Searching the Digitised Documents on the Australian War Museum Website

There is a great deal of personal information available regarding all the Australian soldiers, sailors and airmen that have served during conflicts over the past 200 years, some of this has been digitised by the Australian War Museum and is available online.

Go to the Australian War Museum (AWM) website <http://www.awm.gov.au/and> select ***People***: by entering some or all of the required information accurately, nominal information concerning embarkation, Red Cross records (W.W.1), commemorative records (for those who died), POWs (W.W.2) and honours and awards of any Australian soldier may be available.

The First World War, Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) material is particularly interesting because most of the digitising has been completed. Further information can also be found by scrolling down the right hand side of the same webpage and clicking on to National Archives of Australia (NAA) - Personal Service Records or <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/index.aspx> . Go to ***Name Search*** and follow the leads, then, ***View Digitised Copy.***

Also division and battalion diaries can be viewed by clicking on to Military Unit Diaries. For instance: on the AWM website go to ***People*** – scroll down on right to ***Unit Diaries*** – Click on to ***First World War diaries*** – then scroll down to and click on ***Infantry*** – find and click on the ***34th Infantry Battalion*** then select ***October 1917***. Within this diary entry you can read the account of the battalion's progress on the 11th October during the battle for Passchendaele and the events preceding Capt. Jeffries’ tragic death. On ***page 26*** of the diary there is also a detailed map which shows their positions as they moved forward.

Information regarding later conflicts such as the Second World War, the Korean War, Vietnam and more recently the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are not complete mainly due to privacy laws and the enormous amount of time it requires to compile and digitise all the material. However, even if the records have not been digitised, a copy could be forwarded or, the original documents can be viewed at the museum in Canberra on request.