

## Frank Hurley 1885-1962



Frank Hurley was a larrikin who ran away from home when he was 13. He worked in a steel mill, eventually studying at a technical college and attending scientific lectures at Sydney University. He became interested in photography and bought his own Kodak Box camera.

He worked in a postcard business and became known for his extravagant risks to take sensational images, such as standing on the rails in front of an on-coming train.

He is famous for his Antarctic images taken on an expedition with Sir Douglas Mawson, when he was invited by Mawson to be the official photographer in 1911.

He also was invited by Sir Ernest Shackleton, in 1914, to return to the Antarctic.

It was on this trip that he took the stunning images of the ship "Endurance" slowly being destroyed by ice pressure.

Here I'm giving a **brief précis** about some of his exploits as a war photographer.

In 1917 he was commissioned with the rank of Honorary Captain in the Australian Imperial Force as official war photographer.

He was known by the diggers in the trenches as "**the mad photographer**" because of the risks he took to get his image.

He was shocked by the carnage in Belgium and France and his horror is depicted in his graphic images.

In the Middle East he also took images of the Light Horse, from the air, during the battle of Jericho.

In 1919 Hurley photographed Australia from the air with pioneer aviator Sir Ross Smith and the film was highly popular.

Photographer Frank Hurley achieved some of his greatest wartime photographs by combining several photos into one. The photographs were branded fakes by historian Charles Bean who demanded Hurley stop making them.

Hurley served once again as official photographer with the AIF during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War in the Middle East. He continued his photographic career until his death.

There is so much in Frank Hurley's photographic life that it is worth looking up on the internet to find out more about this remarkable man. The Australian National Library and the Australian War Memorial both have many of his images and they are worth seeing. <http://www.awm.gov.au/people/222.asp>



The Shell-Shattered Area of Chateau Wood, Flanders 1917



**Surrounded by invisible death**



**Brigadier General Cox at the head of the 1st Light Horse Brigade as it enters Jerusalem**



**In March 1941, Australian troops dangle their feet in restored aqueducts dating back to the Roman occupation of Syria. The aqueducts are part of the irrigation system between Tyre and Sidon, Syria.**

*With thanks to Australian War Memorial for use of Frank Hurley's Images and Information: Fran Cross LAPS PSQA*