



ANZAC MEMORIAL

HYDE PARK SYDNEY

A very 21st Century touch to the Anzac Memorial

For the first time since the Anzac Memorial opened its doors in 1934 visitors will be able to view the iconic cast-granite sculptures gracing the exterior of the Memorial at eye level.

These unmistakable Australian figures from the Great War have been reproduced for display in the Memorial's new Centenary Extension exhibition gallery.

Depicting the wide-ranging military roles performed by Australians in the First World War, these 16 seated buttress figures and four standing life-size figures are half the size of the originals. The new permanent exhibition will provide an opportunity for a new generation to gain an understanding of the original Memorial and its meaning to the community of NSW, explaining these roles and how the various functions have evolved.

The replica statues were created using 3D printing by Studio Kite at its NSW north-coast workshop. The originals were digitally scanned with the reproductions 3D printed in ABS plastic, the same material car bumper bars are commonly made from. The raw sculptures were then filled, sanded, sculpted and painted to achieve the required fine detail.

The original works by Rayner Hoff had extremely exaggerated features to enable them to be viewed from a distance but these were softened in the 1980s when the figures were covered with "granosite" – a dark pink synthetic textured coating, in an attempt to conserve the statues from weathering. The reproductions reinstate Hoff's original exaggerated detailing.

The original figures seem to be hewn from the building itself, or flowering from the buttresses. The figures, heroic in size and broadly sculptured in sympathy with the character of the architecture, are shown with bowed heads, as if resting after their labours and sadly contemplating the havoc of the war years.

NAVAL COMMANDER

Our naval commander, master of his torpedo boat destroyer, stands vigilant with binoculars in hand. He wears a watch coat to protect himself from the cold on the small ship's open bridge. In front of him is the ship's telegraph, a device used for passing orders from the skipper on the bridge to the crew in the engine room. It is fitted with a pointer that moves around a dial annotated with the ship's speeds – from full ahead to full astern. By moving the handle the skipper on the bridge can almost instantaneously relay instructions regarding the desired speed to the engine room.

Torpedo boat destroyers were a tiny but deadly addition to the world's navies around the time of the outbreak of the Great War. The skippers of these vessels held the rank of commander and were expected to demonstrate qualities of daring and initiative.

The Royal Australian Navy provided sailors for its own ships and for those of the Royal Navy.

AIR FORCE OFFICER

Our Air Force Officer, courageous and daring in his Sidcot flying suit, flying helmet with goggles and leather gauntlets brings a new face to warfare. Powered flight was in its infancy at the outbreak of the First World War but by 1918 the aircraft had become one of the most deadly new weapons on the battlefield and tactics like strategic bombing would change the nature of war forever. Wearing special clothing to protect himself from bone numbing temperatures at altitude. At his feet is an aerial bomb.

Although Australia did not create its own Air Force until 1921 Australians flew as pilots and observers in the Australian Flying Corps in the Middle East and over the Western Front or joined the British forces and flew with the Royal Flying Corps or the Royal Naval Air Service.

During the Great War only officers could serve as aircrew.

LIEUTENANT

The task of an infantry officer is to lead his men in combat. He is required to be cool in a crisis, show courage in the face of danger, lead by example, and make the right decision when the stakes are life and death.

Our infantry lieutenant and a Second Lieutenant would have been the most common officers encountered by enlisted men on the Western Front as they command the smallest practical sub-unit of a battalion: the platoon.

Unlike officers of more senior rank he shares the dangers and the hardships of his men. He inspects their feet to guard against trench foot and he censors their letters home. He is one of them, yet the decisions he makes can effect whether they live or die.

MATRON

The Matron represents the Army Medical Corps. The Australian Army Nursing Service Matron leads by example and is a model of devotion and endurance for the nursing sisters under her command. Over 2000 Australian women served overseas in the Australian Army Nursing Service during the Great War (with more than 600 nurses enlisting from NSW). They saw service in Egypt and islands around the Mediterranean and Greece early in the war. Most then followed the Australian Imperial Force to the Western Front and Britain from 1916 to 1918 and provided nursing services in hospitals and casualty clearing stations. At the end of the war they nursed the sick and wounded soldiers returning to Australia and tried to relieve the suffering of those struck down by the influenza pandemic that followed the Armistice.

Media: Theresa Kyne | 0459 869 220