

## War records

The sites we will be looking at today are just a few that may assist you in your family history research. We will begin in Australia which has excellent war records online and then see what is available overseas.

What type of records can you find for free? This varies, some will be minimal information others may include complete records. The most detailed records are from WWI. I haven't addressed pre WWI records.  
Boer war on NAA

Most website will have links to other sites. Follow them

We will be following two local boys James Little and Robert Elmslie HARPER who fought and unfortunately died in WWI.

## Australian War memorial

[www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)



The Memorial's National Collection reflects Australia's contribution to armed conflicts all over world: colonial commitments to wars in New Zealand and the Sudan; South African War, the suppression of the Boxer uprising in China, First and Second World Wars, Korean War, Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation, Vietnam War, First and Second Gulf Wars, Afghanistan, and peacekeeping operations. This is a great starting place for war history in Australia.

From the front page, click on the link "Research a person". Then search for a persons by typing in their name.

## Roll of Honour

Details of members of the Australian armed forces who died while on active service.

### Go into roll of honour

Will give you brief information and where his name appears on the war memorial in Canberra.

### First World War Embarkation Roll

Details of AIF personnel recorded as they embarked from Australia for overseas service during the First World War.

### Nominal rolls – Embarkation rolls

Gives you details on age, occupation, residence, next of kin, religion, date of embarkation.

Click on name will give you access to a PDF file.

### Nominal roll

Open up Nominal roll give details of what happened to them KIA, RTA, and dates of service.

### First World War Nominal Roll

Details of AIF personnel records to assist with their repatriation to Australia from overseas service following the First World War.

### Honours and Awards

Details of military honours and awards to Australians.

#### Honours and awards

#### Honours and Awards (Recommendations)

#### Australian Red Cross Wounded

There isn't a file for each person, but one for both our boys. Open a PDF provides scanned images of correspondence with family members and details of eyewitness accounts to how they died.

#### Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files

Digitised images of individual case files of Australian personnel reported as wounded or missing during the First World War.

## National Archives

A great place to begin is the National Archives. They hold service records from the Australian defence force from Federation in 1901.

The personnel dossiers include records of

- Attestation papers
- Service and casualty forms
- Military correspondence

Defence service records set out the essentials of a person's service in the forces. They commonly contain biographical information supplied on enlistment, such as name, address, next of kin and age, as well as service information such as movements, postings, changes in rank, and brief mention of injuries or illness. Although most records contain these basic elements, they do vary in the amount of information they contain.

All WWI records have been digitised and can be viewed online for free.

Mapping our Anzacs

<http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/default.aspx>

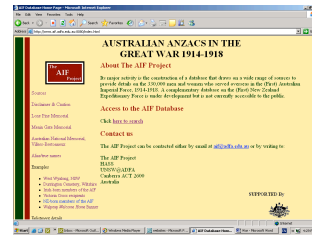
## The AIF project: Australian ANZACS in the great war 1914-1918

<http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au:8080/index.html>

Its major activity is the construction of a database that draws on a wide range of sources to provide details on the 330,000 men and women who served overseas in the (First) Australian Imperial Force, 1914-1918. A complementary database on the (First) New Zealand Expeditionary Force is under development but is not currently accessible to the public.

Sources include:

- Embarkation rolls
- Nominal rolls
- Decorations
- Promotions
- Personal dossiers



Also provides a list of known alias for personnel.

Ability to search by name, place, serial numbers and even fate. Enter surname first followed by given names.

Searching for a person type in a surname first and include first name.

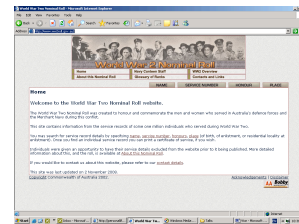
Type in HARPER Robert. This will bring up 13 records, providing name, place of residence and unit he was in. I am interested in Robert Elmslie. If I click on the link it will take me to his record. His record shows me information on place of birth, school, age of enlistment, rank, place of death, medals etc. If I click on the link to the Battalion unit, it will list members and details.

If I want to know how many people from Golden Grove died, by just typing in GG it will bring up a list.

Also able to browse by arms or service. Upper left corner, if you wanted to learn about a particular area.

### WWII Nominal Roll <http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/>

The World War Two Nominal Roll was created to honour and commemorate some one million people who served in Australia's defence forces and the Merchant Navy during this conflict.



The Nominal Roll also provides a 'snapshot' of individual service, by displaying a range of information on each person, gathered from service records. For more detailed information on an individual, please refer to complete service records held by the National Archives of Australia.

You may search for service record details by specifying name, service number, honours, place (of birth, of enlistment, or residential locality at enlistment). Once you find an individual service record you can print a certificate of service, if you wish.

Lets type in Harper, James and Robert fought in WWI but just to show you what information is available. Produce a certificate.

### ANZACS online

<http://anzacsonline.net.au/>

ANZACS Online is an online military museum which displays photographs, diaries and letters, relating to the many Australians who served in the Australian Imperial Force during World War I.

The aim of this museum is to allow for these items of our Australian military history are both preserved and be made freely available as a shared resource, for current and future Australian generations alike.

Experience the wartime service of Australians through our collection of photographs, diaries and letters of Australian servicemen and women, many of which are now accessible to the public for the very first time.

With your assistance, we can make this website a nationally significant online museum.

### WWI Pictorial honour rolls

<http://www.ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/>

### Lost heroes of the great war

<http://lostheroes.gravesecrets.net/>

Many families have in their possession photographs of Heroes of the Great War that have no details to identify them.

This website is for people to post photographs of Australians such as these in the hope that other members of the public have the same photograph and are able to help with identification.

### South Australian War Memorials

[www.tributesofhonour.info](http://www.tributesofhonour.info)

Tributes of Honour is dedicated to all persons who served Australia in times of conflict and peace keeping operations, whether it be overseas or at home, whether it be facing the enemy on hostile lands or being supportive from the home front in civil defence, industry, on the land, or in the family home, this country could not have survived without the other.

This site allows searching by names and or memorials. There are over 4000 photographs linked to over 1500 memorials.



### The National Archives of UK


<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

UK government records only on WWI

Left hand side lists links to military records. First link – British Army.

British army – other ranks killed 1914-1920

If he was killed in the war or demobilised after the war, there is only about a 25% chance of finding his service record, as most records were destroyed by bombing in 1940. The records that do remain are known as the 'burnt documents'.

Service records of soldiers who were killed, died or survived the war are being made available on Ancestry.co.uk . The records are being released in batches, and the project is due to be completed by the end of 2008.

The National Archives is a good site to learn where the records are, campaign medals etc. It is not a site that will give you information online for free. You are able to access Ancestry which you can do so for free from the Library.

### Commonwealth War Graves Commission

[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission pays tribute to the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the two world wars. The site provides general information on soldiers and gives details on the cemetery where they are buried. A certificate can be printed which provides soldier details and a photograph of the cemetery. It also lists Commonwealth civilians who died during the Second World War as a result of enemy action.



### Publications link

There are several free downloadable information sheets on battles and cemeteries. Available in several languages. Go to Villiers Bretonneaux and download to show.

### Search our Records

Searches are *not* case sensitive. Search criteria may be entered in upper, lower or mixed case. The search will not find names that sound similar to the one you have entered.

**Note:** The register has an automatic facility that enables a range of names to be matched from a single 'root' (e.g. search results for Richards will also display all the Richardsons). This ensures that the widest range of records is searched in an attempt to find the correct one.

Choice of searching for a person or a cemetery.

The first stage of the search will produce a list of possible matches for the information you have entered.

Enter Harper J, this will bring up 155 results. If we place in extra info as in war, nationality it will bring up 5 results. The fifth result is for John Little, so if we click on the link it will take us to another page of his casualty details and cemetery.

To find out more about the individuals listed, **click on the name to display the full casualty record**. The casualty record can be displayed in the form of a commemorative certificate by clicking on the Certificate button at the bottom of the record.

**Note:** If a photograph of the cemetery or memorial is available, it will be reproduced on the certificate. If not, an image of the Stone of Remembrance will appear instead.

To find out more about the cemetery or memorial where the casualty is commemorated, click on Cemetery at the bottom of the record. To view photographs and plans of the cemetery or memorial, or to see a list of casualties buried there, return to the Search page and proceed as follows:

### To find a cemetery or memorial

From the Casualty/Cemetery option select Cemetery. In the Surname field, type all or part of the name of the cemetery or memorial you are looking for. Make your selection from the table of possible matches. For a full list of casualties commemorated at the cemetery or memorial selected, click on the Cemetery Reports button at the bottom of the page.

**Note:** Be cautious about running reports for particularly large sites these will take a long time to download. You can also view plans and photographs of the site if these buttons are highlighted.

The Army Children's Archive

[www.archhistory.co.uk](http://www.archhistory.co.uk)

British Army Childrens

British Military history

<http://www.britishmilitaryhistory.co.uk/#intro>

The web-site covers the period from 1930 to 1950. The reason for this is to include the build up to the conflict and the immediate aftermath. To many soldiers, the end of the war did not mean an end to armed conflict, as several small wars erupted in the Indian sub-continent, South East Asia and Palestine.

The focus is on the British Army, the pre-partition Indian Army (also known as the British Indian Army) and those of the Dominions (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa). The British colonies in East and West Africa and the Far East also provided many soldiers to fight for the British Army, so are integral to this web-site. Without the support of countries in the British Empire, the United Kingdom would have struggled to prosecute the war. This is particularly the case in the Middle East and Far East.

Roll of honour

[www.roll-of-honour.com](http://www.roll-of-honour.com)

War memorials in the UK

Irish war memorials

[www.irishwarmemorials.ie](http://www.irishwarmemorials.ie)

The Long trail

British army in the great war

[www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net)

UK inventory of war memorials

<http://www.ukniwm.org.uk/>

The Western front Association

<http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/>

Naval history UK

<http://www.naval-history.net/>

WW2Museums

**Welcome on WW2Museums.com,**

WW2Museums.com is *the* place to plan your own battlefield tour along WW2 museums, monuments, cemeteries and other sights of interest in and outside Europe. Through WW2Museums.com you will be introduced to WW2 sights of interest that still can be visited today!

Canadian War Memorial

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/collections/virtualmem>