

**MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Creativity in Wartime* Anzac Centenary Exhibition 23 April to 26 May 2016**



Frank Hurley



Norman Lindsay



Decorated shell casing

*Creativity in Wartime* commemorates the First World War through the exhibition of creative responses to wartime experiences. The exhibition developed as a result of a state-wide public callout, in 2015, seeking World War One original artworks and artefacts. What resulted was a surprising and diverse collection as generous lenders came forward with their rarely seen personal treasures of historical significance.

The exhibition explores the work of First World War, soldiers and civilians, professionals and amateurs, who made time to draw, write poetry, sing, play instruments, produce trench art, sew quilts, knit socks, put on plays, tell jokes, create cartoons, posters, satirical magazines and tourist items. Some of the artefacts are personal responses by individuals, some are produced at the request of government or media, some are souvenirs for sale while others memorialise and remember.

As author and columnist Peter Fitzsimons AM states –

*It is also an opportunity to take those immortal words, “Lest We Forget,” seriously, and actually come to know more of the lives of the soldiers and the civilians, on the frontline and at home – including those who used their creative abilities to record and share extraordinary experiences, to entertain, to encourage recruitment, to support the war effort and to express gratitude and sorrow.*

*These are our people, and this is our story.*

**Exhibition items include:**

Official war artists: George Lambert, Will Dyson, James McBey

Official war photographers: Frank Hurley, Ernest Brooks

War postcards by May Gibbs

CEW Bean’s personal volume of the Anzac Book and other objects

War souvenirs from Egypt, the Middle East, France and England

Newspapers, magazines and postcards

Books by CJ Dennis and other publications of the time.

*Creativity in War* has been made possible through funding from the Australian Government Anzac Centenary Local Grant Program.

The **Grace Cossington Smith Gallery** is a not-for-profit gallery, run by Abbotsleigh, serving the public through free admission and a changing exhibition program. The Gallery is open Monday to Friday from 10 am-5 pm and Saturday 8am – 3pm. Enter via Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway Wahroonga. Phone: 02 9483 7878

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**Artworks illustrated:** High resolution images available

Left FRANK HURLEY

*Action At Zonnebeke, Belgium, c1917*

Silver gelatin photograph, composite image

(Courtesy Josef Lebovic Gallery)

Frank Hurley was appointed Australia's second official First World War photographer in 1917. This photograph is one of Hurley's best known composite photographic works, known as *Over the Top*. It depicts Australian soldiers leaving their trenches, combat aircraft flying overhead and bombs exploding. There are several known versions of this image, one was exhibited in London on 1918. It was 6.1 x 4.7 metres and it combined fragments from 12 separate negatives with the sky dense smoke from the bombing.

middle NORMAN LINDSAY (1879 - 1969)

Pen and ink drawing for the book *Songs of the Campaign* by Leon Gellert

(Private Collection)

Norman Lindsay was a painter, draughtsman, illustrator, cartoonist, printmaker, writer and sculptor. He worked for the Sydney 'Bulletin' magazine as a staff artist, and during the war produced official cartoons, pro-conscription posters and book illustrations. Leon Gellert was one of the major soldier-poets of the First World War. He was wounded at Gallipoli and in 1917 published *Songs of a Campaign*. Lindsay's drawing for *Songs of the Campaign* shows damage from a fire in USA in 1939.

right SOUVENIR SHELL CASING

Brass with silver inlay, Lidded Shell Case with Islamic decoration

Syria c1918

Brought to Australia by Lieutenant Colonel Arthur James Mills, DSO, VD commander of the 4th (Anzac) Battalion, Imperial Camel Corps and the 15th Light Horse Regiment

(Private Collection)

### **Short statement 50 words**

*Creativity in Wartime* commemorates the First World War through the exhibition of creative responses to wartime experiences. It is a diverse collection of rarely seen personal treasures lent from private and public collections. It has been made possible through funding from the Australian Government Anzac Centenary Local Grant Program.