

Australia Honors World War I Centenary



On April 22 Australia Post released the first set in a five-year series telling the chronological story of Australia’s involvement in World War I. Anzac Day, April 25, marks the anniversary of the first campaign that led to major casualties for the Anzacs (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) during the First World War. As the organization that helped deliver precious letters between WWI soldiers and home, Australia Post is linked to the Anzacs, a connection which it hopes to honor through this commemorative stamp issue.

“During the next five years of commemoration we hope to join all Australians in honoring the contribution made by Anzacs and hope that these stamps serve as a symbol of our appreciation to those who made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Michael Zsolt, Manager Philatelic, Australia Post. The series also will serve as a worldwide reminder of Australia’s vital role in the continuing defence of freedom.

Each of the five annual stamp issues has been developed in conjunction with the Australian War Memorial to encompass key events, battles and individuals relevant to each year of the centenary. Dr Brendan Nelson, Director, Australian War Memorial, said that the centenary stamp issue complements the War Memorial’s planned centenary activity.

“Through our centenary commemorations we hope to encourage Australians, young and old, to reflect upon and learn more about Australia’s military

history. These stamps are a brilliant visual representation of Australia’s involvement in World War I, but more importantly, each tells a significant story that we can learn from and be proud of,” said Dr Nelson.

The 2014 installment marks Australia’s involvement in the first months of war, with five domestic base-rate (70c) stamps entitled:

- War Declared! – Volunteers queuing to enlist in Sydney.
- Australians in Action – The seizure of German New Guinea – the first action in which Australians were involved.
- Troops Depart – The enthusiasm of new recruits as they departed for Europe.
- Training Mena Camp – Australians with a mascot at Egypt’s Mena Camp.
- Our Boys – Three unknown soldiers in a studio portrait, representing the tens of thousands of young men who fought in the war.

The WWI centenary stamp issue comprises a minisheet, stamp pack, first day cover, maxicards, medallion cover, booklet of 10 x 70c self-adhesive stamps and two postal and numismatic covers.

It is available now at www.auspost.com.au/stamps or contact Australia Stamp Agency in North America toll free (USA and Canada) at 1-800-443-4225 while stocks last.