

# SURPRISES

IN THE



## **A KID'S TRAIL**

*GUNS, TANKS, HORSES, MIRRORS AND  
"EGGS-A-COOK"*





The **Bren** (from **Brno**, the Czechoslovak city of design, and **Enfield**, the location of the British Royal Small Arms Factory), usually called the **Bren Gun**, was a light machine gun adopted by Britain in the 1930s and used in various roles until 1991.

*See if you can find a **Bren Gun** on display.*

*SMLE Mk III*



*See if you can find a **Lee Enfield Rifle** on display.*

The **Lee-Enfield** repeating rifle was the main firearm used by British and Commonwealth forces during the first half of the 20th century. It was the British Army's standard rifle from 1895 until 1957. The Lee-Enfield used the .303 British cartridge and in Australia the rifle was so well-known that it became synonymous with the term "**303**".



Private Evelyn Owen

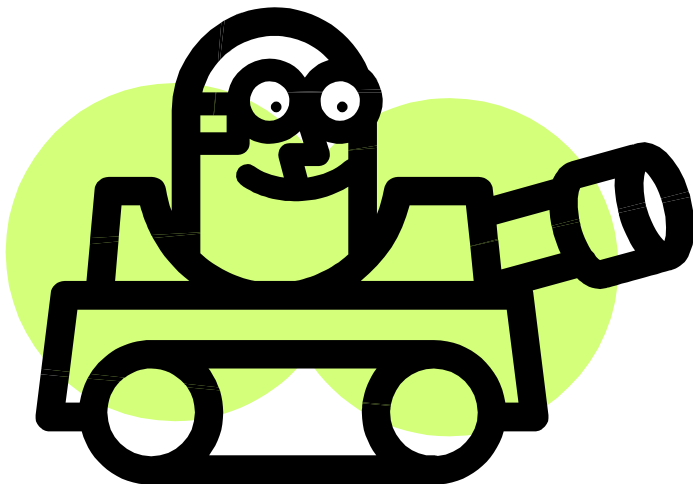


Australian soldiers armed with Owen Guns in New Britain in 1945

*See if you can find an **Owen gun** on display.*

**The Owen** was invented and manufactured in Australia. It has a simple design, and unusual appearance, including the top-mounted magazine, and the side-mounted sight allowing the firer to aim past it.

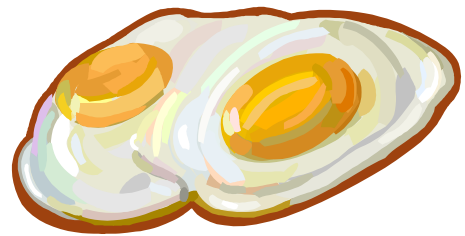
To make cleaning easy, the ejector is built into the magazine, rather than the body of the gun. This allows the barrel to be removed rapidly, by pulling up a spring-loaded plunger in front of the magazine housing. After removing the barrel, the bolt and return spring are removed in a forward direction, completely dismantling the gun.



*Can you guess what the soldiers did to help their mates remove their hands after they had stuck to cold metal?*

*Which types of tank can you find outside?*

In the desert, metal on tanks gets hot enough to **cook eggs**.

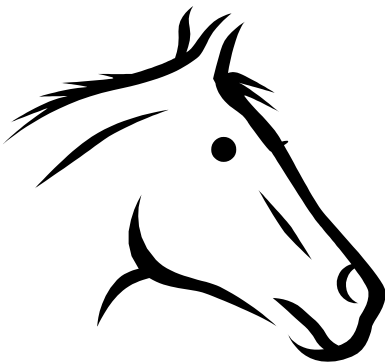


At night the metal gets so cold that if you touch it your skin will stick to the metal.



*See if you can find a **Centurion Tank** outside.*

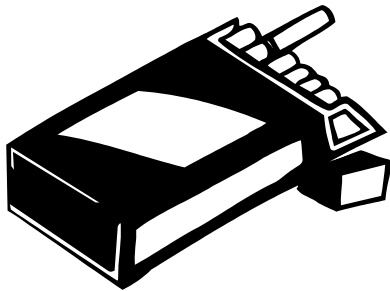
The **Centurion** was designed during the Second World War and was used in Europe, but arrived several months too late for combat. It went on to provide excellent service during the Korean War and later with Australian forces in the Vietnam war, mostly in a support role. It would go on to be one of the most widely used tank designs, equipping armies around the world, with small numbers still in service until the 1990s.



During **World War One** 121 324 horses were sent overseas from Australia.

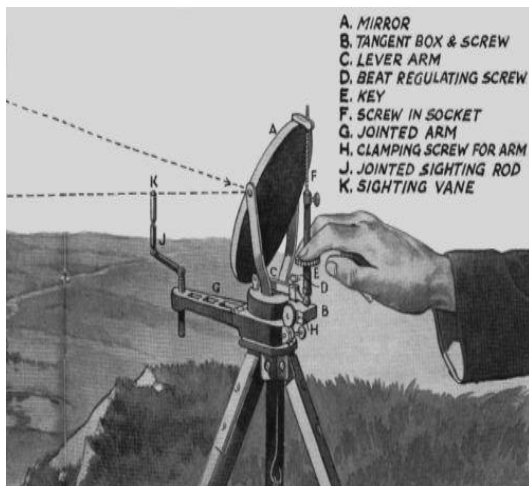
*Try and guess how many were returned.*

*See if you can find the **horse** in the World War 1 Gallery.*



**Prisoners of war** used cigarettes as money to buy things from each other.

*In the Prisoner of War Gallery, **see if you can find out where the cigarettes came from.***



*Look for a **Heliograph** in the pre 1914 gallery.*

The **heliograph** sent its signals by reflecting sunlight towards the intended recipient with a mirror or mirrors, the beam being keyed on and off with a shutter or a tilting mirror, allowing **Morse code** to be sent. Heliographs were used by the armies of several countries during the late 1800's. They were highly popular with British forces in India and Africa because of the dependable sunlight.

*Remember that there were no mobile phones in those days.*

## EGGS A COOK

There are two meanings. It was a term used at Gallipoli as a mild exclamation to indicate surprise.



It was also what the Egyptians nicknamed the *Third Division AIF* (Monash in command) because at his instructions that Division wore their slouch hat with the brim flat and the badge on the front as in the image on the left.

The phrase started with the cry of Egyptian street stall owners offering cooked eggs as a snack. They were available boiled or **fried** which is where the likeness is supposed to exist.



See if you can find a **rising sun badge** on display.