

ANZAC DAY

Commemorating the Centenary of the Western Front and the charge of the Light Horse during the Battle of Beersheba



The Centenary of ANZAC is a five year long period of national commemoration, from 2014 to 2018, as we mark the 100th anniversary of Australians' service and sacrifice in the First World War.

It is a time to remember and honour the service of our original ANZACs in the First World War as well as the generations of Australian servicemen and women who have defended our values and freedoms, across wars, conflicts and peace operations. Their service and sacrifice has allowed us to enjoy fortunate lives in a nation offering peace, freedom, and a fair go for all. These were the values they fought for.

The ANZACs made a substantial contribution to the Allied war effort in 1917. This year we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Third Battle of Ypres – including the Battle of Menin Road, the Battle of Polygon Wood and the Battle of Passchendaele – and the Battle of Beersheba – including the legendary charge of the 4th Light Horse Brigade. 2017 also marks the 75th anniversary of the first Battle of El Alamein and the Kokoda Track campaign. These engagements are important and meaningful components of the ANZAC tradition and proud – and tragic moments in our national history.

The Centenary of ANZAC is an opportunity for all Australians to engage with our wartime history. All Australians owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the ANZACs who fought for our freedom and our way of life. The remarkably fortunate country we live in today would not exist without the extraordinary efforts and sacrifice of generations of ANZACs.

To learn more about the Anzacs, visit anzacportal.dva.gov.au

Lest we forget

PAUL FLETCHER MP
Federal Member for Bradfield

From across Ku-ring-gai, they served our nation.

Charles Bean (1879-1968)

"For a mile the country had been flayed. The red ribs of it lay open to the sky. The whole flank of the ridge had been torn open – it lies there bleeding, gaping open to the callous skies with scarcely so much as a blade of grass or a thistle to clothe its nakedness – covered with the wreckage of men and their works as the relics of a shipwreck cover the uneasy sea."

Charles Bean

When the Australian Imperial Force went off to war in Egypt, Gallipoli and France, Charles Bean went with them as Australia's official war correspondent, often reporting from front-line trench conditions.

When Bean was wounded in action at Gallipoli he insisted upon continuing to assist with transportation of the wounded to safety – all the time under fire from Ottoman troops. On account of these actions Bean was recommended for the Military Cross – an award he was ineligible to receive as a civilian.

Bean was embedded within the Australian Imperial Force throughout its engagements on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918.

After the war, Bean was the editor of the Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918. He lived for many years in Lindfield with his wife Ethel, and was also instrumental in the establishment of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The Charles Bean Sports Field in Lindfield is named in his honour.



Cecil Arthur Callaghan (1890 – 1967)

Cecil Arthur Callaghan lived in his family home at Gordon when he enlisted in the First World War. He fought at Gallipoli, the Somme and in Ypres. For his actions, Callaghan received the Distinguished Service Order, and was appointed to the CMG and the French Legion d'honneur.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, Callaghan was returned to active service. He arrived in Singapore ahead of the Japanese invasion of Malaya in December 1941. When the Australians retreated to Singapore Island, Callaghan personally controlled the artillery supporting the defence of the northern side of the island.

In February 1942, the Allied position on Singapore had become untenable, and they surrendered to the Japanese, with Callaghan reporting personally to Japanese military authorities.

Callaghan was made a prisoner of war and was held in former British Army barracks near Changi Prison in Singapore. He was later held in camps in Formosa, Japan and lastly in Manchuria, from which he was liberated by the Russian Army in August 1945. As a prisoner of war, he endeavoured to maintain morale and discipline amongst his fellow prisoners, which resulted in him being made a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

Callaghan retired from the Australian Army in 1947 with the rank of Major General. He was active in the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmens' Imperial League of Australia and a founder of the Ku-ring-gai sub-branch. After a long illness, he died, unmarried, in January 1967 at Gordon.



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Sir Tannatt William Edgeworth David (1858-1934)

Sir Tannatt, better known as Edgeworth David, was an Australian geologist and a well-known Antarctic explorer. Prior to his ANZAC service Edgeworth David discovered the Hunter Valley coalfields and led the first expedition to reach the South Magnetic Pole.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Edgeworth David enlisted as a Major at the age of 58. He served on the Western Front and was instrumental in mining operations under German lines, conducting geological studies and preparing maps of ground conditions and water supplies.

The explosion of Messines-Wytchaete Ridge multi-mine system in June 1917 was the culmination of Edgeworth David's tunnelling work. This was the largest planned explosion in history prior to the Trinity atomic weapons test in 1945, and the detonation was heard as far away as London and Dublin.

Following the war, the David family moved to their final home, 'Coringah' in Burdett Street, Hornsby. He was enthusiastically involved in local community organisations, particularly Hornsby RSL of which he became a patron. Over his life Edgeworth David received many awards, honours and tributes, including a knighthood in September 1920 for services during the War. In recognition of his contribution to the local area, Junction Road in Hornsby was renamed Edgeworth David Avenue.



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Lest we forget



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The Birth of the Ku-ring-gai Regiment

The 18th Battalion was formed as part of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) 5th Brigade of the 2nd Division in 1915. The battalion was sent to Gallipoli in August 1915 as part of the reinforcements that arrived after the initial landings.

The 18th Battalion proceeded to France where it took part in two major battles at Pozieres in 1916, and in three major battles at Bullecourt, Menin Road and Poelcappelle in Belgium in 2017.

In 1918, the 18th Battalion was present at the last battles in which Australia fought during WW1, at Arras and Monbrehain.

The 18th Battalion, having been re-raised in 1921 as part of the Citizens Forces, assumed the title of the Ku-ring-gai Regiment in 1927.

Throughout the course of the First World War, the 18th Battalion suffered 3,513 casualties, of which 1,060 were killed. Members of the Battalion received the following decorations: one Victoria Cross, one Order of St Michael and St George, five Distinguished Service Orders, 35 Distinguished Conduct Medals, 44 Military Crosses, 158 Military Medals, seven Mentioned in Dispatches. The 18th Battalion received 20 battle honours for its war service.

The Battle of Pozieres

23 July to 3 September 1916



The Battle of Pozieres was a major engagement fought around the village of Pozieres, within the Battle of the Somme. Pozieres is significant in ANZAC history due to the immense scale of the ANZAC's sacrifice – in six weeks, the Australian forces suffered 23,000 casualties, of which more than 7,000 were fatal. There are still more than 4,000 unknown graves in Pozieres. Charles Bean wrote that Pozieres was "more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth".

Today, the village of Pozieres is the site of the Pozieres French-Australian School Project, a non-profit organisation which is establishing a French Australian school. The Ecole Charles Bean (the Charles Bean School) will serve to recognise the ANZAC's courage and sacrifice during the Battle of Pozieres. Bradfield's John McColl has been a driving force behind the project, which will continue to cement the bond of friendship between our two countries.

Following their tragic losses during the Battle of Pozieres, the officers and men of the 18th Battalion AIF erected a wooden cross in the nearby Contalmaison Cemetery in memory of their fallen. After the war, the 18th Battalion's Pozieres Cross was recovered and brought back to Australia. In April 1934 the Cross was entrusted to the rector of St John's Anglican Church in Gordon for dedication and safekeeping.

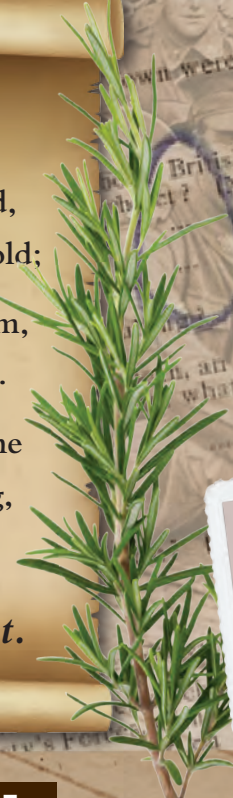
AUSTRALIANS AT THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918



Private Hubert Roydan Dack fell at the Battle of Polygon Wood on 21 September 1917. Pictured here are some of his fellow soldiers at positions captured that day.

THE ODE

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.
Lest We Forget.



Private Hubert Roydan Dack (1894 - 1917). Private Dack served in France and Belgium and fell at the Battle of Polygon Wood on 21 September 1917.



AUSTRALIANS AT WAR 1914 - 2017

First World War 1914-18 	Second World War 1939-45 	Korean War 1950-53 	Malayan Emergency 1950-60 	Vietnam War 1962-75 	Indonesian Confrontation 1963-66 	Gulf War 1990-91 	Afghanistan 2001-present 	Iraq 2003-09; 2014-present 	Peacekeeping 1947-present 
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The charge of the Light Horse at Beersheba

In the fading daylight of 31 October, 1917, the charge of the Australian Light Horse Brigade captured the town of Beersheba. The capture of Beersheba enabled British Empire forces to break the Ottoman line near Gaza on 7 November and advance into the Levant.

In addition to the strategic victory, this brought our soldiers and their horses much needed relief, in the form of access to the wells of Beersheba. Their horses were unsaddled, watered and fed and many had been without water for several days.

31 light horsemen were killed in the charge and another 36 were wounded. The bravery of these men and the horses they rode has contributed to the legend of the Light Horse Brigade.



Women in WWI – Dr Lucy Gullett

Dr Lucy Gullett attended Sydney Girls High School, and studied medicine at the University of Sydney. The Gullett family lived in Wahroonga from the mid-1900s.

Dr Gullett was keen to assist with the war effort, but there were no places for women doctors in the Australian Army Medical Corps. She became one of a small group of Australian Women who volunteered for overseas service. At her own expense, Dr Gullett travelled to Egypt, and by February 1916 Dr Gullett was reported to be with the medical forces in Egypt.

From Cairo, Dr Gullett traveled to London, arriving by May 1916 and then on to the Ulster Volunteer Hospital in Lyon, run by the French Red Cross. Dr Gullett returned home safely and spoke highly of the hospital's work and the courage of the French soldiers.



With thanks and appreciation to State Archives NSW.

Traditions & Symbols

- Rosemary**
Rosemary is worn as a symbol of remembrance on Anzac Day. It is a herb found growing wild on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Flanders Poppy is also becoming increasingly associated with Anzac Day, although it was traditionally only worn on Remembrance Day, 11 November.
- The Last Post**
The Last Post historically has been used to signify the end of the day. It is played during ceremonies to serve as a tribute to the dead.
- Reveille & Rouse**
Reveille is a bright, cheerful call that woke soldiers at dawn and called them to duty. Rouse is a shorter bugle call normally sounded alongside The Last Post at remembrance services, except the Dawn Service when Reveille is played.
- The Ode**
The Ode is the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's (1869-1943) poem, 'For the Fallen', and has been recited in ceremonies since 1919.
- A period of silence**
One or two moments of silence is held as a time for reflection and a sign of respect.

With thanks and appreciation to the Australian War Memorial.

The feeling of not knowing

Australia's contribution to the First World War was significant – with over 400,000 enlisted from a population of less than five million and a further 3000 volunteer nurses, there were very few towns and families who did not feel the loss of a loved one.

For many families, their heartbreak was sharpened by what can only be described as the fog of war – the inevitable chaos and confusion of the battlefield. That feeling of not knowing, of wondering if their son or husband was still alive, kept many a mother, father and wife awake at night.

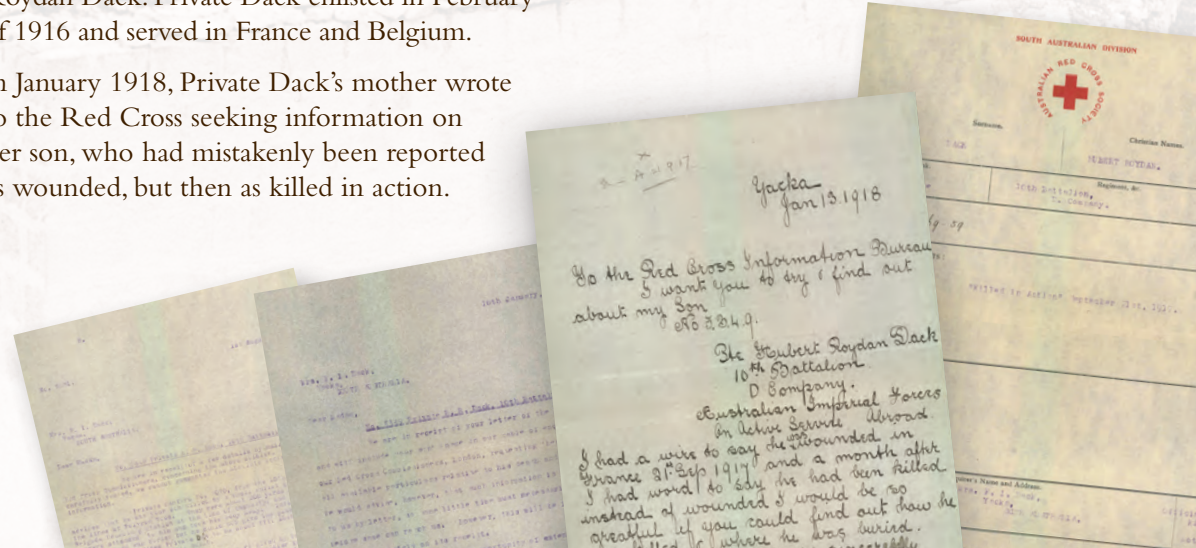
One such family were the parents of Hubert Roydan Dack. Private Dack enlisted in February of 1916 and served in France and Belgium.

In January 1918, Private Dack's mother wrote to the Red Cross seeking information on her son, who had mistakenly been reported as wounded, but then as killed in action.

Some eight months later, confirmation was finally given that Private Dack had fallen on 21 September 1917 during the Battle of Polygon Wood.

Confirmation brings closure, however tragic the truth may be. For Mr and Mrs Dack and their family, their loss was tempered by the knowledge that Hubert fought gallantly and gave his life to bring about peace.

This Anzac Day we will again honour all those men and women who have served our nation in conflict and during peacetime, but we will also pause to reflect on those families who were left behind.



Pictured here are some of the letters and correspondence between Private Dack's family and the Red Cross as they sought information on their son's fate.