

Australia in World War One

Australia as a part of the British Empire

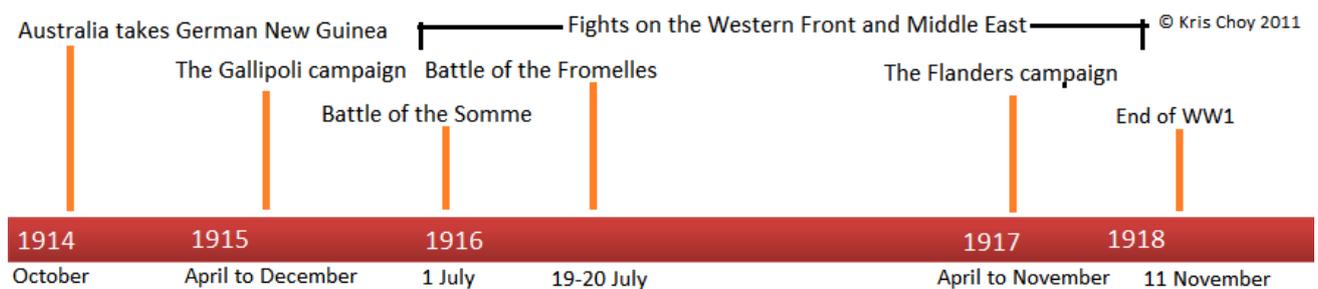
- Australians were **automatically at war** on August 4, 1914 as Britain declared war on Germany
 - o Australia **was strongly tied to Britain** with over **96%** with British descendants.
 - o Australian **foreign affairs** were controlled by Britain, including Governor General and **international communication**
 - o Australia had a **British legal system**
- Australia was also **enthusiastic** to go to war.
 - o 40,000 volunteers within days of war being declared, 52,000 in December
 - o Adventure, peer pressure (white feathers), army pay, duty and propaganda

The Causes of World War One

- There were two European alliances - **Triple Entente** and **Triple Alliance**.
 - o The Triple **Entente** included **Russia, Britain and France**.
 - o The Triple **Alliance** included **Germany, Austria, Hungary and Italy**.
- The cause of World War 1 was the assassination of **Archduke of Ferdinand**, heir to the **Austria-Hungarian** throne, in Bosnia, and was killed by a Serbian.

Australia's involvement in WW1

- Australia's involvement was also triggered by three underlying causes.
 - o **Nationalism** is the strong support of the rights and interests of a country.
 - o **Imperialism** is the act of taking over new lands, which lead to competition between Britain and Germany.
 - o The **arms race**, where two countries compete for superiority of weapons.
- Australia's involvement in World War One can be summarised in a timeline.



- The **Gallipoli Campaign** involved the Lone Pine and Nek, and the landing around the Gallipoli peninsula.
- The **Flanders campaign** included attempting to break the German line between Ypres and Passchendaele.

The Gallipoli Campaign

- The Gallipoli Campaign can be summarised by three questions:
 - o Why? Britain planned to **invade Turkey** to **take pressure away from Russia**.
 - o Where? The **Gallipoli peninsula**, near Turkey, in the Mediterranean Sea
 - o When? **25th April 1915**
- The conditions of the Gallipoli campaign:
 - o Difficulties faced in battle included the **different weathers** and **errors in navigation**.
 - o Supplies were limited, especially **water supply**. **Pack horses** carried supplies from the coast.
 - o **Diarrhoea, dysentery and paratyphoid** were common diseases, and there was **no bathing**.
 - o The trenches were **plagued with flies**, and ate **bully beef, jam and biscuits**.
- The two main battles were of Lone Pine and the Nek.
- **The Battle of the Lone Pine** was between the **6th and 9th of August 1915**, involving the **1st Australian Division**, against the Turks.
 - o Their main objective was to **draw attention away from Sari Bair**, another diversionary attack, and to **coincide with landings at Suvla Bay**.
 - o However, it was less diversionary and had **10000 casualties**, 3000 Australian. **Australia won**.
- **The Battle of the Nek** was on the **7th August 1915**, at 4:30 AM, between Australia and NZ, and Turkey.
 - o The objective was to **capture high ground of Sari Bair** and **divert attention away** from Suvla Bay.
 - o **Watches were not synchronised** and bombardment came **7 minutes early**. **Australia lost**.

Creation of the Anzac Legend

- The Anzac Legend portrays soldiers with various characteristics.
 - o Soldiers have **loyalty** and **mateship** to their group, but are **unaccepting to authority**.
 - o They can **endure hardship**, are **brave, resourceful**, and have **common sense**.
- The Anzac Legend is recalled through the annual **Anzac Day celebration** on **April 25th**.

Conscription Issue

- There were **two opposing sides** to the conscription issue, which split the nation at the **home front**.
- William Hughes, the prime minister at the time, led the side **for conscription**.
 - o Maintain AIF and national honour, couldn't desert Britain
- The Labor Party **had been split** due to this issue, as the Party was **anti-conscription**.
- **Archbishop Mannix** led the side opposing conscription.
 - o Working classes were affected, trade union affected
- Hughes held two referendums in **1916** and **1917**, but both had **lost** by a small amount.
 - o After the first loss, the Labor Party split, and Hughes formed the National party and won.

Experiences of Women

- Women were not allowed to fight, but volunteer in the Australian Women's Service Corps (AWSC) as army nurses and had civilian jobs.
 - o **Voluntary work** involved sending **comfort boxes** – food, clothing, cigarettes and messages.
 - o The **AWSC** helped recruitment through marches, and built houses for servicemen.
 - o **Army nurses** cleaned and dressed wounds, but endured shellfire or attacks.
 - o **Civilian Jobs** as a short-term work place, as soldiers had not returned.

Commemoration of World War One

- **Anzac Day** started in 1916 in London, developed throughout most towns. Symbol of rosemary.
- **Remembrance Day** – also called **Armistice Day** – signed a peace contract, first celebrated 1919, symbol of red poppy.
- Other ways include: **The Australian War Memorial** and others, services in other countries, war graves, films, books and documentaries.