

JENNIE NORBERRY

Title

Far from home: researching stories of First World War military service

Summary

Discover how to research stories of those who served with Australian forces during the First World War using the resources and collections of the Australian War Memorial. From databases to digitised archival documents, photographs, film and sound there are a wealth of resources available for discovering the story of your ancestor's military service.

Abstract

The Australian War Memorial's collections have their origins in the First World War with the establishment of the Australian War Records section. The section's task was to collect and organise the documentary record of the Australian forces, so that it could be preserved for Australia, and they set about acquiring objects, paper records, photographs, film, publications, and works of art to document the Australian experience of war. From these origins the Memorial's collections have continued to grow to encompass the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society.

For the centenary of the First World War the Memorial's *Anzac connections* project is digitising historic documents from the Memorial's collections. This project will make a broad selection of records written by officers and soldiers from the First World War available through the Memorial's website. The project will also incorporate community engagement tools to enable tagging, commenting and transcription of the collections. The addition of this contextual data will facilitate the discoverability of information within the records.

Discover how the Memorial's collections and *Anzac connections* can be used to locate relatives who served with Australian forces during the First World War and to develop a narrative of their service.

Audience

All levels