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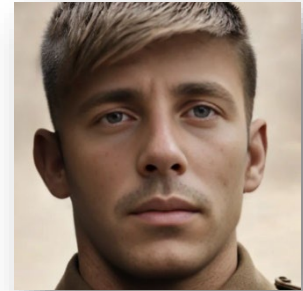
# Virtual Veterans

**Student User Guide**

**History | Year 9**

## Explore true stories from WWI with 'Charlie' – our Virtual Veteran

There's no better way to understand the impact of World War I than through the personal stories of Queenslanders, just like you, who lived through this tumultuous era. Our Virtual Veteran 'Charlie' can help you explore true stories contained in letters and diaries written by soldiers and nurses who served in the war and Queenslanders at home who contributed to the war effort.



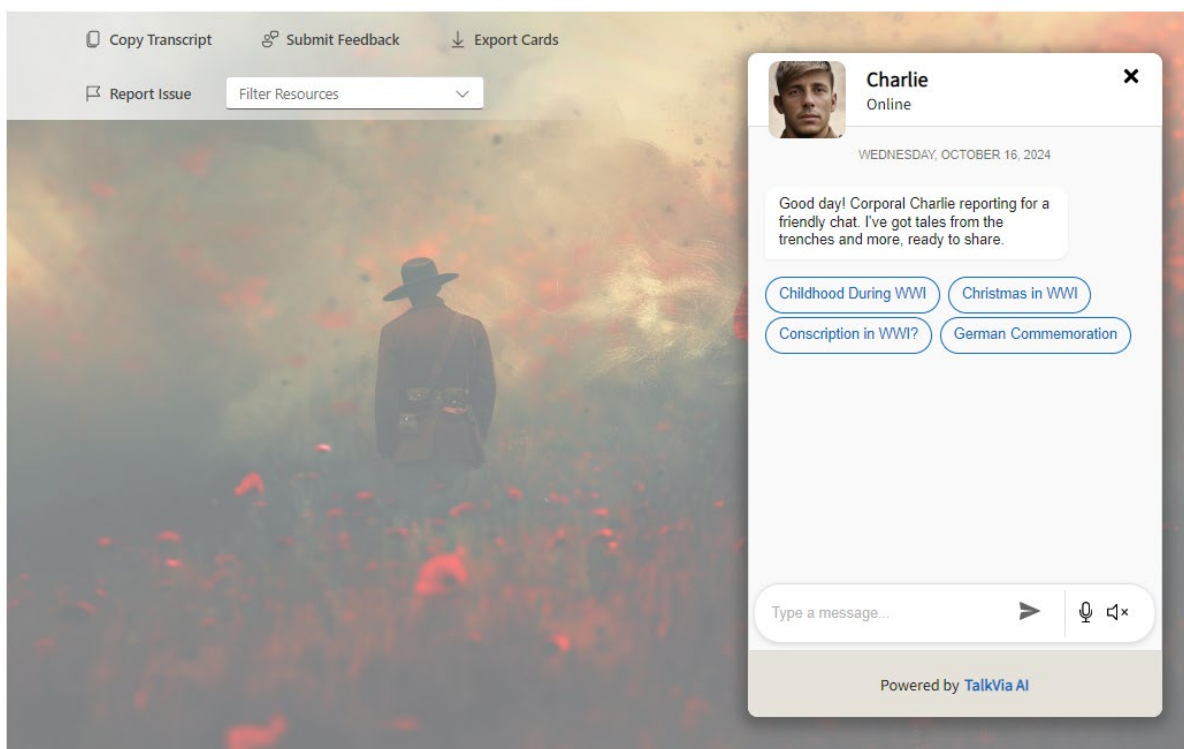
### A positive use of AI for your research

Artificial intelligence is only as good as the information used to train it. 'Charlie' has been taught about World War I by reading:

- Over 1.5 million words transcribed from letters, diaries and archival documents contained in State Library of Queensland's World War I collection.
- Over 50,000 Queensland newspaper articles published from 1914 to 1918.
- The Australian War Memorial's *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918* – a 12-volume series detailing Australia's role in World War I.

### Meet 'Charlie'.

'Charlie' lives on the Anzac Square website on a page called "[Virtual Veterans](#)".



## Conversations with 'Charlie'

You can ask 'Charlie' anything about World War I or use some of the prompts provided in the chat to explore popular topics.

When 'Charlie' answers your questions, he also provides you with direct links to primary sources that you can read to learn more about the topic you are discussing.

The screenshot displays the 'Charlie' chat interface. On the left, a list of primary sources is shown, each with a source icon, title, date, and a brief excerpt. The sources are:

- Darling Downs Gazette**: Newspaper Article, 27 February 1915, p. 7. Excerpt: "THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE-ENEMIES FRATERNISING. -- THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE - ENEMIES FRATERNISING. It has puzzled our French allies, it will puzzle most men of the Latin races, that while we are in a war to the death with the German Empire our soldiers and t..."
- Diary 10 October 1917-12 May 1918**: Manuscript (30546/3). Excerpt: "...wires were connected and the tree lit up. Numerous parcels in the form of small presents - handkerchiefs, pocket wallets, pipes, cigarette cases, etc."
- Letterbook 24 September 1914-22 June 1916**: Manuscript (30674/36). Excerpt: "Today is Xmas day. It passed very happily here. The people have been most generous giving so much to the soldiers who are ill and they have appreciated it all."

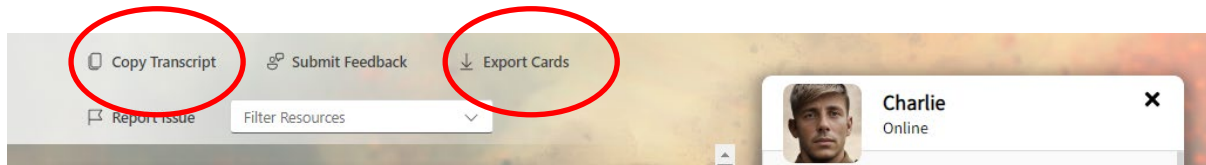
Each source has an 'Explore' button. On the right, a chat window titled 'Charlie Online' is open. It shows a message from Charlie: "Hi! I've got tales from the trenches and more, ready to share." Below this is a blue button labeled 'Christmas in WWI'. The chat window also displays a response from Charlie: "Yes, we did celebrate Christmas during World War One. Despite the challenging conditions of the trenches, soldiers on both sides often observed a temporary truce during Christmas. This unofficial ceasefire allowed for moments of peace, where enemies exchanged gifts, sang carols, and even played football together. It was a remarkable display of humanity amidst the harsh realities of war." Below the response are three buttons: 'Christmas Truce', 'Trench Life', and 'Soldiers' Stories'. At the bottom of the chat window is a text input field labeled 'Type a message...' and a 'Powered by TalkVia AI' logo.

As you continue your conversation and scroll down, you will notice that some of the new primary sources have a star. These are the sources that are directly related to your latest question to 'Charlie'.

This is a close-up of a primary source card. It features a source icon (a green circle with a white 'G'), the title 'Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette', and the date 'Newspaper Article, 06 March 1915, p. 6'. The excerpt reads: "Peace on Earth and Goodwill THE CHRISTMAS. TRUCE IN THE FIGHTING LINE. -- Peace on Earth and Goodwill THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE IN THE FIGHTING LINE." A blue star icon is visible in the top right corner of the card. Below the excerpt is an 'Explore' button.

## Recording your conversation and sources

Virtual Veterans provides features that enable you to export a record of your conversation with Charlie and an Excel spreadsheet contain links to all of the primary sources provided for you on your topic.



## Citing your sources


It's important to cite your sources when including information from your conversations with 'Charlie' in your research assessments. Here are some ways to cite your sources using the APA 7 citation style.

To cite a letter or diary from State Library's collection:

A screenshot of a digital viewer for a handwritten diary entry. The entry is titled 'Diary 10 October 1917-12 May 1918'. The text of the entry is written in cursive and describes a military experience. At the bottom of the viewer, there are three buttons: 'Download', 'Cite', and 'Share'. The 'Cite' button is circled in red, and a red arrow points from it to a citation popup. The popup is titled 'Cite' and shows the citation in APA (7th edition) format: 'Fudge, L. R. (1915). *Diary 10 October 1917-12 May 1918*.' The popup also includes a small icon of a document.



To cite a newspaper article:

Search Newspapers and Gazettes Filter  Advanced Search


Home / Newspapers & Gazettes / Browse / Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette (Qld. : 1868 - 1919) / Sat 6 Mar 1915 / Page 6 / Peace on Earth and Goodwill

### Cite

**Article identifier**  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article188400935>

**Page identifier**  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page9170171>

**APA citation**  
Peace on Earth and Goodwill (1915, March 6). *Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette (Qld. : 1868 - 1919)*, p. 6. Retrieved October 16, 2024, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article188400935>



To cite the *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918*:

“Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918.” 2016. Awm.gov.au. Australian War Memorial. 2016. <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1416844>.

To cite your conversation with ‘Charlie’:

State Library of Queensland. (2024). *Virtual Veterans*.  
<https://www.anzacsquare.qld.gov.au/learn/virtual-veterans>