

Of Love and War : new exhibition

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The Australian War Memorial opened a new exhibition focussing on the impact war has on relationships on 3rd December. The rather dry write-up on their website announces that "During times of conflict [love] has played, and continues to play, an important role"... sounds more like the write-up for release for another set of military diaries than the description for what should be an emotionally moving exhibition, but we shall see. I hope to get an opportunity to visit the exhibition before it closes in May 2010 ... I'll write some more then. In the meantime I have to say that I am rather disappointed by what I have read on the website... "how Australians incorporated [!!] affairs of the heart into their wartime lives"... having spoken to so many hundreds of war brides and others who found - and lost - love during wartime I hardly think any of them would have thought about how they were incorporating it into their lives. War creates an immediacy, an urgency and mixed feelings of fear and excitement - these descriptions are very dry... let's hope the exhibiton is not.