

AFTER ARMISTICE:

THE LONG AND SHORT-TERM EFFECTS OF WORLD WAR I

Two returned servicemen who were blinded during the First World War c 1916. Identified right is 1627 Private Thomas Charles Smith, 3rd Battalion.

Australian War Memorial, P03362.002



Wounded Soldiers at the 4th London General Hospital 1918

Australian War Memorial, H08081

Members of the Australian Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) wearing protective clothing during the influenza pandemic c 1919.

Australian War Memorial, P01102.007.004



Returned soldier trainees at work in the laboratory at Dookie Agricultural College 1920.

Australian War Memorial, H12904



MAPW

health professionals promoting peace

HTAV

HISTORY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

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THE COST OF WAR



▲ A soldier searches the body of a dead comrade for his identity disk. The painting was created by Frank Crozier who served in Gallipoli and France before becoming an Official War Artist in 1918.

Australian War Memorial, ART00221

THE Great War, now known as World War I, began in 1914, when war was declared between 'the Central Powers' (Austria-Hungary, Germany and Turkey) and 'the Allies' (France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy and Japan). Great Britain joined the war on 4 August after Germany invaded Belgium. The United States joined the allies in 1917.

It was a conflict that would rage for four years resulting in the deaths of approximately nine million military personnel and an even greater number of civilians. There was also enormous environmental damage and extreme long-term social and economic impacts. As part of the British Commonwealth, Australia's involvement in the war was intrinsically linked to

Britain's. The recruiting process began in 1914 and Australian soldiers and military personnel were deployed to theatres of war across the world including Gallipoli in Turkey, the Western Front in Europe and the Middle East. The conflict divided Europe and it wasn't until 1918 that peace and order began to be restored.

In the early months of the war, there were several instances of truces and international cooperation between the Allies and the German troops during which

fighting ceased temporarily. These periods were used to allow each side to collect and bury their dead. During summer, it was necessary to bury the dead quickly in order to avoid the spread of disease. One of the last and most famous examples of ceasefire was the unofficial Christmas Truce of 1914 where small groups of soldiers from each side on the Western Front left their trenches to share songs, food and cigarettes with their opponents. These accounts from World War I showed that, even though soldiers and civilians on both sides were encouraged to hate the



▲ An artist's impression from The Illustrated London News of 9 January 1915: 'British and German Soldiers Arm-in-Arm Exchanging Headgear: A Christmas Truce between Opposing Trenches'

enemy, there were times when shared humanity and cooperation were evident on the front lines of warfare. However, after 1914 these truces were banned by military authorities with harsh punishments for anybody initiating them.

► Gunner J.R. Armitage kept a diary of his wartime experiences. He wrote of coming across a wounded German during the Battle of Amiens on 7 August 1918.

In the bright moonlight, I could see his face. I nearly shot him but, as he seemed to be making very painful progress and I was staring down at me as he crawled towards me, I finally went towards him. He let out a croak and I called "Not shoot, not kill me". When I ventured closer, I found a badly wounded German. He had a leg almost blown off and a bad wound in the side. I got help and we dressed his side but could not do anything about his leg. At first, he was certain he was going to be shot. We managed to reassure him... he had been wounded in our advance and had lain in a thicket all night afraid to come out until pain forced him to. The dope we gave him eased his pain a bit and among other things he gratefully forced on me was a 2nd class order of Iron Cross.



◀ This 1918 propaganda poster was painted by renowned Australian artist Norman Lindsay who also wrote the children's classic *The Magic Pudding*. It shows a German soldier, identifiable by his spiked helmet, looming over Europe with bloodied hands, with blood dripping down onto the continent of Australia. This was the type of image that civilians on the Australian home front were exposed to, promoting the idea that Germans were monsters.

Australian War Memorial, ARTV00078

► These statistics incorporate injuries and fatalities suffered during the official period of the war, however soldiers continued to die from the ongoing effects of war long after 1918.

Australian War Memorial, 'The First World War 1914-1918'

WORLD WAR I STATISTICS 1914-1918

Number of Australian soldiers and military personnel wounded, gassed or taken prisoner, approximately 156,000

Number of Australian soldiers and military personnel killed, approximately 62,000

INQUIRY TASK:

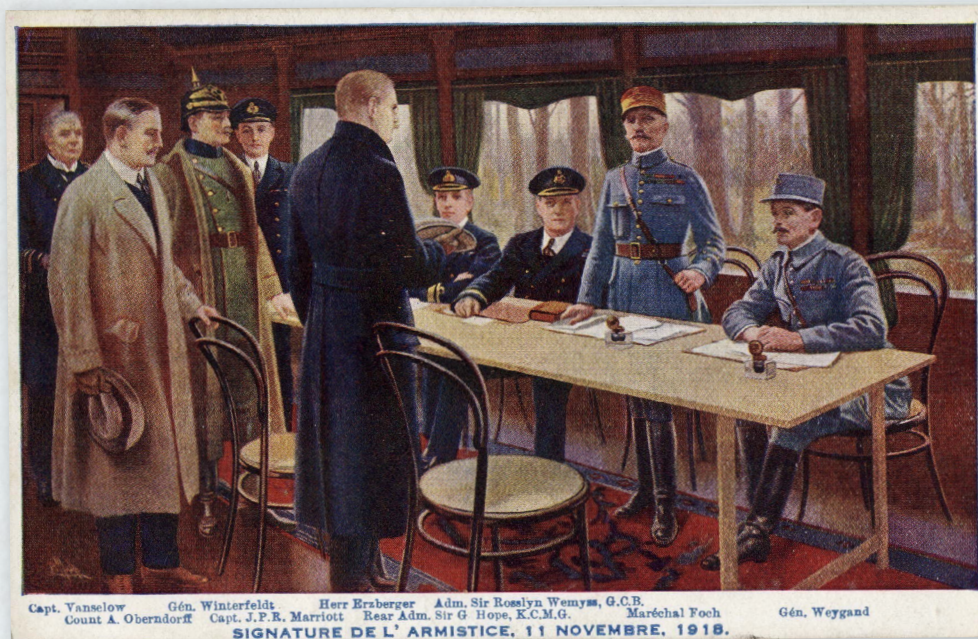
This badge was given to men who had attempted to enlist in World War I but were declared unfit for service on medical grounds.

1. What was the purpose of issuing the badge?
2. What were some of the pre-existing health conditions that prohibited men from signing up?
3. Use the online Australian War Memorial collection to find another type of badge associated with injured soldiers or military personnel. What purpose did it serve?



Australian War Memorial, REL/09156

EVENTUALLY ARMISTICE



▲ A painting depicting the signing of the armistice agreement.

Alamy Stock images

Armistice

The word 'armistice' means an agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting for a certain time, often to discuss terms for peace.

In 1918 Germany suffered several military defeats and other drains on their resources including The Sailors' Revolt, a revolution in early November 1918 where sailors serving in the German High Seas Fleet rebelled when the admiralty commanded them to launch a final attack on the British navy. These factors led to

the proclamation of a German Republic and the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II. By November it became apparent that Germany no longer had the means to continue fighting.

The armistice agreement to end World War I was negotiated over several days and signed in the Forest of Compiègne, France at 5.00 a.m. on 11 November 1918. The agreement stated that fighting should stop six hours after it was signed and so the war ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Those present at the signing of the armistice agreement included Marshal Foch, Commander in Chief of the allied armies, and Admiral Wemyss who was the First Sea Lord or commander of the British fleet. The German party consisted of Herr Erzberger, Secretary of State for the new government in Germany, Count von Oberndorff, Major General von Winterfeldt and Captain Vanselow. All were acting on behalf of the German Supreme Command and the new revolutionary government.

The document drafted by Marshal Foch on behalf of the allies contained 34 clauses, the most significant being:

► A section of the Armistice Agreement.

I. Cessation of hostilities by land and in the air six hours after the signing of the armistice.

II. Immediate evacuation of the invaded countries—Belgium, France, Luxemburg, as well as Alsace-Lorraine—so ordered as to be completed within 15 days from the signature of the armistice.

III. Repatriation, beginning at once, to be completed within 15 days, of all inhabitants of the countries above enumerated (including hostages, persons under trial, or condemned).

IV. Surrender in good condition by the German armies of the following equipment: 5,000 guns (2,500 heavy, 2,500 field), 25,000 machine guns, 3,000 trench mortars, 1,700 aeroplanes (fighters, bombers—firstly all D. 7's and night-bombing machines).



▲ A badge proclaiming the signing of the armistice agreement. The flags encircling the face represent the Allies who fought in World War I.

Australian War Memorial, REL39115

Clause VI includes the stipulation that ‘no person shall be prosecuted for having taken part in any military measures previous to the signing of the armistice’. This acknowledged that soldiers were acting at the behest of their government and should not be classified as war criminals after peace was declared.

The Germans expected the armistice to be an agreement to stop fighting rather than a surrender. However, references to future reparations (monetary compensation for the damage caused by war) were included in several of the clauses, foreshadowing what the Allies would seek from the formal peace treaty still to come. The severe and immediate conditions of the armistice document took the German signatories by surprise and they believed it would have a terrible effect on the German people. This is reflected in the declaration by the German delegates at the conclusion of the document where they state that:

The undersigned plenipotentiaries further regard it as their duty with reference to their repeated oral and written declaration once more to point out with all possible emphasis that the carrying out of this agreement must throw the German people into anarchy and famine. According to the declarations which preceded the armistice, conditions were to be expected which, while completely insuring the military situation of our opponents, would have ended the sufferings of women and children who took no part in the war.

The German people, which has held its own for 50 months against a world of enemies, will, in spite of any force that may be brought to bear upon it, preserve its freedom and unity.

A people of 70,000,000 suffers but does not die.



▲ A car containing German officers, sent to reveal the whereabouts of their troops, passes through the British lines with the white flag waving, November 1918.

The Treaty of Versailles

While the signing of the armistice agreement called an end to the fighting in World War I, it had an expiry date of only thirty-six days and further negotiations were required to secure world peace. In 1919 allied leaders met again in France to compose The Treaty of Versailles, a document designed to demilitarise Germany and ensure that it no longer had the resources to wage war. Key points included the return of conquered territory and de-armament. An overarching objective was to ensure that Germany accepted responsibility for World War I and paid reparations—

money to cover some of the costs associated with war.

Although seven months had elapsed between the signing of the armistice agreement and the drafting of the Treaty of Versailles, composing the treaty in the direct aftermath of war influenced the severity of the penalties placed on Germany. Historians such as John Keynes theorised that the severity of the conditions placed on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles built up a resentment that led to World War II.

INQUIRY TASK:

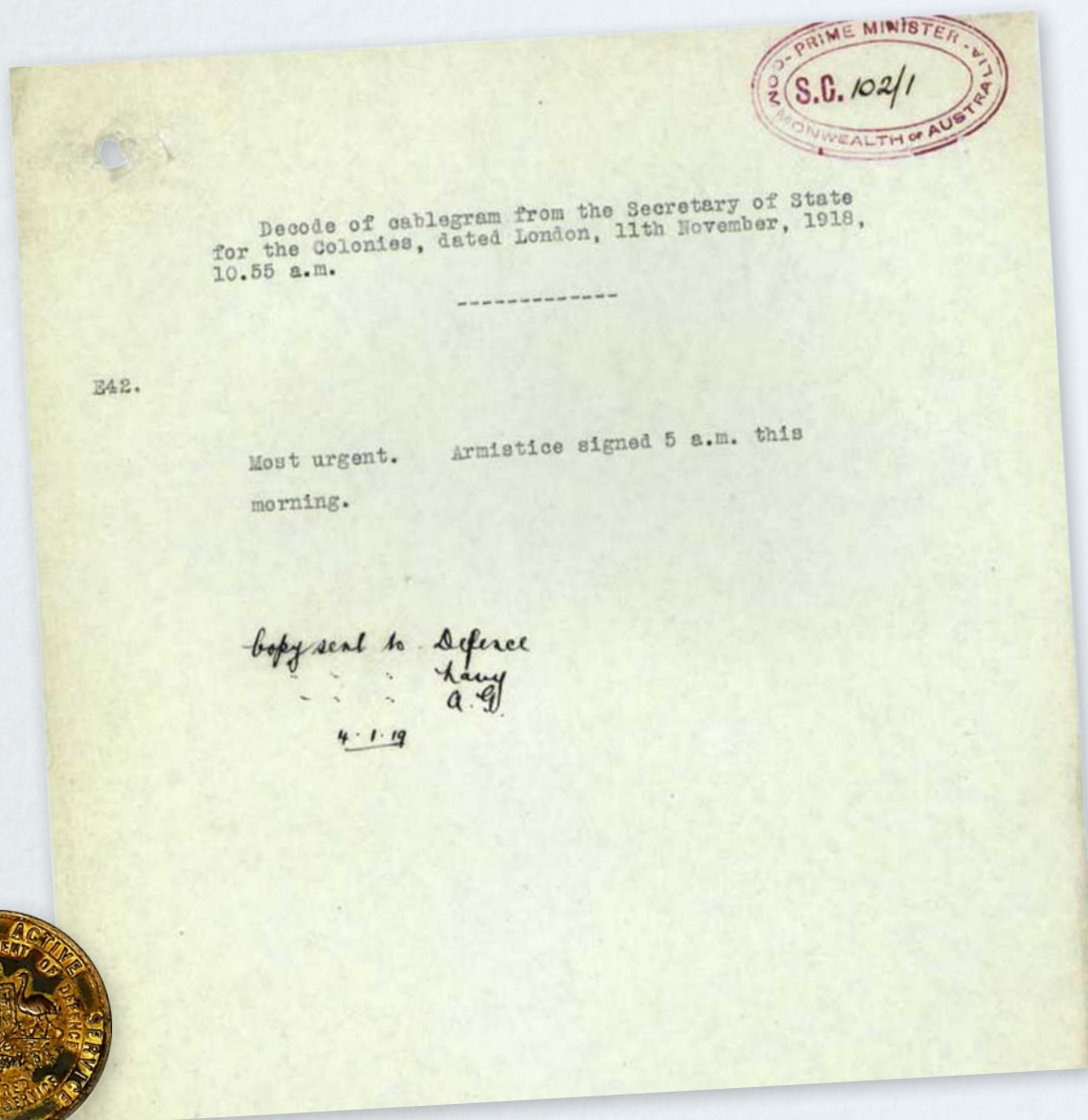
Conduct further research into the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles. Identify five conditions that you think could have contributed to Germany's resentment. Explain how these restrictions many have motivated Germany's actions in the 1930s.

AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO ARMISTICE

▼ Cablegram notifying the Prime Minister's Department of the signing of the Armistice, 11 November 1918.

National Archives of Australia,
A981, TRE 66

THE news of the armistice agreement was received by the Australian Prime Minister's department by cablegram and announced to the public via radio and newspaper. The cessation of fighting was welcomed by Australians on active duty and on the home front. Soldiers currently in military training were quickly demobilised and plans were put into place to begin repatriating men and women serving overseas.



▲ This demobilised soldier's badge signified that the individual was engaged in military training as peace was declared.

Victorian Collections, 0564

On the Battlefield

Soldiers' reaction to the news ranged from jubilation to a sense of emptiness and uncertainty. Many had been living for years on fear and adrenalin. The armistice signalled a return to normality and the prospect of returning home. Although peace had been declared, the activities of those on active duty had not ended. Many regiments used the end of the conflict to bury their dead, others were assigned to enforcing the conditions of the armistice agreement.

► Ruby Ord, Women's Army
Auxiliary Corps Member,
France
Imperial War Museum

I think it was a bit of an anti-climax. Suddenly you thought about, you see, all the people you had known who were killed, etc. They were just in the war zone, and they could come home in your imagination. But the armistice brought the realisation to you that they weren't coming back, that it was the end. I think that it was not such a time of rejoicing as it might have been. You were glad the fighting was over and that not more men would be killed. But I do think it was dampened down very much, in France. I think they had all the enthusiasm probably in England, but I think we were too near reality to feel that way. I didn't, certainly. I did not go out of camp on Armistice Day.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01102.001.004

▲ Crowds in St Martin's Place, Sydney celebrate the signing of the armistice agreement.
Australian War Memorial,
P01102.001.004

► The Evening News, Saturday
9 November 1918, page 6

On the Home Front

While celebrations swept both the battlefield and home front, the close of the war allowed Australians the space to reflect on the carnage and loss of life suffered over the past four years. Responses to these destructive forces were reflected in the art, literature and public opinion of a nation given time to grieve. The poem below by J.D.B. appeared in Sydney's Evening News.

ARMISTICE!

—
War's red flame flickers and dies down; the roar
Of guns insatiate declines; the soil
Torn by the shattered steel and battle moil
Lies bleeding; and the air that erstwhile bore
The tremors of tremendous bloody war
Still palpitates from ruin's stern re-coil;
And now the wreck of war's grim spoil,
The happy skylarks, startled, sing and soar.
But think you at what dear price this was bought,
The peace that speaks to every faithful heart; —
The shattered lives that to the infinite
Were aped by foul and envious thought
Of those who must for ever stand apart
In Limbo's gloom, removed from Honor's light.

—J. D. B.

INQUIRY TASK:

1. Write 200 words in response to the poem titled 'Armistice!' by J.D.B. What were the author's feelings about World War I? Identify at least five words used in the poem that helped express this sentiment.
2. Use Trove's digitised newspaper collection (National Library of Australia) to find another poem about the armistice written at least twenty years after the signing of the armistice agreement in 1918. Are the sentiments expressed in this poem similar or different to the one by J.D.B.? Write another 200 words to share your reasoning.

COMING HOME



▲ The hospital ship 'Delta'.
Australian War Memorial, J05782

WHILE the repatriation of Australian troops and personnel began as soon as armistice was declared, it was both logistically challenging and costly to the Australian government. The first duty of the Department of Repatriation was to oversee the return of soldiers and military personnel to Australia. Due to the large numbers being sent home, the process continued well into 1919. In many cases there were simply not enough ships to accommodate the large numbers needing passage to Australia. Soldiers were repatriated according to the order in which they had enlisted, so that those who had been away the longest were prioritised to board the first ships. Hospital ships were used to bring

back the wounded, although injured soldiers and their attending medical staff were required to stay until they were well enough to travel. Sadly, many died of their injuries or illnesses en route.

Spanish Influenza

Just as World War I was drawing to a close, Spanish Influenza broke out in Europe. Highly contagious, it thrived in the close living quarters of war trenches and military transport ships. The symptoms of this influenza were a high fever, aching body, chills and fatigue. It was also deadly causing fifty million fatalities world-wide between 1918 and 1919, a greater number than the lives lost during the war. 'Thermometer parades' were held on board ships to catch the early signs of illness among the troops.



▲ A wounded soldier outside the influenza ward at Randwick Military Hospital. He is supported by two Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurses wearing masks to protect themselves against the Spanish Influenza virus.

Australian War Memorial, P02789.002



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P02226.046

▲ Panorama of the Point Nepean Quarantine Station, Victoria as viewed by returning soldiers and troops on transport ships.

Australian War Memorial, P02226.046

► On board the SS Port Darwin at Portsea, Victoria. Men awaiting their turn to pass through the fumigation chamber.

Australian War Memorial, J02824



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J02824

Quarantine

Passengers on several Australian transport ships were found to be carrying the Spanish Flu and were held at Quarantine stations such as The Point Nepean Quarantine Station (Victoria), The Western Australian Quarantine Station and the North Head Quarantine Station (NSW). Prior to disembarking, all personnel were required to pass through a fumigator. These necessary precautions stopped the prospect of an flu epidemic in Australia, but they delayed the return of soldiers to their homes. Tragically, some died in quarantine, never to be reunited with their families.

▼ Private Charles Wesley Lancaster (pictured with his niece and nephew) died of pneumonic influenza at the Quarantine Station at Woodman's Point, Western Australia

Australian War Memorial, P08847.001



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P08847.001

INQUIRY TASK:

Once soldiers had returned from World War I, how were they welcomed home? Use the online collection of the Australian War Memorial to find six primary sources providing evidence of soldiers' service being acknowledged through official and non-official channels.

PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF WAR

▼ A soldier with a swollen face after being exposed to mustard gas, France, 1918. Australian War Memorial, E04853



► Trench foot in soldiers was caused by constant exposure to the damp, cold conditions of the mud of the trenches. If left untreated, it resulted in gangrene (localized death and decomposition of body tissue, resulting from obstructed circulation or bacterial infection) and eventual amputation. The image shows a soldier undergoing treatment for trench feet at No 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital Physic Therapy Department in Harefield, England. Australian War Memorial, H18726



▲ Limbless Soldiers' Association Appeal Badge, 1926. Museums Victoria, SH 880160

COMMON injuries suffered by soldiers who had been on active duty during World War I included the loss of limbs, damage to hearing and loss of eyesight. Many suffered facial disfigurement from being shot at close range or being injured by shrapnel.

Mustard Gas

Gas weapons made up of combinations of chlorine, phosgene and sulfur mustard were designed to disable large groups of soldiers. An early form of chemical warfare, it was generally deployed by artillery shells shot into enemy trenches. Symptoms included blistered skin, vomiting, damage to the lungs, blindness and sometimes death. Returned soldiers who had been exposed often developed respiratory diseases in later life. Civilians on the home front who worked in chemical factories to produce the gas also fell victim to these symptoms.



Loss of Limbs

The loss of arms or legs among returned servicemen was a familiar sight. These injuries were sustained through direct injury by gunshot or shelling or as a result of gangrene or trench foot. Amputations were carried out in field hospitals and

offsite, followed by a long period of rehabilitation and the fitting of artificial limbs.

Many charities were born out of the need to provide medical care or support for soldiers who had special needs. These included the Limbless Soldiers' Association of Victoria, which came to prominence in 1921 and campaigned strongly for the rights of soldiers who had been injured in conflict to receive both financial help and support in gaining meaningful employment. The injuries of many soldiers meant that they could no longer ply their trade. The Limbless Soldiers' Association of Victoria helped them retrain in new careers where their missing limbs would not hinder their abilities. One example of this was a former bricklayer who had lost a leg but successfully retrained as a boot-maker, a task he could perform sitting down. Through a philosophy described as 're-adaption', the Association reiterated that it was 'a thousand times better to have these maimed men set up in profitable employment than to force them to beg from house to house to secure bread for themselves and their children'. The Association also raised money for a housing fund, allowing members who had lost two limbs to rent free for the rest of their lives. Parallel organisations were established in other states including New South Wales.

► Theatre program for show in aid of Limbless Soldiers' Association of Victoria, Australian War Memorial, PUBS002/009/001/002/002

▼ The Register, 'The Anzac Hostel Established in South Australia', (Adelaide, SA: 1901-1929), Monday 7 June 1920, page 8



► Anzac Hostels were established by the Repatriation Department to care for totally and permanently incapacitated (TPI) returned servicemen. National Archives of Australia, NAA: A7342, ALBUM 1

▼ Signaller Private Thomas John Skeyhill was dubbed the Blind Soldier Poet. He was blinded while on active duty. State Library of Victoria, 1917, H99.166/117



Digger Bill was sitting one day in a crowded tram. A “lady” leaned down, and, quoth she: “I am surprised to see a fine-looking man like you, with a soldier’s badge on too, sitting when there are women standing.”

“Well, ma’am,” says Bill “if you had both your legs off like me, you might be sitting too!”

Floods of tears, and a scene. So to avoid such incidents again, we adopted this badge –

When you see this badge, remember that the wearer lost at least a whole hand or a whole foot on your behalf, and the least you can do is show your appreciation by giving him a seat.

A one-armed man may be as well off for legs as you: but, remember, he cannot hold a paper, a parcel, an umbrella, and “strap-hang” too. So give him a seat.

Hostels

Anzac hostels were opened in response to the Repatriation Department’s understanding that some returned soldiers would never recover from the injuries and illnesses they had sustained during World War I. In contrast to the sanatoriums of the nineteenth century, the objective was to create an environment with full medical support that would also become a permanent home with ‘agreeable surroundings’. An article by an un-named reporter summarised the purpose of Anzac Hostels in an article for *The Register* in 1920.

Those who speak of the glories of war are usually people who have never witnessed its horrors. Hundreds of Australia's gallant sons returned to their native land victims of consumption, malaria, shell shock, wounds, and other ilk, the effect of which they will never be able to shake off. A grateful country has established institutions in which the victims of these misfortunes may receive proper treatment and attention.

'Anzac Hostels' have been decided upon in each State, where these patients will be specially catered for, and where, in fact, they will be the honoured guests of a grateful country.

Sunlight and fresh air were considered highly therapeutic, so these hospital beds were designed on wheels to allow nurses to take their patients outside whenever the weather permitted. Anzac hostels are still used today to provide care for the returned soldiers of subsequent conflicts.

INQUIRY TASK:

1. Visit the website of the National Archives of Australia to access the service records of Thomas John Skeyhill (NAA: B2455) and gather the following information:
 - The date on which he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force
 - His age on enlistment
 - The date on which he was injured
 - The nature of the injury that caused his blindness
 - Where was he serving when he suffered this injury?
 - Did he experience any other illnesses while on active duty?
 - The date of his discharge from the AIF
2. Judging from this file, what responsibilities did the Repatriation Department and other affiliated government departments have for keeping soldier records even after they had returned from war?
3. What other information can you find out about Thomas John Skeyhill by visiting the online records at other cultural institutions such as The National Library of Australia (Trove), and the State Library of Victoria?

COMMON DISEASES OF WORLD WAR I

DISEASES spread quickly in war zones due to the soldiers and military personnel living in close quarters, unhygienic environments, sanitation issues, poor nutrition, lack of clean water, extreme temperatures, exhaustion and the physical and emotional stress of war on the human body. Common diseases contracted by troops included typhoid, dysentery and diphtheria, pleurisy and pneumonia. Trench fever was a bacterial infection caused mostly by *Bartonella quintana* and spread by body lice, causing the afflicted to suffer fever, headaches, and aching muscles. Each combat zone introduced new health hazards. Troops in tropical climates were particularly susceptible to diseases such as malaria.

▼ The Venereal Diseases
Hospital at Langwarrin,
Victoria.
Australian War Memorial, A03402



Venereal Diseases

During wartime it was common for soldiers to catch sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis and gonorrhoea through contact with prostitutes. While many of the men who contracted the disease were young and single, married men who had been away from their wives were also at risk. Military correspondence shows that cases of venereal disease were particularly high in troops stationed in Cairo, Egypt, during their training.

► Australian Imperial Forces
Correspondence, March 7th
1916 D.N.S. NAA: CP359/2, 17.

“At present 1957 men are under treatment. During the month of February, the Admissions to Detention Barracks show the alarming number of 1246... I have reason to believe that a very big number are being treated privately... A Royal Commission sitting in London has lately reported on the seriousness of Venereal Disease amongst troops, and has pointed out the necessity of guarding present and future generations.”

▼ Field laboratory, France 3rd
Australian General Hospital,
1918.
Australian War Memorial, E02603



► Miss Ettie Rout was a
prominent campaigner for
the education of service men
about venereal disease.
Wikicommons

could avoid infection. Individuals such as Miss Ettie Rout became a prominent campaigner against venereal disease. She formed the New Zealand Volunteer Sisterhood in 1915 as well as several soldiers' clubs in England, France and Egypt during the war. Clubs were encouraged by the AIF as they provided entertainment for troops within the camps, helping them stay away from the cities and exposure to diseases. Some illnesses resulted in personnel being considered unfit for duty and sent back to Australia.

Preventing the Spread of Diseases

In order to combat the spread of diseases the Australian Imperial Force set up a hygiene unit that was responsible for infection control. Measures taken included the cremation of any military animals who had died and the establishment of quarantine camps and wards during outbreaks of measles and mumps among the troops. Field laboratories were also set up to speed the process of identifying and testing contagious soldiers. In Egypt the prevalence of infectious diseases led to the establishment of the Military Infectious Diseases Hospital in 1915.

Several campaigns were set in motion to educate soldiers and military personnel about the spread of diseases and how they



INQUIRY TASK:

Posters were used to warn soldiers about the diseases they might contract while on duty. Create a poster in the style of World War I artwork to warn soldiers and military personnel about one of the following illnesses: typhoid, dysentery, diphtheria, tuberculosis, pleurisy and pneumonia. Ensure that you include information about the symptoms, ways that they could contract the disease, and the long and short-term risks to their health and their family.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF WAR



▲ Driver Arthur Charles Carter, 18th Battery, 6th Field Artillery Brigade was discharged as medically unfit, suffering from shell shock, on 22 July 1917 and returned to Australia.

Australian War Memorial, P04455.001

► Reckless Use of Fireworks, Argus, (Melbourne, Vic: 1848 – 1957), Wednesday 20 November 1918, page 12.

► Northern Herald (Cairns, QLD), Wednesday 13 April 1921, page 20.

DURING World War I and in the post-war period, post-traumatic stress disorder was known as ‘shell shock’. It was initially thought to have been caused by constant exposure to explosions and gun fire, but further exploration linked it to the general trauma of war. Its symptoms included fear of loud noises, irrational behaviour, paralysis, nightmares, loss of speech or hearing, chronic exhaustion, insomnia and severe anxiety and depression often called ‘nervous breakdown’. The ongoing effects made it difficult for many soldiers to reintegrate into the community or workplace on their return home. Shell shock became known as a wound of the mind, rather than the body.

The long-term effects of shell shock were not well understood and it was sometimes referred to as ‘war neurosis’. In the war years, men who were incapacitated by it were sometimes accused of malingering. Medical treatments of the time ranged from electric-shock therapy to placing soldiers in an environment of ‘extreme optimism’. Documents from the Department of Repatriation include suggestions for treating men through curative classes while they were in care to reduce the symptoms of shell shock. The classes included instruction in gardening, photography, book binding, modelling in clay and painting.

RECKLESS USE OF FIREWORKS

A number of returned soldiers who were suffering from shell shock had a recurrence of that trouble owing to the careless use of fireworks in the city during the armistice celebrations last week. The Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce), replying to the question by Senator Barnes in the senate yesterday, pointed out that it was the duty of the state authorities to maintain order. He would see whether some other steps could not be taken to prevent a repetition of fireworks used in such a way.

Although World War I officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, the impact on the psychological health of soldiers and their families continued for many years. Many soldiers abused alcohol and there were high rates of suicide and family violence. Others became dependant on drugs such as morphine that were used to treat ongoing injuries, leading to long term addiction.

CHARGE OF WIFE MURDER, SIXTEEN BULLET WOUNDS, SHELL SHOCK BLAMED

THEO LABARTE, aged 35, formerly a major in the Imperial Army was charged with the murder of his wife and a constable on December 17... The accused from the dock, stated he had no recollection of the crime. His wife was the dearest person in the world to him and he would not wilfully have done her any harm. The mother of the accused stated that after returning from the war, where he was wounded, the accused was very gloomy and restless. He appeared to be suffering from shell shock.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

◀ Seated at a long table, shell-shock patients wait to begin their Christmas dinner in a ward of No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital in Kent. Australian War Memorial, C02337

▼ Children often imitated the roles their parents played during wartime, as evidenced by this child wearing a soldier's costume, c. 1916. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, 76-8-5



The children of returned service men and women also suffered through the impact of war on the behaviour of their parents. Shell-shock resulted in domestic violence and anti-social behaviours observed by their children and then incorporated into their own attitudes and actions. This is known as transgenerational trauma. Symptoms included problems sleeping, being on high alert and constantly feeling unsafe. Few studies were undertaken in the aftermath of World War I, but further research was conducted on the families of soldiers who returned from World War II, the Vietnam War and the Korean War.

► 'When the Shell-Shock Soldier Comes Home', Daily Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1903 - 1926), Saturday 12 April 1919, page 11.

INQUIRY TASK:

"To expect the soldier to come back just the same as he went would be to ignore the element of psychology, and to forget the experiences he has been through. The man at the front has lived in a world of which we at home cannot get a true realisation, try as we may to understand it with the help of photographs and moving pictures, letters and magazine articles... They will be different when they come home, and we have nothing in our own experience to tell us how they will feel and act. We must accept the difference and take pains to understand the reason of ways that may be strange. The man who comes back from the war to a family who misunderstands him has a big handicap in getting readjusted."

In the article entitled 'When the Shell-Shocked Soldier Comes Home', Mary C Jarrett wrote about the importance of those on the home front empathising with the trauma experienced by returned soldiers and military personnel. Write a one-page letter from the wife of a returned soldier to a relative explaining how her husband's behaviour has changed since returning from The Great War.

GETTING BACK TO WORK



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H13028

▲ Returned WW1 soldiers registering at the employment counter of the Repatriation Department.

Australian War Memorial, H13028

Australian Imperial Force. Employment became a problem for many soldiers on their return to Australia, particularly if they had sustained physical or psychological injuries. The Repatriation Scheme recognised the need for initiatives to aid soldiers back into the workplace in order to provide for their families, as a means of rehabilitation and to speed their 'civil re-establishment'.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H13032

▲ Melbourne, Victoria. Returned WW1 soldiers and soldiers' dependants at a steno typing vocational training class.

Australian War Memorial, H13032

▶ The Repatriation Department placed advertisements in the newspaper for business owners to hire returned soldiers.

The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) Wed 20 Nov 1918, page 15.

REPATRIATION was not limited to the action of bringing soldiers and personnel home to Australia. The greater task assigned to the Repatriation Department was to reintegrate ex-service men and women back into Australian society by providing the infrastructure for medical care, education, housing and employment. The cost of repatriation was estimated at approximately £40,000, with expenditure allocated to soldier land settlement, hospitals, hostels and vocational training.

For most enlistees, their work, study and apprenticeships had been interrupted by the onset of war. Many younger soldiers had joined up before entering the workforce, so their work experience was limited to military training and the roles assigned to them by the

Many schemes were set up to help wounded soldiers receive new vocational training if their disabilities prevented them from returning to their previous professions. Low stress jobs considered suitable for soldiers included steno typist, upholsterer, boot maker, plumber, carpenter, factory worker, clerk, motor driver, lift operator and farmer. Many of these courses were also open to family members of soldiers such as wives or adult children who could help support the family finances.

A. — E M P L O Y E R S

BEFORE FILLING THAT VACANT

SITUATION,

'PHONE 8650,

Or write

DEPARTMENT OF REPATRIATION,

JOLIMONT,

And Give a

RETURNED SOLDIER

A CHANCE



▲ A group of soldier dependants learning the art of millinery, 1919.

National Archives of Australia, A7342, ALBUM 1

▼ Returned soldier trainees being instructed in sheep shearing at an agricultural college in country Victoria.

Australian War Memorial, H12905



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H12905

War Widows

The impact of World War I resulted in the loss of a significant proportion of the male population world-wide. By the time the armistice agreement was signed, many women had become widows. The Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act came into effect in 1917 and was designed to protect soldiers who had served in World War I. Clause 22 stipulated the benefits to which returned, diseased or injured soldiers were entitled could also be extended;

"(b) to the children, under the age of eighteen years, of deceased and incapacitated Australian soldiers; and

(c) where by reason of special circumstances the Commission considers

that assistance and benefits should be granted, to the widows of deceased Australian soldiers."

Point (c) showed that widows were not automatically granted financial assistance, but rather had to make a case as to why they should receive a pension from the Australian Government.

For those war widows who received no benefits, the post-war years proved to be a financial struggle. The Department of Repatriation ran classes to allow war widows and their children to learn new skills. Making and selling the original red silk poppies provided an income for widows and allowed the population to show their support.

Soldier Settlement Scheme

The Soldier Settlement Scheme was introduced by the Repatriation Department to encourage returned soldiers to live and work in the country. Soldiers could apply to be granted a block of land with the intention of making a career as a farmer. Some soldiers received basic training in the skills needed to work on farms, but often the land offered for settlement was of poor quality, unable to sustain crops or cattle, or was too small to support a family. Those returned soldiers who had previously worked in the city often lacked sufficient training to maintain their farms and suffered isolation in regional areas. Consequently, many of the blocks were soon abandoned.

INQUIRY TASK:

A more successful employment venture for returned servicemen was building the Great Ocean Road. It was nicknamed 'The Somme' by soldiers who had fought in France due to the large amount of mud.

Find out more about the employment of veterans on the Great Ocean Road and then create a mind-map documenting the benefits of meaningful employment for returned soldiers. Use statistics, quotes and images to illustrate your mind-map.

THE ETHICS OF MAKING SOLDIERS' MEDICAL RECORDS PUBLIC



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H03961

▲ Army personnel and civilians working on Australian Army service records at Church House, London, England. c. 1916.

Australian War Memorial H03961

ENLISTING in World War I resulted in the private details of many men and women becoming public. The 100-year anniversary of the war and the advent of digitising historical records have renewed interest in the conflict and improved access for historians or members of the public to investigate the individuals who participated in the war. While access to these records has enriched the study of World War I and allowed descendants to research serving family members, they also raise questions about the ethics of allowing medical and disciplinary records to be published in the public domain.

Australian World War I military records are kept by the National Archives of Australia. They include information such as a physical description of the soldier or military personnel, their place of birth, occupation, next of kin and any medical care received during their tour of duty or resulting from their participation in World War I. Once diagnosed and treated by army physicians, the details of their injury or illness were placed on record. Any requests to the Repatriation Department for assistance with medical conditions precipitated by their service were also included in these records, sometimes decades after returning from war.

► The ambulance for the Military Infectious Diseases Hospital. Cairo, Egypt, 1915. Australian War Memorial, P01850.002



▼ James Joseph Gleeson's military records are available online at the National Archives of Australia for anybody to access. National Archives of Australia, NAA: B2455

In addition to medical records, activities such as misdemeanours and punishments were listed on a soldier's service record. James Joseph Gleeson's military record shows several examples of misconduct including 'neglecting to obey a general order', drunkenness and being absent without leave. Punishment usually involved a docked salary, which could have real consequences for family back at home. Gleeson's records also show that he was given field punishment (FP) for his crimes. This might have involved doing hard labour such as cleaning heavy artillery for the prescribed number of days. In some instances, the culprit might be tied to a fence or cannon.

A 51263 **TO AUSTRALIA**
47 Port Darwin
English with A.C.L. 1/1/16

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL MILITARY

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 2671 Name (Surname) GLEESON
 in full Christian Name James Joseph
6/5/93 Watta

Unit 20-5-16

Joined on 20-5-16

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? GLEESON James Joseph in or

2. In the Parish of Wynnton near the Town of Wynnton in the County of Victoria

3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) 1. Natural Born British July

4. What is your Age? 21 yrs 6 months

5. What is your Trade or Calling? Farmer

6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, when, to whom, and for what period? 100

7. Are you married? Single

8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) Father James Gleeson
AVONMORE
VICTORIA

9. What is your permanent address in Australia? AVONMORE
VICTORIA

10. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge. No (except 10 miles Melbourne)

11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Yes

12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? No

13. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mothers)—Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service, beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? Yes

14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? Yes

I, James Joseph Gleeson do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to abstain from the use of alcohol and from the use of any other intoxicating liquors during my service.

Date 20/5/16 James Joseph Gleeson
 Signature of person enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 15 years of age.
 † Two-fifths the wage is allowed to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths the wage is allowed.

Family members researching ancestors who fought in World War I are now able to access extensive medical information including the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and mental health conditions. Because these records are deemed historical in nature, they are not bound by the same policies and laws protecting contemporary medical information and ensuring patient privacy.

INQUIRY TASK:

Work in pairs to develop an argument in response to the question: Is it ethical for World War I military records to be available online in the public domain? Person 1 compiles a list of reasons why it is acceptable and person 2 compiles a list of reasons why it is unethical. Visit the National Archives of Australia website and examine several examples of World War I service records to help you develop your argument.