

Mapping the terrain

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Abstract

In 1916, CEW Bean, the Official War Correspondent, started to formulate his vision of an Australian War Memorial. He envisaged not only a memorial to commemorate the sacrifices of Australians who served in the Great War but a museum, an archive and a library. One of the aims was to enable families of the soldiers who would never visit the European battlefields to commemorate and remember their sacrifice. To this end the Australian War Records Section (AWRS) was created to collect diaries and relics from Australian units. One of the sub-sections of the AWRS was set the task of creating three-dimensional relief maps of battlefields. As a result, the Australian War Memorial now has a unique and interesting collection of terrain maps of Belgian and French battlefields.

For the anniversary exhibition "1917 To Flanders Fields" the Paper Conservation Laboratory undertook an examination of the methods and materials involved in creating these maps.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Sophie Lewincamp is the Conservation Laboratory Manager at the National Library of Australia. She undertook this research while working as a Paper Conservator at the Australian War Memorial. Sophie was awarded the Harper-Inglis Conservation Fellowship at the Library of Congress in Washington DC in 2005. Previously she graduated from the University of Canberra with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Conservation of Cultural Materials. Her areas of interest in conservation include parchment, in particular that of Middle Eastern origin and in disaster scenarios.

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Dianne Rutherford is a Curator in Military Heraldry and Technology at the Australian War Memorial. Prior to this she worked for nine years in the Memorial's Research Centre, primarily working with the published and ephemera collections, and in particular the map collection. Her main areas of interest are maps of the Gallipoli campaign and escape and evasion maps. She graduated from the Australian National University with a Bachelor of Arts and from the University of Canberra with a Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Management.

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