

NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL FACT SHEET

THE BOER WAR TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 11 OCTOBER 1899, WHEN THE BOER-ISSUED ULTIMATUM WAS REJECTED BY THE BRITISH, AND 31 MAY 1902, WITH THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF VEREENIGING.

The Boer War was the first conflict in which Australian forces were involved as a nation, as the Federal Government sent Commonwealth contingents to the war after 1901.

About 23,000 Australians served in the Boer War, nearly 1000 Australians paid the ultimate price for their service.

43,000 horses were sent from Australia and none returned.

Australian troops served closely alongside more than 6000 New Zealanders, and frequently fought alongside them, truly becoming the first ANZACs.

Six Australians earned Victoria Crosses, the first time any Australians were awarded this highest honour. 161 additional bravery medals were awarded.

Many of the officers in the First World War were drawn from men who fought in the Boer War.

Australian soldiers were highly regarded by all, drawing acclamation for their horsemanship and bush skills in particular. Australians fought and died alongside men from New Zealand, Canada, Britain, and the Commonwealth.

Men spent long periods in the saddle with few opportunities to bathe or change their clothes; lice were a constant problem. Temperatures during the war ranged from relentless heat during the day to freezing cold at night.

It is Australia's only major war that is not commemorated on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

Australian contribution took the form of five waves – the first, mostly from militias, the second, from bushmen, the third, imperial bushmen, then the draft contingents, and finally the Commonwealth Horse contingents.