CITY OF PARRAMATTA

WORLD WAR ONE

AND

BATTLE OF BEERSHEBA

Front cover image: *Beersheba line, Palestine, 1917-10-31. Patrol at dawn, waiting for enemy patrols to appear..* (Source: Australian War Memorial, J06567A).

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR

The City of Parramatta commemorates the Centenary of World War One, also known as 'The Great War,' which endured from 4 August 1914 to 11 November 1918.

Our City honours the thousands of young men and women around Australia who rallied to serve in the war effort, including the 1,962 volunteers from the Parramatta District, who went on to became soldiers, pilots, seamen, munitions workers, transport drivers and nurses, mainly deployed across Europe and the Middle East.

In 2018, the City of Parramatta has compiled hundreds of stories about the involvement of the Parramatta community in World War One, sharing these significant histories in many forms, including a series of publications, which focuses on various aspects of the war.

I hope the experiences of individuals will help to honour their sacrifice and connect you with our community's history. By preserving the contributions and memories of all those brave soldiers, sailors and aviators for future generations, we show our respect for those who made such a sacrifice for our nation.

Andrew Wilson
Lord Mayor
City of Parramatta

Photographer: Jason Nichol Photography

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank everyone who has helped in any way to bring about this book.

INTRODUCTION

Australia's involvement in World War One began on 4 August 1914. Many who joined up believed that the war would be a great adventure, but none could have imagined the scale of the endeavour on which they were about to embark. Sadly, many of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, medical support staff and nurses did not make it home. Their courage, sacrifice, hardship and losses brought a new maturity to our nation.

The Battle of Beersheba took place on 31 October 1917 during the third Battle of Gaza in Palestine. It was a defining moment that demonstrated the success of Manoeuvre Warfare in the region, and the power of mounted troops to rapidly redefine the outcome of a battle.

It was the first time the Australian Light Horse was used as cavalry, which saw the famous charge of the 4 Australian Light Horse in the afternoon. The capture of Beersheba (also Be'er Sheva, now a city in Israel) secured crucial water wells and turned the fortunes of Allied efforts against the Ottoman and German Empires, which also marked the beginning of the end of the war in the Middle East.

The impact of World War One on Australia's economy was significant and remains the costliest conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, of whom more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner. Another 6,000 veterans died by the 1930s due to war related injuries and suicide.

The team in Research Services have prepared and posted hundreds of biographical stories and accounts of events that relate to the actions of Parramatta servicemen and women during World War One.

We hope you enjoy reading about these amazing people and the terrifying and sometimes awe inspiring events that carried them across the globe to fight against Germany and her allies.

Anne Tsang and Neera Sahni

World War One Timeline

Neera Sahni

1914

28 June 1914	Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia
5 July 1914	Kaiser William II promised German support for Austria against Serbia
28 July 1914	Austria declared war on Serbia
1 August 1914	Germany declared war on Russia
3 August 1914	Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium. Germany implemented the Schlieffen Plan
4 August 1914	Britain declared war on Germany
23 August 1914	The British Expeditionary Force started its retreat from Mons. Germany invaded France
26 August 1914	Russian army defeated at Tannenberg and Masurian Lakes, East Prussia
9 September 1914	Battle of the Marne, France commenced
18 October 1914	First Battle of Ypres, Belgium
29 October 1914	Turkey entered the war on the side of Germany Trench warfare started to dominate the Western Front

1915

19 January 1915	The first Zeppelin raid on Britain took place
19 February 1915	Britain bombarded Turkish forts in the Dardanelles
25 April 1915	Allied troops landed in Gallipoli, Turkey
7 May 1915	The *Lusitania* was sunk by a German U-boat
23 May 1915	Italy declared war on Germany and Austria
5 August 1915	The Germans captured Warsaw, Poland from the Russians
25 September 1915	Start of the Battle of Loos, France
19 December 1915	The Allies started the evacuation of Gallipoli

1916

27 January 1916	Conscription introduced in Britain
21 February 1916	Start of the Battle of Verdun, France
29 April 1916	British forces surrendered to Turkish forces at Kut in Mesopotamia (now Iraq)
31 May 1916	Battle of Jutland in the North Sea
4 June 1916	Start of the Brusilov Offensive
1 July 1916	Start of the Battle of the Somme, France
10 August 1916	End of the Brusilov Offensive
15 September 1916	First use en masse of tanks at the Somme
7 December 1916	Lloyd George becomes British Prime Minister

1917

1 February 1917	Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare campaign started
6 April 1917	USA declared war on Germany
16 April 1917	France launched an unsuccessful offensive on the Western Front
31 July 1917	Start of the Third Battle at Ypres, Belgium
24 October 1917	Battle of Caporetto, now in Slovenia – the Italian Army was heavily defeated
6 November 1917	Britain launched a major offensive on the Western Front
20 November 1917	British tanks won a victory at Cambrai, France
5 December 1917	Armistice between Germany and Russia signed
9 December 1917	Britain captured Jerusalem from Turkish forces

1918

3 March 1918	The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed between Russia and Germany.
21 March 1918	Germany broke through on the Somme
29 March 1918	Marshall Foch was appointed Allied Commander on the Western Front
9 April 1918	Germany began an offensive in Flanders, Belgium
15 July 1918	Second Battle of the Marne started. The start of the collapse of the German army
8 August 1918	The advance of the Allies was successful

19 September 1918	Turkish forces collapsed at Megiddo, Palestine
4 October 1918	Germany asked the Allies for an armistice
29 October 1918	Germany's Navy mutinied
30 October 1918	Turkey made peace
3 November 1918	Austria made peace
9 November 1918	Kaiser William II abdicated
11 November 1918	Germany signed an armistice with the Allies – the official date of the end of World War One

Post war:
1919

4 January 1919	Peace conference met in Paris, France
21 June 1919	The surrendered German naval fleet at Scapa Flow was scuttled
28 June 1919	The Treaty of Versailles was signed by Germany

World War One: Financial Cost

Neera Sahni

Bullecourt, From A Sunken Road near Noreuil
(Source: Charles E.W. Bean, Official History of Australia in the War, of 1914-1918, Volume 12 Photographic record of the War)

Allied Powers	Cost in US Dollars in 1914-18
Great Britain	35,334,012,000
France	24,265,583,000
United States	22,625,253,000
Russia	22,293,950,000
Italy	12,413,998,000

Allied Powers	Cost in US Dollars in 1914-18
Canada	1,665,576,000
Romania	1,600,000,000
Australia	1,423,208,000
Belgium	1,154,468,000
India	601,279,000
Others	500,000,000
Serbia	399,400,000
New Zealand	378,750,000
South Africa	300,000,000
Greece	270,000,000
British Colonies	125,000,000
Japan	40,000,000
Total of all Costs	125,690,477,000

World War One: Parramatta Key Dates

Geoff Barker
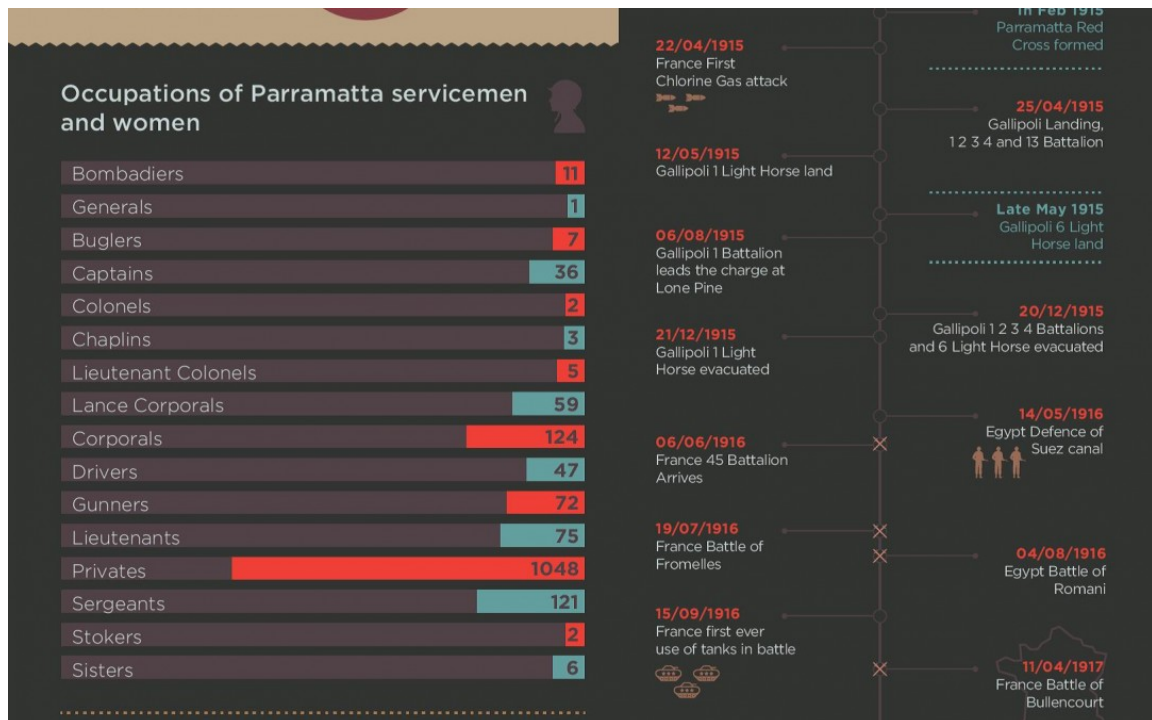
World War One 1914-1918 infographic
(Source: Parramatta Heritage Centre)

While the Research and Collections Team at the Parramatta Heritage Centre has been researching World War One servicemen, servicewomen and volunteer organisations, we have uncovered a number of key dates which relate to Parramatta. Some cover broader events of the war, but we also decided to include dates that were very specific to Parramatta at home and abroad, as well as dates which relate to the broader demographic of the current local government area.

Some relate to the actions of army and naval units in which the soldiers or nurses from Parramatta served. Some to the heroic endeavors of individuals while others have been included to mark an individual's contribution. Furthermore, it should continue to provide food for thought as we highlight the contribution of Parramatta and surrounding district's to this major world event.

3 August 1914	Pennant Hills Wireless Station, and all other Australian wireless stations placed under the control of the Naval Board.
11 August 1914	His Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) *Parramatta* and *Warrego* enter Simpson Harbour, German New Guinea – Australia's first action of the war
22 August 1914	Richard (Dick) John Cutter became the first Parramatta man to enlist
September 1914	The Home Front – Parramatta Soldiers Wives and Mothers Centre commences
26 September 1914	First Indian troops arrive in France
30 September 1914	Action at Wytschaete, France and First Indian Victoria Cross
1 November 1914	First Australian troops embark from Albany, Western Australia
9 November 1914	Sinking of the His Majesty's Ship *Emden* (SMS *Emden*) by His Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) *Sydney*
15 November 1914	Former Parramatta man, Billyard-Leake, owner of Harefield Park, in Middlesex, England offers his house to the Australian military authorities for use as a hospital
24 November 1914	Sister Edith Faber accepted into 2 Australian General Hospital Nursing Service
1 December 1914	Parramatta woman, Dorothy Cawood, first Sydney nurse to be awarded a Military Medal, selected to work in the 1 and 2 Australian General Army Hospitals
18 December 1914	Parramatta dentist, Arthur James Mills, Commander of the 4 Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) British Imperial Camel Corps, enlists
19 January 1915	First Zeppelin attack at Yarmouth, aerial warfare comes to England
December 1914	1 and 2 Battalions arrive in Egypt
14 March 1915	Gallipoli campaign outlined to Sir Ian Hamilton by Lord Kitchener
22 April 1915	First successful gas attack and Second Battle of Ypres, Belgium
25 April 1915	1, 2, 3 and 4 Battalion – ANZAC landing 2 and 3 waves

25 April 1915	13 Battalion – lands in late afternoon
26 April 1915	Victoria Cross won by Mir Dast, British Indian Army
2 May 1915	Parramatta soldier, James Durrant involved in fighting at the 'Chessboard', Gallipoli, Turkey
12 May 1915	1 Light Horse – ANZAC landing
17 May 1915	Private Cecil George 'Curly' Eather from Parramatta, killed in action at Gallipoli
Late May 1915	6 Light Horse – ANZAC landing with Colonel Cox
3 July 1915	Maori Battalion lands at ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli
6 August 1915	1 Battalion leads charge Lone Pine, Gallipoli
20 August 1915	17 and 18 Battalion landed at ANZAC Cove
21 August 1915	19 Battalion landed at ANZAC Cove
22 August 1915	20 Battalion landed at ANZAC Cove
27 August 1915	Privates Ernest and Alfred Currell of Baulkham Hills enlist
20 December 1915	1, 2, 3 and 4 Battalion and 6 Light Horse – Evacuation at ANZAC Cove
21 December 1915	1 Light Horse – Evacuation at ANZAC Cove
14 May 1916	1 Light Horse defend Suez Canal, Egypt
19 July 1916	Battle of Fromelles, France
4 - 5 August 1916	1 Light Horse, Battle of Romani, Egypt
6 June 1916	45 Battalion arrives France made up of half Gallipoli veterans and new recruits
11 April 1917	13 Battalion – first battle of Bullecourt, France
21 July – 6 November 1917	3 Battle of Ypres, Belgium also known as Battle of Passchendaele
26 September 1917	54 Battalion – Battle of Polygon Wood, part of the Passchendaele, Belgium engagement
31 October 1917	1 and 7 Light Horse Battle of Beersheba, Palestine now Israel
27 - 31 March 1918	ANZAC Mounted Division and Camel Corps – First Battle of Amman, Palestine
30 March – 5 April 1918	54 Battalion – First Battle of Villers-Bretonneux
14 July 1918	Engagement Abu Tulul, Jordan Valley
11 November 1918	Armistice declared

World War One: New South Wales Lancers and the First Light Horse Regiment 1914 – 1915

Geoff Barker

Men of the original 1 Light Horse Regiment at Roseberry Park Camp, near Merriwa, New South Wales, before departure from Australia. The trooper on the right is Trooper William Harry Rankin Woods (service number 71) who was amongst the first Light Horsemen to die of wounds on 15 May 1915 in Gallipoli, aged 39 years.
(Source: Australian War Memorial, J00450)

The New South Wales Lancers went under a number of different names before the outbreak of World War One and because some of these names are easily confused with the names of other Regiments I thought it would be good to clarify a little of this history before telling their story.

The first points to note are:

- The New South Wales (NSW) Lancers Regiment was formed in 1885 as the NSW Cavalry Reserves in 1885 with each group having its own territorial title.
- In 1889 it became known as the New South Wales Cavalry regiment and in 1908 it was renamed the 1 Australian Light Horse Regiment.
- Finally, in 1912 only two years before the war its name was changed again to the 7 Light Horse Brigade (NSW Lancers)

At the declaration of war in August 1914 there was a general call for volunteers to join an expeditionary force officially called the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). This force, once raised, was a completely separate force from the existing Australian Military Force (AMF). The AIF was disbanded at the end of the war.

In 1914 the 7 Light Horse was part of the AMF and was made up of three squadrons these were

- Sydney A squadron
- Parramatta B Squadron
- Windsor Penrith and Luddenham C Squadron

Over the course of the war most of the AMF units, including the NSW Lancers, remained unchanged in organisation and designation but the AIF drained from them those men who volunteered and were fit for war. However, a number of experienced veterans remained in the Lancers, while others were taken into the AIF as instructors. Those veterans who remained in Sydney and Parramatta squadrons patrolled coast from Manly to Pittwater and in 1916 sub units were sent to guard the Prospect water supply.

During World War One, 1 Light Horse Regiment was the NSW contingent of the 1 Light Horse Brigade. The 2 (Mainly Queensland) and the 3 (mainly South Australia and Tasmania) Light Horse Regiments made up the rest of the brigade.

1 Light Horse Regiment of the AIF formed at Roseberry Park, Sydney In 1914 and was made up from active NSW men in militia regiments and men from country districts who could ride a horse. Major George Macarthur-Onslow was appointed to command but after he fell ill with appendicitis, 28 August 1914, Lieutenant-Colonel John Baldwin Meredith (Hunter River Lancers) assumed command of the force.

The 1 Light Horse Regiment was made up of three parts:

- A Squadron under Major's Reid and Lawry the commanding officers from New England Light Horse and Hunter River Lancers
- B Squadron under Major's Irwin and Cox the commanding officers from Australian Horse and NSW Lancers

- C Squadron under Major Granville, commanding officer from Hunter River Lancers and NSW Mounted Rifles

On the 20 October 1914, the 1 Light Horse Regiment as part of the 1 Light Horse Brigade left Sydney on 'Star of Victoria.' However, some of the men including it seems Major Cox remained behind as reinforcements and they were drafted into the 6 Regiment of the 2 Light Horse Brigade. This was raised in September and sailed from Sydney on 24 December 1914. However, both brigades served as infantry at Gallipoli from May 1915 until the withdrawal in December 1915.

On 12 May 1915, the 1 Light Horse Brigade landed at Gallipoli some 200 yards from Fisherman's Hut, south of Pope's Hill. The next day the 1 Light Horse Regiment took over front line tranches at Pope's Hill with 2 Light Horse Regiment. In late May, the 2 Light Horse Brigade landed Gallipoli attached to the 1 Australian Division. Charles Frederick Cox and the 6 Light Horse Regiment became responsible for a sector on the far right of the ANZAC line, and played a defensive role until it left the peninsula on 20 December 1915.

Landing at ANZAC Cove, Trenching at Gallipoli, Gallishaw, 1915.

On 7 August the 1 Light Horse were ordered to attack at the same time as the soldiers at Walker's and Quinn's Post at the Chessboard. As a result, 15 were killed, 98 wounded and 34 listed as missing. The Casualties included all the officers of B squadron, Major Reid and Lieutenant Nettleton's bodies were not recovered. William Cox (Charles' brother) and Lieutenant Tinson died a day later from their wounds.

On 20 December the 1 Light Horse Regiment were evacuated from Gallipoli.

World War One: Battle of Beersheba

Neera Sahni & Caroline Finlay

Ride into History: The Charge of Beersheba. It is likely that the above photograph is of a re-enactment some weeks after the event.
(Source: Australian War Memorial, P03723_001)

The Battle of Beersheba is one of the most notable mounted charges by the Australian Light Horse Regiments. On 31 October 1917, the 4 and 12 Australian Light Horse Regiment launched a dramatic charge, with bayonets "swords" in hands, to defeat Turkish troops near the town of Beersheba. This charge took place 34 miles south of Jerusalem and 27 miles from the Turkish bastion of Gaza at a town called Beersheba. In this attack, Australians suffered little causalities and broke through two lines of trenches to enter the town.

The wells of Beersheba were vital for the welfare of the Desert Mounted Corps' horses, many of whom had been without water for several days. Lieutenant General Harry Chauvel, commanding the Desert Mounted Corps, thus ordered the 4 Light Horse Brigade forward to attempt to secure the position. Brigadier William Grant responded by ordering light horsemen of the 4 and 12 Regiments to charge at the unwired Turkish trenches.

Speed and time were of the essence. The Australians' horses had marched through the Negev Desert for three days and had not been watered. Both riders and horses were carrying all their kit and equipment. In fading light, the town was defended by 3,500-4,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalries with four batteries of artillery and fifty machine guns. The attacking infantry suffered 1,200 casualties during the battle. Australians suffered very light casualties, in contrast to other battles, during the charge – 31 killed and 36 wounded. The water supplies were saved and over 1,000 Turkish prisoners were taken. The taking of Beersheba was the first crucial step in bringing an end to Ottoman rule in Palestine.

Head stone of Corporal John Fielding of 12 Australian Light Horse at Be'er-Sheva War Cemetery. A total of 31 Australians were killed and 36 wounded in the capture of Beersheba. (Source: Phil Box)

Timeline – Battle of Beersheba, 31 October 1917

05.55	100 British guns opened in support of the preliminary operation.
07.00	The Desert Mounted Corps halted, and patrols were pushed forward. Beersheba with its mosque was clearly in view; it offered no prize in rations or quarters, but something more coveted were the ancient wells to water those parched men and their Waler mounts. A large pool could be seen shimmering in the Wadi; there had been a storm on the 27 October.
08.30	The British rushed forward and captured their objectives to the south-west and brought forward their guns.
09.00	The ANZACs were ready to seize the road and the Tel. The enemy was observed reinforcing the Tel.
09.30	The Second Brigade moved into artillery formation, advanced through a Bedouin camp, and thundered to the Hebron Road Sakati without slackening. Turkish batteries fired, but formation and ground gave them protection. With this task accomplished, they remained in a Wadi for the day.
10.00	The Somerset Battery opened up on Tel El Saba from 3000 metres to cover the ANZAC assault. The 3 Australian Light Horse Regiment was ordered to attack from the south-east. A spirited gallop under heavy fire brought the 3 to within 1500 metres of the enemy. They dismounted. The Auckland Regiment conformed to the north. The Inverness Battery gave covering fire to the Somersets as they galloped to within 1000 metres of the Tel. The ANZACs were severely punished but they continued their advance, eventually bringing effective Hotchkiss fire onto the cliff. The prospect of the 3 scaling the 200-metre cliff was not good, so they gave full opportunity to the Aucklanders.
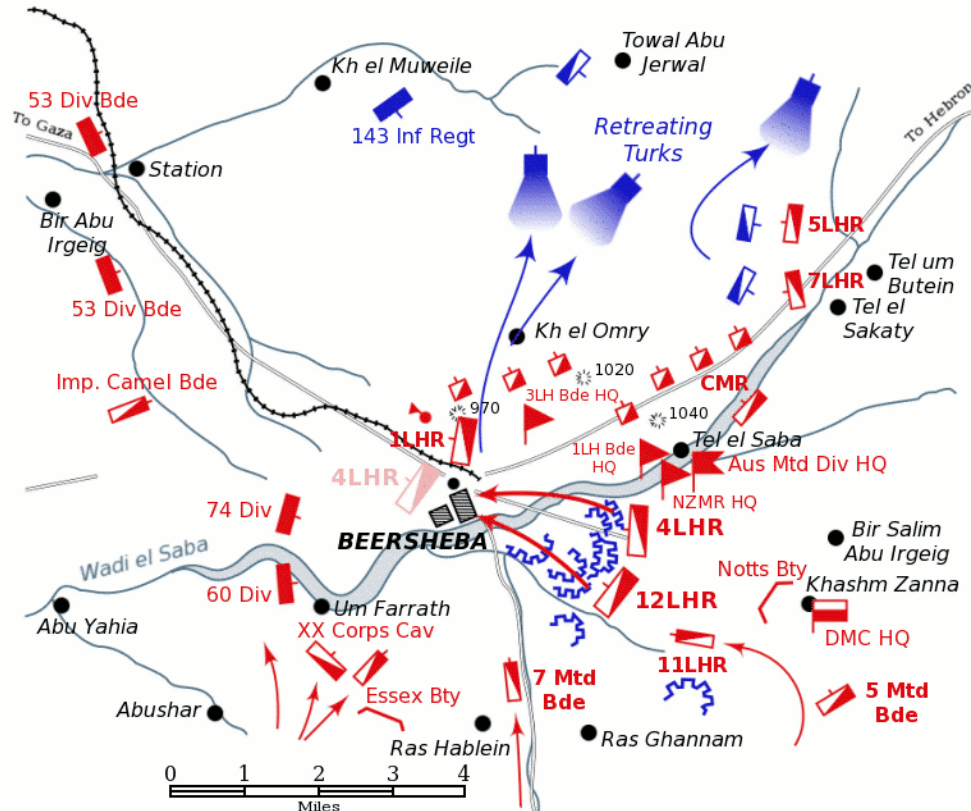
Positions at Beersheba based on Sir Henry Somer Gullett's Map 15, Chapter 23 Volume VII "Sinai & Palestine" of the Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18. British forces are shown in red, Turkish forces are shown in blue. The position reached by the regiments of the 4 Light Horse Brigade after the attack is shown in pale red. (Source: Gsl, Wikimedia Commons)

13.00	The 2 Australian Light Horse Regiment was ordered to support the 3. They advanced at the gallop, dismounted and rushed their horses back so quickly that the enemy though they had retreated. They fired on the horses; this enabled the 2 to advance unharmed. Meanwhile, the 3 had gained the bank. The Wellington's were thrown in to support the Aucklanders. The enemy was now under heavy fire.
14.00	The New Zealanders rose and dashed up the slopes with the bayonet. The 3 continued, but the Aucklanders were first in. Some Turks surrendered; others fled into the town. The 2 and 3 gave chase then fought off a counter-attack. At last, the ANZACs had secured the Hebron Road and Tel El Saba. Chauvel had not expected to lose as much time. He had already detached the 9 and 10 Regiments from the Australian Mounted Division in support of the ANZACs.
14.30	With the day on the wane, it was now neck or nothing; the time had come to commit the reserve. Chauvel issued decisive orders for the occupation of Beersheba. Brig. Grant of the 4 Australian Light Horse Brigade and Fitzgerald of the Yeomanry were at Headquarters; they pleaded for the honour of the charge. Put 'Grant straight at it' was Chauvels terse order.

16.30	The 4 and 12 Australian Light Horse Regiments drew up behind a ridge. From the crest, Beersheba was in full view. The course lay down a long, slight slope, which was bare of cover. Between them and the town lay the enemy defences. The 4 was on the right; the 12 was on the left. They rode with bayonets in hand. Each drew up on a squadron frontage. Every man knew that only a wild, desperate charge could seize Beersheba before dark. They moved off at the trot, deploying at once into artillery formation, with 5 metres between horsemen. Almost at once, the pace quickened to a gallop. Once direction was given, the lead squadrons pressed forward. The 11th Australian Light Horse Regiment and the Yeomanry followed at the trot in reserve. The Turks opened fire with shrapnel. Machine guns fired against the lead squadrons. The Royal Horse Artillery got their range and soon had them out of action. The Turkish riflemen fired, horses were hit, but the charge was not checked. The Light horsemen drove in their spurs; they rode for victory and they rode for Australia. The bewildered enemy failed to adjust their sights and soon their fire was passing harmlessly overhead. The 4 took the trenches; the enemy soon surrendered. The 12 rode through a gap and on into the town. There was a bitter fight. Some of the enemies surrendered; others fled and were pursued into the Judean Hills. In less than an hour it was over; the enemy was finally beaten. The Australian Light Horse had galloped into history.

Beersheba Light Horse Sculpture by Peter Corlett

Australia's Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery, has opened a park in southern Israel dedicated to the Australian Light Horsemen
(Source: Donated by a visitor)

<h1>Australian Light Horse Units</h1>

1 Australian Light Horse Regiment

The 1 Light Horse Regiment was raised, from recruits from New South Wales, at Rosebury Park in Sydney in August 1914. It was one of three regiments of the 1 Light Horse Brigade – the first mounted formation committed by Australia to the First World War. The regiment sailed from Sydney on 19 October and disembarked in Egypt on 8 December. The 1 Light Horse Regiment sailed for Australia on 12 March 1919 without their horses, which were either shot or transferred to Indian cavalry units. The light horse was initially considered unsuitable for the Gallipoli operation, but were soon deployed without their horses to reinforce the infantry. The 1 Light Horse Regiment landed on 12 May 1915 and was attached to the New Zealand and Australian Division. It played a defensive role for most of the campaign but mounted an attack on the Turkish position known as "the Chessboard" as part of the August Offensive on 7 August – 200 men were involved, 147 became casualties. The regiment left Gallipoli on 21 December 1915.

Military presence in Parramatta traces back to 1788, when the first European settlement was established. The Regiment's ties with Parramatta began in 1891, when the Regiment's Parramatta Troop was founded. Lancers are Australia's oldest and most decorated Regiments – 1 Light Horse Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Lancers Barracks was built by Lieutenant John Watts in 1818 under instructions from Governor Macquarie. It was finished and operational in 1820. This is one of the oldest still in use Barracks. Lancers served at Gallipoli and as part of the ANZAC Mounted Division in Palestine, fighting in Sinai, Beersheba, Jerusalem, Jericho and Amman. By the end of the war, 224 men had died and 679 wounded.

4 Australian Light Horse Regiment

The 4 Light Horse Regiment was formed as the divisional cavalry regiment for the 1 Australian Division on 11 August 1914. The regiment sailed from Melbourne on 19 October 1914 and disembarked in Egypt on 10 December. The regiment's first major battle would also become that which made it legendary. On 31 October 1917, an attack was launched to outflank the Turkish bastion of Gaza, against which two previous attacks had failed, by capturing another heavily defended town to the east – Beersheba. A deteriorating tactical situation late on the first day of the operation caused the 4 and its sister regiment, the 12, to be unleashed on Beersheba at the gallop – an action which has gone down in history as the charge of Beersheba.

8 Australian Light Horse Regiment

The regiment that would eventually become the 8 Light Horse Regiment was formed at Broadmeadows camp in Victoria on 23 September 1914 as the 6 Light Horse Regiment. A reorganisation of the rapidly expanding AIF in early October

resulted in the 6 being renumbered the 8, and it became part of the 3 Light Horse Brigade. It sailed from Melbourne on 24 February 1914 and arrived in Egypt on 14 March 1915.

9 Australian Light Horse Regiment
The 9 Light Horse Regiment was formed in Adelaide and trained in Melbourne between October 1914 and February 1915. Approximately three-quarters of the regiment hailed from South Australia and the other quarter from Victoria. As part of the 3 Light Horse Brigade, it sailed from Melbourne on 11 February and arrived in Egypt on 14 March 1915.

11 Australian Light Horse Regiment
The formation of the 4 Light Horse Brigade, and the 11th Light Horse Regiment as part of it, was announced on 11 February 1915. Two squadrons of the 11th Light Horse were subsequently formed in Queensland, and a third in South Australia. The regiment was united for the first time at Fraser's Paddock Camp, outside Brisbane, on 2 May 1915. It sailed from Australia in two contingents in June 1915. The first contingent was landed at Aden on 12 July to reinforce the British garrison there against a predicted enemy attack; they re-embarked on 18 July without having seen action.
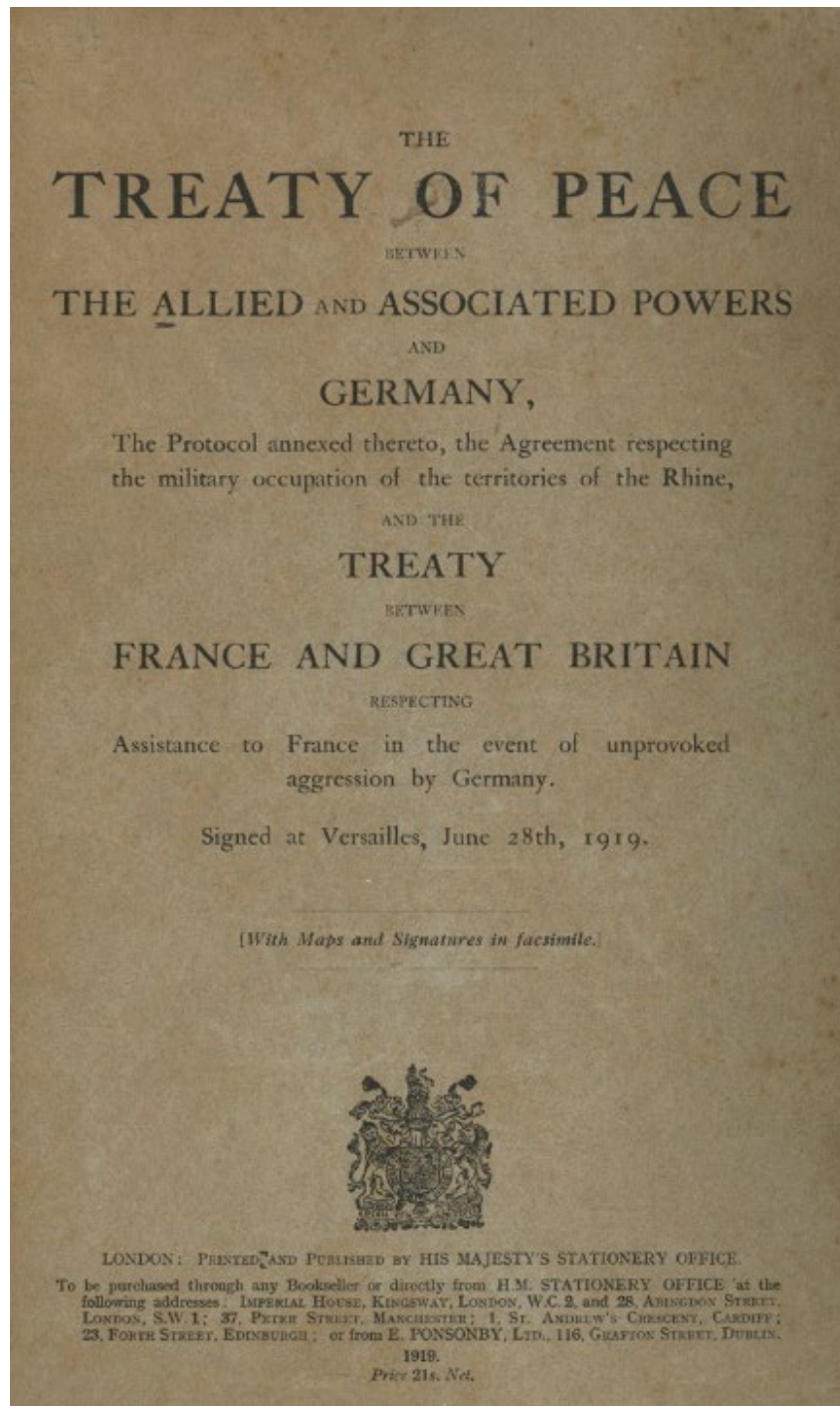
12 Australian Light Horse Regiment
The 12 Light Horse Regiment was raised, as part of the 4 Light Horse Brigade, at Liverpool, New South Wales, on 1 March 1915.
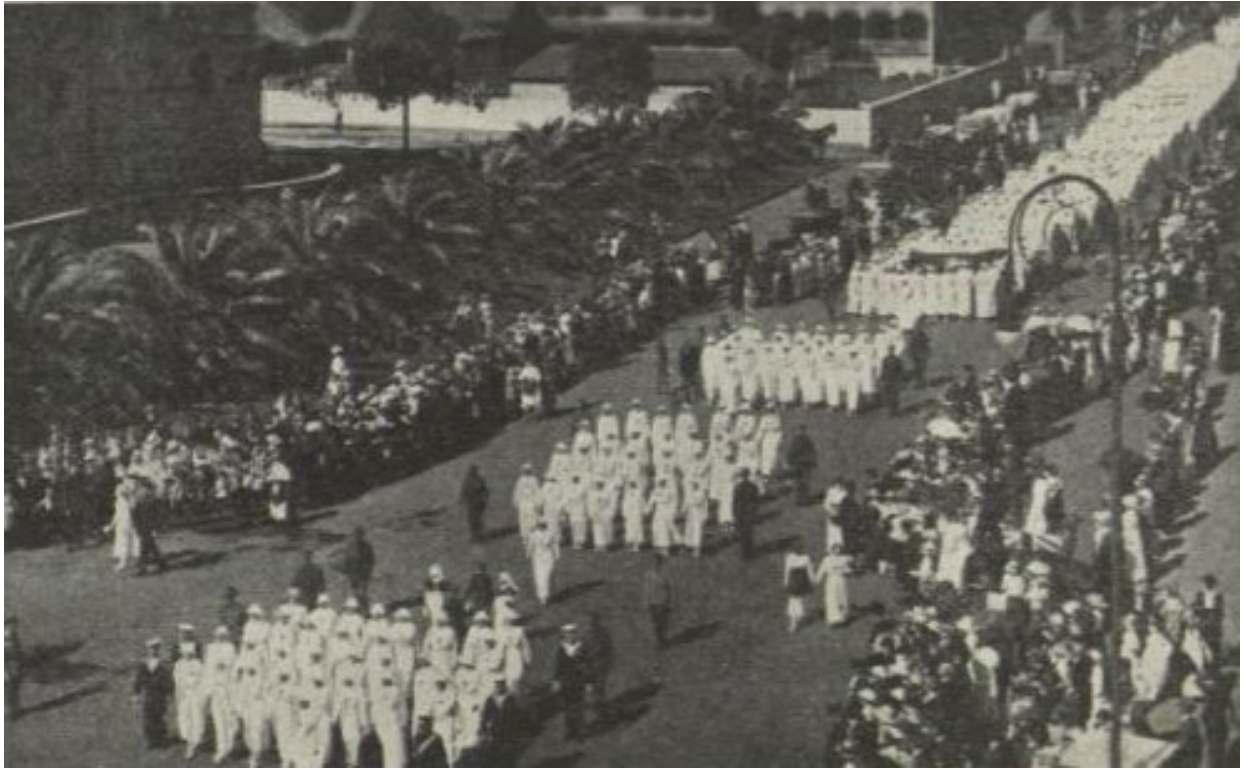
World War One and Peace

Neera Sahni

World War One was declared over on the 4 August 1914, the Armistice was signed on the 11 November 1918 and peace was declared on the 28 June 1919.

THE

TREATY OF PEACE

BETWEEN

THE ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED POWERS

AND

GERMANY,

The Protocol annexed thereto, the Agreement respecting the military occupation of the territories of the Rhine,

AND THE

TREATY

BETWEEN

FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN

RESPECTING

Assistance to France in the event of unprovoked aggression by Germany.

Signed at Versailles, June 28th, 1919.

[With Maps and Signatures in facsimile.]

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Treaty of Peace
(Source: Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War, 1914-1919)

The Treaty of Versailles was the most important of the peace treaties that brought World War One to an end. The Treaty ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Nations (including Britain, France, Italy, Russia and USA). It was signed on the 28 June 1919 in Versailles. Versailles is a city 10 miles outside of Paris in France.

Volunteer Aid Detachment's (VAD) in the "Peace Day" celebrations in Sydney. The Second Section is the Parramatta Detachment
(Source: Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War, 1914-1919)

# World War One: Images
Neera Sahni

*Light horsemen watering their horses in Esani, Palestine, circa 1916.
(Source: Australia War Memorial, H16048)*

*'Thunder of a light horse charge'. The charge of the 4 Light Horse Brigade at Beersheba on
31 November 1917. (Source: Australian War Memorial, A02684)*

The main street of Beersheba shortly after its capture.
(Source: Australian War Memorial, P01668.005)
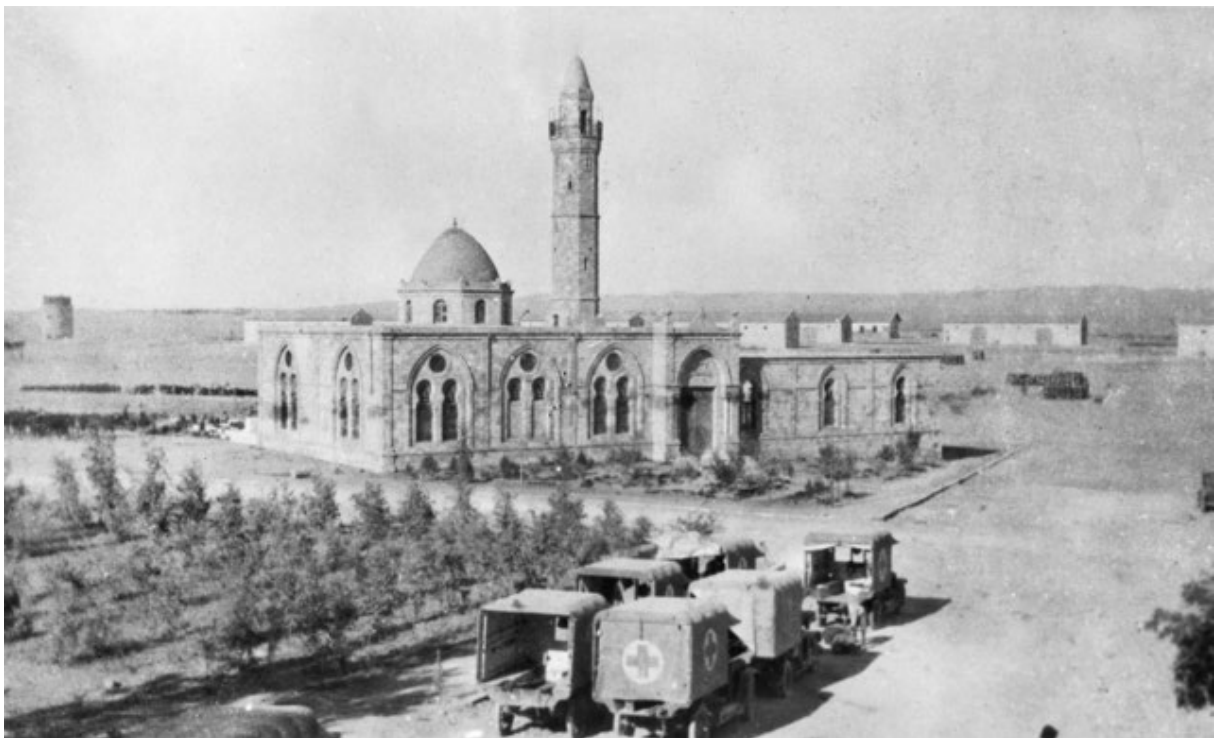
Motor ambulances waiting near the Beersheba town mosque.
(Source: Australian War Memorial, P01668.004)

A regiment of the Australian Light Horse on the march near either Bethlehem or Jerusalem. Leading the column is Brigadier General Charles Frederick Cox. (Source: Australian War Memorial, B01619)

Troops in training – Light horse in the rush
(Source: The Sydney Mail, in Charles E. W. Bean, Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918, Volume XII: Photographic record of the war, Photo 706)

Back cover image: *Patrol at dawn waiting for the patrols to appear. Beersheba line, panorama, joins J06567.*
(Source: Australian War Memorial, J06566)