

ESPLASH

ANZAC 2024 Issue



2024

19.04
2024

VIVIAN BULLWINKEL

ANZAC BUTTON DAY

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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War Memorial



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ANZAC



THEY FOUGHT IN THE OCEANS

THE ANZACS.



Laure
Taylor

VIVIAN BULLWINKEL

LT. COLONEL MATRON BULLWINKEL AO, MBE, FNM, ED, ARRC



Matron Bullwinkel and a Menindee Connection

Whilst passing through Menindee, NSW in 2022, I noticed that their War Memorial had been unveiled by Matron Vivian Bullwinkel. Somehow I had always thought of her in connection with Victoria. So what was her connection with Menindee?



I have memories of my parents and aunties back in Mitcham, Victoria speaking of Matron Bullwinkel in almost reverential terms. I sort of understood that she was a war hero and (as I thought) also matron of the Heidelberg Repatriation hospital.

I have also seen the plaque from when she opened the Mitcham RSL sub-branch clubrooms in 1958, where my father was a member.



So what is her connection with Menindee?

I found that although born 1915 at Kapunda, SA, she had grown up and completed her nursing training at Broken Hill where her father was employed as a timekeeper in the mines. Broken Hill of course is just north of Menindee by a few hours. The rail line from Menindee was used to convey water to Broken Hill and its mines from the Darling River via the constant to-ing and fro-ing of 'water trains' prior to the building of a pipeline.

Sister Bullwinkel enlisted 1941 in the Army Nursing Corps and along with fellow nurses and evacuees from Singapore, was marooned when their ship was bombed. Although wounded, she was the sole survivor of an enemy massacre when twenty-two nurses were marched into the sea at Radji Beach, Banka Island and machine-gunned. After the enemy left she escaped into the nearby bush, but was later recaptured and held captive by the Japanese Army as a Prisoner Of War (POW) for three and a half years before being released August 1945.

She was to give evidence at a War Crimes hearing in Tokyo after the war.

Post war and demobilisation, Sister Bullwinkel briefly returned to Broken Hill, where she was feted by her former hospital colleagues and friends. The maternity wing at the hospital was dedicated to her colleague Matron Irene Drummond. Drummond was senior to Bullwinkel and had been Deputy Matron of the hospital before enlisting too, and was one of the nurses massacred at Radji Beach, Banka Island.

Vivian was honoured by being awarded the Royal Red Cross medal, 2nd Class (Associate Royal Red Cross—ARRC). In 1947 the International Red Cross society awarded Sister Bullwinkel the Florence Nightingale Medal for nurse bravery (FNM).

She re-joined the army 1946 with the rank of Captain, initially at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital; she later served in Japan before resigning from the Army.

Vivian was passionate in the need for a 'living' Nurses Memorial, travelling widely to speak (and fund-raise) at functions and events. Such a living memorial was not just to remember and honor the service and the passing of fallen nurses, but to also promote the continuing professional development of nurses through education.

The Australian Nurses Memorial Centre was created through the 1949 purchase of *Madowla*, a stately old building in St Kilda Road, Melbourne. The co-founders were Sister Bullwinkel and Sister Betty Jeffrey, another POW survivor.

Bullwinkel joined the Citizens Military Forces (CMF) 1955, serving until 1970. Her final military rank was Lieutenant Colonel. She was c1960 appointed as Matron (later Director of Nursing) of the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Fairfield.

Lt. Col. Bullwinkel was for a time a member of the governing Council of the Australian War Memorial and also President of the Australian College of Nursing. She was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) 1973 and Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) 1993. In 1992 she returned to Banka Island to unveil a memorial to the twenty-one massacred nurses. An ABC print interview in 2022 with Ian Shaw (author of *On Radji Beach*) tells the harrowing story of Vivian Bullwinkel's war time ordeal.

The Australian College of Nursing and the Australian War Memorial jointly commissioned a sculpture of Lt. Col. Bullwinkel by Charles Robb which was unveiled 2023. This is the first sculpture of an individual nurse or woman in the Memorial's Canberra grounds.



Sister Bullwinkel 1941 at Puckapunyal, wearing her red nurses cape, prior

Courtesy Australian War Memorial
P03960.001



Following retirement, Matron Bullwinkel married 1977 Colonel Statham, a widowed ex-serviceman from Perth, and moved to WA where she passed away 3 July 2000.

Lt. Colonel Matron Vivian Bullwinkel is remembered today through the Australian Nurses Memorial Centre, St Kilda where the society annually awards a scholarship in her name, and her statue at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. In 2024 an Anzac commemorative appeal badge (right) was issued by the RSL bearing her image.



This badge commemorates the dedicated and selfless service of our nurses. Sister Vivian Bullwinkel (pictured), a great Australian, was the sole survivor of the infamous Banka Island massacre in 1942

Image Artist: Shirley M Bourne

ANZAC



Unknown soldier

THEY WERE YOUNG

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

A growing collection of Australian War Memorials

A free eBook showcasing presenting War Memorials
across Australia for your interest



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Samples follow

IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS
Private Leslie Starcevich VC Memorial, Grass Patch, WA



Copyright © Allan Layton

IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

Echuca Great War Memorial, Library Grounds

THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1918
ERECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF
ECHUCA AND DISTRICT
IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR
KING AND EMPIRE.



IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

War Memorial, Bathurst, NSW



IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

Lithgow Fallen Heroes War Memorial



HMAS Lithgow was a Bathurst Class minesweeper built during WWII. It has the distinct honour of firing the last shots in anger by a Royal Australian Ship when on 9 August 1945 it bombarded Japanese positions at Bougainville.

IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

Monument Hill (Albury War Memorial)



IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

Swanpool War Memorial



IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS

Numurkah War Memorial



IN REMEMBRANCE, SO WE NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE

OUR HIDDEN MEMORIALS

LIMESTONE - LANGS ROAD AVENUE OF HONOUR MEMORIAL

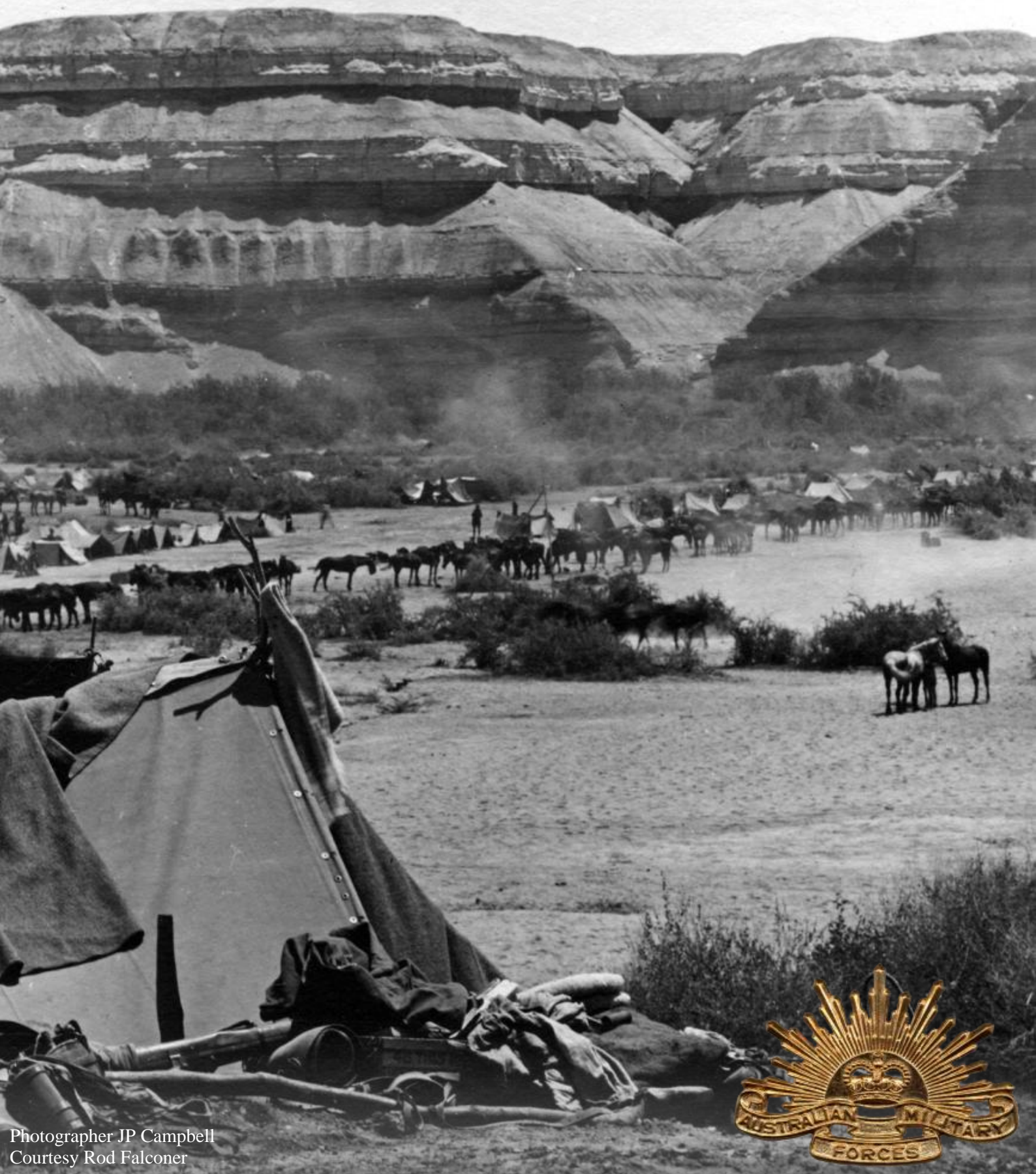


This plaque is mounted on a rock cairn that is positioned on Langs Road, near the intersection with Limestone Road. It is also just 80 m from the Limestone CFA on Limestone Road.

This small yet important Avenue of Honour tree planting is located along Langs Road starting at Limestone Road.

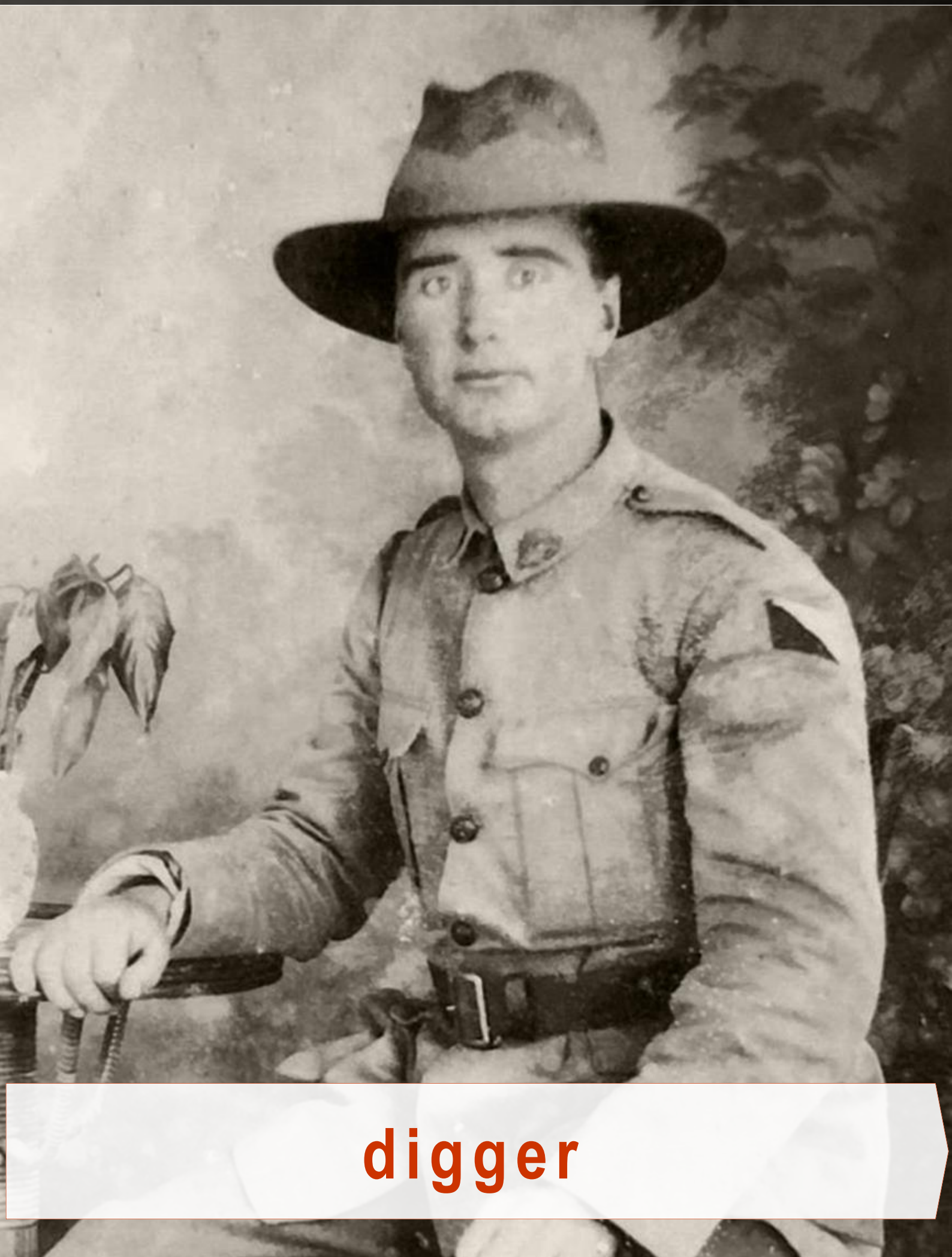
Photographs © Kathie Maynes





Photographer JP Campbell
Courtesy Rod Falconer

THEY TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS



digger

Digger

noun

An Australian or New Zealand soldier

Examples

He was a digger in the army.

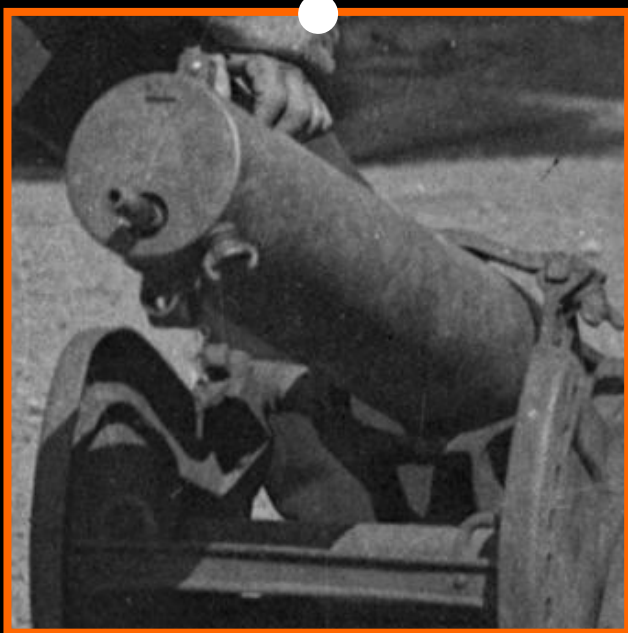
The diggers all marched as one.



Alexandra Soldiers Memorial in former location Grant Street, Alexandra



Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury
Photographer Charlie Norbury



The Alexandra Soldiers Memorial was formerly located at the intersection of Grant and Downey Streets and was officially opened in 1924.

The WWI gun was a prized possession of the local RSL Branch, until it was gifted back to the Victorian Branch for reasons unknown. Former Alexandra

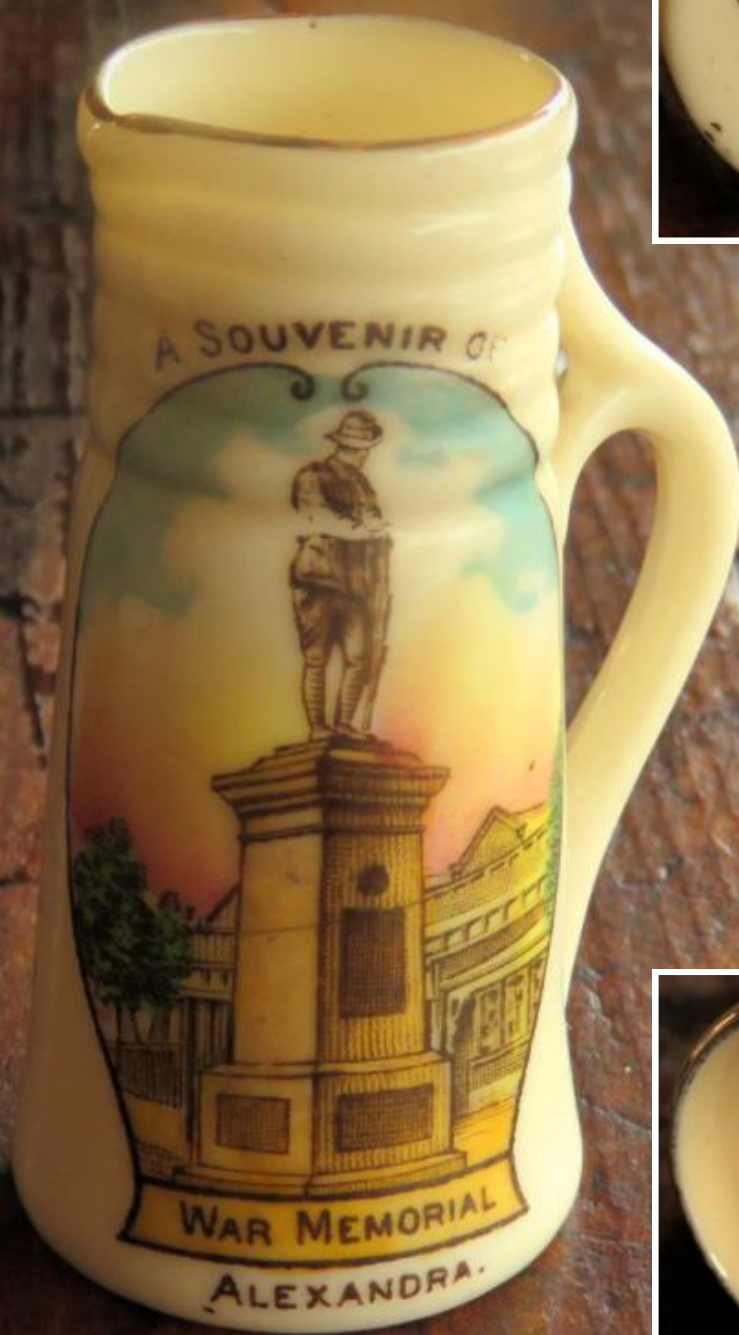
identity and Historian Rex Tate previously confirmed that he knew of the gun, but it is no longer with the local Sub Branch.

The gun is a captured (or souvenired) German Maschinengewehr 08 (MG08 MG08). This was a very common German machine gun which was used extensively during World War I.

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

CIRCA 1940

ALEXANDRA WAR MEMORIAL SOUVENIR

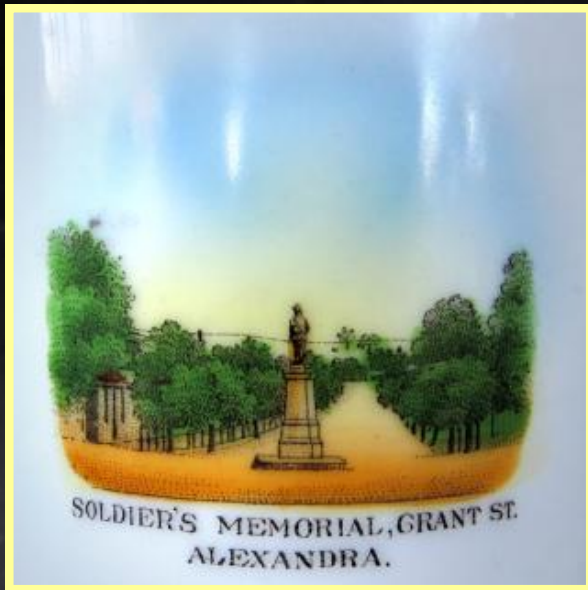


The Soldiers Memorial was sculptured by Sculptor Margaret Baskerville (1861–1930) and originally located in Grant Street, Alexandra (above). A newer War Memorial was unveiled in Leckie Park Reserve during the 1952 ANZAC Day Ceremony — following the establishment of a 'War Memorial Committee' which raised money for the new memorial and the relocation of the original 1924 Soldiers Memorial shown here.



ALEXANDRA WAR MEMORIAL SOUVENIR

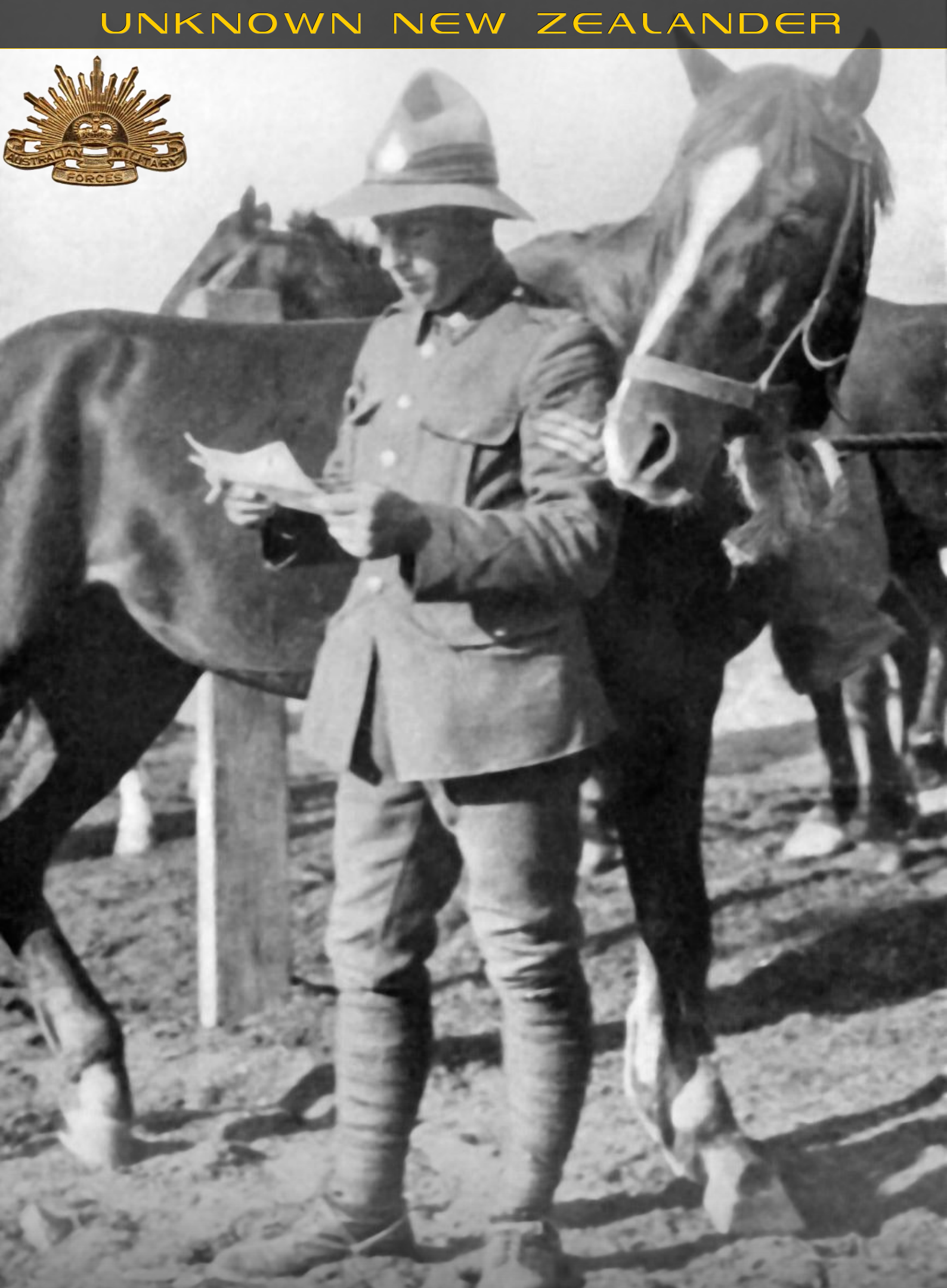
CIRCA 1950



This small cup depicts the Soldiers Memorial which was originally located at Barton's Corner, Grant Street in Alexandria. The Soldier's Memorial was relocated to Leckie Park at Alexandria in the early 1950s and is now a central component of the Alexandra War Memorial Precinct.



UNKNOWN NEW ZEALANDER



THEY SERVED AS THEY COULD

Anzac Button Days

Two buttons from circa 1916



Anzac Button Days were days where the sale of Anzac buttons reminded everyone of the sacrifices made during WWI and raised money for causes associated with returned servicemen.

Button Days (days where buttons were sold) commenced around late 1914 and were not initially associated with Anzac Day. Button sales were first related to numerous other causes and quickly grew in popularity. The buttons were even promoted as collectables, driving button sales higher. By 1916 Anzac committee members had seen the potential of selling buttons to raise money and 'Anzac Button Day' was established. Anzac Button Days were held on days surrounding Anzac Day, not to interfere with the importance of the Anzac Day.

By war's end Button Days were becoming less regular – in part due to their increased regularity – and they ceased to exist over time. Today there is a high demand for buttons as collectables, with thousands of designs from the early 1900s in existence and some buttons being traded for substantial sums of money.

On 28 April 1916, just a few days after Anzac Day, hundreds of dedicated volunteers sold Anzac Buttons on almost every corner in Melbourne City. They raised over 3,000 pound for their efforts. On 27 April 1917, that amount was increased by over 200 pound in the city, with expectations that over 12,000 pound would be raised across the state.

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

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

Doug, France, 15 September 1918

Constantinople
July 12th 1915

My Dear Family

I am afraid that the military authorities will have let you know that I was missing on June 28th.

It is a great relief to me to find that I am allowed to write to you and able to say I am in good health and receiving excellent treatment as a prisoner of war.

We were taking part in an attack on June 28th and received the order to retire. I went out to take the order to a squadron which had gone further out. The way out was pretty “unhealthy” and I crawled into an old machine gun pit to collect some wits and breath. I collected a “frozen spine” instead, for our own machine gun spotted me and insisted with monotonous accuracy that I was of the opposition. There was nothing for it but to duck for an old half filled trench further out with good overhead cover. That machine gun’s mistake was excusable. I had been only twenty or thirty yards from the enemy and now I was in the middle of him. I was excused the ignominy of laying down my arms – they were promptly laid down for me. And here I am, a prisoner of war, having failed in my mission and no longer able to serve my country, but in good health and looking forward to the day when the war ends and I can go home. With the Australians it is considered a disgrace to be captured. It was bad soldiering on my part to get within the enemy’s advanced lines, but I know you will understand it is not lack of courage makes a man do that.

I saw Bert the day before the attack and had letters that day from Jessie, Nell, Madeleine, Aunt Katie and Ella Warner. Will you please thank the writers. I hope to be able to write again and it is possible that letters addressed “Headquarters, Prisoners of war, Constantinople, may reach me.

These letters (mine) are of course censored and it is therefore advisable not to write at length.

With Fondest Love

Maurice

HEAVY GUN



THEY MANUFACTURED MACHINERY

EARLY ENGLAND SERIES

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



**British soldiers and infantry with Australian Lighthorse
and machinery during WWI**

Visible in the image is a cooking cart.



COMMEMORATION
APRIL 25th 1916.

COVER PRINTED BY
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, ADELAIDE.

WAR GIRLS

---oooOooo---

There's the girl who clips your ticket for the train,
And the girl who speeds the lift from floor to floor,
There's the girl who does a milk-round in the rain,
And the girl who calls for orders at your door.

Strong, sensible, and fit,
They're out to show their grit,
And tackle jobs with energy and knack.
No longer caged and penned up,
They're going to keep their end up
Till the khaki soldier boys come marching back.

There's the motor girl who drives a heavy van,
There's the butcher girl who brings your joint of meat,
There's the girl who cries 'All fares, please!' like a man,
And the girl who whistles taxis up the street.

Beneath each uniform
Beats a heart that's soft and warm,
Though of canny mother-wit they show no lack;
But a solemn statement this is,
They've no time for love and kisses
Till the khaki soldier-boys come marching back.

By Jessie Pope (1868–1941)

English poet, writer and journalist best known for her poems during World War I.

ANZAC



THEY USED GUN EMPLACEMENTS

ROD FALCONER COLLECTION

District imagery from yesteryear!

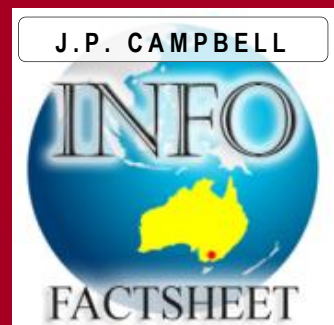


PALESTINE OASIS

This photograph is from the collection of Australian War Photographer J P Campbell, who served during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign. The collection was opened to Artworkz in 2010 by local contributor Rod Falconer.

This beautifully framed image shows two men at an oasis in Palestine. They are likely Australian Light Horse Mounted Troopers and they are likely camped there.

The Light Horse served in the Second Boer War and World War I. By the outbreak of World War I there were 23 Australian Light Horse Regiments with over 9000 part-time trained personnel ready for action.



ANZAC



THEY DEFENDED OUR SHORES

EARLY AMERICA SERIES

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



**American troops approaching Omaha Beach on Normandy Beach,
D-Day, World War II**

Omaha Beach was one of five beach landing sectors of the amphibious assault component of Operation Overlord during the Second World War.

At rest shaving after taking French town of Pozières Pozières, France, 23 July 1916



Courtesy Tony Ballino 2023



An Australian Infantry soldier taking a shave during a break in hostilities. The well-lathered man is wearing a German pickelhaube (headgear) likely souvenired from the battle field or removed from a wounded or surrendered German soldier. The helmet normally had a spike, though the spike is missing on this pickelhaube.

The Battle of Pozières took place between 23 July and 3 September and is significant as the Australian Imperial Force lost as many men in just a few weeks fighting as it did over 8 months at Gallipoli.

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

ANZAC



THEY FOUGHT IN THE SKIES

Douglas DC-3

Updated model to the C-47 that crashed at Molesworth on Thursday 9 March 1944



MOLESWORTH MILITARY C-47 PLANE



The Douglas DC-3 was first produced in 1935 with over 10,000 built by Douglas during its lifespan at their Santa Monica, California and Long Beach manufacturing plants. These comprised both military and civil versions. Some were even built in Russia under licence. Variable propulsion engines were used on the planes, though the most popular was the Pratt and Whitney Double Wasp radial engine. A DC-3 crash-landed at Molesworth during WWII. All crew and passengers survived.

SPECIFICATIONS:

CREW:	THREE (pilot, co-pilot and radio operator)
CAPACITY:	3 crew and 14 sleeper passengers, or 21 to 28 day passengers OR 3,725 to 4,500 pounds freight
WINGSPAN:	95 feet
LENGTH:	64 feet 5.5 inches
HEIGHT:	16 feet 3.6 inches
CEILING:	20,800 feet
WEIGHT:	30,000 pound
ENGINES:	Two 1,200 horsepower Wright Cyclone radial engines
MAXIMUM SPEED:	192 mph
RANGE:	1,495 miles

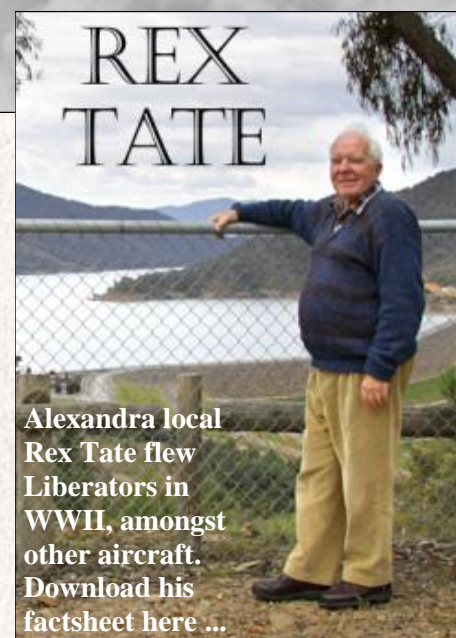


Consolidated B-24 Liberator

Flown by Australians during WWII



The B-24 Liberator heavy bomber was first introduced in 1941 by the United States manufacturer Consolidated Aircraft. Over 18,100 built prior to their retirement in 1968. They were constructed at their San Diego, California manufacturing plants. Numerous variants were also constructed and used by the US Airforce and Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force. The Liberator was used in the bombing of Japan. Nearly half of the B-24 production was performed by Ford. War veteran Rex Tate (1926–2016) flew Liberators during WWII.



SPECIFICATIONS:

CREW:	Up to 10: pilot, co-pilot, navigator, bombardier, radio/radar operator, flight engineer, 4 crew to operate waist guns, ball gun and tail turret gun
WINGSPAN:	110 feet
LENGTH:	67 feet 2 inches
HEIGHT:	18 feet
CEILING:	28,000 feet
WEIGHT:	37,033 pound (empty)
ENGINES:	Four Pratt & Whitney R-1836-65 Twin Wasp
CRUISING SPEED:	290 mph, 467 km/h
RANGE:	2,199 miles, 3,539 km



DOOKIE POPPY TREE




WE REMEMBER




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ANZAC



THEY FOUGHT ON OUR LANDS



"What are **YOU**
doing for
AUSTRALIA DAY?"
JULY 30, 1915.



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.