shelter together in the cellar of a house in Hazebrouck while the town was being shelled by German **artillery**.

For three months Harold closely observed the daily life of the Australian soldiers in France. Some of his sketches captured Australians in the midst of battle, struggling to cope with the freezing winter conditions, while others showed them resting and sharing stories with their mates. These works of art were considered so impressive that Harold was invited to produce some large-scale paintings for Australia's planned national museum and memorial. These paintings were to depict significant military personalities and events that had occurred during the First World War. Harold returned to France between August 1918 and March 1920 to conduct research. This, along with Charles Bean's guidance, provided Harold with an understanding of the environment and enough historical knowledge to recreate the battle scenes. Many of these paintings still hang in the galleries of the Australian War Memorial.

Harold returned to Australia after his wife passed away in May 1935. After remarrying he settled in Melbourne and continued to paint into his later life. By the time of his death in 1951, Harold was one of Australia's most well-known and popular artists. Fellow Australian artist Louis McCubbin said:

*His abilities particularly fitted him to be a painter of war subjects such as charging horses ... He was outstanding as an animal painter – the most important Australia has produced in this field.<sup>22</sup>*



H. Septimus Power, *Damascus Incident* (1923, oil on canvas, 196 x 273.5 cm, AWM ART03647)

The 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade dash through Damascus, Syria, on their way to stop Turkish troops from escaping, 1 October 1918.



H. Septimus Power, *The incident for which Lieutenant F.H. McNamara was awarded the VC* (1924, oil on canvas, 143 x 234.7 cm, AWM ART08007)

Look at the work of art above. What do you think Frank McNamara did to earn his VC?

H. Septimus Power, *Going into action* (1917, watercolour with charcoal heightened with white on paper, 47 x 60.6 cm, AWM ART03329)

### Did you know?

Official war artists are employed under the Australian Official War Art Scheme, which was introduced in 1916 and still runs today. Under this scheme, artists accompany military units on conflict or peacekeeping missions to record their impressions of the mission and the experiences of those serving within it.

### IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES BEAN ...

*... on the Somme the sentries, standing steadfastly along their muddy ditches, might have been looking out on the dawn of the world; a region colourless except for the grey-blue sky and the bare brown wilderness of formless mud – mud resembling that of some sea-bed newly upheaved – with here and there a derelict tank stranded like some dead sea-monster on the drenched surface.*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914–1918*, vol. 3, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1929, p. 950.







1914



1915



1916



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1918



1919



## What is their ancestry?

Each location on the map indicates the heritage of the individuals or families whose stories are told in this book.

- 1 Charles Bean
- 2 The Coriglianos
- 3 Karanema Pohatu
- 4 The Righetis
- 5 Leonard Keyzor
- 6 The Christensens
- 7 Marcel Arousseau
- 8 Bert Oldfield
- 9 The Langtips
- 10 Nicholas Rodakis
- 11 Vincent Mahboub
- 12 Frank Fisher
- 13 Harold Septimus Power





1914



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1916



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1918



1919



# Glossary

**able seaman** The rank of a sailor in the Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy, above ordinary seaman and below leading seaman.

**Aboriginal protector** Under the *Aboriginal Protection Act 1886*, individuals were appointed to act on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in legal matters.

**affinity** A natural understanding for or liking of something or someone.

**allies** Countries that work together towards a common goal.

**artificers** A skilled mechanic who works in the armed forces, especially in the navy.

**artillery** Guns that fire large-calibre shells over long distances. They can be moveable or stationary and range from light to heavy pieces. Also refers to the units as a whole, such as "Royal Australian Artillery".

**Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act** The *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1920*. Under this act soldiers were able to apply for a pension for wounds sustained during the First World War.

**balacava** A close-fitting garment worn for warmth over the head and face, which typically exposes only the eyes and mouth.

**Boxer Rebellion** A violent movement in China against foreigners (including the British) and Christians, which took place between 1898 and 1900.

**brassard** A band, usually cloth, worn on the upper arm over the uniform. Used to temporarily denote unit, role, and/or rank.

**bonza** A slang term meaning "excellent".

**British subject** A citizen of Britain or her dominions.

**casualties** People listed as sick, wounded, missing, or killed in action during war.

**citation** A brief official statement explaining why a medal was awarded.

**classics** A school or university subject involving the study of ancient Greek and Latin literature, philosophy, and history.

**conspicuous service** Remarkable service that attracts the attention of officers and can often result in the award of a decoration.

**coxswain** The person who steers a boat.

**cumbrous** Difficult to handle, particularly due to size, weight, or shape.

**denominations** Recognised branches of the Christian church (e.g. Presbyterian, Catholic Church).

**Distinguished Conduct Medal** A medal awarded for distinguished conduct in the field. Initially, only members of the army could be awarded this medal, but from 1942 members of the navy and air force were also eligible. It is only open to non-commissioned officers and other ranks.

**dominion** A country which is part of an empire.

**enteric fever** An infectious disease spread by drinking water or eating food that contains bacteria. It causes high fever, as well as stomach swelling and ulcers.

**governess** A female who is employed to teach children in a private household.

**Grand Fleet** The main fleet of the British Royal Navy in the First World War.

**HMCS** Her Majesty's Colonial Ship.

**honorary** An honour or title given without the usual requirements, as a mark of respect.

**mechanician** A person who designs or constructs machinery. It is also a naval rank.

**memento** An object serving as a reminder of an event or person.

**Military Cross** A British and Commonwealth decoration instituted in 1914 and awarded to officers for brave and distinguished active service on land.

**Military Medal** A British medal introduced during the First World War, awarded to military personnel who were not officers for bravery and devotion to duty under fire.

**Militia** A military force consisting of civilians, designed to supplement a regular army in an emergency.

**naturalised** The process by which an individual who was born in one country becomes a citizen of another country.

**NCO** Non-Commissioned Officer (e.g. sergeant, corporal).

**Nominal Roll** A list of all who served in a military unit.

**pillboxes** Small, low forts positioned on a battlefield, made of concrete, steel, logs, or filled sandbags and housing machine-guns and anti-tank weapons.

**repatriated** A person who has been returned to their home country.

**Royal Academy of Arts** An academy established in the eighteenth century to promote the arts.

**sentries** Soldiers whose job it is to keep guard or control access to an area.

**shell** An artillery projectile or bomb containing high explosive or shrapnel.

**stoker** Someone who tends and fuels a furnace on a steamship or steam train.

**telegrams** Written messages transmitted by using an electric device. The message was carried along wires, and the text was written or typed, then delivered.

**trench fever** A disease contracted by soldiers in the trenches during the First World War, particularly in the warmer areas. It was transmitted through the bites of lice, and symptoms included headaches, rashes, swollen eyes, and limb pain.

**très bon** A French term meaning "very good".

**tripod** A three-legged stand that supports a camera or other apparatus. Also used to support a machine-gun.

**tuberculosis** An infectious and potentially deadly disease caused by bacteria entering the body, commonly occurring in the lungs. The patient can suffer from a bad cough, chest pain, weakness, and weight loss.

**Victoria Cross** The highest award for bravery in battle, awarded to members of the British and Commonwealth forces during wartime.

**war correspondent** A journalist who reports directly from a war zone.

**Western Front** The central area of operations for allied forces in Western Europe during the First World War. It ran from the English Channel in Belgium through France to Belfort on the Swiss border, a distance of some 750 kilometres.





1914



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1917



1918



1919



# References

<sup>1</sup> Charles Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914–1918*, vol. 1, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1924, p. 48. Copyright Australian War Memorial.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914–1918*, p. 106. Copyright Australian War Memorial.

<sup>3</sup> “Eventful career at sea”, *The Advertiser*, 24 January 1956.

<sup>4</sup> “Commonwealth government”, *The Register*, 8 June 1915, p. 2: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59609503>.

<sup>5</sup> *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 1916: Australian War Memorial: AWM RC02080.

<sup>6</sup> National Archives of Australia, service records, Christensen, Victor, B2455: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=3246257>.

<sup>7</sup> “Personal notes”, *The Queenslander*, 25 August 1917, p. 14: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22341856>.

<sup>8</sup> National Archives of Australia, service records, Arousseau, Marcel, B2455: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=3041474>.

<sup>9</sup> R.I. Cashman, *Oldfield, William Albert Stanley (Bert) (1894–1976)*, Australian Dictionary of Biography: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/oldfield-william-albert-stanley-bert-7900/text13737>.

<sup>10</sup> Lawrence Sondhaus, *World War One: the global revolution*, Cambridge University Press, New York, 2011, p. 336.

<sup>11</sup> Part XIII of the *Defence Act 1909* (No. 15 of 1909), p. 54: [http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/num\\_act/da190915o1909102](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/num_act/da190915o1909102).

<sup>12</sup> “Port Albert”, *Gippsland Standard and Alberton Shire Representative*, 29 March 1916, p. 3: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article121034585>.

<sup>13</sup> National Archives of Australia, service records, Langtip, Leslie Oliver, B2455: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=11529743>.

<sup>14</sup> National Archives of Australia, naturalisation records, Rodakis, Nicholas, A1, 1909/2957: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=3803>.

<sup>15</sup> Military Medal recommendation, Nicholas Rodakis, taken from Australian War Memorial website: <http://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RCDIG1068739--143-.PDF>. Printed with the permission of the Australian Army.

<sup>16</sup> “Nicholas Rodakis,” *Military Times Group*, 2014: <http://projects.militarytimes.com/citations-medals-awards/recipient.php?recipientid=16219>.

<sup>17</sup> Part XIII of the *Defence Act 1909* (No. 15 of 1909), p. 54: [http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/num\\_act/da190915o1909102](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/num_act/da190915o1909102).

<sup>18</sup> Jane Ross, “The myth of the digger” in Timothy C. Winegard, *Indigenous peoples of the British dominions and the First World War*, Cambridge Military Histories, New York, 2012, p. 198.

<sup>19</sup> John Bleakley, “The Aborigines of Australia” in Winegard, *Indigenous peoples of the British dominions and the First World War*, p. 248.

<sup>20</sup> Rod Pratt, “Queensland’s Aborigines in the First AIF”, Winegard, *Indigenous peoples of the British dominions and the First World War*, p. 248.

<sup>21</sup> “4 Aborigines not allowed to join AIF”, *Courier-Mail*, 3 July 1940, p. 7: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article40938649>.

<sup>22</sup> “He loved painting animals”, *The Argus*, 4 January 1951: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23033339>.

Each story contains a quote from the *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914–1918*, written by Charles Bean after the war. This publication can be found in full at: [www.awm.gov.au/histories/first\\_world\\_war](http://www.awm.gov.au/histories/first_world_war).

## Useful websites

Australian Dictionary of Biography online  
[www.adb.anu.edu.au](http://www.adb.anu.edu.au)

Australian War Memorial collection data  
[www.awm.gov.au/search/collections](http://www.awm.gov.au/search/collections)

Australian War Memorial education  
<http://www.awm.gov.au/education>

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[http://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/honours\\_and\\_awards](http://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/honours_and_awards)

Department of Veterans’ Affairs  
[www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au](http://www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au)  
[www.anzacsite.gov.au](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au)  
[www.ww1westernfront.gov.au](http://www.ww1westernfront.gov.au)  
[www.australiansatwarfilmarchive.gov.au](http://www.australiansatwarfilmarchive.gov.au)

National Archives of Australia  
[www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au](http://www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au)

National Library of Australia  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au>

Department of Defence  
<http://www.defence.gov.au>





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NOMINAL ROLL  
OF  
AUSTRALIAN NAVAL AND MILITARY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

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Reg. No.	Rank.	Name in full	Birthplace	Date of enlistment	Date of embarkation
1203	Pte	BAIN, Frederick	Wellington, NEW ZEALAND	20.10.17	10.11.17
1442	Pte	BAKKEN, Axel Harold	Trondheim, NORWAY	29.8.18	6.9.18
955	Cpl	BAYLEY, Keith	Calcutta, INDIA	16.8.14	19.8.14
495	Pte	EDWARDS, John	Anglesey, WALES	9.12.14	25.1.15
1711	L/Cpl	ELLIS, Thomas William	New York, USA	16.1.19	19.2.19
1052	Pte	HAWKES, Samuel	Bendigo, VICTORIA	16.8.14	19.8.14
820	Sgt	LINDEMERE, Charles Louis	Paris, FRANCE	13.8.15	20.11.15
650	Pte	McGREGOR, James Murray	Motherwell, SCOTLAND	12.11.15	20.11.15
408	Pte	STANLEY, Jay Montague	Randfontein, SOUTH AFRICA	16.8.14	19.8.14
407	Pte	SZABLOWSKI, Julian	Warsaw, RUSSIA	16.8.14	19.8.14
437	Sgt	TIBBEY, Frank	Leichhardt, NSW	16.8.14	19.8.14
1856	Pte	WARDE, Charles Francis	Hazaribagh, INDIA	14.3.19	5.4.19
1751	Pte	WESSMAN, Karl Oskar Lorentz	Östersund, SWEDEN	13.1.19	19.2.19
1220	Pte	YOUNG, William Percival	London, ENGLAND	3.10.17	10.11.17

Recreation of a sample of the entries in the **Nominal Roll** for the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF), showing the multicultural diversity of those who enlisted. This force was raised at the outbreak of war to seize German New Guinea and surrounding territories, and destroy wireless stations there. Members of the ANMEF continued to be stationed in garrisons there until 1921.

Nominal Roll of Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force to New Guinea, 1914-18 War: [Military Component]  
[Complete original roll], Australian War Memorial, AWM190 [4].





*Every Australian wore on his collar an oxidised badge with the rising sun, and on each shoulder-strap the single word "Australia" ... from the first they largely wore the felt hat, with its wide brim looped up on the left side which was already traditional with Australian soldiers. This hat, with its badge of the rising sun on the looped side, came to be the mark of the Australian throughout the world.*

C.E.W. Bean, *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914–1918*, vol. 1, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1924, pp. 60-61 © Australian War Memorial.



Australian Government  
Department of Veterans' Affairs



AUSTRALIAN  
WAR MEMORIAL