



Challenge.

# Teacher notes

## Commemorative Area

The Roll of Honour records the names of over 102,000 Australian servicemen and women who have died in war. The names are listed alphabetically, in the units in which they served. No rank or awards or other details are shown, underlining the equality of their sacrifice. Poppies, which grew in the battlefields of the Western Front during the First World War, are placed alongside names as a sign of remembrance.

The Hall of Memory is lined with mosaics and stained glass windows which show the special qualities of Australians in both World Wars. Every design element has a symbolic meaning. For example, in the Candour window there is a flower in bloom, symbolising openness, in Ancestry the cricket stumps and ball denote traditional recreation; and in Control a ratchet wheel, calipers and measure square are symbols of control and precision. On 11 November 1993 an unknown Australian soldier from the First World War was brought from a cemetery in France and interred in the Hall of Memory. He symbolizes all Australians who have died in war. The four pillars symbolise the four elements of life: earth, fire, air and water. You can

obtain detailed information about the Hall of Memory on the Memorial's online encyclopedia.

In the courtyard of the Commemorative Area is the Pool of Reflection, crowned by the Eternal Flame. The names displayed around the courtyard record the theatres of war in which Australian forces have fought.

### Post-visit activity:

- Do some research on the Memorial's Roll of Honour database. You could look up a family member or member of your local community (e.g., a name on your local war memorial).
- Design your own mosaic or stained glass window to commemorate Australians who died in war.
- Find out more: Look up "Hall of Memory" in the Encyclopedia on our website: <http://www.awm.gov.au>

## Gallipoli boat

This is one of the lifeboats that carried Australian soldiers ashore at ANZAC Cove on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. The boat holds about 30 men. During the initial landings, they were towed ashore by small steamers from the Royal Navy warships supporting the landings; sailors went with each boat to row it back to its parent ship. It is estimated that over 2,000 men were killed or wounded during the first five days of the landing. These boats were also used to evacuate casualties and land supplies. The lifeboat bears the scars of battle with real bullet holes on both sides. This boat was left on the beach after being damaged during the eight month-long campaign on Gallipoli but was recovered by Dr C.E.W. Bean, the founder of the Memorial, during a return trip in 1919.

### Post-visit activity:

- Discuss: Why do you think this object is on display in the Memorial?

1



### Commemorative Area

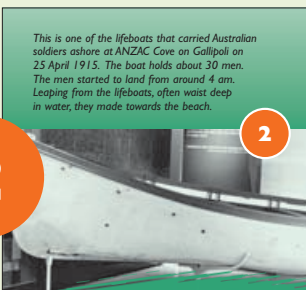
*The Commemorative Area is the heart of the Memorial. It is a quiet place for contemplation of the efforts of ordinary Australians in war and for the remembrance of those who suffered and died.*

**Find Martin, J. (the second of two J. Martins) on panel 94 of the First World War Roll.** This is Jimmy Martin, Australia's youngest Italian soldier, who died of disease in a hospital ship off Gallipoli at the age of 14 years and 9 months. Why do you think he persuaded his parents to sign permission for him to enlist and serve overseas? (The minimum age was 21 years.)

You can find out more about him on our website.

**Visit the Hall of Memory.** How is it similar to a church or a temple?

2



### Gallipoli boat

**Your battalion has been selected to participate in the first landing.** In addition to your pack, rations and gun you are permitted to take three small personal items. What would you choose to take?

**Imagine you've just landed at ANZAC Cove under Turkish fire.** What is the first thing you are going to do?

**If you have time:** visit the floor and table maps in the Gallipoli Gallery to see where the ANZACs landed.

3



## 3 Man in the Mud

Australian troops served on the Western Front (in France and Belgium) from 1916 until 1918.

Look carefully at this display - at the man himself and the background photograph. How do you think this soldier feels?

The four chevrons (stripes) on his right sleeve mean that he has been in the army for four years. Think of three things you would find hard to cope with if you were in his situation.

4



## 4 Waler

This horse, a "waler", was able to survive without water for up to three days.

Look around this gallery and decide why this was important.

The soldier and his horse were a fighting unit, and they carried everything they needed for fighting and living. What items are the Light Horseman and his horse carrying? Look for the container holding a spare set of horse shoes.

5



## 5 Bomber Command

Bomber Command was responsible for the heavy bombing of Germany and occupied Europe. This costly operation claimed the lives of thousands of its own crew and inflicted enormous suffering on the German people.

Visit the Bomber Command experience and then look at the rear gunner's turret.

Given that this was such a dangerous job, why do you think so many men wanted to enlist in the Air Force and were willing to fly in bombers over Europe?

The rear gunner's position was the most dangerous in the Lancaster bomber. Why?

If you have time: Go out to Anzac Hall and see the restored Lancaster bomber "G for George".

# The Man in the Mud

The killing power of machine guns ended the mobile fighting of the war's opening months. The German, French and British armies in France and Belgium sought protection by digging trenches. By November 1914 they faced each other in a continuous line of trenches running from the North Sea to the Swiss border. New and terrible weapons came into use: gas (which blinded, choked or burned its victims), improved machine guns, heavy artillery using high explosive and shrapnel shells, tanks and aircraft.

Despite the power of defensive weapons like machine guns and artillery, the British and French launched offensives to break the stalemate in the trenches. There were immense casualties for minor advances. Australian infantry were introduced to this type of combat at Fromelles on the Somme, in July 1916, where they suffered 5,533 casualties in 24 hours. By the end of the year 42,270 Australians had been killed or wounded on the Western Front. In 1917 a

further 76,836 Australians became casualties in battles such as those at Bullecourt, Messines and the four-month long campaign around Ypres, known as the battle of Passchendaele.

### Post-visit activity:

- What can you learn about the nature of warfare at that time from this sculpture/diorama?
- The man in the mud is wearing a brassard with the letters SB on it, indicating that he was a stretcher bearer. What might have been some of the difficulties faced by a stretcher bearer, and by medical services during the war on the Western Front?

# The Waler and the Camel

The "waler" was a special horse from New South Wales, which could survive without water for up to three days. The soldier and his horse were a fighting unit, and they carried everything they needed for fighting and living with them. They were very strong - they had to be, because they would have to carry between 113 and 118 kilograms! Australia sent 120,000 horses to the First World War. Sadly, none of them came back except one. Sandy, Major General Bridges' horse, was brought back to Australia to take part in his funeral procession after Bridges was killed at Gallipoli. Many of the Light Horsemen thought of this event, having to leave their horses behind, as one of the hardest things they had to do during the war. Many shot their horses, or asked their mates to do it for them, rather than leave the horses to the locals. The light horsemen and their mounts had to survive extreme heat, harsh terrain and water shortages. Nevertheless, casualties were comparatively light, with 1,394 Australians killed or wounded in three years of war.

### Post-visit activity:

- Post-visit activity: Can you think of any reasons why camels would be better suited to the desert than horses? Which would you rather have used - the horse or the camel? Why?

[Camels can go without water for longer than horses. Their feet are also much better in soft sand than horses' hooves, which tend to sink in. However, the horses' hooves were better able to deal with stony terrain. Camels also have better defences against sand storms - long eyelashes and nostrils that can close off from the sand.]

# Bomber Command

Lancaster bombers were crewed by seven men: pilot, engineer, bomb-aimer, navigator, radio operator, mid upper gunner and rear gunner. The crews were a mix of British, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans and Canadians. The plane was not pressurised, so each man had to breathe oxygen through his face mask for the whole trip. The high altitude made the trip of 5 to 10 hours very uncomfortable because of the cold, despite heating in the forward compartment and heated flying suits for the rear gunner. Airmen had to cope with primitive equipment, rough weather and powerful German defences: searchlights, anti-aircraft gunners and nightfighters. Flying Lancaster bombers was one of the most dangerous tasks during the Second World War. Approximately one third of the men flying in them became casualties. Their chance of survival if they flew more than 20 missions was slim.

Bomber Command inflicted untold suffering on Germany and its people that remains shocking to this day and has many parallels to the atomic bombing of Japan. Early in the bombing campaign,

the objective was to knock out German airpower and industry. However its mandate was soon extended to German cities and civilians. The attack on the German city of Dresden in February 1945, killing 50,000 civilians (including many refugees fleeing from Soviet attack) was particularly appalling and provoked some Allied commanders to question the operation.

### Post-visit activity:

- Find out more about the Lancaster bomber, "G for George", by looking up the encyclopedia on the Memorial website <http://www.awm.gov.au>

### If you have time:

Go to Anzac Hall and see the restored Lancaster bomber "G for George".

