

## The National Archives of Australia

The National Archives of Australia (NAA) is an Australian Government agency that collects, preserves and provides access to important Australian Government records. It describes itself as 'the memory of the nation'.

In order to complete your service person's profile or biography, you may need to access and use documents from the NAA.

You may be able to access documents such as your service person's complete 'service record'. Not sure what that is?

Begin by watching this video about service records: <https://youtu.be/MWKb95F5q0g>

You can also use the NAA to access: attestation papers, applications to enlist, service cards, repatriation records, and registers of swearing in (navy records). The NAA also holds photographs of the internees held in 'enemy alien' camps in Australia and dossiers relating to people who worked in munition factories.

Was your service person a nurse? Watch this video to find out more about nurses who served in World War One: <https://youtu.be/zR0rJzXTf30>

Perhaps you are researching a person from an Indigenous background who served in World War One? This video may be helpful: <https://youtu.be/JNgyZiF7Vbc>

What happened to your service person after the First World War was over? Watch this video to see if you can use repatriation records to locate more information about their life after they returned to Australia: <https://youtu.be/bf37uquCztE>

What was the impact of caring for a returned serviceman who had been badly wounded or affected by what we now call PTSD (then called shell-shock, or nerves)? Watch this video to find out how families were affected by the struggles of returned service personnel: <https://youtu.be/yBdcNdeyreU>

Take a look at some of the profiles created by using NAA resources and files: <https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person>

Eric Norman Webb first appears in Commonwealth records as a member of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911–13 as 'chief magnetician'. Read Eric Norman Webb's profile here: <https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/354450>

Doris Green was one of the first four nurses to leave Australia to serve with the Australian Imperial Force in World War I. You can read about her here: <https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/902380>



In addition to writing a biography for the VWMA site, you could use the records and resources from the National Archives to design and curate your own exhibition.

See the resources provided here: <https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/learn/create-your-own-exhibition/>

Your exhibition could be displayed at your school, in a public space such as a community centre, shopping centre or RSL sub-branch hall, or it could be a virtual exhibition that exists online. You can even share it online via the Virtual War Memorial school blog site that has been allocated to your school. Tell us about it via our Virtual War Memorial Schools Facebook page and upload images, too.

Perhaps an exhibition is too ambitious? Why not use the NAA resources to produce a poster for public display in your local community on Remembrance Day or Anzac Day?

In 2017, the National Archives of Australia held a Remembrance Day poster competition for both primary and secondary school students. You can see the winning entries here: <https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/learn/school-entries/>

How else could you use the resources that you locate?

Why not work with your class to produce a series of digital histories using MovieMaker, PowerPoint, PhotoStory, or a suitable app? You could include primary sources such as historical cartoons, newspaper reports, paintings, photos, music, and newspaper reports, in addition to the information available on the NAA site.

Monash University used records from the National Archives to produce the 'World War One: a history in 100 Stories' series of digital histories, which were designed to capture community memories of the First World War. *"The One Hundred Stories are stories that have not been told before. They highlight the experiences of women as well as men, recover the too often forgotten contribution of Indigenous Australians, and emphasise the ongoing cost of war to the community as a whole. The One Hundred Stories remember not just the men and women who lost their lives, but also those who returned to Australia, the gassed, the crippled, the insane, all those irreparably damaged by war."*

You can view the stories here: <http://future.arts.monash.edu/onehundredstories/>

**Watch these videos from the Monash collection:**

Bernard Haines: <http://future.arts.monash.edu/onehundredstories/the-boy-soldier/>

George Irwin: <http://future.arts.monash.edu/onehundredstories/all-that-is-left-of-him/>

Mary Chomley: <http://future.arts.monash.edu/onehundredstories/a-labour-of-love/>

Narelle Hobbs: <http://future.arts.monash.edu/onehundredstories/almost-within-sight-of-australia/>