Discover Murray River War Trail takes you on a journey into Australia’s rich military past, stories and culture.

Starting at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra you can follow the Murray River region’s stories, people, experiences and places through New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia to the WWI Indigenous War Memorial in Raukkan near the Murray Mouth and Coorong.

You’ll experience the Villers-Bretonneux sister town and connection in Robinvale and discover stories of Victoria Cross and Military Cross recipients. From World War One and World War Two to Vietnam, men and women from the Murray River region have both fort and fed Australia.

The ‘River of Honour’ will captivate, intrigue and cause for reflection as you traverse the bounty of the Murray River’s agriculture, horticulture and wine regions that’s given pride in its legacy of military service, settlement and sacrifice.

The Murray River region across New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia contains a vast range of war and other memorials to honour the fallen and those that sacrificed themselves for Australia as well as highlight various wartime activities. This Discover Murray River War Trail aims to assist and educate those travelling our great river region to connect with the stories of the those communities who acknowledge their fallen and showcase some of the unique experiences, museums and monuments that preserve and protect the legacy of our diggers for the future.

Since 1915, the tradition of Anzac has remained one of the most prominent facets of Australian national identity. During World War I and II, many men left the Murray Valley region to join the armed forces. Much of their previous work was taken over by women while they were gone. The legacy of the Anzac from WWI was in the commitment by men from regional Australia who went to war. However the Murray River region wasn’t yet a full fledged food production region for Australia as irrigation was still in its infancy along with the communities and towns.

The region became an important resource for food production and processing during WWII. Training facilities such as airfields were set up in Mildura, Tocumwal and Lake Boga and internment camps were established at various locations such as Loveday in the Riverland, South Australia. With water being secured to irrigate and create Australia’s food bowl, both the State and Federal governments introduced policies and incentives to populate the river regions and extend the irrigation areas. The post-WWI and WWII soldier settlement policies were introduced as incentives to settlers. The States provided blocks of land and the Commonwealth government sponsored the loans. Blood, sweat and tears was the order of the day for many of these new settlers to the river regions. Most had little or limited farming expertise; they lacked equipment and were unfamiliar with rural life. These settlers or ‘blockies’ as they came to be known, carved out a new life with ingenuity and adapted to the harsh reality of farming in the river region.

The Discover Murray River War Trail - River of Honour maps a journey of monuments, shrines, statues, museums, halls, internment camps and much more along the Murray Valley. These special places and people highlight to visitors and remind us of the commitment the Murray River region and their people gave to serve Australia and the commitment to having a productive and democratic society.

Discover Murray River War Trail; war memorials, museums, and soldier settlements, RSL’s and war heritage - the River of Honour.

Robinvale - twin towns with Villers-Bretonneux, France

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New South Wales • Victoria • South Australia

‘Lest We Forget’

For a complete guide please visit www.MurrayRiverWarTrail.com.au
RAAF Aviation Museum & Memorial - Mildura
From 1942 until 1946, the Mildura Airfield was a RAAF Base, being the home of No 2 Operational Training Unit or OTU. The role of OTU was to provide fighter conversion training for pilots before they were posted to their operational squadrons. The RAAF Association Mildura Branch has established and maintains a Museum in the restored RAAF Headquarters and a RAAF Memorial adjacent to the Memorial. The Museum contains a number of RAAF Memorabilia and Displays relating to the activities of OTU at Mildura and wartime operations elsewhere. There is also a Memorial on the grounds with the centre piece of the Mildura RAAF Memorial a life-size bronze sculpture of an airmen mounted on a granite base.

Mcleaytown Field and WAAAF Creek Walk - Tocumwal
Mcleaytown Field was established by the USAF in January 1944 as part of the Japanese invasion of Northern Australia and handed over to the RAAF in November 1944. It was the largest aerodrome in the Southern Hemisphere at one stage. A museum display of photographs, articles, books, model aircraft and memorabilia are on display in the RAAF History & Information Centre. Extending the airforce history you can take the WAAAF Creek Walk, a 1.6 kilometre walk just out of town on the Barcagio Road. The involvement of women in military aviation began in 1941 with the creation of the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF). At their peak WAAAF numbers exceeded 27,000. Up to 400 women served at Tocumwal between 1943 and 1946.

Loveday Internment Camp
The Loveday Internment Camp was set up in 1941 and was one of the largest in Australia. It covered approximately 180 hectares of scrubland and held 5380 internees and POWs at its peak and over 1500 AWM personnel. Contact the Warina Visitor Information Centre for more details.

Remembrance Memorial Walk - Mildura
A beautiful tribute to local residents that served in the RAAF during World War II. An anchor situated out the front of the motel is a memorial to this service to our nation. From the 1890s to 1940s Australia was a very strong Sub Branch in defence force installations.

Red Cliffs Military Museum
Red Cliffs Military Museum was established in 1997. The Museum has a wonderful collection of artifacts and memorabilia, from the Boer War to Iraq 2009. The museum contains authentic artifacts, uniforms, medals and other items relating to World War II and the Vietnam War. The venue is open Friday and Saturday 10am to 4pm. Credit card accepted and parking available.

Wentworth Military Museum
The Wentworth Military Collection is a must see collection. This unique collection displays relics, artifacts and militaria from all over the world, with an emphasis on Australian service and contribution. It is suggested that it be seen in combination with the Loveday Internment Camp.

RAAF Wreckage Memorial
Villas-Bréonne, France became a sister town to Robinvale in 1984-85. Historians record that if not for Australian troops in the closing stages of World War 1, Villas-Bréonne and the whole Western Front would have been laid open to the German Army. The battle Villas-Bréonne ranks high in acknowledgement of Australia’s war commitments along with Gallipoli, Kokoda and many others. This relationship with Villas-Bréonne was connected by the death of Lieut. Robin Cuttle VC, resident of Robinvale, killed near Villas-Bréonne during WWI. In memory of their airmen son, Lt. Cuttle’s family renamed their new settlement on the Murray – Robinvale (sake Robin). Robinvale is a World War II soldier settlement community. The Rural Life Museum has a range of local pioneering and war artifacts.

Mutchmore Hill War Memorial - Albany
Excellent views of Albany-Wodonga can be seen from the hill where the War Memorial is located. The monument was designed by architect Louis Harrison in 1923 and erected in 1924 at a cost of 3,000 pounds. In 1925 on Anzac Day the Memorial was dedicated to the men and women who served in World War I (1914-18).

Lake Bag Flying Boat Museum
Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum, home of the historic Catalina Flying Boat and site of the secret RAAF Repair Depot. Lake Boga was an integral part of allied defense during World War II, with a facility that helped to keep Australia safe – the No 1 Flying Boat Repair and Service Depot. On the site of the RAAF Repair Depot is an underground Communications Bunker which has been transformed into the Flying Boat Museum. It is fully air conditioned and is an educational trip into our recent history. Also at the museum is an interactive map of the Pacific region and an informative 20 minute film in the theatre.

Mildura RSL - Mildura
During the early 1950’s the Returned Soldiers, Sailors and Airman’s Badge of Honour League of Australia was a very strong Sub Branch in Yarrawonga. The Mildura & District Services Club was formed and purchased the property from the Australian War Memorial in 1924 at a cost of 3,000 pounds. In 1925 on Anzac Day the Memorial was dedicated to the men and women who served in World War I (1914-18). The Club has a range of artifacts including tanks on the grounds.

Leek Tagtone and adjacent Dugongs – Victoria
Leek Tagtone and adjacent Dugongs is one of the best dive sites in the Wimmera. Expect to see schools of fish, such as indo-Pacific threadfin, and numerous species of prawn, crab and crayfish.

4th Brigade
The 4th Brigade was formed in 1942 and maintained in the area from 1943 to 1946. They were responsible for the protection of an airbase and for the security of the coast near Warrnambool.

Loveday Internment Camp
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Visit 3 Squadron page). In 1989 he won the Royal Victoria Cross for “most conspicuous bravery in attack” at Villas-Bréonne (sister town to Robinvale), France. In 1918 he died on the 7th February 1918 and was buried with full military honors in the Albany cemetery.

Villers-Bretonneux War Memorial
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