

VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL – USING NEWSPAPERS



Page from Jessie Bonnet's scrapbook with obituaries of local soldiers, probably from local Warrnambool newspapers. (Image: Richard Reid, available online from The Anzac Portal: <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/history/special-features/great-war-memories/jessie-bonnetts-scrapbook-19141918>)

Seventeen year old Jessie Bonnett was living on her parent's property at Mepunga near Warrnambool in Victoria when World War 1 broke out. During the war, Jessie collected newspaper cuttings about the war experiences of servicemen and women from the Warrnambool district, and occasional articles about local efforts to raise money in support of those away at the war. She also collected the obituaries that appeared in local newspapers when service personnel died. Eventually, Jessie began sticking her pile of neatly trimmed newspaper cuttings into an exercise book. Unfortunately, she didn't date any of them or reference the cuttings to particular newspapers so we have no way of knowing which clipping came from which paper. Nevertheless, Jessie's scrapbook clearly shows that newspapers were reporting about the experiences of Australians at the battle front and also commenting on their deaths and injuries.

Newspapers provide us with an important source of information about the home front during wartime and also give us a glimpse at what information people in Australia were being given about conditions on the battle front. When World War 1 broke out in 1914, nearly every adult in Australia read or at least saw a newspaper every day, noting the headlines if not reading the whole paper. Religious groups and other organisations also published newspapers. Some soldiers even produced papers at the battle front.

The National Library holds the largest collection of Australian and overseas newspapers in Australia in both print and digital formats. You can access many of them via TROVE.

For more information, go to: <https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/first-world-war/newspapers-and-magazines>

(You can read more about Jessie's scrapbook via the link to the Anzac Portal, copied below the image.)

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You can search from the home page of TROVE: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Or go directly to TROVE newspapers: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

From here, you can browse articles by title, place, date, category, or tag.

Why not focus on your local town or suburb, or look for the place where your service person was born?

For example, browsing newspaper titles under **B** you will find the *Burra Record* and the (Gawler) *Bunyip*, both published in South Australia, as well as other papers from other states:

Browse by (4)	Titles A-Z (25)	Titles B (108)
Place	B	Bunyip (Gawler, SA : 1863 - 1954)
Title	C	Bunyip Free Press and Berwick Shire Guardian (Vic. : 1914 - 1915)
Date	D	Burra Record (SA : 1878 - 1954)
Category	E	The Burrangong Argus (NSW : 1864 - 1913)
	F	The Burrangong Chronicle and Young and Lachlan District Advertiser (NSW : 1901)
	G	
	H	

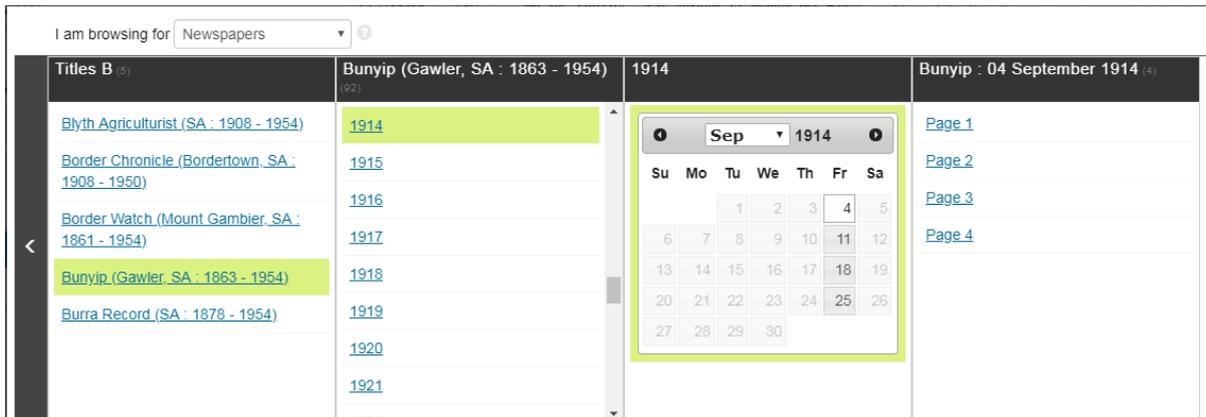
Alternatively, by browsing under place, you can focus on South Australia and see all newspapers published in SA, listed in alphabetical order.

For example, searching under South Australia, you can browse all papers beginning with **B** and locate the following:

Place (10)	South Australia Titles (23)	Titles B (5)
ACT	B	Blyth Agriculturist (SA : 1908 - 1954)
New South Wales	C	Border Chronicle (Bordertown, SA : 1908 - 1950)
Northern Territory	D	Border Watch (Mount Gambier, SA : 1861 - 1954)
Queensland	E	Bunyip (Gawler, SA : 1863 - 1954)
South Australia	F	Burra Record (SA : 1878 - 1954)
Tasmania	G	
Victoria	H	
Western Australia	I	
International		

If you click in a particular newspaper, you can then search that paper by date and page number. Don't forget, not all newspapers were published daily – many were published weekly or monthly. For this reason, there may not be a paper published on the date you select. You can view the scanned newspaper, page by page.

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If you choose Friday 4 September, for example, and click on page 1, you will see the digitised version of the page. From here you can zoom in to read particular articles:



Via TROVE, you can also search *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933-1982), which may be a useful source of information about the home front during World War 2.

Don't forget Government Gazettes, diaries, letters, pictures, maps, charts, interviews and objects – they can also be a useful source of information and many are available via TROVE. Many soldiers were still being demobbed in 1919, so articles about returned soldiers can still be found in papers after Armistice. And 'in memoriam' notices can be found in papers the year after a soldier died, usually on the anniversary of their death.

TROVE also provides access to digitised versions of newspapers and bulletins produced by soldiers themselves. For example, *The Anzac Book*, written and illustrated in Gallipoli by the men of Anzac and published in 1916 can be found here: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-19061379/view?searchTerm=AIF+soldier+newspaper&partId=nla.obj-19062044#page/n1/mode/1up>

Can you answer these questions about the newspaper you have found?

1. Where is the newspaper or magazine published?
2. Does the publication have a motto, or logo? What, if anything, can you infer from the motto or logo about the publication's point-of-view, intended audience or mission?
3. Does the publication maintain a clear separation of the news and editorial pages, or are news, advertisements and opinions mixed throughout the publication?

Can you answer these questions about the article you have found?

1. Does the article have a headline or a title?
2. Does the article have a named author?
3. Does the article have a dateline? When was it published?
4. What kind of article is this? (e.g. national news article, state news article, local news (town or regional news), investigative article, feature article, fiction, poetry, editorial, letter to the editor?)
5. What news, if any, is being reported here? Can you separate out the factual information from the opinions expressed? Factual information is information capable of being verified. [What other kinds of historical records might you consult to verify or check the factual information presented in the article?]
6. What opinion, if any, is being reported here? Distinguish between the author's opinions, and opinions that are being reported as news (for example, expert opinion is sometimes presented as news - where the author quotes an expert in the article or refers to the work of an expert in the article).
7. Can you identify any recognisable point-of-view?
8. Who do you think is the intended audience for this article?
9. What are the other features of the article? Is it illustrated with a sketch, map or photograph?
10. What is the length of the article?
11. Can you determine the article's purpose? (e.g. to entertain, to enlighten, to inform, to persuade, to mislead or deceive?)
12. What language features are used in the article that help the author to achieve the purpose?
13. Does the article appear in a special section of the newspaper? (e.g. national news, local news, sports, opinion, entertainment.)
14. Where on the page does the article appear? What other articles are around it?
15. How many other articles are on this page?
16. How does it compare to other articles on the page? Is it longer or shorter? Is its headline typographically larger or smaller? Is the article prominently positioned on the page, or just one in a series of articles?
17. Is the article's content similar to other articles on the page, or markedly different?
18. Are there any advertisements on the page? What kind of advertisements? Who are they aimed at? Is this the same audience as the readers of your article?

(Questions are based on the 'Newspapers and magazines as primary sources' resources, located online at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: <http://guides.library.illinois.edu/c.php?g=593567&p=4105853>)