



FACT SHEET

Temporary loan of Mephisto by Queensland Museum to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra

One of Australia's most significant war artefacts Mephisto will be temporarily loaned by Queensland Museum to the Australian War Memorial from June 2015 until April 2017, after which it will be returned to go on permanent display in the *Queensland Remembers* Gallery, which is due to open late 2018 at Queensland Museum Southbank.

MEPHISTO

- *Mephisto* is the only surviving German A7V Sturmpanzerwagen tank in the world, captured during World War One in July 1918 near the French town of Villers-Bretonneux.
- The tank was salvaged by soldiers from the 26th Battalion, comprised mainly of Queenslanders, who helped recover the abandoned tank and drag it behind allied lines.
- It was sent to Australia as a war artefact, arriving in Brisbane in June 1919 where it was towed by two Brisbane City Council steamrollers to the Queensland Museum.
- *Mephisto* is one of the best known objects in the Queensland State collection and has been the subject of significant research and conservation work.

SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 33.4 tonnes (73,700 lbs)

Length: 8 metres (26 ft 3in)

Width: 3.2m (10ft 5in)

Height: 3.3m (10ft 10in)

Range: 40km (25 miles)

Speed: 16 km/h (10mph) – with 'tail wind'

Armour: 10-30mm

Crew: 18

THE LOAN

- Loans of collection objects are common between museums, but loans of objects of this size and weight are not. This loan was made possible due to the Centenary of World War One celebrations.
- *Mephisto* is one of the Queensland Museum Network's best known and most popular exhibits, and temporarily displaying the vehicle at the Australian War Memorial provides the opportunity for more Australians to experience this war artefact and the stories associated with it.

THE MOVE

- *Mephisto* will depart the Workshops Rail Museum accompanied by a team of Museum conservators on Friday 12 June 2015 and is scheduled to arrive at the AWM on 15 June 2015.
- The tank will travel by truck and will be closely wrapped by museum conservators in the days leading up to its departure.

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

- This loan is a unique opportunity for the Museum to share one of Queensland's most significant Anzac stories with a national audience.
- Upon its return to Queensland, *Mephisto* will go on permanent display in the new *Queensland Remembers* Gallery at the Queensland Museum South Bank which was announced in 2014 as part of Queensland's Anzac Centenary commemoration.

For more information visit www.qm.qld.gov.au or www.awm.gov.au