



MEDIA RELEASE

Roff Returns to the Memorial

The Australian War Memorial's latest exhibition, *A is for Animals* will see the return of Roff the German messenger dog.

“Roff was displayed in 1941 when the Australian War Memorial first opened and has been seen by generations of visitors to the Memorial. To ensure Roff's long term preservation, he is now only occasionally displayed so *A is for Animals* is an opportunity for the next generation to view Roff,” Assistant Director Helen Withnell said.

“There was an element of one-up-manship in luring the Germans' dog across to our line and keeping him as a trophy. Everyone loves the story, but Roff is also a very sleek looking Doberman.

“Unfortunately Roff died in October 1919 in quarantine, before he could make the trip to Australia. He still made the trip to Australia, but only after he was stuffed and mounted in London,” Ms Withnell said.

A is for Animals offers an A to Z of animals in war, from mascots and messengers to creepy-crawlies. Animals are put to many uses in war. Sometimes they have jobs to do, are used as mascots and pets, or are symbols on badges and flags. This exhibition also looks at the unwelcome animals that make life in the field even more difficult and dangerous.

The exhibition has been developed with a young audience in mind, but visitors of all ages will enjoy its fascinating and moving stories.

A is for Animals is open from Friday 27 February – Wednesday 22 July 2009.

The Australian War Memorial's Travelling Exhibitions Program is funded by the Australian Government's Commemorations Program.

Further information:

Roff <http://cas.awm.gov.au/item/RELAWM04369>

Leigh Harris (02) 6243 4575 0409 600 038

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media@awm.gov.au