

Mr Matt Anderson PSM
Director



04 July 2023
ENQU-1-85087

Dr David Stephens
admin@honesthistory.net.au

Dear Dr Stephens,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 16 June 2023 in relation to frontier violence at the Australian War Memorial.

You requested details of the depiction of frontier violence in the First World War galleries following statements at Senate Estimates. Frontier violence is told through the story of Private William Joseph Punch. Private Punch was taken in by a foster following following the murder of his family through frontier violence. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Goulburn on 31 December 1915. Many stories and themes are told in the galleries through the lens of a personal experience.

This personal story has subsequently been supplemented with artworks by Indigenous artists at both entry/exit points to the First World War galleries. The Anangu Pitjanjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands painting is in a prominent near the orientation desk and Ascot landing boat. This painting is titled Kulatangku angakanyini manta munu Tjukurpa [Country and Culture will be protected by spears]. The second painting is the well known Ruby Plains Massacre 1 by Rover Thomas. This painting was relocated in order to keep it on display during the Development works. As the focus of the gallery is the First World War rather than frontier violence, other individual stories of Indigenous service are as they relate to that conflict.

The galleries that will display frontier violence as a conflict will be designed as part of the Development process. Work for this gallery will commence in late 2024 with an expected opening in mid-2028. As you are aware, we have committed to a broader and deeper depiction than previously portrayed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LPatterson".

Leanne Patterson
Acting Director