**ARMY MUSEUM BANDIANA – ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**SCHOOL YEARS 7 – 10**

**1. Duration of wars:**

World War 1 Duration: 1914 – 1918 4 years

World War 2 Duration: 1939 - 1945 6 years

Vietnam War Duration: 1962 – 1972 10 years

**2. Australian involvement in WW1:**

When Great Britain declared war on Germany in 1914, Australia declared war as well. Most Australians believed that they were part of the British Empire - (Commonwealth) and wanted to do all they could to protect it. It was popularly believed that participation in the war would also ‘prove’ Australia as a new nation.

**3. Women’s involvement in the Army:**

(a) Women’s roles in World War 1:

This was limited to nursing and caring for the injured. The first nurses of the war went to help the troops in England, France, Belgium and Mesopotamia. They helped out in hospitals, hospital ships and hospital tents that were set up as very basic facilities – they had dirt floors.

During WW 1, six million men enlisted to go and fight overseas. So when they left, many of their jobs, such as factory workers etc. needed to be filled and were taken up by women at home.

(b) Women’s involvement in World War 2:

During the WW2 era, the outlook on the role of women in Australian society revolutionised. As many of the men were at war, Australian women were encouraged to rise above and beyond their “Housewife” status. They had to do tasks, such as food production, that was once considered as “men’s” work. Women were also allowed to join the armed services – they worked as nurses and vehicle drivers at war. At home they were encouraged to join the Australian Women’s Land Army.

(c) Present Day involvement:

Women who join the army now are able to be involved in all activities. There is totally equal opportunity.

4. **What is a ‘Drip Rifle’**

When the ANZACs were leaving Gallipoli, they very cleverly used self-firing rifles to trick the Ottoman forces into thinking that they were still in position and hadn’t yet left. The ‘Drip Rifle’ used two ration tins. The top one was filled with water, while the empty bottom one was attached to the trigger of the rifle using a piece of string or wire. Before leaving, the soldier punched a small hole in the upper tin to allow the water to trickle into the lower one, which would eventually become heavy enough to activate the trigger and fire the rifle. Meanwhile, the ANZACs had left.

5. **What is the most important medal that can be given to an Australian Soldier?** Answer: The Victoria Cross for Australia.

The Albury citizen who was awarded the Victoria Cross Medal in WW 1 and has an Albury road named after him was Albert Chalmers Borella, hence the road has been named Borella Road.

6. **Specific purposes for:**

(a) Vehicles with tracks not wheels: Some vehicles (especially tanks & similar vehicles) have tracks to provide good ‘flotation’ over ground (terrain). Tracks are much less likely to get bogged in soft ground, mud or snow as they distribute the weight of the vehicle over a larger contact area.

(b) Camouflage Uniforms consist of various colours printed in a seemingly random design with a view to more effectively hiding the soldier from enemy sight. Colours and patterns have been modified over the years to allow for a variety of terrains and operating environments. Camouflage uniforms have allowed our soldiers to become safer during military operations. Vehicles now also have camouflage patterns and colours.

Camouflage uniforms works by breaking up the outlines of the soldier or military vehicle with a contrasting pattern. It works best when the colour components match the background.

(c) Smoke Grenade Discharger on tanks:

A Smoke Grenade Discharger is used to create a smoke screen in order to very quickly hide the tank. It uses grenades filled with red phosphorus which, upon activation, land in front of the tank producing a dense cloud of white smoke.

**7**. **The Furphy Water Cart:**

The steel and cast iron tanks were first made in the 1880’s and were used on farms and by stock agents. Furphy Carts were first made by J. Furphy and Sons in Shepparton, Victoria, specifically to carry drinking water to sheep and cattle on farms and also to fight fires in the country. They were later very important in providing drinking water for Army personnel during World War 1 in Australia, Europe and the Middle East.

Furphy Tanks are a part of Australia’s history and even part of Australia’s slang language. We still say “Telling a furphy” – meaning a creative story which may or may not be true.

The cart drivers brought news and gossip to the soldiers as they moved from camp to camp. Not all their information was correct and the term for this became, a furphy. Hence the term, “Telling a furphy”.

**8. Career options available to those joining the Australian Army**:

Nursing, Infantry, Artillery gunner, Officer, Engineer, Driver, Medical/Dental, Catering/Cook etc, Mechanic/maintenance, Clerical, Stores handling, Musician, Chaplains, and many, many more.

**9. The role of a Chaplain/Padre:**

A military chaplain/padre ministers to military personnel and, in most cases, their families and those civilians working for the military. The chaplain’s responsibilities include performing religious rites, conducting worship services, providing confidential counselling on religious, spiritual and morale matters. Chaplains are commissioned officers stationed wherever there are military members, including combat environments.

**10 (a) PTSD Stands for** Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

(b) Does PTSD relate only to military personnel or can the wider community also be affected?

While many serving members and ex-service personnel are affected by PTSD, it is not uncommon for the wider community to be similarly stressed, especially those dealing with trying situations and trauma eg. Ambulance Staff, Police Officers, Fire Brigade Staff etc. It can affect anyone who experiences considerable stress, regardless of their age and circumstances.

**11. Soldiers from all wars brought back reminders of their journeys.**

We sometimes discover more by looking at the souvenirs and reading the journals of people’s own experiences than by reading a history book. Enjoy sharing their memories.