Save & Serve
The Bank and World War I

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Introduction

The First World War saw the development of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia as a national institution and the emergence of central banking in Australia. The central banking responsibilities of the Commonwealth Bank were transferred to the Reserve Bank of Australia when it opened in 1960. With this transition, the Reserve Bank became the custodian of a significant archive that included a remarkable collection of photographs. As part of the commemoration of the centenary of the First World War, this book, *Save & Serve: The Bank and World War I*, presents a selection of these photographs in a visual narrative of the Bank's role during the war.

From 1915 until the war's conclusion in November 1918, the Commonwealth Bank managed the raising of funds for the war effort and ensured the payment of service people in foreign countries, among other duties. Under the leadership of its first Governor, Denison Miller (1860–1923), the Bank raised nearly £258 million, exceeding by almost £48 million the goal it was set. The Bank continued to raise funds after the war to assist the repatriation of service people, and attained a further £60 million. Throughout these years, the Bank's new head office in Sydney's Martin Place sported numerous banners and slogans including 'Save and Serve Buy A War Loan Bond', 'Help Your Homeland', and 'Buy Your Share In Victory', and the building quickly became associated in the minds of Australians with national pride, stability and patriotism.

The photographs in this book capture the determined efforts of Australians during the hostilities, as the country's capital cities and even its suburbs competed with each other to raise funds for the war effort, and later to assist the repatriation of its service people. War service homes were constructed with the funds, and ex-service people were offered vocational training as they returned to civilian life with the hope of 'a reign of continuous peace', as expressed by the New South Wales Premier, William Holman.

Establishing the Bank

Construction of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's Head Office, Martin Place, Sydney

Upon becoming Governor in 1912, Denison Miller decided that Sydney, the largest city in the Commonwealth, should be the site of the head office rather than Melbourne, then the seat of the Federal Government. The head office was temporarily located in Stanway House, King Street, Sydney, and a site on the corner of Pitt Street and Moore Street (now Martin Place) was purchased for £93,000 by the Commonwealth Government on 23 October 1912. During his travels to England, Europe and the United States, the Governor studied the architecture of the banks and returned with ideas for the design of the building which he communicated to John Kirkpatrick, appointed as the first architect to work for the Commonwealth Bank. As well as designing the head office building, Kirkpatrick also planned a number of the Bank's branches, including those in other state capitals, so establishing a consistent architectural style for the Commonwealth Bank.

The foundation stones for the headquarters building were laid on 14 May 1913. Equipped with a gold trowel, the Prime Minister and Commonwealth Treasurer, Andrew Fisher, and the Bank's Governor each laid a foundation stone in the presence of the New South Wales Premier, James McGowen, and members of the public. Buried beneath these stones were two jars, serving as time capsules, containing various newspaper extracts from 1913, as well as coins and banknotes, and copies of legislation including the *Commonwealth Bank Act*, No 18, of 1911.

At the ceremony, the Prime Minister declared that 'the building will be one of utility and beauty, pleasant to the eye, useful, not only to the citizens of Sydney, but also to the people of the Commonwealth'.[1]

The building's opening on 22 August 1916 was an extraordinary occasion, with crowds filling Martin Place for the ceremony. The building was one of the first large-scale, steel-framed skyscrapers in Australia. The new 10-storey structure rose to the full height allowed by the *Height of Buildings Act 1912* (NSW), which prohibited the construction of any building higher than 150 feet. Its solid, symmetrical design adapts the 'Commercial Palazzo' style which combines innovation with tradition, and suggests both affluence and stability in a way well suited to a bank premises. Although the building incorporates allusions to Grecian Doric elements, its materials are nearly all Australian, including Sydney sandstone. The Bank's main doorways are emphasised by Doric columns, with the Australian coat of arms above the Martin Place entrance, and the Commonwealth Bank's arms above the Pitt Street door. Each coat of arms of the country's six states is represented in a cartouche across the façade, reflecting the Bank's national reach. During the years of World War I and its aftermath, the Bank's head office in Martin Place became the setting for the successful campaigns that promoted the sale of War Loan Bonds, and later the Peace Loan Bonds, so consolidating the Bank's role as a national institution and its association with patriotism in the minds of Australians.

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1   *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 May 1913, p 5.

Temporary premises of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, 3 Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, 13 January 1913. The building was occupied from 1913 to 26 January 1914 when it was demolished to make way for the construction of the Bank's head office.

PN-000497

Prime Minister Andrew Fisher calls for three cheers at the ceremony for the laying of the foundation stones for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Sydney, 14 May 1913.

Premier of New South Wales James McGowen presents a gold trowel to the Bank's Governor, Denison Miller, as part of the ceremony for the laying of the foundation stones for the Commonwealth Bank's head office, Sydney, 14 May 1913.

PN-000836

Construction of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Sydney, 10 September 1914. Although the foundation stones were laid in May 1913, construction did not begin until later in 1914.

Messrs JP Gibson, J Jeffrey, engineer HG Kirkpatrick and building contractor H Phippard ascending in a wooden bucket to view the construction of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Sydney, 11 March 1915.

PN-000651

PN-000659

View of the construction of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Sydney, with a man ascending on a steel beam in the background, 12 March 1915.

The Bank's Governor, Denison Miller, with the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Richard Watkins Richards, and Aldermen of City Council visiting the construction site of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Sydney, 12 April 1915.

Erection of the flagpole on the roof of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, 12 April 1916, looking across to the clock tower of the General Post Office, Sydney.

PN-000798
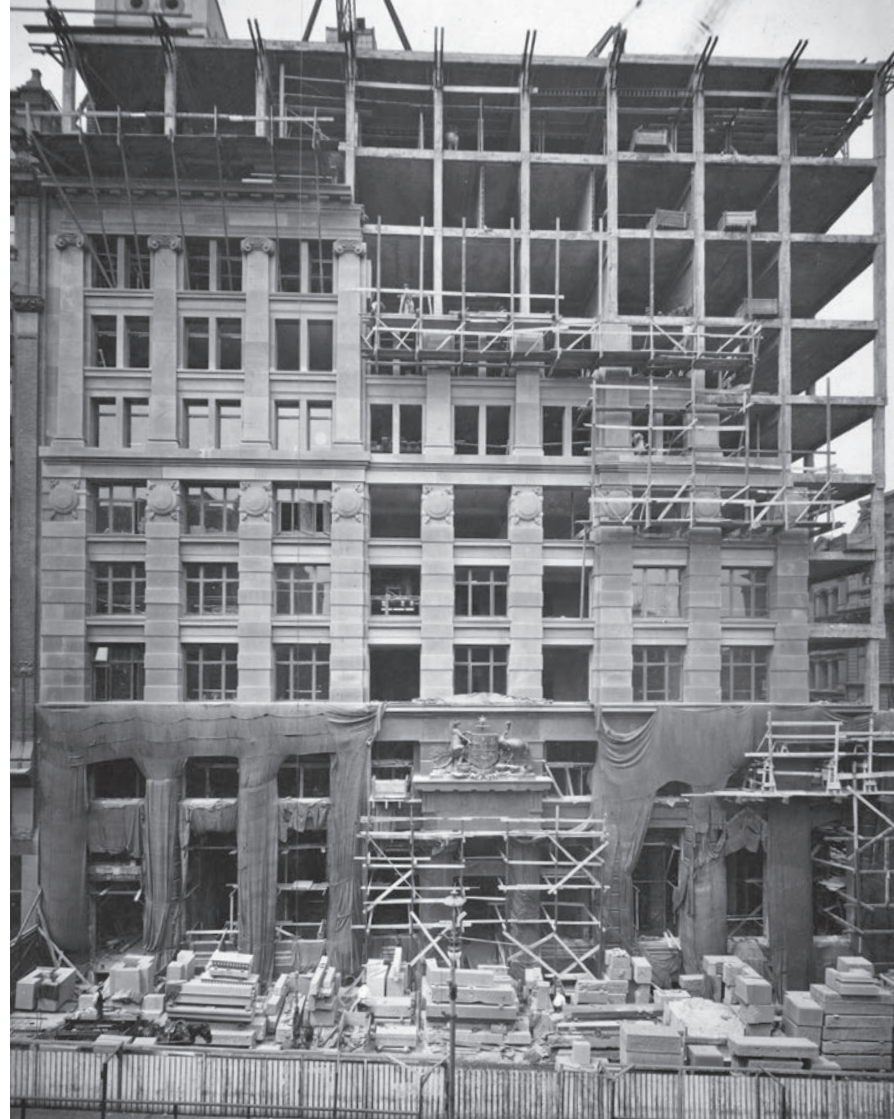
Construction of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, as seen from Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, 9 November 1915.

The opening of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Martin Place, Sydney, 22 August 1916.

PN-000842

Far left: Crowds gather for the opening of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Martin Place, Sydney, 22 August 1916. In the background, a sign on the façade of a building on George Street reads, 'Enlist the Empire Calls'.

Left: Pitt Street façade of the completed Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Sydney, 15 September 1916.

PN-000850

PN-003136

Funding the War Effort

Early in 1915, the British Government began to feel the financial pressure of the war and indicated to the Australian Government that it would need to finance its own share of the war effort. The Government decided to raise loans from the public, and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia was entrusted with the task of managing the operation on behalf of the Government. Prior to the outbreak of the war, no domestic loan had ever been attempted by means of a public campaign.

The Australian public helped to finance the war by lending their money in exchange for War Loan Bonds and Certificates. The funds were intended to 'save brave lives, to shorten the war, and to ensure victory and peace', as the then Acting Commonwealth Treasurer, William Watt, explained.[1] An application form could be obtained from any bank or post office, and people from all classes were encouraged to contribute. The smallest bond was for £10; however, the full amount did not have to be paid immediately but could be purchased in monthly instalments. If an individual could not afford the minimum sum, the Commonwealth Bank could make liberal advances to ensure a subscription.

On 1 July 1915, the first of seven war loans was launched with the Government hoping to raise £5 million. Public enthusiasm for the war effort was so great that the sum received at the close of the first loan was more than £13 million. The success of the first loan was achieved by a general newspaper appeal, but with the second loan, launched on 1 December 1915, a circular was posted to every resident in Australia who had an income of £300 or more per year, urging their support. Again, the public response was enthusiastic

1   *The Age*, 26 March 1918, p 6.

with an additional 10,000 applicants signing up than for the first war loan. With the third loan of 1 June 1916, a more vigorous appeal was made to attract smaller subscribers. A plan was formulated for employees to make applications through their employers to purchase war loans on instalment payments over a 10-month period. The idea was successful and almost four times the number of people subscribed to the third loan than they had for the second loan. Only six months after the third loan appeal, a fourth was opened on 23 December 1916.

The Fifth War Loan started on 6 September 1917. It was dubbed the 'Liberty Loan', so linking Australia with the United States and the term used for its loans. The Sixth War Loan was launched on 17 February 1918, and both campaigns raised more funds than their goals, but by a small margin. The Government grew concerned that should another loan be attempted, the public might not be as generous as it had been previously. With the costs of war escalating, the Government had little choice except to begin a seventh loan on 1 August 1918 with the hope of raising £40 million. To ensure this loan reached the required amount, the Treasurer, William Watt, announced on 25 September that it was the Government's intention to place before Parliament the War Loan Subscription Bill, which would compel everyone to contribute to war loans in proportion to their means. However, Australians did not need to be forced to support their fighting forces. For the seventh loan, no fewer than 242,210 subscribers bought bonds and stock. Practically one household in every four throughout the whole of the Commonwealth contributed to the seventh loan and the Bill was never introduced. This proved to be the last war loan with the hostilities coming to an end in November 1918.

The Governor of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Denison Miller, summarised Australia's efforts with the various war loans as a 'stupendous achievement'. Apart from national generosity, other factors helped in the success of the schemes. The launching of the loans throughout Australian towns and cities called for campaigns as effective in arousing public enthusiasm as those used in military recruitment. Newspapers sought to convince people to purchase loans: *The Sun*, for example, urged that 'those who for many reasons may be unable themselves to go into the fighting line should, nevertheless, be willing to make their financial resources available to the utmost extent, and provide the sinews of war to enable those who are in the field to be fully equipped and thoroughly effective'.[2] The Commonwealth Bank's head office and branches sported numerous banners, attractive posters and effective slogans including: 'Before Sunset Buy A War Loan Bond'; 'Buy Your Share In Victory'; 'Help Your Homeland, Buy War Loan Bonds'; and 'Save and Serve Buy A War Loan Bond'. Lunchtime appeals were made in areas frequented by large crowds, and dramatic 'barometers' were erected in

each of the capital cities, allowing the public to see at a glance what proportion of the quota was still required.

Inventive means were employed to encourage the public to buy war bonds. As in other countries of the British Empire, tanks were used to demonstrate advances in military technology, and to attract money for the war effort. Tank Week was held from 3 to 10 April 1918 in conjunction with the Sixth War Loan, and Sir Walter Davidson, the Governor of New South Wales, opened the week outside the Commonwealth Bank's head office in

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2   *The Sun*, 2 June 1916, p 1.

Sydney. He delivered his address from an observation platform on a model tank, calling on the crowd of many thousands to 'put your last penny on a real good thing; the only stake worth having, the only race worth winning, our lives and our freedom'.[3] Prominent citizens including the Lord Mayor, Alderman James Joynton Smith, and the Minister for Public Health, David Storey, also made powerful appeals for subscriptions. Model tanks toured to Sydney's suburbs, including Balmain, Manly, Mosman and Randwick, as well as regional areas and other states around Australia.

To promote and stimulate public interest in the Seventh War Loan, a model destroyer, HMAS *Australia*, was erected in Martin Place, Sydney. The seventh loan was officially launched at noon on 16 September 1918; the ceremony took place from the bow of the destroyer and its guns were fired. As *The Sun* newspaper reported, 'The whistle of the boat sounded a joyous blast and a thick column of smoke from the funnel completed the symbol of sending the Seventh War Loan on its voyage to success'.[4] Sir Walter Davidson boarded the ship with members of the New South Wales Central War Loan Committee and representatives of the Federal and State Governments, as well as the army and navy. Subscriptions were received on board the destroyer, which was used as a bank throughout the war loan campaign. Just two months later, peace was declared and the model destroyer was surrounded by crowds celebrating the end of World War I.

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3   *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 April 1918, p 4.

4   *The Sun*, 16 September 1918, p 6.

Early War Loan Campaigns, 1915–1917

A crowd of subscribers at the closure of the First War Loan, Commonwealth Bank of Australia branch, Stanway House, King Street, Sydney, 31 August 1915.

PN-004048

Interior of the Melbourne War Loan Department on Collins Street, Melbourne, as crowds of civilians and soldiers queue to apply for the Third War Loan, 1 August 1916.

Right: Entrance to the War Loan Office in the Post Office Chambers during the Fifth War Loan campaign, Sydney, October 1917. A large banner hung prominently over the entrance and read: 'Will you help to turn the Scale? Subscribe to the War Loan. The Closing Date is Nov. 2nd – And Germany is Watching'.

Far right: Closing day of the Fifth War Loan at the War Loan Office, Post Office Chambers, Sydney, 2 November 1917.

PN-001694

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia staff raised money for parcels sent to fellow staff members on active service. The 'Gunyah', outside the Bank's head office in Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, acted as a home for their charitable efforts, 30 November 1917.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia staff members raising money at the first 'Hospital Saturday Fund', outside the Commonwealth Bank of Australia head office in Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, 1917. The money raised on Hospital Saturdays helped to support local hospitals.

'Before Sunset': The Sixth War Loan Campaign, 1918

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney. The building displays a banner ('Before Sunset Buy A War Loan Bond') encouraging the public to subscribe to the Sixth War Loan campaign, 1918. A queue stretches in front of the building and around the corner onto Pitt Street.

Lindsay Goulding, dressed as a war bond with the slogan 'Before Sunset Buy a War Loan Bond'. He won first prize for the most original costume at a Red Cross fête in Northwood, Sydney, in March 1918.

Established nine days after the outbreak of the First World War, the Australian Red Cross provided key medical supplies and equipment to Anzac troops during the war and assisted servicemen on their return.

Alderman James Joynton Smith, Lord Mayor of Sydney, making the first War Loan Bond application of £10,000 on the opening day of the Sixth War Loan, 18 February 1918. He is attended by Thomas Huggins Nesbitt, Town Clerk, to the left, and the Bank's Governor, Denison Miller, on the right.

Advertisements for the Sixth War Loan displayed prominently on the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office façade, Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, April 1918.

Tank Week, 1918

The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Walter Davidson, opens Tank Week outside the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, 3 April 1918. Sir Davidson's address was followed by speeches from David Storey, Acting Minister for Public Health, and the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Alderman James Joynton Smith. The tank is a model of the Mark IV.

In the last days of the Sixth War Loan campaign, model tanks visited many suburbs where rapid, four-minute speeches were delivered by prominent men. It was expected that this form of appeal – with the 'grim land ships' an ever-present reminder of what the money was to be used for – would encourage people to do their utmost to ensure the success of the loan.

PN-001740

A Commonwealth Bank officer accepts a subscription for the Sixth War Loan in Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, during Tank Week, 3–10 April 1918.

A subscription is made during Tank Week, 3–10 April 1918, outside the head office of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney.

PN-001745

Tanks in Sydney's Suburbs

Tank Week in Mosman, Sydney, 8 April 1918, with the Mayor of Mosman, Alderman AD Walker, speaking from the top of a model tank. £33,920 was raised from the suburb.

Redfern Town Hall, Pitt Street, Redfern, Sydney, 9 April 1918, during Tank Week. £24,210 was raised from the suburb.

PN-001758

Tank Week in Randwick, Sydney, 4 April 1918. The Mayor, Alderman H Goldstein, mounted the model tank to speak. £17,190 was raised from the suburb.

The Mayor, Alderman EM Clark, retired politician, Dugald Thomson, and other prominent citizens delivered addresses at North Sydney during Tank Week, 8 April 1918. £17,000 was raised from the suburb.

The Mayor of Newtown, Alderman HT Morgan, makes an address during Tank Week outside the Newtown Town Hall, near the corner of King Street and Enmore Road, Newtown, Sydney, 9 April 1918. £68,060 was raised from the suburb.

The Mayor of Balmain, Alderman D McKenzie, delivers an address outside the Town Hall on Darling Street, Balmain, Sydney, 3 April 1918. £149,380 was raised from the suburb.

Alderman HWF Rogers, the Mayor of Waverley, delivers an address at Bondi Junction, Sydney, 5 April 1918. £3,610 was raised from the suburb.

Travelling Tank Banks

Tank Week in Mittagong, New South Wales, 16 April 1918. Speeches were made by Alderman HL Springett, Mayor of Mittagong; the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Alderman James Joynton Smith; Sergeant Howell; George Fuller, Colonial Secretary; Lieutenant Godfrey; and WH Jones of Mittagong.

On the way to Mittagong, the model tank broke down and arrived over an hour late; however, £350 was subscribed on the roadside during the trip.

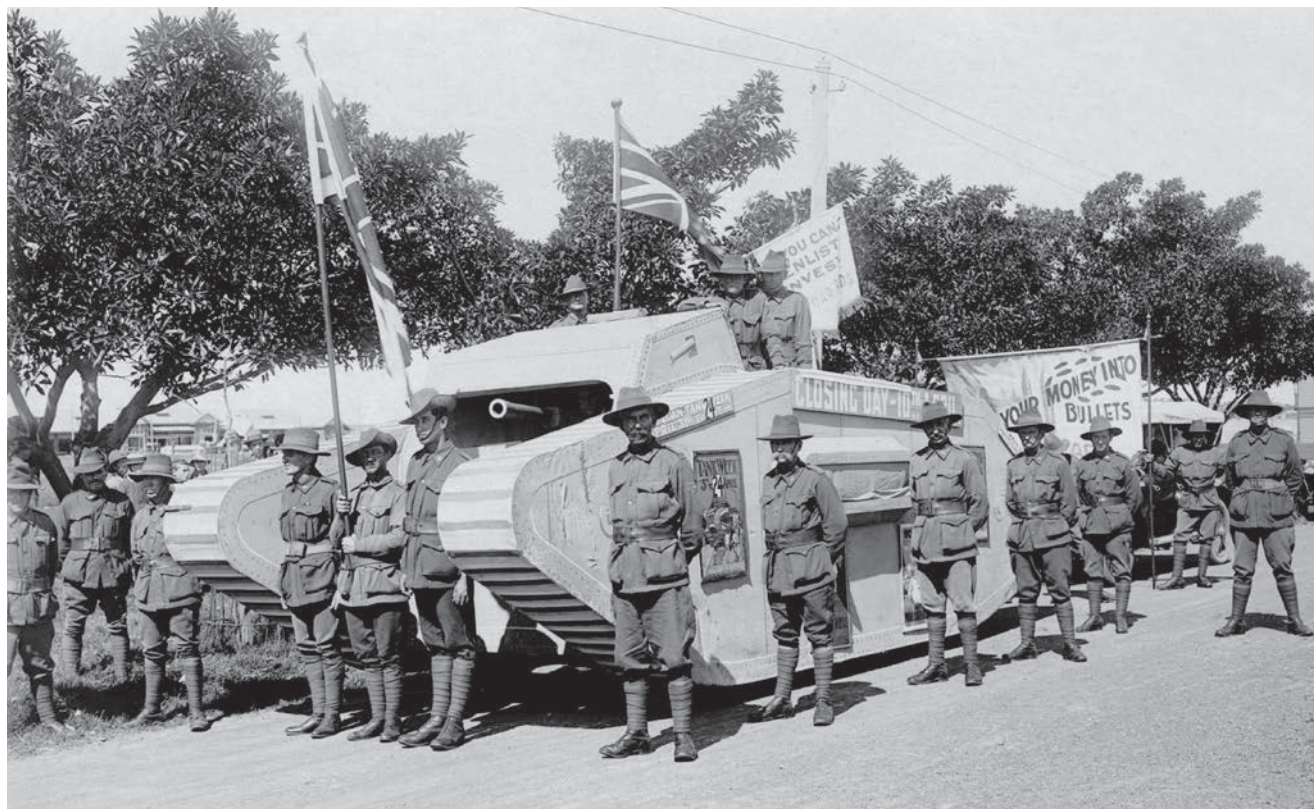Originally planned from 3 to 10 April, Tank Week was so successful that it was extended until 24 April.

PN-001752

Tank Week in Hobart, Tasmania, April 1918. A competition was held between Hobart and Launceston for the highest amount raised per capita; the result was approximately equal.

Model tank and military escort, Perth, Western Australia.

Tank Week at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Perth, Western Australia, April 1918. £102,805 was raised in Perth and Fremantle.

Appeal for Tank Week in front of the General Post Office, Queen Street, Brisbane, Queensland, April 1918.

Appeal for Tank Week, Bundaberg, Queensland, 20 April 1918. £6,285 was subscribed in the town.
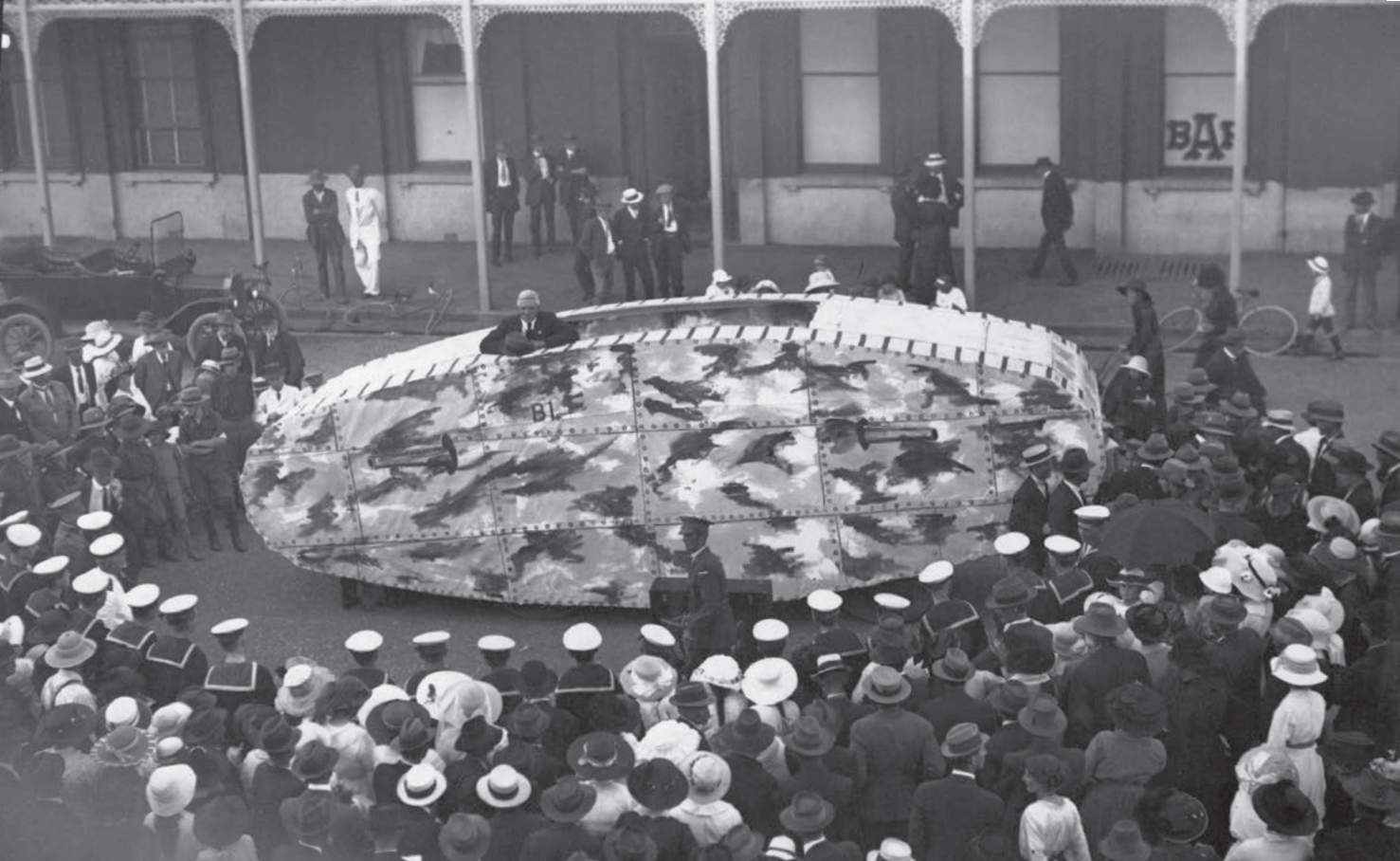
PN-001760

Appeal for Tank Week, outside the recruiting depot, Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Street, Melbourne, April 1918. Alderman William Whyte Cabena, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, made an appeal for subscriptions.

Closing day of the Sixth War Loan at the War Loan Department, Post Office Chambers, Sydney, 10 April 1918 .

'Save and Serve': The Seventh War Loan Campaign, 1918

The launching of the Seventh War Loan from the model destroyer HMAS *Australia*, outside the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office in Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, 16 September 1918. This campaign became the most successful of all the loans.

PN-001774

The Seventh War Loan was officially launched from the model destroyer HMAS *Australia*, outside the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office in Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, on 16 September 1918. A cameraman can be seen filming the launch.

Model destroyer, HMAS *Australia*, outside the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office in Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, 30 September 1918. The model was a focal point of the Seventh War Loan.

Presentation of Honor flags on the model destroyer HMAS *Australia*, Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, 4 October 1918.
Sir Joseph Carruthers, former Premier of New South Wales (holding the flag), is next to Alderman Windeyer, Mayor of Hunter's Hill, the first municipality to be awarded an Honor flag. Shires and municipalities were allotted a quota and those areas that reached the quota received an Honor flag, providing an additional incentive to subscribers.

MILLIONS N.S.W. QUOTA
Help to Move the Hand.

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

SEVENTH WAR LOAN

AUSTRALIA TO RAISE £40,000,000.

NEW SOUTH WALES TO RAISE £16,000,000.

SYDNEY & SUBURBS - 10½ MILLIONS
COUNTRY - 5½

	QUOTA IN MILLIONS	PER CENTAGE RAISED
SYDNEY	10½	101
COUNTRY	5½	

HONOR FLAG DISTRICTS

SUBURBAN

Botany	Lane Cove	Randwick	Redfern
Concord	North Sydney	Vaucluse	Rockdale
Granville	Parramatta	Waverley	Newtown
			Sutherland

COUNTRY

Camden	Manilla	Warialda	Cobbora
Campbelltown	Mossvale	Windsor	Condobolin
Coolah	Mullumbimby	Wingecarribee	Corowa
Coolamon	Murwillumbah	Wingham	Cowra
Gilgandra	Muswellbrook	Yallaroi	Demondrille
Glen Innes	Nambucca	Yanko	Forbes
Goodradigbee	Narrabura	Apsley	Gloucester
Goulburn	Narrandera	Nundle	Ballina	Grafton South
Gostwyck	Nundle	Parkes	Gundarimba
Gwydir	Tumbarumba	Bogan	Gunnedah
Hay	Urana	Brewarrina	Gunning
Kempsey	Ulmarra	Burrangong	Harwood
Lismore	Urana	Byron	Illawarra Central
Macleay	Wallendbeen	Carrathool	Illabo
Mandowa	Warren	Cal-lal	Jemalong
Maclean	Yarrowlumla	Cobar	Kyogle
Molong	Wyalong	Greta	
Newcastle	Tallaganda	Lithgow	

HONOR FLAG DISTRICTS

SUBURBAN

Drummoyne	Homebush
Hunters Hill	Burwood
Kuring-Gai	Manly

COUNTRY

Armidale	Cooma
Ashford	Cootamundra
Bannockburn	Dubbo
Bega	Dumaresq
Bibbenluke	Guyra
Bombala	Hillston
Boolooroo	Holbrook
Boomi	Inverell
Boree	Jindalee
Bowral	Balranald
Burrowa	Lyndhurst
Collorenerbri	Macintyre
Lachlan	Maitland West
Liverpool Plains	Marthaguy
Lockhart	Moona
Macquarie	Monaro

Mulwarree	Namoi	Nyngan	Peak Hill	Queanbeyan
Murrumburrah	Narrabri	Orara	Picton	Quirindi
Murrumbidgee	Nymboida	Macquarie	Port Macquarie	Rylstone

SUBURB

SUBURB	QUOTA IN THOUSANDS	PER CENTAGE RAISED	SUBURB	QUOTA IN THOUSANDS	PER CENTAGE RAISED
Alexandria	£50	100	Dundas	£10	80
Annandale	60	75	Eastwood	10	80
Ashfield	100	80	Enfield	25	18
Auburn	40	80	Ermington & Ryde	10	80 (WITH DUNDAS)
Balmain	100	105	Erskineville	30	84
Bankstown	40	10	Glebe	100	75
Bexley	50	8	Granville	40	108
Botany	25	104	Homebush	10	140
Burwood	60	167	Hornsby Shire	60	100
Canterbury	100	98	Hunters Hill	30	000
Concord	40	108	Hurstville	50	40
Darlington	15	80	Kogarah	60	47
Drummoyne	60	103	Kuring-Gai Shire	100	010

STATES

STATES	QUOTA IN MILLIONS	PER CENTAGE RAISED
N.S.W.	16	104
VICTORIA	13½	104
S. AUST.	3½	185
W. AUST.	1	154
Q'LAND	5	119
TASMANIA	1	135
	40	

SUBURB

SUBURB	QUOTA IN THOUSANDS	PER CENTAGE RAISED	SUBURB	QUOTA IN THOUSANDS	PER CENTAGE RAISED
Lane Cove	£30	117	Redfern	£80	100
Leichhardt	100	80	Rockdale	80	110
Lidcombe	30	80	Ryde	50	40
Manly	70	166	St. Peters	40	15
Marrickville	150	83	Strathfield	40	108
Mascot	30	73	Sutherland Shire	40	103
Mosman	100	262	Vaucluse	25	108
Newtown	100	106	Waterloo	40	80
North Sydney	150	250	Waverley	100	125
Paddington	70	14	Willoughby	80	133
Parramatta	60	145	Woollahra	100	275
Petersham	100	78			
Randwick	150	103			

HONOR FLAG DISTRICTS

SUBURBAN

Mosman	Woollahra
Strathfield	Alexandria
Willoughby	Balmain

COUNTRY

Mittagong	Scone
Moree	Copmanhurst
Murrungal	Goobang
Narromine	Grafton
Nattai	Merriwa
Talbragar	Upper Hunter
Toree	Bourke
Timbrebongie	Grenfell
Wolgett	Weddin
Wentworth	Berrigan
Wilcannia	Berry
Carcoar	Binbaa
Belligen	Broken Hill
Bland	Cockburn
Blayney	Denliquin
	Braidwood

Severn, Singleton, Tamworth, Temora, Terania, Tintenbar, Turon

Tweed, Ulladulla, Uralla, Walcha, Waradgery, Waugoola, Wellington, Wollongong, Woodburn, Wagga Wagga, Yass, Young, Abercrombie, Bathurst, Coraki, Shellharbour, Mitchell, Barraba

Branches at Home

Right: Commonwealth Bank of Australia branch at the Australian Imperial Force Military Camp, Liverpool, Sydney, New South Wales, 30 April 1915.

The Commonwealth Bank coordinated with the Defence Department to operate branches at the military training camps, so helping the service people to open savings accounts and access their money while overseas.

Left: The New South Wales 'barometer' during the Seventh War Loan campaign, November 1918.

Interior of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Liverpool, Sydney, New South Wales, September 1915. The Bank's premises had transferred now from the original tents to a more solid structure.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia AIF Depot at Broadmeadow, Victoria, with the staff and soldiers outside the temporary premises, May 1915.

A soldier stands outside the Commonwealth Bank of Australia AIF Depot at Mitcham, Adelaide, South Australia, 1916.

And Branches Abroad

Australian soldiers on the entrance steps to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia at Egypt House, New Broad Street, London, circa 1916.

The exterior of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's premises in Rabaul, New Guinea, 1916. Australia's first military action in World War I was to seize the German Wireless Stations at New Guinea, Yap and Nauru. The deployment of troops led the Bank to open a branch in 1916, representing the first bank of the British Empire to be opened on territory captured from the enemy.

Senior Bank officers and Australian soldiers in front of the new Commonwealth Bank of Australia premises at Friars House, New Broad Street, London, 1916.

Australian soldiers at the Strand Branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, London, shortly after it opened, 1 October 1917.

Staff assembled in Australia House, Commonwealth Bank of Australia Strand Branch, London, to await the visit of Queen Mary and Princess Mary, 21 February 1919. Andrew Fisher, the Australian High Commissioner to Great Britain, is centre front.

Female clerks working at the Commonwealth Bank Friars House Branch, New Broad Street, London, June 1917. Owing to enlistments, and later conscription, the members of staff were predominantly female.

Sergeant RKF Cowan, Technical Sergeant CC Bischof and Acting Manager AG Adams, Commonwealth Bank of Australia Tidworth Military Branch, Wiltshire, England, May 1918.

Australian troops were stationed chiefly on Salisbury Plain, and so a branch of the Bank was opened at Tidworth Barracks in June 1916 to facilitate their banking needs. Additional branches were opened in Hurdcott and Warminster in Wiltshire, and Weymouth in Dorset.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia branch at Weymouth, Dorset, England, 3 June 1919. The branch was opened in September 1918 for the convenience of the invalided soldiers awaiting embarkation to Australia.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia Military Branch at Warminster, Wiltshire, England, 14 June 1919. Opened on 3 December 1917, the branch helped to serve the troops on Salisbury Plain.

Staff outside the Commonwealth Bank of Australia Military Branch at Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England, 27 June 1919. Near Salisbury Plain, this branch was opened in September 1918 along with an agency at Fovant, Wiltshire.

Staff group from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia Hurdcott Military Branch, Wiltshire, England, 1919. From left: AC Iny, CJ Eade, P Bostock and RCO Atkinson. The branch opened in September 1918. In order to ease the Bank's severe staff shortages in England, the Army Council authorised the Bank to take on a temporary staff of Australian soldiers who were recovering from illness or injury.

Establishing Peace

At the end of World War I, Australia remained in dire need of funds and so a new series of campaigns was launched, with the first peace loan being announced in the Federal Parliament on 30 July 1919. The amount requested was £25 million, but the Commonwealth Government was cautious in believing that this sum could be raised after the enduring financial strain of the war loan campaigns. As with the war loans, a publicity scheme was initiated with prominent advertisements in the principal newspapers. Public appeals called on Australian citizens to help the wounded and valiant soldiers who had fought in the war. On 13 September 1919, the Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, appealed for the peace loans at the 'Temple of Peace', Martin Place, having been carried from Sydney's Town Hall on a chair fixed between two slender poles. Once at Martin Place, Hughes delivered an emotive speech explaining the use and importance of the Peace Loan Bonds. The occasion made headlines in Sydney's newspapers: 'Billy comes home' (*The Sun*) and 'Mr Hughes chaired and cheered through city streets' (*The Sydney Morning Herald*). Ultimately, the loan was oversubscribed by £25,370.

The Second Peace Loan campaign was launched in July 1920, and one of its first subscribers was Edward, the Prince of Wales, who was visiting 110 cities and towns across the country to thank Australians for their contributions and sacrifices during the war. The Prince had served in the war and shouts of 'Digger' accompanied him throughout his visit until he became affectionately known as the 'Digger Prince'. This second loan was subscribed to the sum of £26,612,560.

The following year the third and final peace loan, known as the 'Diggers' Loan', set the target sum of £10 million, and exceeded this amount by nearly £100,000. The official launch took place outside the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office in Martin Place, Sydney, at noon on 8 August 1921. The celebrated soprano Dame Nellie Melba, who features on the current $100 banknote, was invited to cut the launch's ribbon using a pair of silver scissors made by diggers at the Vocational Training School in Sydney's Redfern. Once the ribbon was cut, coloured streamers, bunting and balloons were released, along with a flight of pigeons carrying messages that advised the public to invest in the bonds. This peace loan was used for purchasing and building war service homes and to fund the vocational training of ex-servicemen – 'the completion of the settlement of the men who kept Australia a free land'.[1]

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1   *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 August 1921, p 6.

Armistice Celebrations, 1918–1919

Right: Celebrations, July 1919, to mark the end of World War I. The façade of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Sydney, was illuminated with the word 'Peace' in large letters. The flags of all the Allied nations were hung above the entrance.

Far right: Armistice celebrations in front of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Martin Place, Sydney, 12 November 1918. The centrepiece of the celebrations was the model destroyer HMAS *Australia*, which had been erected to promote the Seventh War Loan in September 1918.

PN-000915

GAZA JERICO HINDENBURG LINE
PASSCHENDAELE BEERSHEBA MONT. ST QUENTIN
BROODSIENDE JERUSALEM VILLERS BRETONNEUX
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Left: Edward, the Prince of Wales, takes the salute for Anzac Day outside Australia House, London, which housed a branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, 25 April 1919.

Far left: Procession of Australian troops passing Australia House, London, on the first Anzac Day after the Armistice, 25 April 1919. Five thousand troops representing all arms of the Australian Imperial Force marched and aeroplanes flown by officers of the Australian Flying Corps performed an aerial display over London.

PN-000280

The female staff of the Commonwealth Bank forms a 'Strong Post' as they gather outside the Bank's head office in Moore Street (now Martin Place), Sydney, to cheer the returning troops and distribute cigarettes, flowers, cards and confectionary, 16 January 1919.

'Finish the Job': The First Peace Loan, 1919

Prime Minister Billy Hughes promoting Peace Loan Bonds from the 'Temple of Peace', Martin Place, Sydney, during the First Peace Loan campaign, 13 September 1919.

This occasion was the Prime Minister's first visit to Sydney in some 16 months, having been in England, and at the Paris Peace Conference and signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

Designed by John and Herwald Kirkpatrick, the same architect and consultant engineering firm that worked on the Commonwealth Bank head office, the temple was used as a speaking platform to promote the Peace Loan Bonds.

Visit of Edward, the Prince of Wales, and the Second Peace Loan, 1920

The word 'Welcome' was illuminated in large letters on the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office, Martin Place, Sydney, on the occasion of the Prince of Wales' visit, 1920.

PN-000927
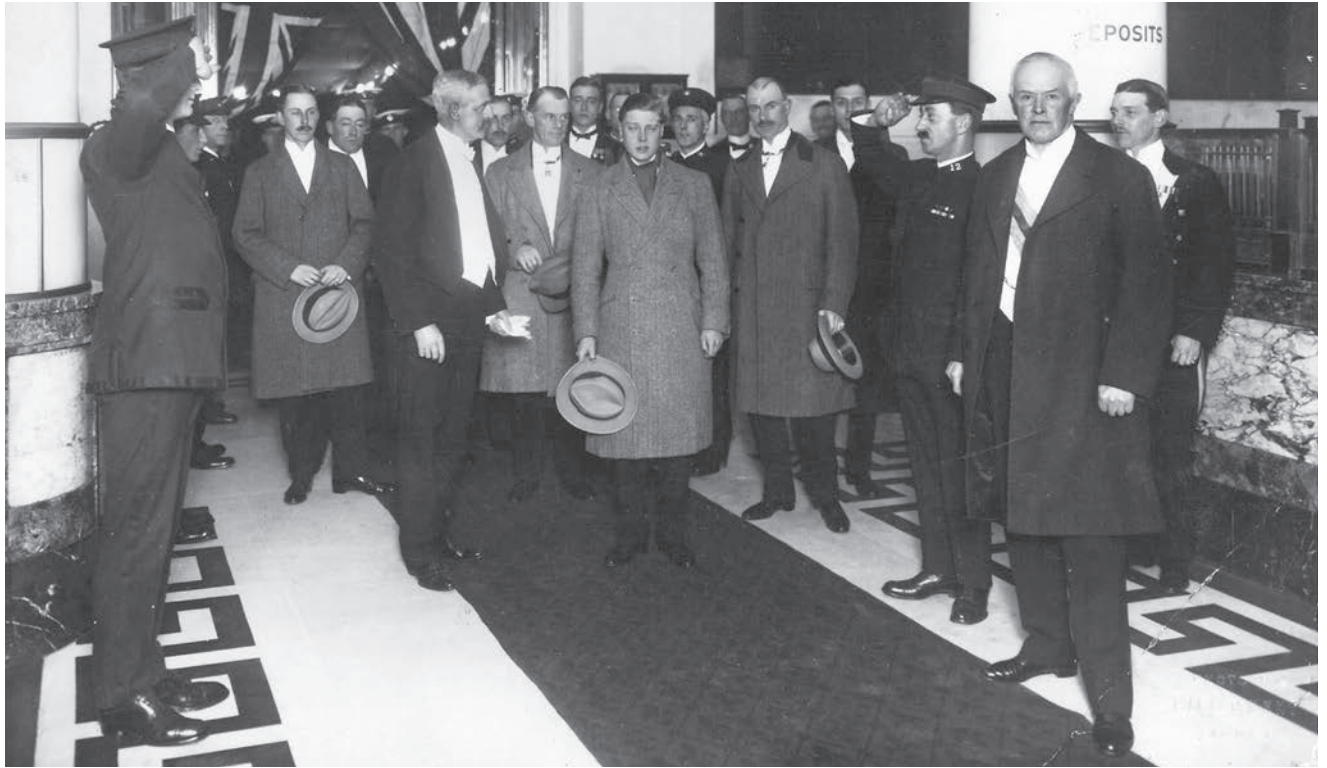
In 1920, Edward, the Prince of Wales, visited Australia to thank the country for its contributions during the war. The Prince was the guest of honour at a dinner held in the Luncheon Hall of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia head office, Martin Place, on 16 June 1920. He was greeted by the Governor-General, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson (foreground), and the Bank's Governor, Denison Miller (in dinner suit, second from the left of the Prince).

Sir James Joynton Smith, former Lord Mayor of Sydney, addresses the crowd on the opening day of the Second Peace Loan campaign, 6 August 1920. A banner in the background reads: 'WE Cried for men: THEY answered; WE Cheered: THEY Sailed away; WE Slept in peace: THEY Suffered; It's OUR turn: WE MUST PAY!'

As part of Ladies Day, prominent women including Mrs Eleanor MacKinnon, founder of the Junior Red Cross, spoke to the crowds in Martin Place, Sydney, for the Second Peace Loan. The placard refers to Villers-Bretonneux, a small village in the Somme in northern France, which was the site of a significant battle involving Australian troops.

Peace loan ferry boats at the Sculling Carnival on Parramatta River, New South Wales, 1 August 1920, to promote the Second Peace Loan campaign.

PN-001831

The war trophies train at Dandenong, Victoria, 13 August 1920. The war trophies train travelled throughout Victoria to promote the Peace Loan Bonds. It carried captured enemy field guns, an assortment of weaponry, official photographs, gas masks and helmets, aeroplanes, engines, and curios collected on the battlefield, which were all on exhibition.

Horse-drawn exhibition, 'Display Of War Trophies Captured By Victorian Units', used to promote the sale of Peace Loan Bonds.

The war trophies train, advertising Peace Loan Bonds.

Aerial derby, 27 August 1920. Inaugurated by the Peace Loan Committee, the derby was the first official air race in Australia. Four pilots who had served in the Australian Flying Corps participated, flying from the Victorian town of Serpentine (near Bendigo) to Melbourne, a distance of 118 miles. Immediately after the race, the aviators dropped leaflets promoting the Second Peace Loan.

'The Diggers' Loan': The Third Peace Loan, 1921

The Third Peace Loan was also known as the 'Diggers' Loan'. A miniature Commonwealth Bank acted as one of the Inquiry Offices.
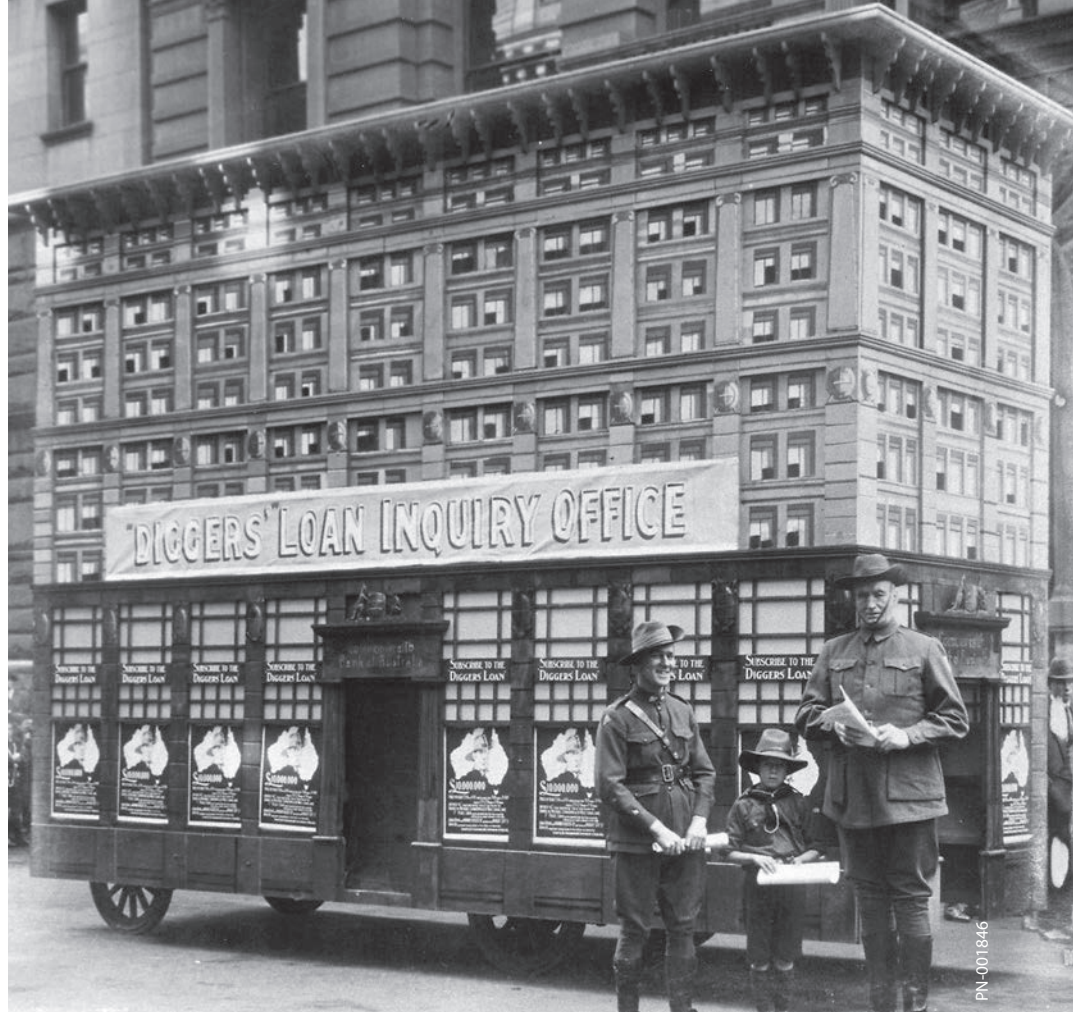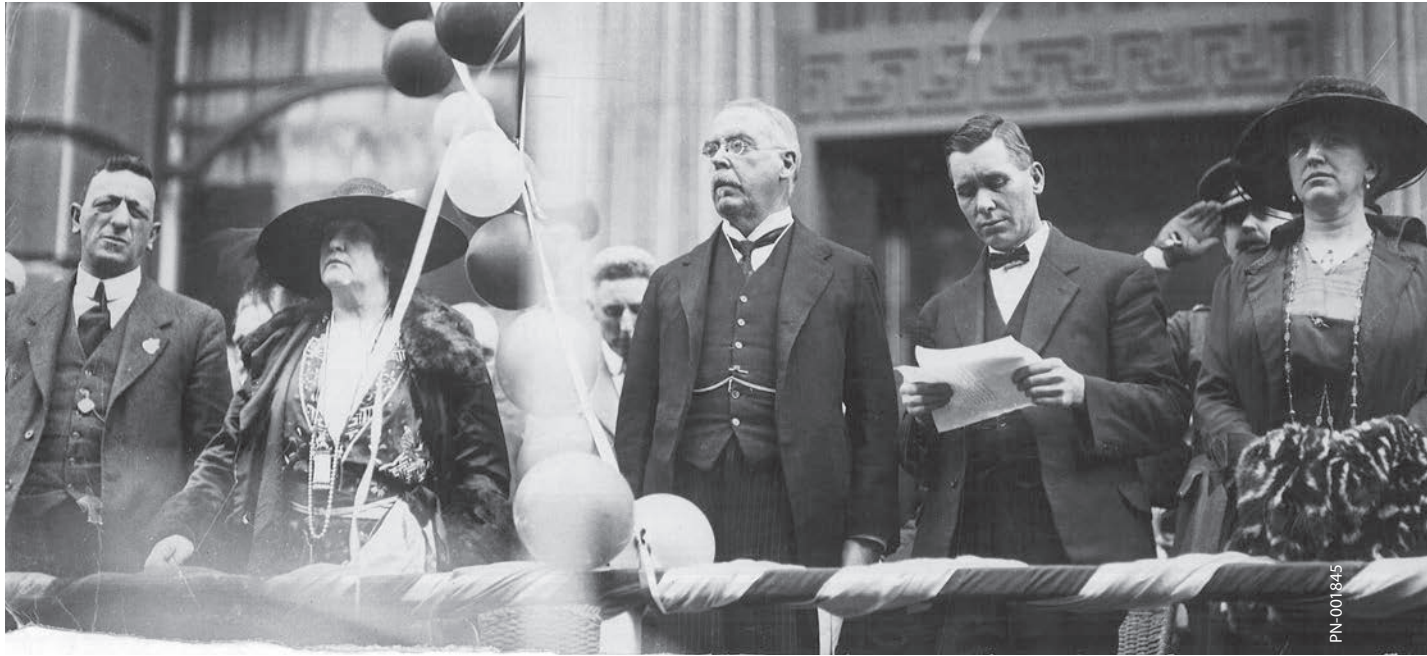
PN-001845

Above (from left): Sir Alfred Meeks, chairman of the Australian Mutual Provident Society, who subscribed £500,000 to the Diggers' Loan; the celebrated soprano, Dame Nellie Melba; the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Walter Davidson; Alderman William Lambert, Lord Mayor of Sydney; and Dame Margaret Davidson, wife of the State Governor.

Left: Official opening of the Diggers' Loan in Martin Place, Sydney, 8 August 1921. The campaign was launched by the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Walter Davidson, from a platform erected outside the Commonwealth Bank of Australia head office. Dame Nellie Melba was presented with a pair of silver scissors made in a repatriation workshop to cut the launching ribbon.

'Diggerville'

'Diggerville' outside the Commonwealth Bank of Australia head office, Martin Place, Sydney. Scenes of significant battles were exhibited in temporary huts, and returned servicemen demonstrated different types of training available through the Repatriation Department.

Vocations available to ex-servicemen: carpentry and joinery.

Vocations available to ex-servicemen: basket and cane chair-making.

Vocations available to ex-servicemen: ice chest-maker.

Vocations available to ex-servicemen: boatbuilder.

The vocational training scheme run by the Repatriation Department was available not only to ex-servicemen but also to war widows and nurses, who were given the opportunity to train in such occupations as nursing, millinery and dressmaking, as shown in this photograph.

Constructing War Service Homes

Right: Denison Miller, Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, laying the foundation stone of the very first war service home in Australia at Kennedy Avenue, Canterbury (present-day Belmore), Sydney, for TG Baxter, 21 July 1919.

Far right: One consequence of the war was a shortage of houses in Australia. The Commonwealth Bank worked with the War Service Homes Commissioner to provide homes for returned servicemen with John and Herwald Kirkpatrick, the same architect and consultant engineering firm that worked on the Commonwealth Bank head office, being appointed to oversee the building of the homes.

The first war service home in Australia, 32 Kennedy Avenue, Canterbury (present-day Belmore), Sydney, August 1919. The foundation stone laid by Denison Miller can be seen in the bottom, left-hand corner of the façade.

PN-002063

Alderman William Whyte Cabena, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, laying the foundation stone of the first war service home in Victoria at Eskdale Road, Caulfield, Melbourne, 25 July 1919.

Mayor of Launceston, Alderman George Shields, turning the first sod for the first war service home in Tasmania at Eddie Street, Invermay, Launceston, 28 October 1919.

War service home under construction at Wilga Avenue, Kensington Gardens, Adelaide, South Australia.

Completed war service home for C Casselbohm, Wilga Avenue, Kensington Gardens, Adelaide, South Australia.

PN-002082

Completed war service homes in Park Grove Road, Hobart, Tasmania, circa 1919.

War service home nearing completion, Ivanhoe, Melbourne, Victoria, 1919.

WF Finlayson, Member of Parliament for Brisbane, capping the stump of the first Queensland war service home at Fanny Street, Annerley, Brisbane, 21 August 1919.

Left: War service home for WH Smith, Fairfield, Brisbane, Queensland, and above, interior of the home.

'From this victory we hope to emerge with such a reign of continuous peace that none of the nations will again ever dare attempt to break it.'

William Holman, Premier of New South Wales, quoted in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 November 1918.

Left: Victory decorations on the General Post Office, Martin Place, Sydney, 21 July 1919. Battles named on the banners include New Guinea, Egypt, Palestine, Villers-Bretonneux, Passchendaele, Messines, Pozières, Amiens, Bullecourt, Gallipoli, Lone Pine, Mesopotamia, Ypres, Somme, Merris, Armentières, Peronne and Hamel.