**Australia’s entry to WW 1 - Lesson materials – Sources for analysis**

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| I wasn’t eighteen. I was working on the lathe, next to another chap … I said to him ‘why don’t you enlist?’ I said, ‘I’ll enlist if you do’. I went right up to Victoria Barracks and enlisted. We left the factory and I had to get my father’s signature. Well, I forged that.**Stan D’Altera recounting his enlistment experience.** | I couldn’t help myself. Mum was a widow and she needed me to help run the farm. But I read what Andrew Fisher said and I went, ‘Fisher’s message to England was that Australia would stand behind her to the last man and the last shilling.’**Unnamed soldier, in P Adam-Smith, *The Anzacs.*** |
| I have joined the Australian Army it’s not bad money here, 5/- [5 shillings] a day and clothes and food … nearly as good as cabinet making and not half as hard. You may [think] it funny [my] turning up such a good job, but … this [employer] had only about three days work left for us … so I [thought] I would join the army.**Corporal RE Antill in a letter to his parents, 1914.** | [In] recalling the feeling which prompted me ... to join as a soldier I remember it was being faced with the ordinary, never changing things of life. Tomorrow meant nothing more than just another day. I wanted something to happen to stir the stagnant pool in which I was living. I wanted the thrill the expedition promised, but I never realized what the excitement I was seeking really meant ...**Peter Hall. July 29, 1915.** |
| But I know Una that in your heart you wont blame me. I couldn’t see Joe go alone and remain behind myself and I think it will be better now that we are together. I promise you I will never leave Joe wounded on the field whilst I have the strength to carry him off, and I know he will do the same for me.**Oliver Cumberland. Letter to sister, late 1914.** | That night he came home and cried his heart out. My father was no coward, but he had been reluctant to leave his family. He was 34 and my mother, who had two young children, was very ill. Soon after, he joined the army…**Daughter of Robert Smith.** |