



MEDIA ALERT

Sudan War Rare Medal Handover

The Australian War Memorial will tomorrow receive a donation of two medals awarded to Private Charles Edward Downey, one of only three Australians wounded in the Sudan War of 1885.

“During the four months of New South Wales involvement in the Sudan War, Downey was one of only three men wounded, being shot through his foot during a minor skirmish. This makes today’s donation particularly significant for the Memorial in telling the story of Australian involvement in the Sudan War.

“The Australian War Memorial is very excited to be receiving this donation, as these medals are relics of Australia’s first overseas conflict,” said Senior Curator, Nick Fletcher.

“In addition, the Downey family has a long and proud tradition of military service,” Mr Fletcher said.

Private Downey’s son, Harold Sydney Gordon Downey, and grandson, Harold Charles Downey, both served in the RAAF during the Second World War. Chris Sporer, Downey’s great great grandson, who is currently a Navy reservist will be donating the medals and with personal papers.

“The Australian War Memorial is fortunate to already have the medals of Private William Edward Learoyd, another soldier wounded in this conflict,” Mr Fletcher said.

The Egypt Medal and Khedive’s Star were awarded to Private Downey to commemorate his service with D Company of the New South Wales Sudan Contingent.

No Australian soldiers were killed in action in Sudan, although nine died of disease.

What:	Medal handover (photo op)
Where:	Administration Building Australian War Memorial Treloar Crescent, Mitchell ACT
When:	10:45am Friday 20 March 2009

Further information:

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