Virtual War Memorial Australia
Research Checklist – WW I

This fact sheet will guide you through researching an individual who served Australia in World War One. The first page points you in the direction of resources that will give you basic details about the individual and their service. The second page helps you to take your research further and locate more detailed information.

1 AIF PROJECT

Lists individuals by name, service number, location and regiment. You can use the service number and this site to ensure the person you are researching is the one you want.

https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/search

The AIF Project

Search

Name ☐ Restrict search to surname
Eg: BAKER Robert, Abbey, Harold Humphries

Regimental Number

Address ☐ Restrict search to suburb/town/state
☐ Include next of kin's address

Search

2 AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Search for a Person will search the Roll of Honour, the Nominal and Embarkation roles, records of Honours and Awards, and the Red Cross Wounded or Missing records.
https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people

Search for a person

If you are looking for a family member, friend or relative who served, this will guide you to the relevant areas of our website that contain information.

Name:

Service number:

Unit name:

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Search

3 THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Use the **Find War Dead** search for those who were died during World War One.
https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead

Find War Dead | Find a Cemetery

Casualty name

Search

Advanced Search

4 THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

Click on the **Name Search** tab at the top of the page, select Australian Defence Force personnel records from the drop-down menu for **Category of records**. After you click **Search**, refine the search using first name or the service number.

http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au

NameSearch

Family name

Category of records   Australian Defence Forces personnel records

Use exact spelling   ☑
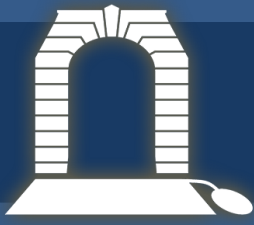
Search   Clear

5 TROVE AUSTRALIA

A searchable collection of newspapers. Use **Advanced Search**, type the person's name into **Keywords**. Under **Limit your results** select a range of years to make your search easier.
http://trove.nla.gov.au/?q&adv=y

Advanced search

Enter search terms in at least one of the fields below

Keyword: | All of the words |
Title: | All of the words |
Creator: | All of the words |
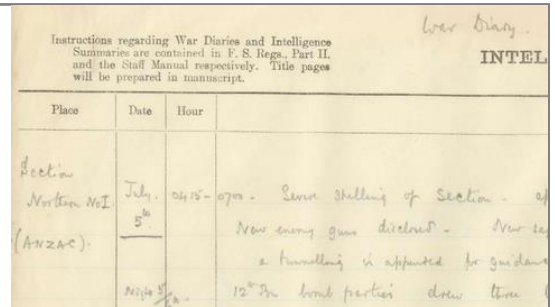Subject: | All of the words |

Extending Your Research

This page is for those who want to take their research to the next level. The following resources will help you to develop a better understanding of the experiences of your serviceman or servicewoman.

6 **AWM – AIF UNIT DIARIES**

These record the daily activities of headquarters, formations and units. You will need to know the unit and class (eg. Infantry) in which your individual served.

https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/awm4/

7 **AWM – COLLECTIONS**

The AWM holds thousands of sources including photographs, letters and personal diaries. Even if your person did not leave a record, there may still be evidence about them in the records of others. Check records linked to their unit

https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search

8 **STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

The State Library holds a large collection of books, digital resources and private collections. Use the advanced search to find out more about the unit and perhaps uncover a personal collection

http://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/search/X

Need More Help?

The Virtual War Memorial website has a range of links to help you research individuals and the units in which they served: https://vwma.org.au/

Other Useful Links

Understanding the AWM Collection:
https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/understanding-the-memorials-collection

NAA Glossary: http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/abbreviations.aspx

State Records of South Australia – government records and photographs of South Australian soldiers, sailors and nurses from World War One: https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/discover-our-collection/other-topics/military-and-war