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ANZAC SQUARE

World War I

(1914-1918)

Student research guide

History | Year 9

Cover: [Australians in the advance trenches](#), 1917, Creator Unknown, 29666, [Jane McLennan Collection](#), John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

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Copyright information for teachers

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Teachers can advise students on State Library's resources and encourage their use to help with their studies and research. Students are encouraged to access State Library's resources at school, but not during class time.

Teachers are most welcome to advise students what is available via State Library, and to encourage students to make use of ebooks and databases to help with their studies. It is permissible for a teacher to demonstrate the use of State Library's catalogue, and to point out how various online material can be accessed.

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Please also note that State Library has digitised a range of material such as diaries, and out of copyright publications held in our collections. There are no restrictions on the use of this material as part of a teaching program – and no requirement to be a member of the library to use this material. This type of material can easily be found, [searching State Library's One Search catalogue](#) using the "SLQ digitised collections" option in the dropdown menu.

For more information about the use of copyright materials visit [Understanding copyright](#).

Overview

State Library is a great place to learn about World War I and find information to complete your research-based assessments.

State Library's One Search catalogue is the gateway to an extensive suite of national and international journals, databases, ebooks, encyclopedias, newspaper archives, and collections of thousands of historical images, letters, artworks, diaries and artefacts to interrogate as sources.

This guide is designed to help you discover items on World War I that you can access on site, from your school or home.

Before you get started

- [Become a member](#) of State Library of Queensland (it's free!).
- Once you have joined State Library, log in to your account in [One Search](#) so you can use the links in this research guide to access the featured collection items.
- Complete the [Student research with State Library](#) module for a guide to navigating State Library's resources. Or visit the [One Search help page](#) for tips & tricks for searching One Search.
- You can search our catalogue for [all items on World War I](#) or begin exploring by clicking on some of the featured items contained in this research guide.

Student research with State Library

Feel more confident navigating State Library's resources to find high quality information sources for your assessments.

[Start module](#) 



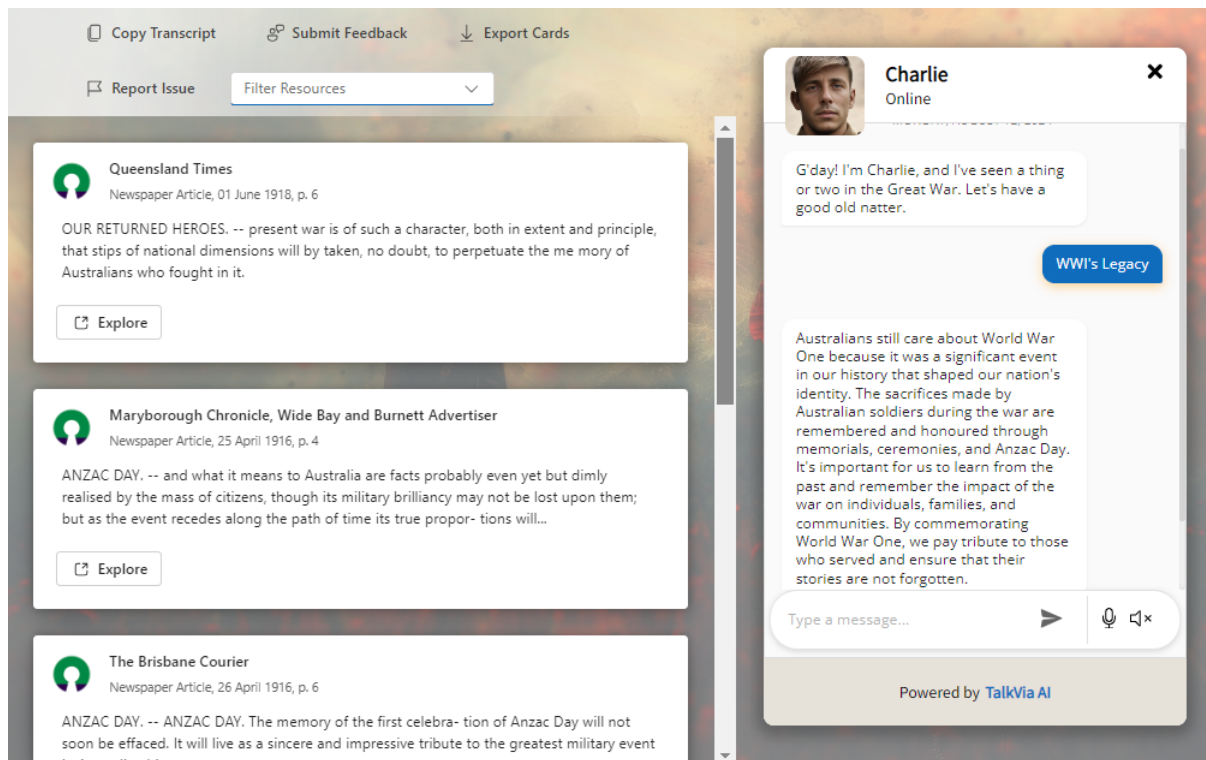
Featured Databases

[The First World War](#) database provides an enormous selection of primary and secondary sources from archives around the world.



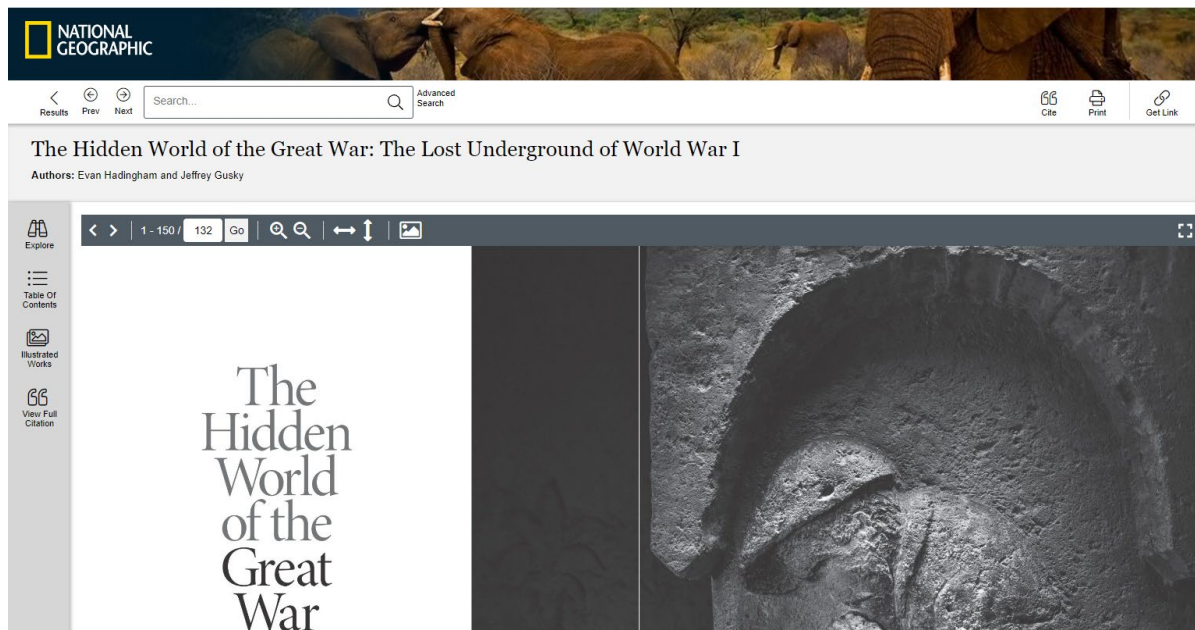
The screenshot shows the homepage of 'THE FIRST WORLD WAR' database. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Introduction, Documents, Audio-Visual Sources, Maps, Galleries, Explore, Help, Advanced Search, and Search Directories. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation bar is a large, colorful, stylized map of Europe during WWI, with various countries labeled in German and French. A text box on the map reads 'Mapping the Great War' and 'Explore the extension of the conflict through eye-catching interactive maps, representing many of the key fronts, battles and campaigns of the First World War.' Below the map is a search bar with the text 'Search First World War...' and a 'GO' button. To the right of the search bar is a 'Quick links' section with links to 'Take a Tour', 'Essays', 'Interactive Maps', and 'Case Studies'. At the bottom, there's a 'Welcome to The First World War' message.

[Virtual Veterans](#) is an AI guide to a rich collection of World War I primary sources, including letters and diaries from soldiers and nurses and Queensland newspaper articles published between 1914 and 1918.

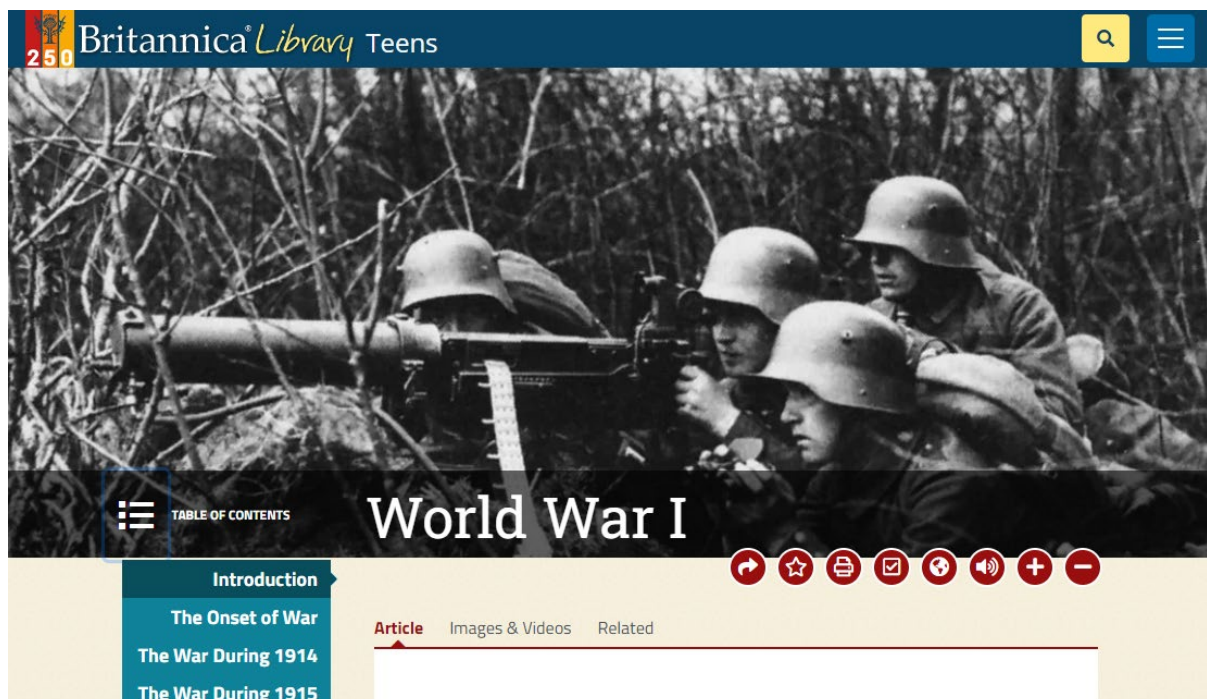


The screenshot shows the 'Virtual Veterans' AI guide interface. On the left, there's a list of newspaper articles from Queensland, Maryborough Chronicle, and The Brisbane Courier, each with a date and a brief description. On the right, there's a chat window with a character named 'Charlie' who is 'Online'. Charlie has a profile picture and a bio. The chat window shows a message from Charlie: 'G'day! I'm Charlie, and I've seen a thing or two in the Great War. Let's have a good old natter.' Below the message is a 'WWI's Legacy' button. At the bottom of the chat window, there's a text input field with the placeholder 'Type a message...' and a 'Send' button. The interface is powered by 'TalkVia AI'.

The Virtual Library of [National Geographic](#) has magazine articles, books and more on World War I.



The [Britannica Library](#) has articles, images, videos, primary sources, ebooks and more on World War I with a selection of resources especially for teenagers.



[JSTOR](#) provides access to a wide range of primary sources from World War I.

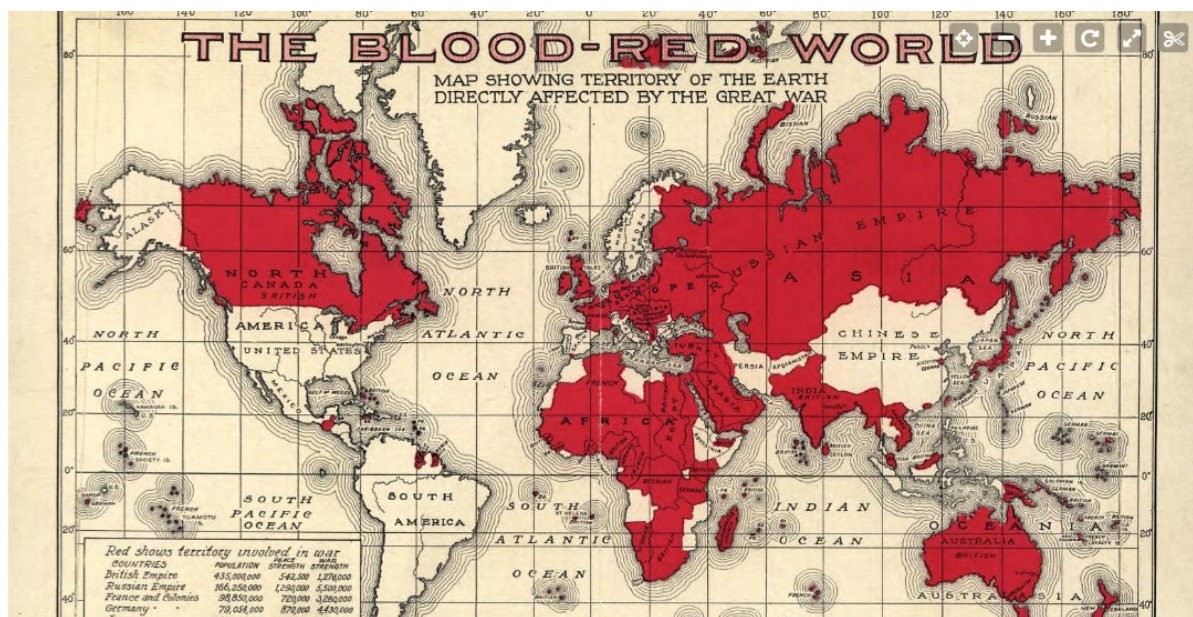
The screenshot shows the JSTOR search results page for the query 'world war one'. The page displays 15,493 results, sorted by Relevance. On the left, there is a 'Refine Results' sidebar with filters for 'SEARCH WITHIN RESULTS', 'CONTENT TYPE', 'Primary source content', 'IMAGE RESOLUTION', 'DATE', and 'CLASSIFICATION'. The 'Primary source content' filter is set to 'Images (15,493)'. The main area shows a grid of image thumbnails with captions such as 'World War One: collect...', 'World War One: women w...', 'World War One: stretch...', 'World War One: regimen...', and 'World War One: soldier...'. Each thumbnail is part of the 'Open: Wellcome Collection'.

[Informit Explore](#) is the first major research database tailored specifically for Australian schools and public libraries.

The screenshot shows the 'Australia's wartime heritage' page on Informit Explore. The page has a dark blue header with the title 'Australia's wartime heritage' and a subtitle 'Australia's wartime heritage refers to the history of Australia's military engagement and how it has influenced the social, political and economic landscape of our country. It provides insight into the sacrifices, resilience and the important moments that have shaped who we are as a nation.' Below the header, there is a navigation bar with 'Summary' and 'Featured Articles' tabs. The 'Featured Articles' tab is active, showing a list of articles. The first article is 'Guarding against the guardian: Reassessing revisionism at the Australian War Memorial' by Mark Clayton, published in the 'Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society' on 01 Dec 2025. The second article is 'Decades of service and sacrifice: Our navy at war and in peace' by Tim Barlass, published in 'Signals' on 01 Mar 2026. The page also includes a search bar and a 'Save' button.

Maps

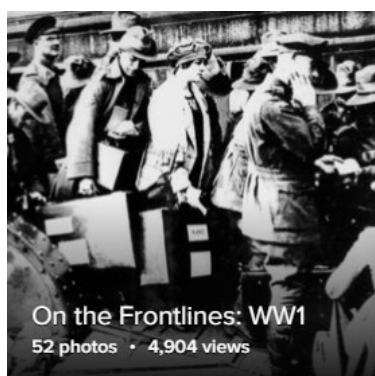
State Library provides access to online [maps of World War 1](#).



Images

State Library has a large collection of digitised [historical images from World War I](#).

Featured Collections



Audio

State Library has a collection of audio resources containing [audio and oral history recordings on World War I](#).

Newspapers

State Library provides access to archives of Australian and international historical newspapers covering the events of World War I.

Australia

[Trove Newspapers \(1803-1954\)](#)

Britain

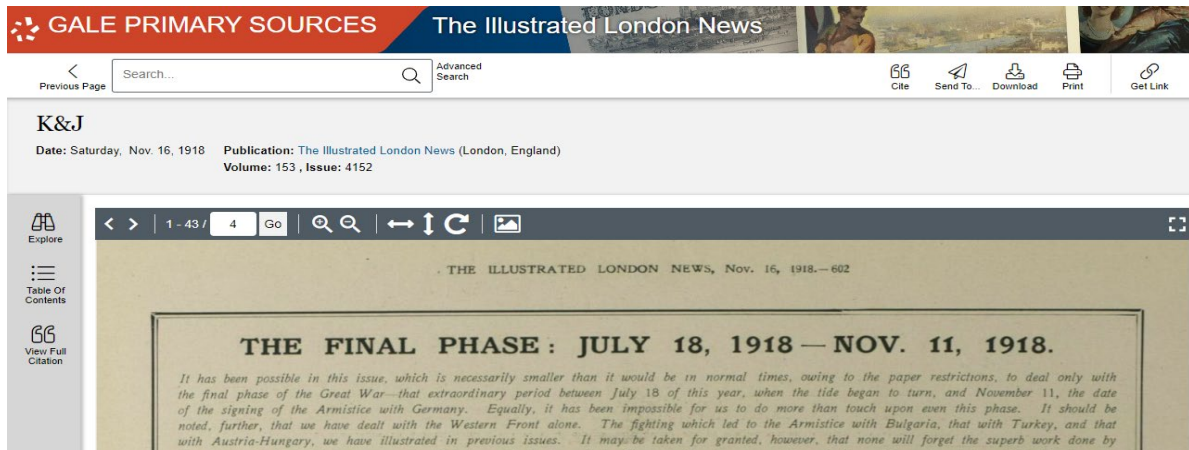
[The Times Digital Archive \(1785-2014\)](#)

[British Library newspapers \(1732-1950\)](#)

[The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003](#)

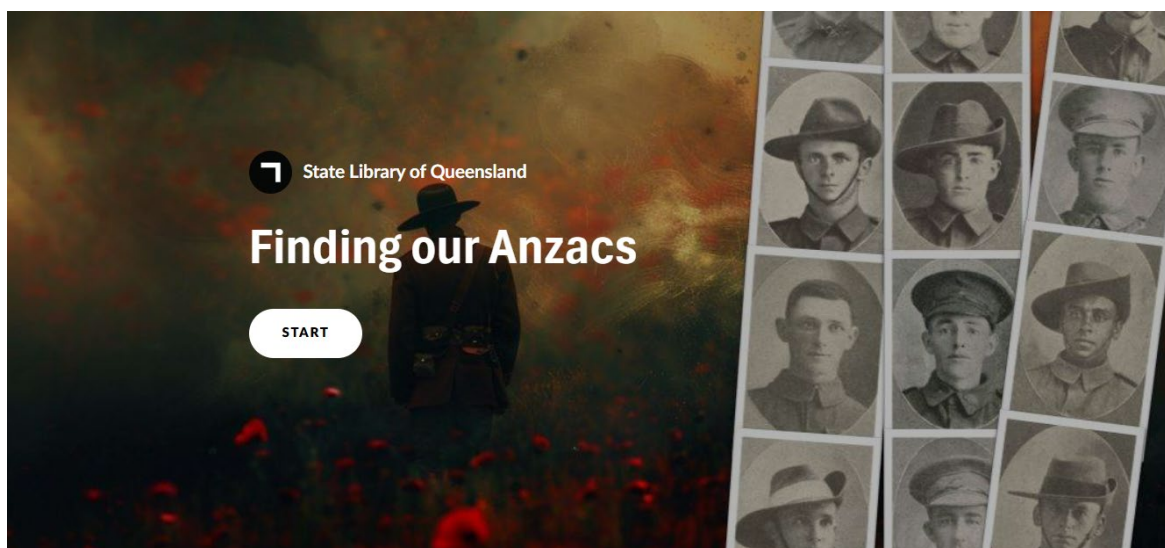
Featured Articles

The screenshot displays the Trove digital library interface. At the top, the search bar shows 'AUSTRALIA AT WAR' with a 'Match text' button. Below the search bar, a snippet of text from 'The Daily Telegraph' is visible, starting with 'This is the first time in its history that Australia has been really at war.' The main image shows the newspaper's masthead 'The Daily Telegraph' and the date 'SYDNEY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1914.' Below the masthead, the headline 'AUSTRALIA AT WAR.' is prominently displayed. The text of the article continues: 'This is the first time in its history that Australia has been really at war. On two previous occasions we sent troops to assist the Mother-country, but the reason for doing so in each case was more of a sentimental than a practical nature. Neither in the Sudan war nor in the Boer war was the Empire fighting for its existence, consequently; the fate of Australia was not vitally involved. Nor was there at any time the least doubt of the Mother-country's less Parliament has to say at the juncture the better. The legislation rushed through in war time is usually public legislation that is as likely to do harm as good. The determination of the State Assembly adjourn for a fortnight after passing a bill to fix prices is therefore commendable. And it would be more so if the adjournment took place before that bill was passed. So if Australia at war has kept a fairly level head which is the first essential of success, would be regrettable to see any departure from that now when the excuse for it is so greatly diminished.' The article concludes with the phrase 'DAY BY DAY.'



Researching real Queensland soldiers

'[Finding our Anzacs](#)' is a service-learning project that builds critical thinking and digital literacy skills through a hands-on research challenge to uncover the identity of Queensland soldiers who served in World War I.



More research

Search the catalogue

Continue searching for more on World War I using these subject searches:

[World War, 1914-1918](#)

[World War, 1914-1918 – Women](#)

[World War, 1914-1918 -- Australia](#)

[World War, 1914-1918 -- Campaigns --](#)

[World War, 1914-1918 -- Queensland](#)

[Turkey -- Gallipoli Peninsula](#)

[World War, 1914-1918 -- Participation,
Australian](#)

[World War, 1914-1918 -- Trench warfare](#)

[World War, 1914-1918 -- War work](#)

[Australian and New Zealand Army Corps](#)

[World War, 1914-1918 -- Propaganda](#)

Borrow items

Order items online through State Library's One Search catalogue and [borrow items from State Library's collections](#) when you visit us onsite.

Ask a librarian

[State Library staff](#) are available to advise on keywords and search strategies and suggest databases to help you carry out independent research.

Please note that librarians can guide and support your research process, but they cannot complete your assessment, select sources for you or provide answers to assessment questions.

Visit Anzac Square

Visit the [World War I Memorial Crypt](#) at Anzac Square to explore Queensland's pre-eminent war memorial, individually, [virtually](#) or on a [school tour](#).