



WE REMEMBER



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

- Introduction
- Remembering Charlie Cooper
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- Teacher Notes



Curriculum
CORPORATION



WE REMEMBER is a full-colour illustrated big book for lower primary students and teachers. It is part of the Remembrance Day 2001 Education Resource Kit published by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The aim of the Kit, which also contains two posters, is to educate young Australians about the contributions made by Australian servicemen and women in shaping the nation and its traditions. The big book includes the illustrated story 'Remembering Charlie Cooper', Teacher Notes with student activities, maps and blackline masters.

'Remembering Charlie Cooper' is a delightful story centred on a young boy called Charlie Cooper and his quest to discover how his name came to be on the town's war memorial. The story and Teacher Notes explore concepts such as:

- commemoration
- war service
- remembrance
- citizenship
- culture and identity
- civic duty
- ceremony
- symbols
- nation
- change
- continuity
- sacrifice
- honour.

Stacey Hattensen is a primary educator and writer. She is the author of *Assessing As You Go: Primary English* and *Australians All! Discovering Democracy Australian Readers Lower Primary*. She has developed curriculum materials for distance education, and managed the development of the *Discovering Democracy Primary Kit* and *Discovering Democracy Australian Readers* for middle and upper primary levels.

Nina Sanadze is a designer and illustrator. Her illustrations appear in *Australians All! Discovering Democracy Australian Readers Lower Primary* and she designed and illustrated the *Discovering Democracy Australian Readers* for middle and upper primary levels.



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Boer War 1899 - 1902

Australia's first experience of war preceded its birth as a nation. In 1899, soldiers from the six colonial armies were sent to South Africa to support the British against the Boers. Following Federation in 1901, the newly formed Australian Commonwealth Horse sent more troops to South Africa. This time they fought as Australians.

World War I 1914 - 1918

In August 1914, Britain joined her allies France and Russia and declared war on Germany after Germany invaded Belgium. As a member of the British Empire, Australia was automatically at war with Germany too. It was with the landing at Gallipoli that the tradition of the Anzacs with the ideals of courage and sacrifice, along with the principles of mateship, became legendary. The Australian Imperial Force also fought in the Middle East where the successes of the Light Horse added to the legend. After Gallipoli, the AIF served on the Western Front in France and Belgium. Three squadrons of the Australian Flying Corps also served on the Western Front, and another flew in the Middle East. The Royal Australian Navy provided warships for convoy escorts from Australia and in the Mediterranean, and participated in the blockade of German shipping in the North Atlantic.

World War II 1939 - 1945

When war was declared in September 1939, Australians again rallied to support Britain. Australian men and women served in Europe, North Africa and the Mediterranean and later in Malaya and the islands of the Pacific. For the first time in the nation's history, Australia was also forced to defend its own territory when it came under direct attack with the midget submarine attack on Sydney and the bombing of Broome, Darwin and other places in 1942 and 1943. The Royal Australian Navy escorted merchant marine convoys and participated in naval actions in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Pacific. The Royal Australian Air Force sent squadrons to Europe and the Mediterranean and later also the Pacific, including in defence of Darwin. Thousands of men were attached to the Royal Air Force and served in British squadrons and ships in the Atlantic, Europe, the Mediterranean and Burma.

Korean War 1950- 1953

Australian armed services joined the United Nations forces in 1950 to support South Korea against the invasion by North Korea. The North Koreans were pushed back. The Chinese intervened in October 1951 and drove the UN forces south. A stalemate developed, which lasted until July 1953.

Malayan Emergency 1950 - 1960

Also in 1950, Australian troops were sent to Malaya when the British government called for assistance to resist communist insurgents. Australia's involvement with the Malayan Emergency lasted until 1960.

Vietnam War 1962 - 1973

In 1962, Australia entered what was to become the longest conflict in the nation's military history. Australian troops were sent to South Vietnam to help train the South Vietnamese army against their communist neighbours in the north. Over time, Australia committed further ground troops to aid the South Vietnamese and American forces in direct conflict against the armies of North Vietnam and the guerrilla forces of the Viet Cong. Australia's commitment to the Vietnam War lasted until 1973.

Indonesian Confrontation 1963 - 1966

The Indonesian Confrontation was the name given to the Indonesian attempt to foil the British move to establish a Federation of Malaysia in the early 1960s. In response to a developing 'low level war' in Borneo and to British requests, Australia deployed troops in 1965. Peace came in 1966 after the Indonesians and the Malaysians signed a peace treaty in Bangkok.

Gulf War 1991

Following the Iraqi invasion of neighbouring Kuwait in 1990, the United Nations Security Council approved trade sanctions against Iraq. A multinational force, including Australians, was deployed to maintain a trade embargo of Iraq in 1991.

Peacekeeping 1947 - present

Australian forces have been involved in United Nations peacekeeping missions from 1947 onwards. These activities include military observation, monitoring ceasefire, clearing landmines, humanitarian aid and the repatriation of refugees. In 1999, Australia forces were sent to East Timor to provide security and restore peace.



Remembering Charlie Cooper

'I'll get it!' yelled Charlie as the cricket ball flew past him. He chased the ball until it rolled to a stop at the bottom of the old memorial in the far corner of the park.

As Charlie bent down to scoop up the ball, something on the memorial caught his eye.

'Charles E. Cooper,' he read aloud.

He turned and called to his friends. 'Hey, my name is on here.'

'Who'd put your name on a statue?' said Lucy. 'You can't even catch a cricket ball.'



TO HONOUR THEIR SACRIFICES
The Great War 1914-1918

Soldiers 1914-1918

Robert M. Allen
 William B. Burton
 Edwin A. Burmann
 Bruce L. Clarke
 Charles E. Cooper
 Thomas W. Ellis
 Timothy J. Gibson
 Colin L. Gough
 William J. Isaacs
 David P. Keart
 Francis A. McKeight
 Donald J. McCaffrey
 Michael P. Nichols
 Paul J. Robertson
 Alan J. Saunders
 Matthew N. Suckey
 Peter W. Trumble
 Charles Wrenant
 Kenneth E. Yallop
 John K. Young

NURSES

Andrea Harris
 Pauline Le Coadilland
 Charlotte Potter

Soldiers 1918-1919

Sam J. Smith
 George J. Walker
 Gordon R. Lee
 Ian T. Lane
 Keith J. Ross
 Gordon C. Baker
 Billy J. Lee
 Robert J. Ross
 Victor J. Clark
 Ian J. Baker
 David S. Baker
 Paul J. Ross
 John G. Smith
 Robert Lawrence
 Don L. Baker
 Nicholas J. Baker
 Robert J. Baker
 Robert J. Baker
 Paul J. Baker
 Robert J. Baker

As the friends crowded around the memorial, they noticed other names listed on it.

'Look, Bruce L. Clarke,' read Nic. 'The Clarkes own the video shop near the school.'

'And Timothy J. Gibson,' said Lucy. 'My cousin's name is Greta Gibson.'



The children went around the memorial, finding more and more names that they recognised.

'TO HONOUR THEIR SACRIFICE,' read Nic.

'There are so many names on here,' said Charlie. 'There are lists on every side.'

'The soldier looks so sad,' Lucy added.



'This is a picture of Charlie when he first joined up in 1914,' said Gran. 'World War I had just started and Australia was helping to defend Britain. He looks proud, doesn't he?'

She went on. 'That baby he's holding is your Grandad's father. Charlie thought the war would be over in a few months and he'd be home for his next birthday. But he never returned.'



'Charlie's battalion was first sent to Gallipoli in Turkey. Their job was to land on the beach and fight the Turks to capture the towns and villages. But most of the men in Charlie's unit were killed.'



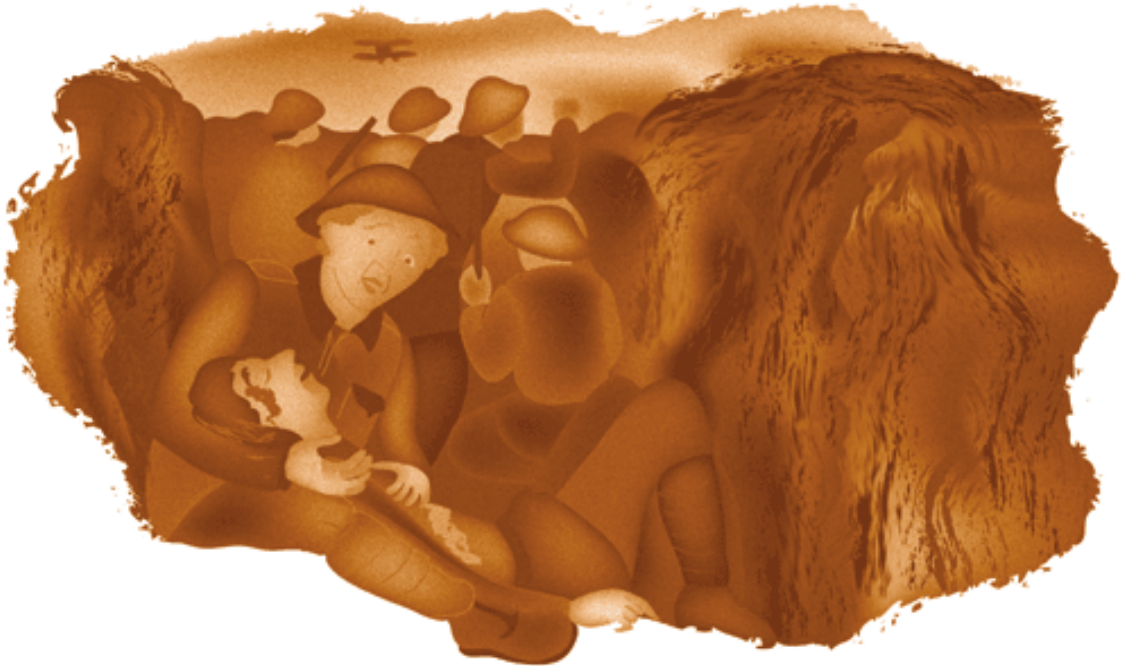
'Then he was sent to fight in France. They lived and fought in the trenches under constant attack from artillery, machine guns and gas.'



'Charlie rescued a wounded soldier in one battle.'



'Many of Charlie's mates died in terrible battles like that.'



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'I have kept two very special things that belonged to Charlie,' said Gran as she opened a small old box. 'This is his Military Medal, which was awarded for bravery when he rescued the wounded digger. He saved his mate but Charlie was killed in action two weeks later. This was sent to our family at home after he died.'

'The other precious thing is Charlie's diary.
He wrote in it whenever he could when he
was away from home and family.
This is the last thing he wrote:'

May, 1917

I have seen too much of this
awful war. The people at home
are spared a dreadful thing but
I will fight on to bring freedom
and peace...

I pray the war will soon stop
... it is taking our best men.

I miss my family so much and I
long for the day when I will see
them all again.

'Well, the war didn't stop until 1918. When the troops came home, some streets in the town were named after famous battles so that we would remember the places where they fought,' said Gran.

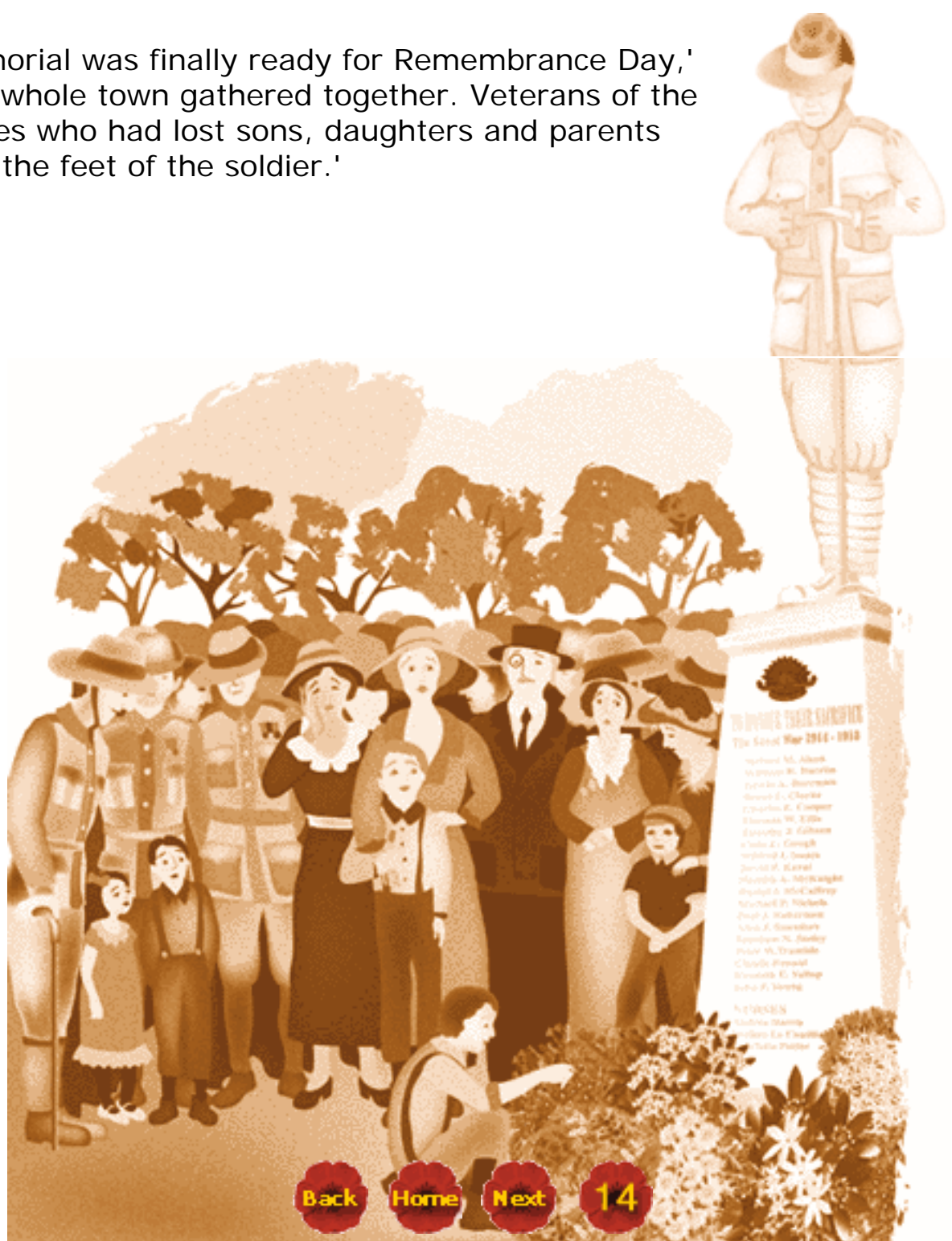
'Other towns and cities built memorials. The local people decided it was important for us also to have a special place to list the names of all the people from our town who gave their lives in war, like Charlie - a place to honour and remember them.'



'People from the whole district donated money every week for almost half a year to raise enough money to build a memorial. Then a local stonemason carved a statue of a digger using a photograph of one of the boys who had died. He listed all those who died in the war on the base.'



'When the memorial was finally ready for Remembrance Day,' said Gran, 'the whole town gathered together. Veterans of the war, and families who had lost sons, daughters and parents laid wreaths at the feet of the soldier.'



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'I've been going to the memorial services every year since I was a small girl,' said Gran. 'Each year there are fewer and fewer of the old veterans there.'

'I worry that young people like you will not have the chance to hear the stories about the brave things those men and women did and the sacrifices they made for us.'



'The memorial had lots of different lists of names on it,' said Lucy. 'Did all those people die in World War I?'

Gran looked sadly at the children. 'When they built the memorial, people hoped that would be the last war Australians would fight in. But unfortunately we've had other wars since. There was a terrible Second World War and we have had the Korean and Vietnam wars among others.'



Gran pointed to some other medals in the box. 'These are my service medals, Charlie,' said Gran. 'I was awarded them for serving in Vietnam.'

'Wow! Mrs Cooper,' said Lucy, 'You were a soldier?'

Gran smiled and shook her head. 'No, Lucy, not everyone who goes to war is a soldier,' she replied. 'I worked as a nurse in a field hospital. Men and women now work as pilots, sailors, cooks, drivers and even photographers in conflicts - almost every sort of job you could imagine.'



On Monday, Charlie took his great-greatgrandfather's medals to school to share with the class. He told them about Charlie and his name on the memorial.

'The sad thing is,' he said finally, 'that there are some people listed who have no one left to remember them.'

'It's almost 11 November,' said Mr Robinson. 'We could think of something special to do for Remembrance Day. Any ideas?'



Charlie said, 'My Gran told me I could wear my great-great-grandfather's medals at the Remembrance Day service.'

Tom suggested, 'We could build a garden around the memorial with one plant for each person.'

'Why don't we sell paper poppies so we can raise money to make name plates for each plant?' asked Cathy.

'And if we each find out about one person on the list,' added Mai, 'then we'll make sure that *someone* remembers them.'



A week later, the students shared their findings.

'I found out that there were five soldiers from our town at Gallipoli,' said Marcus.



'There were two brothers who died in New Guinea in World War II,' went on Corey.



'My great-grandfather is on the list. He was a prisoner of war in Burma and died building a railway in the jungle,' said Jill.



'My granddad is a Vietnam veteran, like Charlie's grandma,' said Angelo.



'And my cousin Rosie is serving in the United Nations peacekeeping force in East Timor right now,' added Luis.



At 11 o'clock, on 11 November the class stood with townspeople at the memorial. They all wore red poppies.

Each student held a sign with the name of one person listed on the memorial. Charlie was especially proud as he stood beside his Gran carrying a sign for his great-great-grandfather and wearing his medals.



As the clock reached 11, the students stood in silence, remembering those who died in all wars.

At the end of the silence, the bugle sounded 'The Last Post' and Mayor Martin read out 'The Ode':

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

Then in clear voices, Charlie and his classmates joined in:

We will remember them.



Facts about Remembrance



Poppy







During World War I on many of the ruined fields in France and Belgium where the fighting had occurred, red poppies began to grow and flower. People saw the flowers as a symbol of remembrance for those who had died. Today, we wear poppies on Remembrance Day to honour all those who have died in wars.



Rosemary

The Ancient Greeks believed that rosemary made their memories stronger. This idea has been carried on today when people wear sprigs of rosemary as a symbol of remembrance for those who have died in wars.

Australia has been involved in the wars and conflicts listed below and has assisted with many peacekeeping operations. More than one and a half million Australians have gone to war and more than 102 000 have died.

	<u>The Boer War</u>	1899—1902
	<u>World War I</u>	1914—1918
	<u>World War II</u>	1939—1945
	<u>Korean War</u>	1950—1953
	<u>Malayan Emergency</u>	1950—1960
	<u>Indonesian Confrontation</u>	1963—1966
	<u>Vietnam War</u>	1962—1973
	<u>Gulf War</u>	1991
	<u>Peacekeeping</u> (various countries)	1947—present

Facts about Remembrance

Commemoration Days

Anzac Day

The first Anzac Day was held on 25 April 1916, exactly one year after the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed at Gallipoli.

Remembrance Day

World War I ended at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month (November) in 1918 when Germany accepted an Armistice and the guns went silent on the Western Front. After World War II, the day became known as Remembrance Day to recognise all people who died in all wars and conflicts.

Silence

The minute's silence is one of the most important parts of commemoration ceremonies. Australians maintain one minute's silence at 11 a.m. on 11 November to remember when the guns went silent in 1918 and those who have died in all wars and conflicts.

'The Last Post'

'The Last Post' is traditionally played to introduce the minute's silence in commemoration ceremonies. It is usually played on a bugle. In military life, 'The Last Post' marks the end of the day and the final farewell. 'Rouse' is played to mark the end of the silence.

'The Ode'

'The Ode' is the fourth verse of 'For the Fallen', a poem written by Laurence Binyon, an English poet. The verse has been a part of remembrance services in Australia since 1921.

Teacher Notes

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PO Box 177, Carlton South Vic, 3050

Author: Stacey Hattensen

Designer and illustrator: Nina Sanadze

Editor: Carolyn Glascodine

