

A DIGGER IN ANOTHER LAND

What can art tell us about the experience of soldiers and communities during war?

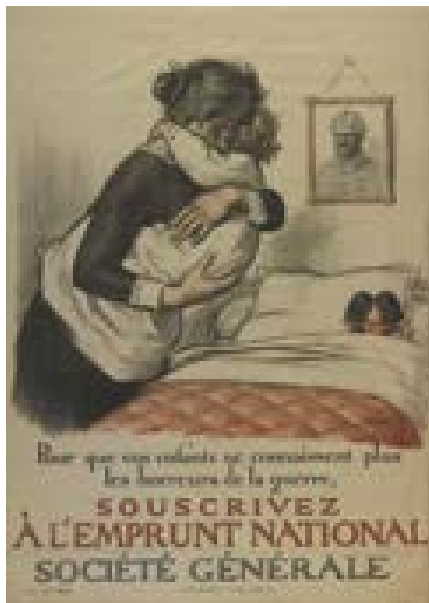
The Australian War Memorial in Canberra, Australia has a collection of photographs of Australian soldiers behind the front lines in French and Belgian communities, and also a collection of French art and sketches that show aspects of life in France during the war.

Your task is to look at each of these, decide what each shows and what it tells you about the communities and their contact with Australian soldiers.

- 1 But first, write a caption for each of the photos, then check against the real one – to work out the message.
 - 2 Use some or all to create a story about the community contact. You could cover what is happening, where the soldier is, what that community is like, what the people are feeling, how they interact, and so on. You can do this as a letter, a diary entry, an essay, a newspaper article, a comic, or in any other way you choose.
- Remember to share your findings with your partner school.



click to enlarge



Souscrivez à L'Emprunt Nationale'
Georges Redon, 1917
AWM ARTV01187

Translation: So that your children will never know the horrors of war, subscribe to the National Society General war loan



Sgt Dibble, Cpl Hocke, Sgt Alldiss, Yvonne and her mother, at the house owned by Yvonne's family in Couillet, Belgium, 1919.
AWM P05182.077



'Shopping in Albert'
Will Dyson, 1917
AWM ART02396



French refugees leaving the village of Hondegheem carrying bags and taking their animals with them, 1918
AWM E02034



Australian soldiers photographed with the people of their billet at Biesmere, Belgium, 1919

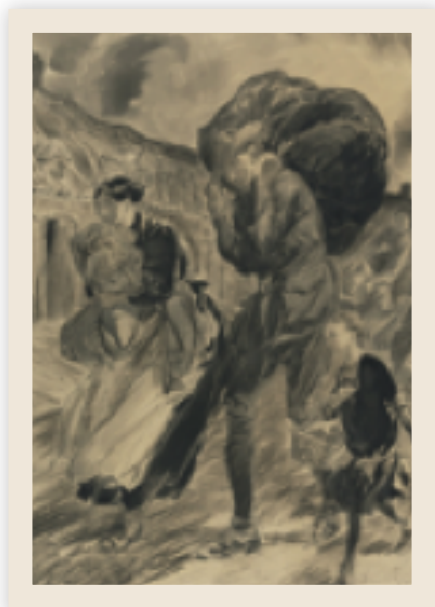
AWM J06296



'Un raid au dessus d'une 'place forte' anglaise (A raid over a British fortress)

Jean-Louis Forain, 1917

AWM ART50134



'First bombardment of Hazebrouch'
Will Dyson, 1917

AWM ART02291



A group of Australian soldiers with the French family on which they were billeted, 1917

AWM H12920



'Soignons la basse-cour'
G Douanne, 1916

Translation

Take care of the gallant hen

Take care of the farmyard. I am a gallant hen of war. I eat little and produce much.

AWM ARTV06107



'Welcome back to the Somme'
Will Dyson, 1918

AWM ART02252.001



'Peronne Square,'
James Fraser Scott, 1918
AWM ART03375



An old French veteran of the 1870 Franco-Prussian war is steadied by a young unidentified Australian soldier in a French village, 1916
AWM EZ0034



Lieut Martin, 2nd Battalion, and Lieut Andrews, 1st Battalion, with the Belgian family [the father was a potter] with whom they were billeted for a month in Chatelet, Belgium, 1919.
AWM P05182.064



The ruins of the razed village of Le Sar, 1917
AWM E0488



'A street in Neuve Eglise,'
Charles Bryant, 1917
AWM ART00159



Two men standing near the ruins of the 'Cafe de la Musique,' Albert, after some months of war, 1918
AWM C03102



An unidentified Australian soldier chats to two village children and fills a bucket with water from the pump while his mate pulls the pump handle. The two were billeted at a farm south of Armentieres, 1916

AWM EZ0036



The Estancia
Fed Leist, 1917

AWM ART93168



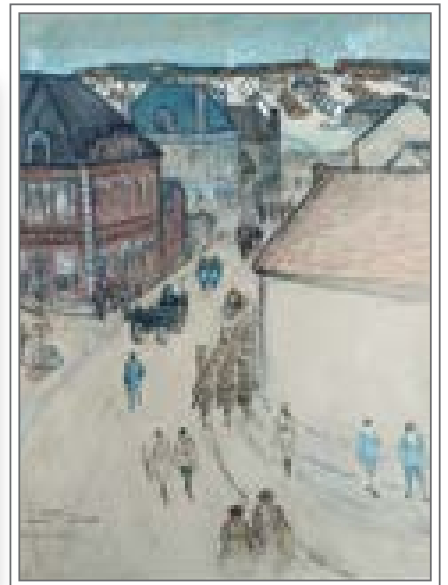
'L'Exode belge' (Belgian exodus)
Theophile Alexandre Steinlen, 1915

AWM ART50207



Private J Brown (left) assisting the owner of a billet to feed the fowls at Flesselles, France, 1916

AWM E00026



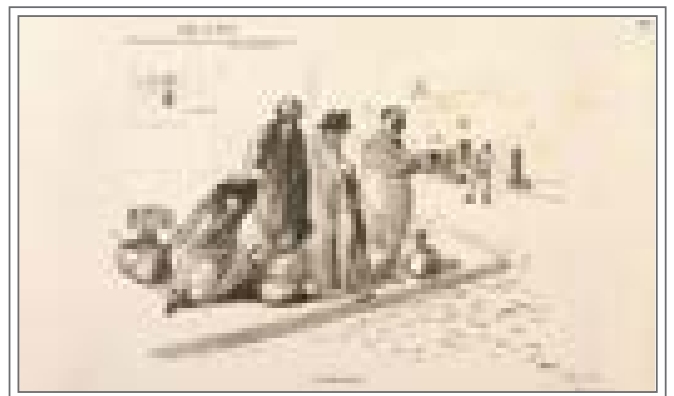
Rue de la Gare (Station Street)
Iso Rae, 1918

AWM ART19597



'Le terrain reconquis' (Reconquered ground)
Jean-Louis Forain, 1916

AWM ART50140



Jean-Louis Fourain, 1916
'Dans le nord' ('In the north')
(Lille, 1916)

AWM ART50152



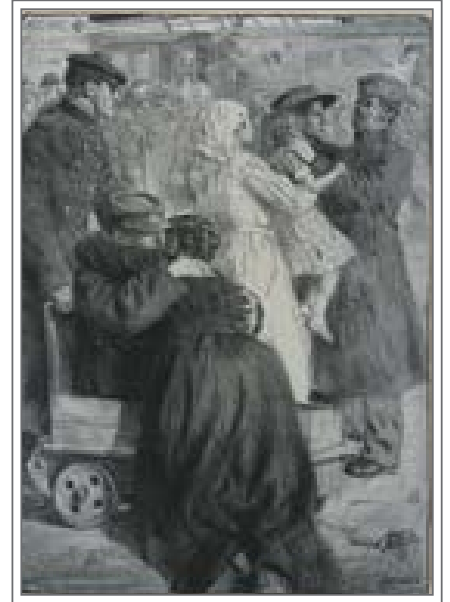
Lieutenant Robert Otto Boese and Yvonne at her house in Couillet, Belgium, 1919

AWM P05182.078



Portrait of an unidentified Australian soldier with a French comrade at Vignacourt, France c.1916-1918

AWM P10550.137



'Les grandes blessés' ('The severely wounded') Lucien-Hector Jonas, 1916

AWM ART92976



An old Frenchwoman serves coffee to six unidentified Australian and Scottish soldiers at an estaminet (small cafe) in her village of Bois-Grenier, which is within 800 yards of the trenches in a comparatively quiet sector.

AWM EZ0032



'2nd Emprunt de la Defense Nationale' 2nd Defence National Loan

Jean Jaques HANSI (Waltz), 1916

Translation: Subscribe, by helping us to win you hasten the day of victory and return to the family

AWM ARTV06249