

# Chinese Anzacs

Education Resource

PRIV. S. J. TONG WAY  
1914



# Chinese Anzacs

## Education Resource

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# Chinese Anzacs

## Introduction

*Chinese Anzacs: Chinese Australians and World War I* was an exhibition developed by the Chinese Museum in 2014. In collaboration with the History Teachers' Association of Victoria and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, a publication based on the exhibition was produced. A copy of this publication will be sent to every Australian secondary school in 2015. In partnership with Culture Victoria, information and images from the exhibition have also been published on the Culture Victoria website (<http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/a-diverse-state/chinese-anzacs/>). This education resource is designed to assist teachers, and extend student engagement and interaction with these primary and secondary sources.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Explore the reaction of Australians of Chinese descent to their involvement in World War I;
- Explore the reasons for their enlistment;
- Identify the diverse range of reactions to Australia's involvement in World War I;
- Gain an understanding of the service of those who enlisted through personal case studies;
- Develop empathy for, and understanding of, the Chinese Australians who served during World War I and their families;
- Analyse, synthesise and evaluate all evidence to form reasoned responses to key inquiry questions; and
- Develop skills of historical literacy and research that are important in historical investigations.

A DVD accompanies the publication and contains a gallery of images and interviews with historians and descendants.

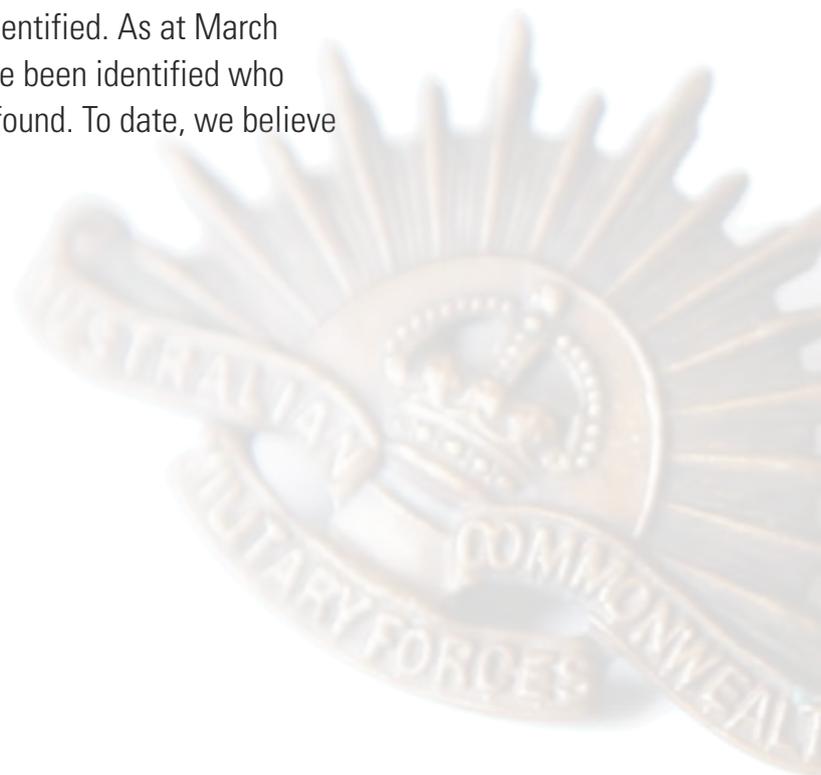


## About the *Chinese Anzacs* Exhibition

When World War I was declared in 1914, Australia rallied behind British efforts. More than 330,000 mobilised personnel were called to action, of which a small proportion were Australians of Chinese descent. Billy Sing, Caleb Shang and Hunter Poon are some of the well-known Chinese Australians who served in the frontline. Other stories remain untold.

In the lead up to the centenary of World War I, the Chinese Museum undertook research into Chinese Australians' involvement, both at home and abroad, in World War I. This research formed the basis of an exhibition which sought to highlight their contribution during the war and the discrimination they faced in trying to enlist in the Australian forces.

Building on the research of Morag Loh, Ian Welch and Mary Boland and more recently Alistair Kennedy, researchers for the *Chinese Anzacs* exhibition identified a significant number of additional Chinese-Australian men who served during World War I. Since the opening of the exhibition further individuals have been identified. As at March 2015, 213 Chinese-Australian servicemen have been identified who served during World War I. More may yet be found. To date, we believe no Chinese Australians served as nurses.



## Teacher Notes

Research conducted on Chinese Australians in World War I for the Chinese Anzacs exhibition creates exciting new learning opportunities for students. It deviates from the traditional large-scale educational resources for World War I units of work through its focus on a small group of soldiers linked only by their shared cultural heritage.

The resource has been designed so that the activities can be teacher-led or used individually by students. It encourages students to address challenging historical questions relating to cultural identity, prejudice, racial acceptance and social values. The materials are intended for use by teachers of history. Teachers are encouraged to adapt and modify the content to suit their teaching purpose.

It contains:

- Researched content on Chinese Australians who served during World War I;
- A range of primary sources including images, objects and documents;
- Interviews with historians, researchers and descendants of Chinese Anzacs;
- Inquiry and research-based activities;
- Assignment tasks and an assessment rubric;
- Links to relevant learning outcomes in the year 9 Australian History Curriculum. The full document can be accessed here: <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/humanities-and-social-sciences/history/curriculum/f-10?layout=1>.





## Australian Curriculum: History Links

This is an extract from the Australian Curriculum: History

# Historical Knowledge and Understanding

## Year 9 – World War I

Students investigate key aspects of World War I and the Australian experience of the war, including the nature and significance of the war in world and Australian history.

### 1 *World War I (1914–1918)*

- ii An overview of the causes of World War I and the reasons why men enlisted to fight in the war (ACDSEH021)
- iii The places where Australians fought and the nature of warfare during World War I, including the Gallipoli campaign (ACDSEH095)
- iv The impact of World War I, with a particular emphasis on Australia (such as the use of propaganda to influence the civilian population, the changing role of women, the conscription debate) (ACDSEH096)
- v The commemoration of World War I, including debates about the nature and significance of the Anzac legend (ACDSEH097)

## Historical Skills

### Chronology, terms and concepts

- 1 *Use chronological sequencing to demonstrate the relationship between events and developments in different periods and places* (ACHHS164)
- 2 *Use historical terms and concepts* (ACHHS165)

### Historical questions and research

- 1** *Identify and select different kinds of questions about the past to inform historical inquiry (ACHHS166)*
- 2** *Evaluate and enhance these questions (ACHHS167)*
- 3** *Identify and locate relevant sources, using ICT and other methods (ACHHS168)*

### Analysis and use of sources

- 1** *Identify the origin, purpose and context of primary and secondary sources (ACHHS169)*
- 2** *Process and synthesise information from a range of sources for use as evidence in an historical argument (ACHHS170)*
- 3** *Evaluate the reliability and usefulness of primary and secondary sources (ACHHS171)*

### Perspectives and interpretations

- 1** *Identify and analyse the perspectives of people from the past (ACHHS172)*
- 2** *Identify and analyse different historical interpretations (including their own) (ACHHS173)*

### Explanation and communication

- 1** *Develop texts, particularly descriptions and discussions that use evidence from a range of sources that are referenced (ACHHS174)*
- 2** *Select and use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies (ACHHS175)*



## PART 1

### Attitudes

# Attitudes to Chinese immigration prior to World War I

Chinese first began coming to the Australian colonies in large numbers during the 1850s Victorian goldrushes. Along with other prospectors from around the world, they followed other gold discoveries as they were made across the country. Initially they were greeted with curiosity and interest. Some colonists also felt that Chinese labour would prove useful to Australian colonisation.

China was much closer to the Australian colonies than Britain, Europe and the United States, which made it easier for Chinese prospectors to get to the Australian colonies. Tensions on the goldfields were sparked as the numbers of Chinese arrivals grew and competition for gold also increased. Chinese prospectors became scapegoats for the challenges faced by other miners. In some cases this led to violence.

Concerned about these tensions, the Victorian government introduced legislation which meant that a £10 poll tax had to be paid by ship captains for 'any Chinese male or person born of Chinese parents' on board, in excess of one person for every ten tons of cargo on board. It also introduced taxes and a system of 'camps' for Chinese miners. This Act was modified over time and later repealed but it was also loosely used as a model for restricting Chinese immigration when gold was found in other Australian colonies. In some colonies it was repealed once the rushes had passed.

The Chinese population in Australia in the nineteenth century probably peaked in 1858 at around 42,000 at the height of the Victorian and start of the New South Wales goldrushes. It did not reach these levels again until after the opening up of non-white immigration in the latter half of the twentieth century. Immigration restrictions and declining gold yields led to a general decline in the Chinese population, although gold discoveries in Queensland led to a small increase in population. In 1901 the Chinese population was around 32,000, by 1911 it was around

25,000 and by 1921 around 14,000. The numbers of Australians with mixed Chinese ancestry grew from just over 3,000 in 1901 to just over 3,600 in 1921. (1)

After the peak of the Victorian and New South Wales goldrushes in the 1870s and in northern Australia in the 1880s, those who had worked on the goldfields took up other occupations and began to move and settle in towns and cities. Chinese immigrants also diversified into other occupations such as agricultural labouring, market gardening, furniture making, laundry work, wholesale fruit and vegetable trading, restaurant and café industry, traditional Chinese medicine and shopkeeping. They also played an important role in the development of many cities and towns. Some also chose to live, socialise and run businesses near their kin in urban areas which came to be known as 'Chinatowns' but many chose to settle and raise families in Australia's suburbs and country towns.

Their children were often born and raised in Australia, went to local schools and then worked and lived with and alongside other Australians. They encountered discrimination and racialized attitudes but they were also accepted and embraced by the communities they lived in. When World War I broke out, like other young Australian men, young Chinese Australians also wanted to be part of Australia's contribution to Britain's war efforts.

One of the early pieces of legislation passed by the newly federated Australian government was the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*. Rather than exclude a specific nationality, the Act enabled the government to exclude any person who 'when asked to do so by an officer fails to write out at dictation and sign in the presence of the officer, a passage of fifty words in length in a European language directed by the officer.' The dictation test could be administered to any immigrant during the first year of residence. It was understood that this test would be applied to non-white immigrants. Initially women and children were exempt from the test but this was later changed.

Further legislation was passed restricting Chinese participation in some industries and occupations. Some colonies prevented Chinese from naturalising. In 1903 the Naturalization Act was passed which excluded 'Aboriginal natives' from Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands from applying for naturalisation.

Under the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*, long-term Chinese residents of Australia could apply for a certificate, which meant they were not required to take the dictation test in order to re-enter Australia after a period away. Later, Certificates of Exemption were issued, which allowed new Chinese arrivals (and others) to enter Australia and take up temporary residence for a set period. Provisions of the Act were loosened in the 1950s but it was not until 1972 that the Act was repealed.



## Attitudes to Chinese Immigration Prior to World War I

## SOURCES

### Source 1.A

This is an excerpt from the parliamentary discussion that occurred prior to the passing of the federal government *Naturalization Act 1903*.

*The object of this amendment is to prevent any of the 80,000 coloured aliens[\*] who are not naturalized at present, but who may be naturalized, or a desire to be naturalized, in the future, from applying for Commonwealth naturalization papers.*

– Senator William Higgs (ALP), 3 July 1903

[\*] Coloured aliens = anyone not born in Australia or naturalised as a British subject. Prior to 1949, Australians were British subjects by birth. Immigrants could apply for British naturalisation under colonial and then federal law. Some colonies, however, passed laws to prevent Chinese immigrants from becoming naturalized British subjects. After Federation, Chinese and other non-white groups, were then denied the right to naturalise under the *Naturalization Act 1903*.

Source:

W. Higgs, 'Naturalization Bill,' Senate, Debates, 3 July 1903, p1933

<http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=ld%3A%22hasard80%2Fhansards80%2F1903-07-09%2F0027%22>

## Source 1.B

*I should like the Minister to explain how it is that such a large number of Chinese and Japanese are coming into Australia. It is recorded that during the first half of this year 789 Chinese and 408 Japanese, or in all 1197 Asiatics [†], came to Australia, and that during the second half of last year 716 Chinese and 281 Japanese, or in all 1001 Asiatics were admitted, making a total of 2198 for the year. This seems to be a very large increase on any previous figures. The departures have not increased; in fact, the Immigration Restriction Act is not fulfilling the object for which it was passed.*

*– Hugh Sinclair (Moreton), 13 November 1912*



**Source:**  
**H. Sinclair, 'Question**  
**Estimates,' House of**  
**Representatives, Debates,**  
**13 November 1912, p5191**  
<http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22hansard80%2Fhansardr80%2F1912-11-13%2F0143%22>

[†] Asiatic = someone from Asia, but might also include people from India, then part of the British Empire.

Source 1.C

Form No. 21. COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA. No. 351  
 Immigration Restriction Acts 1901-1905 and Regulations.

**CERTIFICATE EXEMPTING FROM DICTATION TEST.**

I, *John Baxter* <sup>609</sup> the Collector of Customs for the State of NEW SOUTH WALES in the said Commonwealth hereby certify that *William Henry Sun Johnson* hereinafter described, who is leaving the Commonwealth temporarily, will be excepted from the provisions of paragraph (a) of Section 3 of the Act if he returns to the Commonwealth within a period of *three years* from this date.

Date *29 July 07* *John Baxter* Collector of Customs.

**DESCRIPTION.**

Nationality *Half-bred Chinese* Birthplace *Sydney*  
 Age *3 years & 4 months* Complexion *Dark*  
 Height *—* Hair *Dark*  
 Build *—* Eyes *—*

Particular marks *—*  
 (For impression of hand see back of this document.)

**PHOTOGRAPHS.**

Full Face:  Profile: 

Date of departure *August 07* Destination *China & Japan*  
 Ship *Tawata Maru*  
 Date of return *—* Ship *—*  
 Port *—*

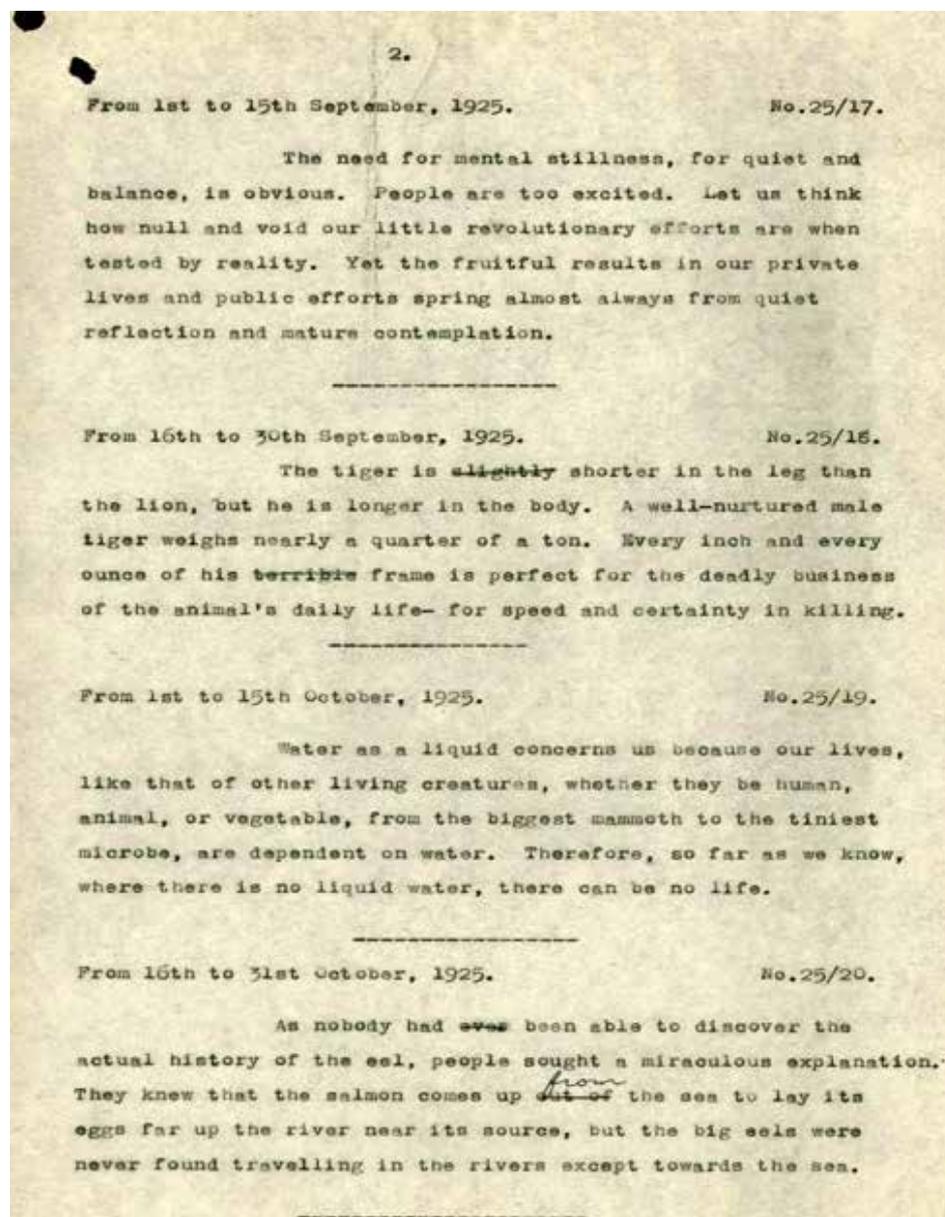
*Did not sail for...*

By Authority: *John A. Ryan, Government Printer, Melbourne.*

Customs Officer

Source:  
 National Archives  
 of Australia, ST84/1,  
 1907/351-360

Source 1.D



Source:  
National Archives of  
Australia, A1, 1935/704  
[http://vrrroom.naa.gov.au/  
records/?ID=18970](http://vrrroom.naa.gov.au/records/?ID=18970)

Examples of diction tests used in 1925 to assess the English language capability of new immigrants.

## Source 1.E

*'If Australia is good enough to live in, it is good enough to fight for. I hope to live in it again after the war.'*

*Benjamin Moy Ling*

*By special permission of Brigadier General R. E. Williams, Commandant, Mr Benjamin Moy Ling, 31 years of age, a well-known law clerk and brother of Mr J. Moy Ling, clerk of courts, at Collingwood, was accepted for active service at the Town Hall Recruiting Depot, last week. 'If Australia is good enough to live in,' he remarked, 'it is good enough to fight for. I hope to live in it again after the war.'*

  
Source:  
Every Week,  
Thursday, 10 May 1917

Source 1.E came from the 'personals' notices published in a weekly Victorian newspaper. Information about people who died while in service was published in the same column. Benjamin, like others born in Australia, felt it was his duty to enlist but he needed special permission to enlist. Other articles that repeated this story pointed out that Benjamin had attempted to enlist several times. The status of his eligibility was questioned, even though he was born in Australia.

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## ACTIVITY 1



- 1 Look at Source 1.D then go to the History Unit 'Who can be Australian' on the *Difference Differently* website ([http://www.differencedifferently.edu.au/who\\_can\\_be\\_australian/part\\_1c.php](http://www.differencedifferently.edu.au/who_can_be_australian/part_1c.php)) and attempt at least one of the dictation tests.

**2** *Read Sources 1.A and 1.B. What do these sources tell us about the Australian Government’s position on the immigration of non-white people to Australia?*

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**3** *What effect might the views expressed here have had on young men born in Australia of Chinese descent?*

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Web links on Chinese immigration to, and settlement in, Australia

- 1** *Museum Victoria, History of immigration from China, <http://museumvictoria.com.au/origins/history.aspx?pid=9>*
- 2** *National Archives of Australia, Chinese Immigrants and Chinese–Australians in New South Wales, [http://www.naa.gov.au/naaresources/Publications/research\\_guides/pdf/chinese\\_guide.pdf](http://www.naa.gov.au/naaresources/Publications/research_guides/pdf/chinese_guide.pdf)*

- 3** *National Archives of Australia, A Legacy of White Australia: Records about Chinese Australians in the National Archives*, <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/publications/papers-and-podcasts/immigration/white-australia.aspx>
- 4** *Culture Victoria, Chinese Australian Families, Dreams of Jade and Gold*, <http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/chinese-australian-families/9411/dreams-of-jade-and-gold/>
- 5** *Chinese Museum*, <http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/3672/chinese-museum/>
- 6** *Museum Victoria Immigration timeline*, <http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/websites-mini/immigration-timeline/1850s/>
- 7** *Harvest of Endurance Scroll*, [http://www.nma.gov.au/collections/collection\\_interactives/endurance\\_scroll/harvest\\_of\\_endurance\\_html\\_version/home](http://www.nma.gov.au/collections/collection_interactives/endurance_scroll/harvest_of_endurance_html_version/home)

## Attitudes towards Chinese in Australia

- 1** *Culture Victoria, Goldfields Stories: Dai Gum San, Big Gold Mountain*, <http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/dai-gum-san-big-gold-mountain/>

## Chinese immigration to Australia

- 1** *Australian Government, Chinatowns across Australia*, <http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/chinatowns-across-australia>
- 2** Kate Bagnall, *The Tiger's Mouth*, <http://chineseaustralia.org/about/>
- 3** *Culture Victoria, Chinese Australian Families, Quong Tart, wife Margaret, and family, 1903*, <http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/chinese-australian-families/9428/quong-tart-wife-margaret-and-family-1903/>
- 4** *Chinese-Australian Historical Images in Australia*, <http://www.chia.chinesemuseum.com.au/>



## PART 2

### Enlisting

# Historical Context to World War I

Prior the outbreak of World War I the countries of Europe aligned themselves in a complex set of allegiances. On 28 June 1914, the assassination in Sarajevo of the Archduke Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, triggered a diplomatic crisis. International alliances formed over the previous decades led to the major powers of Europe declaring war on each other. Great Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914.

As a dominion of Great Britain, Australia was also at war. Prime Minister of Australia at the time, Andrew Fisher, enthusiastically declared in an election meeting in Colac, Victoria that Australia would support Britain to 'the last man and the last shilling.' (1)

By the end of 1914, 50,000 men and women had voluntarily enlisted even though Australia's initial pledge had been to raise an army of 20,000 volunteers. By the end of the war over 400,000 men and women had enlisted. It is estimated that approximately 50 per cent of the eligible male population enlisted over the course of the war. (2)

Most Australians were enthusiastic about supporting the war effort and fighting for the British Empire. Chinese Australians shared this enthusiasm and volunteered to enlist. At least 213 Australians with Chinese ancestry are known to have served during World War I. They served in Gallipoli, Palestine and on the Western Front.

In 1909 and 1910 the *Defence Act 1903* was expanded so that individuals who were 'not of substantial European origin or descent' could be declared 'exempt' from combat duties in Australia's defence forces. The Australian Imperial Force was an expeditionary rather than defence force, which was established to support Britain's war efforts overseas. It was formed by voluntary enlistment. Military orders instructed those in charge of recruitment were to accept 'Only British subjects substantially of European origin or descent' into the Expeditionary Forces. Some Chinese Australians were rejected for

1

Source:  
Day, David  
'Andrew Fisher: Triumph  
and Tragedy,' Papers on  
Parliament No. 53,  
June 2010

[http://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Senate/Research\\_and\\_Education/~/\\_/link.aspx?id=B8DDC9C6307C45418D3AB9E07551D469&\\_z=z](http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Senate/Research_and_Education/~/_/link.aspx?id=B8DDC9C6307C45418D3AB9E07551D469&_z=z)

2

Source:  
Selected WWI Statistics  
from The War Office,  
Statistics of the Military  
Effort of the British Empire  
During the Great War  
1914–1920 (London 1922)  
as used by the ANZAC Day  
Commemoration Committee  
(Qld). Incorporated

<http://www.anzacday.org.au/history/ww1/anecdotes/stats01.html>

service on this basis. Others successfully enlisted. The Chinese Anzacs exhibition and this education resource are about the lives of these men and their families.

## **ANZAC or Anzac?**

When Australia and New Zealand decided to send forces to support Britain's war efforts they chose to send a combined force called the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps which was abbreviated to A.N.Z.A.C or ANZAC.

This term was also quickly adopted as a proper noun, to refer to the sector at Gallipoli ('the Anzac sector'), the soldiers ('the Anzacs'), the name of the cove ('Anzac Cove'), the national holiday ('Anzac Day') and Campaign Honours ('Landing at Anzac,' 'Defence of Anzac' and 'Withdrawal from Anzac'). Colloquially the term 'Anzac' has also come to mean a person from Australia or New Zealand in the armed services.

In this resource, 'Chinese Anzac' refers to someone who served in the Australian and New Zealand Forces during World War I and also had a parent or grandparent born in China.

## **Enlisting**

During the first year of the war approximately 33 per cent of all volunteers were rejected. In August 1914 at the start of the War enlistees had to be 18–35 years old, at least 5 feet 6 inches (167.6 cm) in height with a chest measurement of 34 inches (86.4 cm). (3) By June 1915, requirements were relaxed. Men were accepted who were up to 45 years old and at least 5 foot 2 inches (157.5 cm) tall. In April 1917 the minimum height was lowered again to 5 foot (152.4 cm). Dental and visual fitness was also relaxed over time as were concerns about racial ancestry.

Enlistments into the Australian Imperial Force also appear to have been influenced by (but for complex legal reasons not necessarily controlled

3

**Source:**

<https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/enlistment/>

by) the eligibility requirements for service in the armed forces that were added to the *Defence Act 1903* in 1909 and 1910. These requirements exempted those 'not substantially of European origin or descent' from serving in the Australian naval and military forces but did not exempt them from being called upon to undertake 'non-combatant duties.' The full list of exempt classes was as follows:

- (a) Persons reported by the prescribed medical authorities as unfit for any naval or military service whatever; and
- (b) Members and officers of the Parliament of the Commonwealth or of a State; and
- (c) Judges of Federal or State Courts, and police, stipendiary or special magistrates of the Commonwealth or of a State; and
- (d) Ministers of Religion; and
- (e) Persons employed in the police or prison services of the Commonwealth or of a State; and
- (f) Persons employed in lighthouses; and
- (g) Persons employed as medical practitioners or nurses in public hospitals; and
- (h) Persons who are not substantially of European origin or descent, of which the medical authorities appointed under the Regulations shall be the judges; and
- (i) Persons who satisfy the prescribed authority that their conscientious beliefs do not allow them to bear arms and
- (j) Persons engaged in any employment specified by the Regulations or by Proclamation.

Provided that, as regards the persons described in paragraphs (g), (h), and (i) of this section, the exemption shall not extend to duties of a non-combatant nature. (4)

Enlistment in the World War I expeditionary forces was instead guided by military orders which excluded Chinese Australians even further. District orders sent to 2nd Military District in October 1914 stated that 'Only British subjects substantially of European origin or descent are to be accepted for service with the Expeditionary Forces.' Under this order Chinese Australians, who were found to be not substantially of European origin, were not able to serve at all, even in 'non-combatant' roles. (5)

So how did Chinese Australians succeed in enlisting? Prospective enlistees underwent a medical examination and also signed an 'Attestation Paper' in which they answered a number of questions about themselves. One question asked them if they were natural-born British subjects or naturalised British subjects. There was no question, however, related to the nature of an applicant's 'European origin or descent.' This means that enlistment officers probably initially assessed ancestry according to a person's name, how they looked and perhaps according to their English-language abilities. Chinese Australians enlisting at a local recruitment office might also have been known personally by enlistment officers.

5

Source:  
National Archives of  
Australia,  
AWM32/90

**Historical Context to World War I**

**SOURCES**

## Source 2.A

This is a list of Chinese Australians who have been identified as serving during World War I as at March 2015. It includes Australian men who enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces and also the Kennedy Regiment.

As part of research for the Chinese Anzacs exhibition individuals with 'Chinese looking' names were identified and then follow-up research was undertaken to try and confirm their Chinese ancestry. Other individuals were identified from previous research and word-of-mouth.

## ***Chinese Anzacs Education Resource***

Since the opening of the Chinese Anzacs exhibition additional families have come forward with information about ancestors with Chinese ancestry who served during World War I.

Affoo, Frederick Alexander	Chin, Frederick Walter Ford	Foon, William	Hoyling, Harry Edward
Aghan, Alfred	Chin, Harry Thomas	Ford, Ernest Arthur	Hughes (Huey), David Henry
Aghan, David George	Chin, Henry James	Gee, Harry Charles	Hughes (Huey), John Robert Joseph
Ah Foo, Tommy	Ching, William Frank	Gett, George	Hughes (Huey), Thomas Albert
Ah Yee, James	Chinn, William Henry	Gipp, Francis George	Hungfee, George Wallace
Ahang, William Clarence Way	Chong, Arthur	Gipp, George	Hustwaite, Sydney John
Ahchay, Nathaniel	Chong, James Palmer	Gipp, Leslie Herbert	Jacgung, Lindsay Lee
Ahchay, William	Choy, Arthur Edward	Gipp, Richard	James, Harry
Ahchow, Thomas William	Choy, Arthur Edward	Gooley, Charles	Jan, Andrew
Ahgee, Henry Frederick	Chung, William Thomas	Gooley, William	Jan, Henry
Ahsee, William	Clarke, Leslie Linton	Goon, Frederick	Kem, Francis John
Allen, Charles Albert	Compow, Henry William	Goon, Herbert Henry	Kem, Morton Edward
Amoy, Herbert William	Cumming, John Allan	Gum, Raymond Frank	Kem, Percival John
Amoy, Thomas	Currie, Francis Thomas	Gye, Edward Evelyn	Kew-Ming, Leslie Henry
Arford, Abel Henry	Currie, Hugh Roy	Gye, George Butler	Key, Harold George
Asheu, Ernest Sydney	Davies, Harold William	Hanstein, Oscar Carl	Kihang, Ernest
Belcher, Francis Henry	Dong, Frederick	Hem, Edward Bert	Kihang, Herbert
Butler, Arthur Harold	Egge, Rupert John	Hiah, Victor	Kihang, William
Butler, William Wallace Cameron	Egge, William Frederick	Hing, Bert	Kim, William John
Cameron, Colin	Foo, Francis William	Hing, Clarence Edgar	King, David Alexander
Cameron, Donald James	Foo, George	Hing, Frederick George	King, Edward James
Chan, Albert Victor	Foo, James	Holmes, Joseph John	King, John Ernest
Chew-Kee, Norman William Enoch	Foo, Richard	Hon, Albert	Kong Meng, Herbert
Chie, Carlton Norman	Foo, Walter Denman	Hong, Edward Daniel	Kumsay, Cecil George Laurence
	Fooke, James	Hong, James	
	Foon, Alfred Ernest	Hong, John	
	Foon, Frederick	Hong, Thomas	

Lagoon, Albert Roy	Moy, John Alfred	Shang, Caleb James	Tong, Roy
Lam Pan, William George	Moy Ling, Benjamin	Shang, Sidney Waugh	Tong, Royden Wesley
Langtip, Bertie Allan	O'Phee, Andrew	Shanhun, Alfred	Tong, William James Claude
Langtip, Ernest Walter	O'Phee, Joseph Martin	Shanhun, Arthur Alfred	Tong-Way, Hedley David
Langtip, Henry	O'Phee, Thomas Patrick	Shanhun, Edward William Alexander	Tong-Way, Samuel John
Langtip, Leslie Oliver	O'Sing, Harold	Shanhun, John Ambrose	Tucker, Charles
Lee, Alfred John Edward	Owen, Edward Albert	Sheck, George	Tucker, Frederick William
Lee, Thomas William George	Owen, Henry John	Shying, Christopher John Lindin	Wagstaff, Laurence Mansfield John
Lee-Kim, George Vincent	Ping, Eric Henry	Shying, Henry Edward	Waller, Edward John
Lepp, Albert Edward	Ping, Julian Edward William	Siakew, James	Way, James Lawrence
Lepp, Arthur Norman	Ping, William Henry	Sing, Charles Percival	Wilson, Frederick Ernest
Lepp, Clarence Rupert	Piper, Herbert Arthur	Sing, Ernest	Wong, Elijah Renfred Hubert
Lepp, James Edwin Charles	Poon, Hunter Robert George	Sing, George Bush	Wong, Richard Wesley
Lepp, Reginald Charles	Quan, Walter	Sing, George Reuben	Wunhym, John Alfred
Lepp, Victor Stanley	Quan, William John	Sing, James Hughes	Yingoon, Henry
Lock, John Henry	Quong Tart, Arthur Malcolm	Sing, John	Yon, Albert Harold
Long, Albert Victor	Quonoey, Christopher	Sing, Nelson	Yon, Charles Albert
Long, Harry Walter	Sam, Albert	Sing, William	Yon, Ernest Charles
Long, Percy	Sam, Arthur	Sing, William Edward	Yon, Percival Edward
Loo Long, George Thomas	Sam, George Flood	Sooning, George	Yon, Robert Henry
Loo Long, William	Sam, Henry Herbert	Sooning, James Albert	You, Charles
Loy, Samuel Arthur John	Sam, James Francis	Suey, Frank Henry	Young, Hem
Lum, Albert David	Sam, John William	Tankey, William Alfred	Young, William
Lum, Joseph Herbert	Sam, Norman	Tart, Albert Ernest	Yum, George Henry
Mason, Robert	Sam, William	Tipp, Arthur Ernest	Yung, Ernest Herbert
Minjoy, Joseph Walter	Sams, James Edmund	Todd, Charles Roy	Yung, George Alfred
Mong, Albert	See, Thomas	Tong, Arthur Norman	
Moy, Arthur William	See, William	Tong, Dudley George	
Moy, Charles James		Tong, George Hubert	

## Source 2.B



An 'A' for Anzac on the colour patch of 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Division, Australian Imperial Force.



Source:  
Australian War Memorial,  
REL/01644.001

Colour patches were used by the Australian Imperial Force from 1915 onwards. The New Zealand Expeditionary Force and the Canadian Expeditionary Force also adopted them to identify units and sub units. The shape of the colour patch indicated the level of the formation to which the unit belonged and the colour indicated the function. Soldiers who took part in the Gallipoli Campaign were entitled to wear a brass A on their colour patch.

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## ACTIVITY 2

- 1 Go to [naa.gov.au/collection/snapshots/chinese-australians/sam.aspx](http://naa.gov.au/collection/snapshots/chinese-australians/sam.aspx) and read Henry Sam's Attestation Paper, paying particular attention to the question and answer given. Explain the terms 'naturalized' and British Subject.

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**2** *If an enlistment officer followed the directive that 'only British Subjects substantially of European origin or descent are to be accept[ed] for service,' how would he be able to establish whether to accept volunteers of Chinese descent like Henry Sam? What are the problems with this?*

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**3** *Research Activity*

*Go to <http://www.naa.gov.au/>, type in Benjamin Moy Ling in the search bar to find his military records. Complete the summary table below for Benjamin Moy Ling and for one other soldier of your choice from the list of Chinese Anzacs found on p22–3 of this kit. (Please note in the records the name is spelled Benjamin Moyling).*

Soldier's name	
In which year did the soldier enlist?	
Where did he enlist?	
In which unit was he?	
What rank did he obtain?	

Draw or paste in the insignia of the unit.	
Draw or paste in the colour patch of that unit.	
What medals or awards were given to the soldier?	
Only veterans of the Gallipoli campaign were allowed to wear an A on their colour patch – was this soldier entitled to wear it?	
Was the soldier wounded or killed? If so, where?	
If the soldier survived the war what did he do on his return to Australia?	
Where were you able to locate information about your soldier?	
Are there any memorials to this soldier on public display? If so what are they and where can they be found?	
Where did he see active service?	

## Source 2.C

The names of Chinese Australians who served during World War I can be found on war memorials in Australia and overseas. In some cases, their Chinese ancestry appears obvious but if you look at Source 2.A you will realise that there were many whose names were not obviously Chinese. On the Honour Roll below you can find three names listed in Source 2.A.



Source:  
Mackay District War  
Memorials, Hampden and  
Ossa Honour Roll  
[http://www.mackayhistory.org/research/war\\_memorials/kuttabul\\_1418.html](http://www.mackayhistory.org/research/war_memorials/kuttabul_1418.html)

## Source 2.D

Some Chinese Australians enlisted under anglicised versions of their name. Ernest Arthur Foo enlisted as Ernest Arthur Ford in St Kilda. He returned to Australia at the end of the war in 1919. His service record can be found on the *Discovering Anzacs* website (<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/>). Ernest died in 1934 and his headstone states that he served as a Private with the 6th Battalion and that his service number was 7482.

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## ACTIVITY 3



Examine Source 2.C and 2.D

**1** *Why might Ernest Arthur Foo have enlisted under a different name?*

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**2** *Can we verify how many Chinese Australians are on the Hampden & Ossa Honour Roll? Why/why not?*

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## Source 2.E



Source:  
Chinese Museum, Chinese  
Anzacs exhibition

Chinese-Australian enlistments by birth state. Figures correct at March 2015, including four enlistees born in Hong Kong and New Zealand and two where birth place is unlisted.

## Source 2.F

The introduction to this Statistician's Report on the 1911 Australian population census states that although the Census and Statistics Act 1905 does not mention race, this was considered an important category about which to collect data.

Race is now considered a flawed category for classification. Racial classifications used in the past, such as 'full blood' and 'half caste,' are offensive and now unacceptable. The term 'half caste' was used to describe people with mixed 'racial ancestry,' such as someone with a Chinese father and Anglo-Saxon mother. An 'Aboriginal half-caste' is someone with one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander parent.

Non-European Races in States and Territories, 1911.

States and Territories.	Australian.	Asiatic.		African.		American.		Polynesian.		Indefinite.		All Non-European Races.	
	Half-blood.	Full blood.	Half-caste.	Full blood.	Half-caste.								
<b>MALES.</b>													
STATES—													
N.S.W. ..	2,335	10,054	705	142	95	10	7	301	35	..	..	10,507	3,177
Vic. ..	237	5,539	571	47	27	6	4	7	2	1	2	5,609	843
Q'land ..	1,361	8,568	465	47	42	29	1	1,782	83	..	..	10,426	1,953
S.A. ..	346	936	84	15	12	4	1	2	2	2	..	959	445
W.A. ..	760	5,400	64	47	12	5	2	22	3	..	..	5,474	841
Tas. ..	123	464	68	4	3	..	..	5	1	..	..	473	195
TERRITORIES													
N.T. ..	117	1,468	18	7	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	1,486	135
F.T. ..	4	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	4
C'wealth ..	5,283	32,436	1,975	309	191	54	15	2,130	126	3	2	34,932	7,592

<b>PERSONS.</b>													
STATES—													
N.S.W. ..	4,512	10,983	1,390	169	166	10	7	343	70	2	..	11,507	6,145
Vic. ..	447	5,972	1,056	58	63	6	9	12	5	1	2	6,049	1,582
Q'land ..	2,508	9,123	940	53	65	37	5	2,123	142	..	..	11,336	3,660
S.A. ..	692	1,049	175	18	21	5	1	5	4	2	..	1,079	893
W.A. ..	1,475	5,578	129	48	15	7	2	25	3	..	..	5,658	1,624
Tas. ..	227	532	127	4	6	..	..	5	2	..	..	541	362
TERRITORIES													
N.T. ..	244	1,594	35	7	..	..	..	11	1	..	..	1,612	290
F.T. ..	8	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	8
C'wealth	10,113	34,836	3,852	357	336	65	24	2,524	227	5	2	37,789	14,554

  
 Source:  
 Census of the  
 Commonwealth of Australia  
 3 April 1911, Volume 1  
 Statistician's Report  
 including appendices,  
 McCarron, Bird and Co,  
 Printers, 479 Collins  
 Street, Melbourne, p238-9,  
 AusStats  
<http://bit.ly/1E7yGog>

## ACTIVITY 4

1 Looking at Source 2.E, calculate the percentage of Chinese Australians who enlisted in each State. Now, using Source 2.F calculate the percentage of 'Asiatic half-castes' who lived in each State and Territory. The Chinese Australians who enlisted were born in Australia and had Chinese ancestry. Who might have been counted in the Census as an 'Asiatic half-caste'? Compare the figures. What can they tell us? What can't they tell us?

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Source 2.G



'There is still a place in the line for you' – World War I recruiting poster.



Source:  
Australian War Memorial,  
AWM ARTV00076  
[http://www.awm.gov.au/  
collection/ARTV00076/](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/ARTV00076/)

## Source 2.H



Minimum enlistment requirements.

Source:  
Chinese Museum, Chinese  
Anzacs exhibition

## Source 2.I

*'Only British subjects substantially of European origin or descent are to be accepted for service with the Expeditionary Forces.'*

Under the 1903 Defence Act those 'substantially of European origin or descent' could still serve, just not as a combatant.

Source:  
National Archives of  
Australia, AWM32/90

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## ACTIVITY 5



**1** *What is the message of the poster shown in Source 2.G?*

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**2** *If you were a man born in Australia of Chinese parents and you wanted to enlist, how would you respond to this poster? What is it not saying?*

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**3** *Look at Sources 2.H and p19 ('Enlisting'). Why might more Chinese Australians have enlisted successfully after 1915?*

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**4** *Why do you think some Chinese Australians were able to enlist easily while others were rejected, sometimes even within the same family?*

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**5** *What does this tell you about the nature of identifying people by their race?*

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**6** *Are there any exclusions from service in the Australian Armed Forces today?*

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## Source 2.J

George and Herbert Kong Meng were sons of Lowe Kong Meng, a Chinese-Malayan merchant and community leader who arrived in Victoria in 1853. George was denied the opportunity to serve while Herbert was accepted into service and held the rank of Sergeant with the 7th Battalion.

George's rejection came as a surprise to him as he had received earlier military training. Upon his second rejection, George wrote a passionate letter to *The Argus* newspaper expressing his disappointment. The public response that followed demonstrated unwavering support for George and called for a review of enlistment criteria. Regardless, George was not allowed to serve.

### RECRUITING STUPIDITY TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS

*Sir, - Having answered the Prime Minister's appeal for recruits, I journeyed to Melbourne to offer my services to my country. I attended the recruiting depot at the Melbourne Town Hall on Friday, the 14th inst., and after giving my name, age, and religion to the recruiting sergeant I was sent in with some others to the examining room, and told to undress, preparatory to the medical officer examining me as to my physical fitness. After my height, weight,*

**RECRUITING STUPIDITY.**

—♦—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—Having answered the Prime Minister's appeal for recruits, I journeyed to Melbourne to offer my services to my country. I attended the recruiting depot at the Melbourne Town Hall on Friday, the 14th inst., and after giving my name, age, and religion to the recruiting sergeant I was sent in with some others to the examining room, and told to undress, preparatory to the medical officer examining me as to my physical fitness. After my height, weight, and chest measurement had been taken by one of the officials there I was sent to the medical officer. Upon going before him I was told to get dressed again, and when I asked if I had failed to pass the medical officer said he would not swear me in. When leaving the depot, I received a certificate with "not substantially of European origin" written on it, and signed by the medical officer, Captain N. J. Gerrard. With the exception of being asked where I came from, I was not asked one question whilst before the medical officer. Now, sir, for your own guidance, I might state that my father was a British subject, born at Penang, S.S., and arrived in Australia in 1854. My mother was born in Tasmania in 1842, and I myself was born in this State in 1877. I have had six years' military training in the old Victorian Mounted Rifles, and 8th Australian Light Horse Regiment. My brother is at the front serving his King and country, having gone with the 1st Australian Division, and holds the rank of sergeant, but evidently the authorities at the Melbourne Town Hall depot seem to think I am not worthy of helping to defend the Empire. The Prime Minister has appealed to every man of military age to join the colours; but, if this is the treatment the native-born are to receive, I am afraid the appeal will fall on deaf ears. England and France deem it fit to use coloured troops to defend their shores, but the great Australian democracy denies its own subjects the same opportunities. I might state that I have gone to Melbourne on two occasions to offer my services to my King and country, and, after paying all travelling expenses, to be treated like this does not give one any encouragement to go again.—Yours, &c.,

**GEORGE KONG-MENG.**

Longwood, Jan. 20.

*and chest measurement had been taken by one of the officials there I was sent to the medical officer. Upon going before him I was told to get dressed again, and when I asked if I had failed to pass the medical officer said he would not swear me in. When leaving the depot, I received a certificate with 'not substantially of European origin' written on it, and signed by the medical officer, Captain N. J. Gerrard. With the exception of being asked where I came from, I was not asked one question whilst before the medical officer. Now, sir, for your own guidance, I might state that my father was a British subject born at Penang, S.S., and arrived in Australia in 1854. My mother was born in Tasmania in 1842 and I myself was born in this state in 1877. I have had six years' military training in the old Victorian Mounted Rifles, and 8th Australian Light Horse Regiment. My brother is at the front serving his King and country, having gone with the 1st Australian Division, and holds the rank of sergeant, but evidently the authorities at the Melbourne Town Hall depot seem to think I am not worthy of helping to defend the Empire. The Prime Minister has appealed to everyman of military age to join the colours; but, if this is the treatment the native-born are to receive, I am afraid the appeal will fall on deaf ears. England and France deem it is fit to use coloured troops to defend their shores, but the great Australian democracy denies its own subjects the same opportunities. I might state that I have gone to Melbourne on two occasions to offer my services to my King and country, and, after paying all travelling expenses, to be treated like this does not give one any encouragement to go again –*

*Yours, &c.,  
GEORGE KONG-MENG.*

*Longwood, Jan. 20.*



**Source:**  
***The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic:  
1848–1957), Monday 24  
January 1916, p11, Trove**  
[http://trove.nla.gov.au/  
ndp/del/article/2095796](http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/2095796)

Letter from George Kong Meng with transcript.

## Source 2.K

Victorians were quick to write in support of George's letter:

*The system that bars Mr. G. Kong Meng from serving his country at the front certainly cries for immediate revision. Mr. Kong Meng is of Chinese blood, but he is of Australian birth, is married to an Australian, and all his interests are Australian... This is preposterous. George Kong Meng may be a member of the Australian Natives' Association – he may not be a member of a battalion marching off to fight for Australia...*

*There seems to be no good and sufficient reason for the refusal to allow Mr. George Kong Meng to serve with his fellow Australians at the front. His father will be remembered by the older residents of Melbourne as a gentleman of great public spirit, scrupulously honourable in all his dealings, and very highly esteemed by the citizens. He was a native of the Straits Settlements, a British subject born within the Empire. He married a Tasmanian lady, who became the mother of Mr. George Kong Meng and his brother, Sergeant Kong Meng who is now at the front. They are Australian natives... The medical officer who refused to swear in Mr. Kong Meng seems to have acted without tact and without proper inquiry as to Mr. Meng's nationality.*

  
Source:  
*Euroa Advertiser*, Friday 4  
February 1916,  
p3, Trove

[http://trove.nla.gov.au/  
ndp/del/article/70373358](http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/70373358)

  
Source:  
*The Argus*, Tuesday 25  
January 1916,  
p6, Trove

[http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/  
del/article/2102883](http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/2102883)

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## ACTIVITY 6



1 *Why did George write a letter to The Argus? What was he trying to achieve?*

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**2** *The medical officer asked George where he came from. What didn't he ask George?*

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**3** *What official reason was given for the medical officer's refusal to swear him in?*

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**4** *List the arguments that George proposes as to why he should have been accepted as a recruit.*

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**5** *What were the reasons George gave for wanting to enlist? Why might George feel that he was well qualified to do so?*

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**6** *What might George's advice be to other young Australians of Chinese descent who wanted to enlist?*

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## PART 3

### Case Studies



# 1. Benjamin Moy Ling

Benjamin 'Ben' Moy Ling was the son of Reverend James Moy Ling who preached at the Gospel Hall in Little Bourke Street, Melbourne. Ben attended Wesley College and was initially rejected for military service but accepted in 1917. When interviewed about his enlistment, Ben said 'If Australia is good enough to live in, it is good enough to fight for. I hope to live in it again after the war.' He served with the 60th Battalion and later, the 4th Divisional Signals Company.

Ben returned to his home in Rathdowne Street, North Carlton, Victoria in 1919. He remained a bachelor and was a popular singer who sang for numerous church, charity and collegiate concerts. He was featured as a singer on a Melbourne radio station.

In 1932, Ben was a founding member of the Young Chinese League and later served as its Vice-President. Family members remember Ben as a gentleman, who was articulate and very well presented. He died in 1946 and was buried at the Melbourne General Cemetery.



Benjamin Moy Ling

SOURCES

Source 3.A



Source:  
Private collection of  
Christopher Shai-Hee and  
Serena Cheung

Ben Moy Ling's enlistment portrait c. 1917.

## Source 3.B



The Moy Ling family Christmas, 1904.



Source:  
Private collection of  
Christopher Shai-Hee and  
Serena Cheung

## Source 3.C



Moy Ling family Christmas, c. 1934.

Ben is standing at the front, second from the right. He is wearing his Returned from Active Service badge on his lapel.



Source:  
Private collection of  
Christopher Shai-Hee and  
Serena Cheung

## Source 3.D



Moy Ling family grave and detail of a grave decoration.

The Moy Ling family grave in Melbourne Cemetery.  
The grave  
text reads:

*Loving Memory  
James Moy Ling  
Beloved husband of Kim Moy Ling  
Died 2nd Feb 1911 aged 78 years  
After 45 Years Devoted Service  
As Methodist Chinese Minister  
In Victoria*

*Also of the above  
Kim Moy Ling  
Who died 4th March 1912  
Aged 67 years  
At rest*

*Also  
Ben Moy Ling  
Died 8th October 1946  
Aged 61 years*

*Also  
Gladys Esther Lem  
Died 29th June 1954  
Aged 50 years  
Forever with the Lord*

▼  
Source:  
Photographs courtesy  
of History Teachers'  
Association of Victoria

Source 3.E



Source:  
Chinese Museum

Chinese Gospel Hall, Little Bourke Street, 2014.

## Source 3.F



Interview with Serena Cheung and Christopher Shai-Hee.



Source:  
Culture Victoria, *Chinese Anzacs*  
<http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/a-diverse-state/chinese-anzacs/benjamin-ben-moy-ling/>

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## ACTIVITY 7



What information can you gain through study of family photographs?

- 1** *In Source 3.A, the patch on Ben's right arm shows he was a signaller in the A.I.F. What did signallers do and how did their role and equipment change during World War I? Do you think that the 'two flags' were a good symbol for his role? Why/why not?*

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**2** *Compare sources 3.B. and 3.C. What are the similarities and differences between the two photographs? What, if anything, do these photographs tell us about the ancestry and lives of the Moy Ling family? Would it make any difference if they were wearing Chinese dress? On what occasions might Australians be photographed in Chinese dress?*

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**3** *Source 3.D is a photograph of the gravestone of the Moy Ling family at Melbourne General Cemetery. What information does this gravestone provide about Ben's family?*

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**4** *Listen to the interview with Ben's descendents Serena Cheung and Christopher Shai-Hee (Source 3.F) and then using Source 3.E answer the following questions. What is the story that is passed on through the family about Ben and his life? What information in the story might be difficult to verify?*

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**5** *How important was Christianity to Ben and his family? What influence did the Wesleyan Church have on Ben's life?*

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**6** *How did Ben's opinions about the war and enlisting differ from those of his older brother?*

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**7** *Ben wears the 'signaller's patch' in Source 3.A. What was the significance of this patch according to the interview with Ben's descendants?*

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**8** *In the interview, the family talk about returning to the former Moy Ling family home in Rathdowne Street, Carlton. What discoveries did they make when they made contact with the new owners? Why are these discoveries of historical significance?*

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## **2. Caleb James Shang**

Caleb James Shang is the most highly decorated Chinese Australian who served during World War I. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal with Bar and also a Military Medal. The Distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded for his numerous acts of gallantry, one of which included carefully moving into a position where he could identify and kill snipers in broad daylight. This could involve moving into no-man's land and putting himself at great risk. The Bar to his Distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded for volunteering to man a post, defending it until it was destroyed, and then acting as ammunition runner. The Military Medal was later awarded for further acts of bravery under machine gun fire.

Caleb James Shang was born on 4 August 1884 in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, Queensland. He was one of thirteen children born to Lee Wah Shang from Guangdong province, China, and Jane Shang (née Noon) from Gayndah, Queensland. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 5 June 1916, aged 31. His brother Sidney Waugh Shang had enlisted earlier in January 1916, and was in the 12th Battalion.



Caleb James Shang

SOURCES

Source 4.A



**Source:**  
**Australian War Memorial,**  
**Resources and Activities:**  
**Caleb James Shang**

<http://www.awm.gov.au/education/schools/resources/caleb-james-shang/>

*With thanks to Cairns  
Historical Society*

A portrait of Caleb James Shang, September 1918.

## Source 4.B



Distinguished Conduct Medal with Bar. This medal is from the Australian War Memorial collection and is of the type awarded to Caleb.



**Source:**  
Australian War Memorial,  
AWM REL06315.004

<http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/RELAWM06315.004/>

## Distinguished Conduct Medal

On 7 June 1917, while serving at Messines Ridge, Shang observed German preparations for a counter attack on the 47th Battalion's newly won positions and signaled to the rear for artillery support to catch the Germans advancing in the open. Charles Bean recorded Shang's conduct in his notebook, writing:

*[He] acted as a runner, signaller, scout, [Lewis] Gunner (after 10 weeks of self-tuition in signalling). He found a signal lamp in the cement cottage at Hun's Walk, set up the lamp on top of it, exposed to everything, worked it there by daylight and dark (by daylight running messages). He went out on patrol after snipers & got*

*through without a scratch. Every time he came to Bn HQ [Battalion Headquarters] he carried some information, disc or paybook. Every time he went out he carried water, ammunition and sniped in the intervals. The CO [Commanding Officer] roused on him with tongue in cheek, 'You don't appear to be doing much' he said. 'Oh well I'm a bit new to this' he said, 'it's only my second stunt.'*

He was recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal (which he received on 6 July 1917); the commanding officer of the 47th Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander. P. Imlay, wrote:

*This soldier displayed a contempt for danger and exhibited wonderful endurance and coolness, resource and initiative and his conduct certainly inspired everybody he came in contact with ... His conduct throughout excited the admiration of officers and men.*

His citation said:

*For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on numerous occasions. He acted as runner continuously for four days through barrages and fire swept areas, carrying water, food and ammunition to the front line. He attacked enemy snipers in broad daylight and accounted for them. In addition to this, he constantly volunteered for dangerous patrols into enemy country, where he gained valuable information as a scout, and also showed remarkable skill in improvising lamp signals in a very dangerous position whence he could send information to Battalion Headquarters. His conduct showed a never-failing example of fearlessness, resource and initiative.*

## Bar to the Distinguished Conduct Medal

In March–April 1918, Shang fought at Dernancourt on the Somme, France, where the 47th Battalion was engaged in the defence of Amiens. Shang was recommended for a Bar to his Distinguished Conduct Medal on 8 April 1918 which, was awarded on 25 August 1918. Brigadier John Gellibrand, of the 12th Australian Brigade wrote:



Source:

Australian War Memorial,  
AWM38 3DRL 606

<http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/awm38/3drl606/>



Source:

National Archives of  
Australia, B2455, Shang  
Caleb James

*For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at DERNAECOURT [sic] on April 5th 1918 and previous occasions. This soldier's example has always been a source of pride in this Battalion, but on this occasion, he excelled himself by his wonderful powers of endurance, intrepidity and utter contempt for danger. He volunteered for an O.P. [Observation Post] in an advanced position at the start of operations and maintained it throughout until attack started when he reaped a harvest with his rifles until his post was blown right out. He came back through enemy fire to get more rifles but was employed as runner and made several trips through enemy barrage which was intense. He continued carrying ammunition and running until company moved out when he volunteered to remain behind and cover retirement with a Lewis Gun which he did successfully. He showed an utter disregard for danger and is a gallant soldier.*

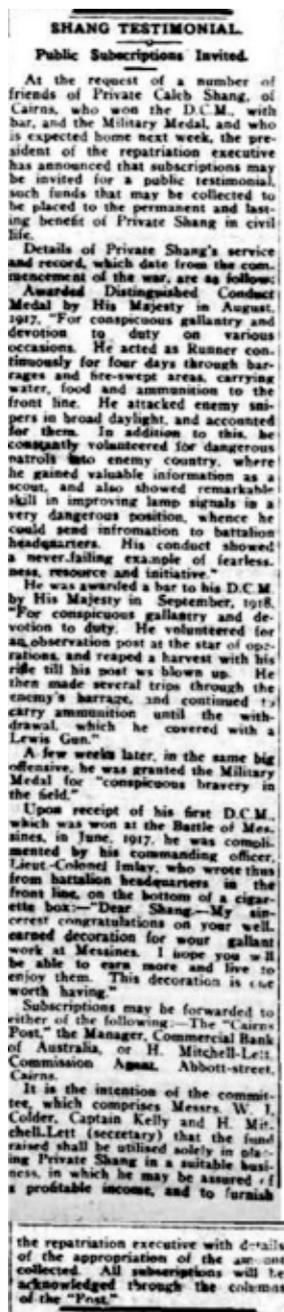
## **Military Medal**

Shang was recommended for the Military Medal on 1 May 1918, which was awarded on 13 September 1918. The recommendation read:

*At VILLERS BRETONNEUX on 1st May, 1918, he displayed remarkable bravery and initiative in making a daylight reconnaissance of the Sector under heavy Machine Gun fire and snipers' activities and which proved of considerable value to us. He established an O.P. at which he was continually sniped at and succeeded in conveying back valuable information of enemy movement and directed our artillery fire on to the enemy formations causing them many casualties. He maintained this Post during tour in line without relief.*

Shang was wounded in August 1918 and sent to Great Britain. From there he was sent home to Australia on 10 December 1918. He was received as a hero in Cairns with over three thousand people at the wharf to greet him. In March 1919, the *Cairns Post* raised a public fund to provide Shang with a start in civilian life. More than £45 (the equivalent today of over A\$3,000) was collected over one week from the Cairns community.

## Source 4.C



Shang Testimonial: Public Subscriptions Invited.

### SHANG TESTIMONIAL, Public Subscriptions Invited.

At the request of a number of friends of Private Caleb Shang, of Cairns, who won the D.C.M., with bar, and the Military Medal, and who is expected home next week, the president of the repatriation executive has announced that subscriptions may be invited for a public testimonial, such funds that may be collected to be placed to the permanent and lasting benefit of Private Shang in civil life. Details of Private Shang's service and record, which date from the commencement of the war, are as follows:

Awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal by His Majesty in August, 1917, 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on various occasions. He acted as Runner continuously for four days through barrages and fire-swept areas carrying water, food and ammunition to the front line. He attacked enemy snipers in broad daylight, and accounted for them. In addition to this, he constantly volunteered for dangerous patrols into enemy country where he gained valuable information as a scout, and also showed remarkable skill in improving lamp signals in a very dangerous position, whence he could send information to battalion headquarters. His conduct showed a never-failing example of fearlessness, resource and initiative.'

He was awarded a bar to his D.C.M. by His Majesty in September, 1918. 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He volunteered for an observation post at the start of operations, and reaped a harvest with his rifle till his post was blown up. He then

made several trips through the enemy's barrage, and continued to carry ammunition until the withdrawal, which he covered with a Lewis Gun.' A few weeks later, in the same big offensive, he was granted the Military Medal for 'conspicuous bravery in the field.'

Upon receipt of his first D.C.M., which was won at the Battle of Messines, in June 1917, he was complimented by his commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel Imlay, who wrote thus from battalion headquarters in the front line, on the bottom of a cigarette box:—"Dear Shang.— My sincerest congratulations on your well-earned decoration for your gallant work at Messines. I hope you will be able to earn more and live to enjoy them enjoy them. This decoration is one worth having.'

Subscriptions may be forwarded to either of the following: The 'Cairns Post,' the Manager, Commercial Bank of Australia, or. H. Mitchell-Lett, Commission Agent, Abbott-street, Cairns.

It is the intention of the committee, which comprises Messrs. W. J. Colder, Captain Kelly and H. Mitchell Lett (secretary) that the fund raised shall be utilised solely in placing Private Shang in a suitable business, in which he may be assured of a profitable income, and to furnish the repatriation executive with details of the appropriation of the amount collected. All subscriptions will be acknowledged through the columns of the 'Post.'



**Source:**  
**'Shang testimonial,' *The Northern Herald*, Thursday 20 March 1919, p34, Trove**  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article147831911>

Source 4.D

**CALEB SHANG COMES HOME.**

**Cairns Welcome to Great Hero.**

Caleb Shang, the greatest of Cairns soldiers, came home on Friday night.

He was a passenger by the *Morialta*, which was expected to arrive shortly after breakfast. From early morning the town was astir in anticipation of meeting Shang, whose record of having twice won the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the next highest decoration to the Victoria Cross, as well as the Military Medal, has not, we think, been equalled by any Queensland soldier in the field. There was no time to arrange any fitting public demonstration, but his comrades of the Returned Soldiers' League had been instructed by their officials to assemble in the fullest possible strength to give him a digger's welcome on his arrival. A China boat passed the entrance to the channel, and was taken for the *Morialta*, but proceeded north on her way. Hours passed, and frequent telephone messages were sent to the offices of the shipping company, asking for news of the *Morialta*. It was not till late in the day that word was received that the vessel had broken down, and would not be expected to arrive until seven o'clock in the evening.

At that hour the *Morialta* was seen making her way past Cape Grafton, but, just as she was entering the channel, she was noticed to come to a standstill. A hasty message was sent by the Soldiers' League to the port pilot, Captain Middleton, who was expecting one of his former boatmen back by the same vessel, and that gentleman readily agreed to lift Shang from the *Morialta* and bring him to Cairns in the pilot boat. This was apparently not necessary for the vessel got under way and made the channel under her own steam.

At about a quarter to nine, just before the moon rose over the MacDonnell Range, the vessel slid silently to her berth at the wharf. Half an hour previously the wharf was deserted, save for the presence of a few fishermen. But from mouth to mouth the word had been passed that the *Morialta* was in the channel, and that Caleb Shang would be shortly in his home town. It was late shopping night. Many would-be purchasers hurried or postponed their business, and made for the wharf. The Cairns Citizens' Brass Band, which has always been right in the front line where anything connected with active service was concerned, left its post in the principal street and made for the wharf also.

By the time the *Morialta* was swinging into her berth, the wharf was densely packed. Every coign of vantage was occupied. Almost every citizen of Cairns, from His Worship the Mayor down to infants in arms, was there. All the returned soldiers turned out, wearing their badges. Staid business men vied with youths in their endeavors to seek a spot nearest to the gangway, where they could get a close and early glance at the hero. The moon had not yet risen, and in the dim light of the wharf lamps Cairns patriots had their first view of Shang. He was standing alone on the boat deck aft, and one of the diggers on the wharf, who had fought and been wounded in the same battalion, the glorious fighting forty-fifth, spotted him. "There he is," he cried, excitedly, and from then on a merry interchange of greetings was flung across the water.

When the gangway was at last lowered, the Mayor (Alderman Gelling) climbed to the main deck, shook hands and personally welcomed Shang, and led him to the head of the gangway, where he met his mother and his relatives. The band, which had taken up a position further along the wharf, level with the foc's'le, struck up, "See the Conquering Hero Comes." The Mayor, who had to shout his words to lift his voice above the strains of the music, introduced Private Shang to the gathering, which must have numbered at least three thousand souls.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said Mayor Gelling, "this is Private Shang, D.C.M. with a bar, and M.M., whom we, as citizens of his town, are here to welcome (Cheers.) Cairns is proud of him. (Cheers.) You, Private Shang, have done so much for us on the battlefield, and we realise our obligation to you. We are determined that our appreciation of your gallantry will be shown in no uncertain manner. (Loud cheers.) The decorations you have won are the equivalent, in my mind, of the V.C. (Hear, hear, from the soldiers.) This is only an informal welcome, and an official welcome to Private Shang and Sergeant Dalziel, who won the V.C., will be given at a very early date. (Prolonged cheering.)"

The Mayor then called for three cheers for Private Shang, and they were given with a fervor that had not previously been experienced in Cairns. The assembled diggers, under the president of the League, Mr. Taylor, added a vociferous "tiger" to the salvo of cheers.

The hero made an attempt at a reply, but an untimely burst of steam from the *Morialta's* exhaust pipes drowned his voice. His second attempt was prevented by his own emotion. He was holding his mother's arm, and said something which was quite undistinguishable. Seeing his confusion, the Mayor aptly remarked, "Shang is a better fighter than a public speaker." His remark was drowned in a tumult of applause.

Shang then descended the gangway, and was promptly surrounded by old friends and well-wishers, whose welcome was as generous as it was spontaneous. "Good boy, digger," "Good old Shang," were shouted at him from those who could not reach him. The ladies of the Welcome Home Club pressed around and shook his hand.

Alone on the top deck, a returned war nurse, Sister Bonnar, who hails from the Tableland, and whose brother won the Military Cross in action, quietly watched the proceedings.

Shang's sisters, who had clung close to his side, at length led him off to his brother's car, followed by more and more hurrahs of cheering. Many who saw him remarked, "How well he looks!" A digger with a lusty voice chimed in, "and so do his ribbons!"

It was thus that Private Shang, bravest of soldiers, came home from the war.



Source:  
'Caleb Shang comes home: Cairns welcome to Great Hero,' *Cairns Post*, Saturday 22 March 1919 p4, Trove  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article40385787>

**CALEB SHANG COMES HOME.  
Cairns Welcome to Great Hero.**

Caleb Shang, the greatest of Cairns soldiers, came home on Friday night. He was a passenger by the *Morialta*, which was expected to arrive shortly after breakfast. From early morning the town was astir in anticipation of meeting Shang, whose record of having twice won the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the next highest decoration to the Victoria Cross, as well as the Military Medal, has not, we think, been equalled by any Queensland soldier in the field.

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It was thus that Private Shang, bravest of soldiers, came home from the war.

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## ACTIVITY 8



- 1 *Create a newspaper front page that might have appeared at the time in Cairns that celebrates Caleb's return to the town.*

*OR*

*Write and record the speech that might have been made to welcome Caleb and other soldiers from Cairns when they returned home.*

- 2 *Using the sources and your own research, investigate the Distinguished Conduct Medal. What is its ranking compared to other medals? For what sort of acts was it presented? Give an oral presentation to the class about the medal and its standing compared to other awards such as the Victoria Cross.*
- 3 *Create an image or painting of the Cairns pier as the S.S. Morialta docked. Include banners and displays that might have been created for the day.*
- 4 *Design an appropriate memorial that Cairns could have commissioned to recognise the actions and life of its 'Greatest Hero.'*
- 5 *Using Trove, investigate and report back to the class on how you believe Caleb used the fund that was raised for him in his life as a civilian. What career did he assume on his return to civilian life and how long did he continue to live in Cairns?*



## 3. Richard Wesley Wong

William and Richard Wong were born in 1888 in Ringarooma, Tasmania to Bartholomew and Emma Jane (née Richards) Wong Poo. The family moved to Beechworth, Victoria, where Bartholomew served as a missionary with the Methodist Church. The brothers worked as blacksmiths and attempted to enlist for service. William was rejected

on the basis that he was 'not substantially of European origin.' Richard was accepted when he enlisted in Narrandera in January 1916 and joined the 17th Battalion. He went into camp Cootamundra, New South Wales, before sailing to England where he completed his training. He deployed to France as a machine gunner.

Richard Wong died from injuries received in an artillery barrage in March 1917 at Bapaume in France. He was buried in the nearest local cemetery. A grieving Emma Wong received his personal belongings and spent the next eight years waiting to hear about the final location of her son's resting place. In 1925, she was advised that Richard was reburied in the Warlencourt British War Cemetery.



**Richard Wesley Wong**

**SOURCES**

### Source 5.A



Richard Wesley Wong.



Source:  
Courtesy of the 8/13  
Victorian Mounted Rifles  
Regimental Collection in  
Wodonga

## Source 5.B



▼  
**Source:**  
Memorial medallion held  
in the 8/13 Victorian  
Mounted Rifles Regimental  
Collection (Wodonga,  
Victoria)

This memorial medallion (informally known as a Dead Man's Penny), produced c. 1922, was posthumously awarded to Private Richard Wesley Wong.

## Source 5.C

ABC interview, Richard Patterson speaks to Nick Fogarty about Richard Wesley Wong.

▼  
**Source:**  
Beechworth to Bapaume  
for Chinese Anzac, ABC  
Goulburn Murray  
*http://www.abc.  
net.au/local/  
photos/2014/04/17/3987  
986.htm*

## Source 5.D



Bapaume Road, France, March 1917.



**Source:**  
**Australian War Memorial,**  
**E00432**

<http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E00432/>

## Source 5.E



Warlencourt British War Cemetery, c. 2014.



**Source:**  
**Warlencourt British**  
**Cemetery, Wikimedia**

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Warlencourt\\_British\\_Cemetery\\_-2.JPG](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Warlencourt_British_Cemetery_-2.JPG)

## Source 5.F



The headstone of Private Richard Wong in the Warlencourt British War Cemetery, 2014.

It reads:

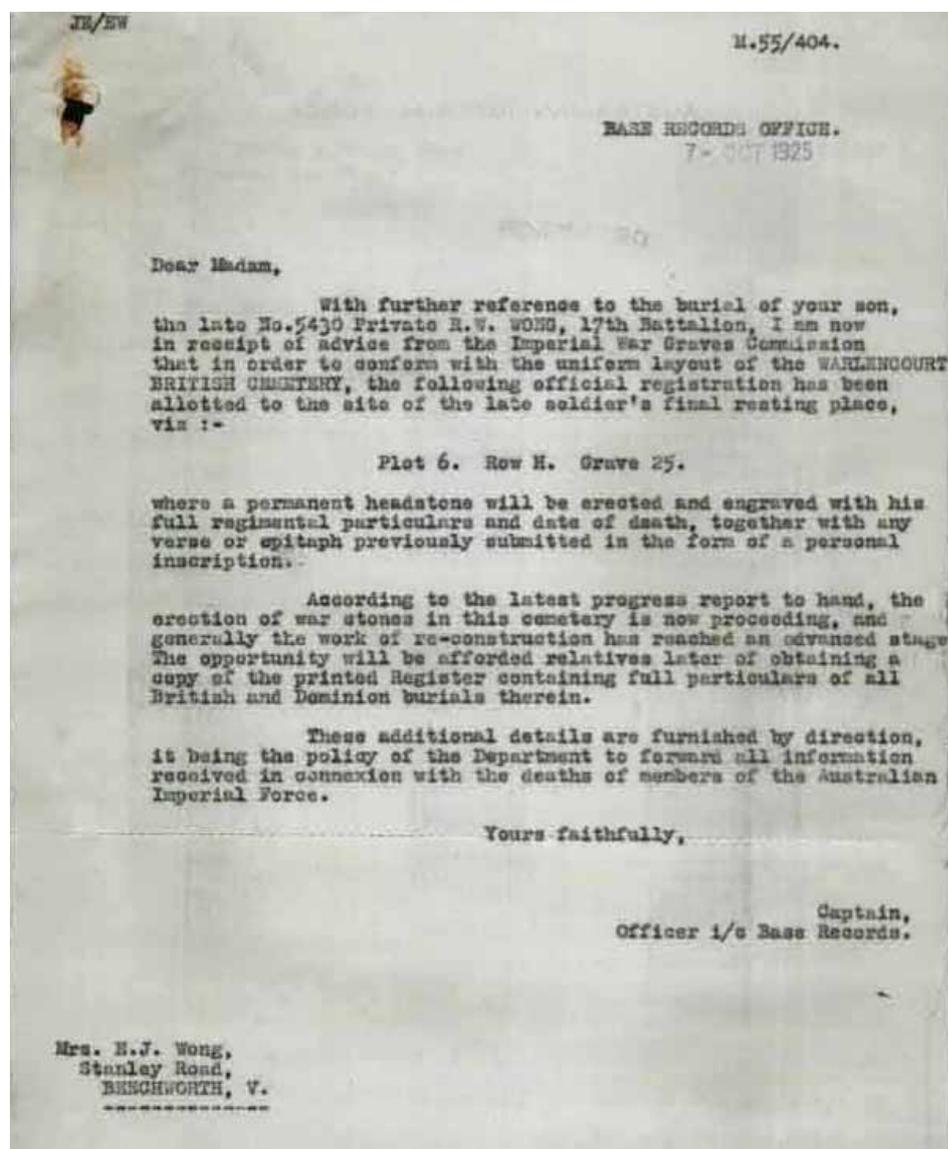
5430 PRIVATE  
R. W. WONG  
17th Bn. Australian Inf.  
2nd March 1917 Age 29

Until the day break  
And the shadow flee away



Source:  
Peter Norton,  
Western Front Tours.

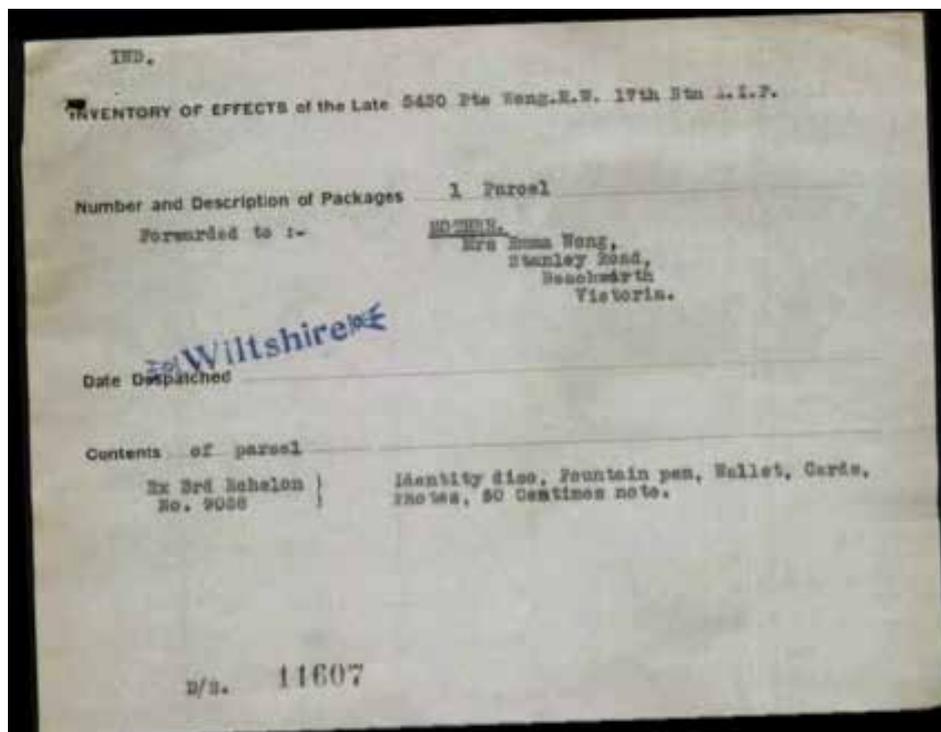
Source 5.G



Source:  
National Archives of  
Australia, B2455,  
WONG R W

Letter notifying location of burial c. 1925.

## Source 5.H



Source:  
National Archives of  
Australia, B2455,  
WONG R W

Notice of repatriation of the personal belongings of Richard Wesley Wong.

## ACTIVITY 9

- 1 Refer to Sources 5.E, 5.F and 5.G. Why were the bodies of soldiers, such as Richard Wong, buried, dug up and then re-buried in a different place? Why might it have taken as long as it did for this re-burial to occur?

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**2** *What was the Imperial War Graves Commission? When and why was it established and what was its primary task?*

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**3** Look at Source 5.B. What was a 'Dead Man's Penny' and why were they sent to the families of soldiers that had been killed?

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**4** Look at Source 5.F and 5.G. Families were offered the opportunity to put a verse or epitaph on the tomb stone. What verse or epitaph would you have put on Richard's grave stone?

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**5** Read Source 5.H. Corporal Henry Savage describes Richard as ‘half a Chinaman to look at but a very decent fellow.’ What might this statement reveal about attitudes to Chinese Australians at the time? Do you think any of these attitudes can still be found in Australia today?

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## **4. Samuel Tong-Way**

Samuel John Tong-Way was the eldest son of John Tong-Way and his wife Mary (née Kong). He was born in 1894 in Ballarat, Victoria, where his father was a missionary. Samuel went to Golden Point State School and then the new Ballarat Agricultural High School, which he attended in 1910–11.

In 1912, he began teaching at Dean Higher Elementary School and then transferred to Humffray Street State School in Ballarat in the same year. In 1914, he was accepted into the Melbourne Teachers’ College as one of fourteen teachers granted one of the new secondary teaching studentships.

After graduating Samuel went to Clunes then Daylesford Higher Elementary Schools. He then enlisted in 1917 even though he had been rejected the previous year. At 160cm tall, he was considered too short to be a stretcher bearer and so was transferred to the 5th Division Signalling Company alongside his brother.

Samuel's career in teaching continued after he returned from war. He was granted paid leave to study in London in March 1919 and after returning he completed his study at the University of Melbourne where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in 1921.

Samuel taught at Yarram Higher Elementary (1921–27), then was head teacher at Won Wron, Red Cliffs, Wandin Yallock and Jeparit. He established the first children's library in Merbein State School and also worked in two schools in Bendigo before retiring in 1960. He became involved in the Masonic Lodge, the Presbyterian Church and the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia (commonly known as the RSL) in each of the towns where he lived.

He died in 1988 and is buried in the Kangaroo Flat cemetery in Bendigo but is survived by two children.

In an interview with Morag Loh in 1982 he said: 'I took as my stand that I was a citizen of the country. I had fought for the country and therefore I should work for the country as well.'

The Tong-Way family have a long history in Ballarat. A small street in Ballarat is named after them in recognition of John Tong-Way, the father of the Tong-Way brothers, and the work he did as a missionary in the goldfields.



Samuel Tong-Way

SOURCES

Source 6.A



Source:  
Photograph by the  
History Teachers'  
Association of Victoria

Part of the memorial in what was Melbourne Teachers' College, now the University of Melbourne.

Source 6.B

FINAL LEAVE  
Leave June 15<sup>th</sup> 1917

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 1932 Name (Surname) TONG-WAY  
 in full (Christian Name) Samuel John  
 Unit 2nd Light Signal Squadron  
 Joined on 12/6/17

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... Samuel John Tong-Way
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... Ballarat in or near the Town of Ballarat East in the County of Bennoisse Victoria
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... Natural born English Subject
4. What is your Age? ... 22 5/10 yrs
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... High School Teacher
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... no
7. Are you married? ... no single
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) ... Rev. John Tong-Way, Father, "The Manse" Young St. Ballarat East, Victoria
9. What is your permanent address in Australia? ... "The Manse" Young Street Ballarat East, Vic.
10. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... (Junior Cadet 2 yrs) Nationality
11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... yes
12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... yes (non European origin)
13. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother) ... no
14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ... yes

I, Samuel John Tong-Way do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date June 12 1917 S. J. Tong-Way  
 Signature of person enlisting.

\* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.  
 † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

▼

Source:  
 National Archives of  
 Australia, B2455, TONG  
 WAY SAMUEL JOHN

Samuel Tong-Way's Attestation Paper.

Source 6.C



Detail from memorial window, Melbourne Teachers' College, now the University of Melbourne.

▼  
Source:  
Photograph by the  
History Teachers'  
Association of Victoria

## Source 6.D



Photograph of Samuel Tong-Way's name plaque beside his tree in the Ballarat Avenue of Honour.

Source:  
Photograph by the  
History Teachers'  
Association of Victoria

## ACTIVITY 10

Read through the information and resources about Private Samuel Tong-Way and then answer the following questions.

- 1 *Look at Samuel Tong-Way's Attestation Paper (6.B). Was this his first attempt at enlisting? What other reasons might have made it difficult for Sam to be accepted into the Australian Imperial Force in 1914 or early 1915? Think back to the changed height infographic earlier in this kit.*

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**4** *Sources 6.C and 6.D show some of the ways in which Australian towns and cities in the post-war period commemorated the casualties and service of those who volunteered during World War I. This commemoration was important due to the enormous scale of the casualties, its traumatic impact on individuals and communities, and the fact that the bodies of those who died in battle were not returned to Australia for burial. Research and report on how the place where you live has recognised the service of soldiers and nurses in World War I. How important do you believe such recognition to be?*

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## FURTHER RESOURCES

**Web link:**

Australian Dictionary of Biography entry for Samuel Tong-Way <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/tong-way-samuel-john-14875>



## 5. The Langtip Brothers

The Langtip brothers were sons of Chin Lang Tip, a market gardener who settled in Tarraville, Victoria in 1867. The Langtip family ran a profitable market garden and were well accepted by the local community. In 1916, six Langtip brothers went to Melbourne to enlist. When the attending medical officer realised they were from the same family, he turned two away.

Henry, Leslie and Bertie enlisted in Melbourne for the 4th Light Horse on 25 January 1916. Ernest enlisted one day later, in the same unit. The brothers were allocated consecutive enlistment numbers.

### The Langtip Brothers



### SOURCES

### Source 7.A

Leslie Langtip was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. His citation reads:

*During the advance on Kaukab on 30 September 1918, this NCO [non-commissioned officer] gave valuable assistance in the capture of a field gun and showed great initiative and courage. He forced the Turkish drivers to take their own gun towards our lines under heavy fire and when a party of the enemy endeavoured to retake the gun he took up a position near the gun from which he drove back the party.*



Source:  
National Archives of  
Australia, B2455, LANGTIP  
LESLIE OLIVER

Source 7.B



(far left)  
Leslie Langtip, c. 1918

Source:  
Australian War Memorial,  
B01167

[http://www.awm.gov.au/  
collection/B01167/](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/B01167/)

(left) Bertie Langtip

Source:  
From the private collection  
of Dorothy Langtip



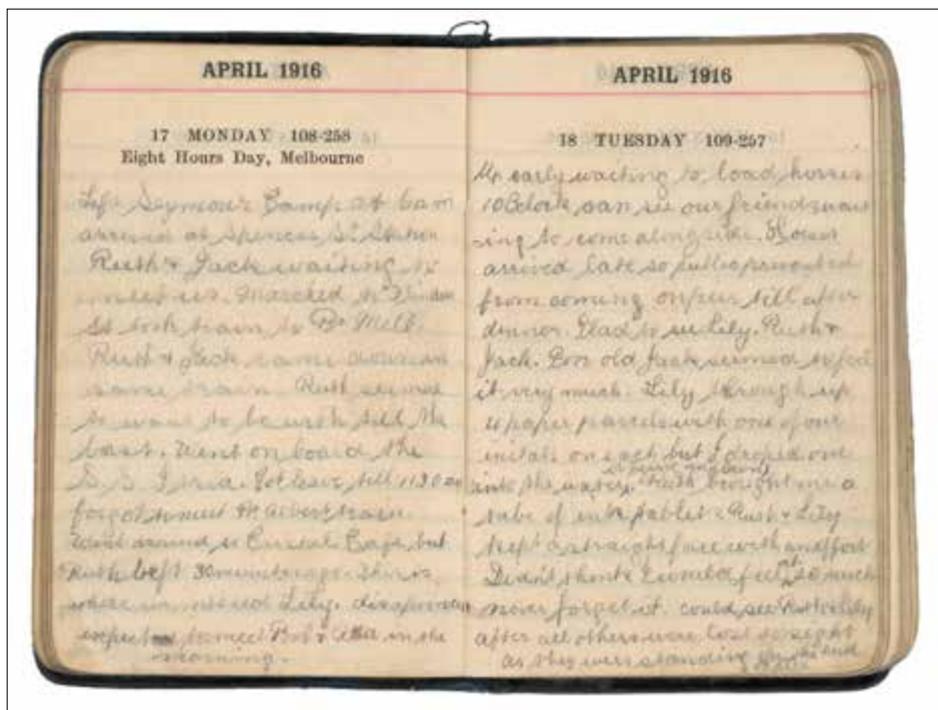
(far left) Ernest Langtip

Source:  
From the private collection  
of Dorothy Langtip

(left) Henry Langtip

Source:  
From the private collection  
of Dorothy Langtip

## Source 7.C



Henry Langtip's diary, c. 1916.



Source:  
Australian War Memorial,  
RCDIG0000898  
[http://www.awm.gov.au/  
collection/RCDIG0000898/](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/RCDIG0000898/)

### Excerpts from Henry Langtip's diary

*'Brothers Les and Bert gone to Cairo with 18 others for guard to prisoners.'*

– 10 June 1916

*'The 12th L.H [Light Horse Regiment] arrived here to play cricket. Cotter was bowling for the 12th but we beat them easily our team retired in the first innings & then we beat them in 1 inn & a good many runs.'*

– 29 October 1916

*'Lieu [Lieutenant] Wilkie married to one of the nurses today.'*

– 20 January 1917

*'We rode all night to get right around Beersheba ... It was a terrible ride in heavy dust all the way.*

*The horses have still got the saddles on & I don't know when they will get them off. The attack started at 4.30 PM & within half an hour the first trenches were cleared & then they never stop till they got Beersheba. Our casualties were fairly light considering the ground was as level as a table.'*

*– 31 October 1917*

## Source 7.D



Australian Light Horsemen, training with the Imperial Camel Corps, 1915.

Henry Langtip served for a time in 1916 with the Imperial Camel Corps before transferring back to the 4th Light Horse Regiment. He described his experiences with them in his diary:

*'On camels for the first time today and it was great as several fell off. They are hard to get on as you get on just the opposite to a horse.'*

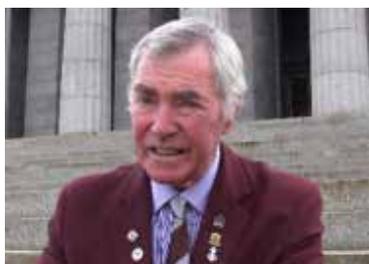
*– 28 December 1916*



**Sources:**  
**Australian War Memorial,**  
**H02692,**  
[http://www.awm.gov.au/  
collection/H02692/](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/H02692/)

**Australian War Memorial,**  
**RCDIG0000898**  
[http://www.awm.gov.au/  
collection/RCDIG0000898/](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/RCDIG0000898/)

## Source 7.E



'Langtip brothers,' interview with David Holloway about the Langtip brothers. Listen to this interview with historian David Holloway at Culture Victoria or attached to the book.



Source:  
Culture Victoria,  
*Chinese Anzacs*

<http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/a-diverse-state/chinese-anzacs/the-langtip-brothers/>

## ACTIVITY 11



- 1 Use the following resources related to the Langtip brothers to complete the table below.

Source	What were the names of the Langtip brothers who enlisted?	When did the brothers enlist?	How do we know where the brothers trained and in which regiment they were assigned?	Where did the brothers do the majority of their fighting?	What rank did each of the brothers hold? E.g. Private, Corporal, etc.
Resource A					
Resource B					

Source	What were the names of the Langtip brothers who enlisted?	When did the brothers enlist?	How do we know where the brothers trained and in which regiment they were assigned?	Where did the brothers do the majority of their fighting?	What rank did each of the brothers hold? E.g. Private, Corporal, etc.
Resource C					
Resource D					
Resource E					
Resource F					

**2** *David Holloway mentions 'Lawrence of Arabia' in his interview about the Langtip brothers (Source 7.E). Carry out research to discover who 'Lawrence of Arabia' was and create a poster that reflects his role in the Middle East in World War I. In the poster include information from the Langtip family folklore about the contact Leslie may have had with Lawrence. (Remember, as was pointed out earlier in this resource, oral history or family folklore is not always accurate or correct. A strangely dressed Englishman is not necessarily Lawrence of Arabia).*

**3** *David Holloway talks about how Henry broke military regulations during the war (Source 7.E). How did he 'break' military rules and why is it important to historians that he did?*

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**4** *Draw a map of Victoria showing where the Lang Tip brothers lived in Port Albert and where they enlisted. Show the route that they might have travelled to enlist.*



## **6. Billy Sing**

Billy Sing was born in 1886 in Clermont, Queensland. He was the son of John Sing, who had come to Australia from Shanghai, China and Mary Ann Pugh who was from Staffordshire, England. Billy's father was a drover, so Billy grew up on a farm. As a young man, he became an expert rabbit shooter. William Edward 'Billy' Sing enlisted on 24 October 1914 as a Trooper in the 5th Light Horse Regiment. His skills with a rifle enabled him to become a formidable sniper. He is believed to have shot more than one hundred and fifty enemy soldiers and was nicknamed 'The Assassin' and 'The Murderer.'

Sing was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry at Gallipoli and the Belgian Croix de Guerre for his bravery on the Western Front. His exploits have made him famous around the world. He was also mentioned in official despatches (these were records collected by units, often recorded by the commanding officer). Billy returned to Australia on the on 20 September 1918. He was medically discharged having been wounded on three separate occasions and gassed while on active service. The gas caused him health problems for the rest of his life.

In civilian life, he worked as a labourer, reared sheep and tried his hand at gold mining. Later in life, he moved to Brisbane where he lived alone and died in relative poverty.



**Billy Sing**

**SOURCES**

## Source 8.A



**Source:**  
**Australian War Memorial,**  
**P03633.006**

*[http://www.awm.gov.au/  
collection/P03633.006/](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P03633.006/)*

William Edward 'Billy' Sing, c. 1914.

Billy Sing listed Elizabeth as his next of kin in his service records and mentioned his marriage in a letter to his mother, however, it is not known if she ever came to Australia or how long their marriage lasted.



## Source 8.C



Billy Sing seated (left) at his sniping position, built on top of the parapet of the front line trench and 150 yards from the Turkish trenches. Captain John Cecil Ridley is on the right.



**Source:**  
**Australian War Memorial,**  
**C00429**

*<http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C00429/>*

## Source 8.D

Biography of William Edward Sing published on the Australian Lighthorse Association website.



**Source:**  
**'Tpr William Edward (Billy)**  
**Sing, DCM , Croix de**  
**Guerre 1886–1943, 'The**  
**Assassin of Gallipoli'**

*<http://www.lighthorse.org.au/personal-histories/personal-histories-boer-war-ww1-1/personal-histories-trooper-william-eddie-sing>*

## Source 8.E



Billy Sing being given a hero's welcome in Proserpine, Queensland.



Source:  
Courtesy of the Proserpine  
Historical Society

## Source 8.F



Billy Sing with his wife, Elizabeth Stewart.



Source:  
Courtesy of the Proserpine  
Historical Society



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## ACTIVITY 12



Using the resources provided, as well as your own research, create a poster, museum exhibit or multimedia display that reflects on the life of Billy Sing. You should include information about the role he held as a sniper, recognition of his service and his life back in Australia once the war concluded.

### FURTHER RESOURCES

Sing's life is described in a chapter of John Laws and Christopher Stewart's *There's Always More to the Story* (2006) and in greater depth by John Hamilton in *Gallipoli Sniper: The Life of Billy Sing* (2008).



## 7. Hunter Poon

Hunter Robert George Poon was born in 1894 near Ballina in New South Wales. His birth certificate records his name as 'Ander Leppit George Poon.' It seems the clerk writing his name had difficulty understanding Hunter's father's pronunciation and entered it incorrectly. Hunter's father migrated from China to work on the Queensland goldfields. His mother had Chinese ancestry.

Hunter was a student at Toowoomba Grammar School and after completing his schooling became a teacher himself. He enlisted on 5 September 1916 and was posted to the 15th Battalion in France, where he served as a Lance Corporal. He was wounded and received shrapnel wounds to his right hand and lower back.

Hunter was also well known as a first-class cricket player. He was a leading bowler and a right handed batsman for the Toowoomba team. On 21 December 1923, on his return from World War I, he was selected to play for Queensland in a match against Victoria at the Melbourne

Cricket Ground. His selection was widely reported by the media both in Australia and internationally. It would not be until 1993 that another player with Chinese ancestry, Richard Chee Quee, played first class cricket. He later represented Toowoomba in a Queensland Country team that played against the Marylebone Cricket Club.

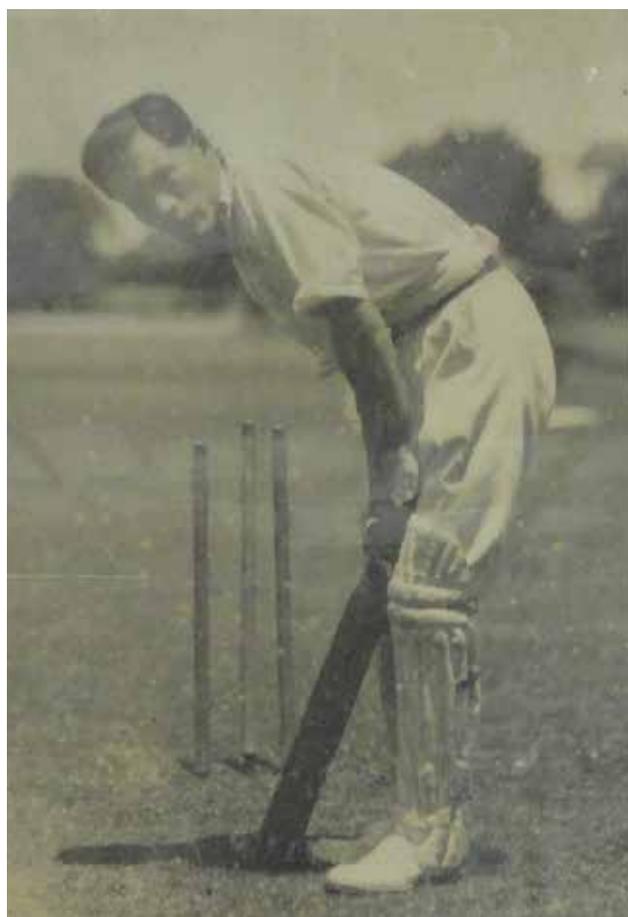
Hunter lived in Brisbane until 1980. He died aged 85.



**Hunter Poon**

**SOURCES**

## Source 9.A

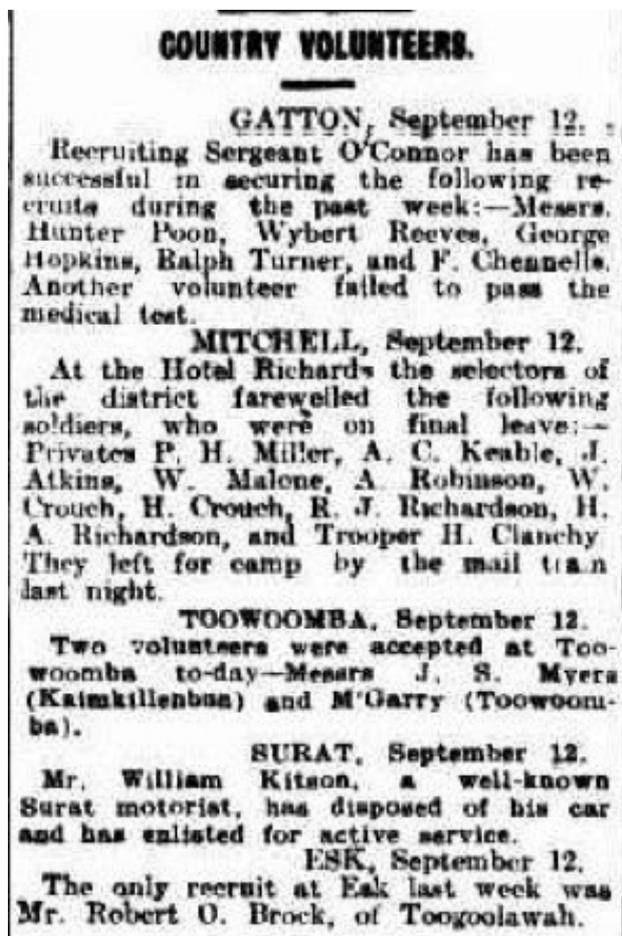


Hunter Poon in his cricket gear.



Source:  
Private collection  
of Ron Poon.

## Source 9.B



Source:  
'Country Volunteers,'  
*The Brisbane Courier*,  
Wednesday 13 September,  
1916, p7, Trove  
<http://bit.ly/1Eqc00q>

List of newly enlisted volunteers from Gatton, Mitchell, Toowoomba and Surat in rural Queensland.

## ACTIVITY 13

1 Why would a newspaper (Source 9.B) be reporting the successful enlistment of recruits by Sergeant O'Connor?







## **8. Thomas William 'Bill' Ah Chow**

Thomas William 'Bill' Ah Chow of Bruthen, Victoria attempted to enlist early in the war but was rejected for being 'not substantially of European origin.' Undeterred, he reapplied and was accepted in June 1917. During his service with the 5th Battalion, he was wounded at least three times.

After the war, Bill returned to Bruthen where he drove sheep, worked cattle and eventually assisted in the building of roads through the area. He became a Forestry Commission fire-spotter and built a hut called 'Moscow Villa' in 1942. He lived in the hut during the summer months and in winter returned to his family in Enseay. Whenever there was fire danger, he rode his horse up to the fire tower on Mt Nugong and acted as look out.

Bill worked for the Forestry Commission for more than twenty years and came out of retirement to continue his duties when no suitable replacement could be found. Bill died in 1967 and is buried in Omeo. Moscow Villa still stands and is a popular camping site.



**Thomas William 'Bill' Ah Chow**

**SOURCES**

Source 10.A



Bill in Chinese robes, c. 1950s.



Source:  
Private collection  
of Noel Fraser

Bill was known for his sense of humour and wit. He would often dress up in Chinese robes to greet visitors at 'Moscow Villa,' his home. The name of his house and the bright red gate posts raised concerns with visiting Forestry Commission officials during the cold war when Prime Minister Robert Menzies was attempting to ban the Communist Party of Australia. The full story went like this:

*They climbed out of their car to be confronted with a sign (Moscow Villa) above two bright-red gate posts. They erupted. Bill said that when they calmed down he told them the following: (It was a story told well and I am sure I can remember it verbatim.) "I built this hut single handed, and with the exception of two things, I bought everything that needed to be bought, and carried all of the items here. That's why I thought I could name it what I wanted to. I finished the hut the day it was announced that the battle for Moscow had been won. If you can remember (he told the officials), Russia was on our side and that was the first defeat of the Germans. I thought it was an appropriate way to celebrate a win in those dark days. Moscow Villa has other, deeper meanings for me. M.O.S.C.O.W. V.I.L.L.A. He spelt [sic] out. He ticked the words off on his fingers 'My Own Summer Cottage. Officials Welcome. Visitors Invited. Light Luncheon Available. The kettle's on. Come inside.' By the way – the two things I did not buy were the gate posts. They were supplied by the Forests Commission, and came already painted!"*

*Another story about Bill concerned a fire in the 1950s. The lookout towers were equipped with radio and Bill was known for swearing on the radio in a time when "damn" was considered a swear word. He reported a fire about half a mile away in Mt Nowa Nowa which the locals said they couldn't locate.*

Bill sent another message:

*'Tell those silly bastards (that part is accurate) that if they look in the gully right in front of them they should be able to see the*



**Source:**  
Kosciuszko Huts  
Association, Bill Ah Chow  
<http://bit.ly/1Jqs1Ke>

smoke. It is filling the valley, but isn't rising. The road out will be cut in ten minutes.'

Soon after he received another message. It was a commendation for saving two lives but also a reprimand for swearing on the radio.

  
Source:  
Kosciuszko Huts  
Association, Bill Ah Chow  
<http://bit.ly/1Jqs1Ke>

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## ACTIVITY 14



- 1 *Design and draw, or create a model, of a suitable memorial to Bill Ah Chow that could be placed close to or beside the hut, 'Moscow Villa' near Omeo. Include any inscriptions.*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Web links on Chinese Anzacs

Kate Bagnall, *The Tiger's Mouth*, <http://chineseaustralia.org/?p=258>

Ms Virginia Judge, Speech to NSW parliament, <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/hansart.nsf/V3Key/LA20040224021>

Chinese Anzacs: A Tribute to Chinese Australian and Chinese New Zealander Servicemen and Servicewomen, <http://chineseanzacs.blogspot.com.au/2010/12/amoy-thomas.html>

Australian Military History of the early 20th Century Desert column, [http://alh-research.tripod.com/Light\\_Horse/index.blog/2001972/chinese-australian-anzacs-chinese-light-horsemen-embarkation-roll-a-z/](http://alh-research.tripod.com/Light_Horse/index.blog/2001972/chinese-australian-anzacs-chinese-light-horsemen-embarkation-roll-a-z/)

### Australian War Memorial

Case studies and activities relating to Chinese Australians who served during World War I:

## **Chinese Anzacs Education Resource**

Julian Edward William Ping, <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/schools/resources/julian-edward-william-ping/>

Henry William Compow, <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/schools/resources/henry-william-compow/>

George Vincent Lee-Kim MM, <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/schools/resources/george-vincent-lee-kim-mm/>

Caleb James Shang, <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/schools/resources/caleb-james-shang/>

Nelson Sing, <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/schools/resources/nelson-sing/>

Arthur Malcolm Quong Tart, <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/schools/resources/arthur-malcolm-quong-tart/>

Billy Sing, <http://www.awm.gov.au/education/schools/resources/billy-sing/>



## PART 4

### Finding Chinese Anzacs

## Resources: The Research Process

Researchers examined a range of sources to locate and learn more about Chinese Australians who served during World War I. Watch the interviews with Emily Cheah Ah-Qune and Edmund Chiu in Source 11.A and then answer the following questions.



### The Research Process

### SOURCES

## Source 11.A



**Source:**  
Interview with Emily Cheah  
Ah-Qune, 'Searching for  
Chinese Anzacs'

<http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/a-diverse-state/chinese-anzacs/searching-for-chinese-anzacs/>



**Source:**  
Interview with Professor  
Emeritus Edmond Chiu,  
'Chinese ANZACs: Making  
Connections'

<http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/a-diverse-state/chinese-anzacs/chinese-anzacs-making-connections/>

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## ACTIVITY 15



1 How did the Chinese Museum identify the Chinese Australians who served during World War I and learn more about them? In your answer, list at least four sources that researchers used.

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2 What was the value of newspaper articles (both English and Chinese-language) to their research? What did it add to their research?

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## PART 5

### Further Assessment Tasks and Rubrics

# ACTIVITY 16

- 1 Using the National Archives of Australia Discovering Anzacs, choose one of the Chinese Anzacs who fought in World War I. You can find a list of the known Chinese Anzacs at Source 2.A in the 'Enlistment' section of this book. There may be more.

Search for them on the 'Discovering Anzacs' website <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/>.

Answer the following questions about your Chinese Anzac:

Judging from their military record, what qualities would have made them a good soldier according to enlistment authorities? What do you think makes a good soldier?

Question	Answer	How do you know? Provide evidence from the booklet to support answer
From which Australian state did most Chinese Australians enlist?		
Name three occupations of Chinese Australians before they enlisted for service during World War I.		
Did the reasons given by Chinese Australians for enlisting differ from those of other enlistees?		
Were all Chinese Australians accepted for armed service during World War I?		
What reasons were given for rejecting Chinese Australians for military service?		

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## ACTIVITY 17



Essay questions:

- 1** *'Chinese Australians showed that they were as loyal and willing to serve in the Australian Imperial Force as any other Australian.'*

*Discuss this statement using examples of at least three Chinese Australian servicemen that you have studied.*
- 2** *What is a stereotype and how did stereotypes apply to Chinese Australians in World War I? Use examples in your work, such as the manner in which some medical officers accepted or rejected Chinese Australians as recruits when they applied to enlist.*
- 3** *How might medical officers have decided whether enlistees were 'substantially of European origin or descent'? Using examples from this kit, illustrate how this might have led to inconsistent decisions about who was exempt from enlisting and debate how Chinese Australians might have felt about this.*
- 4** *Many prospective soldiers were rejected from service in the Australian Imperial Force as they were 'not substantially of European origin or descent.' Some argued that they should have been accepted. Examine the arguments that they used to support their view and their validity.*
- 5** *In what ways was the service of Chinese Australians during World War I both a hidden and very visible legacy?*

## Assessment Rubrics

### Assessment Rubric for Source Investigation

Based on Year 9 Achievement Standards from  
Australian Curriculum: History

<p><b>A student who achieves well above standard typically</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deeply examines a wide range of primary and secondary sources and uses them effectively as evidence to answer inquiry questions.</li> <li>• Thoroughly investigates the motives and actions of people, and the significance of events in the past, to clearly explain change and continuity over time.</li> <li>• Confidently analyses the origin and purpose of sources, and causes and effects of events, and makes relevant judgements about their importance.</li> <li>• Draws thoughtful and coherent conclusions about the reliability and usefulness of sources.</li> <li>• Develops cohesive and purposeful texts using historical terms and concepts, and evidence from sources, to organise, present and validate conclusions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A student who achieves above standard typically</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closely examines a range of primary and secondary sources and uses them as evidence to answer the inquiry question.</li> <li>• Explores the motives and actions of people, and the significance of events in the past, to clearly explain change and continuity over time.</li> <li>• Directly analyses the origin and purpose of sources, causes and effects of events, and makes judgements about their importance.</li> <li>• Draws appropriate and coherent conclusions about the reliability and usefulness of sources.</li> <li>• Develops cohesive texts using historical terms and concepts, and evidence from sources, to organise and present conclusions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A student who achieves at standard typically</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examines a range of primary and secondary sources and uses them as evidence to answer inquiry questions.</li> <li>• Considers the motives and actions of people, and the significance of events in the past, to explain change and continuity over time.</li> <li>• Adequately analyses the origin and purpose of sources, causes and effects of events, and makes appropriate judgements about their importance.</li> <li>• Draws suitable conclusions about the reliability and usefulness of sources.</li> <li>• Develops texts using historical terms and concepts, and evidence from sources, to present valid conclusions.</li> </ul>

<p><b>A student who achieves below standard typically</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partially examines some primary and secondary sources and attempts to use them as evidence to answer the inquiry question.</li> <li>• Understands the motives and actions of people, and events in the past and is limited by basic explanations.</li> <li>• Analyses sources and events at a basic level to make simple judgements about their importance.</li> <li>• Draws obvious conclusions about the reliability and/or usefulness of sources.</li> <li>• Develops simple texts using some historical terms and concepts and minimal evidence from sources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A student who achieves well below standard typically</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interprets primary and secondary sources to a limited level.</li> <li>• Describes people and events in the past to a limited level.</li> <li>• Understands sources and events to a limited level.</li> <li>• Information, interpretation and conclusions about sources is limited.</li> <li>• Produces incomplete texts using few historical terms and limited evidence.</li> </ul>

**OR**

Criteria	High (10)	Medium (7)	Low (4)	Not shown (0)
Historical accuracy				
Uses a range of sources (both primary and secondary)				
Reflects a historical understanding of the period being researched				
Uses evidence to create an effective argument with a clear and logical structure				
Accurate and consistent footnotes and bibliography				

Mark out of 50:

Comments

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## ACTIVITY 18



Creative pieces:

- 1 Create a newspaper article that reflects on the service of Chinese Australians during World War I. In the article use photographs and illustrations as well as text to study several of the Chinese Anzacs and their contribution.*
- 2 Create a 5 to 10 minute documentary on the role of Chinese Australians in the Australian war effort.*
- 3 Put yourself in the position of George Kong Meng. Write a letter to your brother Herbert explaining what happened when you tried to enlist. Include your feelings and your views on not being able to serve your country.*

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## Have you considered entering your project on the Chinese Anzacs into one of the many history competitions running in Australia?



National History Challenge

<http://historychallenge.org.au/>

Projects on Chinese Anzacs can be entered into the following categories:

- 1 General*
- 2 War and Peace*
- 3 Asia and Australia*

### The Simpson Prize (year 9 and 10 students)

<http://www.simpsonprize.org/>

### Anzac Prizes (year 9 and 10 students)

Year 9 or 10 students in most states or territories can enter state or territory prizes in recognition of Anzac history.

#### **Victoria**

<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/veterans/premiers-spirit-of-anzac-prize>

#### **South Australia**

<http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-skills-and-learning/schools/curriculum-and-learning/programs-and-extra-curricular-activities/premier-s-anzac-spirit-school-prize>

#### **Western Australia (Years 8–11)**

<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculum-support/anzac/detcms/portal/>

#### **Queensland**

<http://education.qld.gov.au/students/grants/scholarships/anzac/2015.html>

#### **Tasmania**

[http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/csrt/programs\\_and\\_services/frank\\_macdonald\\_memorial\\_prize](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/csrt/programs_and_services/frank_macdonald_memorial_prize)

#### **Australian Capital Territory**

<http://www.det.act.gov.au/act-chief-ministers-anzac-spirit-prize-2015>

#### **New South Wales**

<http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/awards-scholarships-and-grants/scholarships/anzac-memorial-scholarships>

#### **Northern Territory**

<http://www.dob.nt.gov.au/EventsAwards/anzac-spirit-award/Pages/default.aspx>

### Historical Fiction Writing Competition for Victorian Students

<http://www.htav.asn.au/students/htav-historical-fiction-competition>