



MEDIA RELEASE

New exhibition of Sidney Nolan work opens

Australian artist Sidney Nolan spent 20 years working on a series of paintings that were inspired by the Gallipoli campaign and underpinned by personal tragedy.

Today the Australian War Memorial opened a special exhibition featuring 81 of these striking works that provide new insights into Australia's military history and identity.

"*Sidney Nolan: the Gallipoli series* constitutes a personal and public interpretation of a campaign that cost so many Australian lives," said Australian War Memorial Director Steve Gower.

"Nolan donated this collection to the Memorial in 1978 in memory of his soldier brother, who died in a tragic accident before the end of the Second World War. This exhibition offers visitors the opportunity to view these striking and iconic works, now on display together for the first time in 30 years."

One of Australia's most complex, innovative and prolific artists, Nolan was born two years after the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915, and said the events of the First World War permeated his life as he grew up in the suburbs of Melbourne.

However, it was not until he was living on the Greek island of Hydra in the mid-1950s that he started to explore the idea of a series of works with a military and heroic theme. He made a one-day visit to Gallipoli and was profoundly moved by the place that had seen so much Australian blood shed.

***Sidney Nolan: the Gallipoli series* is on display at the Australian War Memorial from 6 August to 18 November 2009**, before travelling to other exhibition venues. The Australian War Memorial is open every day from 10am to 5pm. Entry is free.

What:	<i>Sidney Nolan: the Gallipoli series</i>
Where:	Australian War Memorial Treloar Crescent Campbell ACT
When:	Thursday, 6 August – 18 November 2009

Further information:

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