

MEDIA ALERT

Christmas Remembrance

This Christmas, the Australian War Memorial is encouraging Australians to remember our troops who are away from their families during the Christmas period.

“Christmas is a special time for families, and the Memorial would like to encourage Australians to pause and remember those who are serving our country during this time,” Assistant Director Helen Withnell said.

“However, being away from family does not always mean that troops can’t celebrate Christmas with their fellow soldiers, or receive gifts from home.

“The Australian War Memorial has a diverse collection relating to Australian military service, including the activities of our troops on Christmas Day. Items include photographs, cards, ANZAC biscuits, First World War pudding tins and care packages.

“Our new galleries, *Conflicts 1945 to today* includes a replica example of the Christmas parcel made by the Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary, Camden NSW, of the type sent to Australian servicemen and women serving in the Gulf War in 1991.

“This provides a contrast with a parcel from the First World War sent to Private Sidney Elliott of 21 Battalion during Christmas 1915. He was later killed in action near Longette France in 1917,” Ms Withnell said.

Over 400,000 people have visited *Conflicts 1945 to today* since it opened in February 2008. The stunning new galleries cover Australia’s involvement in conflicts since 1945 including the Cold War, Korea (1950-53), Vietnam (1962-75), the Malayan Emergency (1950-60) and Indonesian Confrontation (1963-66). The 60 years of Australian peacekeeping and the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are also featured.



<http://cas.awm.gov.au/item/REL/00446> <http://cas.awm.gov.au/item/REL34362>

Further information:

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