



LESSON FIVE

PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS: WAR PHOTOGRAPHS

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The Premier's
SPRIT OF ANZAC PRIZE
Commemoration & Education



Primary Source Analysis: War Photographs

Primary sources, such as photographs, are a rich source of evidence for historians to examine and find out more about the period which they are studying.

Task

Examine each of the photographs below, taking particular note of their source lines, and answer the following questions for each of photographs A, B and C.

1. **Where** and **when** was the photograph taken?
2. **Who** or **what** is the subject of the photograph?
3. **Describe** what you see in the photograph.
4. How **reliable** is the source?
5. What is the significance or relevance of each photo? In terms of:
 - a. the war to which it relates
 - b. what differences, if any, it depicts between the three wars: World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War.
6. How useful is the source to a historian?

[NOTE: You may find it useful to write your answers to Questions 1 to 4 in a table and then answer Questions 5 and 6 in a paragraph each.]

A.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E03805

Source: Huppy, France. 23 November 1918. Group portrait of the NCO's 59th Battalion, Australian Infantry. (Australian War Memorial)

B.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00930.001

Source: Ernest Buckmaster, war artist, at work drawing a group of servicemen, World War II. (Australian War Memorial)

C.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

COL/67/0097/VN

Source: Vietnam, 1967. Soldiers pulling on a rope, enjoying a game of tug of war. (Australian War Memorial)