



# James Toohey Collection

**Accession number** 28848

**Date** 1916-1957

**Author / Creator**

**Toohey, James, 1895-1964**

**Abstract** Records collected and maintained by James Toohey during his service in Europe during the First World War, and photographs of his later years.

**Scope and content** The collection comprises two diaries covering James Toohey's service in France and Belgium as a gunner during the First World War, one notebook, three leather wallets, one medal, an embroidered 'Souvenir of Egypt' silk cloth, six photographs including later years, one newspaper clipping, war service records and army identity tags.

**System of arrangement** Arranged into 5 series

**Description** 2 diaries, notebook, leather wallets, medal, silk cloth, photographs, military records.

**Additional format** Digital copies available for selected items

**Guides** Transcripts available for selected items: 28848/1, 28848/2

**Administrative / Biographical history** James Toohey was born on 15 September 1895, the son of Peter Toohey and Kate O'Kane of Logan Road, South Brisbane. Before the First World War he was a telephonist and enlisted on 7 September 1915 as a gunner with the Field Artillery Brigade 3, Reinforcement 14. His service number was 11138. His unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board the RMS Osterley on 15 January 1916 and arrived in Egypt in February. He saw active service in France and Belgium and was awarded the Military Medal for his actions on 28th June 1918, near Merris in Northern France. Toohey was engaged on the upkeep of communications between the forward Artillery Observation posts and Battalion Headquarters. Through a heavy artillery barrage he displayed great bravery and ability. For three hours he kept the lines of communication open assisting in the success of the operation. Toohey returned to Australia on 20 April 1919. After the war James Toohey worked as a postman in the Greenslopes and Coorparoo areas of Brisbane before retiring at the age of sixty. He married Nora Burke in 1924 and had ten children. He died in 1964.

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses.

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**Notes** English

**Preferred citation**

28848, James Toohey collection, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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## Series 1: Diaries (1916-1917)

**Series number** 1

**Series title** Diaries

**Date** 1916-1917

**Scope and content**

Two diaries kept by Gunner James Toohey, 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, during the First World War.

**Author / Creator**

Toohey, James, 1895-1964

### Description

**Description** 2 diaries

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

### Access

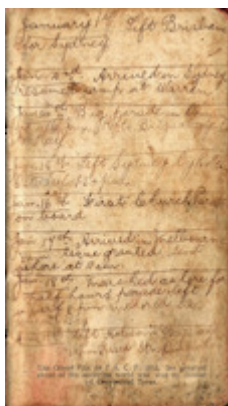
**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright

**Conditions of use** CC-BY

Items in this series:

### Diary (1916)



**Unit ID** 28848/1

**Date** 1916

**Scope and content**

The diary describes James Toohey's journey from Australia to Egypt on board RMS 'Osterley' and his war service in France and Belgium, including the Battle of Pozieres on 22 July 1916.

**Author / Creator**

Toohey, James, 1895-1964

**Description**

**Description** 1 diary (42 pages)

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

**Access**

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

**Conditions of use** CC-BY

**Other guides** Transcript available

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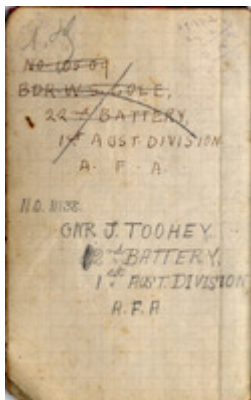
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**Other**

## Notes

A transcript is available.

## Diary (1 January - 30 September 1917, 1918)



**Unit ID** 28848/2

**Date** 1 January - 30 September 1917, 1918

### Scope and content

The diary describes James Toohey's war service in France and Belgium and his leave in Ireland in August 1917. The diary also contains some entries for August 1918 and a list of the names of the wounded and killed at the Battle of Passchendaele, 31/7/1917.

### Author / Creator

Toohey, James, 1895-1964

## Description

**Description** 1 diary (117 pages)

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

**Conditions of use** CC-BY

**Other guides** Transcript available

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Other

### Notes

A transcript is available.

(2 digital)

## Series 2: Notebook (1914-1919)



**Series number** 2

**Series title** Notebook

**Date** 1914-1919

**Scope and content**

Undated notebook kept by James Toohey containing addresses, accounts and poems.

**Author / Creator**

Toohey, James, 1895-1964

Description

**Description** 1 notebook

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Out of copyright

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## Series 3: British War Medal (1914-1918)



**Series number** 3

**Series title** British War Medal

**Date** 1914-1918

**Scope and content**

British War Medal issued to Gunner James Toohey, service no. 11138. The British War Medal was established on 26th July 1919 and was awarded to officers and men of the British and Imperial Forces. The front of the medal depicts the head of George V. The recipient's service number, rank, name and unit was impressed on the rim. [Item 28848/5]

## Description

**Description** 1 medal

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

#### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

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## Series 4: Photographs (1914-1957?)

**Series number** 4

**Series title** Photographs

**Date** 1914-1957?

#### Scope and content

This series contains miscellaneous photographs of James Toohey and his family. [Items 4, 6, 8, 7, 13, 16]

#### Description

**Description** 6 photographs

**Additional format** Digital copies available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

#### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses

**Conditions of use** You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Items in this series:

## Photograph of James Toohey (copy) (1915-1916)



**Unit ID** 28848/4

**Date** 1915-1916

### Scope and content

Copy of a photograph of Gunner James Toohey in uniform.

### Description

**Description** 1 copy print

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Studio portrait of James Toohey (1915-1919)





**Unit ID** 28848/6

**Date** 1915-1919

**Scope and content**

Studio photograph of James Toohey and an unidentified soldier.

Description

**Description** 1 photograph

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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**Wedding photograph of James Toohey and Nora Burke (14 June 1924)**



**Unit ID** 28848/8

**Date** 14 June 1924

**Scope and content**

The wedding took place at St. James' Catholic Church, Coorparoo, Brisbane, on the 14th June 1924.

Description

**Description** 1 photograph

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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**Photograph of James Toohey (Undated)**



**Unit ID** 28848/7

**Date** Undated

**Scope and content**

Photograph of James Toohey in his later years.

Description

**Description** 1 photograph

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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**Photograph of James Toohey with his wife and nine children. (1947?)**



**Unit ID** 28848/13

**Date** 1947?

#### Description

**Description** 1 photograph

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

#### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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### Photograph of James Toohey and family (1957?)



**Unit ID** 28848/16

**Date** 1957?

**Scope and content**

The photograph is a copy. Front row (left to right) David Toohey and Patrick Toohey. Back row (left to right) May (sister-in-law) of James Toohey, James Toohey and Michael Toohey.

#### Description

**Description** 1 copy print

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

#### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Series 5: Miscellaneous (1914-1950)

**Series number** 5

**Series title** Miscellaneous

**Date** 1914-1950

#### Scope and content

This series contains miscellaneous items relating principally to James Toohey's service during the First World War including his identity tags, military records, souvenirs and a greeting card.

#### Description

**Description** 1 folder 0 records 0 newspaper clippings 0 wallets 0 embroidery (visual works) 0 greeting cards

**Additional format** Digital copies available for selected items

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses

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Items in this series:

### James Toohey army identity tags (1914-1918)

**Unit ID** 28848/9

**Date** 1914-1918

#### Scope and content

Two army identity tags inscribed with James Toohey's regimental number, name, and next of kin.

## Description

**Description** 1 identity tag

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** Out of copyright

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### James Toohey army personnel records (1914-1918)

**Unit ID** 28848/10

**Date** 1914-1918

**Scope and content**

World War I personnel service records for James Toohey

**Author / Creator**

Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Defence

Description

**Description** 1 folder

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** Out of copyright

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**Newspaper clipping (1955)**

**Unit ID** 28848/11

**Date** 1955

**Scope and content**

Unsourced newspaper clipping regarding James Toohey's retirement from his job as a postman.

Description

**Description** 1 newspaper clipping

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

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### Three leather wallets (1914-1919)

**Unit ID** 28848/12

**Date** 1914-1919

**Scope and content**

Three wallets relating to James Toohey and his service during the First World War.

#### Description

**Description** 3 wallets

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

### Souvenir of Egypt, embroidered cloth (1915)



**Unit ID** 28848/14

**Date** 1915

**Scope and content**

Embroidered cloth souvenir obtained by James Toohey, while in the Middle East during the First World War.

#### Description

**Description** 1 silk cloth

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 18229 O/S



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## Christmas card (1918)



**Unit ID** 28848/15

**Date** 1918

### Scope and content

Christmas card from Jim (James Toohey) in France to his family in Australia. The card was produced for the 1st Australian Field Artillery Brigade and includes a chronology of their fields of service from 1914 to 1918.

The card is signed "Jim".

### Author / Creator

1st Australian Field Artillery Brigade

## Description

**Description** 1 greeting card

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 17209

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