



ANZAC MEMORIAL

HYDE PARK SYDNEY

Rare military history unveiled

Never-seen-before military relics dating back to the Great War and beyond highlighting NSW's military history are being unveiled as the Anzac Memorial reopens its doors.

These include a rare collection of historic swords, pistols, medals and other artefacts belonging to Australia's first general, Sir Maurice O'Connell from the early 1800s.

The Memorial's new exhibition area also features the hauntingly poignant medals and memorabilia kept by the family of 15-year-old Lance Corporal Jack Harris of Waverley in Sydney who was killed in action at the Battle of Lone Pine. Harris is probably the youngest Australian soldier killed in action during the Great War.

A souvenir of the Red Baron in the form of a piece of fabric cut from the wreck of the Baron's plane by 26-year-old Second Lieutenant Nigel Love of Kurrajong, NSW, a fighter pilot with No3 Squadron Australian Flying Corps on the Western Front in 1918 is also a must see. Also on display is the Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Sub-Lieutenant Bruce Harvey for sinking the only Japanese fleet submarine destroyed in Australian waters.

Overall, the Memorial holds a significant historical collection of approximately 6000 objects which includes the heritage building and its sculptures as well as objects such as medals and uniforms, photographs, books and manuscripts.

The Memorial's new exhibition space allows it to illustrate the evolution of Australian military service, while focusing on stories of NSW service. The design and content for the permanent exhibition has been inspired by the Memorial's 20 iconic military figures gracing its exterior. For the first time ever visitors will be able to view the figures at eye level with the cast-granite Australian sculptures from the Great War reproduced for display.

The Centenary Extension allows us to contemplate far off battlefields, understand the key events of over 100 years of service and sacrifice; providing a contemporary understanding of the history and impact of not just the First World War but all conflicts.

The detailed storytelling of the new exhibition complements the quiet spaces and symbols of the original Memorial building, creating a visitor experience that is both educational and contemplative.

The centrepiece of the historical display in the Centenary Extension, the Passchendaele Diorama, represents a remarkable piece of NSW military history. The diorama features a three-dimensional image of the moment in which Captain Clarence Jeffries of the 34th Battalion and his men attacked a German blockhouse during the Passchendaele offensive on 12 October 1917.

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The Trustees of the Anzac Memorial Building

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