

Dear members of the RAAF Association Cairns Branch this is an outstanding look into WWI in the field and thanks to Beatrice and Geoff Cranwell, our Association historian and photographer they are doing a top job.

Frank Hurley OBE [1885-1962] was born in Glebe, Sydney – many of his photos are online at Picture Australia at the National Art Gallery, Canberra.

Some extremely rare WWI pictures

From Australian War Memorial Archives

90 years on



"An Australian Light Horseman collecting anemones near Belah in Palestine".

Picture: Frank Hurley, 1918



Squadrons of the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade information at Gaza

Picture: Frank Hurley, February 1918



Australians of the Imperial Camel Corps form up at Rafa, Egypt.

Picture: Frank Hurley, 26 January 1918



The 3rd Australian Light Horse Regiment machinegun in action at Khurbetha-lbn, Palestine.

Picture: Frank Hurley, New Year's Eve 1917



Four camel ambulances attached to the Imperial Camel Corps at Rafa - used as a base for the attack on Gaza.

Picture: Frank Hurley, 1918



The 2nd Australian Light Horse Regiment behind the front line barricades at Nalin in Palestine, one man passing across a grenade.

Picture: Frank Hurley, January 17, 1918



Australian Flying Corps planes in Palestine.

Picture: Frank Hurley, 1918



Waiting the order to fire a camouflaged eight inch gun from the 1st Australian Siege Battery before the main attack on Polygon Wood in Belgium.

Picture: Frank Hurley, September 1917



Official photograph at Gallipoli taken in early 1919 for The Australian Historical Mission showing a landing barge, wire and entrenchments.

Picture: George Hubert Wilkins



A thigh bone and other skeletal remains near the Turkish war memorial at the Nek are a grim reminder of the fighting in this photo taken February/March 1919.

Picture: George Hubert Wilkins



Stretcher bearers of the 13th Field Ambulance resting at a dressing station on Westhoek Ridge on the Western Front.

Picture: Frank Hurley, October 1917



Soldiers, mules and carts stopped on a street in the ruined village of Voormezele on the Western Front in Belgium.

Picture Frank Hurley, August 1917



Statue of the Virgin hanging from the Cathedral of Albert in France. Local superstition held that war would end when the Madonna fell.

She collapsed in the spring of 1918 under shellfire.

Picture: Frank Hurley, September 1917



The derelict hulk of a British tank on the Pozieres battlefield - a battle in which for Australian troops distinguished themselves but suffered heavy losses while taking the French village and ridge from the Germans.

Picture: Frank Hurley, 1917



An Australian Light Horse Field Ambulance wagon on the Philistine Plain, Palestine.

Picture: Frank Hurley, 1918



French Premier Georges Benjamin Clemenceau on his only visit to the Australian front at the Somme, pictured with 4th Division command including Brigadier General Thomas Blamey, CMG, DSO, second from left.

Picture: Unknown, July 7, 1918



Scattered graves marked by simple white crosses on the old Somme battlefields in France.

Picture: Frank Hurley, September 1917