



Teachers Resource

Australian

Ex-Prisoners of War

Memorial



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4th Year Education Students Federation University 2014



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Teacher Guide

Purpose

Purpose of the Memorial: To acknowledge the pain and suffering that all Prisoners of War endured during their time in captivity, to commemorate the thousands of mates left behind and to acknowledge the sacrifice of families during wartime.

Background

The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial was opened on the 6th February 2004 to recognise and remember those Australians who became prisoners of war during the wars of the 20th Century. It was initially thought to be built in Canberra, but it was deemed there was no room for such a memorial. The thought then came - why not here in Ballarat?

The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial honours and pays tribute to more than 36,000 Australians who were Prisoners of War of the enemy during the Boer War, World War 1, World War 2 and the Korean War. There were no Australian Prisoners of War in the Vietnam War. The Memorial acknowledges the deprivation, the pain and suffering of those that returned and also those that remain on foreign shores and have no known grave.

The memorial was funded from donations by the Ballarat community, family members of POW's and corporate organisations during the memorial's appeal.

Symbolism

The Memorial symbolises that all Australian Prisoners embarked to serve away from their homeland and acknowledges the hardship, deprivation, brutality, starvation and disease endured by Prisoners of War during their capture and the scars many continued to endure upon their repatriation to Australia.

A roll of names of all known Australian Prisoners of War is etched into a black granite wall lying parallel to the pathway. The roll gives no rank, number or enlistment detail. In recognition that sacrifice, suffering and desperation acknowledged no person's status. These men and women are equals.

It was designed by Peter Blizzard a well renowned sculptor in Australia and overseas. It was designed to incorporate a stone garden journey; in that journey is the long pathway which emphasizes the great distances people in Australia travelled to go to war.

The stones forming the pathway are shaped like railway sleepers to recognise the iconic link to railways in traveling to war and as prisoners. The roll of names are etched on black granite walls that run parallel to the pathway, and are designed on a 30 degree angle to make it easy for people to see the names without the need to bend over. This is important because of the large number of elderly people who visit the memorial.

In the center of the memorial stand massive stone obelisks, they form a silent line of guardians watching over these Prisoners of War for ever obelisk that is lying down represents all those who died as Prisoners of War. The fallen stone honours all those men and women who died as Prisoners of War. The obelisks have all the names of the countries that had Australian Prisoners of War and



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they stand in a shallow pool of water that represents the countries where Prisoner of War camps were, being out of reach across the world's oceans and seas.

General Information

What is a Prisoner of War?

The Trustees of the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial have defined a Prisoner of War to be a person who was captured by a common enemy and/or interned in a neutral or non-combatant country. To be defined an Australian Prisoner of War, the person needs to be either an Australian Born person serving in a Uniform of a friendly country or Born Elsewhere and serving in the Uniform of an Australian Service. A Prisoner is a person who has lost personal privileges, suffers deprivation of liberty or is unable to return home or dies in captivity.

Every name on the memorial has been researched by the hard work of the trustees and many other volunteers.

Number of Ex-POWs represented: 36,000 plus.

Materials Used: Natural Stone-Basalt and Black Granite.

Plants: Xanthorrhoea Australis (Austral Grass Tree) and various other native plants.

Cost: \$1.8 Million (Donations).

Length: 130 metre long granite wall.

Teacher information:

Memorial location: Ballarat Botanical Gardens – Corner of Carlton Street and Wendouree Parade.

Access to the Memorial: Access to the memorial is via Wendouree Parade. There is complete wheelchair access to the entire memorial.

Toilet Location: Approximately 100m North along Wendouree Parade.

Parking: Limited Car parking along Carlton Street and Windmill Drive.

- Parking along Carlton Street suitable for cars and mini buses.
- Parking along Windmill Drive is suitable for large buses.

Food: There is no shops in the direct vicinity, the nearest shops for food are about 500m south along Gillies street. Here you will find a service station and various specialty shops and a café.

Emergency Form up Point: Located on the grass in the vacant area behind the memorial near Gillies Street.

See Map for locations.

Weather: Weather can be quite cold with winds coming of the lake, there is no shelter from the elements. Appropriate clothing and personnel protection from the elements should be worn.



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MAP: Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial.



- Key:**
- The Memorial - ●
 - Car Parking - ■
 - Points of Interest - ↓
 - Toilet - ■
 - Emergency Form up Point - ▲

Contacts:

General Inquiries or for Guided Tours:	Emergencies:
Bill Bahr (Memorial Trustee) 0419-500983	Fire: (0-0-0)
Ray Mende (Memorial Trustee) 0429-324429	Police: (0-0-0) or (03) 5336 6000
David Stewart (Memorial Trustee) 0417-313608	David Lewis (Parks & Gardens) 0417-382182



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Name:

Date:/...../.....

Education Trail – Teacher Copy

Section 1: The following section needs to be conducted at the entrance of the memorial where the wall of names begins. See diagram for section 1 location.

1. Write down 10 words that come to mind when you think about Prisoners of War?
Students may need to be prompted to think of ideas so it is important that they are guided to an answer and not simply given the answer. This question is designed to create some critical thinking about the Prisoner's life and experiences.
2. What is a Prisoner of War?
The Trustees of the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial have defined a Prisoner of War to be a person who was captured by a common enemy and/or interned in a neutral or non-combatant country. To be defined an Australian Prisoner of War, the person needs to be either an Australian born person serving in a uniform of a friendly country or born elsewhere and serving in the uniform of an Australian service. A Prisoner is a person who has lost personal privileges, suffers deprivation of liberty or is unable to return home or dies in captivity.
3. In small groups discuss what you think is symbolised by the pavers along the pathway?
The journey begins on a long pathway designed to create a strong visual perspective that emphasizes the great distance Australians travelled to war. The paving stones forming a pathway are shaped like railway sleepers in recognition of the iconic place of railway journeys in the history of Australian Prisoners of War.
4. In pairs discuss and write down reasons the names may be written the way they are? What is the reason behind the angle of the wall?
A roll of names of all known Australian Prisoners of War is etched into a black granite wall lying parallel to the pathway. The roll gives no rank, number or enlistment detail. In recognition that sacrifices, suffering and desperation acknowledged no person's status. These men and women are equals.

Section 2: The following section needs to be conducted at the middle part of the memorial where you can see the large stone obelisk. See diagram for section 2 location.

5. Brainstorm what is represented by the massive stone obelisks? Why is one of them fallen over?
In a break in the wall a row of stone obelisks stands sentinel in a shallow pool of water. Each bears the names of countries where Australians were held as Prisoners of War. The obelisks are out of reach across the water, symbolizing that all the prison camps were overseas, far from home and the comfort of family and friends. The size of each obelisks and their position in the water creates a powerful image and offers a place for reverence and reflection. The obelisks form a silent line of



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guardians watching over these prisoners of war for ever. The fallen stone honours all those men and women who died as prisoners of war.

6. In pairs discuss why you think the country of Vietnam is not written on the obelisks?
Vietnam isn't included on the obelisks or the wall as there were no Prisoners of War during the Vietnam War.
7. How many countries around the world were home to Australian Prisoners of War? Name them?
Germany, Siam, New Guinea, Italy, Japan, New Britain, Transvaal, Celebes, Libya, Java, Borneo, Natal, Poland, Timor, Ambor Island, Turkey, Sumatra, Singapore, Cape Colony, New Island, Czechoslovakia, Hainan Island, France, Manchuria, Palestine, Austria, Indo-China, Dutch New Guinea, Switzerland, Syria, Belgium, Papua, Formosa, Mesopotamia, Greece, Korea, Sweden, Malaya, Crete, Holland, Burma, Holland Free State. Some country names no longer exist but were the name at the time the Prisoners were captured.

Section 3: The following section needs to be conducted in the middle of the memorial where the four flag poles are. See diagram for section 3 location.

8. There are 4 flags flying in the center of the memorial, in small groups discuss what the 4 may represent? What are the 4 names of the flags?

<p style="text-align: center;">The National Flag of Australia</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">The Australian white ensign</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">The RAAF ensign</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">The Australian red ensign</p> 
<p>The Australian flag contains three elements: The British Union Jack on a blue field - reflecting the historical origins of the Australian flag, The Southern Cross - reflecting Australia's geographic position in the Southern Hemisphere, and a seven pointed star - representing the Federation of six states, with an additional point to represent the territories collectively.</p>	<p>The national flag for use by commissioned warships and shore establishments of the Royal Australian Navy. The flag is flown by warships from the ensign staff at the stern. The blue Australian national flag is flown on the jack-staff at the bow, when vessels are in port. Prior to 1967, the RAN used the British White Ensign.</p>	<p>The official flag of the Royal Australian Air Force. The flag is flown at RAAF bases. Originally adopted in 1949, the ensign was modified in 1982 when the roundel was altered to include a red kangaroo. During World War II, the RAAF used the flag of the British Royal Air Force.</p>	<p>The national flag for use by ships registered in Australia. From 1981 yachts and small ships may use the blue Australian National Flag in place of the Australian Red Ensign. The flag is also known as the Civil Flag. From 1901 to 1954 the Red Ensign was in practice, used as Australia's Civil Flag, i.e. the flag to be flown by private citizens on land. The Blue Ensign was for Government use only, reflecting British practice with its ensigns.</p>



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9. Find and explain the memorial within this memorial? What happened and how many tragic deaths were there?

The memorial within this memorial is the one at the center for the Montevideo Maru a Japanese Merchant ship. In 1942 it was sunk by an US Submarine carrying 1,053 Prisoners of War and 208 civilians with 17 Japanese crewman and 3 guards being the only survivors. This remains the largest maritime disaster in Australian history.

10. What conflict did Sir Albert Coates serve in?

Sir Albert Coates was born in Ballarat in 1895 and enlisted into the Australian Army Medical Corps at the age of 19. He served Australia during WWI and WWII and was captured by the Japanese in 1942 at the fall of Singapore and sent to Burma.

Section 4: The following section needs to be conducted towards the end of the wall, it may also require the students to walk back along the wall to count names and panels. See diagram for section 4 location.

11. With an average of 450 names on each panel how many panels signify each conflict and approximately how many Prisoners of War were there in each conflict?

The number of panels for each conflict are;

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Boer – Panels 0.5 | Approximately 225 Prisoners. |
| WWI – Panels 9.5 | Approximately 4,050 Prisoners. |
| WWII – Panels 68.5 | Approximately 30,825 Prisoners. |
| Korean – Panels 0.10 | Approximately 45 Prisoners. |

12. Which conflict saw the most number of Australians imprisoned?

The conflict that saw the largest number of Australian Prisoners was during WWII with 31,404 Prisoners. Following that was WWI with 4,149 Prisoners, Boer War with 200 Prisoners, and Korean War with 31 Prisoners.

13. Why is there blank panels at the end of the memorial?

The reason there are blank panels at the end of the wall is because the research for more names is ongoing. From the opening of the memorial in 2004 with approximately 35,000 names on the wall until now there has been 974 names added to the wall.

Notes:

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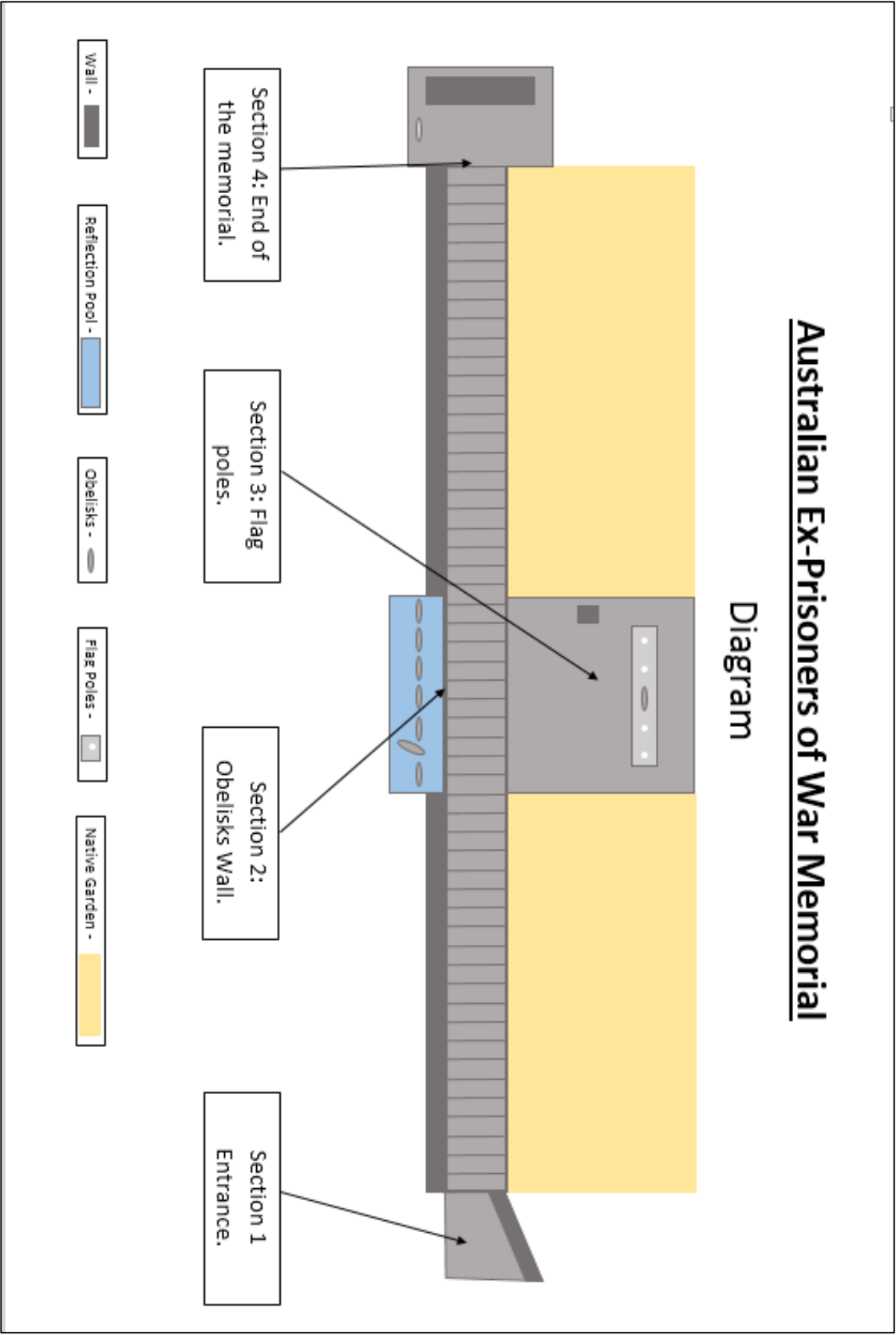


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Name:

Date:/...../.....

Education Trail – Student Copy

14. Write down 10 words that come to mind when you think about Prisoners of War?

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15. What is a Prisoner of War?

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16. In small groups discuss what you think is symbolised by the pavers along the pathway?

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Answer:

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17. In pairs discuss and write down reasons the names may be written the way they are? What is the reason behind the angle of the wall?

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Answer:

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18. Brainstorm what is represented by the massive stone obelisks? Why is one of them fallen over?

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Answer:

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19. In pairs discuss why you think the country of Vietnam is not written on the obelisks?

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Answer:

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20. How many countries around the world were home to Australian Prisoners of War? Name them?

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21. There are 4 flags flying in the center of the memorial, in small groups discuss what the 4 may represent? What are the 4 names of the flags?

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Answer:

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22. What conflict did Sir Albert Coates serve in?

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23. Find and explain the memorial within this memorial? What happened and how many tragic deaths were there?

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24. With an average of 450 names on each panel how many panels signify each conflict and approximately how many Prisoners of War were there in each conflict?

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25. Which conflict saw the most number of Australians imprisoned?

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26. Why is there blank panels at the end of the memorial?

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Teacher Feedback:

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Classroom resource for the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial

The link for students - <http://ballaratexpowinvestigation.weebly.com/>

This website was created for a more interesting way for students to access activities from within the classroom in relation to the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat, Victoria.

To get started within the website click on any of the investigations which look at character profiles for specific POW's or on the class activities. If you need any help about how students will complete the activities click on the 'Tips and Hints' link.

We have included all of the information provided on the website below for a hardcopy resource.



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Tips and Hints!!!

Search the nominal roll using the individual's surname. When the search results are displayed select the page containing the range of names that will include your individual.

Information about the Nominal Roll:

The entries in the roll record the following information for each individual, from left to right:

- Service number (Officers and nursing sisters were not allocated service numbers)
- Final rank
- Surname, first name (including some but not all honours)
- Unit of service at the time of death or at the end of the war
- Date of enlistment
- Non-effective entry (i.e. how that person became no longer effective, for example Returned to Australia); also referred to as "fate". A blank indicates that the person was still effective abroad at the time of compilation of the roll
- Date of death or start date of non-effect

If you are unsure of any of the terms listed in the Nominal Roll then consult the Memorial's [Glossary](#).

Names:

Names are listed alphabetically using the surname plus only the initial(s) of the first names even though most names are printed out in full. The service number in ascending order is used to list names in which the surname and first initial(s) are identical to others.

Within some sequences of surname and initials officers are listed separately, either before or after other ranks which have the same surnames and initial(s). Nurses are listed either before or after the alphabetic sequence of their surname plus initial(s). These sequences are most apparent for common surnames.

All information listed is from this website.

https://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/nominal_rolls/first_world_war/introduction/#search

Click on the link for other useful information.



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Investigation 1: Sir Albert Coates

Main investigation:

1. What war(s) did Coates serve in?
2. What is the significance of the Albert Coates statue on Sturt Street Ballarat and what significance might it have for people from Ballarat?
3. Search the Nominal Roll and list any information obtained on Albert Coates.
4. Why do you think Coates was not allowed to initially attend WW2 in 1939 when he enlisted?
5. Search for Albert Coates in the National Achieves (Hint: key words obtained from the Nominal roll will assist in this research), what information can be found about Coates here?
6. Why do you think Albert Coates may have had awards and buildings named after him still to this date?
7. Who was Albert Coates captured by to make him a Prisoner of War (POW) and what war did this occur?

Further investigation:

1. Diseases and illnesses that affected the Prisoners of War (POW):
2. What were some of the diseases, their symptoms and how serious were they?
3. What stress was caused to medical personal because of the amount of people who required medical assistance?
4. Why do you think disease and illness were such a problem during war?

Suggested websites for research:

<http://albertcoates.com/>

<https://www.awm.gov.au/>

<http://www.naa.gov.au/>



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Investigation 2: Private William Ernest Evers

Important Information:

From WW1 Private William Ernest Evers Regimental Number 4179 from the 14th Btn. He has records available in the WW1 Red Cross Files & the National Archives. Most WW1 soldier's files are now on the Nominal Roll site.

Main investigation:

1. What war(s) did Evers serve in?
2. Search the Nominal Roll Red Cross Files and list any information obtained on Evers.
3. What image can you get of Evers condition from the postcard samples and the lifestyle he is living in?
4. Search for Evers in the National Achieves (Hint: key words obtained from the Nominal roll will assist in this research), what information can be found about Evers?
5. Comment on the construction and structure of the Attestation paper.

Further investigation:

Students construct a diary entry using various examples of evidence obtained from the following websites:

- https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/nominal_rolls/first_world_war/
- <http://www.naa.gov.au/>

Suggested websites for research:

- https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/nominal_rolls/first_world_war/
- <http://www.naa.gov.au/>
- <http://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RCDIG1042757--1-.pdf>



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Investigation 3: Eric Theodore Hensel

Important Information:

From WW2 Warrant Officer Air Gunner Eric Theodore Hensel Number 407029 from RAAF. Full records are on the National Archives and WW2 Nominal Roll.

Main investigation:

1. Research the National Archives and Nominal Roll websites and find evidence to prove that Hensel was a Prisoner of War (POW).
2. What war(s) did Hensel partake in?
3. Why did Hensel make application for discharge?
4. Why do think there may be more information available on some Prisoners of war and not others? Take into account what war they were in, how long they served for and different circumstances they experienced.

Further investigation:

You're a Prisoner of War in a Japanese camp, you have limited access to food and medical supplies what do you need and/or could you do to survive?

Suggested websites for research:

<http://www.naa.gov.au/>

https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/prisoners_of_war/



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Other class activities

Art:

Making a Remembrance Day Poppy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qe0ugc6ImgQ>

Things you will need -

- 1 A4 sheet of red paper
- 1 green pipe cleaner
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pencil
- Ruler

Scale model of the wall: a map of the landscape can be found here:

<http://www.powmemorialballarat.com.au/index.php/about-the-memorial/the-memorial-story/plantings-and-landscaping>

Geography:

Using a map of the world research various names off of the wall (names can be obtained from the Ballarat Ex-Prisoners of War website) and research as to where they were held captive and mark this on the map (different colours should be used to represent the different wars).