

# Telling Great War Stories

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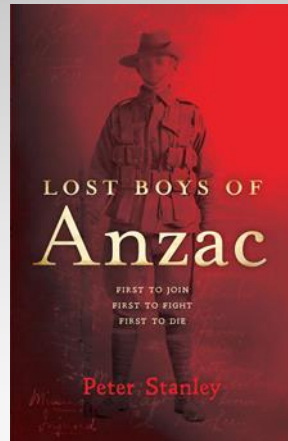
Heritage Leaders Workshop  
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## Queensland Great War stories I

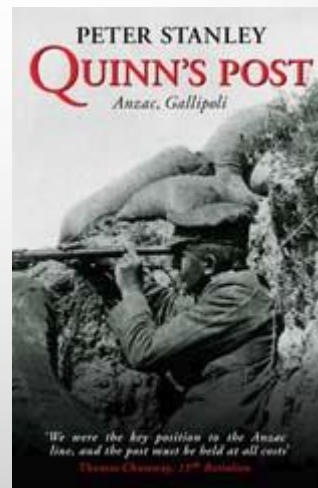
### Private Joe Stratford

Joe Stratford hailed from Lismore in northern NSW, but by 1914 he was working in the sugar fields around Japoon, north Queensland. He volunteered for the AIF almost immediately and on 25 April was among the first of the 9th Battalion's men to leap out of a boat near what became Anzac Cove. His comrades described his heroic conduct in charging a machine-gun post, and they were told that he would be recommended for a Victoria Cross. He did not receive a VC; his body was lost, and he was not given the credit for being the first Australian to land on Gallipoli.



### Hugh Quinn

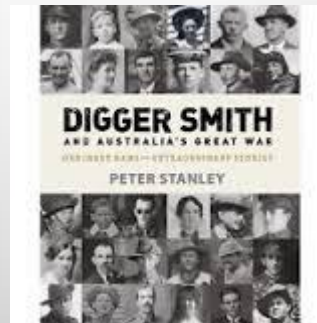
An accountant and amateur athlete of Charters Towers, Hugh Quinn had been a Militia officer before 1914. He served with the force that occupied German New Guinea, and in April 1915, as a lieutenant in the 15th Battalion, was responsible for a crucial stretch of the Anzac front line on Gallipoli - called Quinn's Post. On 29 May the Turks briefly broke into Quinn's Post and he was killed leading a counter-attack to evict them. He is buried in Shrapnel Gully cemetery.



## Queensland Great War stories II

### Agnes Fowles

In the first few minutes of the landing at Anzac Sergeant Herbert Fowles, a teacher from Zillmere, was climbing up the steep slope of Plugge's Plateau above Anzac Cove when he fell dead. He had been hit not by a Turkish bullet, but shot accidentally by a man landing in the second wave. Though he died on a hillside that remained in Australian hands, Bert's body was lost, and the actual date of his death remained uncorrected until 1920. In 1916 his mother, Agnes, wanted to name her Woolloowin house 'Anzac' in Bert's memory. The Department of Defence refused her permission under the new 'Protection of the word Anzac' regulations, giving no reason for their refusal.



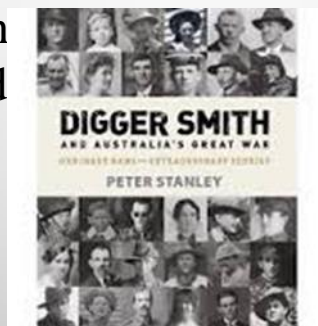
### Ada Smith

A trained nurse from Beaudesert, Ada Smith joined the Australian army Nursing Service in July 1917. In mid-1917 she was serving in No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station near Messines. She noticed that her operating tent tripled the number of tables to six, and the nurses heard the sound of the bombardment and the explosions of the mines that opened the attack on Messines Ridge. Ada had charge of the 'moribund' ward, where wounded men with no chance of recovering were given palliative care until they died. 'I felt things were almost beyond me', she recalled later.

## Queensland Great War stories III

### Victor Smith

In 1917 a young engineer employed by the Queensland government railways workshops approached the Department of Defence. Victor Smith proposed an 'automatic Zeppelin destroyer', which he thought could use light to control a missile able to shoot down airships. Working in his father's shed at Mapleton (in the Sunshine Coast hinterland), Victor produced a model of his device, which scientists in Britain though promising; but the war ended and the plans were simply put away. But Victor Smith may have envisaged creating a guided missile.



### Gustav and Marguerite Schmidt

The Schmidts lived on a property at Schmidtfield, near Tara, west of Dalby. Gustav had been naturalised in 1908, and they hastily re-named their place 'Smithfield'. In 1915 neighbours denounced Gustav as 'disaffected and disloyal' and he was interned.

Marguerite was left to run the property in the drought and eventually it was bought up – probably by the same neighbours who had doxxed on Gustav. His file is missing, but it is very likely that he – with or without Marguerite and their child – was deported to Germany in 1919.



# What story do you want to tell?

Share a 30-second snippet of your story ...

What questions do you have before starting?

Exercise: what is the essence of your story?

Edward and Lima Fitzgerald



# Intent

What do you want to achieve  
by telling this story?

What is **important** to you?

What do you want to **say**?

What's the **real story** behind your story?

Exercise: write down what you want to achieve



Hilda Rix Nicholas's 'Desolation', 1917

# Audience

## Who are you trying to reach?

Who cares?

How can you **attract** an audience?

What does your audience know?

What do they want to know?

Exercise: write down who your target audience will be: how will you reach them?

School children near Canberra, 1915



# What sources can you use to tell your story?

Exercise: what sources can you draw on? Let's make a list ... What's new?



# Selection

## How will you make your choices?

How will you select **what to include** and **what to leave out**?

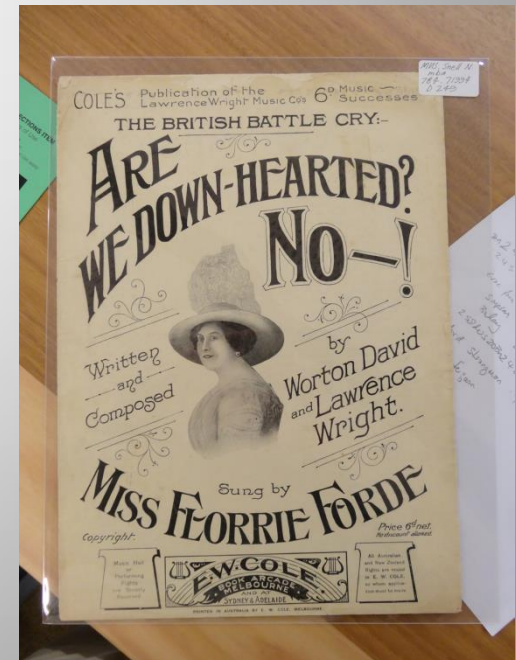
What **questions** will propel your research?

How will you make the **decisions** you need to make to tell the story?

Exercise: what questions do you need answers to?

How will you make selections to be able to tell the story?

Sheet music, a neglected source ...



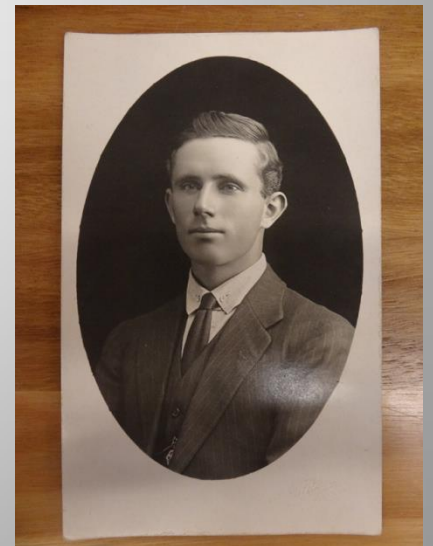
# Form

## In what medium will you tell your story?

How will the **form** of your story affect what you say or show, and how? (e.g. is it for a book, a film, an article, a website, an exhibition or a plaque?)

Exercise: how will the medium are you working in affect your project?

Roy Ryan



# Skills

## What skills do **you** need in order to finish this job?

What support can you obtain in your community?

Where else can you find help?

What help do you need to achieve your aim?

Exercise: write down what skills you need to acquire or practise to complete your task.

Mervyn Higgins's commemorative medallion



I will ...

What do you commit to starting/  
doing/ writing/ creating or  
finishing?

Exercise: what will you decide to do  
after this workshop?

Children used as propaganda, 1915





# Questions?