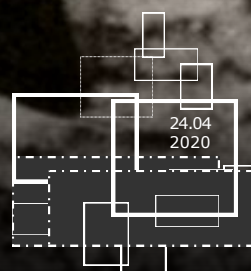


ESPLASH

ANZAC 2022 Issue



2022



DESERTING TO THE FRONT

VERA LYNN

AUSTRALIANS AT WAR



This issue is dedicated to the men and women who have served and sacrificed during periods of war. It is a collection of contributions received during the year.

*Photographer J.P. Campbell
Courtesy Rod Falconer*

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Alexandra

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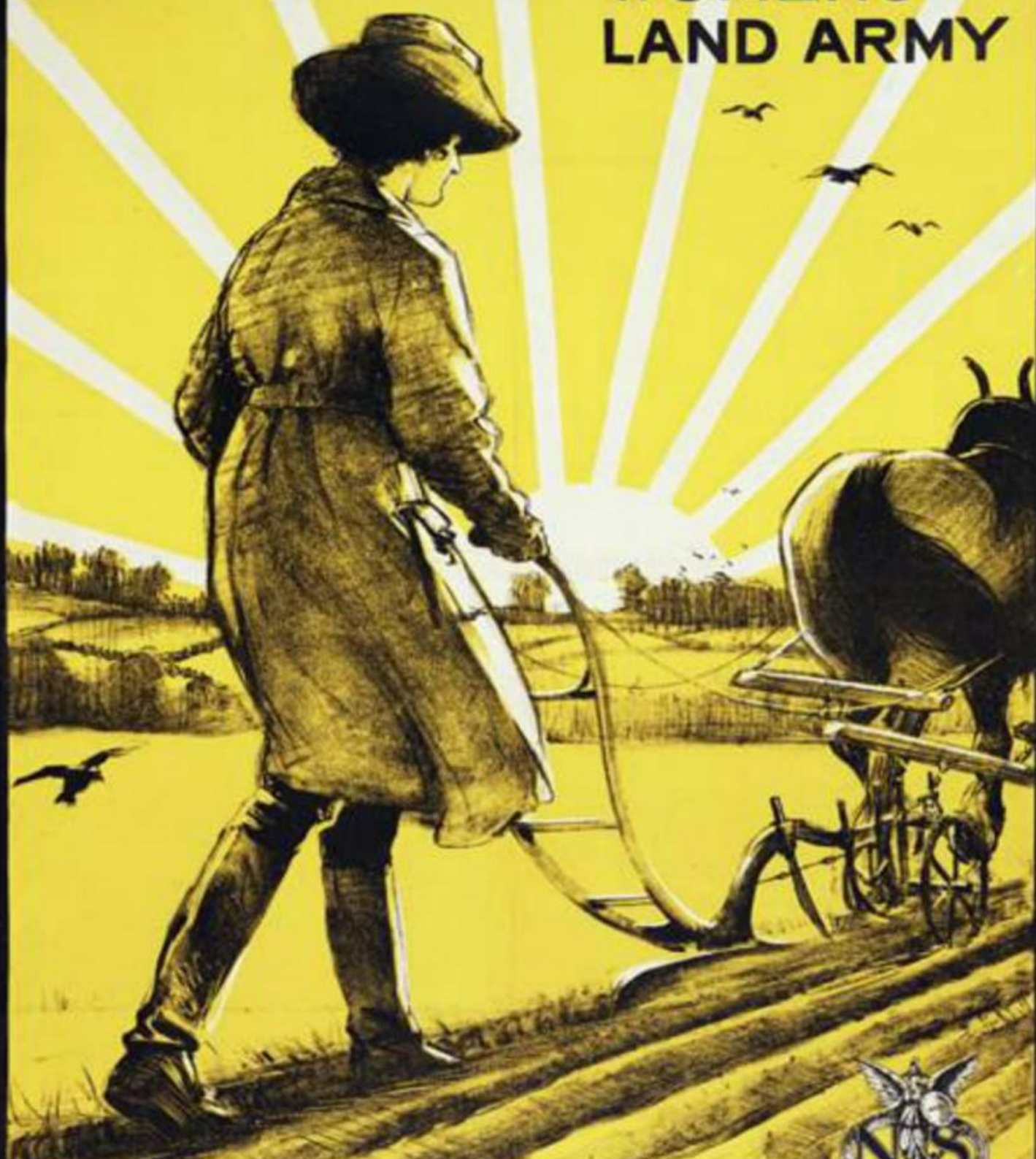
ANZAC



THEY FOUGHT ON THE OCEANS

NATIONAL SERVICE

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY



**GOD SPEED THE PLOUGH
AND THE WOMAN WHO DRIVES IT™**



SERIES W. 9.
**APPLY FOR ENROLMENT FORMS AT YOUR NEAREST POST OFFICE OR
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DESERTING TO THE FRONT

DESERTERS OR HEROES

About 12 months ago I was reading an obituary (*The Age*, 22 April 2021) for Major-General Donald Beggs which described how, as a newly appointed Lieutenant straight out of Duntroon Military College, during WWII he stowed away and effectively deserted TOWARDS the enemy.

In early 1945 Beggs had been expecting to be sent to Borneo, but was instead ordered to stay and help with 'camp improvements' in Indonesia. He considered that would be a waste of his training, so casually stowed aboard the troop ship Kanimbla on the expectation that if he was found out, he could hardly be charged with desertion as he was heading towards the action, not running away!

Obviously it didn't affect his future career, as he served for 32 years in senior roles. As well as various military awards, he was also later appointed Officer of the British Empire (OBE.)

In reading this I was a little taken aback, as about the same time I had also been reading of instances in WWI when soldiers acting under similar circumstances WERE charged with desertion!

Fred Ford in a family history of his grandparents, George & Edith Rial (*To Four Mile Creek and Beyond*, Busybird Publishing, 2020) talks of his uncle Leonard Rial who served in Gallipoli, Egypt and France in 1915/16.

Fred had previously read many of the letters sent home by his Uncle Len and thought he had gained a good understanding of him and his personality.

However when I searched ... Len's WWI AIF records, I was in for a shock. There it was in red ink. Leonard Alexander Rial had been found guilty of Desertion by a Court of Inquiry August/September 1915 in Alexandria, Egypt ... I was shattered. Surely this could not be correct.

(Quote and photos used with permission courtesy Fred Ford)

Leonard Rial
© Fred Ford



A red ink stamp that reads "Deserted at Egypt" and "16/10/15". The text is written in a cursive, handwritten style. The stamp is rectangular and has a thin black border.

But it was correct. Although there are no records from the Court of Inquiry, it is clear from Len's file that he was sentenced to 14 days Field Punishment No.2 and he also forfeited eight days pay for his absence.

Fred sought advice from Military historians at the Australian War Memorial and found that 'deserting to the front' was apparently not uncommon when soldiers were stuck in an out of the way camp for rest, rehabilitation, training etc when miles away their fellow countrymen were fighting (and perhaps dying)! Perhaps this is what happened to Len?

Fred further learnt from Len's file that he absented himself from camp in Alexandria, Egypt, which was where the Court of Inquiry was held. However the punishment meted out to Len was served at Gallipoli, where he was taken on strength with the 3rd Battery.

Deserters	Declared Deserter by Court of Inquiry	21/9/15
Punishment	(1) Breaking camp (2) Absence without leave from 30/8/15 to 7/9/15 awarded (1) 14 days F.P. No 2. (2) Forfeit 8 days pay. Total 22 days Gal Pen. Attached to 3rd Battery Gal Pen	3/11/15 3/11/15
	Transferred to 3rd Battery Gal Pen	27. 11. 15

Further searching by Fred ascertained from the 1st Aust. Field Artillery Brigade's daily War Diary that 27 soldiers were absent at different times through August 1915 ... *believed to have gone to Gallipoli*. Len's name was amongst them.

But they weren't the only ones, a letter home from Private AR Fleming in late May 1915 (Albury Banner, 2 July 1915) comments ... *quite a number of the chaps have cleared out, got on to troop ships leaving for the front ... they therefore get a chance of fighting as infantry men*.

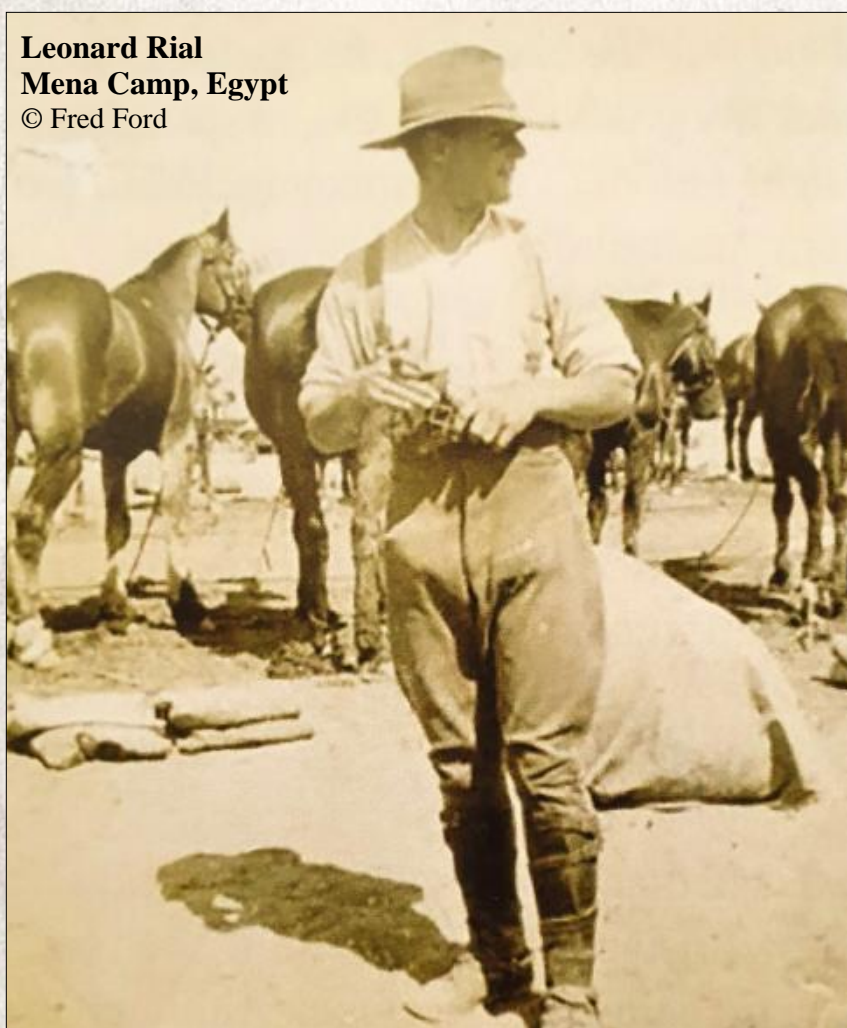
In November 1915 Keith Murdoch (later Sir Keith, founder of the Murdoch media empire), official war correspondent, wrote in the Melbourne Herald ... *There are magnificent cases of men left in charge of horses or for base duties ... stowing away on transports in order that they might reach their comrades ...*

'Goldie' reminisced in Smiths Weekly 16 Dec 1933 ... *stalwart of the local branch of the Soldiers' League, one of the Second Battalion celebrities, Private AW Aston ... was looked upon in the Second as exhibit 'A' so far as front line soldiers, who had done so much for their unit without being decorated were concerned. Ask any member of the Second 'who did more to earn a VC or two', and they will reply Alf. Aston ... who, rather than miss the early days of Anzac, 'deserted' to the front line, and lost fourteen days' pay for his trouble.*

Most of those so-called deserters served blamelessly (some heroically) for the rest of the war. Some were injured, some died. Their repatriation home to Australia though was not always without drama. There are news reports of individuals needing help from the fledgling RSL, and from local Members of Parliament.

The *Gympie Times* 8 May 1918 *HERO OR DESERTER?* An unusual case, involving the treatment of a returned soldier was brought under the notice of the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Watt) in the House of Representatives by Mr Falkiner (NSW) who said that the soldier had lost both legs in action, and was now in the Randwick Hospital, but his back pay was refused. The reason for the refusal was that the soldier had been guilty of desertion, which consisted in his going, without leave, with his mates from Egypt to Gallipoli ...

There were however some officers who took a more benign view (to use a pun) of the matter as this clip from the *Western Mail* 25 June 1936 shows, although the heading could have been 'Trying Not To See':



Leonard Rial
Mena Camp, Egypt
© Fred Ford

"Deserting" to Gallipoli.

Dear "Non-Com."—"172's" yarn in "W.M.," May 7, coupled with "E28's" mention of "Tiny" Thorn, who was one of the culprits, reminds me of the following incident:—

When the 10th Light Horse embarked, in May, '15, for Gallipoli, the farrier staff, transport drivers, and Number Threes, much to their disgust, were detailed to remain behind in Egypt.

As "B" Squadron was filing on board at Alexandria, the squadron leader (Major Clive Nicholas) and Squadron Sergeant-Major (No. 212, S.S.M., J. Springhall) stood at the foot of the gangway watching the men file past. As Thorney and his mates came along, they did a smart "about turn," and looked in the opposite direction.

The orderly sergeant, with more zeal than discretion, reported to the S.S.M. that some transport drivers were among the troops.

"Yes, you flamin' fool," replied the Sar-Major, "and can't you see that the squadron leader and myself are trying not to see them."

J. RYDER (10th L.H.).

Perth.

Postscript: Leonard Rial died in France 22 July 1916, the day before the main offensive at Pozieres was launched.

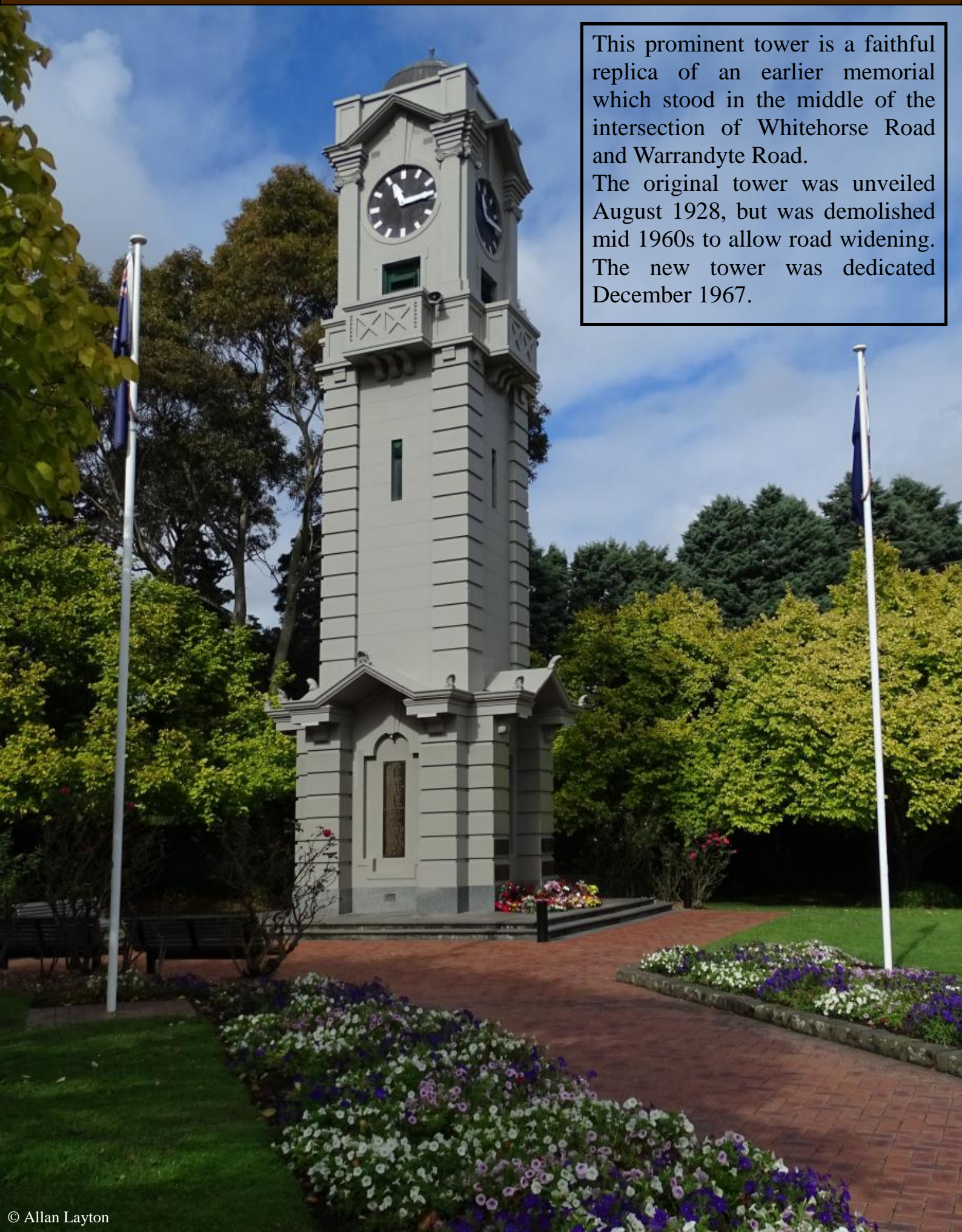
Lest We Forget

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

Memorial Clock Tower, Ringwood

This prominent tower is a faithful replica of an earlier memorial which stood in the middle of the intersection of Whitehorse Road and Warrandyte Road.

The original tower was unveiled August 1928, but was demolished mid 1960s to allow road widening. The new tower was dedicated December 1967.



Darge,
The Soldier's Photographer.
175 COLLINS ST.,
MELBOURNE.

SOLDIERS' PHOTOGRAPHS.—Darge, the soldiers' photographer, of 175 177 Collins-street, Melbourne, announces that he has copies for sale of all the photos. contained in the local Honor Roll at the post-office, also 16,000 individual pictures of soldiers, groups of companies, platoons, squads, etc., and will be pleased to supply any information and forward price-lists to enquirers.

Cobram Courier
Thursday 2 November 1916
Courtesy National Library Australia



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

War Memorial, Mitcham

© Allan Layton



The WWI memorial originally stood on a median strip/reserve on Whitehorse Road, west of Mitcham Road. It was moved early 1960s to the east, standing in front of the Memorial Hall. It was later moved to its present location at Halliday Park.

The bugler traditionally faces east, towards the rising sun, as depicted here.



Military Historians have observed that the tunic, and esp. the style and mounting of the pouches, is more reminiscent of European style uniforms, not Australian. The statue was carved in Italy from Italian marble, but it seems the sculptor didn't have an AIF uniform to work from. There are a few other examples of this minor error throughout Australia.

IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE



Courtesy Tony Ballino



Photographs like this one of three ANZACS in front of a destroyed British 'Tank I' were used on postcards and the purchase of the postcards helped pay for the war effort.

This postcard was purchased by a teacher in Tasmania and used to send to his sister who he affectionately refers to in the

back text as 'Ciss'. The postcard was dated 12 August 1918, which was roughly four months before the end of the WWI (11 November 1918). It was sent from the Lachlan State School in Tasmania.

The tank is a British 'Tank I', the world's first operational tank. It was developed in 1915 and the word 'tank' was used in the name to disguise the vehicle's true intent by making it sound like a water transport vehicle.

Y o u r S u b m i s s i o n s w e l c o m e

ANZAC



THEY LEFT ON SHIPS

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

Mount Macedon

© John Norbury

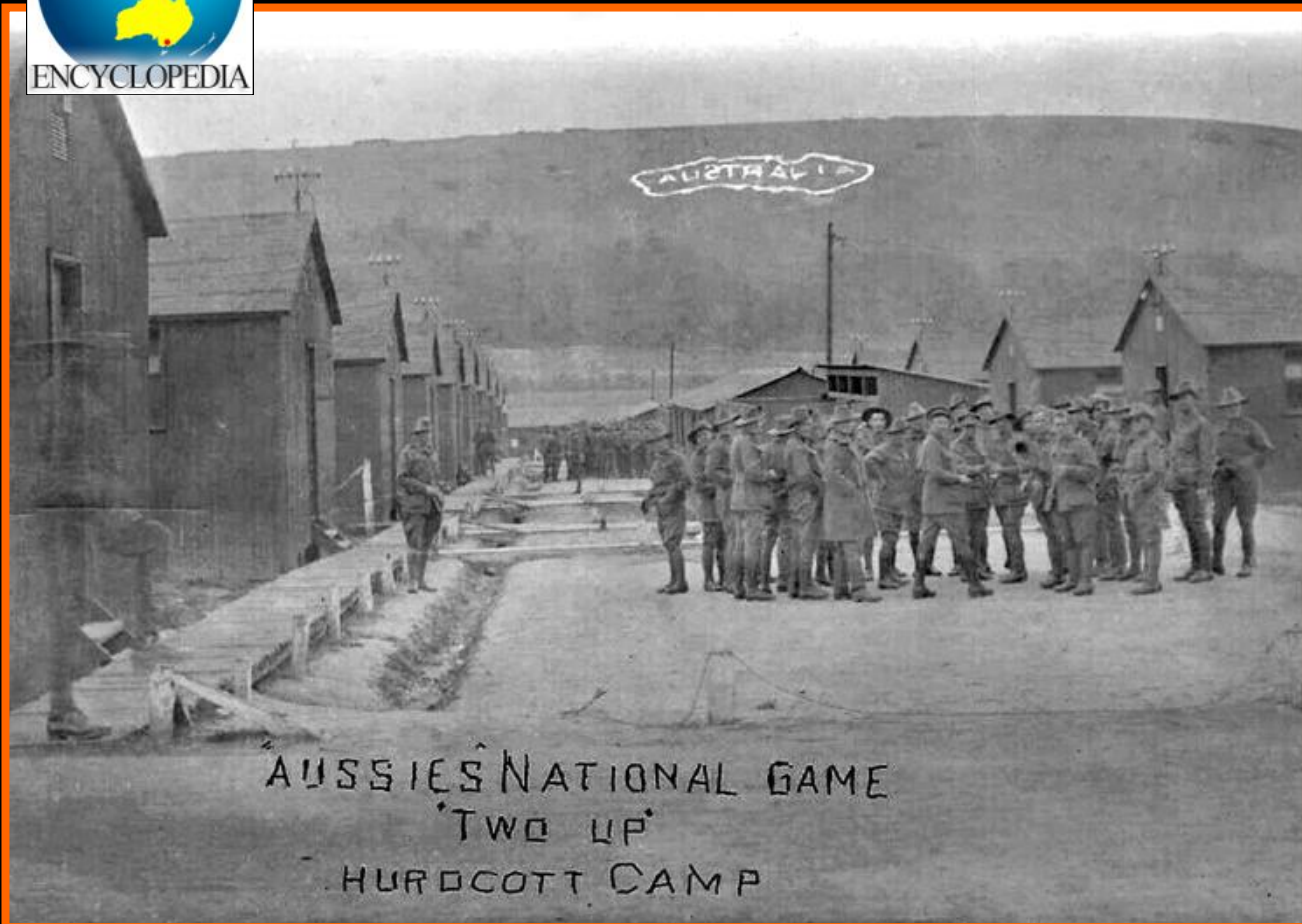


IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE



Jack Gemmill
my Great Uncle

1st World War
& an ANZAC at
Gallipoli Landing



Public domain



This photograph shows Aussie soldiers at Hurdcott Camp, near Fovant in Wiltshire, England.

The camp was used by ANZACS prior to them being shipped back to Australia.

The map of Australia with the wording 'AUSTRALIA' is written on a hill in the background.

The photo captures the men playing the game Two-up, a favourite gambling game of chance for Aussies around this time. A designated 'spinner' tossed two coins (pennies) into the air and participants gambled on the outcome. It was traditionally played on ANZAC Day.

Y o u r S u b m i s s i o n s w e l c o m e

HYMN.

God of our fathers, known of old—
Lord of our far-flung battle line—
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies—
The Captains and the Kings depart—
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart,
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

Far-called, our navies melt away—
On dune and headland sinks the fire—
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

If, drunk with sight of power, we loose
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe—
Such boastings as the Gentiles use,
Or lesser breeds without the Law—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard—
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding, calls not Thee to guard—
For frantic boast and foolish word,
Thy Mercy on Thy people, Lord!

AMEN.

Address by
His Grace the Primate of Australia.

DEAD MARCH IN SAUL.

BENEDICTION.

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

ANZAC



Unknown young AIF Soldier at Gallipoli circa 1916

THEY WERE YOUNG



Plane crash on 12 April 1943 Quinalow, west of Brisbane, Queensland

Public domain image



This photo of a Wirraway was captured after a crash-landing resulting from an engine failure. The pilot was Frank Masson of Mansfield.

Frank was born at Mansfield on 25 September 1913, enlisted on 22 May 1941 at Melbourne and was discharged on 26 September 1945. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service and later died at Heidelberg in 1984, aged 71.

The Governor-General announced the awarding of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Francis Masson on Friday 2 June 1944. At this time Frank was living at Footscray in Melbourne's west. The citation stated:

... because of his intimate knowledge of enemy territory in the zone of operations by an Australia division his services had been sought by the R.A.A.F. and Allied bomber squadrons on to well-concealed targets, and to indicate the targets to them. He had led nineteen such missions with outstanding determination and complete disregard of his safety from anti-aircraft fire. While employed on tactical reconnaissance Flying Officer Mason has displayed a high standard of devotion to duty, courage and unvarying effort to bring about the destruction of the enemy. His achievements had been an inspiration to all other members of the squadron, and were in the highest traditions of the service.

The Age, 3 June 1944
Courtesy National Library Australia 2021

Courtesy Leisa Lees

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

Soldiers Memorial, Alexandra

© Allan Layton



IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE



blimp



Blimp

noun

A nonrigid, buoyant airship

Examples

The military blimp was once widely used in theatres of war.

Bombs were manually dropped from the blimp.





Photographer JP Campbell
Courtesy Rod Falconer

THEY TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS



Trench warfare near the River Somme in 1918 France



Public domain image



This photograph shows ANZAC soldiers engaged in trench warfare, operating from a well-established seven feet deep trench.

The Battle of the Somme was fought in 1916 during WWI by the British Empire and the French Third Republic. The battle commenced on 1 July and ended on 18 November the same year.

More than three million men fought in the battle, which resulted in over 600,000 casualties. It is remembered today as being one of the deadliest battles in human history, as well as being labelled beginning of modern all-arms warfare. Watch the documentary above for more.

Y o u r S u b m i s s i o n s w e l c o m e

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WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT.

WWI DOCTOR



*Dr Isabel
Ormiston
from Albury*

THEY SERVED AS DOCTORS



Public domain image



This unique image appeared as a postcard produced in England, based on a photograph taken by J. Hemingway.

Gallipoli was an unsuccessful Allied land attack on the Gallipoli Peninsula during WWI. The attack against the Ottoman Empire and the Germans commenced on 25 April 1915 and ended on 9 January 1916. The attack started as a Naval assault then became a land invasion. Aussies held the beach where they were ordered to land, using trench warfare until finally ordered to withdraw in what was considered an Allied failure. Despite this outcome Gallipoli is immortalised for those lost and gallantry of our men. Over 8,500 Australian men died and over 17,000 were wounded.

Y o u r S u b m i s s i o n s w e l c o m e

EARLY ENGLAND SERIES

Australian life has been strongly influenced through the years by countries, such as England.



Vera Lynn chatting with troops in 1944 at Burma

Vera Lynn (1917–2020) was just 22 years old when in 1939 she recorded what became her signature tune *We'll Meet Again*. She was much loved in her homeland Britain, entertaining both civilians and troops. She soon became known as the "the Forces' Sweetheart" hosting a weekly radio broadcast sending messages to overseas troops. She also travelled overseas entertaining troops. Post war much of her time, when not singing, was spent with charities especially those connected with ex-servicemen and children. Amongst her awards is that of Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

ANZAC



THEY FOUGHT IN THE SKIES

Douglas C-39

Earlier model to the C-47 that crash-landed at Molesworth on 9 March 1944



The Douglas C-39 was a US military aircraft that was a composite aircraft based on the Douglas DC-2 and the DC-3. It shared a similar rear fuselage, wing and tail sections as well as the centre fuselage sections. The landing gear was similar to the landing gear used on the Douglas B-18 bomber. Unofficially the aircraft became known as the DC-2 1/2. Its primary role was as a military transport plane and was operated mostly by US forces during WWII. It entered widespread service with the US Army Corps in late 1939 and only 35 aircraft were ever produced.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Crew:	Three (Pilot, co-pilot and radio operator)
Capacity:	12 Passengers or up to 3,600 pounds of cargo
Wing span:	85 ft
Length:	61 ft 6 in
Height:	18 ft 8 in
Ceiling:	20,600 ft
Weight:	21,000 pounds
Engines:	Twin 975 HP Wright R-1820-55 radials
Maximum speed:	210 mph
Cruising speed:	156 mph
Range:	1,600 miles



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

Soldiers Memorial, Jubilee Park, Avenel



IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE

ANZAC



THEY FOUGHT ON OUR LANDS

EARLY AMERICA SERIES

Australian life has been strongly influenced through the years by countries, such as America.



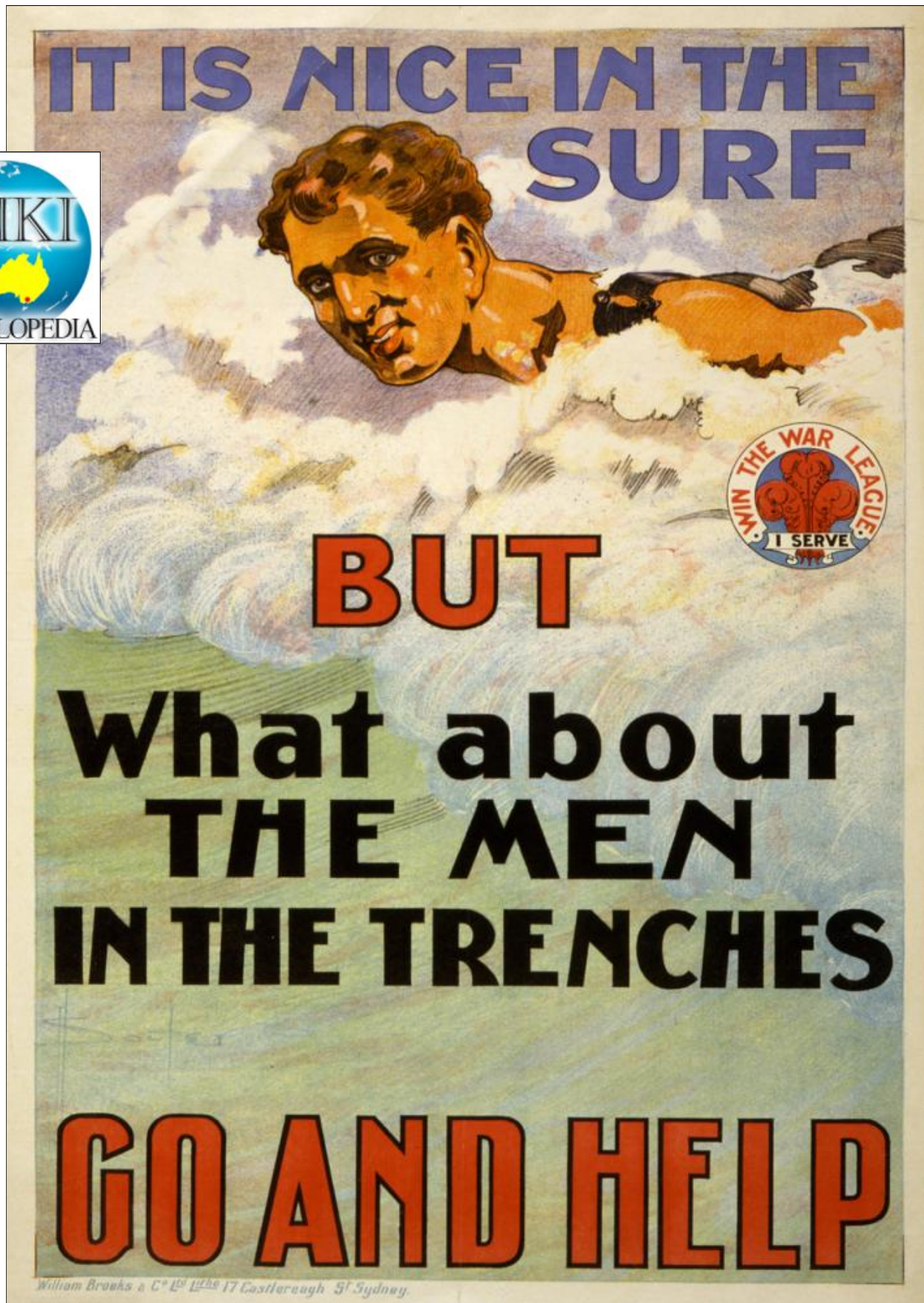
Actress, dancer and singer Ann-Margaret performing for US troops during the December 1968 United Service Organizations (USO) Bob Hope Christmas Show in Saigon, Vietnam. s

The USO was a non-profit charitable corporation that provided live entertainment to members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

The 22 minute video below shows a summary of the event, though the old archived reel has no sound.

Public domain image





David Henry Souter (1862–1935) was born in 1862 in Scotland and apprenticed at age 12 to a house-painter and sign writer. He studied drawing at a local art school before moving to South Africa in 1881. In 1887 he moved to Sydney where he drew cartoons for the weekly *Tribune and News of the Week*. From 1895 until his death in 1935 he contributed weekly cartoons to every edition of the influential magazine the *Bulletin*.

He illustrated books for children and adults, designed bookplates, produced plays, and wrote librettos for light operas. He also drew numerous posters, including war posters such as the one above.



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156

ANZACS IN FRANCE.

Bringing up a gun

"Daily Mail"
Official Photograph
Crown Copyright reserved



154

ANZACS IN FRANCE.

New Zealanders loading Ammunition

"Daily Mail"
Official Photograph
Crown Copyright reserved



157. ANZACS IN FRANCE. BREAD AND JAM

"Daily Mail"
Official Photograph
Crown Copyright reserved



153. ANZACS IN FRANCE. OFF TO THE TRENCHES

"Daily Mail"
Official Photograph
Crown Copyright reserved



Daily Mail Official Photograph
Crown Copyright reserved



This old photograph shows ANZAC soldiers loading an 130 kg artillery shell on the front line at France. The four men are using a lifting cradle to lift the shell, as can be seen on the left.

The gun is a British 9.2 inch Howitzer which was used by the AIF during WWI and even in WWII. This gun had a firing range of 10,000 yards (9 km). The

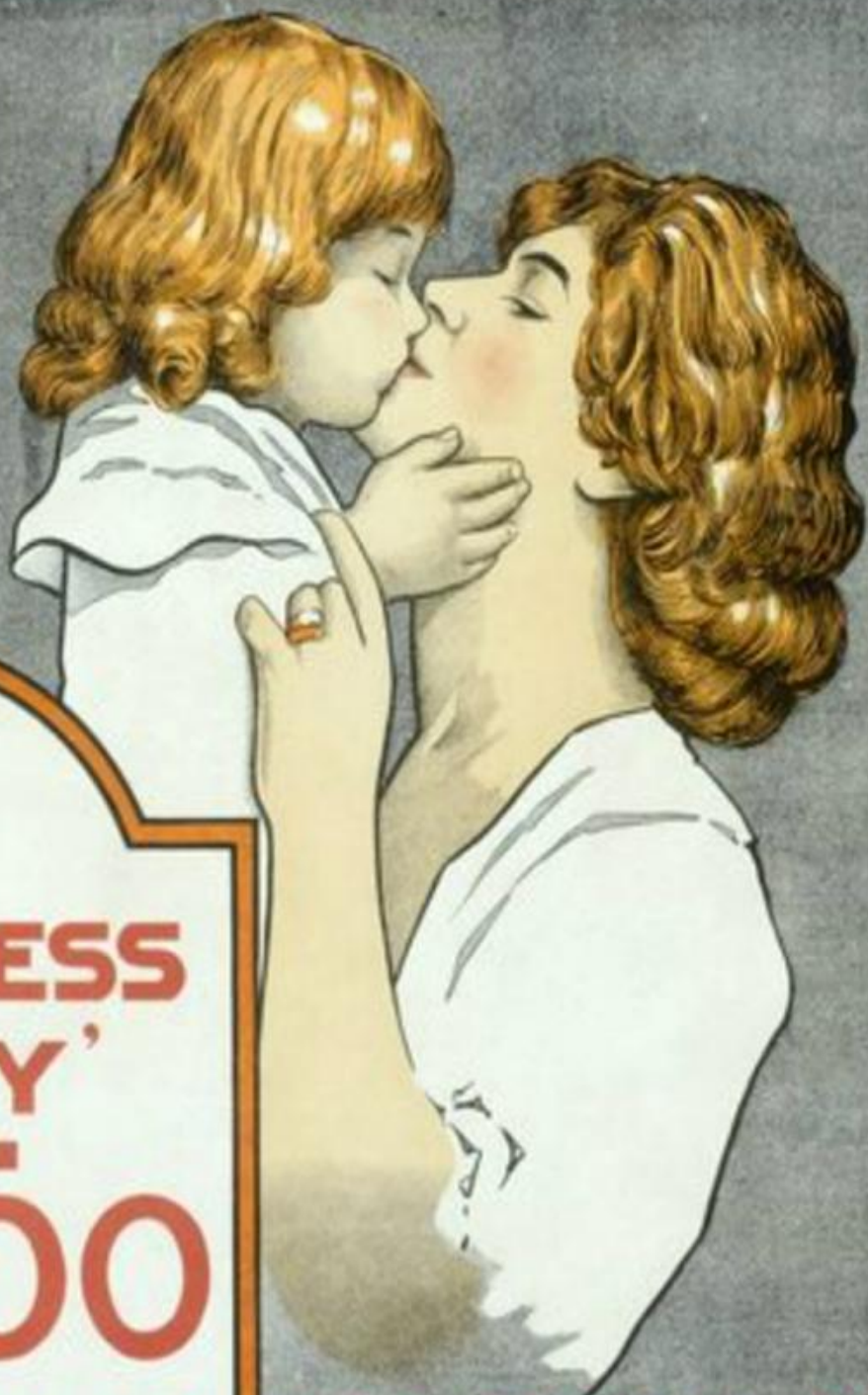
Mk 2 was introduced in December 1916 and extended the firing range to 14,000 yards (12 3/4 km). An Australian WWII 9.2 inch Howitzer is on permanent display outside the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

War Memorial, Jamieson



IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE



**'GOD BLESS
DADDY'
45,000
AUSTRALIAN
FATHERS
ARE
FIGHTING!**

**WILL
YOU
HELP?**

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

A growing collection of Australian War Memorials



IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE

FEATURED EBOOK



Highlighting
the local district
through eBooks



Free Historical eBook

PRESS TO DOWNLOAD



A publication highlighting the Anzacs. It is primarily for education in schools and is not comprehensive.

This eBook improves each year thanks to the help and support of the community.



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.