

**ANZAC LEGACY
GALLERY**

Large Print Book

Queensland at War

PROPERTY OF QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

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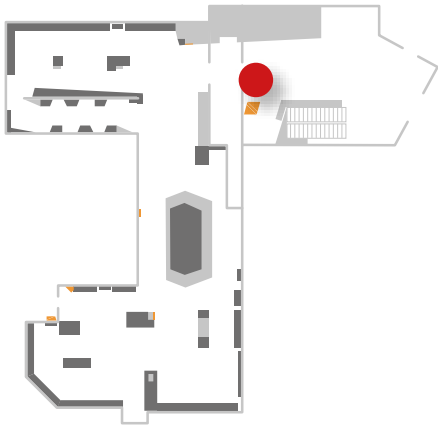
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ANZAC LEGACY GALLERY

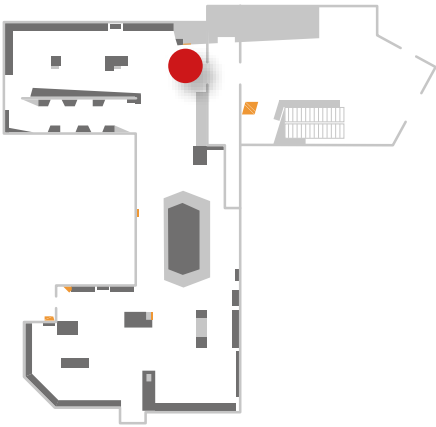
How could an event on the other side of the world have had such a strong and lasting impact on us all?

The First World War in Queensland is a fascinating story of people and the things they held close – objects of war and warfare, but also personal items belonging to those on the front line and their families and friends.

Nearly 58,000 Queenslanders enlisted, and more than ten times as many civilians supported their war efforts back home.

As time has gone by, the ripples of the war have subsided, but the stories remain.

Queensland at War introduction



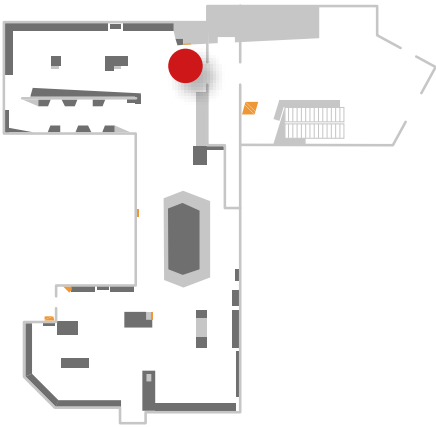
QUEENSLAND AT WAR

People ... Queenslanders ... nearly 58,000 of them, left our shores for the war to end all wars. There are so many stories of the First World War – of people, experiences, and places far away – that changed our State forever.

A small thing – like a medal crafted from bronze and silk – can tell an epic story of bravery, fear, and adventure; of politics, religion, and war. It represents the hardship and sacrifice of the men and women who went away, and the more than 10,000 Queenslanders who gave their lives for their country.

Queensland at War introduction

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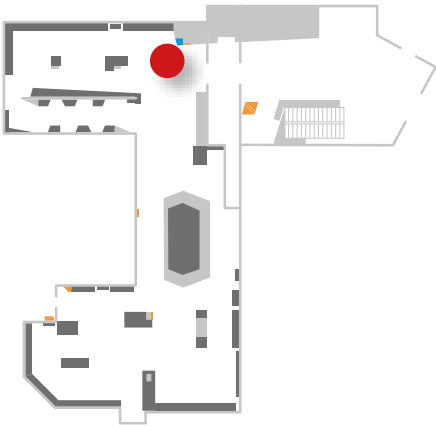


First group of soldiers from Stanthorpe going to the war, seen off at Stanthorpe Station, 1914

Queensland Museum collection



Queensland at War - hats



Military cap belonging to Percy Adsett, who served at Gallipoli in 1915 and was wounded at Pozieres in September 1916

Prussian infantryman's pickelhaube acquired as a trophy on the Western Front in 1917

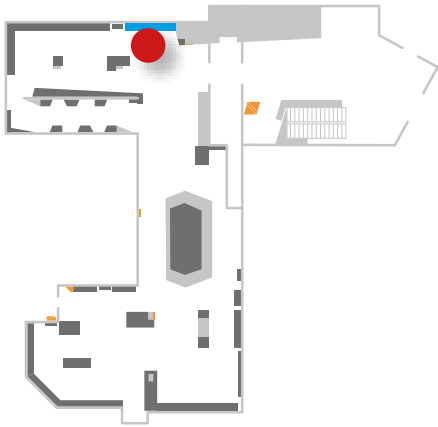
Nurses cap used by Miss Evelyn Drury when she was in the Voluntary Aid Detachment working at Kangaroo Point Military Hospital during World War 1

British Mark 1 Brodie Helmet, developed in the First World War as protection against the perils of artillery

Together

10

Together



CHARITY AND FUNDRAISING

Charities like the Red Cross and 'Patriotic' and 'Comfort Funds' aided soldiers at the front and maintained morale at home. There was a constant round of raffles, concerts, card nights and cake stalls on the home front. Comfort funds supplied soldiers overseas with 'luxuries' such as tobacco, jam and biscuits and ran coffee stalls for troops near the front lines. Charities raised money for ambulances and field kitchens. Some funds collected for refugees and 'milk for the babies of Britain'.

The Queensland Railways Patriotic Fund was set up by railway staff to raise money for colleagues who had enlisted and to support their families.

Railway employees donated their time to run concerts and other events hosted by the Fund. Railway bands, choirs and performers provided the entertainment. Tickets could be purchased from Brisbane railway stations.

ABOVE

Selection of railway tickets to fundraising events, 1914–1918

Fundraising and patriotic days became a regular part of life in Queensland in the First World War.

A volunteer workforce, made up mainly of women, raised money for charities assisting those affected by the war – from European refugees to returned sailors and soldiers.

Stalls were set up on street corners selling jams, embroidery and badges which were worn as a display of support and patriotism.

ABOVE

Assorted badges and medallions produced by various charities, c. 1914–1918

ABOVE

Cloth insignia, Australian Comforts Fund

LEFT

Anzac Day parade and Australian Comfort Fund banner, Queensland, 1916–1918

Courtesy of State Library of Queensland

Comfort Funds parade in Brisbane, c. 1915

Courtesy of State Library of Queensland



HOMEFRONT VOLUNTEERS

An estimated one million pairs of socks, a particularly critical item for soldiers struggling in the cold mud of the Western Front, were knitted and dispatched from Australia.

At home, Australian women all over the country contributed by knitting socks, vests, mittens and balaclavas. Left to balance the substantial responsibilities of family, to manage households and to assist the war effort through volunteering, farming and factory work, women's contributions were made amidst the intense trauma of fear and loss.

COMFORT FOR OUR SOLDIERS

The persistent demand for knitted items created the conditions for innovation and growth. Many women put aside their personal pride in the skill of hand knitting and embraced the practicality and capability of hand-operated knitting machines. Brisbane's Sarah Midgely acquired three knitting machines as part of the establishment of a backyard knitting 'factory' in Hilda Street, Corinda. This humble venture's largest success was the fulfilment of a large government contract to produce pullovers and balaclavas for the troops.

While her father was interned as a suspected enemy of the country, Lisette Zoeller was at school, knitting for the comfort of our soldiers.

ABOVE

Brisbane Wool Spinning Guild, 1917

Courtesy of State Library of Queensland

BELOW

Knitting machine and wool spools,
purchased by Brisbane's Sarah Midgley

AT HOME FOR THE WAR

Able-bodied young men were expected to do their 'patriotic duty' and enlist. Many willingly answered the call, but still more were needed. As the conscription debate raged in 1917, Governor-General Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson considered it necessary to suspend sporting competitions across Australia 'in order to concentrate the minds of the people on the more serious aspect of the war'. Enthusiasm, patriotism and shame contributed to men abandoning a sporting life for one in the military.

ABOVE

Brisbane Charity Cup

Football (soccer) teams competed for this trophy from 1894 to 1927. In 1915, clubs struggled to field teams due to players enlisting and competition was suspended from 1916 to 1918. This cup had a life beyond its competition years, being found on a driveway in Jindalee following the 1974 floods.

Young men of Australia were urged to
'Enlist in the Sportsmen's Thousand'

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

THE WILLING AND UNWILLING TO WAR

As Australian men enlisted, embarked and died in their thousands, pressure mounted on those who remained to do their bit and volunteer to take the place of those killed or wounded.

These pressures came from a variety of sources. Federal and state bodies produced propaganda that played on men's fears and fuelled their outrage at perceived German atrocities. The Federal Government attempted but failed to introduce conscription that would have forced men to fight and kill against their will.

'We are all in favour of reinforcements, but what we are opposed to is the compulsory part of the proposal – the conscription part...'

Queensland Premier TJ Ryan, November 1917

CONSCRIPTION

Casualty rates increased and volunteers to fight declined as the war continued. By 1916 there was a shortage of men in the AIF.

The Federal Labor Government held a referendum in 1916 asking voters to agree to introduce conscription, forcing men to serve overseas. The debate that ensued divided the nation on political, social and religious grounds. The first referendum was defeated, as was a second vote in 1917.

The Queensland Labor Government was the only Australian government to campaign against conscription.

DEFENDING YOUR PRESENCE

Regardless of their reasons for staying, men of military age who remained in Queensland were sometimes publicly shamed as they walked down the street or sent white feathers as a symbol of their perceived cowardice.

Those who had volunteered unsuccessfully, returned from active service, or were demobilised were not spared this potential humiliation. The Department of Defence issued badges to highlight the service of men no longer in uniform, or those unsuccessful in their attempts to enlist.

TOP ROW

The Demobilised Soldiers badge

MIDDLE ROW

Returned from Active Service badges

BOTTOM ROW

Medically Unfit badge

Volunteered for Active Service badge

Volunteered for Active Service
(Munitions Worker badge)

ABOVE LEFT

Prime Minister Billy Hughes speaking to a large crowd in Brisbane during the conscription referendum campaign of 1916

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

ABOVE LEFT

‘Yes’ badge advocating for conscription

ABOVE

‘No’ badge (reproduction) protesting against conscription

This briefcase was owned by William McCormack – the speaker of the house of representatives in Queensland parliament. McCormack spoke out against conscription at rallies in Queensland. He later became State Premier.

RECRUITING THROUGH PROPAGANDA

A powerful recruitment tool, propaganda was used increasingly during the war as efforts to introduce conscription failed. It encouraged enlistment by appealing to Queensland men's masculinity and sense of patriotism and by exploiting their fears. Propaganda took many forms and came from a variety of official and unofficial sources. Artists, writers and advertisers drew inspiration from events in Europe to produce posters, articles and souvenirs. Their messages were often exaggerated, or even fictionalised, to maintain public outrage and drive enlistment.

Propaganda posters were crafted to exploit feelings of guilt and patriotism, encouraging enlistments and support for the war. Propaganda made emotive pleas for enlistment, using and appealing to women.

Courtesy of Museum Victoria

This poster, by artist Norman Lindsey, displays a common theme in Australian First World War propaganda – the threat that the bloodshed of Europe would extend to Australia if left unchecked.

Courtesy of State Library of Queensland

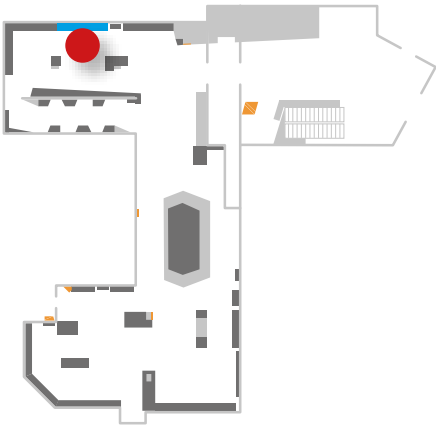
These medals were circulated after the sinking of the *Lusitania* by a German submarine. Originally produced in Germany as satire, the medals were reproduced in England as evidence of Germany celebrating the death of civilians.

Edith Cavell, was a British nurse working in occupied Belgium. Arrested for helping allied soldiers escape, she was executed by German authorities in October 1915. Cavell's execution caused public outrage and was exploited by allied propagandists to drive recruitment.

Above

Badge depicting Edith Cavell, regarded a civilian martyr, and propaganda booklet of postcards related to Edith Cavell and her death

Loss



‘TO A MOURNFUL MEASURE FALLING’

The First World War changed the way Queenslanders grieved. Before the war Victorian traditions surrounding the death of a loved one were public. Bodies were buried in elaborate ceremonies, and relatives mourned loss by observing strict social and religious behaviour.

The war claimed the lives of over 60,000 Australians, with only one body of those who served overseas being returned home. With so many killed, and no remains to bury, traditions of mourning changed. Families grieved privately, and new ways were found to memorialise those killed.



ABOVE
A soldier visiting a cemetery containing the
graves of fallen comrades on the Western Front
Queensland Museum collection

BELOW
Wooden crosses at Shellal Cemetery, Palestine
Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial



As entire communities grieved for loved ones, the elaborate traditions of the Victorian era began to disappear. Nevertheless, through the First World War there was still a significant industry for mourning products. Women wore mourning attire and men displayed black accessories with their normal clothing.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

Mourning pins, mourning armlets and visiting cards

‘SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO’

Many soldiers were haunted by horrific memories. Others chose to hang on to mementos of their war service, keeping their memories alive. Each represented a place, an event, a friend not forgotten. Many were sad, tragic memories of the ‘war to end all wars’, others a source of pride.

Mementos were also collected on the home front. These were symbols of effort and achievement, and pride in support of the war effort. These too, however, could be tinged with sadness.

*'We buried your son on the
battlefield where he fell...'*

Captain HK Gordon,
Chaplain 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade

Frank Brewer served in France throughout 1918, sending battlefield mementos to his wife Murielle and sister Tessie. He was wounded in one of the last actions of the war involving the Australian Imperial Force and returned to Australia in 1919.

RIGHT

Frank Brewer, c. 1949

ABOVE

Brass container with rosary beads

ABOVE

German epaulette, identity tag and envelope

MIDDLE

Envelope with comb and mirror

RIGHT

Envelope with identity tags

Murielle Brewer was an organiser with the Brisbane Girls' Club, established in 1915. The Club raised £4000 for gifts to troops overseas, meals for soldiers in Brisbane, and charities supporting ex-servicemen and their families. They sent gifts to the 6th Field Company Engineers at Christmas, 1915. The club also received a letter of appreciation from the Prince of Wales during his visit in 1920.

LEFT

Framed certificate of appreciation from the 6th Field Company Engineers

RIGHT

Photograph of 6th Field Company Engineers presented to Brisbane Girls' Club

IN GLASS AND STONE

Of the almost 58,000 Queensland men and women who served in the First World War, nearly one in six gave their lives.

Their sacrifice is marked by over 750 cenotaphs and memorials across Queensland. They come in all forms – timber honour boards, stained glass windows, stone-carved diggers and names cast in metal.

Erected at a time when patriotic fervour was high, or as an acknowledgement of the cost of war, these memorials represent myriad stories of service, loss and sacrifice.



Anzac Square, Brisbane, 1940

Courtesy of State Library of Queensland

In the 1920s, artists such as Daphne Mayo and William Bustard created memorial pieces as reminders of the sacrifices of war.

Raised in Queensland, Daphne Mayo attended art school during the war and worked with Ipswich monumental mason Frank Williams. After the war Mayo received a number of large public commissions, including the Queensland Women's War Memorial in Anzac Square. Artist William Bustard came to Queensland in 1921 and was commissioned for a range of stained glass windows.

ABOVE

Angel plaster cast made by Daphne Mayo, 1919

TOP

Stained glass window at the Memorial Hall in Ipswich, created by William Bustard in 1920. The money for this window was raised by the women of the Ipswich Train Tea Society who supplied returning troops with refreshments during the war.

ABOVE

Design drawings and samples of coloured glass used by William Bustard in the design of stained glass windows

'IT IS WITH GREAT REGRET...'

So began the message no family wanted to receive. Their husbands, sons, brothers, sisters or daughters would never return. Letters and keepsakes from foreign lands were all they had left of their young men and women.

The bureaucracy of war did not terminate with the sudden demise of the soldier. Correspondence about finalisation of pay records, settlement of his estate, and the location of a grave no one could visit must have prolonged the pain.

ONLY NINETEEN

George Sullivan from Charleville was a trooper in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment. He was just 19 when he was killed fighting Turkish soldiers in the Battle of Romani, August 1916. His mother Eleanor had only a few letters from officers in the Regiment and the curios George collected in Egypt to piece together her son's last days – so little to remember George, buried in a foreign land.

TOP

Death plaque and scroll of remembrance

ABOVE LEFT

Correspondence confirming the death
of Private George Sullivan

ABOVE RIGHT

Correspondence regarding the personal effects
of Private George Sullivan

LEFT TO RIGHT

Purse

Locket

Knife

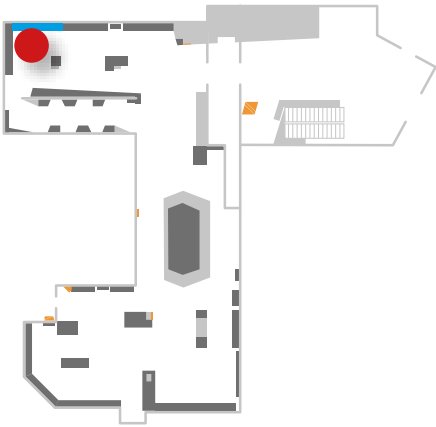
Pipe bowl

Regimental Badge – Royal Garrison Artillery

Leather 'Bedouin curio' bandolier

An example of the official correspondence
received by Eleanor Sullivan in the ten years
after her son's death.

Wounded



SHELL SHOCK

Whether at Gallipoli, the Western Front or the Middle East, service-men and women faced death, injury and sickness. Returned soldiers' disfiguring injuries were a reminder of the effects of shells and bullets. Less obvious was damage to eyes and lungs from gas warfare. Or the coughing caused by tuberculosis and pneumonia. Home they came with venereal disease, toes missing from trench foot, malaria from the Middle East, and alcoholism. Many had 'shell shock', a combination of prolonged stress, severe concussion, and just having seen too much.



EK Abraham

Courtesy of State Library of Queensland

‘The doctor said “Anything wrong?” I said, “No. I want to get out of the bloody place. Nothing wrong with me at all.” I forgot to tell him I was shell shocked...’

Eric Abraham, 25th Battalion AIF on becoming a civilian in Brisbane, 2000

SHRAPNEL WOUNDS

Casualties were so high in battles like Passchendaele in Belgium even the wounded were patched up and sent back into action.

Arthur Bennett, 4th Pioneer Battalion, was manning a signal relay station when an artillery shell exploded nearby. Shrapnel was removed from his right arm and leg at a dressing station. Arthur returned to duty, only to be shot through the knee ten days later.

The Australian Army suffered 38,000 casualties in the mud around Passchendaele in 1917.

TOP

Arthur G Bennett, 'Nine miles from the battlefield'. Sent to hospital following his second wounding, Arthur eventually returned home to Ipswich.

Queensland Museum collection

ABOVE

Shrapnel pieces removed from Arthur Bennett's wounds at a field dressing station in Belgium, October 1917. The gauze bandage was applied and Arthur returned to duty.

ABOVE

Base of a German 190 mm artillery shell

'The butt of the German shell ... fell in the lines of the 20th Australian Army Service Corps at Zevecoten near Reninghelst in Belgium in August, 1917. It was, of course, [one] of the many which fell ...'

Major Albert Edward Harte

LEFT

Australian wounded after the Battle of Menin Road, Belgium, September 1917

Queensland Museum collection

ABOVE

German artillery shell case, 28 cm SK L/40 gun

Designed for naval ships, some, like the 'Amiens Gun', were used on land, secured to railway mountings. High explosive shells weighing over 200 kg could be lobbed 20 kilometres.

RIGHT

18-pounder shell case

Around 100 million of these shells were fired by British forces, including Australians.

MUSTARD GAS BLINDNESS

The ill effects of the war did not stop in 1919. Robert 'Bob' Tredenick was a clerk before joining Queensland's 41st Battalion. He was poisoned by a mustard gas attack in France in May 1918 but recovered and returned to clerical work in Brisbane. Exposure to mustard gas caused his eyesight to fail by 1923. Bob learned to read braille, and acquired a braille typewriter from St Dunstan's in London, run by the Blinded Soldiers and Sailors Care Committee.

TOP

Gassed Australian soldiers near Villers-Bretonneux,
May 1918

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

ABOVE

Robert Tredenick with his daughter Betty, c. 1950

Courtesy of Robert Tredenick

ABOVE

Braille slate with slate paper punches and braille folding ruler

BELOW

Bob Tredenick's Remington 'Visible' standard No. 10 typewriter

St Dunstan's (now Blind Veterans UK), who supplied the typewriter, supported thousands of servicemen, including Australians.

PRACTICAL REPATRIATION

Returned soldiers undergoing rehabilitation were seen as heroic rather than damaged, particularly those with physical injuries; sufferers of tuberculosis, shellshock, alcoholism and degenerative health issues were less understood.

Repatriation hospitals gave hope of a road back to health. Kangaroo Point Military Hospital in Brisbane started in 1915. It was seen as a bright and cheery place, clean and well-lit, with patients taking in fresh air on the veranda. Patients were encouraged to immerse themselves in craftwork as they put their lives back together.

Albert Jabez Race contracted malaria serving in New Guinea with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force. While convalescing at Kangaroo Point Military Hospital, Albert made this wooden box with pokerwork decorations for Jean Hardie, a volunteer with the Comforts Fund and Red Cross.

RIGHT

Workshops at Kangaroo Point Military Hospital, 1917 (top); Workshops at The Queensland Soldiers' Educational Industrial Institute (bottom)

Courtesy of State Library of Queensland

LIVING WITH THE EFFECTS OF WAR

At 18 Billy Cottell joined the 47th Battalion, just days after his mother's death.

At Dernancourt, France, in April 1918, Billy suffered severe shrapnel wounds to both legs and was taken prisoner.

A wounded prisoner exchange was eventually negotiated and Billy was sent to a hospital in Holland. He was later repatriated to Australia and discharged as medically unfit.

Billy spent time in several hospitals for injuries and tuberculosis. He was one of thousands who never completely recovered.

A straw handbag made by Billy Cottell in a Stanthorpe convalescent home as part of his therapy. Tuberculosis caused him to spend extended periods in care. The bag was given to his niece, Kathleen Matthews (nee Fitzgerald).

WH 'Billy' Cottell was only 18 when he enlisted in 1917. Despite his injuries, Billy led a fruitful life after the war, marrying Sylvia Farley in 1942. He passed away in 1964.

Courtesy of State Library of Queensland

Children were profoundly affected by the war, both on the front and at home. For those living near the battlefields, the impact was immediate. At home, the reality of casualties from warfare became so expected even children's sets of toy soldiers included wounded patients, stretcher bearers and nurses.

LEFT

AIF medical staff, Captain CC Hains (left) and Private A Bowman, dress a wound sustained by a Belgian boy while playing with a German hand grenade. Morialme, Belgium, December, 1918.

Port collection, Queensland Museum collection

A wave of returning sick and wounded servicemen began in 1915 and continued throughout the war. The Red Cross, hospitals and specialist service organisations mobilised to provide care and support.

LEFT

Red Cross car number plates issued to volunteers in New South Wales who collected wounded soldiers from troop ships

ABOVE LEFT

Limless Soldiers Association Appeal button, 1926
These badges were sold to raise funds

ABOVE MIDDLE

St Martin's Hospital badge

The hospital, opened in Brisbane in 1922, was one of several supporting War veterans

ABOVE RIGHT

Australian Massage Association badge

Massage was believed to benefit 'shell shock' patients as well as those with physical injuries.

DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM

For some, the return to everyday life was too challenging. Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, on North Stradbroke Island, housed returned soldiers who suffered from various complaints. Few residents had family members to care for them, and many stayed forever, buried in unmarked graves near the asylum.

ABOVE RIGHT

Some occupants of Dunwich Benevolent Asylum preferred tent accommodation, 1928

Courtesy of State Library of Queensland

RIGHT

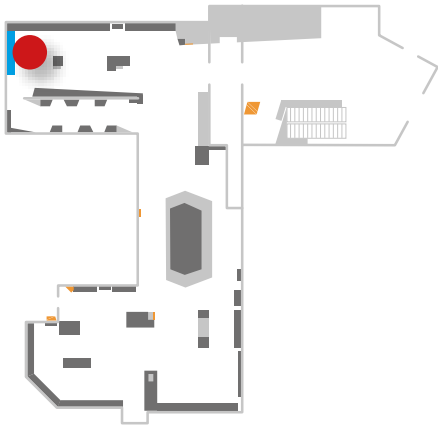
Unassigned grave markers from Dunwich Benevolent Asylum

On loan from North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum

Machine

44

Machine



FIRING ON ALL FRONTS

Many countries had been preparing for the possibility of a major conflict for decades. Bold strategies were expected to produce a swift result, with war 'over by Christmas', but a stalemate soon developed with one million dead by the end of 1914.

Major technological advances had greatly increased the power of artillery and made the machine gun a deadly weapon as combat moved from open fields to muddy trenches. Huge armies behind barbed wire lines shelled and shot at each other and aircraft, tanks and poison gas were developed as each side sought advantage.



Shell factory, Chilwell England, 1917

Courtesy of Imperial War Museums

German 37mm 'pom pom' shell. These guns made a 'pom pom' noise, firing 200 anti-aircraft rounds per minute.

Over 4,000,000 shells were fired in the first two weeks of the Battle of Passchendaele in July 1917. The production volume of artillery shells was astounding. Artillery played a crucial role in the First World War and was the cause of the majority of casualties.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM GRANT AT BEERSHEBA

The Australian Light Horse staged one of the last major cavalry charges in history in October 1917. William Grant ordered 800 troopers from his 4th Brigade to charge the guns and trenches at Beersheba, in present day Israel. The Turkish defenders were completely taken by surprise when their defensive line was broken, opening the road to Jerusalem. The German commanding officer surrendered this German C96 'Broomhandle' Mauser pistol to Grant who wore it as his sidearm for the rest of the War.

Brigadier General William Grant from Bowenville
on the Darling Downs, commander of the
4th Brigade Australian Light Horse
Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial



Local cadet units were formed in many districts in the late nineteenth century. Junior cadets ranged from 12 to 17 years of age, and militia (reservist) soldiers were 18 and above. Military training became nationwide and compulsory following Lord Kitchener's review of Australia's defences in 1909.

ABOVE

Martini-Henry .310 cadet rifle, typically used for training in the early 1900s

RIGHT

Ipswich cadets 'present arms' with Martini-Henry cadet rifles, 1906

Queensland Museum collection

'... Fritz began shelling the post. It is his usual practice to shell each post for about two hours every day. This is the worst part of trench warfare, because you cannot retaliate for he is four or five miles away, you simply sit and wait. One shell landed in the right position would kill everything in the post ...'

Private WJ O'Brien, 25th Battalion AIF, Le Sars France



Army officers, airmen, and naval boarding parties carried pistols. They were used by soldiers of all ranks, together with knives and clubs, in trench raiding parties, where fighting was up close in confined spaces.

- 1 British Webley Mark VI revolver
- 2 German Reichsrevolver M1879
- 3 German P08 Luger pistol

The rifles used in the First World War were accurate to around 550 metres. They held multiple rounds in magazines. Soldiers on both sides could shoot further, faster and with more accuracy than ever before. Millions were produced.

- 4 Lee Enfield .303 rifle, used by all Commonwealth forces in the First and Second World Wars
- 5 Mauser 7.92mm Gewehr 98 rifle

Similar machine guns were used by both sides. The guns fired almost 500 rounds per minute to a distance of a couple of thousand metres. Machine guns were positioned along the front lines so their fields of fire would overlap. Others were set up covering gaps in the barbed wire. Frontal attacks were bound to produce many dead and wounded.

- 6 British Vickers .303 machine gun, used by Commonwealth forces, including Australia

TECHNOLOGY OF THE TRENCH

50

Machine

Trench life – the often-present mud, cold and rain made worse by constant gunfire and the stench of decaying flesh.

Over 40,000 kilometres of trenches zigzagged through the Western Front, with opposing trenches being as close as 50 metres away. Around 6,000 men were killed daily between 1914 and 1918, two thirds of the deaths caused by mortar and artillery shellfire. Poisonous gas – used by both sides – accounted for only 4% of fatalities, but its debilitating effects were insidious.

ABOVE

German gas mask

RIGHT

Cloth British hypo helmet gas mask, issued at Gallipoli, usually soaked in a glycerine and sodium thiosulphate solution to protect against chlorine gas

FAR RIGHT

Many official photographs were published, showing the realities of trench warfare. Here Australian troops are wearing gas masks in the trenches.

Queensland Museum collection

‘Keep Your Head Down Fritzie Boy’ was a popular song with Allied soldiers, warning German soldiers in opposing trenches they could be shot. It was good advice for everyone. Periscopes allowed soldiers to survey the battle field without exposing themselves to snipers.

ABOVE

Lieutenant AJ Shout, 1st Battalion AIF (later Captain, VC and MC), sniping with a periscope rifle.

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

RIGHT

Trench periscope, purported to have been used at Gallipoli

Artillery and machine guns killed more, but nothing eclipsed the terror of a poison gas attack. Both sides used gas, although the Hague Convention of 1907 banned poisons in warfare. Some gases contained acid to attack soldiers’ airways. Mustard gas soaked into uniforms, peeling skin from the body. Survivors suffered lung, skin and eye diseases even decades later.

Hand-thrown bombs have been used for centuries. 'Grenades' were suited to static trench warfare. A grenade could be lobbed onto the hidden defenders of a trench by a raiding party.

TOP

Rifle-propelled British No. 3 Mk. I rod grenade

ABOVE

German Model 1915 Discushandgranate or 'Discus' hand grenade

This British 'Mills Bomb' hand grenade was designed like a chocolate block so that on exploding it would break up into lethal shrapnel. Damaging metal pieces flew up to 35 metres. Possibly 70 million were lobbed 'over the top'.

The conventional wisdom was that long bayonets fitted to rifles gave an advantage in an infantry charge; but bayonets on rifles were unwieldy in the confines of a trench. Bayonets were sometimes hand held. Pistols, knives and daggers, knuckle dusters, clubs and rifle butts, the sharpened edge of entrenching shovels, whatever came to hand, was used in hand-to-hand combat. Kill or be killed.

TOP

German Seitengewehr 98/05 bayonet

ABOVE

British Pattern 1907 bayonet, used on the standard issue Lee-Enfield .303 rifle

RIGHT

Punch knife trench dagger

BEYOND THE TRENCHES

The war delivered a new battlefield – the skies – which demanded a new kind of elite warrior, the fighter ace.

Because of its speed, range, destructiveness and intelligence-gathering capabilities, the aeroplane delivered immense battlefield advantage, profoundly altering the nature of the First World War and all subsequent conflicts.

Every aircraft and aerial knight had to be supported by a disproportionately larger ground support organisation using specialised skills, equipment and strategies, most of which were developed ‘on the fly’ as the war progressed.



AFC aircraft flying over the front in France, 1918
Photographer Frank Hurley
Courtesy of State Library of New South Wales

This aluminium fragment was allegedly recovered from the wreckage of the Fokker DR1 triplane flown by the war's best-known fighter pilot, Germany's Baron Manfred von Richthofen's (aka The Red Baron).

Queensland serviceman Sergeant Ted Smout (AIF) was among the first to reach the crash site and heard the final utterance of the famous pilot.

ABOVE

1 Squadron AFC, with Bristol F2B and B.E.2E aircraft, Palestine, 1918

Queensland Museum collection

This stabilising fin, allegedly from a German aerial bomb used during the war, indicates the widespread use of aircraft for strategic military purposes that first occurred in World War 1. The aerial bombardment of civilian as well as military targets, practised by both sides (principally for psychological advantage), also commenced at this time.

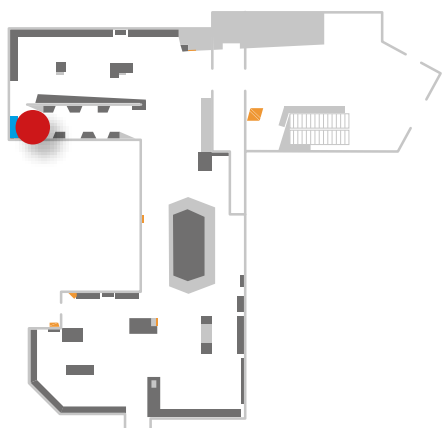
This pocket compass was carried by Alfred Warner, a grazier from Tallowood in south-western Queensland, who served two-and-a-half years as a pilot with the Royal Navy's Airship Expeditionary Force on the Macedonian Front – the only Australian ever to have served in this capacity.

This 'Zeppelin' wire was souvenired from the first German airship (Schütte-Lanz SL 11) brought down at Cuffley, Essex (England) on 3 September, 1916. Contrary to what is printed on the backing card, this was not a Zeppelin. The British Red Cross Society sold these fragments to raise funds.



An Australian raiding party making
their way along a trench amidst
bursting German shells, near Arras in
France

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial



WORDS OF WAR

Notepads, diaries and journals were carried by Queenslanders from all walks of life across the battlefields of the First World War.

These simple books of blank paper were transformed by handwritten accounts of life at the front. Soldiers wrote about their experiences, capturing the mundane, the extraordinary, the humour and heartbreak. In quiet moments or times of rest they jotted down song lyrics and poetry, sketched, and reflected on experiences that would stay with them for the rest of their lives.

ABOVE RIGHT

This diary was provided to Frank Mouland by the Australian Comforts Fund. Frank enlisted in 1917, seeing active service in France. He went on to join the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) in World War 2, his wife Ellen joining an Air Raid Precautions team (ARP) as an Air Raid Warden.

TOP

A soldier writes a letter prior to boarding
HMAT *Aeneas*

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

ABOVE LEFT

Francis Brewer – a journalist who worked for the *Brisbane Courier* newspaper – enlisted and embarked for France in 1917. He kept this notebook, which he filled with song lyrics and poems about the war.

ABOVE MIDDLE

The YMCA provided writing cases filled with paper, envelopes and a pencil to soldiers. This one belonged to Toowoomba-born Francis Mouland of the 49th Battalion.

GETTING A MESSAGE THROUGH

The battlefields were dangerous places where the flow of critical information was stalled by front-line conditions. In response, communication during the war evolved dramatically. Morse code and the newly developed telephone technologies were used; however, older tools such as semaphore and carrier pigeon were still popular given their proven effectiveness.

Thousands of pigeons served in the war, saving untold lives. They were extremely effective in delivering their messages with success rates of over 95% as they were silent, and difficult to intercept. They were so effective that birds of prey were brought to the frontlines to hunt enemy pigeons down.

LEFT

A carrier pigeon being released from a British tank in 1918

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

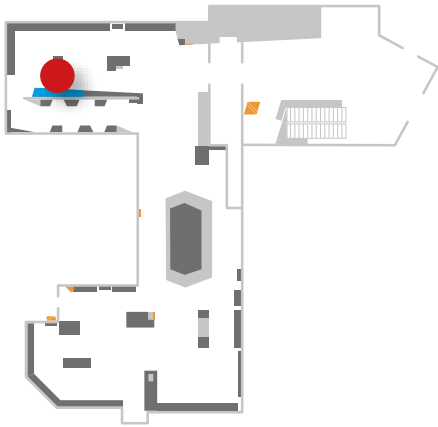
62

Machine

ABOVE (left to right)

Telegraph key, Semaphore cards,
Aircraft message streamer; Bugle (top)

This Morse code sender and receiver set was made in 1917 by Frank Carey of Toowoomba. Confiscated under the *War Precautions Act 1914*, it was subsequently used for training at a Light Horse military camp in Brisbane. The technology was excellent for sending messages over long distances.



EARLY VICTORIES

In November 1914, the first ANZAC convoy sailed from Albany, Western Australia. The convoy intercepted German communications and the German cruiser SMS *Emden* was engaged and sunk by HMAS *Sydney* off the coast of the Cocos Keeling Islands in the Indian Ocean. Australia's first major naval victory was widely celebrated by the allies. Items salvaged from the *Emden* wreck were souvenired for private and public collections, including 6,429 Mexican silver dollars, 1,000 of which were mounted and presented to the crew of HMAS *Sydney*.

ABOVE

A seaman on the deck of HMAS *Sydney* looks at the wrecked German cruiser SMS *Emden*

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

BELOW

Telegraph face plate salvaged from the wreck of SMS *Emden*

BELOW RIGHT

Wooden chalice carved from a Cocos Island coconut and wood salvaged from SMS *Emden*

TOP TO BOTTOM

Coin salvaged from SMS *Emden*

Mexican dollar (peso) salvaged from SMS *Emden*

Mexican dollar (peso) salvaged from SMS *Emden*, mounted as a medal by Sydney jeweller W Kerr

Imperial German navy uniform button salvaged from the wreck of SMS *Emden*

YOUR COUNTRY CALLS

Australians landed at what became known as Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915. With troops drawn from New Zealand, Britain and France and other countries in their empires, they attempted to capture the Gallipoli peninsula so that naval forces could push through the Dardanelles Strait to threaten the Turkish capital, Constantinople. The Allies could not break through the Turkish forces, and a stalemate continued until the Allies were evacuated in December. The Gallipoli operation cost 26,111 Australian casualties, including 8,141 deaths.

With reports of the difficulties at Gallipoli came a call for new recruits. Maps on posters and souvenirs emphasised the strategic location of Gallipoli and showed those who had never heard of the peninsula where the fighting was. While the Gallipoli campaign did draw a response from recruitment, casualty reports emphasised the realities of war.

ABOVE

Queensland Recruiting Committee Poster, 1915

BELOW RIGHT

Patriotic scarf depicting the Dardanelles Strait, 1915

BRINGING GALLIPOLI HOME – BEACH AND BATTLE

Queensland-enlisted soldier Herbert William Homer was awarded the Military Medal for his role as a stretcher-bearer at Gallipoli from September 1915 until the evacuation in December. Homer was also recommended for the Meritorious Service Medal for actions on the Somme in 1916. He died of wounds in a military hospital in the United Kingdom in June 1917. Homer's family donated these Gallipoli relics to the Queensland Museum during the 1920s – some Homer had posted home, others were amongst his personal effects, sent home when he died.

TOP

Pocket watch believed to have been souvenired from a Turkish soldier at Gallipoli in 1915 by William Herbert Homer

MIDDLE

Brass nose cap from a 12lb shrapnel shell, souvenired at Gallipoli by William Herbert Homer

ABOVE

Pebbles souvenired from Anzac Cove Beach by William Herbert Homer

TOP

Sergeant HW Homer, one of the soldiers
photographed in *The Queenslander Pictorial*, 1917

Courtesy State Library of Queensland

ABOVE

Shrapnel shell fragments collected at Gallipoli
by William Herbert Homer

Under a white truce flag, blindfolded Turkish Army
officer Major Kemal Ohri is led through Anzac lines
by Major Sam Butler to negotiate an armistice to
allow the dead to be buried

Queensland Museum collection



SIX-BOB-A-DAY TOURISTS

From 1914 to 1919 many thousands of servicemen and women left Australia for training camps in Egypt, encountering landscapes and objects unfamiliar to them. They purchased, collected and crafted souvenirs to remind themselves and those back home of memorable events and places. Australian servicemen were paid a minimum of six shillings a day, more than many other forces. They spent some of that money socialising, sightseeing, gaming, drinking, or seeking out other entertainment, leading to their labelling as 'six-bob-a-day tourists'.

Leonard Dimmick of Mt Morgan, enlisted in August 1914 and died in Egypt in 1916.

LEFT TO RIGHT

Three scarab beetle amulets; bronze Osiris figurine; Isis and Horus figurine

Frederick Annand of Brisbane joined the Queensland Defence Force in 1897. In November 1915, he departed for Egypt, as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion.

BELOW

Candle holder made by Annand's troops, presented at Ferry Post, Suez Canal, Egypt

Frank Chenery of Brisbane enlisted in September 1916; he was wounded and returned to Australia in November 1918.

TOP

Collection of faience ani-morph amulets

MIDDLE

Female ushabti figurine; Anubis figurine

BOTTOM

Egyptian terracotta Osiris figurine; terracotta ushabti figurine; terracotta Egyptian figurine of Isis and Horus

Stone fragments, reputedly from the Sphinx and alabaster fragments reputedly from a pyramid, collected by John Lowe

RIGHT

Australian soldiers at the Sphinx, c. 1915

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

John Lowe of Brisbane, enlisted in March 1917 and arrived home in April 1919.

RIGHT (LEFT TO RIGHT)

Bark, acorn cups and postcard from the 'Oak of Abraham', glass beads representing the hand of God and handmade wooden comb, all from Hebron
Donkey shoe and nail from Palestine

BELOW

Egyptian cloth

PRISONERS OF WAR

These glass-bead snakes were made by prisoners of war (POWs) in Egypt. Although often associated with Turkish POWs, beadwork objects were made by prisoners of various nationalities in camps across the Middle East. Snakes were the most common item made as they were seen as good luck charms and often offered as gifts. POWs capitalised on the active souvenir trade to sell their work or trade it to supplement their rations.

HOPE IT ARRIVED

Millions of soldiers from across the world poured into the Western Front. Australians rubbed shoulders with British, French, Belgians and Germans as well as troops from the colonies. Soldiers collected souvenirs and mementos of their experiences. They used their down time to create art and record their lives at the Front. Photographs and postcards were purchased. Posted home to families and loved ones, they conveyed the strangeness of their new lives and messages of love and hope.

Soldiers and art are not commonly associated together. Trench art describes art commonly made from war detritus by soldiers in their down time. The art varies from highly decorated to hastily made, and reflects a range of experiences from deeply personal to life threatening.

BACK

Inkwell constructed from copper sheets, cartridge cases and an artillery shell fuse, inscribed 'To Ethel' 'From Charlie'

MIDDLE

Cigarette lighter made from brass rifle cartridge case

FRONT

Martini-Henry 45/577 training cartridge case with a Rising Sun badge sculpted at one end

MIDDLE

Knife or letter opener sculpted from a bomb shrapnel fragment

BACK

Trench art vase made from a German artillery shell case

TOP

This German Iron Cross 2nd Class medal was awarded to 16-year-old Paul Kneisel. Captain Eric Holland collected the medal at Messines Ridge, in 1917, where British, New Zealand and Australian troops detonated explosives packed into tunnels dug under German trenches.

ABOVE

This Austrian Merit Cross '1849', 2nd Class, was donated in 1927. The anonymous donor claimed it brought him bad luck after he 'souvenired' it.

COLLECTING IN THE TRENCHES

Soldiers exchanged badges and insignias as mementos of their experiences, often taking trophies from the enemy. Badges also served for reconnaissance, indicating units faced and their rotation through the trenches.

Sergeant Alfred Clark collected these curios, badges and insignia before he was killed in action on 11 November 1916.

Edward Hope collected this photo album of Albert, the French town famous for a statue of Mary and the infant Jesus. Struck by a German shell in 1915, the statue was fixed at a right angle until it was knocked down by British artillery in April 1918. Many believed the war would end when it finally fell.

LASTING IMPACT

Australia's first military action during World War 1 was to seize German New Guinea. The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force captured two German wireless stations on 11 September 1914. Within weeks, most German territories were occupied without further opposition. After the war, Prime Minister Billy Hughes won a League of Nations mandate that established Australian administrations in New Guinea and Papua. The two were united in 1949 and remained administered territories until Papua New Guinea became independent in 1975.

Arriving after Australian forces secured German New Guinea, Private William James Potter was part of the occupation of Rabaul late in 1914. Potter remained in New Guinea until 1918, returning to Australia for periods of furlough and due to illness. With few military duties, he passed the time collecting natural history specimens and local artefacts, which he gifted to Queensland Museum and the Australian Museum in Sydney.



Ceremony at the first Empire Day in Rabaul
after the Armistice, 24 May 1919

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

THREADS OF TIME

Private Philip Forrest, 11th Light Horse Regiment, appeared to have an 'ordinary' war experience returning home seemingly unscathed. However, almost every man in the Light Horse endured hardships scarcely imaginable to us today.

They lived for weeks, sometimes months, at a time with one litre of water a day. They survived for long periods on army biscuits and tinned bully beef that melted in the heat of the desert. They went for weeks without being able to wash, their uniforms crawling with lice. They often risked death, and saw lifelong friends die horribly.

Forrest's story, and his standard-issue uniform, remind us that there is no 'ordinary' in war.

RIGHT

This Light Horse Uniform, including the iconic slouch hat with emu feathers, belonged to Philip Forrest. He took part in the charge at Semahk in September 1918, when 200 troopers from the 11th Regiment charged the town defences, with swords which they had only just been trained to use.

ABOVE

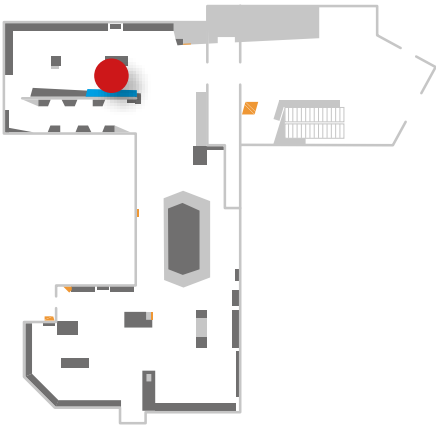
Bundaberg-born Private Philip McIlwraith Forrest, 11th Light Horse Regiment, enlisted in February 1918 and returned home on the HT *Morvada* in July 1919.

Courtesy of State Library of Queensland

Honour

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Honour



ABOVE AND BEYOND

Acts of courage in the ‘Great War’ were marked in many different ways. While acts of extreme valour and gallantry were often acknowledged with medals of honour, the everyday courage required to serve was recognised more quietly.

Seen in countless war records, two or three stamps on a page recorded the issue of ‘standard’ medal sets. But was there really a standard war experience? For each and every person who served there were moments of courage – in the decision to sign up, in a staunch bearing of injury, or in a quiet death.

TOP

Typical medal allocation notation from
Percy Adsett's service record

ABOVE

1914–15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal,
awarded to Captain Percy Adsett, 1919

TOP

Silver War badge, awarded to
Private Francis Brewer, 1919

ABOVE

The General Service badge, known as the Rising
Sun badge, worn by Private Francis Brewer, 1917

SISTER GLADYS ECHLIN

Gladys Echlin trained at the Hospital for Sick Children in Brisbane and, at 27, was an experienced nurse when she enlisted with the Australian Army Nursing Service on 11 November 1914. She embarked for Egypt on 21 November and was appointed to No. 1 Australian General Hospital as part of the first major contingent of nurses from Queensland. Gladys travelled back to Australia with a transport of invalided soldiers, then to further postings in Egypt and England. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross (2nd Class) in February 1917 for conspicuous services rendered, and returned to Australia in 1919.

ABOVE LEFT

Sister Gladys Echlin

Courtesy of State Library of Queensland

ABOVE

Royal Red Cross 2nd Class awarded to
Sister Gladys Echlin, gazetted 25 July 1917

Medals awarded to Sister Gladys Echlin:
1914–1915 Star, British War Medal, and Victory Medal
On loan from The Queensland Women's Historical Association

‘His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the Royal Red Cross Decoration to the undermentioned Lady, in recognition of her valuable services in connection with the War.’

Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 116, 25 July 1917

PRIVATE ARCHIBALD MARSHALL

When Archie Marshall sailed to France in 1917, his family were not present. Like many Aboriginal people, he had been relocated to a mission, Barambah, far from his birthplace in western Queensland. Archie died eight months later on the Western Front.

Archie's will, made prior to embarkation, bequeathed his possessions to a step-brother Joe Murray. Following Archie's death, his medals were sent to the Chief Protector of Aborigines who deemed that Joe was not a blood relation and therefore not eligible to receive them. The whereabouts of Archie's medals today is still unknown.

ABOVE

Private Archibald James Marshall, 41st Battalion

Courtesy of The Ration Shed Museum

‘As Marshall was a ward of this Department ... I would appreciate it if his war medals could be handed over to the keeping of this Office.’

Chief Protector of Aborigines, 8 June 1923

LIEUTENANT CHARLES KINGSFORD SMITH

Charles Kingsford Smith was awarded the Military Cross after downing four enemy aircraft during his first month flying over the front with the Royal Flying Corps (RFC). He had enlisted with the AIF in February 1915, beginning with the rank of Private. He served at Gallipoli, Egypt and France, before transferring to the RFC in 1916. Badly wounded during that service, Kingsford Smith continued as a RFC flight instructor. After the war, Charles and co-pilot Charles Ulm were awarded Air Force Crosses for completing the first flight across the Pacific Ocean in June 1928.

ABOVE

Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, MC AFC

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

ABOVE RIGHT

Medals awarded to Lieutenant Charles Kingsford Smith: Military Cross, Air Force Cross, 1914–15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, King George V Silver Jubilee Medal

On loan from the Kingsford Smith family

'We were a care-free, cigarette-smoking, leave-seeking lot of young devils who feared nothing, except being brought down behind enemy lines.'

Charles Kingsford Smith, *My Flying Life*, 1937

MAJOR RODERICK STANLEY DALLAS

Stanley Dallas was a keen athlete and interested in aviation. He constructed his own glider and seaplane while living at Mount Morgan (neither flying successfully) before paying his own way to England and enlisting with the Royal Naval Air Service in 1915. He was promoted to major and given command of No. 40 Squadron in the newly formed Royal Air Force in 1918. Dallas was credited with 39 victories in the air, and was promoted to lieutenant colonel by telegram on 1 June 1918. That same day, he was shot down by enemy aircraft while assisting another pilot.

‘Had some hot fire on way back, one of those occasions when one wishes the Wright Brothers had never invented aeroplanes.’

Stanley Dallas, log book entry, 17 June 1916

ABOVE

Sub Lieutenant Roderick Stanley 'Stan' Dallas,
No. 1 Squadron, Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS)
in the cockpit of his aircraft

Queensland Museum collection

LEFT

Logbook recording Major Stanley Dallas' training
in England and flights over France during 1915
and 1916

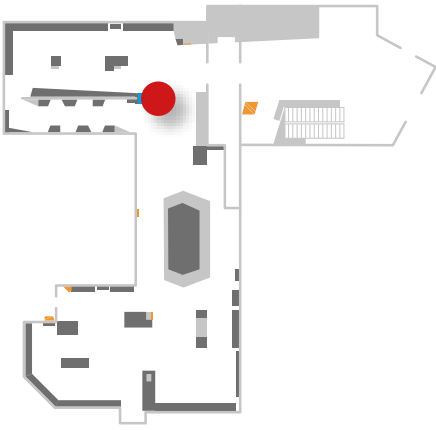
Dallas was Queensland's most decorated military
aviator, receiving two British and one French
bravery awards.

ABOVE

Aero Club of America 'Honor and Merit' 1917 Medal
and Aero Club of France 'Medaille D'Or' 1918 Medal

LEFT TO RIGHT

Distinguished Service Order, Distinguished Service
Cross with Bar, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal,
Victory Medal with Oak Leaves (the oak leaf clasps
indicating he was mentioned in despatches a
further two times) and Croix-de-Guerre Avec Palme



PRIVATE PATRICK ‘PADDY’ BUGDEN

Paddy Bugden was just 20 years old when he was killed in action in Belgium on 28 September 1917. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) for his bravery.

While fighting at Polygon Wood near Ypres, Paddy twice led a small group of soldiers to attack German strong points, successfully capturing their garrisons. Under intense shelling and machine-gun fire, he rescued wounded soldiers from no man's land, the most audacious being the single-handed rescue of a corporal who had been captured by three German soldiers.

The commendation for his VC concludes 'this gallant soldier was killed'.



ABOVE LEFT

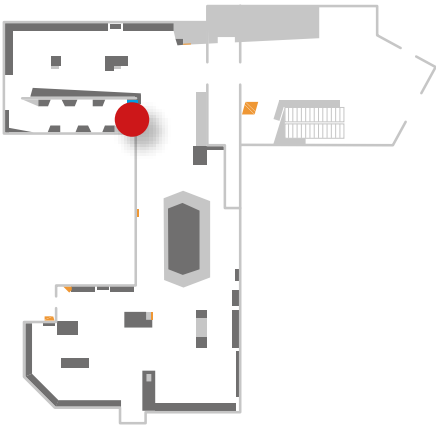
Private Patrick Bugden, VC

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

ABOVE

Victoria Cross posthumously
awarded to Private Patrick Bugden
on 23 November 1917

'... and if by chance anything happens to me rest assured that I feel in my heart that I shall gain a place of happiness ... So I fear nothing.'



A MOTHER'S LOVE

Annie Kelly lost her much-loved son in the war. The letters between Patrick Bugden, his mother and his sister Rosie seem full of the prosaic, every-day affection of close family.

When Paddy was killed, his mother sought solace – in the photograph of his grave, the whisper of words in his letters, the solidity of his medals. Annie carried Paddy's VC in her handbag for the next 30 years. In 1949 Annie was killed in a car accident. Her grieving family, realising something was missing, searched the accident site. There they found her handbag, still containing the representation of Paddy's most gallant sacrifice – his VC.

'Dear Mrs Kelly ... our fullest sympathy goes out to you dear brave mothers who are bearing the heaviest burden of this awful war.'

Captain JA Malcomson, Chaplain 31st Battalion

TOP

Remembrance card for Paddy Bugden

MIDDLE

Handwritten letter from Paddy Bugden to his mother in 1917, from 'Somewhere' in France;

portrait photograph of Paddy Bugden

Queensland Museum collection

Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial

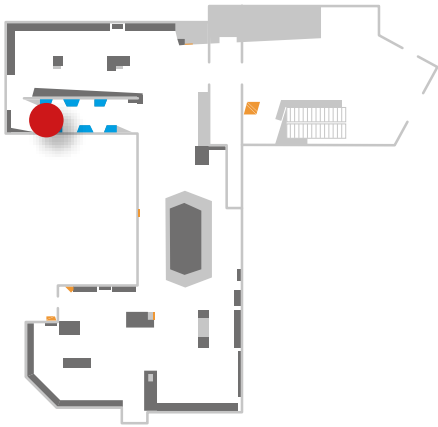
ABOVE

Letter holder belonging to Paddy Bugden, gifted by his sister Rosie

Memories

92

Memories



FROM ACTION TO ADVENTURE

Sergeant mechanic Tom Kay enlisted in October 1916, serving with No. 2 Squadron of the Australian Flying Corps. In October 1919, Tom and Captain George Campbell Matthews were the first of five teams to take off as part of a Commonwealth Government competition awarding £10,000 to the first successful Australian-manned flight from Great Britain to Australia. Flying a Sopwith Wallaby G-EAKS, Kay and Matthews encountered snow, rain, fog and numerous delays before crashing into a banana plantation in Bali in April 1920. Both men survived the crash with only minor injuries. Tom Kay passed away in May 1963 in Brisbane.

'I always had a desire to travel the world, and if I get home by air I will have had my wish.'

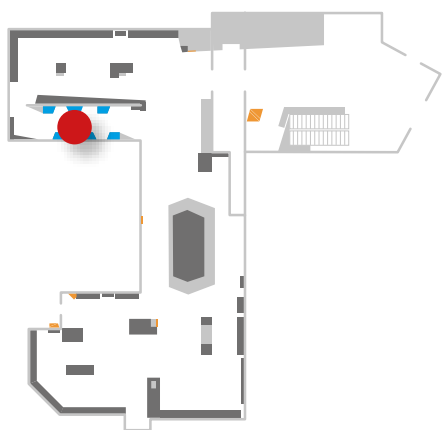
Daily Herald, 12 November 1919

LEFT

Sidcot flying suit worn by Sergeant Tom Kay in the 1919 air race from England to Australia. The suit was designed by Queenslander Frederick Sidney Cotton, Royal Naval Air Service, and was wind and water proof. Cotton's design was subsequently manufactured and worn through to the 1950s.

TOP

Sopwith Wallaby aircraft flown by Tom Kay in the 1919 air race from England to Australia
Queensland Museum collection



INTERNMENT

Brisbane family man Carl Zoeller was interned in 1915, accused under the *Trading with the Enemy* laws. Despite being a well-regarded businessman, German-born Zoeller was imprisoned at Holsworthy camp in New South Wales. At war's end, he was stripped of Australian citizenship and deported to Germany. Despite a long campaign of correspondence maintaining his innocence, Carl was never able to return to Australia and his family. Alone in South Africa in 1927, believing his existence was a liability to his family and overwhelmed by despair, Carl took his own life.

‘The mental and moral suffering inflicted on me, my wife and on our children for being separated illegally for years and years must surely be taken into account.’

Carl Zoeller, Cape Town, 7 August 1926



LEFT TO RIGHT

Lisette Zoeller's Australian passport, issued 1926

Brooch depicting composer Carli Zoeller, c. 1890

Jewellery box sent to Lisette by her father Carl Zoeller in 1917. The box was made by a fellow internee at Holsworthy Internment Camp who had been a carpenter on the SMS *Emden*, the German ship destroyed during the Battle of Cocos.

96

Memories

TOP

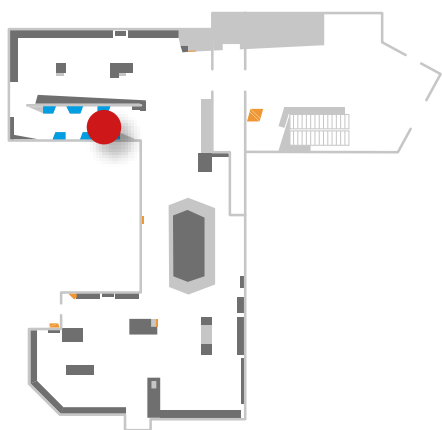
Carl Zoeller and family, 1910 – Lisette Zoeller is the child at centre front

Courtesy of the Zoeller and Paterson families

ABOVE

This note from Carl Zoeller to Lisette expresses his wish to be reunited with his daughter. It was sent with the jewellery box from Holsworthy in 1917.

Queensland Museum collection



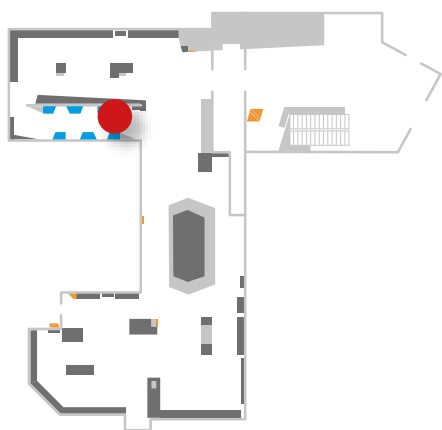
CHANGING EXPERIENCES

Frank Fisher Senior served with the 11th Light Horse Regiment. Originally from Clermont, at the time of his enlistment in 1917 he was living with his family at Barambah Aboriginal Settlement. His son Frank 'Bigshot' Fisher was a remarkable athlete and excelled at rugby league; he was also a man willing to give his life for a nation that failed to recognise his worth. In 1940, despite his father serving in the First World War, Frank Jr was prevented from enlisting in the armed forces on the basis of race. Frank Fisher Jr is the paternal grandfather of Olympian Cathy Freeman.

This boomerang, carved by artist Jack O'Chin c. 1930, features star Cherbourg athletes Frank Fisher and Eddie Gilbert. Today Frank Fisher is credited as a Queensland Rugby League legend, but in 1936 he was denied the opportunity to play internationally under the *Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of Sale of Opium Act 1897*.

'Eleven Aborigines at the Cherbourg settlement near Murgon have passed their first medical ... they are all keen to fight the Germans. One of them, Frank Fisher, recalls that his father fought in Palestine and Egypt in the last war.'

The Telegraph, 24 May 1940



COMMITTED SERVICE

Marion Winifred ‘Winnie’ Croll was among the first Queensland women to serve overseas in the First World War. She had completed her Nursing Certificate at Brisbane General Hospital and in November 1914 enlisted and embarked for Egypt. Winnie’s husband, a doctor, served as an officer of the 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance at Gallipoli.

Winnie served with the 1st Australian General Hospital in Cairo. As the Dardanelles campaign commenced, the hospital began accepting casualties evacuated from the Gallipoli Peninsular. Winnie worked with the sick, wounded and dying until she herself became ill with pleurisy and was sent home to Australia in January 1916.

