

# Australians on the Western Front 1914–1918

[www.AnzacCentenarySchoolLink.info](http://www.AnzacCentenarySchoolLink.info)

*How would your school like to link up with a school in France or Belgium along the Australian Remembrance Trail to work together to commemorate the Anzac Centenary and the end of the First World War?*

The Australian Remembrance Trail spans much of the nearly 200 kilometres of the Western Front where Australians served from the Channel coast of Belgium to Montebrehain in France from 1916-1918.

The **Anzac Centenary School Link Program** (ACSLP) is designed to provide strategies and support to assist secondary schools in Australia to work with schools in France and Belgium along this trail to commemorate the Anzac Centenary in a variety of exciting and meaningful ways, and to share these experiences via social media.

## The Program

Schools participating in ACSLP have undertaken a range of projects and work with their partner schools and are featured on the special website – [AnzacCentenarySchoolLink.info](http://AnzacCentenarySchoolLink.info). For example:

- ★ Adopting a soldier or nurse to investigate and sharing their stories;
- ★ Sharing resources and information about the impact of war on their local communities;
- ★ Working together to commemorate the First World War in a variety of community projects such as sharing town profiles, locating where a soldier lived in Australia, how he interacted with the French people and where he died and is buried;
- ★ Creating a personal cemetery register after visits by French and Belgian students to Australian graves on the Western Front;
- ★ Using the bespoke website <http://AnzacCentenarySchoolLink.info> to share stories, memorabilia and community commemorative activities about the 'war to end all wars';
- ★ Creating an international photo exhibition of the 'memories of war' – local monuments, gravesites, street names, buildings, memorial parks, the changed landscape;
- ★ Personalising research with visits by French and Belgian students (and some Australian students) to the graves of Australians who died on the Western Front; and
- ★ Fostering school exchange programs and creating lasting links with their respective partners.

Supported by  
the Department of  
Veterans' Affairs and the  
Australian War Graves  
Commission



*Menin Gate Memorial, site of the moving  
Last Post Ceremony each evening.*



*Ploegsteert Wood Military Cemetery Belgium*

Links have been set up with schools in the following towns (areas) in France, Belgium and Australia.

### *In Belgium:*

- Ploegsteert – site of the Battle of Messines and the only all Australian cemetery in Belgium
- Zonnebeke – nearby the Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world, which incorporates several wartime German blockhouses captured by Australians
- Ieper – which has the famous Menin Gate Memorial, site of the moving Last Post Ceremony each evening.

### *In France:*

- Fromelles – site of Australia's first battle in France
- Bullecourt – site of two bloody battles fought by Australians in April and May 1917
- Pozieres – where Australia sustained 23,000 casualties in little over six weeks in 1916
- Villers-Bretonneux – which commemorates the decisive battle fought there by Australians on the night of 24-25 April 1918
- Mont St Quentin and Peronne – where Australians fought battles considered by many to be among the greatest achievements of the Australian Army in the War
- Le Hamel – which commemorates the 4 July 1918 Battle of Le Hamel, fought by the Australian Corps, led for the first time by General John Monash.

### *In Australia:*

*These towns and many more:*

- Bacchus Marsh and Heywood in Victoria
- Launceston, Wynyard and Rose Bay in Tasmania
- Sydney, Murwillumbah and Gymea in New South Wales
- Perth, Albany, Collie and Manjimup in Western Australia
- Darwin in the Northern Territory
- Adelaide, Henley Beach and Mount Barker in South Australia
- Brisbane, Maroochydore and Thuringowa in Queensland
- Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory.



*Avenue of Honour, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia*

Interested schools will be given a short survey to complete (to facilitate matching with schools in France/Belgium). Formal partnerships will be established and schools will be given their own login details to their own web page. Schools can begin their research and facilitate meaningful educational exchanges with their partner schools.

They are also provided with an online **resource pack** containing the following:

- 1 Introduction for Teachers and Students;
- 2 Video case study – 'Walking in the footsteps of the Condah Anzacs' – about one group of Australian Indigenous First World War soldiers showing clear links with towns on the Western Front;
- 3 Background information and activities about Australia's battles along the Western Front;
- 4 War poetry, letters, diaries, music and art from First World War;
- 5 How to investigate war graves;
- 6 Suggestions and guidelines for a wide variety of commemorative activities;
- 7 Photographic case study about Diggers in another land; and
- 8 Rich examples of school partnership activities.

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