



# Memorial Box Outreach Resource

*Get your hands on a Memorial Box!*

Memorial boxes are a fabulous learning resource for schools. They contain authentic and replica artefacts that students can handle, as well as photographs, case studies, uniforms, equipment, models, a DVD or video, oral histories, and more.

Memorial boxes can be adapted for use in the classroom, to suit students from lower primary to senior secondary, or for community groups such as scouts or guides.

The Resource Book in each box provides borrowers with detailed descriptions and background information about the objects. Curriculum links are given for teachers together with suggested classroom activities.

Booking a Memorial Box is easy!

Boxes are available for loan from agents located in each state and territory. For your state's contact details, go to the Australian War Memorial website

**[www.awm.gov.au/education/box](http://www.awm.gov.au/education/box)**

While use of the Memorial Box is free, borrowers will be asked to pay a fee to cover freight costs. Be aware that these are large boxes, weighing up to 25 kilograms.

These boxes are part of the Australian War Memorial's outreach program, which has been generously funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.



Australian Government  
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Australian War Memorial  
Australian Tourism Awards  
Major Tourist Attraction  
HALL OF FAME



## BOX 1 – **Australia in the First World War**

This box tells of the experience of Australians at war on Gallipoli, in the Middle East, and on the Western Front. It looks at the plight of soldiers, including those who were injured, captured, or died.

Various home-front issues, such as the conscription debate and the repatriation of soldiers, are discussed. The box explores, through case studies and copies of correspondence, the sense of longing and loss experienced both by those who went away and by their loved ones who waited at home.



## BOX 2 – **Vietnam: the Australian Experience**

Australian servicemen and women in Vietnam were part of a multi-national Allied Force. However, the perspective that many young Australians have of this war is garnered from American film and television. This box aims to present schools with the Australian experience of the conflict – who went, why, what they did, how they persevered and the response at home.

Actual items and replicas evocative of the experience of ordinary servicemen and women are included in this Memorial Box, as well as reproductions of works of art, photographs, and documents which will assist students to understand the Australian experience in this war.



## BOX 3 – **Too dark for the Light Horse: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the defence forces**

This box explores the contribution made by Indigenous Australians during the First and Second World Wars. It traces the evolving attitudes towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women and their valued role in time of war.

The Case Studies highlight the bravery and contribution of Indigenous people at a time in our history when they were making sacrifices on behalf of a country in which they were marginalised.



## BOX 4 – **Australia under attack!**

This box looks at events in the Second World War, a time when Australia came under direct attack. These events include the Japanese midget submarine attack in Sydney Harbour, the bombing in Darwin, and attacks on merchant shipping. Maps and information sheets indicate the extent of the impact these events had on each state.

The wider effects of war on Australian life are also discussed – separation, civil defence, rationing, air raids and evacuations, and the government's austerity campaign. The social impact of the influx of thousands of American defence personnel is also examined.



## BOX 5 – **We want to do more: the experience of women and children during the Second World War**

This box explores the new opportunities for women in the workforce during 1942–45. Women enlisted in services and jobs previously belonging to men and carried out these essential services with pride and competence.

The emotional and physical impact of the war on children and the contribution they made to the war effort are considered; the turmoil associated with loss, evacuation, and uncertainty is also investigated.



## BOX 6 – **Our war in the Pacific, 1942**

This box considers some of the critical events of 1942: the fall of Singapore, the battle of the Coral Sea, the Kokoda Trail, and the defence of Milne Bay. These momentous air, land and sea battles were fought close to Australia's shores in a desperate attempt to curb the Japanese advance. The box also looks at the guerrilla war fought on Timor and the experience of Australians who became prisoners of war in 1942.

The box examines Australia's changing relationships with her allies and the political and military tensions which developed between them during this difficult year.

