

Wolfgang Deppner... Wolf Deppner... Wolf...

Conrad Bentley sipped his morning coffee and examined a 1914 photo of Wolf Deppner with his two older brothers, Otto and Ernst, all three in uniform.

Conrad had come to think of them in terms of their Christian names, intrigued by their faces, just as a letter written by their father in 1918, describing Wolf's death on the Western Front, had initially intrigued him. An unknown soldier had returned to Tasmania with the letter, a war souvenir, and it fell into Conrad's hands a century later.

The words in the letter, the grief of losing a son to war, immediately resounded in Conrad's mind and initiated a clarion call to bring past events into the present.

From that moment, just under a year ago, Conrad had felt Wolf's presence. It was something he struggled to fully understand, so he kept it to himself. Wolf had urged Conrad to search for his living relatives and let them know about the letter. Wolf had stood beside Conrad, shadowed him, and guided him as he undertook the quest.