

Researching Your Serviceman or Servicewoman

ANZAC Spirit School Prize

VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL:

<https://vwma.org.au>

Your first step is obviously to check the VWMA to see what information has already been found.

Then, the next step is to search for their service records:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>

Use their Service Number to get very specific results (this is on their VWMA page). You might not be able to view their records digitally, and sometimes you'll need to pay to access them. Some are available to view for free on Discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au or Vrroom.naa.gov.au

If you're studying a family member, try to find photos or diary entries.

If your serviceperson is a local, you can try contacting the Town's archivist, Steve Kettle, in a very polite email: mtcompassarchives@gmail.com. Before you send an email, please get your teacher to check it.

Other links to try:

- Vrroom.naa.gov.au
- Discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au
- AIF Project of the Australian Defence Force Academy:
<https://aif.adfa.edu.au/aif/>
- <https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people>
- <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people>
- Search for their name in the newspapers of the time. If you're lucky you might find an article about them!
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>
- <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/army-wwi.aspx>
- <http://rslsa.org.au/>
- <http://anzaccentenary.sa.gov.au/about/veterans-sa/>
- <https://www.cwgc.org/>
- <http://www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-and-war-graves/education>
- War Medal Identification:
https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/2344237/WHR_MedalID_ResearchInfo.pdf also
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Australian_campaign_medals
- British medals WWI:
<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/medals/ww1-campaign-medals.htm>



Make sure you save the addresses and information for every source you use.

For this assignment, you will have to do correct referencing and be very careful of plagiarism.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

Before Enlisting

Describe their background before enlisting. Some things to consider might include;

- Where did they live?
- How old were they?
- What was their level of education?
- What was their occupation?
- What was their family background?
- Where did they go to school?
- Can you find any photos of the person before they joined up?

Their Service

Research and describe aspects of their service. Use the following questions to help guide your research;

- When and where did they enlist?
- Where did they train?
- Which regiment/s did they serve in? (try to be as specific as possible)
- What battles did they fight in?
- What was their role in the service (e.g. infantry, medic, nurse, cook)?
- What was life like on the battlefield for this soldier?
- How might they have felt on leaving for their service?
- Did they receive any medals or commendations?
- Did the person write a diary? Can you use any of their diary entries to support your research?
- Can you find any images or documents that support your research on this person? Can you include copies or images of these documents?

The Battlefield

Conduct some research on the context of the battlefield that they fought on. Use the following dot points to help guide your research and use notes to record your finding (a note taking scaffold may be useful at this point).

Remember to keep track of your sources and record them with your notes as you go!

- Where is the battlefield located geographically?
- Which forces were engaged in the battles here?
- How many soldiers were engaged in combat?
- What were the conditions of the battlefield (weather, defensive positions, attacking strategies)?
- What major battles were fought here?
- How did this battlefield come to be formed?
- What was the strategic importance of this battlefield (i.e. what was each side trying to achieve)?
- Can you find any pictures, diagrams or maps that may support your understanding of the battlefield (e.g. maps of the trenches, pictures of battle or towns, photos of the types of weapons used or conditions that soldiers experienced)?