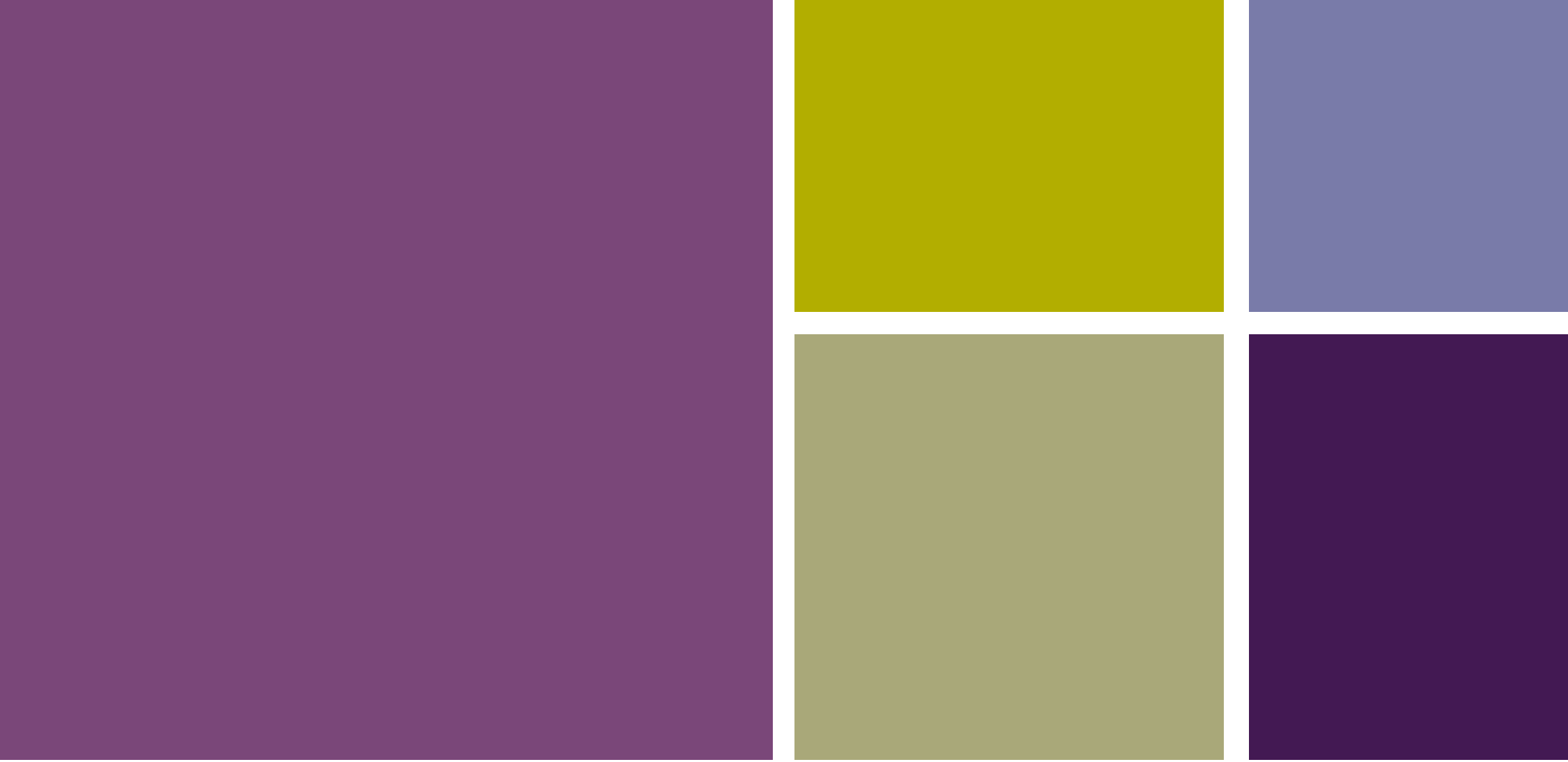


Gold Coast Schmidt Farm World War 1



A story of Discovery,
Settlement and War

By Janis Hanley



Part 1

Gold Coast to Schmidt Far

The Beginning

Many aboriginal people
inhabited these lands we now
call the Gold Coast. They
were mostly saltwater people
of the Yugumbeh Family
Group:

Wangoomerri

Wangierburra

Wangunburra

Wanaljahli

Wagingin

Wakinburra



Tens of thousands of years ago

1770

1840

1860

1

1
Captain Cook was the first European to sail past. He named Point Danger and Warning.

The year was 1770.

This lighthouse was built at Point Danger in 1970. It commemorated 200 years since Captain Cook sailed past. It was the first laser lighthouse – that's why it doesn't look like a normal lighthouse.

Danger, Coolangatta.



Tens of thousands of years ago

1770

1840

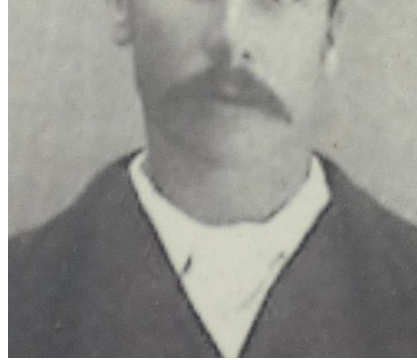
1860

1

the first Europeans to
settle on the Gold Coast
were two timber getters
William Duncan and Ned
Harper.

Some convicts had
wandered through the
Gold Coast, escaping
from Brisbane, but none
stayed.

That was in the 1840's –
years after Captain
Cook.



William Duncan



Timber Getter statue, Mudgeeraba



Today, the William Duncan Swimming Pool, Nerang

Schmidt Farmhouse

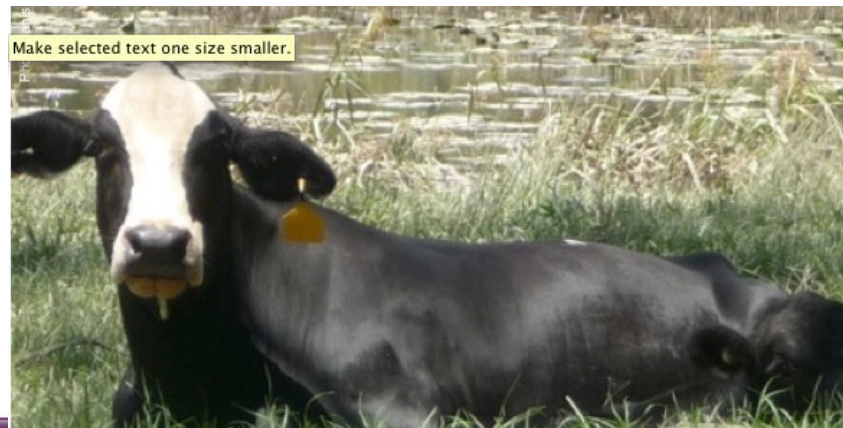
The farmhouse where the Night Horse museum is, was built twenty years later, in the 1860s. The Schmidt farm was a dairy farm. Cows were raised on the farm, and each day they were milked.

It was part of the large Stephens Estate that took up all of Merrimac, Widgeeraba, Robina, and Orange.



Schmidt Farm House

Dairy Cow.



August, 1914, war
was declared with
Germany.

they thought it would
be over 'by Christmas'
but it went on for 4
years.

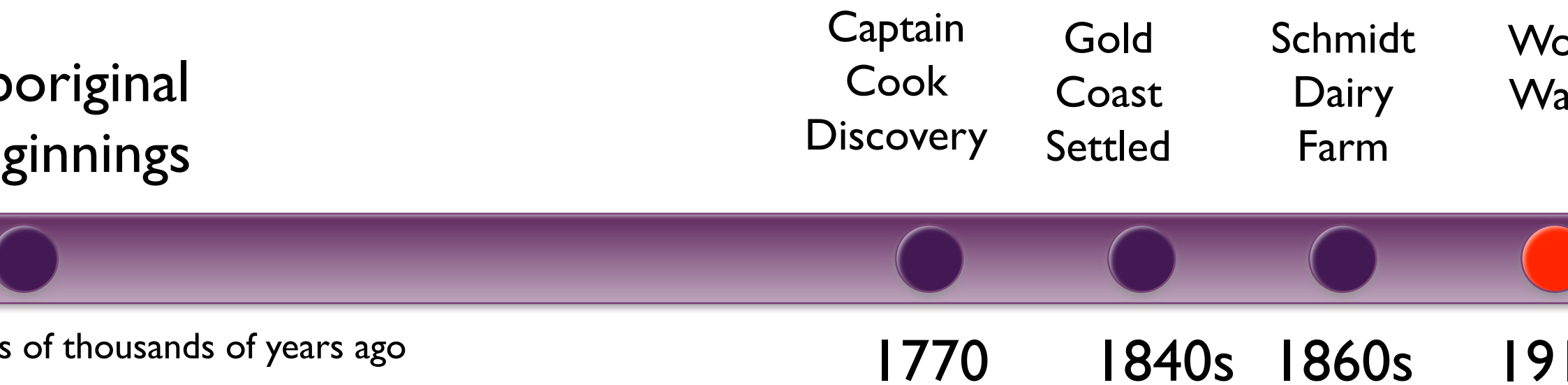
Photo shows soldiers at
Mudgeeraba station.



PHOTO COURTESY GOLD COAST LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY, PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN.

Timeline

Early days of the Gold Coast to World War I





Part 2

Gold Coast and World War 1



Great Britain

Belgium

**Western
Front**

France

Germany

Austria-Hungary

Russia

Eastern Front

Spain

Serbia

Gallipoli

Ottoman Empire
(Turks)

**Desert
Campaigns**

Arabia

1914

Australian Army
arrives in Egypt, our
ies. The soldiers
ined and
epared for war.
ey camped in
nts. Many brought
eir horses.



PHOTO COURTESY GOLD COAST LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY,
PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN.





Great Britain

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**Western
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Campaigns**

Arabia

1915

The Australian and New Zealand soldiers landed in Gallipoli, 25th April 1915. Many were killed over the months they were there. They fought in trenches, so they couldn't bring their horses with them.

They pulled out of Gallipoli at the end of the year.





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Ottoman Empire
(Turks)

**Desert
→ Campaigns**

Arabia

1917

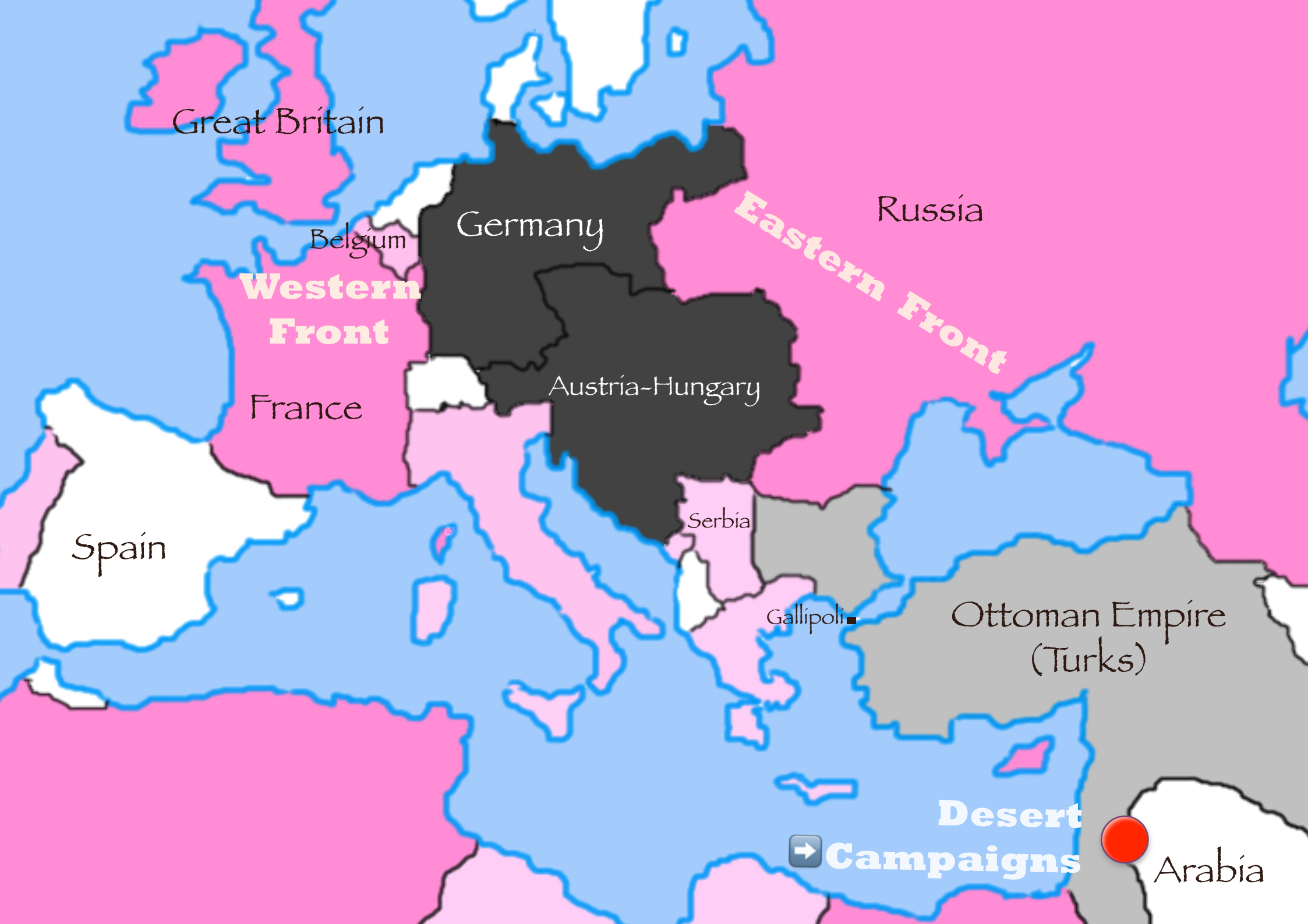
any Australian and New Zealand soldiers were back with their horses, fighting in the deserts.

The Australian led a great charge on horseback at Beersheba. They won the battle. And it turned the war around.



Detail of what is reputed to be a photograph of the Charge by the 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments at Beersheba.

ABOVE PHOTOS COURTESY AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN.



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Campaigns**

Arabia

1918

war ends. Peace
Treaty (Armistice)
signed with
Germany, on the 11th
hour, of the 11th day,
the 11th month
lest we forget.

Poppies are a
symbol for the
soldiers who died.



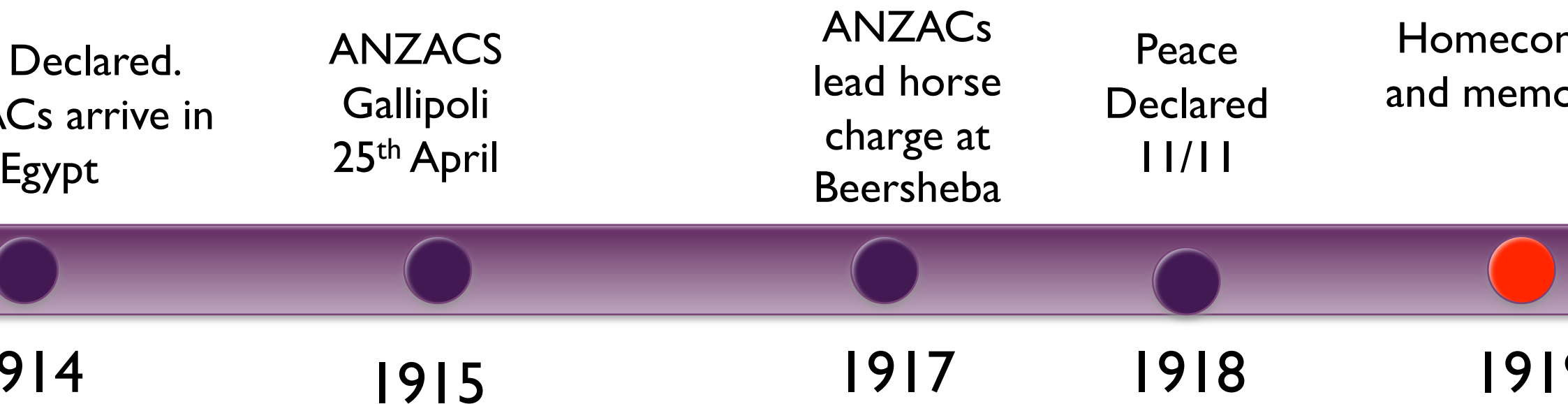
Poppies growing wild in the French countryside.

More
Soldiers start
turning to
Australia.
Memorials were
built across Australia
to Commemorate
those who lost their
lives in the 'War to
End all Wars'.

There is the war and
pioneer memorial at
Wudgeeraba.



World War I: 1914 - 1918



WWI Australian Light Horse

- After withdrawal from Gallipoli Dec 1915, some troops went on to the Western Front (France) other returned to Egypt for the desert campaigns
- Beersheba is the most famous – ‘world’s last great charge by the light horse’
 - Thrilling victory for Australia,
 - a turning point for the war against the Turks - Ottoman Empire
 - Not witnessed by any war correspondent
 - Has not become part of Australia’s mythology like Gallipoli or the Somme
- Australia’s Sir Harry Chauvel led the greatest mounted column since Alexander the Great through the Holy Lands, taking Jerusalem and Damascus.



Photo Courtesy Gold Coast City Council Local Studies Library

Why do we all know about the horrors of Gallipoli, but not the victory of Beersheba?

WWI Light Horse

- World War I is the last time horse were used in battle – they are too vulnerable to modern weapons – machine guns & tanks
- Major 'Banjo Paterson' of 'Waltzing Matilda', and 'Man from Snowy River' fame, ran Australia's remount depot (where horses were trained for war) in Egypt in WWI
- Australia supplied 136,000 horses (Walers) in WWI
 - 39,000 serve Australia's military
 - At the end of the war the British command ordered the horse be sold or destroyed.



Photo Courtesy Australian War Memorial

Photo above is of 'Sandy' the only horse to return to Australia in WWI. There is a photo of his hoof in the museum.