

THE GREAT WAR

1914 - 1918

'Lest we forget'



A local history of World War One heroes -
Indooroopilly to Oxley.

Researched by our local school children.

*A Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL Schools Centenary Project.
Supported and funded by the Australian Government.*

November 2018



RETURNED & SERVICES
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND BRANCH

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ISBN: 978-0-6482051-0-4 (paperbook – school contribution edition)

ISBN: 978-0-6482051-1-1 (ebook – full edition)

Editing, proofing and design: John Reynolds, Writer for Hire, Brisbane, Australia

Printed and bound in Australia by JT Press, Redcliffe, Australia



Foreword

The Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch, established in 1919, is one of the oldest sub-branches in Australia. Sherwood Indooroopilly has long conducted commemorations such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day at the three local World War One Memorials in local parks now in the custody of Brisbane City Council. On those three memorials are the names of 83 young men and one young woman from this part of South West Brisbane who gave their lives in 'The Great War'. The three Memorials are at Keating Park in Indooroopilly, Graceville Memorial Park, and Bannerman Park in Oxley.

The RSL says 'Lest We Forget' but sadly almost no-one now remembers who those young men and that young woman were. At most, a very fleeting thought crosses the minds of barely one or two attending a commemoration: "I wonder who he or she was".

So as part of the Commonwealth Government's ANZAC Centenary, Sherwood Indooroopilly sought and obtained federal funding to research and publish those 84 stories and especially to involve local school students in the research. This two-fold objective was because among the RSL objects are 'to ensure the preservation of the memory and the records of those who suffered and died for

the nation' and 'to encourage citizens to serve the nation with a spirit of self-sacrifice and loyalty'. The stories herein have been researched and written by school students at both primary and secondary levels and our editorial policy has been to edit these only very lightly and to let their words stand.

This book is being published primarily as an e-book, though it also has a small print run in order to place copies in official libraries as well as in the libraries of participating schools. Just as these stories reach back 100 years at this time, their ongoing public availability as an e-book published on an RSL website should ensure that they will reach far forward into the future. Fifty years from now authors of stories who wrote them when they were in primary or secondary school will be able to use this e-book to get their grand-children as interested in the history of local heroes as they were themselves, albeit perhaps only briefly at the time.

As well as having local school students writing the stories over five years of participating classes, a bonus that emerged was that two local amateur historians had also researched all of these names and it is with gratitude and with their permission that we also publish their stories along with those of the students.

They were the late Jim Gibson and Ian Lang and they will be acknowledged below. The bonus is that each of the 84 fallen has at least two stories written about him or her and sometimes more than that, because sometimes more than one school chose to write about one of the fallen. The layout of the index will guide readers accordingly. The school contributions make up the first and largest section of the book, starting on page 9. They are listed alphabetically by each soldier's name.

The index guides the reader to find stories in multiple ways. You may enter looking for the name of one of the fallen, or by looking for one of the 14 participating schools, or by looking for a particular one of the three memorials. Which raises another point of interest. In fact there is a fourth 'memorial' by which to enter and a third adult author to thank below because our research found five names of the local fallen that had not made it to an official memorial – for reasons so far unexplained. Like other churches in our area, St Andrew's Anglican Church, Indooroopilly has a WWI Honour Board listing their fallen, in their case in the form of an altar. Whereas all such names at the other churches also appear on one, sometimes two, of the official memorials, in St Andrew's case, while there are three names that also appear on the Keating Park Memorial and two on the Graceville Memorial, there



are also the three names that don't. For these three names we have given St Andrew's Honour Board the status of a fourth memorial which also constitutes an entry point in the index and our thanks go to the late Dr Peter Crossman of St Andrew's as our third adult author. And our total number of fallen to be commemorated becomes 87.

The stories herein amount to summaries of aspects of the lives and military service of the fallen. As might be expected, they could not amount to full biographies. For those who are interested, plenty of scope remains for further research and to assist this nearly all stories give sources, most of which will repay further study. In a sense this project can be looked at as a starting point for *community genealogy*, in that it provides intriguing mentions of themes that could be pursued in further exploration of community genealogy, for those who are interested. One dimension that came to be little explored was the stories of the families both before and after the deaths of their loved ones. Notable exceptions however were the Keid and Lidgard families whose surnames are on the Graceville Memorial. The Keids are important because six brothers went to war and only two returned; the Lidgard name because Edith Lidgard, whose brother fell, was a moving force in getting the Graceville Memorial erected – as you can read.

Readers' attention is invited particularly to the piece that we have promoted to the

status of a 'Second Foreword' to this book, *The Keid Family of Chewton Graceville* by Beulah Cox, a local resident. Her contribution can be found on page 328. As well as being about the Keid family as a family, her piece also hints at those many start points for further research into community genealogy. The piece reminds that the attitudes of the time were very different from those of today. Generally, the fallen were born only a single generation after the first settlers arrived in South East Queensland around the 1860s. Some of the fallen were born in Australia but many were themselves born in Britain and all or almost all would have had strong loyalty to empire as well as to king and country. Prime Minister Andrew Fisher said Australia would defend the Empire to the last man and the last shilling. Among the facts and events mentioned are a Keid who grew fruit in Margaret St, today the centre of the city; another was a chemist helping make soda water for Tristrams, a well-known historic name; satisfaction at Queensland having just been separated from New South Wales; connections to Canungra and the famous Lahey family; connections with Pimpama, Mareeba, Banana Shire, Charters Towers, Rockhampton; connections with Christ The King school and the Red Cross; deaths being notified to families by means of 'a pink telegram'; mothers receiving a brooch with bars equal in number to the sons who had served,

but less one bar for the first to serve; death of a family member in the second world war on the *Montevideo Maru*; and so on.

On the subject of the contemporary attitudes of the time, in the 1920s commemorative memorials were built in cities, towns and villages all over Australia and almost always, particularly in the smaller places, on the initiative of local communities rather than by government of whatever level. In our case all three memorials were primarily community initiatives, although Sherwood Shire did become involved – hence the plaque on the Graceville Memorial being headed 'Sherwood Shire'. As referred to above, two adult authors, between them, wrote what we have called the 'back-up' bios on the 84 fallen on the three official memorials. In doing that they also wrote the stories of how each of the three memorials came about and these stories are published herein. Each story not only describes the genesis of a memorial but also serves as an introduction to the respective collection of bios. They are reproduced herein without editing.

The stories about the Indooroopilly Memorial and its names came to be written because the late Jim Gibson, an elder and church historian of the ANZAC Uniting Church at Indooroopilly, had researched and written the bios of the fallen of WWI who are recorded on the church's Honour Board. Because those names



were also on the Memorial at Keating Park, he went on and researched the other names at Keating Park as well and we are the grateful beneficiaries of his efforts. Similarly, Ian Lang, who was a teacher at Oxley State School, became interested in the names on the Oxley Memorial adjacent to the school and researched and wrote the bios of those names and then went on to research and write up the names on the Graceville Memorial (of which 12 are duplicates of names at Oxley).

Jim Gibson's essay on the Keating Park, Indooroopilly, Memorial can be found on page 244; Ian Lang's contribution on the Graceville War Memorial starts on page 191; and his article on the Bannerman Park, Oxley, Memorial is on page 295. You can find Peter Crossman's piece on the St Andrew's Altar and the names it commentates on page 313.

Finally, before the acknowledgements, the attention of readers is invited to the section titled: *The World War One Survivors and Their Ladies Who Founded the RSL* on page 335. We take this opportunity to tell the stories of three WW1 survivors and their ladies who, with others of their ilk, gave the Sherwood Indooroopilly Sub-branch its start and shaped us. First, E Maurice Little, although blinded and maimed at Gallipoli, but with tremendous support from his wife Bessie, still had the astonishing amount of life force to become

one of the founders of our RSL sub-branch and its first president. Maurice was also a moving force in the establishment of what is now the ANZAC Uniting Church which recently celebrated its centenary. In one of his several published histories, Jim Gibson had written about Maurice and we are grateful to be able to publish Jim's synopsis of the E M Little story, written specifically for publication here. Chronologically the next founder or shaper was Harry Dalziel VC who was a member of our sub-branch and has given his name to Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch's headquarters at Corinda. A synopsis of his story is published here, based on a prodigious amount of work undertaken by Harry's son David in creating a web-site in commemoration of his famous father. Last in time were Colonel Doctor David Gifford Croll CBE VD MB ChM and Sister Marion Winifred Croll AANS whose bequest to the sub-branch in the 1950s helped to set up our sub-branch to be the strong supporter of the community and veteran welfare that it is today and as it will be into the future. As well as his military service in two world wars, Dr Croll also had a major medical impact in Brisbane. The story published here is based on material authored by Major General (Retired) Professor John Pearn AO RFD, former Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force.

Our grateful thanks go first to those already mentioned – Jim Gibson, Ian Lang, David

Dalziel, John Pearn, Beulah Cox and Peter Crossman. We express gratitude to each of the mentoring teachers in the participating schools who, with patience and persistence, organised, supervised and coached their participating students. Generally they selected students who they felt had the capacity to be 'stretched'. And we are grateful, of course, to the student researchers, nearly all of whose names are shown in the index. Ron Auman, RSL sub-branch member, created the briefing materials used initially back in 2013/14 to brief school principals and other representatives. These materials were then used throughout the project to guide the school mentors and the students. Marion Mackenzie of Oxley Chelmer History Group helped with fact checking and general advice. Jane Prentice, Federal Member for Ryan, and Graham Perrett, Federal Member for Moreton assisted us with obtaining the funding from the ANZAC Centenary Project with which we could hire a professional editor and our thanks go to John Reynolds, Writer for Hire, in this regard. Our strongest gratitude is owed to Brian Wade AM, MSM(RSL), RSL sub-branch member and sub-branch webmaster who, for five years, carried the load of putting up school stories on the sub-branch website as they came in and then keeping their maintenance up to date.

Graeme Loughton, AM, DSM, CPA
October 2018



Soldiers of the Sherwood Indooroopilly World War One Memorials Alphabetical Listing

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Bourke, William Michael Sylvester .	18	Guthrie, John Marsland	79	Radcliffe, Alan Arthur	140
Boyle, John James	22	Guthrie, John Marsland	83	Radcliffe, Leslie Caldwell.....	143
Bradley, William John	24	Hagger, Sidney Edwin	87	Raff, Kenneth.....	145
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Brydon, Kenneth.....	27	Haymen, Frank Granville.....	90	Ranken, Dudleigh Chalmers.....	148
Burns, Alexander	29	Hays, John William	92	Reynolds, Paul	149
Cannan, Douglas Hermann	32	Hemming, Victor Charles.....	94	Robertson, Francis James Kearsey ...	152
Cook, George Frederick	34	Hinton, Herbert Gerald	96	Rowlands, Thomas Llewelyn.....	154
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Cooling, William Henry	37	Homer, Harry Raymond.....	98	Rowlands, Thomas Llewelyn.....	158
Cooling, William Henry	42	Homer, Herbert William	99	Schlumpf, Albert	160
Coupland, Charles George.....	45	Jones, Oscar Harold.....	100	Sinclair, Donald Bruce John	161
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Douglas, Alfred Lionel.....	50	Keid, William.....	107	Sullivan, George	173
Dunn, William Knox.....	51	Keid, William.....	109	Sutton, Charles Arthur	174
Dunsdon, Charles Edward.....	52	Kerwin, Walter Edward	113	Taylor, Kenneth Robert.....	178
Elliot, Robert Ventress	54	Lahey, Noel Alaric.....	116	Tolley, Thomas Henry	180
Elliot, Robert Ventress	55	Larkin, John	117	Townson, George Henry.....	181
Elliot, Thomas William	57	Lidgard, Jack	118	Townson, Stanley Joseph.....	182
Enright, Michael.....	58	Lyell, John	121	Webb, Norman Reginald	184
Enright, Michael.....	61	Lyon, Charles Herbert Scott	124	Webster, Alfred	185
Fielding, John Howard.....	64	Macarthur, Ronald Edward	128	Webster, Douglas Lennox	188
Fielding, Robert Alfred.....	68	McDonald, Stanley Angus	129	Wilson, Myrtle Elizabeth	189
Fisher, Joseph William.....	71	Mitchell, Robert George.....	130		
Foott, Arthur Patrick.....	72	Munro, Colin Cameron	131		
Gibbings, Alfred John	75	Munro, Keith Ross.....	132		



Soldiers of the Sherwood Indooroopilly World War One Memorials School Listing (researched by)

Ambrose Treacy College

Bakey, John Frederick..... 10 (Lachlan Tonkin)
Brydon, Kenneth.....27 (Rachelle Garton)
Coupland, Charles George.....45 (Thomas Brannigan)
Nevill, Joseph Harold..... 136 (Oliver Hewett)

Brigidine College

Haymen, Frank Granville 90 (Eloise Saunders - main contributor)
Hays, John William 92 (Taylor Trinder, main contributor)
Hemming, Victor Charles 94 (Brooke Carney - main contributor)
Parker, James Albert 137 (Olivia Noller, main contributor)
Robertson, Francis James Kearsey. 152 (Social Science Department)
Taylor, Kenneth Robert..... 178 (Tara Brown - main contributor)

Christ the King Primary School

Hodge, Harold Frederick 97 (Hannah Poulsen and Zoe McElwaine)
Macarthur, Ronald Edward..... 128 (Tiana Ebzery)
Sullivan, George..... 173 (Grace Bamford)

Corinda State School

Lahey, Noel Alaric..... 116 (Rod Iffinger)
Schlumpf, Albert 160 (Rod Iffinger)
Sowden, Ronald Alexander 164 (Rod Iffinger)
Tolley, Thomas Henry 180 (Rod Iffinger)

Corinda State High School

Cooling, William Henry 35 (Rosy Pham)
Cooling, William Henry 37 (Didi Mulligan and Jamie)
Cooling, William Henry 42 (Lili Lamont)
Enright, Michael..... 58 (Regime Gray and Erin Boyle)
Fielding, John Howard.....64 (Cathy, Eva, Alex & Jack)
Fielding, Robert Alfred.....68 (Trinity and Grace)
Fisher, Joseph William..... 71 (Jemima, Hannah and Gryphon)
Foott, Arthur Patrick..... 72 (Vy and Maryam)
Guthrie, John Marsland 79 (Lily Chau)
Guthrie, John Marsland 83 (Tiana O'Rourke)
Hagger, Sidney Edwin 87 (Caitlin Vy Rosie)
Keid, William..... 109 (Mia Starkey)
Kerwin, Walter Edward 113 (Mariana and Kayla)
Lyell, John 121 (Jackson and Adam)
Lyon, Charles Herbert Scott 124 (Susi, Rhiann and Leo)
Rowlands, Thomas Llewelyn..... 156 (Matilda Khuc)
Rowlands, Thomas Llewelyn..... 154 (Amy Tran)
Rowlands, Thomas Llewelyn..... 158 (J Blahout)
Sinnamon, Leslie 162 (Brynn Belcastro)

Steele, Robert Stewart 165 (Daniel & Jimmy)
Strong, Herbert James 168 (Emma and Hannah)
Sutton, Charles Arthur 174 (Jasmine, Jessiah and Caitlyn)
Webster, Alfred 185 (Sonny Thau)

Graceville State School

Berry, Roy Morley 16 (Dylan Conley and Noah Lynch)
Keid, Edward Alexander 105

Holy Family School

Gregory, George 77 (Year 6)
Homer, Harry Raymond..... 98 (Year 6)
Jones, Oscar Harold..... 101 (Year 6)
Ranken, Dudleigh Chalmers 148 (Year 6)

Indooroopilly State School

Bradley, William John 24 (Abby Adams and Charlie Renton)
Davidson, Eric Russell 46 (Jude Murray)
Elliot, Robert Ventress 55 (Will Morries and Fletcher Hodgson)
Homer, Herbert William 99 (Naina Sharma and Justin Lowe)
McDonald, Stanley Angus 129 (Wojciech Rozanski)
Sinclair, Donald Bruce John 161 (Mitchell Owen)



Indooroopilly State High School

- Bardwell, Harold William McGavin . 12
(Edward Chou, Bianca Nolasco and Homa Heidari)
- Boyle, John James 22
(Santi Chou, Yi-Jen Su and Annabella Mouat)
- McDonald, Stanley Angus 129
(Wojciech Rozanski)
- Webb, Norman Reginald 184
(ISHS students)

Oxley State School

- Mitchell, Robert George 130
(Peta McLeod)
- Price, Richard James 139
(Patrick Bock)
- Webster, Douglas Lennox 188
(Annie and Asal)

Sherwood State School

- Cook, George Frederick 34
(Madeleine and Kyah)
- Douglas, Alfred Lionel..... 50
(Holli and Grace)
- Griffin, William 78
(Morran and Lucy)
- Hall, David 89
(Helia Heidari and Miyuli Weerasekara)
- Jones, Oscar Harold..... 100
(Ellie-Grace Jack and Frances Galafrio)
- Keid, William..... 107
(Alice Donaghey and Haley Harris)
- Radcliffe, Alan Arthur 140
(Kevin Alcock, RSL member)
- Radcliffe, Leslie Caldwell..... 143
(Kevin Alcock, RSL member)
- Raff, Kenneth..... 145
(Juliet and Zoe)
- Ranken, Dudleigh Chalmers..... 147
(Charlotte Boothey and Harper Simons)

St Aidan’s Anglican Girls’ School

- Cannan, Douglas Hermann..... 32
(Aeshlein Ralston and Lilyan Sullivan)
- Lidgard, Jack 118
(Kevin Alcock, RSL member)
- Townson, George Henry..... 181
(Isobel Taylor and Kate Dunne)
- Townson, Stanley Joseph..... 182
(Isobel Taylor and Kate Dunne)
- Wilson, Myrtle Elizabeth 189
(Isobel Taylor and Kate Dunne)

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School

- Bradman, Victor Percy Bennett 25
(Tabitha Holland, Eliza Roy, Daniel Ebzery & Ella Phipps)
- Bourke, William Michael Sylvester . 18
(Lily Ji, Lilly Joliffe, Kate Wells, Sonia Dejonge and Jenna Boxall)
- Dodd, Alfred Searle 49
(5 Green)
- Dunn, William Knox..... 51
(Year 5 Gold)
- Dunsdon, Charles Edward..... 52
(Jessica Bailey, Alesha Pham and Gabby Gakindi)
- Enright, Michael..... 61
(Janesh Shanmagargiah, Brebdan Nguyen, Justin Hall, Gabrielle Gahindi, Sienna Dejonge and Joseph O’Neale)
- Gibbings, Alfred John 75
(Allana Wessling, Ellie Durnford, Tom Carr and Abbey Robinson)
- Hinton, Herbert Gerald 96
(5 Gold)

- Jones, Trevor Warwick 102
(Year 5 Green)
- Keid, Bennet Walter..... 103
(Peter Pattison, RSL member)
- Radcliffe, Leslie Caldwell..... 143
(Piper Chapman, Annabelle Duce, Rory Ebzery and Tara Bui)

St Peter’s Lutheran College

- Burns, Alexander 29
(Carle Poole, Olivia Smith, Anneliese Dean, Ella Riddell, Emilie Chenoweth, Maia Tighe-Watt, Sasha Kuchavo, Marcus Rozenburg, Lachlan Mather, Dominique Gough, Kayla Edwards-Hopper)
- Davidson, Percy 47
(Year 9 SOSE Class)
- Elliot, Robert Ventress 54
(Matt Cujes)
- Elliot, Thomas William 57
(Laura Burnes)
- Gregory, Ernest George 76
(Sophie and Marram Barter)
- Larkin, John 117
(Year 9 SOSE)
- Munro, Keith Ross 132
(Carle Poole, Olivia Smith, Anneliese Dean, Ella Riddell, Emilie Chenoweth and Maia Tigh-Watt)
- Munro, Colin Cameron 131
(Carle Poole, Olivia Smith, Anneliese Dean, Ella Riddell, Emilie Chenoweth and Maia Tigh-Watt)
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Soldiers of the Sherwood Indooroopilly World War One Memorials Memorial Listing

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Gibbings, Alfred John	75
Hagger, Sidney Edwin	87
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Price, Richard James	139
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Rowlands, Thomas Llewelyn.....	158
Sinnamon, Leslie	162
Townson, George Henry.....	181
Townson, Stanley Joseph.....	182
Webster, Alfred	185
Webster, Douglas Lennox	188

Graceville Memorial

Berry, Roy Morley	16
Bradman, Victor Percy Bennett	25
Cannan, Douglas Hermann	32
Cook, George Frederick	34
Cooling, William Henry	35
Cooling, William Henry	37
Cooling, William Henry	42
Dodd, Alfred Searle	49
Douglas, Alfred Lionel.....	50
Dunn, William Knox.....	51
Dunsdon, Charles Edward.....	52
Enright, Michael.....	58
Enright, Michael.....	61
Fielding, John Howard.....	64
Fielding, Robert Alfred.....	68
Foott, Arthur Patrick.....	72
Griffin, William	78
Guthrie, John Marsland	79

Guthrie, John Marsland	83
Hall, David	89
Hinton, Herbert Gerald	96
Hodge, Harold Frederick	97
Jones, Oscar Harold.....	100
Jones, Oscar Harold.....	101
Jones, Trevor Warwick	102
Keid, Bennet Walter.....	103
Keid, Edward Alexander	105
Keid, William.....	107
Keid, William.....	109
Kerwin, Walter Edward	113
Lahey, Noel Alaric.....	116
Lidgard, Jack	118
Lyell, John	121
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Ranken, Dudleigh Chalmers.....	148
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Sowden, Ronald Alexander	164
Steele, Robert Stewart	165
Strong, Herbert James	168
Sullivan, George	173
Sutton, Charles Arthur	174
Tolley, Thomas Henry	180
Wilson, Myrtle Elizabeth	189

Keating Park, Indooroopilly, Memorial

Bakey, John Frederick	10
Bardwell, Harold William McGavin .	12
Boyle, John James	22

Bradley, William John	24
Brydon, Kenneth.....	27
Burns, Alexander	29
Coupland, Charles George.....	45
Davidson, Eric Russell	46
Davidson, Percy	47
Elliot, Robert Ventress	54
Elliot, Robert Ventress	55
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Gregory, George	77
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School contributions



John Frederick Bakey

Researched by:
Lachlan Tonkin, Ambrose Treacy College,
Year 7, 2014

John Frederick Bakey woke up on the 7th of August 1916, with the familiar feeling of angst. Little did he know this would be his last day on Earth. Many young men went to fight for their country all over the world in WWI. Being 35 when he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), he certainly wasn't one of the youngest. When he enlisted on the 17th of August 1915, John Frederick Bakey knew his life was at risk.

John Frederick Bakey was born on the 21st of January 1880. He was a local boy, growing up on Waverley Road, Taringa. Bakey was the youngest of six brothers and sisters: Mary, Patrick, Stephen, Teresa, James and Edward. Bakey's mother was named Annie (nee Bourke) and his father was Stephen Bakey. He grew up to be a plumber and wedded Mary Alexandra Macdonald. Their happiness together was short lived. Bakey's wife Mary died in 1903, perhaps during child birth, as the couple's only child, Mary Jean Bakey, was born in the same month of Mary's death in 1903. It is easy to imagine how difficult it would have been for Bakey to have lost his young wife and become a single parent. Bakey

enlisted in the AIF on the 17th of August 1915 at the age of 35 years and 8 months. Bakey was given the rank of Private and the service number 3694. Bakey was quite small at 59 kg and 5 ft. 4 ½ inches. He joined the 15th Battalion, 12th Reinforcement. John Frederick Bakey embarked on his journey upon the H.M.A.T. Suffolk on the 23rd of August 1915. He arrived at Tel-el-kebir in Egypt where he trained with his battalion. On the 7th of March 1916 he was transferred to the 47th Battalion AIF. The 47th Battalion was raised in Egypt on the 24th of February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF.

Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 15th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia, just like John Frederick Bakey. Reflecting the composition of the 15th, the new battalion was comprised mostly of men recruited in Queensland and Tasmania. The new battalion was incorporated into the 12th Brigade of the Australian Division. Towards the end of March 1916, not long after being *taken on strength* to the 47th Battalion, Bakey contracted meningitis and was transported to the



No.2 Australian Stationary Hospital. On the 2nd of April he was discharged from hospital back to duty. Exactly two months later in June, Bakey joined the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) in Alexandria and seven days later he disembarked in Marseilles, France.

Arriving in France on the 9th of June 1916, the 47th Battalion entered the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on the 3rd of July where it participated in its first major battle at Pozières. It is believed Bakey was a part of this battle. Initially, the battalion provided working parties during the 2nd Division's attack on the 4th August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 47th endured two stints in the heavily-contested trenches of Pozières, as well as a period in reserve.

Bakey was listed Missing in Action on the 7th of August 1916 until it was later discovered that he was killed in action.



M. Aug 7th 1916.

Bakey - name Fred I think - and Forbes - name Peter - were in my platoon XI. On Aug 7th my platoon and another went up in the early morning to reinforce the 48th to the left of the Windmill at Pozieres. We came out late in the afternoon when the 48th was relieved, and it was when we were coming out that Bakey and Forbes volunteered to carry out a wounded man. They went along the trench to get a stretcher, and nothing more was seen of them. There were shells going, and they might have been buried. I think we were relieved by two of our own companies.

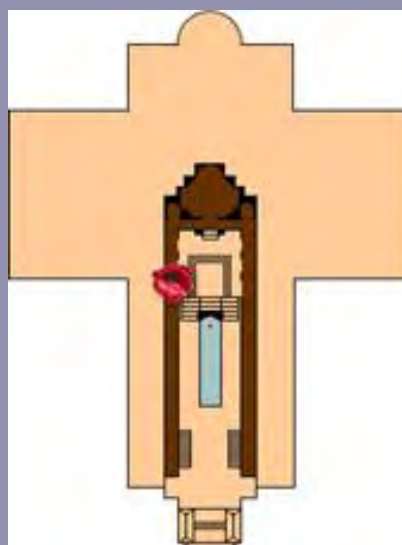
Inf: Sgt. A. Waldock. 4611. C.XI.
Ho. 14 General.
BOULOGNE. 8.6.17.

JT
WFF 2/6

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**Inf: Sgt. A. Waldock. 4611. C.XI.
Ho. 14 General.
BOULOGNE. 8.6.17.**

Nearly one year after Bakey enlisted in the AIF his time on Earth was up. This brave soldier died in France while taking part in the battle of Pozieres. Bakey is buried in Department de la Somme, Picardie, France. During his time of service Bakey was awarded three medals: British Star medal, British War medal, and the Victory medal. John Frederick Bakey is remembered on panel 146 in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial.



For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Harold William McGavin Bardwell

4th squadron/ 41st Australian Infantry Battalion
Written by Edward Chou, Bianca Nolasco and
Homa Heidari, Indooroopilly State High School

The obelisk built at Keating Park, Indooroopilly, is a monument to commemorate the utmost sacrifice made by our 'Fallen Heroes' who fought in World War One and died as a result. **Private Harold William McGavin Bardwell** – born in Brisbane, Queensland at Wilson Street, Taringa on the 11th of March 1900 – is amongst these honoured soldiers.



Bardwell, like many others, enlisted in the army when he was still underaged at 16 years and three months old, meaning that he was one year and nine months younger than the required age for a military enlistment. He was the son of Fredrick James Bardwell and Elizabeth Cluff Chep Bardwell.

As he was only 16 when he enlisted into the army, Harold William Bardwell was single. His original occupation before becoming a participant of war was a draper's assistant; a draper was a term of a retailer or a wholesaler of cloth, mainly fabrics. His first and final rank was private.

Harold William Bardwell's place of association (a group of people who share a common purpose or interest) was Wilson Street, Taringa, Brisbane, Australia. His approximate height was five feet six inches (around 167.64 centimetres or 1.6764 metres) and his weight was estimated to be around 232 pounds (105.233 kilograms). His chest measurement was said to be 234.34 inches. His recalled appearance was his dark complexion and he was brown-eyed. His other physical features remained unknown. Harold William Bardwell's religion was Christianity because he was baptised at a young age.

Apart from his mother and father, his family consisted of his older sister Muriel Edith May Bardwell, younger sister Daisy Nellie Bardwell and younger brother Walter



Memorial at Keating Park, Indooroopilly

Howard Bardwell. He was known to have an indirect kin called Richard Lord, who married his oldest sister and became his brother-in-law. Harold Williams McGavin Bardwell's grandfather William Henry Bardwell and great grandparents William Bardwell and Mary Impey immigrated to Australia from London, England, on the 10th of April 1849, arriving at Port Philip Bay.

His father was a commercial traveller who was born on the 8th of August 1869. He married Bardwell's mother at the age of 28 and he passed away on the 18th of December 1957, aged 88. Bardwell's mother was born on the 20th of December 1876 in Queensland, Australia. She married Fredrick James Bardwell at the age of 21 and died in 1912. Harold Bardwell's older sister was born on the 23rd of February 1898. She married in 1944 at an age of 46 and died on the 21st of January 1980 at the age of 81.

His younger sister was born on the 3rd of November 1901 and



passed away in August of 1998 at an age of 81. Harold William Bardwell also had several relatives such as his paternal aunties, paternal uncles and paternal cousins. The definition of paternal is 'of a father', meaning they are relatives from his father's side. On the other hand, the definition of maternal is 'of a mother', hence they are relatives from his mother's side.

His paternal grandfather's name was William Henry Bardwell who was a tailor born in 1836 and who died in 1922. His paternal grandmother was Harriet Drummond who was born in 1843 and died in 1871. His paternal great grandfather was named William Bardwell. He was also a tailor who lived from 1810 to 1902. His paternal great-grandmother was Mary Impey, who was born in London and lived from 1810 to 1912.

His maternal grandfather was Matthew James Reid McGavin, who was born in Scotland in 1846 and died in 1922 at an age of 76. His maternal grandmother was Helen McLaren who was Australian-born and lived from 1850 to 1931. His oldest auntie, Anne Bardwell, who was born in Victoria in 1861 and died in 1888 at a relatively young age of 27. His cousin was George Bardwell, who was born in Victoria, and suffered a premature death when he was one year old. His second oldest aunt was Mary Bardwell who died prematurely at the age of three.

His youngest auntie was Elizabeth Bardwell who was born in Victoria and lived from 1867 to 1869. His oldest uncle, William Robert Bardwell, was also a Victoria-born baby who died prematurely at the age of four. His youngest uncle was Robert Henry Bardwell; he

lived from 1871 to 1946, when he died aged 75.

Harold William Bardwell enlisted on the 26th of June 1916 at present day Brookside Shopping Centre and Mt. Maria College, which were previously the Bell's Paddock Camp of the Army Training Camp at Enoggera. Enoggera is a north-western suburb located six kilometres from the Brisbane CBD. Bardwell received a primary education at Leichhardt Street State School and served in Senior Cadets Area 5A, which was a component of the Universal Service Scheme from 1911 to 1929, introduced by Prime Minister Alfred Deakin. This was a compulsory military training, enforced as a legislation to train boys aged 14 to 18 under the Senior Cadets where Bardwell once served. With a service number of 2275, he was later assigned by the military officer to participate as member of the Army Force (Australian Imperial Force) under the 4th Squadron of the 41st Australian Infantry Battalion, which formed the 11th Brigade of the Australian 3rd Division.

The battalion's insignia is a black-over-blue elliptical shape, designed for easier recognition amongst the Allied forces. After receiving fundamental combat training in Australia, Bardwell embarked on H.M.A.T Boonah A36 on the 21st of October 1916. Arriving at Plymouth, Devonshire, England on the 10th of January 1917, the battalion – including Bardwell – was



Battle of Messines 7th June 1917



H.M.A.T. A36 Boonah

transported via Folkestone, Kent Shire, Southeast England on the 3rd of May 1917 to Le Havre in France where it launched its first offensive at the Battle of Messines in Belgium. Its further military training after withdrawal from this battle had foreseen the battalion to engage in the Battle of Broodseinde and Passchedaele on the 4th and 12th of October 1917.

Further, at the start of August, the battalion suffered from what is now called the darkest moment of the "Eighteen Days" at the frontline of Warneton, northern France.

41st Australian Infantry Battalion

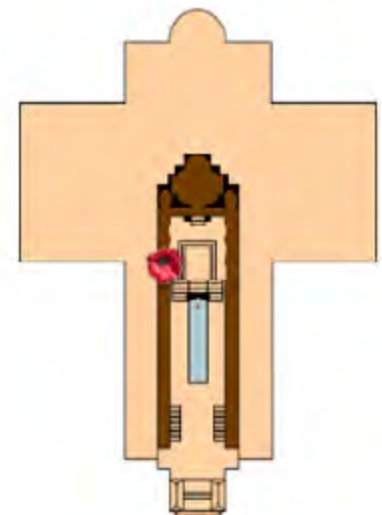


41st Battalion insignia

Joining the defence of the railway key of Amiens from the German Spring Offensive in March 1918, the battalion was resting in France beforehand. The assailment of the Hindenburg Line along the St Quentin Canal from the 28th of September to the 2nd of October 1918 ended the unit's fighting history as the battalion was rotated to a rest when the Armistice was signed on the 11th of November 1918. The unit was dismissed in May 1919. The Battle of Messines at Belgium was where Bardwell died in the No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station in the field on the 7th of June 1917, the first day of the Messines Battle, aged 17. The multiple critical gunshot wounds that he previously received in action on the 5th of June 2017 killed him two days later.

Harold William Bardwell received a total of three medals throughout his life, including a 1914/1915 Star

Medal, British War Medal No. 50283 and Victory Medal No. 9726. After his death, he was commemorated by the Australian War Memorial on the Roll of Honour. The 1914/1915 Star Medal is granted from the British Empire and awarded to officers and men of British and Imperial Forces who served in any theatre of the First World War against the Triple Alliance. British War Medal No. 50283 is a campaign medal of the United Kingdom awarded to officers and soldiers of British and Imperial Forces who served in World War One. The Victory medals were awarded to all who served in the armed forces during the First World War, citizens who worked in military-related services and also civilians who served in military hospitals. Lastly the Roll of Honour records and commemorates members of the Australian army who had died during or as a result of war service.



Location of Harold William Bardwell's memorial in the Australian War Memorial shown by the red poppy



From left to right: 1914/1915 Star Medal; British War Medal; Victory Medal

Harold William Bardwell died on the battlefield when he was only 17 years and three months old, so it was certain no will was drafted and left at the time of his death. He was buried at Trois Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck, Nord, Lille prefecture, France. The location of his burial was at

Plot 1, Row N, Grave 15. Harold William Bardwell's name is also featured at panel 133 of the Australian War Memorial's Commemorative Area, shown by the image below with a poppy pinpointing the exact location of his memorial.

Private Harold William Bardwell's ultimate contribution to the ending of World War One is a priceless asset left behind by this intrepid, laudable Australian soldier in which we must cherish as we continue to make world peace prevail. Lest we forget.

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 Roll of Honour (Australian War Memorial): <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/honour-rolls/roll-of-honour>
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 War Diaries: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1201945>
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 Digitized Newspapers: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Roy Morley Berry

Researched by: Dylan Conley and Noah Lynch, Graceville State School, Year 6, 2015

Service Number unknown
2nd Lieutenant R.M. Berry

25th Australian Infantry
Battalion

Roy Morley Berry's name appears on the Graceville War Memorial which was originally erected to commemorate the servicemen and servicewomen of the Sherwood Shire who served in World War One. It is located in Memorial Park on Oxley Road in Graceville.

Roy Morley Berry was the son of William Kinhead and Annie Marie Berry, however there is no record of a birth certificate, so therefore there is no definite date of birth. There is a record of an older sister, Miss Ivy Iris Berry. And apparently Roy was one of three sons (according to the local newspaper). The family lived in a house named 'Cooroora' on Berry Street in Sherwood.

Roy attended Sherwood State School, which was established in 1867 and is one of the oldest schools in the state. He was part of the Anglican Church parish at Sherwood.

Roy Morley Berry enlisted with the army for war service in Brisbane on the 9th of October 1915. He was assigned to the 25th infantry battalion as the 15th Reinforcement within the Australian Imperial

Force. He enlisted and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. Roy was 28 years and 7 months old when he joined. His task within the army as a 2nd Lieutenant would be to lead – as any upper management or executive would in civilian life. His current occupation at the time was stated as being a clerk, and there is evidence to suggest he worked within the Queensland Railways.

During the Great War, Australia was divided into military districts for the purpose of recruiting soldiers and administration. Each military district was given a number from 1 to 6. The battalions were established within these six military districts, so the members of a battalion came from a particular state in Australia. In the case of Lieutenant Berry, he was in the 1st division, 25th infantry battalion, which was set up at Enoggera in Queensland in March 1915 as part of the 7th Brigade. This infantry battalion was sent as the 15th Reinforcement to aid the Australians and New Zealanders who were in short supply.

Roy left Brisbane on the 7th of September 1916 upon the ship HMAT Clan McGillivray

A46. This ship had been leased to the Commonwealth from a company in Glasgow. It was converted in Sydney from a passenger ship that sailed between Britain and Bombay, to a transportation ship to carry troops and medical officers.

2nd Lieutenant Berry served for the Imperial Force at Le Sars, near Bapaume on the Somme Front. In this role Berry would have been responsible for a platoon of around 30 soldiers. There is some conflict in Roy Berry's eventual rank. It is possible he was promoted during his service in the war as his rank is different on certain documents. All Australian War Memorial records including the roll of honour, state Berry had the rank of Lieutenant however, on the Graceville Memorial stone it shows Berry as 2nd Lieutenant.

According to personal witness accounts, Roy was a 'very fine officer' and 'much liked.' They described him as 'a tall dark man' who was 'always clean shaven.' These witness accounts given by fellow soldiers in Berry's battalion, also describe Roy's final movements. It seems Roy was performing trench duty in the afternoon when he was killed. A shell burst on top of the parapet and caused horrific head injuries. Lieutenant Berry was killed almost instantly. It was the 7th of February 1917; he was 29 years old.

Berry was buried there at the Le Sars village, near Warlencourt and a little wooden cross with his name was



placed upon it. His body was later moved and buried at the Adanac Military Cemetery in Miraumont, Peronne, in the Picardie region of France.

Sadly, there was a personal notice in the Brisbane Courier newspaper not long after on Thursday the 1st of March 1917 to inform everyone from his local area that Lieutenant Berry had been killed in action in France.

It was also not uncommon for many families who had lost a son in the war to arrange for a memorial tablet to be placed on the family gravesite. This is the case for Roy Berry. There is an engraving on a headstone in the Anglican Cemetery at Sherwood. The headstone identifies a burial plot for Norman Berry, who died at age 19. According to the death notices in 'The Queenslander' on Saturday the 29th of August 1908 Norman died at his family home and acknowledged him as the third son of Mr and Mrs W.K. Berry. So it is assumed

that he is the younger brother of Roy Berry.

Lieutenant Berry received two medals for his service. They were the British War Medal and a Victory Medal.

The British War Medal was awarded to those soldiers who were required to leave their native shore (that is Australia) while on service. The medal is silver and circular. A shortened bust of King George V is on the front, while there is a depiction of Saint George on the reverse. There is a straight clasp carrying a silk ribbon. This has a central band of golden yellow with three stripes of white, black and blue on both sides. The blue stripes come at the edges. Lieutenant Berry's regiment and number was inscribed around the rim.

The Victory Medal was awarded to all those who entered a place of war between the 5th of August 1914 and the 11th of November 1918. It was to commemorate the victory of

the Allied Forces. Each of the Allied Nations issued a 'Victory Medal' to their own nationals – Australians were awarded the medal issued by Great Britain.

The medal is bronze, with a winged figure of Victory on the front. The reverse has the words 'The Great War for Civilisation', all surrounded by a laurel wreath. The ribbon has a 'two rainbow' design, with the violet from each rainbow on the outside edges moving through to a central red stripe where both rainbows meet.

There is a wallet belonging to Lieutenant Berry and also some personal letters he wrote to his mother, stored in a special collection at the Australian War Memorial that can be viewed by the public if they choose to do so.

Roy Morley Berry's name is also located at panel 103 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1916.

TITANIC STRUGGLE

GERMANS ATTEMPT TO BREAK THROUGH.

CONCENTRATION AGAINST THE BRITISH.

TRAILBLAZING OF GERMAN VOYAGES.

USE OF APPETIZING BAKES.

FRENCH RECOVER LOST GROUND.

BRAVILLANT RECOVERY BY CANADIANS.

RUSSIAN SUCCESS REPORTED.

DECISIVE ATTACK ON THE DANUBIEN.

TURKEY TAKES OF PEACE.

GERMAN FLEET IN THE NORTH SEA.

PIRATED BARK MORE STEADY.

WILLIAM MICHAEL SYLVESTER BOURKE

On the July 26, 1896, British parents William Michael and Helena Bridget Bourke gave birth to a baby boy who would one day become a very brave and courageous soldier named William Michael Sylvester Bourke. William was born in New South Wales, Australia near Richmond River. Billy, as he was known, grew up near Richmond River, which at the time in the late 1800s and very early 1900s was a farming community. This was where Billy spent the first part of his life.



A few years later in 1910, at the age of 14, young William and his family moved to Queensland. The Bourke's became residents of the Oxley area, which in the early 1900s was a farming community with some factories. His parents enrolled him at the only local school in the area, which is now known as Oxley State School. Not much is known about William's adolescent years, except that he was a Labourer, until he ran away at the beginning of World War I; he was only 19 years old.

THE BOMB PROBLEM.
BRITISH SUBMARINE ACTIVITY.
STARRING BIRMINGHAM EXHIBITION.
William Michael Sylvester Bourke



William Michael Sylvester Bourke (Australian War Memorial)

REVISED PROCEEDINGS.
GERMANS USE POISONOUS BAKES.
SUCCESS AT YPRES AND STEEN STRAAT.
LONDON, Friday.
The German navy has been ordered to remain in the North Sea...

GERMAN CASUALTIES.
TURKEY

THE BOMB PROBLEM.
MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S PROPOSALS.
BRITISH SUBMARINE ACTIVITY.
STARRING BIRMINGHAM EXHIBITION.

FIGURE OF THE PARLAY.
THE BRITISH ACTOR UPHELD.

THE VICTIMIAN LEAD.

THE BRITISH ACTOR UPHELD.



THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1916.

OUR TROOPS.

GERMAN WARFARE.

STEAMER WRECKED.

It's not clear if Billy ran away from home to fight for his country; however he did enlist in the Army on the January 3, 1916, in Brisbane, when he was only 19 and 5 months. He became part of the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) as part of the 52nd Infantry Battalion. Like many of the inexperienced, young men who he enlisted alongside, he was ranked as a Private and his service number was 24. Having enlisted in Brisbane, it is not understood why William's Battalion embarked on the HMAT Beltana A72 in Sydney on the May 13, 1916, where he lived and enlisted in Brisbane.

Beltana, A72 Troopship



The Battle of Lagnicourt, France, 1917



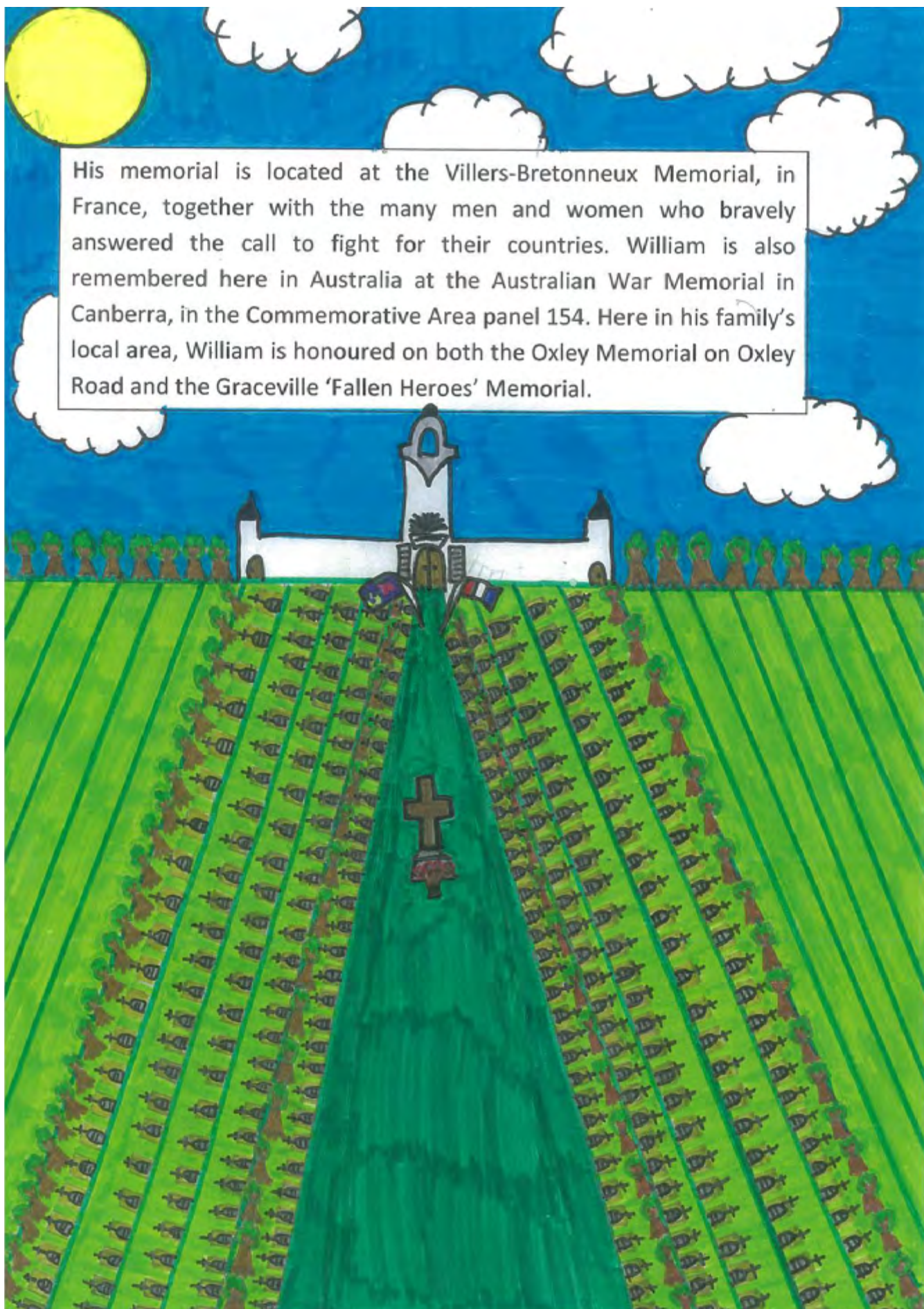
William Michael Sylvester Bourke, along with the rest of his Battalion and thousands of other soldiers was sent to France. It was there that he survived just beyond his 20th birthday.

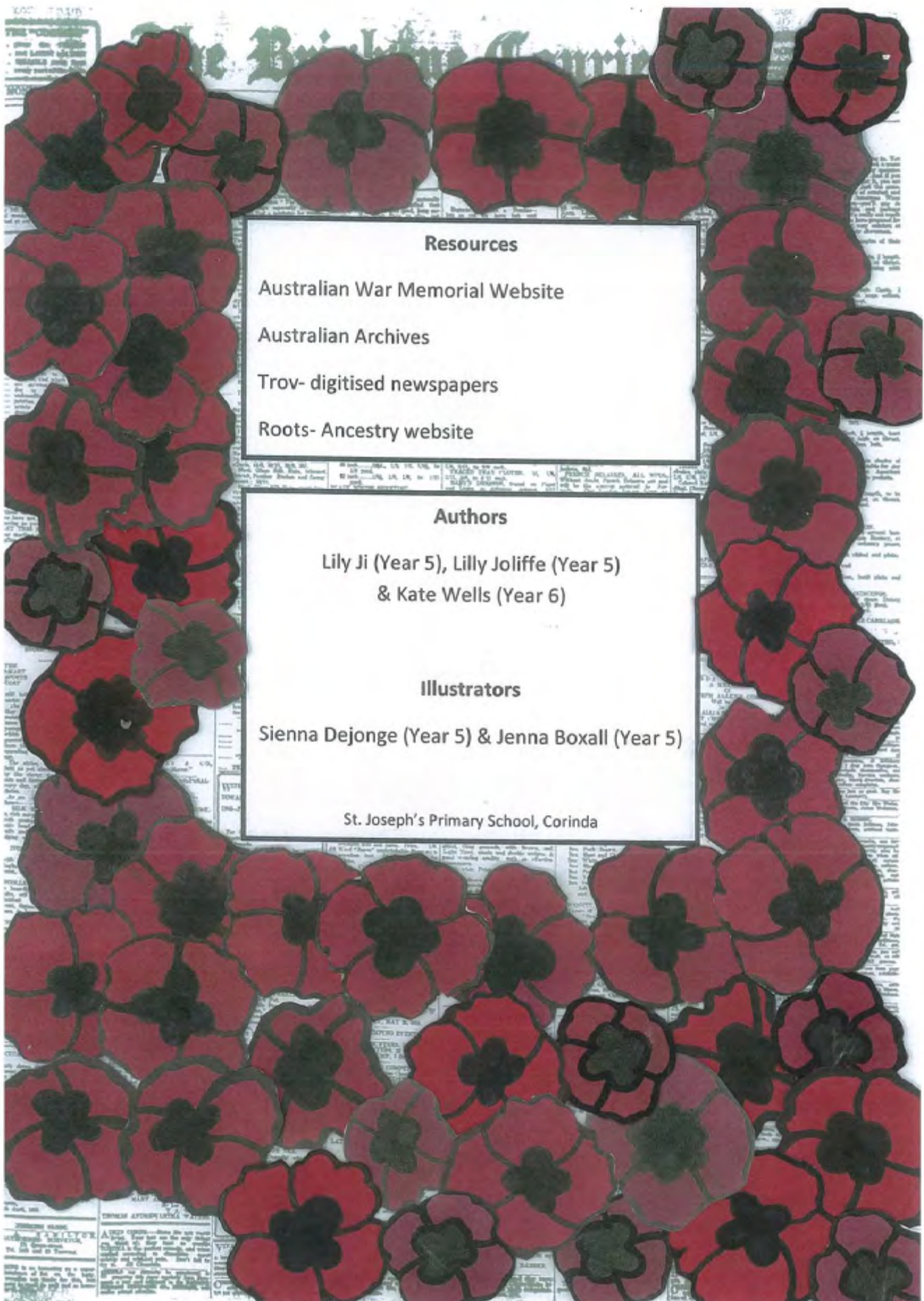
It was early March in France when the soldiers of 52nd battalion experienced unusually late snow for that time of the year in 1917. The battle of Lagnicourt had been raging on for a few weeks. It was in the battle of Lagnicourt that William lost his life; he was killed in action on March 28, 1917.





His memorial is located at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, in France, together with the many men and women who bravely answered the call to fight for their countries. William is also remembered here in Australia at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, in the Commemorative Area panel 154. Here in his family's local area, William is honoured on both the Oxley Memorial on Oxley Road and the Graceville 'Fallen Heroes' Memorial.





Resources

Australian War Memorial Website
Australian Archives
Trov- digitised newspapers
Roots- Ancestry website

Authors

Lily Ji (Year 5), Lilly Joliffe (Year 5)
& Kate Wells (Year 6)

Illustrators

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St. Joseph's Primary School, Corinda



John James Boyle

2nd Light Horse Regiment

Researched by Santi Chou, Yi-Jen Su and

Annabella Mouat,

Indooroopilly State High School, Year 9, 2018

John James Boyle enlisted to serve in WWI on the 9th of February 1915. He was born in 1893 and was a resident of Indooroopilly with his siblings and parents. He spent some time in the army, but he didn't survive the war. In World War One, more than 10 million soldiers died. Some soldiers were buried in their home country but, unfortunately, John was not one of them who would be repatriated to his country.

John was born in Bowen Hills, Brisbane, Queensland, to his father, Francis Boyle, and mother, Catherine O'Laughlin. He had seven siblings, however, two of his brothers (Isaac and William) died before he was born. Five more siblings were born after John, totalling three sisters and 10

brothers. John lived on Moggill Road, Indooroopilly.

As a child, he attended St James State School. He joined the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, which was created in September of 1914. This regiment had moved overseas during the war and fought against the forces of the Ottoman Empire in Egypt, Palestine and Jordan. John served here for nearly two years. His next of kin was his mother, Catherine, who still lived back on Moggill Road.

World War One started on the 28th of July 1914 after the

assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. This assassination led to Austria-Hungary declaring war on Serbia and this war began to expand to all those involved in the mutual defence alliances. John joined the war and his service number for the army was 1083 and his rank was Trooper which lasted for almost two years on the battlefield.

He embarked on HMAT Shropshire A9 and joined the combat in Egypt, the Sinai and Palestine Campaign which is part of the Middle Eastern theatre of World War One. The 2nd Light Horse Regiment sailed from Brisbane on the 25th of September and finally disembarked in Egypt on the 9th of December. All the Australian soldiers had been trained before the actual combat, which included Boyle. However, the training didn't decrease the death of soldiers on the battlefield. During World War One. About 15,600 Australian soldiers survived the war, however, John was not one of them who would be this fortunate. By the 12th of January 1917, he had died on the battlefield due to a serious wound. He was only 23 (almost 24) years old when he died. After his death, he was buried in Kantara War Memorial Cemetery in Egypt.

Although he didn't gain any medals for his contribution to the war, we still thank him for his service and ultimate sacrifice which has enabled future generations to live in peace and relative harmony.



(Editor's note. Two slightly differing service papers for John Boyle)



On the 11th of November 1918, World War One ended, one year after Trooper John James Boyle's ultimate sacrifice during the conflict. The Allies had won the war, which meant Trooper John James Boyle's sacrifice in World War One wasn't in vain. Although he lived for only 23 years, he had an extraordinary life compared to other people his age.

He will always be remembered in our heart and we appreciate his contribution to the nation. We use ANZAC Day to show our appreciation to the soldiers that paid the ultimate sacrifice in order for future generations to live in peace and prosperity.

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<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/332624>
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1671990>



For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.

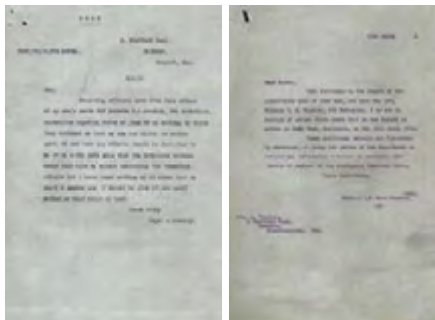


William John Bradley

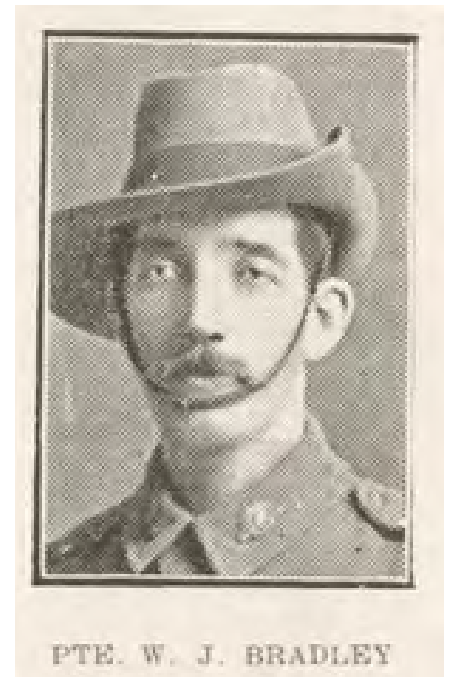
Researched by:
Abbey Adams and Charlie Renton,
Indooroopilly State School, Year 6, 2017

Private William John Bradley was reported missing on the 2nd of May 1915. His body was later found, and it was announced that he was killed in action on the 25th April 1915 when he was aged 31. He was killed in Gallipoli, Gaba Tepe, North Western Turkey, during the First World War. He was buried in Vincy, Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli.

William John Bradley's mother, Mrs Alice Bradley, received a letter informing her of her son's death. She was told that she would receive more information, however, three months later Mrs Bradley had still not received any more information on her son's death. On the 18th of April Mrs Bradley sent a letter back saying that she had received the letter and that his effects should be forwarded to her as soon as possible and that the Melbourne Defence would deal with her direct concerning his financial affairs, but she had heard nothing since.



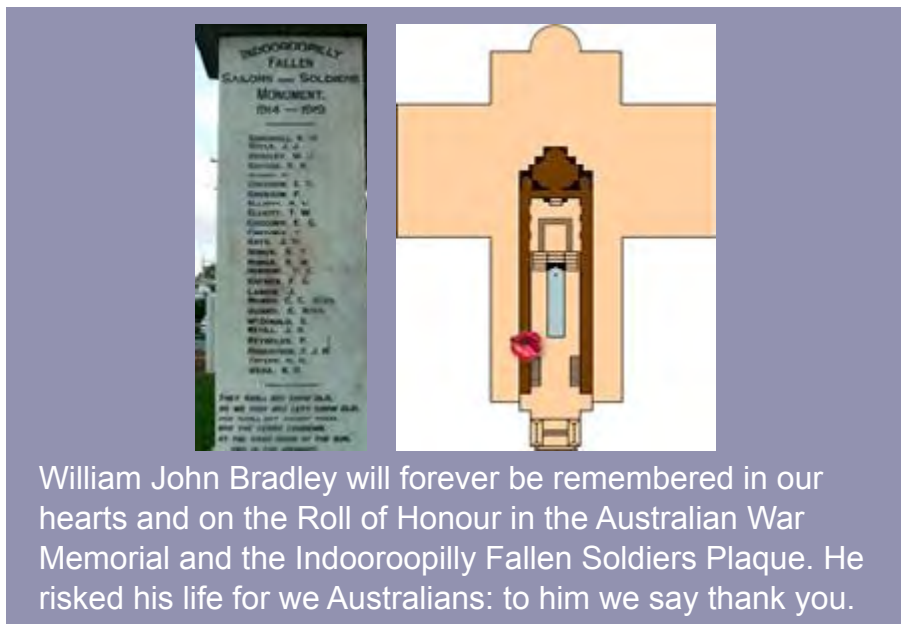
William John Bradley was born on the 9th December 1884 in Ludlow, Shropshire, England. He was raised by his mother Alice Bradley. William John Bradley attended Eveswell Primary School, Newport, England. Bradley grew up to be a brick maker. At the age of 29 he moved to Australia. He was single at the age of 30 when he decided to register for the 9th Australian Infantry Battalion on the 25th of August 1914.



Sources

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For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



William John Bradley will forever be remembered in our hearts and on the Roll of Honour in the Australian War Memorial and the Indooroopilly Fallen Soldiers Plaque. He risked his life for we Australians: to him we say thank you.



Victor Percy Bennett Bradman Service Number 5349

Researched by:

Authors: Tabitha Holland & Eliza Roy -

Year 5, St Joseph's School, Corinda

Illustrators: Daniel Ebzery & Ella Phipps -

Year 5, St Joseph's School, Corinda

Information gathered from The Australian War Memorial website & The National Archives

Born in October 1885 in the city of London, **Victor Percy Bradman** was born to become a soldier. Like many other young men, Victor travelled to Australia to live, where he took one of the few jobs a young man could get, work as a painter. He lived a peaceful life until the beginning of WWI, when he enlisted in the Imperial Forces on the 31st of January 1916 at the age of 30 years & 4 months. At the time of enlistment, he was assigned to the 12th Infantry Battalion Reinforcements where he was positioned from January to December of that year.



Not long after his enlistment, he was sent to Europe on the SS Hawkes Bay, to join the other young, courageous soldiers who sought adventure and felt the need to fight for their country and, unfortunately, their lives. The boat trip was long and harsh, but Victor managed to fight through all the hardship of training and travel.

Victor's early career in the Army, before deployment, was not exemplary, with several records showing a lack of commitment to the routine of the Army. On the 15th of July 1916 he was absent from 0950 and 1400 parades. For his absence he was harshly punished with seven days confinement to quarters. Some days later, on the 22nd of July 1916, Victor was again, absent from four different parades and was sentenced to detention for 168 hrs. At the end of the month, he was absent without leave from the 0900 parade, and was again harshly punished with eight days detention.

As with all conflicts, WWI was filled with despair and sadness,



with the loss of many brave and courageous young men who willingly fought many battles to protect us today. However, although serving in the Imperial Forces at the time of his death, Victor Percy Bradman did not die in battle or of war wounds. On the 4th of September 1916, when positioned in Belgium, Victor was again sentenced to detention for unknown reasons. He was confined and guarded in the hut of the 8th Company's Orderly Room due to shortage of accommodation in the field. While in detention, Private Sorarn was ordered to watch Victor. War records show that Private Sorarn remembers, 'suddenly seeing a flash as if





School student contributions

lightning had struck the hut. I immediately lit the candle and saw Bradman (Victor) lying on his back with a rifle lying partially on his body'. How the rifle made it into the hut is still a mystery today. However, it was confirmed through witness accounts that Victor took his own life. The rifle that lay with

Victor was found to be the rifle of Private Crisp.

To this day, Private Victor Percy Bennett Bradnam's body lies peacefully in the corner of a field near Busseboom in Belgium, not far from where he took his life on the 4th of December 1916. His father, Thomas Bradman was left with

small memories of his son in the form of his wallet, clasp knife, fork and knife, six coins and a ring. Although Victor's service was short and, at times, troublesome, he willingly served his country and is honoured at the Australian War Memorial on the exterior wall of the Hall of Memory.

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Kenneth Brydon

Researched by:
Rachelle Garton - Librarian,
Ambrose Treacy College, 2014

When local boy **Kenneth Brydon** was awarded his Bachelor of Engineering Degree in May 1916, it would be safe to assume he didn't imagine that most of his work would be on the WWI battlefields in Europe.

Kenneth Mackenzie Brydon was born in South Brisbane on the 29th of January 1893 to John and Marianne Brydon. He was the second youngest of six children including Catherine, Lizzie, John, Jean and Leonard. Tragically, Kenneth's brother John died the year after he was born. Another tragedy to befall the Brydon family was the death of their father in 1895, when Kenneth was just two years old.

With five children to support, Marianne Brydon returned to her trade of teaching. Prior to marrying she was a form mistress at Brisbane Girls' Grammar School in 1883 and after the death of her husband opened the South Brisbane High School and kindergarten, a private school for girls. In October 1903 she was appointed secretary and teacher of mathematics and science at South Brisbane Technical College and within three years she was promoted to principal. Marianne Brydon

influenced many developments in domestic science education in her time, which is impressive seeing as she was also a single parent to five young children.

Perhaps as a result of his mother's upbringing and passion for education, Brydon also received a good education. He matriculated from Brisbane Grammar School in 1912 and was awarded a Bachelor of Engineering degree on the 10th of May 1916. His name can be found today on the University of Queensland Roll of Honour, 1914-1919 - Pro Patria Ceciderunt, in the entrance foyer of the J.D. Story Building at the University of Queensland. Brydon lived locally at "Tighnabraich" on Clarence Road, Indooroopilly, most probably as a boarder.



On the 25th of July 1915, whilst still completing his bachelor's degree, Brydon enlisted in

the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), however he did not embark for active service until the 30th of September 1916. He departed from Sydney on HMAT A60 Aeneas and arrived at Plymouth on the 19th of November 1916. From November 1916 until March 1917, Brydon appears to have spent time in the English towns of Brightlingsea and Tidworth, and the village Perham Downs. Most likely Brydon was completing training in these places.

On the 26th of April, after having some leave in March, Brydon proceeded to France. On the 27th of April he joined the Australian General Base Depot at Etaples. As men were arriving in France they proceeded to base depots and then to their units. They were usually subjected to further tests despite having left England as fully trained. These tests comprised of at least 10 days additional training. On the 11th of May 1917, Brydon finally marched out to the 5th Division Engineers headquarters and on the 16th of May, joined the 5th Division Engineers and was posted to the 14th Field Company Australian Engineers.

In World War One, engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds -



School student contributions

including showers and bathing facilities and other material and mechanical solutions to problems associated with fighting in all theatres. During May 1917, it appears the 14th Field Co Australian Engineers were constructing 213 yards of eight foot interval single apron fence. As well as continuing this work, in late May they also worked on strengthening existing wire, erecting picket fences, digging a deep dug out, cleaning out a well and erecting a wind sail to ventilate the well. Occasionally work had to cease due to shell fire. In June, stationed near Fremicourt, they continued the Corps' second line of defence. At times their training and work only took up about four hours each day so the men took to sports such as football and cricket, competing against the different units. The 5th Divisional Engineers arranged and carried out a sports program with the unit scoring the highest number of points, winning the silver challenge cup.

In the middle of June the company was billeted in Millencourt. Due to the heat there was no serious training between the hours of 11am and 5pm. Two bridges were made, assembled, marked and dismantled and ready for transportation. On the 20th of June they left Millencourt and marched to Corbie and were billeted in the town. On the 3rd of July the 5th Divisional Engineers held

an aquatics carnival which included representatives from the 8th, 14th and 15th field companies. During this time, it appears illness was rife and a number of men were evacuated to and from hospital at different times. On the 8th July, Brydon was promoted from Second Lieutenant to Lieutenant.

They arrived at Contay on the 28th of July and left again on the 30th for Ebblinghem, arriving on the 31st of July. Brydon traveled to Blaringhem to attend a lecture given by chemical experts on a new German gas shell. Over the next few months it seems Brydon's company worked on constructing temporary divisional baths - capable of bathing 1,000 men daily as well as permanent baths, 50 aiming rods and one tripod frame, repaired gateways and windows and erected barbed wire fence around baths.

In the middle of September, they marched from Ebblinghem, via Hazebrouck, to the Steenvoorde area. Here it appears they were building dugout and battery positions and were much closer to the action. On the 22nd of September Brydon went on furlough to the United Kingdom and returned to his division on the 4th of October. One wonders if he had any sense of the fate awaiting him later that month.

On the 9th of October Brydon's company arrived at Ypres, Belgium. The next day they were busy laying duckboards and splinter proof dugouts for infantry on the reverse slopes of Westhoek Ridge. Brydon was hit by a shell and killed at 4pm that afternoon. He was only 24 years of age. Kenneth Mackenzie Brydon was buried in the Hooze Crater Cemetery (Plot I, Row H, Grave number 7), two miles due east of Ypres.

Kenneth Brydon's contribution to this war is not forgotten. He received the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Kenneth's name is located at Panel 23 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.



For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Alexander Burns

Researched and Compiled by:
 Carle Poole, Olivia Smith, Anneliese Dean,
 Ella Riddell, Emilie Chenoweth,
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 Marcus Rozenburg, Lachlan Mather,
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 St Peters Lutheran College, 2017



**47th Battalion A.I.F / 59th
 Squadron R.A.F**
11th February 1893 -
26th April 1917

‘I cannot write how it grieved me that one like Alec so young, and with such a career before him could be cut off in this life so shortly.’

Jamie Burns, Alexander’s brother in a letter to their mother Helen Burns

Early Life

Alexander Burns (Service Number 5237) was born in Rosewood, Queensland on the 11th of February 1893. He was the fifth child born to Scottish immigrants Helen and James Kerr Burns. Having been employed by the Caledonian Railways in his native Scotland, James Burns was quickly engaged by the Queensland Railways. He was rapidly promoted from clerk to stationmaster, serving at Albion and Rosewood, ultimately becoming chief traffic inspector based at Roma Street Railway



Alexander Burns James Burns

Headquarters. James was also Chairman of the Railway Institute. The Burns family eventually grew to eight with four daughters and two sons - Margaret, Jessie, Helen, James (Jamie), Alexander (Alec) and Annie (Queenie). Known to his family by the nickname Alec, Alexander was educated at Rosewood Primary School. Having shown great





academic promise, young Alexander's family engaged private tutors so that he could fulfill his potential.

Having moved to Brisbane following the transfer of James Burns, from 1910 the Burns family lived at Indooroopilly in Lambert Road in a large Queenslander-style home named 'Hazeldean'. At an early age Alexander had displayed great engineering talent. While apprenticed to the Engineering Section at the Railway Workshops in Ipswich, he was a member of the crew which built the first rail motor in Queensland.

While working at the Railway workshops Alexander was able to gain admittance to the Brisbane Technical College, studying to be a draughtsman. Subsequently he took up a position as draughtsman in the Engineering Department in the Brisbane Technical College. Both his supervisors and work colleagues at the Railway Workshops and the Technical College considered Alexander Burns an intelligent man with a very bright future.

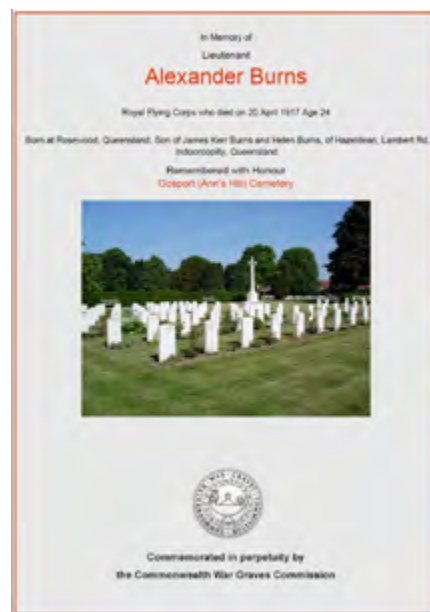
War Service:

Alexander's older brother Jamie had enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on the 19th of November 1914, and had joined the ANZAC forces at Gallipoli in May 1915. Alexander followed his older brother and enlisted in the AIF in July 1915. Given his education Alexander was successful in obtaining a commission as 2nd Lieutenant,

16th Rifles, 15th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, embarking from Sydney on HMAT Star of Victoria on 31st of March 1916 for Tel el-Kabir, Egypt, where he arrived on the 5th of May. After training in Egypt, Alexander's unit was dispatched aboard the British Troopship Huntspill, to join with the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F) in France.

While training in Egypt, Alexander had again come to the attention of his superiors. In his role as unit adjutant (an administrative assistant to a senior military officer) he was clearly very efficient. As recognised by his commanding officer in Egypt, Brigadier-General Stirling, who gave him a letter of recommendation for Lieutenant Colonel Robert Eccles Snowden of the A.I.F 47th Battalion to which Alexander was to be attached. The letter stated that 2nd Lieutenant Alexander Burns was "...a very capable organiser, carrying out his routine orders with energy and tact and maintaining a good standard of discipline..." whilst acting in the role of adjutant. Stirling also stated that Lieutenant Burns would do well in any capacity.

Immediately on his arrival in France, Alexander was attached to the newly formed 47th Battalion. The 47th was involved in the Somme Battles, entering the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on the 3rd of July. The battalion participated in its first major battle at Pozieres.



Initially, the battalion provided working parties during the 2nd Division's attack on the 4th of August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 47th endured two stints in the heavily-contested trenches of Pozieres, as well as a period in reserve. During this period Alexander was promoted in the field to Lieutenant (11th of October 1916).

Alexander was in Belgium on a period of rest from the trenches, when he received news of his appointment to the Royal Flying Corps, England. He officially transferred to the Royal Flying Corps on the 22nd of October 1916 and joined No 2 Royal Flying Corps School of Instruction in Oxford on the 23rd of October 1916. While training in England, Alec was able to meet with his brother, Jaime, several times. On one occasion, they arranged to have their photograph taken together in uniform.

Flight-Lieutenant Alexander



he was farewelled by Jamie at Waterloo Station. In a letter to his parents, Jamie wrote,

'Then he looked well, and was so confident that I believed that nothing would happen to him, and that when the war is over, the two of us together would return to the old home.'

His coffin bearing a large wreath from the Royal Flying Corps was taken by gun carriage to Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport, where he was interred with full RFC honours. His brother Jamie was the only family member in attendance and he had organised wreaths of flowers for his parents and each of his sisters and himself which were laid on Alec's grave. After his death, Jamie wrote,

'I cannot write how it grieved me that one like Alec so young, and with such a career before him could be cut off in this life so shortly.'

Lieutenant Alexander Burns was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. For his achievements and sacrifice he is honoured at Saint Andrew's Uniting Church and his name is also on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument to the Fallen at Indooroopilly War Memorial in Keating Park, Indooroopilly. He is buried in Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport, United Kingdom.

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.

Burns was enlisted in the No 2 Royal Flying Corps School of Instruction based in Oxford on the 23rd October 1916. Having completed all of his pilot training and flying tests in two months he was transferred to the 47th Squadron, 12th Brigade, Royal Australian Flying Corps. He was then further transferred to a new advanced division of the Royal Flying Corps which was carrying out testing of new aeroplanes. By April 1917, he was flying with 59th Squadron (RAF) at Fort Grange Airfield, Gosport.

On the 20th of April 1917 the De Havilland IA No 1625 aeroplane Alexander was testing crashed. After a malfunction, the aircraft plummeted from a height of 4,000 feet. He was badly injured including breaking both his legs. Alexander lived three hours after the accident; he was 24 years old when he died.

A few days prior to his death, Alec had been to London where he had spent time with his brother, Jamie. On his departure, Alec had been happy and was considered by Jamie to be '...in fine form...' as



Douglas Hermann Cannan

Researched by: Aeshlein Ralston and Lilyan Sullivan, St Aiden's AGS, Yr 8, 2016

Although **Major Douglas Hermann Cannan** isn't a household name, we believe he played a very significant role in the battle of Gallipoli with the ANZACs.



Major Cannan was born in Townsville, on the 14th of April 1880 to John and Elizabeth Cannan. He had one sibling, James Harold Cannan who later became a Brigadier General during the war.

Cannan attended a state school in Townsville before moving to Brisbane to attend Brisbane Grammar School (BGS) in Year 11. During his time at BGS he became an aspiring sportsman as he was involved in the Queensland

Interstate Lacrosse team.

During Douglas Hermann Cannan's time in Brisbane, he and his family lived in Leswell, Chelmer.

Later, he worked as the secretary and manager of the Metropolitan Fish Market Board and was a fellow of the Queensland Institute of Accountants.

Douglas Hermann Cannan was called to action during the First World War, becoming a Captain in the citizens Military Forces in Brisbane from 1904 to 1912. On the 23rd of September 1914, he was enlisted in the 15th Battalion, D Company.

Cannan embarked on the ship, HMAT Ceramic A40 on the 22nd of December 1914 in Melbourne. The ship reached its destination, Alexandria, on the 31st of January 1915. Douglas was only 34 years old. Cannan departed Alexandria and arrived at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli on the 25th of April 1915. His initial rank was a Captain however he later gained promotion to Major in July 1915.

However, on the 8th of August 1915, Major Douglas Hermann Cannan's journey came to an end. Bailey W. from the 15th Battalion A.I.F. recorded, "I was observing with him from the beginning of the movement on August 6th until his death. On August 8th, during the attack on Hill 971, he was shot in the chest, left side, I bandaged him and saw that he was dead and left him. He must have been killed instantly."

Another record from Cairo, by W.H.V. Reade stated, "Witness



Major Douglas Hermann Cannan is in the third row and first to the left.

School student contributions



was there at the time but did not see Cannan hit. Several of the company saw him killed. It was impossible to recover any of the bodies which lay on the high ground."

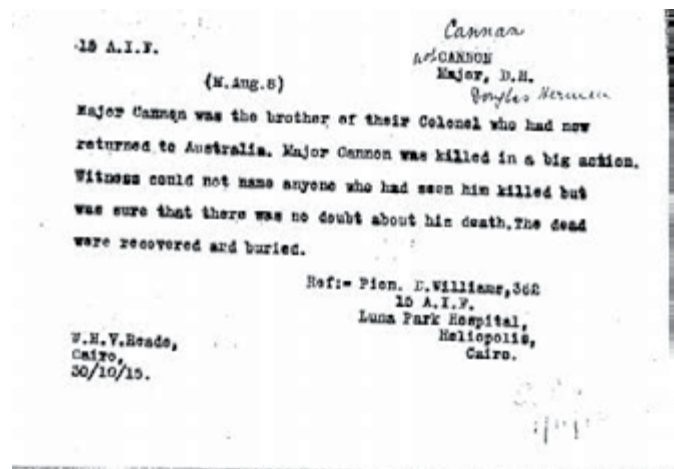
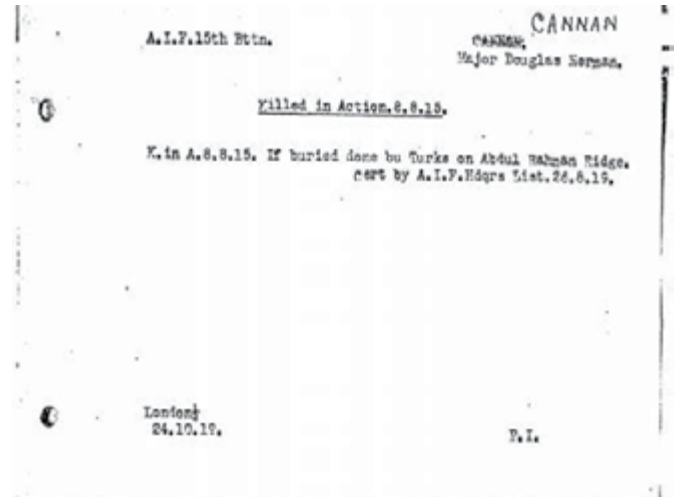
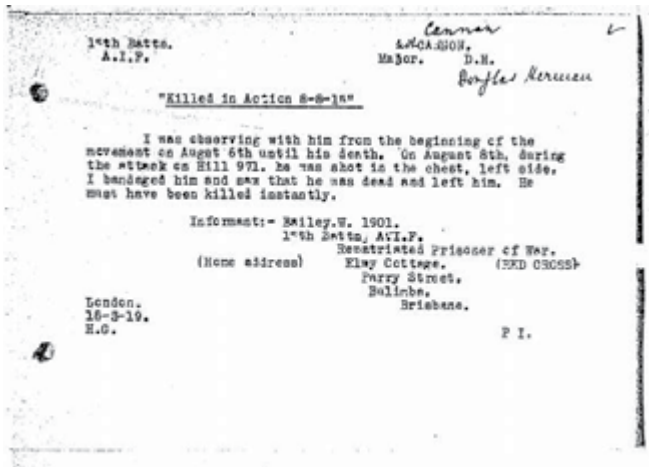
Furthermore, in a record from London on the 24th of November 1915, it was stated, "If buried done by the Turks on Abdul Raham Ridge."

His body was never recovered. However, once again it was recorded by W.H.V. Reade in Cairo on the 30th of November 1915 that, "Major Cannan was the brother of their Colonel who now returned to Australia. Major Cannan was killed in a big action. Witness could not name anyone who had seen him killed but was sure

that there was no doubt about his death. The dead were recovered and buried."

Douglas Hermann Cannan is honoured at the Lone Pine Memorial to the Missing, panel 75 on the AWM Roll of Honour.

Official Telegrams



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



George Frederick Cook

Service Number 2638

By Kyah and Madeline, 5/6R,
Sherwood State School, 2018

Could you imagine walking through muddy, putrid trenches day and night, miles away from home not knowing if you will return? Brave he was, that young fellow Cook; going to war at the age of 24, leaving his beloved wife and home, just to fight for our country that we all call our own.

Private George Frederick Cook was a courageous and resilient young man and

fought in World War One. He spent the last months of his life fighting for our country on the Western Front in Europe, but unfortunately he fell ill and passed away.

On the 5th of August 1915 George Frederick Cook was assigned to fight in World War One with the 9th Battalion. All day and all night he was forced to trudge through trenches and serve our country right.

George Frederick Cook fell sick with a spinal disease called cerebrospinal and later on it was also found he had trench foot. George Frederick Cook was moved between four different hospitals and was placed in a separate room with the fear he was contagious. On the 24th of August 1917 he sadly passed away and was buried on the 27th April 1917 at Wareham cemetery, grave number 4, section B on consecrated ground. And there he lays still to this day, the man who helped save our country.

<http://www.naa.gov.au/>
<http://www.sherwdipillyrsl.org.au/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



William Henry Cooling

Researched by: Rosy Pham, CSHS, 9I, 2014

Focus Question One

What is the soldier's service history?

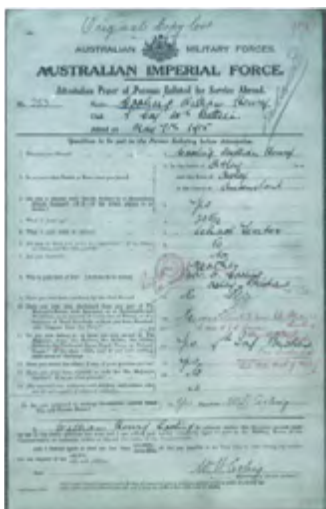
Source 1

Details: Men of the army service corps, Queensland expeditionary force. (1915) Retrieved from www.trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/2502947/?zoomLevel=1



Source 2

Details: Record Search. (N.D) Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ltmDetail.aspx?Barcode=3403818>



Notes

- 253rd to enlist
- His name is **William Henry Cooling**

- He is in the 26th battalion A.I.F
- Joined on May 7th 1915
- 20 years & 5 months young when he joined
- Lived near the town of Oxley, in the country of Queensland
- He is not married
- He has served in the army on the 9th in Brisbane
- He was five feet and five inches tall
- Weighed 127lbs, chest measurement 35 ½ inches
- His trade/ job was a school teacher
- Rank is Sergeant
- Died on the 22nd of September 1915
- Died in Gallipoli, Peninsula
- Cause of death wound received in action
- Buried 16th Mosp Cemetery, Gallipoli P. by chaplain G. Green about 1 ½ miles north of Anzac Cove
- In his will he gave his whole property to Ellen Gertrude widow of the late Henry Cooling
- Shrapnel wound in the abdomen

Source Three

Details: First World War embarkation rolls- William Henry Cooling. (N.D). Received from www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1923687/

Notes

- Service number – 253
- Rank - Sergeant
- Roll title- 26 Infantry Battalion (June 1915)
- Conflict-First world war, 1914-1918
- Date of embarkment - 24th May 1915
- Place of embarkment - Brisbane
- Ship embarked on - HMAT Ascanius A11

Source Four

Details: Jones, F. (2013). WWI pictorial honour roll of Queenslanders. Retrieved from www.WW1qld.gravesecrets.net/co.html

Notes

This source contains that Sergeant William Henry Cooling does not have facial hair. His hair is neither long nor short, it is medium.



Focus Question Two:

What is the soldier's service history?

Source One

Details 26th Battalion. (N.D). Retrieved from www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11213.asp



Notes

- 26th Battalion raised at Enoggera, Queensland, in April 1915
- Formed part of 7th brigade
- Left Australia in July
- Trained in Egypt
- Landed in Gallipoli on the 12th of September
- Played purely defensive role
- At times was responsible for defence of Courtney's and Steele's posts & Russell's top
- Withdrew from Peninsula on the 12th of December
- 7th Brigade proceeded to France as part of the 2nd Australian division in March 1916
- 2nd division came south in October to attack (again) in Somme Valley
- 26th Battalion took part in two attacks to the east of Flers
- Early 1917, joined follow follow-ups of German withdrawal & attacked at Warlencourt and Lagincourt
- 26th Battalion involved in the 2nd attempt to breach the Hindenburg Line defences

Source Two

Details: Roll of honour- William Henry Cooling (N.D). Retrieved from www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1729163/

Notes

- Service number - 253
- Rank - sergeant
- Unit - 26th (Australian) Infantry Battalion
- Service - Australian Army
- Conflict - First World War 1914-1918

- Date of Death - 22nd October 1915
- Place of Death - Ottoman Empire
- Cause of Death - Died of wounds
- Age of death -20
- Place of association - Oxley, Australia
- Cemetery - Embarkation Pier cemetery, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province Turkey

Source Three

Details: 26th Battalion (N.D). Retrieved from www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11213.asp

Notes

This colour is the 'colour patch' that certain soldiers wear to indicate they are part of the 26th Australian Infantry Battalion. The 'patch' is a diamond shape horizontally split in half. The top half is indigo and the bottom half is blue.



Source Four

Details: Battalion Photo Gallery. (2012). Retrieved from www.2-26bn.org/gallery.html

Notes

This is an image of 2/26th battalion Band, 8th division, A.I.F. It was taken on 20th of January 1941.

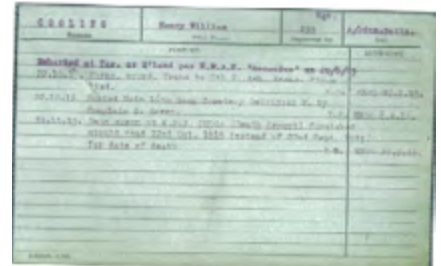


Focus Question 3:

How did the soldier die and does he have and relatives?

Source One

Details: (No title). (1915). Retrieved from www.recordsearch.naa.gov.au/gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp



Notes

- Cause of death shrapnel wound to the abdomen
- Buried in 16th Mosp Cemetery Gallipoli P. by Chaplin G. Green

Source Two

Details: Sergeant William Henry Cooling. (1915). Retrieved from www.recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp

Notes

- Ida Cooling is Sergeant William Henry Cooling's sister
- Ellen Gertrude is Cooling's mother
- His Will was to give his property to his mother



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191 and Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



William Henry Cooling

Researched by:

Didi Mulligan and Jamie, CSHS, 9I, 2014

FOCUS QUESTION 1 –

What are the biographical details of the soldier?

Didi – Source 1

Details: Enlistment Form (n.d.).

Retrieved from:

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=3403818>

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=3403818>

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=3403818>

- Name: **William Henry Cooling**
- Lived in: Oxley, Queensland
- Occupation: School Teacher
- Not Married
- Age: 20 5/12
- Next of kin: Mary H Cooling (deceased)
- Document sent to: sister Ida
- He served in 9th Infantry before WWI
- A Cay Battalion: 26th Australian Imperial Force
- Service number: 253

Didi – Source 2

Details: Stephens, T. (1915, December 11). Roll of Honour. The Queenslander, p.25

Picture of Sergeant William Henry Cooling (26th Battalion) published in the Queenslander, 11/12/1915 on the “Roll of Honour” after he died of wounds in the front lines.



SGT. W. H. COOLING
(26th Btn.), Died of Wounds
—Talma photo.

Didi – Source 3:

Cooling, Henry William. (n.d.).

Retrieved from: <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/605798/COOLING,%20WILLIAM%20HENRY>

- Rank: Sergeant
- Service no: 253
- Date of Death: 22/10/1915
- Age: 20
- Regiment/Service: Australian Infantry, A.I.F
- 26th Bn.
- Grave Reference: I.A.13
- Cemetery: Embarkation Pier Cemetery
- Father: Henry Augustus Blagrove Cooling
- Mother: Ellen Gertrude Cooling

FOCUS QUESTION 1 –

What are the biographical details of the soldier?

Jamie – Source Details:

Field Service Form (1915)

Retrieved from:

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

Notes:

- His name is W, H Cooling
- He was a part of the 26th Battalion
- Regimental – 253
- He was ranked sergeant
- Cooling had died on the 22nd September 1915
- Place of death was the Gallipoli Peninsula and he died from shrapnel wounds

Jamie – Source Details:

Certificate of Medical Examination (1915) Retrieved from:

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

Notes:

- Cooling was 20 years and five months old
- He was five foot five inches
- Weighed 127lbs
- His complexion and hair were fair
- His religious denomination was Methodist
- He was perfectly healthy and fit for duty as observed by the medical [officer]



School student contributions

Jamie – Source Details:
Roll of Honour Circular (n.d.)
Retrieved from:

<http://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RCDIG1068860--856-.PDF>

Notes:

- Cooling's full name was William Henry Cooling
- Unit number: 253 and 26th Battalion
- Memorial located and lived in Oxley, Brisbane, Queensland
- Born in Corinda
- Died 22nd of October 1915
- Killed in Gallipoli ages 20 and 10/12
- He was a state school teacher
- His sister's name was Ida F. Cooling

Jamie – Source Details:
AIF Attestation Papers of Persons Enlisted. (1915).
Retrieved from: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

Notes:

- Name was Henry William Cooling
- Lived in Howard, Mackey, Queensland
- Aged 22 and 10 months at time of enlistment
- 15th Battalion
- Next kin Annie Cooling
- Height: five feet and eight inches
- Dark Complexion
- Dark brown hair
- Greenish blue eyes

FOCUS QUESTION 2 – What is the soldier's service history?

Didi – Source 1
Details: Enlistment Form (n.d.).
Retrieved from:
<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=3403818>

- Name: William Henry Cooling
- Lived in: Oxley, Queensland
- Occupation: School Teacher
- Not Married
- Age: 20 5/12
- Next of kin: Mary H Cooling (deceased)
- Document sent to: sister Ida
- He served in 9th infantry before WW1
- A Cay Battalion: 26th Australian Imperial Force
- Service number: 253

Didi – Source 2
Details: 9th Battalion. (n.d).
Retrieved from:

- http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11196.asp
- 9th Battalion among first infantry units raised for AIF – WWI
 - 1st battalion recruited in Queensland – 10th, 11th + 12th Battalions = formed 3rd Brigade
 - Battalion raised within weeks of declaration of war in August 1914
 - Embarked two months later
 - After preliminary training – sailed to Egypt – arriving in Early December.

- 3rd Brigade was the covering force for the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915
- Battalion heavily involved in establishing + defending front line of the ANZAC beachhead. It served at Anzac until the evacuation in December 1915
- Battalion continued operations until late September 1918

Didi – Source 3
Details: William Henry COOLING. (2014). Retrieved from:

- <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=61458>
- Regimental number: 253
 - Place of birth: Corinda, Queensland
 - Occupation: School Teacher
 - Religion: Methodist
 - Address: Oxley near Brisbane, Queensland
 - Relationship status: Single
 - Age at embarkation: 20
 - Previous military service: Citizen Military Forces 9th Infantry, Oxley Regt.
 - Next of kin: Mother, Mrs H Cooling
 - Next of kin address: Oxley near Brisbane, Queensland
 - Enlistment date: 7/5/1915
 - Rank on enlistment: Sergeant
 - Unit name: 26th Battalion, A Company
 - AWM Embarkation Roll number: 23/43/1
 - Embarkation details: Unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on board HMAT A11 Ascanius 24/5/1915



- Rank from Nominal Roll: Sergeant
- Unit from Nominal Roll: 26th Battalion
- Fate: Died from wounds 22/10/1915
- Place of death or wounding: Gallipoli, Turkey
- Age of Death: 20.10
- Place of Burial: Embarkation Pier Cemetery (Plot 1, ZRow A, grave No.13), Gallipoli
- Parents: Henry Augustus and Ellen Gertrude Cooling

Didi – Source 4
 Details: The Militia. (n.d.).
 Retrieved from:
http://www.oocities.org/thefortysecondinww2/level1/line5/the_militia.htm

- Citizen's Military Forces (C.M.F)/national militia – had a few 'permanent soldiers' attached, mix of enthusiastic volunteers + national service' draftees
- The militia's purpose – defend Australian territory (Papua – had been a German colony before the 1914-18 war).
- This political + geographic restriction – led to CMF troops being ridiculed by the all -volunteer AIF as 'a protected species – not available for export' or 'Chocolate Soldiers'

Didi – Source 5
 Details: 9th Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment. (n.d.).
 Retrieved from:
<http://www.army.gov.au/Who-we-are/Divisions-and-Brigades/Forces-Command/2nd-Division/11th-Brigade/9th-Battalion-The-Royal-Queensland-Regiment>

- 9th Battalion – The Royal Queensland Regiment
- Trace history as far back as 1867 – establishment of Queensland Volunteer, Rifle Corps
- Not until 1911 that it was designated as 9th Battalion.
- The battalion served Australia in a number of conflicts – The Boer War, World War I and World War II
- Recently, members of the battalion have been involved in various peacekeeping operations and exercises around the Pacific region.

Didi – Source 5
 Details: Royal Queensland Regiment. (n.d.). Retrieved from:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Royal_Queensland_Regiment.png

Image depicts the Royal Queensland Regiment's emblem.



FOCUS QUESTION 2 – What is the soldier's service history?

Jamie – Source 1
 Details: 7th Brigade. (2014).
 Retrieved from:
http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_13056.asp

Notes:

- The seventh brigade was formed in early 1915
- Recruited in the outer states
- Was the third brigade of the second division
- The 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th battalions were a part of the 7th brigade
- (W, H Cooling had been a part of the 26th battalion, 7th brigade and therefore he fought long with the rest of the 7th Brigade)

Jamie – Source 2
 Details: 26th Battalion (Australia). (2014). Retrieved from:
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/26th_Battalion_\(Australia\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/26th_Battalion_(Australia))
 Notes:

- Infantry battalion for the AIF
- Part of the 7th Brigade
- Raised in 1915
- All volunteer AIF, recruited from Tasmania and Queensland
- Battalion was based in Enoggera
- Embarked in July to Egypt for training
- Afterwards sent to Gallipoli as reinforcements
- They landed 12th September
- Took no major actions during their stay at Gallipoli



- Served a defensive role at Gallipoli
- Withdrew on the 12th of December

Jamie – Source 3

Details: 7th Brigade. Retrieved from: <http://www.army.gov.au/Who-we-are/Divisions-and-Brigades/Forces-Command/7th-Brigade>

Notes:

- Consists of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment, 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, 2nd Combat Engineer Squadron etc.
- Brigade was first raised in 1915
- Part of the First Australian Infantry (AIF)
- Took part in action at Gallipoli and Western Front in World War I
- In World War II the brigade fought against Japanese soldiers in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville
- Currently it is a part of the 1st Division and is based in Brisbane
- Has not been deployed for action as a whole unit since World War I

Jamie – Source 4

Details: 26th Battalion. Retrieved from:

http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11213.asp

Notes:

- Raised in Enoggera
- Recruits enlisted from Queensland and Tasmania
- Left Australia in July to train in Egypt
- Landed in Gallipoli on the 12th of September

- Participated in defensive battles only
- Withdrew on the 12th December

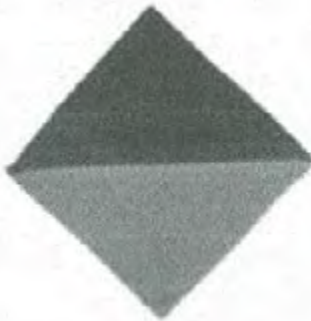
Jamie – Source 5

Details: Colour Patch.

(n.d.). Retrieved from:

https://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11213.asp

Description: The image located above is the colour patch for the 26th Battalion in World War I. The 26th Battalion were a part of the first Australian Imperial Force (AIF). The soldier that is currently being researched served in the 26th Battalion, he fought alongside his battalion in the defence of many key locations in Gallipoli. However, he had died at the Gallipoli Peninsula in October of 1915.



FOCUS QUESTION 3 – How did the soldier die, and does he have any living relatives?

Source 1

Details: William Henry Cooling Death Record. (n.d.). Retrieved from: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

- Embarked 20/6/1915 – Queensland Vic per H.M.A.T. “Ascanius”
- 22/10/1915 – Shrapnel wound, transferred to the 7th Ambulance Anzac

- Transferred to the 16th casualty clearing station
- Shrapnel wound in abdomen – admitted 16th casualty clearing station
- Died same day
- Buried main 16th Hospital Cemetery
- Death certificate should read 22nd of October 1915 instead of 22nd September 1915

Source 2

- Details: Nominal roll of deceased members of the A.I.F & M.E.F. (1984). Microfilm. Australian War Memorial. Canberra.
- Name: William Henry Cooling
- Unit and number: 253 29th Battalion
- Address: Brisbane, Oxley, Queensland
- Birthplace: Corinda
- Date of Death: 22/10/1915
- Place of Death: Gallipoli
- Occupation: State school teacher
- Age of death: 20 and 10 months
- School: Teacher
- Previous military history: 9th Infantry Oxley Regiment
- Name of person who gave this information: Ida S. Cooling
- Relationship with soldier: sister
- Address: Hewett Street Queensland Brisbane



FOCUS QUESTION 3 – How did the soldier die and does he have any living relatives?

Jamie – Source 1

Details: nominal roll of deceased members of the AIF and MEF. (1984). Microfiche. Australia War Memorial, Canberra

Description: The image was taken from a microfiche located in the Queensland State Library and depicts the soldier currently being researched on, William Henry Cooling, his battalion, date of death and cause. The information is also accompanied by his next of kin, which is his sister Ida F Cooling.

Jamie – Source 2

Details: Cooling, I. (1920). Ida F Cooling. Retrieved from: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

Notes:

- Ida Florence Cooling is the sole surviving next of kin to William Henry Cooling
- The original next of kin, Ellen Gertrude Cooling (W H Cooling's mother) died on the 19/09/1919s
- Formerly lived in Oxley
- Lived on Hewitt St. Wilston, Brisbane

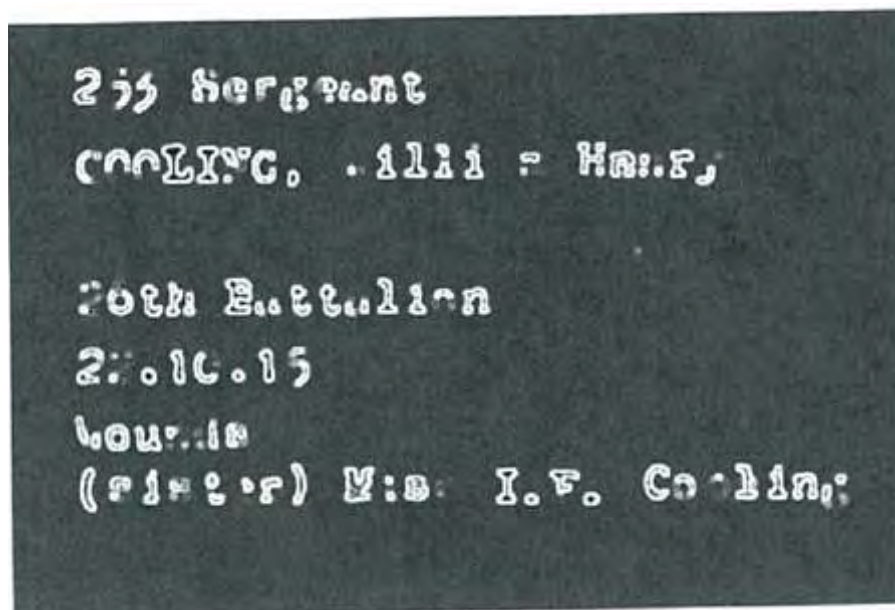
Jamie – Source 3

Details: Davis, G. (2014). McDougall Family Tree.

Retrieved from: <http://gdavis.id.au/family/trees/d48592.htm#i48617>

Notes:

- The family ended with William and Ida Cooling
- The family began with John and Sarah McDougall
- William and Ida Cooling's parents were Henry Cooling and Ellen Howes.



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191 and Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



William Henry Cooling

Researched by: Lili Lamont, CSHS, 9I, 2014

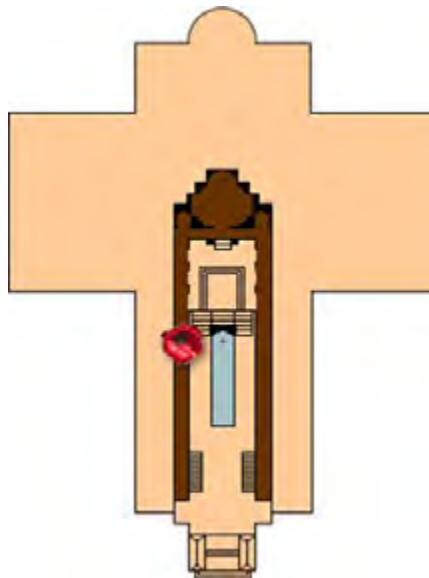
Source 1

Source Details: Roll of Honour – **William Henry Cooling**. (N.D.) Retrieved from <http://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1729163/>

Notes:5

- Service Number: 253
- Rank: Sergeant
- Unit: 26th Battalion (Infantry)
- Service: Australian Army
- Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918
- Date of Death: 22nd October 1915
- Place of Death; Gallipoli, Ottoman Empire
- Cause of Death: Died of Wounds
- Age of Death: 20
- Place of Association: Oxley, Australia
- Cemetery or Memorial Details: Embarkation Pier Cemetery, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

William Henry Cooling can be located in panel 107 in the Commemorative Area in the Australian War Memorial Canberra.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P03440.001

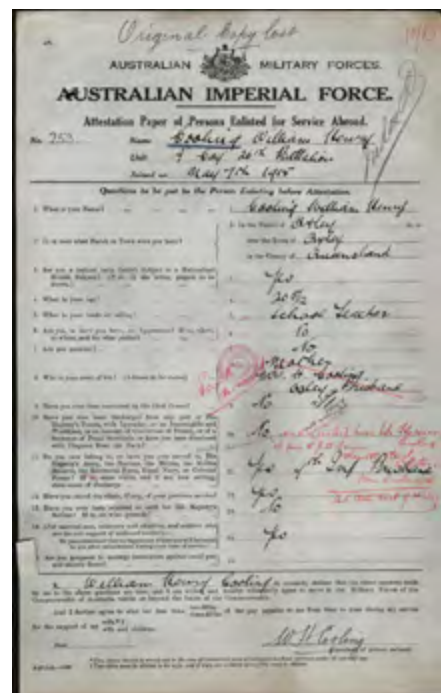
Source 2

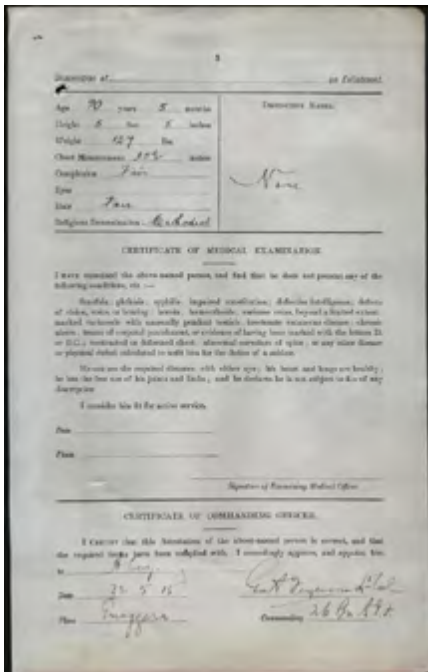
Source Details: Roll of Honour Circular. (N.D.). Retrieved from <https://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RCDIG1068860--856-.PDF>



Source 3

Source Details: Record search. (N.D.). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/iainagine.asp>





- Left Australia July, after training Egypt, landed Gallipoli 12 September.
- Gallipoli, 26th played a purely defensive role, various times responsible defence of Courtney's and Steele's Posts, and Russell's Top Gallipoli
- Withdrew peninsula 12 December
- After another period Egypt, 7th Brigade proceeded France
- Part 2nd Australian Division March 1916, joined 28th Battalion

- Early 1917 joined follow-up German withdrawal to Hindenburg Line and attacked Warlencourt (1st/2nd March)
- Lagincourt 26th March
- 3rd May Battalion also involved in second attempt breach Hindenburg Line defences
- Later year focus AIF's operation switched Belgium
- 26th Battalion fought battle Menin Road 20th September
- Participated capture Broodseinde Ridge 4th October
- 26th fought turn back German spring offensive April 1918
- Operations snatch portions German front line
- One operation Monument Wood 14th July Battalion captured first German tank
- Later in year 26th participated great offensive began 8th August, most notable engagement attack east Mont St Quentin 2nd September
- Battalion's last action was capture Lormisset
- Part of operation breach Bearevoir Line 3rd October 1918
- 26th Battalion disbanded may 1919

COOLING	Henry William	Sgt.	A/26th Batta-
Korname	Other Name	Regimental No.	Unit.
PURPORT.		AUTHORITY.	
Embarked at Tas. or Q'land per H.M.A.T. "Ascenius" on 20/6/15			
22.10.15. Shrap. wound. Trans to 7th F. Amb. Anzac. Since		T.S. MERO 42.2.15.	
died.			
22.10.15. Buried Main 16th Hosp Cemetery Gallipoli P. by		T.S. MERO 8.4.15.	
Chaplain G. Green.			
30.11.15. Data shown on A.F.B. 2050A (Death Report) furnished		T.S. MERO 21.2.16.	
should read 22nd Oct. 1915 instead of 22nd Sept. 1915.			
for date of death			

Source 4

Source details: Z6th Battalion.

(N.D.). Retrieved

from http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11213.

[asp?query=26th+Battalion](http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11213.asp?query=26th+Battalion)

Notes:

- 26th Battalion raised Enoggera, Queensland,
- April 1915 recruits enlisted in Queensland and Tasmania, formed part 7th Brigade

- 26th mounted first trench raid undertaken by Australian troops on Western Front June 6th
- Fought first major battle around Pozieres between 28th July and 7th August
- 2nd division came south October attack again Somme Valley
- Took part two attacks to east of Flers

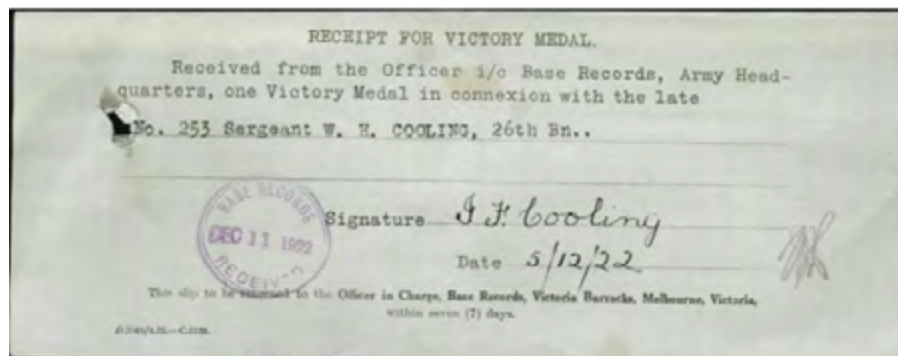




School student contributions

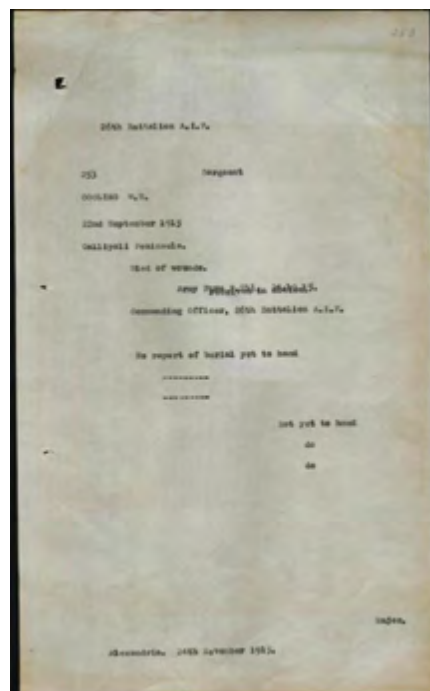
Source 5

Source Details: Record search.
(N.D.). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/iamagine.asp>



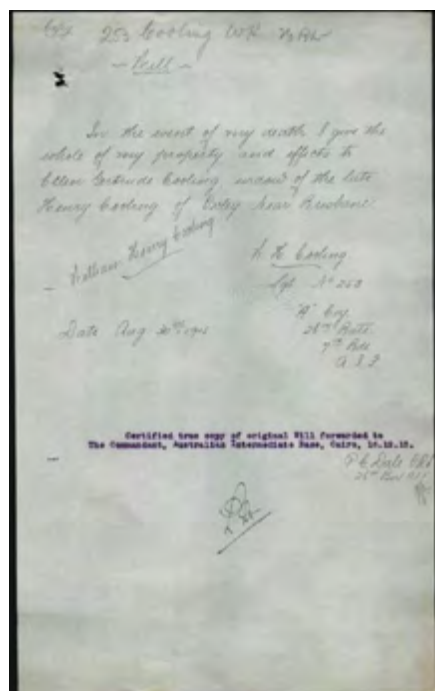
Source 8

Source Details: Field Service. (24th November 1915). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/iamagine.asp>



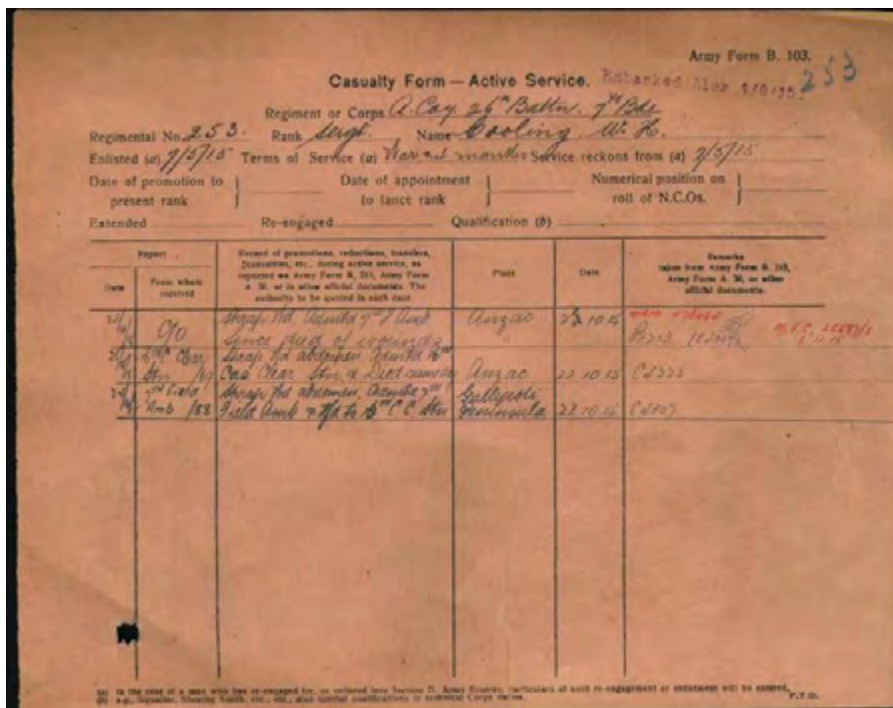
Source 6

Source Details: Cooling.W.H.
(August 30th 1915). Will, retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/iamagine.asp>



Source 7

Source Details: Casualty form-active service. (N.D.). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/iamaginee.asp>



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191 and Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



Charles George Coupland

Researched by: Thomas Brannigan,
Ambrose Treacy College, Year 6, 2014

Charles George Coupland was a local World War One soldier who died fighting for his country. He enlisted on the 4th of October 1915 at the age of 36 and took part in many of the battles on the 'Western Front'.

Charles Coupland was born in Brisbane on the 7th of October 1879 to Charles Edward Coupland and Rose Ann Goopy. He was the oldest of five children including Rose, Catherine, Florence and James. Charles' father died when Charles was only nine years of age.

At the age of 27 Charles married Agnes Gertrude Schmidt and they lived locally at Jackson Street, Indooroopilly, Brisbane. The couple had one child, Harold Roy Coupland, born on the 20th of December 1908. From when he finished school until he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), Charles worked as a labourer and a bottler. He enlisted in

the AIF at the age of 36 and became a stretcher bearer. He was placed into the 4th Pioneer Battalion, Reinforcement 2. He may have been one of the older Privates in his battalion.

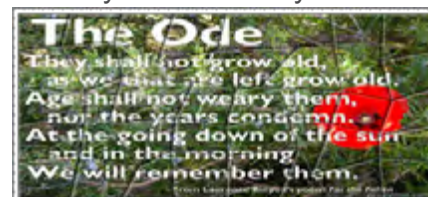
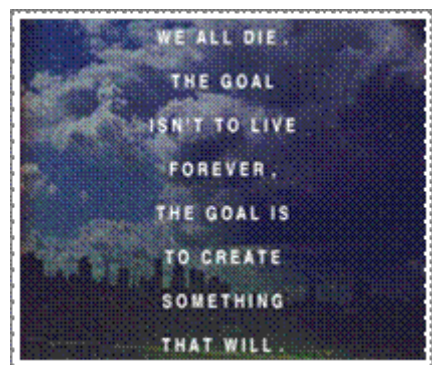
Charles left Sydney on board the HMS Mooltan arriving at Suez on the 18th of May. In Alexandria on the 6th of June 1916, Charles joined the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F). He disembarked in Marseille on the 15th of June 1916 and marched out to join his unit on the 8th of August. He was *taken on strength* to the 4th Pioneer Battalion on the 10th August. During this time it appears his division may have accompanied the 1st and 2nd Divisions to the Somme sector. In August 1916, the division relieved the 2nd Division on the Pozieres Heights and repulsed a major German counterattack. The division then drove north to the outskirts of Mouquet Farm and a second tour of the Somme at Mouquet Farm followed in September and a third at Flers in October.

On the 4th of November 1916, Charles Coupland was convicted of being absent without leave from 9pm until 9.30pm on the 3rd of November. For this he had to forfeit 14 days' pay.

The most important battleground during World War One was the 'Western Front' in France and Belgium, where many great battles were fought. Charles' battalion participated in many battles including the Battle of Pozieres, the First Battle of Bullecourt, the Battle of Messines, the Battle of Polygon Wood, Battles at Hebuterne and Dernancourt and Villers-Bretonneus, as well as Battles of Hamel, Amiens and the Hindenburg Line. It is unclear exactly which battles Charles participated in, but it is likely he was involved in the Battle of Messines in 1917 just prior to his death.

Charles George Coupland 'died of wounds received in action' on the 23rd of June 1917 in Belgium. He is buried in the Wulverghem-lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery in Belgium, plot V, row B, Grave no. 28.

Of the more than 295 000 Australians who served in this theatre of war in the AIF, 46, 000 lost their lives. Whilst Charles Coupland was not as young as some, he suffered a similar tragic fate as so many of those who were forced or willingly enlisted in this devastating war. Charles' name is proudly shown on the Indooroopilly war memorial at Keating Park, where he is admired for his courage and his duty to his country.



For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Eric Russell Davidson

Researched by Jude Murray,
Indooroopilly State School, Year 6, 2017

Private Eric Russell

Davidson's body lies buried at Mouquet Farm, in France. Six months before his burial, Davidson was killed in action, but his body remained on the battlefield, unable to be buried until March 1917. His watch and his identity disk, though badly affected by exposure, were the only mementos sent home to his grieving parents.



Born in June 1892, Eric Russell Davidson was the only child of Francis and Amelia Davidson. He was a local boy, growing up in Taringa and Indooroopilly, where after finishing school he trained as an engineer. He was single and almost 24 years old when he enlisted to join the 2nd reinforcement of the

26th Battalion on the 20th of May 1915.

His unit embarked from Brisbane on the HMAT A9 "Shropshire" on the 17th of August 1915. He arrived in Alexandria in Egypt, having been taken on strength of battalion. He joined the British Expeditionary Forces, disembarking in Marseilles, France, the last country he would set foot in.

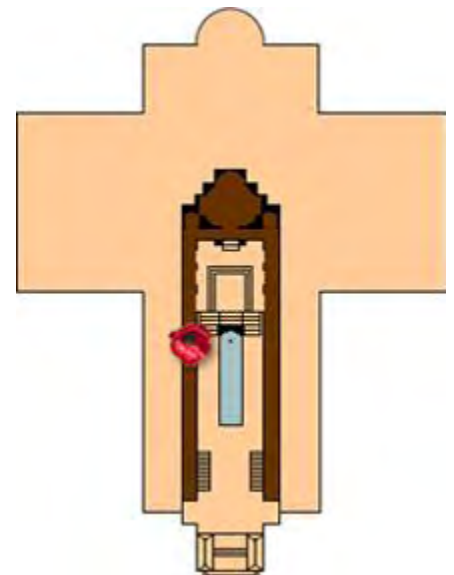
The most important battleground in this 'war to end all wars', was the 'Western Front' in France and Belgium. The map below shows the major battles which occurred in this area of France. One of these is where Davidson lost his life fighting in the Battle at Mouquet Farm (which formed part of the Battle of the Somme).

Many soldiers' bodies may still lie here in unmarked graves, but Davidson was one of the 'lucky' few whose remains were



able to be identified, and thus exhumed and properly buried. Although he won no medals for his efforts, Davidson gave his life in sacrifice and for us and all Australians owe him a debt of gratitude.

Private Eric Russell Davidson's name is located at 107 in the commemorative area at the Australian War Memorial (as indicated by the poppy on the plan below). Lest we forget.



Sources:

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>
<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/>
<http://www.sherwdipillyrsl.org.au/Pages/Schools%20Projects/Fallen%20Soldiers.html>

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Percy Davidson

By St Peters Lutheran College,
Mr Chapman's Year 9 SOSE Class, 2017

Percy Davidson was born in December 1889, the second son of Frank Leslie and Amelia Davidson, who lived in Westminster Road, Indooroopilly. His early education was at Taringa State School. After leaving school Percy was employed as a wood machinist and planer at the sawmill which stood in Westminster Rd, Indooroopilly. The sawmill was originally replaced by the Stamford Theatre in 1926, before later becoming the Eldorado Cinemas.



*Percy Davidson photographed in The Queenslander Pictorial, supplement to The Queenslander, 1915
December 1889, Indooroopilly, Brisbane –
5th of August 1916, Pozieres, France
7th Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion,
Australian Imperial Force.*



Stamford Theatre, Westminster Rd, Indooroopilly, circa 1928

Percy enlisted on the 14th of May 1915 at the age of 25 and was sent to Frazer's Paddock, Enoggera, for basic training. The 25th Infantry Battalion was made up of men from Queensland but also included recruits from Darwin.

Percy and the rest of the 25th Battalion embarked from Brisbane on the 29th of June 1915, on the HMAT Aeneas, and followed other AIF members in travelling to Egypt for further training. Percy's brigade first saw action at Gallipoli as reserves. However, Percy's Brigade mainly manned the trenches as the last of the allied offensives had been launched. Percy was admitted to the 7th Field Ambulance unit (AIF), on the 4th of October 1915, suffering from dysentery and was returned to his battalion six days later on the 10th of October. The battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli on the 18th of December 1915, returning to Egypt.

The 25th Battalion was then transported to northern France

where they arrived on the 19th of March 1916, the first AIF battalion to arrive in France. Percy had furlough in England between the 7th of May and the 17th of May 1915 then he and the rest of 25th Battalion went into the trenches and were involved in fierce fighting around Pozieres between the 25th of July and the 7th of August, during which 785 casualties were suffered.



HMAT Aeneas pictured prior to the war

Percy Davidson was officially posted as missing near Mouquet Farm on the 6th of August 1916. His brother, Eric, was killed on the same day. Family and friends hoped desperately that Percy might have been captured by the Germans and be a prisoner of war, and they wrote many letters to the Red Cross and the POW's organisation in Switzerland begging for any news. They continued to write letters to Percy hoping that he was perhaps being held in a camp where letter writing home was not allowed.

Finally, all enquiries were exhausted and on the 25th of June 1917, Percy Davidson was officially listed by the Commanding Officer of the 25th Battalion, following an official Court of Enquiry, as



School student contributions

killed in action. His body was not recovered until after the end of the fighting on the Western Front.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission conducted extensive work following the fighting to locate and identify the bodies of missing soldiers. A letter to Percy Davidson's father, Frank, stated "... that during the course of exhumation work in the vicinity of Pozieres the Imperial War Graves Commission were successful in recovering the

remains of [your son]...". Percy Davidson was re-interred at the Serre Road Cemetery No. 2, near Beaumont Hamel, France. His name, with that of his brother, is in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and on the war memorial in Indooroopilly. The original location of the Indooroopilly memorial was on Westminster Road, right outside the Davdisons' family home.

The loss of both sons on the Western Front clearly had a significant impact on Percy's

and Eric's parents, especially on their mother Amelia. By December 1917, Frank and Amelia Davidson had moved from the house in Westminster Rd and taken up residence in Yarraman, 180 kilometres northwest of Brisbane. Percy Davidson was awarded the 1914-15 War Service Star; the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. These along with his personal effects were forwarded to his family upon the official finding of Percy being killed in action.



The unvielling of the Indooroopilly War Memorial, Westminster Rd, Indooroopilly, 1921. The home that Percy Davidson grew up in can be seen in the background.

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Alfred Searle Dodd

Researched by 5 Green, St Joseph's Primary School, Corinda, 2017

Alfred Searle Dodd was born in September 1897 in Maryborough, Queensland, to parents Ambrose and Susan Dodd. He attended school at Townsville East State School. His religion is listed as Methodist. After school he became a mercer, which is a dealer in textile fabrics, especially fine fabrics like silks and velvet. For five years he was a Naval Reservist as part of the naval band.



On the 26th of September 1916, 18-year-old Dodd signed up to serve as a Private. His Regimental number was 3003 and his unit was the 49th Battalion, 7th Reinforcement. His unit embarked from Brisbane on board HMAT A74 Marathon on the 27th of October 1916.



He was described as being 5 feet 7 inches (167 centimetres) tall, 122 pounds (55 kilograms) in weight and of sallow complexion, which means he was pale; he had brown eyes and brown hair.

Dodd fought on the Western Front in Europe during World War One and was sadly killed in action on the 7th of June 1917. There were conflicting first-hand reports regarding the cause of his death. One letter said that they saw Dodd get shot by a sniper in No Man's Land but another letter said he was killed by a shell that exploded near him and that there were no remains left of his body. Dodd was 19 years and 10 months old at the time of his death. There is no known grave for Private Alfred Searle Dodd but he is commemorated at The Ypres

(Menin Gate) Memorial (Panel 29), Belgium.



Dodd's next of kin was his mother, Mrs Susan Dodd from Apple Street, Chelmer. He received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal after his death.

Alfred Searle Dodd sacrificed his life to fight for our country. That is why we remember him.



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Alfred Lionel Douglas

– SERN 3032A

By: Grace Giles,
Class 5/6R, Sherwood Primary, 2018



Alfred Lionel Douglas was born in India. After a while he left India to go to Australia. It was clear that he was a brave man, having been a firefighter in Brisbane. When he was 22 he joined the Australian Imperial Forces to serve in the 26th Battalion in World War One. He was still only a young man and as you can imagine it would have been extremely hard to leave his friends and family behind. It must have been particularly difficult to say goodbye to his one remaining parent, his mother, Mrs Amy Douglas. Surely, she shed a tear as Alfred left for the war on the other side of the world.

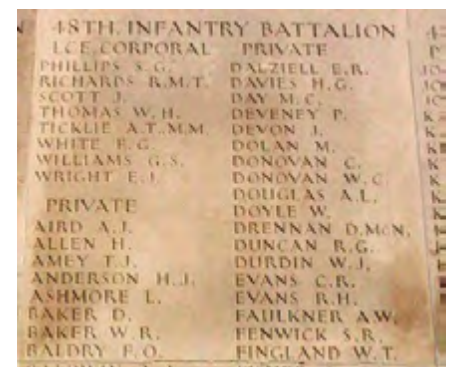
In December 1915 he arrived on the H.M.A.T "I tonus" in Egypt. Here he was transferred to the newly formed 48th Battalion and arrived in Europe.

The 48th battalion

Like many other soldiers he had a tragic ending. After arriving on the Western Front in France, Douglas and his fellow soldiers fought hard. It was an awful place to be with brutal battles and terrible trenches. The Australians had been fighting to protect the town of Pozieres for months. On the 7th of August 1916, the final assault by the Germans took place. It was at this battle that Douglas went missing, never to be found again. It was decided that he was killed in action.

He gave his life to protect the town of Pozieres in that final fierce battle, after which the Germans gave up on Pozieres.

Alfred is remembered in the Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour, Villers-Bretonneux Memorial (Australian National Memorial - France). His name sits amongst the long list of soldiers with no known grave.



References

- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16182003/alfred-lionel-douglas>
- <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/>
- <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51488>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/48th_Battalion_\(Australia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/48th_Battalion_(Australia))
- <http://militaria-sales.com.au/colour-patch-248th-battalion-19401942-mini-p-2992.html>



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



William Knox Dunn

Researched by: 5 GOLD
St Joseph's Corinda, 2018



William Knox Dunn was born in Dublin, Ireland, to parents Elizabeth Dunn and James Knox Dunn. After immigrating to Australia, he attended Sherwood State School and lived at 'Keppoch', Berry Street, Graceville. His religion is listed as Presbyterian.

After school, William Dunn worked as a stockman before enlisting in the Australian

Imperial Force on the 25th of January 1916. He was described as being fair in appearance, of medium height (168 centimetres) and medium build (76 kilograms). He had a dark moustache, hazel eyes and dark brown hair. He had two distinguishing marks; a scar on his abdomen and a birthmark on his left shoulder.

Private William Knox Dunn fought in the First World War in the 25th Battalion. He embarked from Brisbane aboard the HMAT Clan McGillivray, A46, on the 7th of September 1916. This trip took two months to reach England. From there he travelled to the Western Front, fighting for his country in France. William Dunn had a brother in the same battalion.

Sadly, he died in action on the 28th of May 1918, near Morlancourt, France. First-hand reports at the time reported that William Dunn was shot in the back while digging a trench forming the front line around 11pm. He took his last breath within 20 minutes of being shot.

He was buried at Corbie Cemetery, Heilly, before being moved after the war to Ribemont Cemetery, Somme.

William Knox Dunn was awarded three medals: 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. He was a brave soldier who risked his life for us.

Lest we forget.

References:

www.awm.gov.au
www.naa.gov.au

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Charles Edward Dunsdon

Researched by: Authors: Jessica Bailey Yr 5 & Alesha Pham Yr 4, 2015

Illustrators: Gabby Gakindi Yr 5, 2015, St Joseph's Primary School

Information Gathered from:
Australian War Memorial
Website and Australian
Archives website

Fredrick William and Elizabeth Dunsdon had a son who was born on the 27th of March 1885. His name was **Charles Edward Dunsdon**. At the time they did not know that their son was going to fight and die while fighting for the Australian Imperial Forces in the Great War.



Charles was born in the small farming town of Toowoomba, Australia. He attended the local Middle Ridge State School for the beginning years of his life. At that time, it was the only school in the area. We do not know anything about the teen years of his life. After his early

schooling, he went to work as a draughtsman for many years. He was single, and so, he did not have any children. Therefore, his next of kin at the time of enlistment was his brother, W. F. Dunsdon, who lived on South Street in Toowoomba, Queensland.

Like many young men, Charles saw 'going to war' as an adventure. So he enlisted at the age of 29 to join the Australian Imperial Forces to fight in the war to end all wars. Charles enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland, on the 18th of April 1914. Charles passed the routine medical after having his eyesight, general health

and hearing tested. Charles was given the regulation kit which was made up his basic supplies during his time at war. His kit included: three shirts, cardigan, stockings, towel, two mirrors, a belt, two pyjama suits, a tunic, a name badge, a dictionary, a sponge for cleaning himself, a singlet and a shaving brush.

At the time of Charles' enlistment, he was a Lance Corporal and his official service number was 4316. However, he would progress to greater ranks during his time at war. On the 22nd September 1914, Charles embarked on board the A2 Geelong to begin the long journey to Egypt, where he would begin his basic training and eventually fight at Gallipoli and in Europe. Along with many thousands of men and women, Charles would never to return to Australian shores again.

On the 15th of August 1915 Charles was admitted to hospital in Alexandria with pleurisy which was a common



HMAT A2 Geelong at Hobart, 20 October, 1914



condition for soldiers. He suffered inflammation of the pleurae, which impaired his lung function and caused pain when breathing.

After his time at Gallipoli, Charles was sent to the battlefields of France with the 4th Field Company, Australian Engineers. It was there that his life would end suddenly and in some mystery.

These are a few accounts of the death of Charles Edward Dunsdon. One, from Sapp. R. O'Brien said: *He (Dunsdon) was with Capt. Middel. They were looking over a map in Sausage Gully when a piece of shell went through his*

neck, killing him outright, and wounding the Captain. They made a coffin for him, but when they went back to bury the body, it was gone.

Another account of Dunsdon's death was made by Sapper F. B. Bales: *Dunsdon was killed in the morning, by a piece of shell killing him outright. He was going to the front line. Capt. Middel was with him. Soon after, some Pioneers called out that the two were buried by a shell. Capt. Middel was dug out and was helped, but because of the heavy shelling, Dunsdon couldn't be dug out.*

Bales also said he didn't know where the place of burial was.

Charles Edward Dunsdon died on the 9th of August 1916 at the age of 31. He lost his life in the battlefields of the Great War in Pozieres, France. His body was never recovered.

For Charles' bravery and service, he received three medals: 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He is recognised locally on the *Fallen Heroes Roll of Honour* located at the Sherwood Services Club and in the Graceville Memorial. Near the place of his death, Charles Dunsdon is remembered, along with thousands of other Australian diggers, at Villers – Bretonneux Memorial in Villers – Bretonneux, Picardie, France.



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Robert Ventress Elliot

By Matt Cujes,
St Peters Lutheran College, 2017



Robert Ventress Elliot was one of three brothers who volunteered to join the army to fight in the First World War. He enlisted on the 7th of May 1915 and on the 20th of August 1915 he travelled on the *Stropshire* from Lemnos to embark on his adventure that awaited him on the Western Front in France. Now that he was in the army, Robert Ventress Elliot was given his service number 2359 and he trained as part

of the 15th and 13th Infantry Battalions. As a soldier, Robert was able to achieve the rank of corporal before he was killed in action in France on the 6th of August 1916.

Years before the war began, his parents (Francis and Mary Anne Elliot) gave birth to him in Mt Morgan, Queensland, Australia, in November 1895. While he was still young, only four years old, his dear mother died on the 30th of April 1899 in the Rockhampton Hospital while she herself was still young - only 29 years of age. After the sad tragedy, his father decided the family would move to a new home at Foxton Street, Indooroopilly, Brisbane - where Robert and his brothers would spend the rest of their childhood together.

Robert had brown eyes, fair hair and a fair complexion. He also had two distinctive scars: one on his forehead

measuring at two inches, and the other one was to be found on his big toe. As he grew older, Robert grew to a height of five feet and 4½ inches, had a chest measurement of 33½ - 34½ inches and weighed only 121lbs (55kg). He was a Christian and part of the Church of England.

Before enlisting, Robert's job was that of a storeman. He had completed three years of field artillery training in Brisbane before he decided to enlist for the war, so he did have some experience before he left. After his death in 1916, the only personal possessions that remained to carry on his legacy were his damaged wallet, a photo, some letters and the medals that were eventually given to his father after the war: the Star Medal, the British War Medal as well as the Victory Medal. The final resting place of Robert Ventress Elliot is at the war cemetery in Villers Bretonneux, inside the borders of France.

This is the story of Robert Ventress Elliot's life and one of the few things left to carry on his name.

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Robert Ventress Elliot

Researched by Will Morris and Fletcher Hodgson, Indooroopilly State School, Year 6, 2017



Robert Ventress Elliot was born in 1894, in Mount Morgan, Queensland. He was son of Frances (Francis) and Mary Ann (Anne) (nee White) Elliot and grew up on Foxton Street Indooroopilly, Brisbane, Queensland. Robert's religion was Church of England just like his family.

Prior to his enlistment, Robert was a storeman (someone whose job is to organise and look after the

goods that are kept in a large store or factory). On the 7th of May 1915, Robert decided he would like to serve his country, knowing that his country was already at war. Robert's service number was 2359 and he was a Private in the 4th Infantry Brigade, 15th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements. 6th Reinforcements departed Brisbane on the *Karoola* on the 12th of June 1915. Thomas William Elliot, second son of Frances and Mary Ann,

joined the Infantry on 30th of December 1915 to follow in his brother's footsteps.

The 15th Battalion was an infantry battalion of the Australian Army. Formed in 1914 as part of the all-volunteer Australian Imperial Force from Queensland and Tasmanian recruits, the battalion fought during the Gallipoli Campaign. In June 1916, they sailed for France and the Western Front. The first major battle for the battalion was in France at Pozieres in August 1916. The Battle of Pozieres (23 July – 3 September 1916) took place in France around the village of Pozieres, during the Battle of the Somme. This is when Robert sadly was killed in action on the 6th of August 1916, aged 21 years. He is commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

On top of two granite blocks, a white marble centre lists the names of 25 fallen soldiers from Indooroopilly. Badges of the Royal Australian, Imperial Forces and the Royal Australian Air Force are also featured on the sides. Originally lit by a gas lantern, the memorial features a cast iron electric lantern on top. In 1970 the memorial was damaged by a mobile crane and relocated to Keating Park where it stands today. This site has been landscaped in the form of a rising sun. Four other names are listed on the opposite side to the role of honour and additional plaques commemorating other



commemoration for those who died. It is the place where the Australian officers and men who were killed in action in France and have no known graves are honoured. The Villers-Brettonneux memorial features a long wall filled with four sections where the commemorated names are carved on stone panels in the order of the battalions and within each battalion, each name is listed alphabetically by rank. The names of the battles in France in which the Australian forces were involved in are carved on the top of the memorial wall.

References

<https://www.bdm.qld.gov.au/IndexSearch/queryEntry.m?type=births>
<http://www1qld.gravesecrets.net/el.html>
<http://15thbattalioniaif.org/history.html>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_Battalion_\(Australia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_Battalion_(Australia))
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Pozi%C3%A8res
<http://www.qldwarmemorials.com.au/memorial/?id=656>
<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/somme/memorial-villers-brettonneux.htm>

conflicts since WWI have been attached. There is also an Australia remembers plaque. The memorial was officially opened by Sir Mathew Nathan, KCMG, on the 26th of February 1921.

The Villers-Brettonneux memorial is an Australian national memorial which commemorates all the soldiers who fought in France and Flanders from 1916 until 1918 during World War One. The memorial is also a place of

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Thomas William Elliot

By Laura Barnes,
St Peters Lutheran College, 2017



Thomas William Elliot was born in January 1899, in Mt Morgan in Central Queensland. He grew up in Foxton Street Indooroopilly, as one of three sons to Francis and Mary Anne Elliot. However, Thomas's mother had sadly died in 1899 when Thomas was merely 15 months old. Upon enlistment on the 30th of December 1915, he was described as being dark with brown eyes and hair, with a height of five feet and seven inches. From Australia, Thomas travelled on the Clan Mo Gillivary to Alexandria, Egypt, where he trained in the 42nd and 47th battalions.

From Alexandria, Thomas travelled to Rolleston in England where he stayed in No. 11 Camp before being deployed to France. On the 1st of September 1916, he was charged with failing to appear at a rendezvous point in the field. However, this was not the only 'crime' Thomas committed. Two weeks later he was reported AWOL from 9pm one night to 9:30pm the next night. Unfortunately for Thomas, this led to a forfeiture of five days of his pay.

Sadly, on the 19th of November 1917 at 7:30pm, Thomas William Elliot was accidentally killed in a motor lorry accident in northern France. He was admitted to hospital by the AFA but was already dead. An inquiry into the death took place six days later. Witnesses claimed at the time of the incident it was dark and Thomas did not see the motor lorry carrying an ammunition trailer that is now presumed to have hit and killed him. He was buried at Trois Arbres by Rev. T. Theodor on the 6th of December, three-

and-a-half miles North West of Armentieres, a commune in the north of France.

Francis Elliot wrote many letters to the War Office seeking further information regarding the death of his son. It took many months for him to find out the cause of his son's death, and to receive Thomas' personal belongings. Eventually, on the 15th of February 1918, four months after his son's death, Francis Elliot, who was registered as Thomas' next of kin, received a disk, purse, knife, metal matchbox, cigarette case, four badges, metal chain, 500 rees notes, three coins, photos, cards and letters. Thomas Elliot's service was honored by receiving three medals; the British War Medal, Victory Medal and the stat medal.

However, when the memorial was made in Indooroopilly to acknowledge the death of soldiers from the area who had died in World War One, the last name of both his sons, Robert and Thomas, were spelt incorrectly with two 't's' instead of one. This would have been a sad time for the Elliot family - with two sons, Robert and Thomas, having died in France in active service, while the eldest, George, sadly died three years after returning from the war.

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Michael Enright

Researched by: Regime Gray and Erin Boyle,
Corinda State High School, 9I, 2014

This research journal really helped us to understand and learn about the life of the late **Michael Enright**. It was truly an enriching experience to find out about his siblings and early life. There was a connection between us and this soldier, as he lived very close to us. Knowing that he was killed in action and never found was really upsetting as we felt that we truly knew him. After hours of research, we managed to find some relatives of his, in America (see below). Also, we think he may have lead a double life of some sort. With almost exact details, lived a young man in Beaudesert who we think may also be the same person re-enlisting. We have learnt so much with this research and learnt a lot.

Background Research

Source 1

Details: Facts for kids. (2014). Retrieved from <http://factsforkids.net/world-war-1-facts-kids-fascinating-facts-ww/>

Notes:

- World War One changed the history of many countries
- World War One is also known as The Great War or the War of the Nations
- 25 countries marshaled their troops ready for war

- Russia had the biggest army in World War One
- The military men where very dedicated and brave
- Almost a million soldiers were gassed to death

Source 2

Details: Duffy, M. (2009) Life in the trenches. Retrieved from <http://www.firstworldwar.com/features/trenchlife.htm>

Notes:

- Death was a constant companion to those serving in the line
- Many men died on their first day
- Lice were a never-ending problem
- Rotting carcasses lay around in their thousands
- Creosol and chloride used to stave off the constant threat of disease and infection
- Trench foot fungal infection of the feet caused by cold, wet and unsanitary trench conditions

Focus Question 1

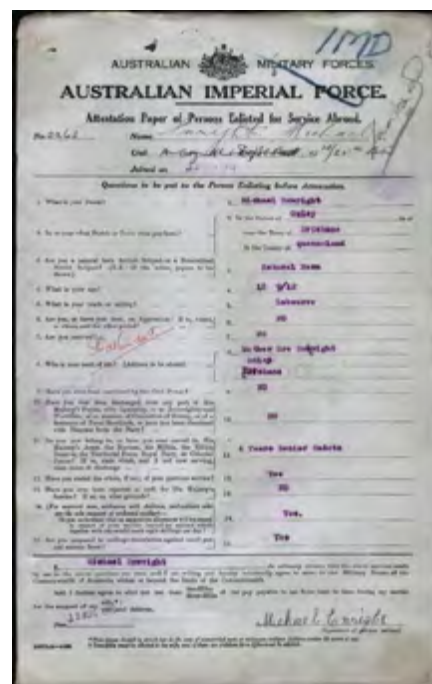
What are the biographic details of the soldier?

Source 1

Details: Item details. (2014). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

Notes:

- Name Michael Enright
- Place of birth: Oxley, Brisbane, Australia
- Dark complexion, brown hair, brown eyes
- Age 18
- Date of birth 1899
- Labourer
- Mother: Mrs Enright
- Four years in senior cadets
- Reported missing; then killed in action
- Date of death the 6th of August 1917



Source 2

Details: Record search. (2014). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=3543446>

Notes:

- Title Enright Michael
- Next of kin Mrs Enright
- Date range 1914- 1920
- POB Oxley Queensland
- POE Brisbane Queensland



School student contributions

Source 3

Details: Casualty form service. (2014). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

Notes:

- 4/2/16 taken on strength place samalia.
- 14/3/16 proceeded to join B.E.F.
- 19/3/16 disembarked Marseilles place France.
- 29/7/16 reported missing.
- 29/7/16 reported killed in action.



Source 4

Details: Purport. (2014). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

Notes:

- Embarked at Sydney per R.M.S. Mongolia on 8/7/16.
- On the 7/9/16 trams to camel corps.
- The 12/8/16 taken on strength at Moss-car.
- 9/1/17 reported wounded in action
- 12/1/17 gunshot wound thigh and buttock place Egypt.

Focus Question 3

How did the soldier die and does he have any living relatives?

Source 1

Details: AIF project. (2014). Retrieved from <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=91991>

Notes:

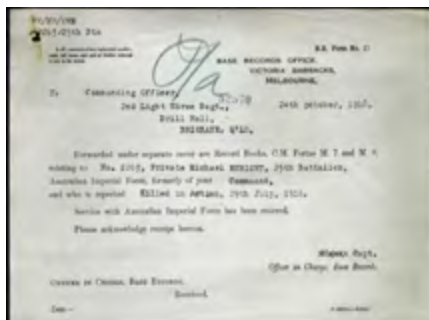
- Michael Enright.
- 25th battalion.
- Killed in action 29 July 1916.
- No known grave.

Source 2

Details: Base records. (2014). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

Notes:

- No 2263, Private Michael Enright
- 25th battalion,
- Killed in action 29th July, 1916



Source 3:

Details: Government, A. (n.d.). National Archives. Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=3543446> (image)

Notes:

- Disembarked Marseilles in France 19 March 1916
- Reported away without leave (9am 14 July 1916 to 9am 16 July 1916)

- Awarded 14 days no pay 20 July 1916
- Reported missing 29 July 1916
- Changed to killed in action
- Signed off by Sgd F. T.

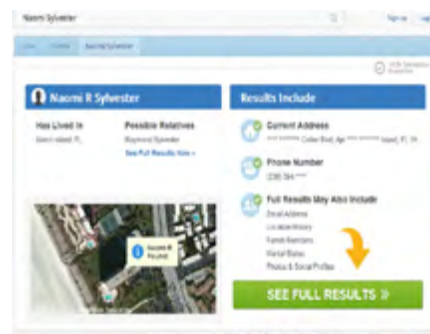
Source 4

Details: Government, A. (n.d.). National Archives. Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=3543446> (image) (james)

Notes:

- Re-joined but told to rest 15 October 1917
- To embark Kantara (Australia) 13 March 1919
- Written from Egypt

Possible relatives of Michael Enright



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191 and Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



Michael Enright

28 July 1916- Pozieres Ridge, France

It was a hot, sweaty day when the commanding officer gave the message to his soldiers that they would attack that night at midnight under the cover of darkness. So, the Battalion left Taara Hill at 1930 hours to prepare for this battle at Pozieres Ridge.

The long hours passed, till it was now only mere seconds till midnight. The soldiers were tense and eager to charge out of the trenches and onto the battlefield. The 25th Battalion were positioned in the centre sector. Then the attack started. The artillery was shooting sprays of bullets at the enemy, followed by heavy bombardments of canisters filled with sulphur mustard. The commanding officer gave the order. They charged on to the raging field of commotion. As they went 'over the top', leaping into the typhoon of bullets and chaos, one single bullet from a machine gun hit the right shoulder of a young soldier named Michael Enright.

To those around him, Michael's injury did not seem severe. He retreated back to the Battalion's first line to seek medical treatment for his wound. However, that night, at the attack at Pozieres, would be the last time anyone would see Michael Enright alive. His Battalion, the 25th did not take their objective, instead retiring back to their lines before daylight.

So, in the light of day, after many communications and accounts of the chaotic night, Michael Enright would be declared 'missing' and later, on 29 July, announced 'officially missing in action' and presumed dead.





Michael Enright was born on 9 November 1896 to Roman Catholic parents Sarah Jane Allen and Joannes Enright in Brisbane, Australia. He grew up in a house with six other siblings. Sarah Jane and Joannes sent Michael and his siblings to Oxley State School, which was then, the only local school for children in the area.

Before Michael enlisted for the Australia Imperial Forces to fight in World War I, he was a senior Cadet for four years and took on labouring jobs after leaving school.



Michael Enright

When the call went out for soldiers to fight in WWI, Michael was keen to sign up. He enlisted for service abroad on 12 August 1915 in the town of Brisbane, Queensland, at the young age of eighteen and nine months. Michael was given the unique service number of 2263 and placed in the 25th Battalion, 4th Reinforcement, along with other young men who enlisted on that very same day. As a Private he embarked on the HMAT Armadale A26 in Brisbane on 18 September 1915. Little did Michael know, he would never step foot on the familiar soil of Australia again.

Michael survived fighting the war for nearly ten months in Europe until his untimely death on the 29 July 1916. Michael was announced as Missing in Action presumed killed at the battle of Pozieres Ridge. His next of kin, like many other soldiers, was his mother Sarah Jane Enright.



Michael is forever remembered at the place of his death at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in the Somme, France. We also remember Michael here in Australia at the Australian War Memorial; his name can be found on Panel 104 in the Commemorative Area of the memorial. Here in his own hometown of Oxley, Michael is honoured on the Oxley War Memorial plaque found on Oxley Road. And, like other young soldiers from the area, Michael is remembered as a true local with 'Enright Street' in Oxley named forever in his honour.



Resources

Australian War Memorial Website
 Australian War Memorial- Red Cross Transcripts
 Australian Archives
 Ancestry.com
 Historical Society- Marion McKenzie

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John Howard Fielding

By Cathy, Eva, Alex & Jack, 9K –
Corinda State High School, 2017

Born: 5 May 1893
Died: 30th April 1915
Birthplace: Bald Hills
Unit: 15th Battalion



John Howard Fielding was one of the first soldiers to fight and die at Australia's most famous battle, Gallipoli in the Dardanelles, in 1915. He was tragically killed in action at the young age of 21 on the 30th of April 1915, less than a week into the ANZAC's involvement in the First World War (National Archives of Australia).

Fielding enlisted in the 15th Battalion on the 26th of October in 1914. This unit was first raised in late September 1914, six weeks after the First World War began (Australia

War Memorial, N.D). On the 22nd of December 1914, John Fielding embarked on the HMAT Ceramic A40 and arrived in Egypt in early February 1915 for training. Afterwards, the battalion sailed towards Gallipoli, arriving at ANZAC Cove on the 25th of April 1915. Upon arriving at Gallipoli, John became a part of the birth of ANZACs.

John Howard Fielding was born on the 15th of May in 1893 in a Parish located in Bald Hills, Brisbane, Queensland (Ancestry, 2017). He was a natural-born British subject who lived in Bald Hills during his school years, training as a teacher and working as a government servant afterwards. His family consisted of 11 people, some of which enlisted for war like himself, like his brother Frank Fielding. Thomas Fielding was his father and Louisa Fielding was his mother and both lived in Sherwood, and his father was well known as a teacher at Sherwood State School. Both suffered a great loss after John Fielding's tragic death.

At the young age of only 21, John Howard Fielding was killed in action less than a week into the Gallipoli campaign. A special memorial for him and soldiers like him

has been built at Quinn's Post Cemetery, a post that was established in Gallipoli on the 25th of April in 1915 (Gallipoli, 2015) in commemoration of Quinn's sacrifice for Australia as a soldier in WWI. Chaplain Walter Ernest Dexter said of Quinn's Post at the time, "*Many of our graves are nameless and hundreds of those posted as missing are dead and buried by the Turks*" (Gallipoli Memorial, 2015). Sadly, John Howard Fielding's body was one of the many that were not found but his bravery and loyalty to Australia has not been forgotten. His actions were recognised even after his death and he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal (Australia Defence Force Academy, 2016) for his services overseas in the army. John Howard Fielding was a part of a legend that helped shape Australia's identity through the qualities of bravery, initiative, discipline, loyalty and mateship.

Source 1: (National Archives of Australia, 1914)

Notes:

- Unit: 15th Infantry Battalion
- Enlisted 26th October 1914
- Age 21 Years and 5 months at enlistment
- Worked as a Government Servant
- Father is Thomas Fielding



Source 2 (Ancestry, c2017)

Family:

Grandfather: John Fielding (1826-1890) (Grandfather)

Grandmother: Jane Bullock (1829-1901)

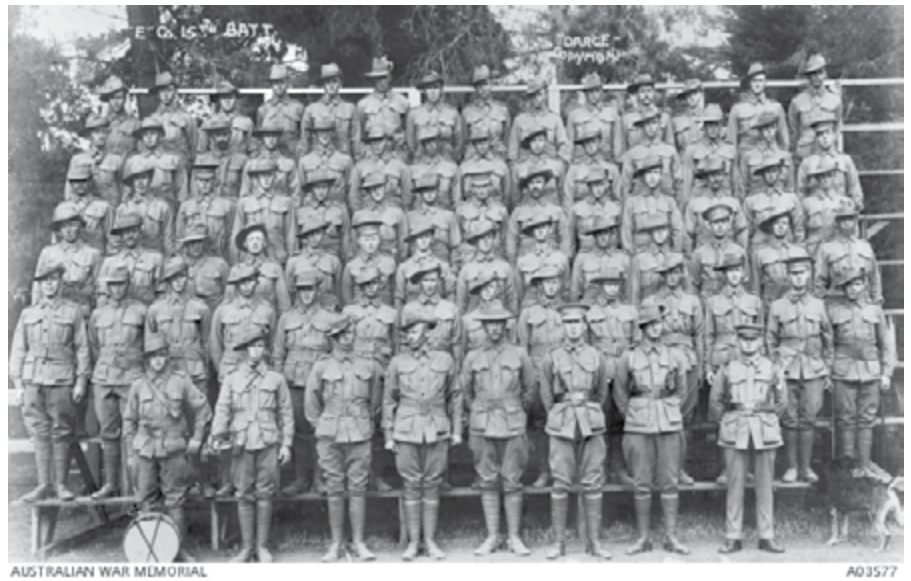
Father: *Thomas Fielding* (1860 – 1947)

Mother: *Louisa Hall* (1861 – 1937)

Married: 1886, Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia

Siblings of John Howard Fielding:

- Allan Shenton (1887)
- Thomas Leonard (18890)
- Doris Hamilton (1891)
- Frank Fielding (1895)
- Geoffrey Victor (1897)
- Marjorie Alice Mary Fielding (1899)
- Olive Louisa (1901)
- Noel Alfred (1904)



Source 3

15th Battalion (J.H Fielding 5th row)

(Range of expansion) chest measurement: 4 inches
Slight defect: has a dental plate but is still able to chew properly

Source 4: (National Archives of Australia, 1914)

Source 5:

Australian War Memorial, Unknown Year

15th Australian Infantry Battalion, 2017

- Raised from late September 1914 (6 weeks after WW1 started)
- ¾ of battalion were recruited as volunteers from QLD (JH Fielding was a volunteer)
- Formed the 4th Brigade (along with 13th, 14th, 16th)
- Trained in Victoria, then proceeded to Egypt
- Arrived at Anzac 25th April 1915

Notes:

Birthplace: Brisbane
Examined: 20th October 1914
Trade: Government Servant
Height: 6 feet
Weight: 154 lbs
(Girth when fully expanded)
chest measurement: 36 inches



Rectangle shaped colour patch symbolising the 15th Battalion, colours are brown, dark blue



School student contributions

Source 7:
Gallipoli and the Anzacs, 2015

23 April 1915

The first hospital ship to evacuate wounded from Anzac, the *Gascon*, reached Alexandria, Egypt. Of the 548 casualties carried, 14 fell on the voyage which took six and a half days.

First casualties from Gallipoli reached No 1 Australian General Hospital, Heliopolis, Suez Canal Zone, Egypt, under Army Nursing Service, care.

Field's crew of the *Gascon* is known in Queensland not just for the greatest number of men to come over with one other killed or wounded. The whole battalion was practically lost to them... The hospital was some 30 miles behind the Anzacs - one long carriage packed with the Egyptian War and Decent on the side.

The Australian submarine, *AE2*, was sunk by a Turkish torpedo boat, the *Sultan Hisar* in Erdek Bay in the Sea of Marmara. This submarine was the first allied vessel to successfully engage the *Sultan Hisar*. The *AE2*'s crew was captured and spent the rest of the war in Turkish prisons of war camps.

Notes: 29 April 1915

- the 'Gascon' departed from Anzac to Alexandria, Egypt
- 548 casualties, 14 of which is dead
- First casualties to reach Australian general hospital, Heliopolis

Source 8:



Notes :
John Fielding's Headstone at Gallipoli, Turkey
Date: 30 April 1915
Headstone quote: "Greater Love Hath No Man Than This"

Source 9:
University of New South Wales. (c2016)



John Howard FIELDING

Regimental number	747
Place of birth	Brisbane Queensland
School	East Hills, Brisbane, Queensland
Other training	Teacher, Dept of Public Instruction
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	Government Servant
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	21
Next of kin	Father, Thomas Fielding, Sherwood, Brisbane, Queensland
Previous military service	Nil
Enlistment date	26 October 1914
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	15th Battalion, E Company
AWM Enlistment Roll number	23321
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board Transport A401 <i>Gascon</i> on 22 December 1914
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	15th Battalion
Date of death	Killed in Action 30 April 1915
Place of death or surrender	Quinn's Post, Gallipoli, Turkey
Date of death	30 April 1915
Age at death	21 1/2
Place of burial	Quinn's Post Cemetery (Special Memorial 36), Gallipoli
Prison number, Host of Honour	75
Australian War Memorial	
Other details	War service: Egypt, Gallipoli Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Notes:

- Trained as a Teacher, Department of Public Instruction
- Methodist (religion)
- 22 December 1914: unit embarked from Melbourne, VIC
- Died at 21 years, 11 months
- Received medal: 1914-1 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal



Source 10:
Australian Government Department of Defence, c2017

Notes:

- Bright bronze colour
- 4 pointed star
- 2 overlapping swords in form of an 'x'
- Wreath which has the cypher of King George V
- Red, white, blue colours to symbolise the Empire

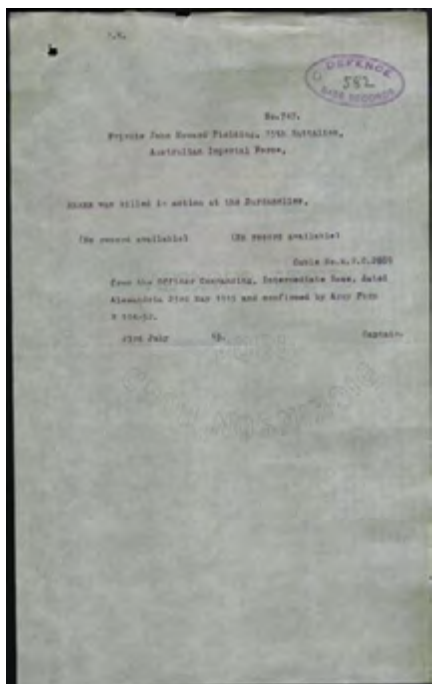
Source 11:
Discovering Anzacs (1915)



Source 12:
National Archives of Australia. (1915)

Notes:

- Fielding killed in action at the Dardanelles
- Death of Fielding was confirmed by the Army Form B 104-52
- Letter was sent on 23rd July 1915



Source 13:

Australian War Memorial.
(unknown year)

Australian war memorial.
(unknown year). *Roll of Honour Private John Howard Fielding*. Retrieved 4 June, 2017, from <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1732605/>

Notes:

- Fielding was ranked private
- Place of association was at Boonah, Queensland, Australia
- Sourced from AW

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- University of New South Wales. (c2016). *John Howard FIELDING*. Retrieved 8 May, 2017, from <https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=97035>

Service Number	747
Death Date	30 April 1915
Death Place	Ottoman Empire: Turkey, Marmara, Gallipoli Peninsula
Final Rank	Private
Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15th Australian Infantry Battalion • First World War, 1914-1918 • Australian armed forces • Commonwealth Military Forces • Australian Imperial Force • Infantry

Service number	747
Rank	Private
Unit	15th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service	Australian Army
Conflict/Operation	First World War, 1914-1918
Conflict Eligibility Date	First World War, 1914-1921
Date of Death	30 April 1915
Place of Death	Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey
Cause of Fate	Killed in action
Place of Association	Boonah, Queensland, Australia
Cemetery or Memorial Details	Quinn's Post Cemetery, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey
Source	AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War, Army

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Robert Alfred Fielding

By Trinity & Grace,
9K - Corinda State High School, 2017



Source 1:

Gravestone (Australian Government, 2017)

D.O.B: September 1872 (roughly)

Date of Death: 28 November 1916

Place of Residence: Sherwood, Brisbane

Unit: 15th Battalion, Then Moved to the 47th Battalion

Date of Enlistment: 15th October 1915

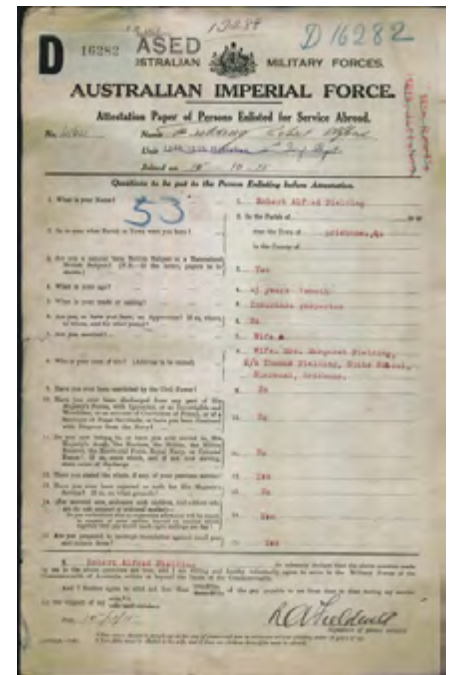
Private Robert Alfred Fielding died for his country in the First World War at the Battle of Pozieres. Fielding was 44 when he died, leaving behind his wife and (adoptive) family, who took him in shortly after birth.

Robert was put up for adoption at birth in September of 1872, and was then adopted by the Fieldings (John and Jane). He lived with Mr. & Mrs. Fielding, and their nine other children in Sherwood, Brisbane (Adoptadigger.org, c2017). Sherwood is where Robert resided until his enlistment with the Australian Army in World War One. He worked as an insurance inspector before enlistment in the army on the 15th of October 1915. He departed from his family and life in Brisbane as he went overseas to train in Egypt (Australian Government, 2017).

Although his public records are not clear, it is most likely that he fought from the beginning of the Somme Offensive, due to his death coinciding with this offensive. Fielding started out with the 15th battalion, in which he fought his first battle. He was then transferred to the 47th battalion, who then fought in the Battle of Pozieres in France, where he lost his life, killed in action (Australian War Memorial, c2017).

Not long after Fielding's body was recovered, his belongings were mailed to his wife, Margaret, as she was to be given his belongings in the event of his death according to his will (Australian

Government, 2017). Fielding's belongings were sent via Sherwood State School, where his older brother Thomas Fielding worked as a Primary School teacher. Fielding's death undoubtedly would have had a large impact on the Sherwood community.



Source 2:

Enlistment Paper 1915 (Australian Government, 2017)

Notes:

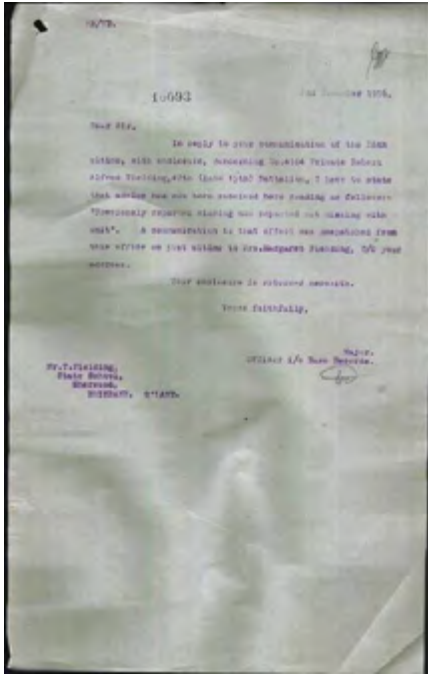
- Enlisted in Brisbane
- Enlisted at 43 years and 1 month (roughly)
- Wife – Margaret Fielding
- Next of kin – Thomas Fielding, son
- Worked as an insurance inspector before the war

School student contributions



Source 3:

Reported Not Missing 1916
(Australian Government, 2017)



Notes:

- Reported and confirmed missing on 11th August 1916
- Confirmed not missing, and was found along with the rest of his unit
- Letter to Fielding's assumed brother, Mr Thomas Fielding

Source 4:

Field Service 1916 (Australian Government, 2017)

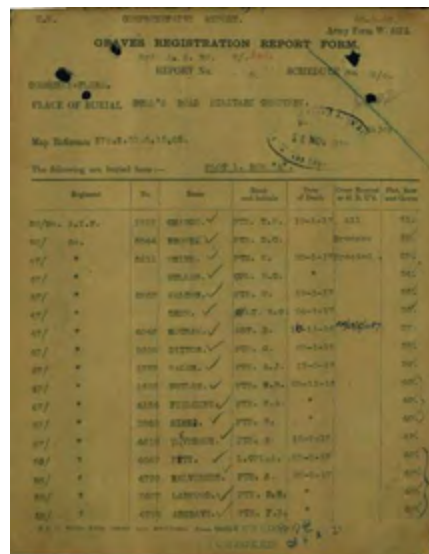


Notes:

- Private R. A. Fielding died 28th NOVEMBER 1916
- Killed in action – at the field in France
- Place of burial hasn't been recorded yet.
- Regimental number: 4164
- Rank: Private
- Report made 2/12/1916 by Commanding Officer 47th Battalion A.I.F

Source 5:

Grave Registration 1915
(Australian Government, 2017)



Notes:

- Buried in Bulls Road Military Cemetery
- Buried with people of higher rank (e.g Lieutenants, Sergeants, and Privates)
- Certified on 22nd November
- Buried in Plot 1. Row A

Source 6:

Fielding's Will (Australian Government, 2017)



Notes:

- Private R. A. Fielding left his property and effect to his wife, Margaret Fielding.

Source 7:

Fielding's Inventory 1916
(Australian Government, 2017)



Notes:

- His effects were the things on him as he dies.
- Letter states his effects: wallet, letters and photos
- Confirms his effect went to his wife and brother, Margaret Fielding and Thomas Fielding
- Private R. A. Fielding's effects were forwarded to Sherwood State School.



Arriving in France on 9 June 1916, the 47th entered the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 3 July. It participated in its first major battle at Pozieres. Initially, the battalion provided working parties during the 2nd Division's attack on 4 August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 47th endured two stints in the heavily-contested trenches of Pozieres, as well as a period in reserve.

After Pozieres, the battalion spent the period up until March 1917 alternating between duty in the trenches and training and rest behind the lines. On 11 April it took part in the attack mounted against the heavily defended village of Bullecourt - part of the formidable Hindenburg Line to which the Germans had retreated during February and March. Devoid of surprise, and dependent upon the support of unreliable tanks, the attack failed. Later in the year, the focus of the AIF's operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium where the 47th took part in the battles of Messines and Passchendaele.

- The 2nd Division were unable to keep control of the Somme
- The 4th Division were more successful than the 1st and 2nd Division as they defeated a German counter-attack, and were able to maintain control of the Somme.

References

Adoptadigger.org. (c2017). Retrieved from Adoptadigger.org: <http://www.adoptadigger.org/search-for-a-ww1-digger/search-for-a-ww1-digger/item/3-diggers-database/2728-fielding-alfred>
Australian Government. (2017). *Robert Alfred Fielding*. Retrieved from National Australian Archives: <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/166051>

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Australian War Memorial. (c2017). Retrieved from Awm.gov.au: <https://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1998469/>

National Archives Australia. (c2017). Retrieved from Naa.gov.au: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Gallery151/dist/JGalleryViewer.aspx?B=3555596&S=13&N=64&R=0#/SearchNRetrieve/NAAMedia/ShowImage.aspx?B=3555596&T=P&S=13>

Source 8:

Pozieres 1916-1917 (Australian War Memorial, c2017)

Notes:

- The 47th battalion entered the trench in Pozieres, France on the 9th June 1916
- The battalion fought in the 2nd Division's attack. (4th August 1916)
- The battalion took part in another battle in the Hindenburg Line (11 April 1917)

- The battalion took to the Ypres sector in Belgium for the battles of Messines and Passchendaele. (late in the year 1917)

Source 9:

Battle of Pozieres 1916 (Australian War Memorial, c2017)

Note:

- Somme valley was originally capture by the 1st Division
- Germans were fighting for the control of the Somme

Battle of Pozieres

Pozieres, a small village in the Somme valley in France, was the scene of bitter and costly fighting for the 1st, 2nd and 4th Australian Divisions in mid 1916.

The village was captured initially by the 1st Division on 23 July 1916. The division clung to its gains despite almost continuous artillery fire and repeated German counter-attacks but suffered heavily. By the time it was relieved on 27 July it had suffered 5,285 casualties.

The 2nd Division took over from the 1st and mounted two further attacks - the first, on 29 July, was a costly failure; the second, on 2 August, resulted in the seizure of further German positions beyond the village. Again, the Australians suffered heavily from retaliatory bombardments. They were relieved on 6 August, having suffered 6,848 casualties.

The 4th Division was next into the line at Pozieres. It too endured a massive artillery bombardment, and defeated a German counter-attack on 7 August; this was the last attempt by the Germans to retake Pozieres.

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Joseph William Fisher

By Jemima, Hannah & Gryphon
(9K – Corinda State High School, 2017)

Lance Corporal Joseph William Fisher, originally from Charters Towers, Queensland was Killed in Action at Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli on the 2nd of May 1915.



Figure 1: Studio Portrait of Joseph William Fisher, 1915

He was just 23 years old when he fulfilled his famous relative Prime Minister Andrew Fisher's vow to "fight to our last man and our last shilling."

Joseph (Joe) William Fisher began his life in November 1891, Charters Towers, North Queensland (Hamilton, 2015).

Joe took up military training in his father's footsteps before being employed as an engine driver at Raceview, Ipswich (Hamilton, 2015). Then, two weeks after war was declared, Fisher enlisted.

On the 21st of August 1914, Joseph William Fisher was

enlisted into the 9th Battalion (National Archives of Australia, 1914). Just five days after enlisting, Fisher was promoted from Private to Lance Corporal due to his previous military training (Hamilton, 2015).

The 9th Battalion arrived in Gallipoli on the Omrah Ship, on the 25th of April 1915 (Australia War Memorial, 1915).

However, just a week after arriving in Gallipoli, Joseph William Fisher was killed in action. On the 2nd of May 1915, Joseph William Fisher was killed at the Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli (National Archives of Australia, 1915).

Following an imprecise obituary notice, on the 22nd of July 1915, Fisher's parents sought further information surrounding their son's death in an intriguing letter to the Prime Minister at the time, Andrew Fisher.

In the letter, Roger Fisher (Father of Joseph) was said to be "very well known" to the Prime Minister (National Archive of Australia, 1915) and the two are believed to be distant relatives due to similar backgrounds (Hamilton, 2015).

Interestingly, months prior, on the 5th of September 1914, Prime Minister Andrew Fisher won the federal election with his famous pledge to defend the Empire "to our last man

and our last shilling" (National Museum of Australia, 2017).

Perhaps these words can be seen as an ominous foreshadowing to Joe Fisher's own death for his country. Despite having no recorded burial, the 23 years of Joseph William Fisher have been commemorated in many ways.

"Lest we Forget... J. Fisher," reads the permanent Oxley War Memorial (National Museum of Australia, 2017). "Fallen heroes... Honoured and in Memory Evergreen... J. W Fisher," reads the Graceville War Memorial (Monument Australia, 2012).

Furthermore, the State Library of Queensland provides a public article dedicated to commemorating the life of Joseph Fisher.

Without a doubt, the life of Joseph William Fisher should be remembered today and into the future.



Figure 2: Oxley War Memorial, Oxley Road, Oxley

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191 and Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



Arthur Patrick Foott

Researched by: Vy and Maryam at Corinda High School, Year 9F, 2016

Arthur Patrick Foott, a soldier from Graceville, Queensland, fought courageously in the First World War, including at the Battle of Passchendaele. This battle took place at Ypres, Belgium, where Foott lost his life on the 17th of September 1917, aged 38. He was one of the thousands of brave Australians who sacrificed their lives for their country and displayed great courage, perseverance, discipline and teamwork.

Foott was born on the 29th of March 1879 and was employed as a journalist at *The Daily Standard* in Brisbane, before enlisting in the 1st Australian Pioneer Battalion on the 20th of March 1916. He was a journalist of considerable ability, took a keen interest in military matters and had previously served in the Brisbane Grammar School Cadet Corps (Trove, 1917). At enlistment, he was aged 36, was 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighed 14 pounds and had a fair complexion (National Archives of Australia, 2016). Arthur Foott was married to Grace Olivia Foott and was the son of Thomas Wade Foott and Mary Hannay Foott. His older brother was Brigadier-General Cecil Henry Foott.

Corporal Foott served on the Western Front before being killed in action in Belgium. The exact cause of his death is unknown. He was buried in the Ypres, Belgium cemetery (National Archives of Australia, 2016). The Pioneer Battalion he belonged to constructed defensive positions, command posts and dugouts. They prepared barbed wire defences and, on occasion, breached those of the enemy (RSL Virtual War Memorial).

Foott lost his life at one off the worst battles of the First World War at Ypres. He would have experienced great hardship from German bombardments and terribly muddy conditions (Anderson, 2012). In such conditions everything was difficult. A senior officer in the British Army, Douglas Haig told war correspondents, *"It was simply the mud which defeated us."* (Anderson, 2012). Throughout this battle over 300,000 casualties were inflicted, including thousands of Australians.

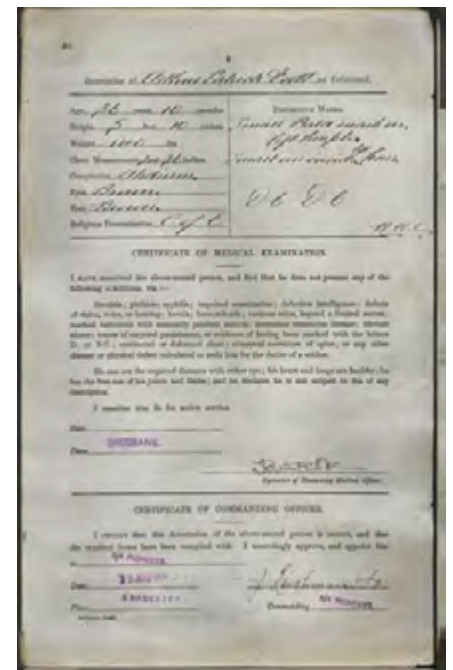
The ANZAC legend has become a proud part of Australia's heritage. Arthur Patrick Foott was not a part of the birth of the ANZAC legend at Gallipoli, however, just like those soldiers he displayed great courage, perseverance

and endurance. We should remember the actions of men like Arthur Patrick Foott and their crucial impact on Australia's national history.

Born: March 29, 1879
Died: September 17th 1917 (Age 38)
Hometown: Graceville, Queensland
Unit: 1st Pioneers Battalion

Source 1:

Enlistment Papers (National Archives of Australia, 2016)



Notes:

- Name: Arthur Patrick Foott
- Service Number: 2570A
- Born: Warrego, QLD
- Enlisted March 20th 1916
- Occupation: Journalist
- Age: 36 years 10 months at enlistment
- Married to Grace Olivia Foott
- Measurements: Height: 5 Feet 10 Inches, Weight: 140 lbs, Chest: 314.36 Inches
Complexion: Medium Eyes & Brown Hair

School student contributions



Source 2:

Casualty Form (National Archives of Australia, 2016)

Notes:

- Rank: Private
- Death: killed in action

Source 3:

Field Service (National Archive of Australia, 2016)

Notes:

- Unit: 1st Pioneer Battalion
- Died on September 17th 1917
- Died in Belgium
- Cause of Death: Killed in Action

Source 4:

Death Location (National Archives of Australia, 2016)

Notes:

- Buried: Plot 1, Row Q, Grave 35
- Menin Road South Military Cemetery

Source 5:

Australian Electoral Rolls (Ancestry)

Source 6:

Brisbane Grammar School Memorial Library WW1 Honour Board 1

Notes:

- Schooling: Brisbane Grammar School
- Name engraved on the Memorial Library WW1 Honour Board 1
- LECTI JUVENES: young owed or leaders (google translate)



Source 7:

Photo of Mrs Foott (Trove)

- Mother of Cecil and Arthur Foott





Source 8:

Ypres, Belgium's Cemetery
Where Arthur Foott was buried



Source 9:

1st Pioneers (RSL Virtual War
Memorial)

Notes:



The 1st Pioneers were the Pioneer Battalion of the 1st Division as indicated by the horizontally aligned rectangle colour patch.

Source 10:

Battle of Passchendaele in
Belgium (Retro Active 9, 2012)

“From mid to late 1917, two ANZAC divisions took part in fighting in and around Ieper (Ypres) in Belgium. This was the third battle of Ieper, also known as the battle of Passchendaele. The battle was part of a British attempt to break through the German lines towards the North Sea ports, where the German U-boats were berthed. There were 7000 Australian casualties during the initial attack in June.”

Reference List

Ancestry. ((N.D.)). *All Birth, Marriage & Death Results for Arthur Patrick Foott*. Retrieved from Ancestry:

http://search.ancestry.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=7a3405544&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&gl=34&=&gsfn=Arthur%20Patrick&gsln=Foott&gss=angs-g&so=2

Google Images. ((N.D.)). *Menin Road South Military Camp, Ypres Belgium*. Retrieved from Google Images: <http://www.cwgc.org/dbImage.ashx?id=18970>

Maureen Anderson, I. K. (2012). *Retroactive 9 Australian Curriculum for History*. Milton : John Wiley & Sons.

National Archives of Australia. (2016). *Record Search Foott Arthur : SERN 2570 : POB Warrego QLD : POE Brisbane QLD : NOK W Grew Grace Olivia*. Retrieved from National Archives of Australia : <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=4024028>

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RSL Virtual War Memorial . ((N.D.)). *1st Pioneer Battalion, 1st Division, AIF*. Retrieved from RSL Virtual War Memorial : <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/units/314>

Trove. ((N.D.)). *National Library of Australia, Trove*. Retrieved from Digitised Newspapers of Mrs Foott: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/187585337?searchTerm=Foott&searchLimits=>

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Alfred John Gibbings

Researched by: Authors: Allana Wessling, Year 5 & Ellie Durnford, Year 4, 2015
 Illustrators: Tom Carr, Year 5 & Abbey Robinson, Year 5, 2015



Information gathered from the Australian War Memorial website & the Australian Archives website

Before Panel 143 in the Australian War Memorial stood a boy pondering, "Who were these brave soldiers whose names were engraved on the walls?"

The boy was overwhelmed by all the soldiers' names staring at him. But one name, just one, seemed to pop out at him and made him curious.

The name was **Alfred John Gibbings**. He pondered, "Who was this man? How did he die? What was his life like? Why is he forever honoured at this memorial?" It troubled him that the soldier's name had been honoured here on the wall, yet no one knew his story. And so, the young boy began his research of the soldier Alfred John Gibbings.

In May 1897 in the town of Chulmleigh, Devon, England,

Mary Ann and John Gibbings gave birth to a son. They named the blue eyed, brown haired son Alfred John.

Alfred John was born into the religion of his parents, Church of England, and they never changed their religion when he moved to Australia from England when he was 15.

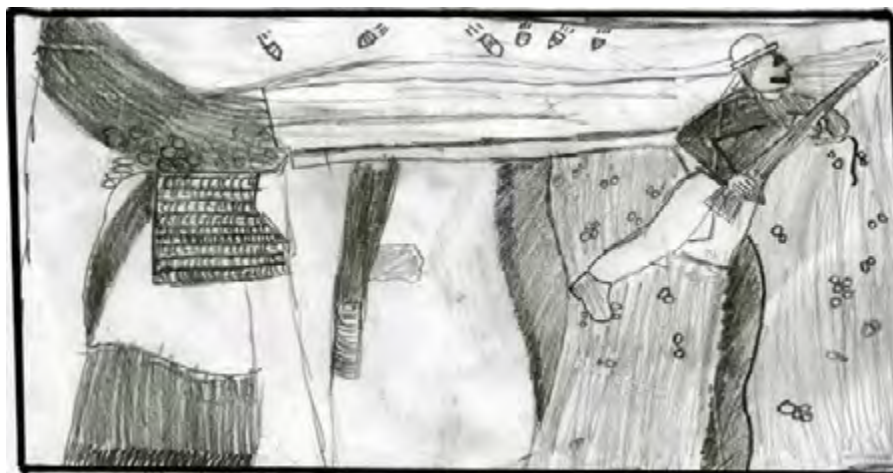
In England Alfred John attended a boarding school but it is not clear whether he attended school in Australia or worked for his family who owned a dairy farm called Devon Dairy.

At this point in time Alfred never would have predicted that he would be going to war and would never come back. For three years, as an adolescent, Alfred was a senior cadet in Area 90. Later, he worked as a carter.

Gibbings was enlisted on the 3rd of November 1916. When Gibbings was enlisted he was still single. He was ranked as a Private. Gibbings was never promoted in battle and was a member of the 47th Battalion – 2nd to 10th Reinforcements from April 1916 to August 1917. He was trained at Codford near Salisbury with Private A. Edwards.

Gibbings embarked on the 22nd of December 1916 on the HMAT Demosthenes A64 in Sydney, Australia. He was on the boat for about three months before he arrived in England.

Gibbings, along with his Australian comrades, disembarked in Plymouth, England on the 3rd of March 1917.



Alfred Gibbings in the trenches

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191 and Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



Ernest George Gregory

by Sophie Terry and Elodie Hillless-Brown,
St Peters Lutheran College, 2017

Ernest George Gregory was a soldier in the 25th Australian Infantry Battalion. He was born on the 5th of May 1924 in Brookfield, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. He was a single clerk and believed in Methodism.

After more training in Egypt the 25th Battalion proceeded to France. He survived the Pozieres battle but unfortunately died three days later on either the 8th or 11th of August 1916, two years into the war, at the Boulogne

Hospital in France, due to the severe wounds from three days previously.

Throughout his time in the army he was awarded a British War Medal and Victory Medal. Gregory now has a memorial at the Brookfield Cemetery in Brisbane. Reverend Canon T. Jones of St Andrews Church, Indooroopilly, conducted the unveiling ceremony and stated, "Greater love than this hath no man, than that a man lay down his life for his friends."

He had made the supreme sacrifice. When he enlisted at the age of 27 years and nine months on the 9th of October 1915 he weighed 146 lbs and was 5 feet 6 inches (167cm). His unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on boards HMAT A50 Itonus on 30th December 1915. Ernest George Gregory died as a Private soldier and is buried in Bologne Eastern Cemetery France.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P06515.001
Group portrait of the Gregory family of Toowong, Queensland. Back row, from left: Maurice, Jesse, William, George. Middle Row, from left: Edward, Ellen, Charles (father), Mary and Elizabeth. Front row, from left: Arthur and Ernest. Insert in the top left corner is a portrait of Charles Gregory's wife, Theresa, who died in 1903.

Both Ernest and George Gregory enlisted in August 1915, and left Australia with the 7th Reinforcements of the 25th Battalion for service in the Middle East. He trained in Egypt during August and by early September was manning trenches at Gallipoli.

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



George Gregory

Researched by Year 6, Holy Family School,
Indooroopilly, 2017

Private George Gregory
(Service Number: 3091A) was born in Brookfield, Queensland and lived on Station Road, Indooroopilly, before his enlistment to the 9th Australian Infantry Battalion at the age of 43.

George was a telegraph linesman and had a wife, L. May Gregory, and two children at the time of his embarkation

on the 30th of December 1915. He fell sick on the 9th of March 1918 in circumstances not likely resulting from war-like operations.

He retired from service on the 7th of June 1919 before passing away from sickness on the 7th of July 1920. He is buried at the Brookfield Cemetery.



For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



William Griffin Service number 442

By Morran Barter, 5/6R,
Sherwood State School, 2018

Private William Griffin lived in Graceville. He was an unmarried man and worked as a salesman. William Griffin was small in size, five feet and six inches in height, and only weighed 68 kg. Griffin was older than most of his fellow soldiers when he enlisted in the army at 35, on the 26th of October 1914. When he was accepted he had to leave everything he knew behind, knowing he may never return.

His sister and his next of kin, his mother Emma Griffin, must have been extremely worried when he went off bravely to serve not only his country but other countries too.

Private Griffin was placed



in the 15th battalion which was formed as part of the all-volunteer Australian Imperial Force with mostly soldiers from Queensland. Before he shipped out Griffin snuck off to get a tattoo to remember the occasion. He left Australia in December 1914 and arrived in Egypt in February 1915.

Griffin must have been in awe at being in this ancient land. After a few months training in the hot, dusty deserts of Egypt, Griffin and his fellow soldiers shipped out on the 10th of April 1915. The day of the landing had arrived. The 15th battalion was in one of the follow-up waves and so had to remain on ships watching their fellow Australians land on the rugged beach and try to charge up the cliffs, which meant they also had to watch on helplessly as many of their fellow soldiers were killed. It was the 25th of April 1915 and Private William Griffin was a part of one of the most memorable days in Australia's history, the landing at ANZAC cove and the beginning of the ANZAC legend.



After successfully managing to survive the landing, Griffin and his fellow soldiers took up a position at Quinn's Post and

defended it against a strong counterattack. In order to defend this position, they had to build trenches, however this would prove dangerous for Private Griffin. He was killed when a trench collapsed on top of him. It was the 10th of May 1915. Griffin was buried at the famous beach cemetery in plot 1, row F, grave 3.

In a cruel twist of fate his brother-in-law received a postcard dated the 19th of May, nine days after his death. It seems that William had become confused about the dates as it was confirmed he died on the 10th of May leaving behind his grieving family.



References

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quinn%27s_Post_Commonwealth_War_Graves_Commission_Cemetery
<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/>
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_Battalion_\(Australia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_Battalion_(Australia))
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/68702/BEACH%20CEMETERY,%20ANZAC>

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



John Marsland Guthrie

Researched by: Lily Chau, CSHS, 9I, 2014

Focus Question 1:

What are the Biographic Details of the Soldier?

Source 1:

Bibliographic Details: National Archives of Australia (2001)

Name Search: [Http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=4380340](http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=4380340)

Notes: (Not a very good sources)

- Born in Brisbane, QLD
- Mum- Elizabeth Guthrie
- Service No. 1769
- Full name: John Marsland Guthrie

Source 2:

I. (2014). John Marsland GURTHRIE. <http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid-121679>

Notes:

- Regimental No- 1769
- Church of England- religion
- 18 when he enrolled. Single
- Worked as a clerk (Keep records, files, does general office tasks) before going to war
- Lived in Sherwood
- Killed in action- 15/04/17. Aged 20
- Parents: Arthur and Elizabeth Guthrie. Address: Cranbrook, Sandgate, QLD

- Established on 28/09/14 as a gunner
- Lived in Sherwood
- Buried in France- H.A.C Cemetry (Plot 1, Row A, Grave No1) Ecoust- St Mein
- Sergeant in 11th Field Artillery Brigade
- Embarked to war from Melbourne, VIC. Boat: HMAT A40 Ceramic. Sailed on 22nd Nov 1914

Source 3:

Bibliographic Details: Australian War Memorial (n.d.) Roll of honour – John Marsland Gurthrie. <http://www.awm.gov.au/rolls/R1632699>

Notes:

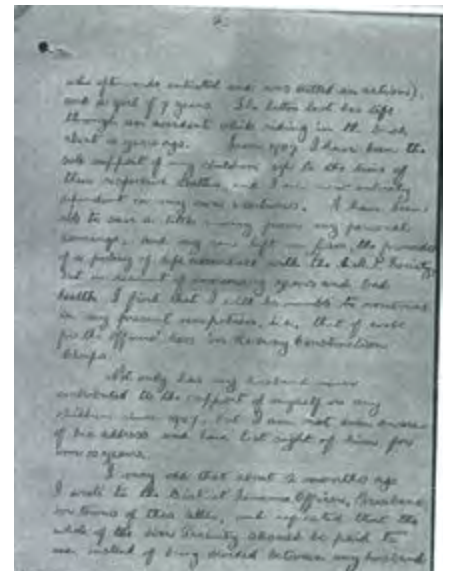
- Service No. 1769
- Sergeant in 11th Brigade Australian Artillery, Australian Army
- Fought in WWI
- 15th April 1917- Killed in action. Aged 20 in France
- Lived in Brisbane
- Place of Cemetry: HAC Cemetry, Ecoust St Mein, Arres, France

Source 4:

Bibliographic Details:

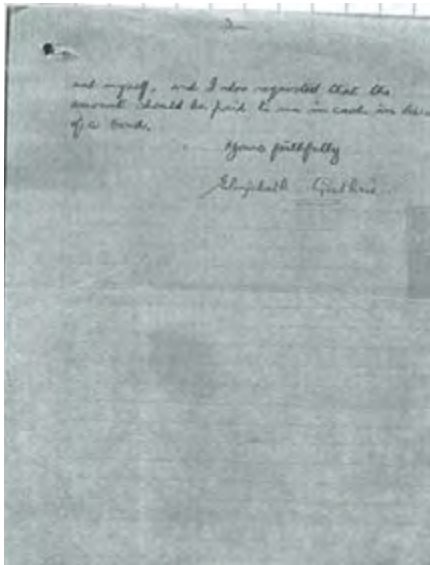
Guthrie, E. (1920). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=4380340> (NB:

The visual source came from this website. Just click on 'View digital copy' and read page 31-33)





School student contributions



Notes:

- Author (Elizabeth Guthrie)- Next of Kin to JM Guthrie
- Guthrie- Enlisted in AIF, Killed in France- 1917
- Husband- Used to work as an accountant in QLD National Bank. Lost his job – 1907. Never helped Family since loss of job
- Has son. 10 years old. Enlisted. Killed in action
- Has daughter. 7 year old. Killed in accident in bush. 1897
- Supported children since deaths
- Worked as a cook in Railway Construction Camp. Earns little. Old age and bad health makes her want to quit.
- JM Guthrie left E210 (\$308.57) From life assurance with A.M.P Society
- Didn't know husband's address
- Wanted War money? To be paid to her instead of both her and husband.

Focus Question 2:

What is the Soldiers service history?

Source 1:

Bibliographic Details: National Archives of Australia .(1914). Australian Imperial Forces. Retrieved from: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NaaMedia/ShowImage.asp?B=4380340>

Notes: (little info on subject)

- Served in AFAC (Australia field of Artillery) 3 mths before joining army for WWI

Source 2:

Bibliographic Details: Mallet, R. (2010, June, 28). Artillery. Retrieved from: <http://www.aif.ada.edu.au:8888/Artillery.html>



Notes:

Bibliographic Details: Peter D, et al, 11th Field Artillery Brigade- NSW (Guthrie was part of it)

- Feb 1916- over Nov 1918
- Part of 4th Division of Artillery
- Commanders:
 - Brigadier General C. Rosenthal (Mar 1916- 25/8/17)
 - Brigadier General W.L.H Burgess (25/08/17 – Past Nov 18)
- Defence of Egypt, Sinai, on Western front
- Feb 1916- Brigade Formed in Egypt
- 14/04/16- 2nd Reinforcements. Departed on 'Ceramic' (ship) at Sydney (Guthrie went on this boat)
- 10 reinforcements sent out- Feb 1916 - 10 Feb 1917

Source 3:

Bibliographic

Details: Australian War Memorials. (n.d.). Roll of Honour Circular. Retrieved from <http://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RCDIG1068870--261-.PDF>



Notes: (very little notes...)

- Unit No. 1767 11th Field of Artillery
- Lived and born in Brisbane, QLD (Not Relevant)



- 15th April 1917- killed in France. 20 yo
- Trade of calling- Clerk in Railway Department

Source 4:

Bibliographic Details: Guthrie, E. (16, May, 1917). <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NAAMedia/ShowImage.asp?B=4380340&T=p>

Notes:

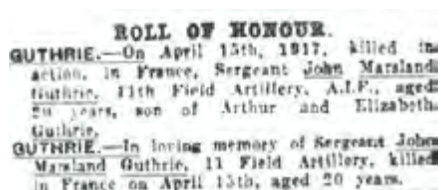
- JM Guthrie- Killed in action in France
- 2 sets of data about Guthrie:
- 1st Bombadier in Artillery section
 - Part of the 1st Australian Division Ammunition Park in 8th Australian Army Corps.
- 2nd Sergeant in 43rd Battery Part of the 11th Field Artillery Brigade in 4th Australian division.
- Both have service No. of 1769

Focus Question 3:

How did the soldier die and does he have any living relatives?

Source 1:

Bibliographic Details: The Brisbane Courier. (April 15, 1924). Roll of Honour : <http://trove.n/a.gov.au/ndp/del/article/20671473>



Notes:

- Killed in action- April 15 1917
- Died in France- 20 yrs old
- Parents- Arthur and Elizabeth Guthrie
- Sergeant in 11th Field of artillery
- Use Phrase “in loving memory of...”

Source 2:

Bibliographic Details: Guthrie, E. (1920). Retrieved from: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=4380340> (same as source 4 in FQ1)

Notes:

- Guthrie- Killed in France- 1917
- Family:- Father- Worked at QLD National bank. Lost job- 1917
- Hasn't helped family since loss of jobs
- Son
 - 10 yrs old
 - Enlisted in war
 - Killed in action
- Daughter
 - 7 yrs old
 - Killed in accident in bush- 1897
- Worked at Railway Construction Camp- Earns little
- Old age and bad health makes her want to quit

Source 3:

Bibliographic Details: Commonwealth War Graves Commission. (n.d.) Retrieved from Casualty Details: <http://www.cwge.org/find-war-dead/casualty/303926/GUTHRIE%20JOHN%20MARSLAND>

Notes:

(Not a lot of notes, but a good source)

- Sergeant in 11th Brigade, Australian Field Artillery
- Service No. 1769
- Died on 15/04/1917 at age of 20
- Parents:
 - Arthur Drummond Guthrie and Elizabeth Guthrie
 - Lived in Cranbrook, Sandgate, Brisbane, QLD
- Cemetery in France- H.A.C cemetery, Ecoust-st. Mein in Pas de Calais

Extra Sources

Source 1:

Bibliographic Details: National Archives of Australian. (n.d.) Australian Imperial Forces. Retrieved from: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/script/Imagine.asp?B=4380304>

Note:

- Sergeant called J.M. Guthrie
- Killed in action on 15th of April, 1917
- Memorial scroll sent to Mrs. E Guthrie (Mother)
- Will sent to the D.P.M on 3/8/17
- Photo of grave sent to mum- 7/7/20



School student contributions

- Medals received – 19/4/15 Star
 - British War Medal
 - Allied Victory Medal

Source 2:

Bibliographic Details:

Commonwealth of Australian (National Archives of Australia). (2014). John Marsland Guthrie. <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/gallery/4283>



Notes:

- Grave of J.M. Guthrie
- Logo of Australian Imperial Force
- Sergeant J.M. Guthrie
- In Australian Field of artillery
- Died when 20 (15/04/17)

Source 3:

Bibliographic Details:

National Archives of Australia. (1923). Name Search. JM Guthrie: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

Notes:

- Author of letter (unnamed) - Cousin of JM Guthrie
- Mother's first letter of name-incorrect(s)
- Address of Mum: Railway survey camp, Baralaba, via Rockhampton, Queensland

Source 4:

Bibliographic Details:

National Archives of Australia. (1914). Description of John Marsland Guthrie on Enlistment: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp> (page 5)

Notes:

- Enlisted age: 18 yrs and 3 mths
 - Height: Around 173cm
 - Fair complexion
 - Weight: 57kg
 - Blue eyes
 - Fair (blonde) hair
 - Religion: Church of England
- War veterans had to be examined for defects, health, and sight before being able to go off to war.

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



John Marsland Guthrie

Researched by: Tiana O'Rourke,
CSHS, 9I, 2014

Focus Question 1: What are the biographical details of the soldiers?

Source 1

Source details:

Retrieved from: www.nna.gov.au/collection/search/



Notes:

- John Marsland Guthrie's Australian Imperial Force enlistment form
- John.M.Guthrie joined on the 28th of September 1914
- J.M. Guthrie Joined at the age of 18, 3/12
- Service number is 1769
- John was not married
- His next of kin was his mother, Elizabeth Guthrie
- He had never been rejected as unfit for his Majesty's service

Source 2

Source Details: Record Search.(n. d.)

Retrieved From: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au./namesearch/interface/itemdetail>.

Notes:

- Title – Guthrie John Marsland
- Service number – 1769
- Place of birth – Brisbane QLD
- Place of establishment - Brisbane
- Next of Kin – (mother) Guthrie Elizabeth
- Contents date range – 1914 to 1920
- Series number – B2455
- Control Symbol – Guthrie JM
- Item barcode – 4380340
- Location – Canberra
- Physical format – paper files and documents

Source 3

Source Details: Record Search . (n. d).



Retrieved From: www.naa.gov/collection/search

Notes:

- John Marsland Guthrie had permission to join the army
- A letter from Johns dad to the recruiting officers
- Lived at Cotton Street, Sandgate, Queensland
- Letter was written and sent in Brisbane in September 1914

Source 4

Source Details: Australian War memorial. (n. d).

Retrieved From: https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/roll_or_honour/

Notes:

- Name – John Marsland Guthrie
- Service number – 1769
- Unit – 11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
- Conflict – First World War, 1914 -1918

Source 5

Source Details: CWGC. (N.D).

Retrieved From: www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualtydetails.asp

Notes:

- John Marsland Guthrie Rank – Sergeant
- Service number – 1769
- Date of death – 15.04.1917
- Age – 20
- Regiment / service – Australian Field Artillery 11th Bde
- Grave reference – I.A.7.
- Cemetery – H.A.C. Cemetery, Ecooust – St. MEIN



School student contributions

- Son of Authur Drummond and Elizabeth Guthrie, of Cranbrook, Sandgate, Queensland. Native of Brisbane

Source 6

Source Details: Australian War Memorial. (N.D.)

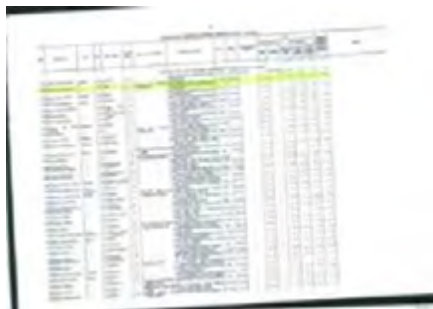
Retrieved From: www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R18166437/

Notes:

- Service number -1769
- Rank – gunner
- 301 Mt [Mechanical Transport] ASC 17 Divisional Ammunition Park cpec 1914
- Conflict –World War One, 1914 – 1918
- Date of embarkation – Melbourne

Source 7

Source Details: AIF project. (n.d)



Retrieved From: <http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showperson?pid=12169>

Notes:

- Regimental number – 1769
- Religion – church of England
- Occupation – Clerk
- Address – Sherwood near Brisbane QLD

- Martial Statues – single
- Age of embarkation -18
- Next of kin – mother, Mrs Elizabeth Guthrie, c/o Miss Marsland, Collan Street, Sandgate, Queensland
- Enlistment date – 28 September 1914
- Rank of enlistment – Gunner
- Unit name – 307th (mechanical Transport), 8th company, army service corps (17th Divisional Ammunition park)
- AWM Embarkation roll number – 25/98/1
- Embarkation details – unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A40 ceramic on 22 December 1914
- Rank from nominal roll – sergeant
- Unit from nominal roll – 11th field Artillery Brigade
- Fate – killed in Action 15 April 1917
- Age of death – 20
- Place of burial – H.A.C. cemetery Cplot I, Row A, Grave No.1, Ecoust-St. Mein, France
- Panel Number. Roll of honour, Australian war memorial – 16
- Parents – Author and Elizabeth Guthrie, Cranbrook, Sandgate, Queensland

Focus Question 2:

How did the soldier die and does he have any living relatives?

Source 1

Source Details :Record Search. (n.d).



Retrieved from: www.naa.gov.au/collection/search

Notes:

- Cause of death – Killed in action
- Date – April 15th 1917
- Place of death – France
- Field service form
- Will not received
- Regiment or corps – 11th Field Artillery Brigade
- Battery, troop or company – 43rd Battery

Source 2





Source Details :

Record Search. (N.D)

Retrieved from: www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/

Notes:

- John Marsland Guthrie – Killed in action
- Australian imperial force documents
- British war medal
- “Where the Australians”
- Rank – Sergeant
- Service number – 1769

Source 3

Source Details : Record Search. (N.D).



Retrieved from : www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/

Notes:

- John Marsland Guthrie’s will
- John is giving the whole of his property to his mother
- True copy of the will of no. 1769
- Sargent, Guthrie. J.M extracted by staff Sargent Carter. M. from A.B.64

Focus Question 3 – What is the soldier’s service history?

Source 1

Source Details: Record Search. (N.D) Retrieved from www.naa.gov.au/collection/search

Notes:

- Casualty sheet – Base Records, Australia
- John Guthrie was transferred from conv. Depot to o/seas Ease on the 15/10/1915
- John re-joined unit from hospital on the 25th of October 1915
- 5.10.1915 Mustapha Conv. Depot. Diarrhoea
- To Alexandra, Influenza
- 25.09.1915 , 17 Gen. Hosp. Diarrhoea
- Unit – 300 Mechanical transport A.A.S.C
- Also on different casualty sheet – Unit 8th A.S.C (Divn Ammn Parie)



Source 2

Source Details: David Milbaorrow. (n.d). Retrieved from: www.twgpp.org/information.php?id=2148580



Notes:

- Cemetery: H.A.C. Cemetery, Ecoust – st . Mein
- Country died in France
- Area – unknown
- Rank sergeant
- Official number 1769
- Unit: 11th bde. Australian Field Artillery
- Force- Army
- Nationality – Australian
- Details – killed in action 15/04/17
- Died age of 20





- Son of Authur Drummond Guthrie and Elizabeth Guthrie
- Lived at Cranbrook, Sandgate, Queensland. Native of Brisbane



Source 3

Source Details: Record Search .(n.d)

Retrieved From: www.naa.gov.au/collections/search

Notes:

- Certificate of attesting officer
- Guthrie took an oath to be enlisted
- The line that says "I have examined has been crossed papers and am of opinion that they are corned" has been crossed out
- It was taken in Brisbane

Source 4

Source Details: WW1 Records

Retrieved From: <http://wraggelabs.com/wwz.records>

Notes:

- John Guthries memorial certificate
- Burned at H.A.C. Cemetery, Ecoust – st Mein
- Died on April 15 1917 age 20
- 11th Bde



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Sidney Edwin Hagger

Researched by: Caitlin Vy Rosie,
Corinda High School, Year 9F, 2016



Date of Birth: September 22
1892
Place of birth: Charter Towers,
QLD
Died: 15th April 1917 (24 years
old)
Place of burial: Berks
Cemetery Extension, Hainaut,
Belgium
Unit: 41st Australian Infantry
Battalion
Religion: Church of England
Service Number: 182

Source 1: Enlistment
Papers (National Archives of
Australia, 2001)
Previous Occupation: Grocer
Joined: 17/11/1915
POE: Brisbane QLD
Age when enlisted: 23 years 2
months
Place of birth: Charter Towers,
QLD
Previous Service: Yes; 6
months Cadets in Charter
Towers
Unit: 41st Australian Infantry
Battalion
Next of kin: (Mother) Katherine
Hannah Hagger

Source 2: Casualty Form
(National Archives of Australia,
2001)
Rank: Private
Religion: Church of England
Embarked: Sydney 18/05/16
Disembarked: Plymouth
20/07/16
Cause of Death: Wounds (field)
Date of Casualty: 15th April
1917

Source 3: Description of
Sidney Edwin Hagger (National
Archives of Australia, 2001)

Height: 5 feet and 5 inches
Weight: 155 lbs
Complexion: Fresh
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Brown
Distinctive Marks: Scars on left
thigh

Source 4: Sidney's
Commemorative Form (CGWC,
n.d)



School student contributions

(Commonwealth War Graves Commission, n.d.)

“Those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterized this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere.”

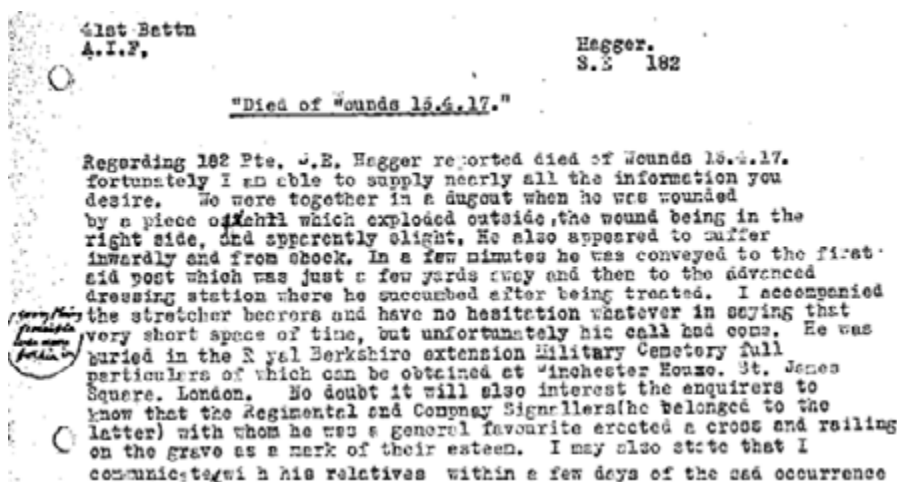
Place of death: Belgium
Source 5: **Sidney Edwin Hagger** (Australian War Memorial, n.d)

- Reported to have died of wounds
- Wounded by a piece of shell which exploded
- Wound was on the right side of his body
- Suffered from shock
- After a few minutes he was conveyed to the first aid which was just a few yards away
- He then passed away and was buried
- His relatives were contacted within a few days of the occurrence

Hagger, S.E 182 “Died of wounds 15.4.17”

Regarding 182 Pte. S.E Hagger reported died of wounds 15.4.17 fortunately I am able to supply nearly all of the information you desire. We were together in a dugout when he was wounded by a piece of shell which exploded outside, the wound being in the right side, and apparently slight. He also appeared to suffer inwardly and from shock. In a few minutes he was conveyed to the first-aid post which was just a few yards away and being treated. I accompanied the stretcher bearers and have no hesitation whatever in saying that very short space of time, but unfortunately his call had come. He was buried in the Royal Berkshire extension Military cemetery full particulars of which can be obtained at Winchester House St. James Square London. No doubt it will also interest the enquirers to know that the Regimental and Signallers (he belonged to the latter) with whom he was a general favourite erected a cross and railing on the grave as a mark of their esteem. I may also state that I communicated with his relatives within a few days of the occurrence.

Source 6: Pvt Sidney Edwin Hagger (Ancestry, n.d)



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



David Hall

SERN 189 41st battalion

Written by: Helia Heidari (6S) and Miyuli Weerasekara (5/6R)
Sherwood State School, 2018

On the 18th of May in 1916, it was about time for **David Hall** to say goodbye to his beloved wife, Matilda Hall, and his one child to join the army when he embarked in Sydney. His blue eyes must have sparkled with great pride as he embarked. His brown hair would have been blowing in the wind as if it were speaking to him. He weighed about 123lbs (55kg) which is very light for a man who is about to enter war as the rough conditions could sweep him away like a piece of plastic. He was also five foot five (165cm) which didn't help his weight.

David Hall was born on the 10th of December in 1888 in Brisbane, Queensland. He had a sister called Violet. At the age of 27, he decided to join

the army. Even though he was born in Australia he was, in fact, a natural British subject. His next of kin was his wife,



Matilda, who lived in Darra, Queensland, Australia. On his enlistment certificate it stated that the subject was ready to be exposed to the diseases that lurked around the fields in France.

David Hall served in the 41st Battalion A.I.F. His service number was simple, yet he thought a lot of it. His service

number was 189. The first time he saw action was on Christmas Eve in 1916. His death occurred in 1917 on 16th of February and it stated in the death certificate that he did not have a will. He died because of a bullet to his head in Armentieres, France. He was killed in action. He is buried at the Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery in Armentieres, France.

References

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51481>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/41st_Battalion,_Royal_New_South_Wales_Regiment
<http://www.naa.gov.au/>

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



The 41st Battalion in WW1



Frank Granville Haymen

Researched by: Social Science Department
Brigidine College,
Main contributor Eloise Saunders, 2015

The plinth in Keating Park, Indooroopilly, commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by those who were connected to the Indooroopilly region.

On 26 February 1921, the memorial was unveiled by His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, KCMG, Governor of Queensland. One of those remembered is **Lieutenant Frank Granville Haymen**.



Queenslander Pictorial 1914
(State Library of Queensland)

Lieutenant Haymen enlisted on the 8th of August 1914 and on the 24th of September 1914 embarked on His Majesty's Australian Transport 5 *Omrah*. He was a member of the Queensland raised 9th Battalion and the vessel was the first to leave Brisbane with troops for overseas duty.



HMAT 5 Omrah

http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm

Frank Haymen's combat "story" is not long, it covers about one day. The day however was important: the 25th of April 1915. Some years later, one of his fellow officers recalled the first day of the landing at Anzac Cove and the fighting at Gaba Tepe. All the elements of the Anzac story are present:

"Costin did not know where the line was but Haymen was down in front. Some of us got down to where Haymen had a line of men in the open near some gun pits. We had not learnt that it was dangerous to occupy gun pits as they offer such good targets for enemy artillery, so Haymen had his line of about 15 men out in the open.

"We came to the conclusion that gun pits were nasty places and were drawing a good deal of fire, but as we were so close to them as to get damaged by the shells fired at them, as they provided some protection against the shrapnel we stayed in them. This settled, we began to wonder where we were.

"Maps were by no means clear and were absolutely incorrect; we could not pick up our position on them at all. Haymen was sure there was nobody to get in touch with, or anybody on either flank. There were some people on the right, because we could hear them firing, but did not know whether they were our people or the enemy.

"We could see people moving on the hill to our left rear but could not tell who they were. I had binoculars, but they had got full of salt water when we had jumped into the water and were no good. The shelling got very bad. Costin had got blown up with one of his (machine) guns, so Steel brought the other one down to where we were. It was obvious that the line we had come out to join was not there. The only line there was, was somewhere near where we had left Salisbury.

"We were right out in the cold (or rather in the hot), a long way from our main position, and whatever people these were near us they did not seem to love us much. We could not stay here indefinitely. What were we to do?

"To get back we should have to go up the slope of a hill that was being pelted with fire. There were as many wounded men as whole ones, so to attempt to get these back would make a certainty of our being all wiped out. To wait until night was to run a big risk of being entirely cut off. To get back immediately with the fit men and leave the wounded to the mercy of the enemy was a



<http://www.thehistorybomb.com/articles/2015/4/24/100-years-the-battle-of-gallipoli> (Anzacs coming ashore)

perfectly sensible thing to do - really the only thing to do under the circumstances - but we couldn't do it. We just stayed where we were.

"The afternoon seemed a miserable thing without beginning and without end. Haymen was killed. There seemed to be little hope for us. When darkness came the Turks seemed to be all around us. ... The men who had been killed in the pits and on the way back we could do nothing with; we could not bury them. All we could do was to cut off their ammunition and bring their rifles with us.

"How we got out of this mess I don't know. ... When we got

back near the main position another machine gun joined us. We had been expecting to find a machine gun on us any moment during the trip back, and to hear one start up, and find that it was helping us and not firing at us - it was a wonderful relief.

"... Yesterday - a nightmare - it must have been a nightmare, or we would not have been alive. Dazed, I remember thinking that it was a nasty dream and that it had left me sore and thirsty."

(Notes from Address by Lt. Col. C. Fortescue, Late of 9th and 49th Battalions, Delivered Toowoomba, Anzac Day 1923. Cited in The Western



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C02496



1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal which would be passed to Lieutenant Haymen's Next of Kin

Champion, Barcaldine, 25 April 1925, 18-19.)

Lieutenant Haymen's name is on the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli and Panel 56 in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

In 1921, it was hoped that Frank Granville Haymen's sacrifice in WWI was not in vain and that peace would prevail.

Sources

- Print:
 Bean, C.E.W. (1948). *Anzac to Amiens*. Canberra: Australian War Memorial.
 Gibson, J. (2013). *Forgotten Heroes*. Keperra, Australia: James W. Gibson.
 Electronic:
<http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au> (The AIF Project)
http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm
 Australian War Memorial:
 Roll of Honour Cards, 1914-1918 War, Army
 Nominal Rolls
 Embarkation Rolls
<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx?cpage=1>
www.longlongtrail.co.uk
[Onesearch.siq.qld.gov.au](http://www.onesearch.siq.qld.gov.au) (*The Queenslander Pictorial* supplement to *The Queenslander* 1914)
www.qldwarmemorials.com.au
trove.nla.gov.au (*The Western Champion*, Barcaldine, 25 April 1925, 18-19.)

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



John William Hays (220)

Researched by: The Social Science Department, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly
Main Student Researcher: Taylor Trinder

The plinth in Keating Park, Indooroopilly, commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by those who were connected to the Indooroopilly region. On the 26th of February 1921, the memorial was unveiled by His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, KCMG, Governor of Queensland. One of those remembered is **Private John William Hays**.



John was 25 when he enlisted in the army on the 26th of July 1915. Both his brothers, Samuel, aged 28, and George, aged 20, joined the Army. Both his brothers survived the war and returned to Australia. (Gibson, 38)

Private Hays joined the 31st Battalion which left Australia for overseas on

the 9th of November on board *HMAT Wandilla*. He disembarked in Egypt on the 7th of December 1915 and spent six months training there.

On the 23th of June 1916 they arrived in France. By the 16th of July they were in the front line and on the 19th of July they were involved in the Fromelles disaster, diversion, or minor incident (compared to the major losses being experience elsewhere), depending on which national commander was involved. To Private Hays, whatever it was, the wounds he suffered on the 20th of July 1916 at Fromelles would see him hospitalised and on restricted duties for 16 months.

John returned to the 31st Battalion on the 23th of November 1917. The battalion took part in the Battle of Amiens on the 8th of August 1918.

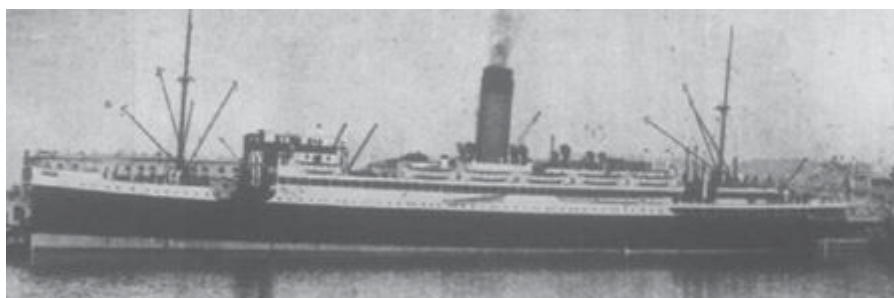
In the following month the battalion took part in an assault on the Hindenburg Line and attacked in the area of the St Quentin Canal.



31st Battalion Patch



1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal which would be passed to Private Hays' Next of Kin



HMAT 67 Wandilla
http://all-research.tripod.com/ships_1h.htm

The Queenslander Pictorial,



also going through. At this point the smoke screen put up by the 18 pra. had drifted across and it was quite impossible to proceed any farther with the Battalion in open order. Consequently orders were given to close up the companies as no shells were coming in the vicinity. An

By 11.30 a.m. several tanks had been put out of action, and three were on fire, and several casualties had been sustained by the Battalion. Nothing was to be seen of the 117th. or 120th. Division of Americans, though two company commanders appeared, having lost their commands during the fog. The confusion certainly was very great. The 29th. Battalion, masses of the enemy were noticed advancing down the ridge in front of Juncourt. A battery of R. H. A., which had galloped into position in G.30.d opened fire vigorously with shrapnel and the 31st. and 32nd. Battalions also opened fire with Lewis Guns and rifles. The advance then dwindled away, and save for heavy shelling the situation was quiet at 7.45 p.m. Steps were now taken to get the Battalion into a good defensive position for the night, and improve the situation. The Company dispositions were as follows :- "B" Coy. along road from G.18 d COPSE. Listening posts were established out in front, and about midnight this position stood. Battalion Headquarters was in the trench under a bridge at G.24 d.5.9. The shelling was still heavy and bursts of machine gun fire were constantly occurring. The enemy certainly was alert.

Extracts from the battalion's war diary capture the nature of the attack on 29 September.

31 Battalion War Diary - 29 Sep 18

(Australian War Memorial)

It was on this day (the 29th of September 1918) that John Hays was killed.

In 1920 Hays' body was reinterred in the military cemetery at Bellicourt.

Private Hays is recorded on panel 118 of the Roll of Honour in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

In 1921, it was hoped that Private John William Hays' sacrifice in WWI was not in vain and that peace would prevail.

Sources

Print:

Bean, C.E.W. (1948). *Anzac to Amiens*. Canberra: Australian War Memorial.
Gibson, J. (2013). *Forgotten Heroes*. Keperra, Australia: James W. Gibson.

Electronic:

<http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au> (The AIF Project)

http://ah-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm

Australian War Memorial:

Embarkation Rolls

Nominal Rolls

Roll of Honour Cards, 1914-1918 War, Army



St Quentin Canal (IWM)



Unit War Diaries

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx?cpage=1>

Onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au (*The Queenslander Pictorial* supplement to *The Queenslander* 1915)

www.qldwarmemorials.com.au

<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/units/225>

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Victor Charles Hemming (2731)

Researched by: The Social Science
Department, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly
Main Student Researcher: Brooke Carney

The plinth in Keating Park, Indooroopilly, commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by those who were connected to the Indooroopilly region. On the 26th of February 1921, the memorial was unveiled by His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, KCMG, Governor of Queensland. One of those remembered is **Private Victor Charles Hemming**.

Victor Charles Hemming was 20 years old when he enlisted on the 31st of July 1915. He was placed in the 6th Reinforcements of the 26th Battalion and, after training, embarked on HMAT 48 Seang Bee on 21 October 1915.

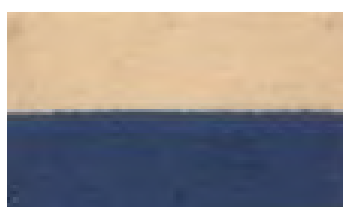


HMAT 48 Seang Bee

http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm



26th Battalion Patch



12th Battalion Patch

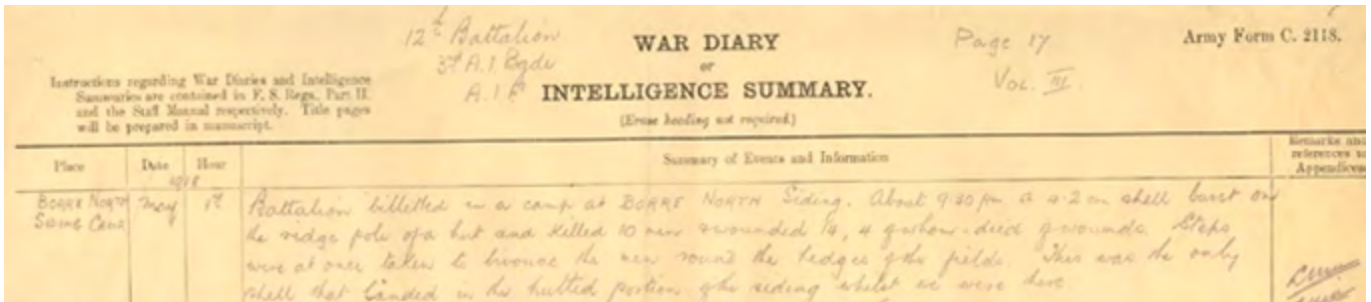


52nd Battalion Patch

Hemming, with others, found himself transferred from the 26th Battalion to the 12th and then to the 52nd Battalion due to the post-Gallipoli reorganisation of the AIF. (BattalionRecords, NAA) On the 12th of June 1916 the 52nd disembarked in France.

Throughout his short military career, Private Hemming experienced a number of different aspects of military life, both positive and negative. These kept him out of combat for lengthy periods. On the 19th of March 1917, Hemming was transferred to the 69th Battalion but was transferred back to the 52nd on the 19th of September 1917. The battalion spent time in England (training) and once more he was transferred (to the 12th Battalion) and in March 1918 returned to the frontline in France.

The 12th participated in Allied attempts to reverse the German spring offensive, which included the Lys Offensive.



Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War1DRL/0428,0



United States Military Academy

subsequently died. His record cards indicate other dates and “eye witnesses” report different dates (see below). A shattered leg and subsequent setbacks took his life.

Private Victor Hemming was buried in the military cemetery at Ebblesham. His name is recorded on panel 66 of the Roll of Honour in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

In 1921, it was hoped that Private Victor Charles Hemming’s sacrifice in WWI was not in vain and that peace would prevail.

1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal which would be passed to Private Hemming’s Next of Kin.



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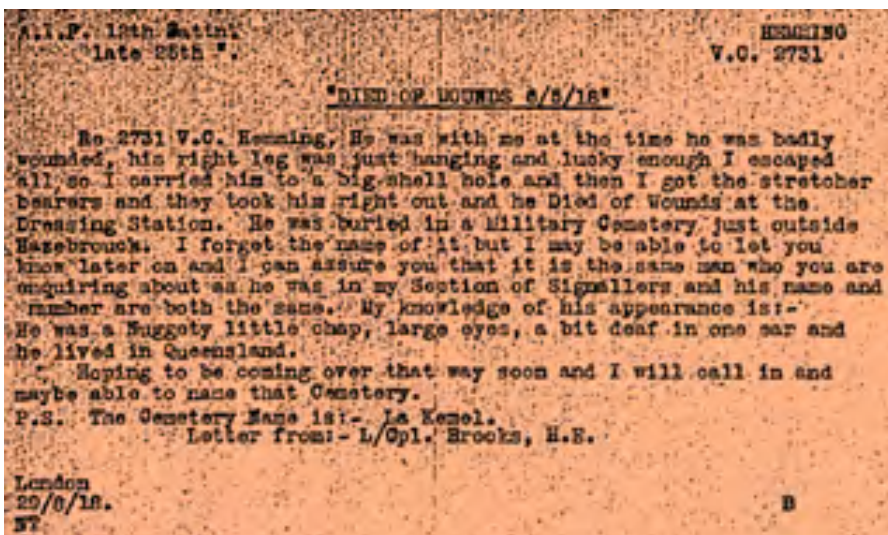
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For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.

When Hemming was wounded is unclear; battalion diaries suggest he may have been hit on the 1st of May and



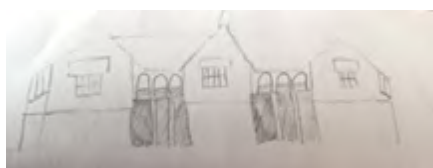
AVM



Herbert Gerald Hinton

Researched by 5 Gold, St Joseph's Primary School, Corinda, 1917

Herbert Gerald Hinton was born on the 23rd of February 1879 to parents, John and Mary Hinton in Brisbane. He attended Boy's Central State School (also known as the Normal State School) in Central Brisbane. When he finished school, his calling, or job, was a commercial traveller who goes from place to place selling merchandise.

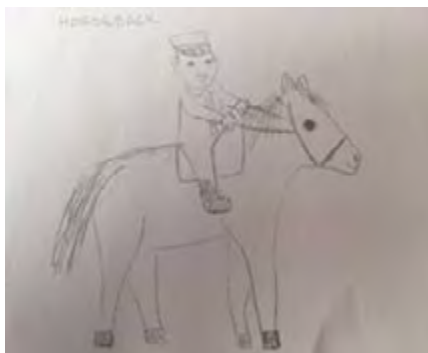


Boy's Central State School

Hilton was twenty when he served in the Boer War in South Africa from December 1899, for one year as a soldier in the AMG 1st Contingent. The Boer War was the first full commitment of troops by all the Australian Colonies to a foreign war.



After returning from South Africa he married Mabel C. Hinton and lived in 'Wanelta', Graceville, Brisbane. His wife Mabel was listed as his next of kin when Hilton enlisted on the 20th of August 1914 to join the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, A Squadron, to serve in World War One. His unit embarked from Brisbane on board the transport carrier A15 Star of England on the 24th of September 1914. His service number is unknown.



Hinton was tragically killed in action on the 7th of August 1915 in the battle at Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Turkey. He was 36 and a half years old at the time of his death. He is buried at Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, ANZAC, Gallipoli. He received three medals of service: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His wife Mabel mourned his loss and after his death she moved to Brighton Terrace, Sandgate.



Herbert Gerald Hinton was an ordinary person who put his life at risk for us.



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191 and St Andrew's Altar Memorial history on page 313.



Harold Frederick Hodge

Researched by students of
Christ The King School, Graceville, 2017

Harold Frederick Hodge, service number 3166, was a regular Australian boy. He had a family, a home and a life worth keeping. Little did he know he would risk it all for his country.

Harold was born in 1897 and grew up in Rosewood, Queensland. His family included his little brother, John, his mother and his father, Robert, who worked in a produce business in Rosewood. Harold went to the local primary school and was an army cadet for many years. He had fair skin, grey eyes and brown hair.

When Harold was a teenager he earned his money as a station hand working in Central Queensland. He worked very hard but knew he wanted to do something more with his life. World War One had already been going for two years and more soldiers were required to fight, so on the 28th of July 1916, at 19 years of age, Harold signed up for service. He was underage and there is no record of parent permission, therefore it is unclear as to how he enlisted, but he did. His younger brother, John, also enlisted on the same day.

There was a lot to do when enlisting in the Australian Army. Medical checks, vaccinations to protect him from a variety of overseas diseases, uniform allocations, paper work for his pay and learning the skills of being a soldier. Harold knew this would be a big change in his life and he knew it would be far from easy, but he was willing to put his country before himself.

Harold was sent to the Australian Army Rifle Range at Emerald. His service number was 3166 and his unit the 8th reinforcements 52nd Battalion. This unit had participated in several severe attacks in September 1916 at Pozieres, France and had experienced many casualties.

When the time arrived for Harold's unit to embark to go to France, Harold said goodbye to his family knowing deep down it might be the last time he would see them. As he got ready to leave he couldn't help but be proud for what he was doing.

Harold boarded the HMAS Demosthenes A64 in Sydney on the 23rd of December 1916. Emotions raced through his

mind. He didn't know whether to be scared, excited or sad. On arrival at Plymouth in the UK on the 3rd of March 1917, Harold and his brother, John, were hospitalised at Codford Camp with mumps. He had a bad case and had to have a long break from fighting. He returned to his unit in June 1917.

During his time with his unit, Harold was charged with being absent without leave and he lost a day's pay for this transgression.

Harold was shipped to Passchendaele, Belgium. Sadly, on the 18th of October 1917, Harold Frederick Hodge was killed by an artillery shell explosion. His brother, John, who was close by, received severe wounds to his chest and thigh. Harold's remains were buried at Dochy Farm New British Cemetery in Passchendaele, Belgium.

Harold is now honoured for his sacrifice with his name engraved on the Graceville Park Memorial. He served as a soldier in WWI and will forever be remembered.

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Harry Raymond Homer

Researched by Year 6, Holy Family School, Indooroopilly, 2017

Private Harry Raymond Homer (Service Number: 3593) was one of five Homer Family brothers who each served in the Australia Army.

He was born in Herefordshire, England, before his family moved to reside in Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly. Harry was

the second son to enlist on the 19th of November 1914 at 19 years of age.

He was assigned to the 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance, destined for Egypt and Gallipoli. He was transferred to the 7th Australian Field Ambulance while in

Egypt, before being deployed to the peninsula.

Only a year into his service, Harry died at the Casualty Clearing Station in Gallipoli from Acute Jaundice, his brother Bert was with him at the last.

His father spoke of his pride of his son's sacrifice "I have no objection and am only pleased that I have another loyal son who is willing to offer his life to win the war..."



For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Herbert William Homer

Researched by Naina Sharma and Justin Lowe, Indooroopilly State school, Year 6, 2017

Lieutenant Herbert William Homer was born in Kington, Herefordshire, England, in 1894 to two very lucky parents, Benjamin George and Elizabeth Sarah Homer. He studied at Lady Hawkins Grammar School in Kington, Herefordshire, England, before getting a job as a railway clerk.

At the age of 16 he moved to Australia with his parents and his siblings, Ernest Thomas Homer and Henry Raymond Homer. At the age of 21 he was five feet 10 inches tall, 135 lbs, with a fresh complexion, blue eyes and dark hair.

He enlisted in Infantry 7th Brigade, 7th Field Ambulance, A Section in the Australian Army on the 22nd of February 1915, one year after World War One started. His unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on board HMAT A11 Ascanius on the 24th of May 1915 to Egypt to gather strength before heading to Gallipoli, where one of his brothers died.

He became a Corporal in October 1915 while in the Middle East. In mid-1916, his unit was sent to Europe where they served in the trenches of the Western Front in France and Belgium for the rest of the war. The unit moved to serve in France, and in 1917 Herbert transferred to the

26th Infantry. In November 1916 he received the Military Medal from the King. The citation reads 'Constant and unflinching devotion to duty as a bearer, Gallipoli Peninsula from 13th September 1915 until evacuation'.

Unfortunately, Herbert William Homer passed away on the 1st of June 1917 due to wounds sustained during his battles. He suffered gunshot wounds to the back on the 4th of May 1917 and was sent to hospital in Abbeville on the 17th of May. From there he was transferred to 3rd London General Hospital in Wandsworth on the 24th of May and passed away shortly after that. He was just 23 years old and single; and would have lived an incredible life after the war had he survived.

His will stated that he bequeathed all his worldly possessions to his mother Elizabeth Sarah Homer; £50 to Miss Violet Mills, and his collection of English Bird Eggs to Mr George Gall Jnr.



He was buried on the 5th of June 1917 with full Military Honours, band, firing party, and a party of mourners provided by the 9th Reserve Battalion. His coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted with several lovely flowers. He is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Plot XI, Row E, Grave No. 8), Surrey, England. He will always be remembered in our hearts and we thank him for giving up his life to protect this country.



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For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Oscar Harold Jones

Service Number 8894

By Ellie-Grace Jack and Frances Galafrio (6M)
Sherwood State School, 2018



Oscar Harold Jones was a soldier who lived at Station House in Sherwood, Brisbane. He later lived in Oxley. He was born in November of 1881 (approximately) to his mother, Mrs E.A Jones. He had brown eyes, black hair and he weighed 8.8 stone (55kg) and

was five feet and five inches tall. Before he joined the First Australian Hospital, he was a clerk. He joined the army on the 25th of September 1915 at 22 years and 10 months of age.

Jones was shipped from London to France to start working in the 13th Field Ambulance on the 30th of October 1916. He spent the next four months tramping through the muddy, filthy trenches of France in the area of the Somme. Here he helped the men of the 13th Brigade when they were injured or sick and took them to safety. Due to the wet and dirty conditions he grew sick and was sent to hospital in France on the 2nd of February 1917. He re-joined one week and two days later and carried on his work.

Jones continued to help other soldiers in the 13th Brigade as they moved on to assault the Hindenburg Line in the First Battle of Bullecourt. Because this battle was a disaster, Jones must have been very busy aiding his fellow Australians. On the 24th of January 1918 he went to back to hospital, sick again. He once again re-joined the Army on the 1st of February 1918. On the 19th of February 1918 he was sent to hospital in England where he stayed for four months and three days until he died of nephritis and anaemia on the 22nd of June 1918. Both of these conditions were very common in the trenches of the Western Front. He was buried in grave 55 in the Australian Military Burial Ground in Harefield.

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For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Oscar Harold Jones

Researched by Year 6, Holy Family School,
Indooroopilly, 2017



Private Oscar Harold Jones (Service Number: 8894) was a clerk before enlisting in the Army on the 25th of September 1915 at 22 years of age. He embarked on the HMAT Ballarat A70 on the 16th of February 1916 as part of the 13th Field Ambulance.

His mother Elizabeth Ann Jones and father George Edward Richard resided in Sherwood, Brisbane, while Oscar's brother, Private A.C. Jones was part of the 31st Battalion.

After three years serving, on the 23rd of June 1918, Private Jones suffered from Nephritis, Anaemia and passed away in the No 1 Australia Aux Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, England.

He was awarded a Victory Medal and his courageous service and efforts will live on forever in his memory and for his ultimate sacrifice to his country.

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Trevor Warwick Jones

Researched by:
5 GREEN, St Joseph's Corinda, 2018

Trevor Warwick Jones was a young man who enlisted to fight in World War One. He was born in Warwick, Queensland and then moved to Brisbane, living in 'Merrilees', Sherwood.

He attended Brisbane Technical College, before becoming a student of Science at Queensland University, matriculating in November 1915. It was Trevor Jones' intention to follow the medical profession. He

worked as a Civil Servant in the Government's Analyst Department.

Trevor Jones was described as 152 centimetres tall and weighed 50 kilograms. He had fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair and good vision. He had five vaccination marks on his left arm.

Before enlisting to fight in World War One, Trevor Jones was a Sergeant in the

Citizen Force. He enlisted in Brisbane on the 16th of September 1915 to fight with the 4th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force.

His only brother, Captain Lance A. Jones was part of the 9th Battalion, 3rd Brigade. Lance Jones was wounded on the 25th of April 1915 and again on the 28th of June in Gallipoli, Turkey.

Trevor Jones' next of kin is listed as his mother, Zoe Annie Clara Jones, a widower. However, before being sent to battle, Trevor Jones died on an unknown date in April 1916 from an illness called intussusception, a medical condition in which part of the intestine folds into the section next to it.

He is buried at Francis Private Cemetery, Corinda, which is located close to our school, St Joseph's. Trevor Jones was 20 years and 9 months old when he died.

Trevor Warwick Jones was a local man who bravely enlisted to fight and protect our country but never made it to a war zone due to illness that cost him his life.



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Bennet Walter Keid (3809)

Researched by Peter Pattison, RSL member,
on behalf of St Joseph's School, Corinda, 2018

Sergeant Bennet Walter Keid (known as Walter) was born in February 1893 in Pimpama, a rural settlement between Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

When the family moved to Graceville, Walter attended school at Gregory Terrace Christian Brothers. After leaving school he worked as a



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PO9412.005

postal clerk at the General Post Office in Brisbane. Walter was the fourth eldest of six brothers who enlisted in the army during WWI, referred to as the Great War.

Walter enlisted in the army on the 6th of May 1915 at 22 years of age and was attached to the 9th Battalion AIF. Four of his brothers had already enlisted. The 9th Battalion was among the first infantry units formed during WWI. Soldiers, including Walter, were recruited from Queensland. The Battalion took part in the landing of the ANZACS at Gallipoli on 25th of April 1915. Later the 9th Battalion was split to assist the 49th Battalion in operations against the German army in France. On the 29th of February 1916 Walter was transferred to the 49th Battalion in Zeitoun, Cairo.

Walter was promoted to Corporal on the 1st of March 1916. Following a period of training and rest, his battalion proceeded to Alexandria, a port in Egypt on the 5th of June 1916 in preparation to move to France. By then he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. The ship disembarked at Marseilles, France, on the 19th of June 1916 and the battalion was moved to the Western Front.

The battalion took part in operations against the German army. Walter fought in the Battle of Pozieres. He took part in the "Big Push" during the Australian charge against the Prussian Guards. This attack



on the Germans took place near a ruined farm which the Germans had heavily fortified with trenches. The attack on the farm took place on the 3rd of September.

It was during that attack that Walter and his elder brother Leonard were killed while driving the German specialist regiment back from the trenches. The 49th Battalion sustained a loss of 430 soldiers

over a two-day period from a strength of 1000 men. Walter was extremely vulnerable as he had spent much time in the trenches as a hand grenade thrower.

The Gympie Times on the 25th of November 1916 reported that "Lieutenant Leonard Keid and Sgt B. Walter Keid were killed in action in France on 3 September 1916. Mr C.G. Reid (father) received the news."

Walter's effects that were sent home were listed as two notebooks, two military books, Lanyard and two handkerchiefs.

Walter was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Both were later sent to his father.

Foot note : An impressive Roll of Honour Board on display in the Sherwood Services Club at Corinda lists " A record of those who answered the Empire's call" and who resided in what was then referred to as the Sherwood Shire. The Keid brothers appear on that Honour Board.

Acknowledgements:

Beulah Cox
The Gympie Times
National Archives of Australia,
Australian Government
Trove: National Library of
Australia

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.

Also see the Keid Family history on 329.



Edward Alexander Keid

Researched by Graceville Primary School 2017

Three soldiers on the Graceville memorial plaque stood out from the moment the names were read. Three men who had the same surname. This clearly was not a coincidence, it was to be assumed that these soldiers were related.

Not long in to the research it turned out that these three soldiers indeed shared a very tragic connection. Three brothers who went to war - three brothers who never came home. It soon became very obvious that the background story of these three men also included other family members; soldiers who do not appear on the Graceville memorial because two of the six who enlisted survived and came home, while the name of the fourth who went to war but didn't survive, Leonard, appears on the Coorparoo Memorial because he was living there with his family when he enlisted.

Charles George and Mary Elizabeth Keid had nine children – six boys and three girls. Unfortunately, two children, Mary and Robert, died when they were infants. The six brothers, Henry Charles (Harry), William (Bill), Leonard, Bennett Walter, Edward

Alexander (Ted) and Harold Guy, enlisted to serve with the Australian Imperial Force, just like many other men did at this time. Two joined on the same day and had consecutive service numbers. Four were original Anzacs who served at Gallipoli. Two died on the same day during the same battle in France.

Sadly, the Keid family lost four sons in less than 2½ years to a war that seemed a world away. ([William](#) and [Bennett Walter](#) have their own biographies in this WWI history. A broader narrative about the family and the six brothers who went to war can be found here.

This is the story of **Edward Alexander Keid**, one of four brothers who lost his life during World War One.

Born in Brisbane, Edward grew up with his family as part of the local Baptist Church community and attended Junction Park State School at Annerley. When Edward enlisted he stated his residence as Molonga Terrace at Graceville, although he was living near Townsville at the time. Being a farmer by trade, he had moved near there with his brother Harry to take up a farm block before the war.

Edward enlisted on the 9th of October 1914 in Townsville and was assigned to the 9th Infantry Battalion, 1st Reinforcement within the Australian Imperial Force. His Unit embarked from Melbourne on board HMAT A32 Themistocles on 22 December 1914. The HMAT A32 Themistocles weighed 11,231 tons with an average cruise speed of 15 knots or 27.78 kmph. It was owned by the G Thompson & Co Ltd, London, and leased by the Commonwealth until the 20th of October, 1917.

Edward was 25 when he was allocated Service Number 1153 and given the rank of Private. He did not to know that he would go on to fight in the Great War for over 2 ½ years.

After training time in Egypt, Edward embarked from Alexandria to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Gallipoli, on the 2nd of March 1915. He was promoted to Corporal on the 4th of December 1915. Edward got through eight months at Gallipoli uninjured and was evacuated from Gallipoli during January of the following year. So Edward travelled back to Alexandria from Mudros on the 4th of January 1916. He was briefly admitted to 2nd Field Ambulance (dental) a couple of weeks later on the 15th of January 1916. He then proceeded from Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force on the 27th of March 1916; and disembarked in Marseilles, France on the 3rd



School student contributions

of April 1916. During October of the same year, Edward was posted to Supernumerary Establishment (Special Reserve soldiers who were sent to guard railways and other vulnerable points in Britain) but was soon seconded for duty with the 3rd Training Battalion, England.

A few days after Christmas, however, Edward was admitted to Parkhouse Military Hospital with mumps. Nevertheless, he was to start 1917 with a promotion to temporary Sergeant on the 1st of January. Edward then marched himself in to the 3rd Training Battalion on the 10th of January 1917.

Despite Edward's dedication to serving with the force, and his movement up the ranks there is a disciplinary note that appears in his records. It seems he was found guilty of being absent without leave for 12 hours. Edward was severely reprimanded and had to forfeit two days' pay. He was then also found guilty of disobedience of Standing Orders whilst in charge of the Quarter Guard. Once again, he was severely reprimanded, reverting him back to the rank of Corporal on the 19th of June 1917.

Edward decided to leave England and proceed overseas to France to join the 9th Battalion on the 6th of July 1917. He was part of the Third Battle of Ypres on the Western Front. He was once again promoted to temporary sergeant in late

July. According to his records he was attached to the Corps School on the 25th of August 1917 but then re-joined Battalion 15 on September 1917.

Sadly, on the 1st of November 1917 Ted suffered head wounds from an artillery attack at Broodseinde Ridge in Belgium. He was admitted to the 8th Canadian Field Ambulance and transferred to 10th Casualty Clearing Station, but died of the wounds on the 2nd of November 1917.

Edward is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Flanders, in Belgium. He was 28.

Edward Keid received three medals for his service. They were the British War Medal, a Victory Medal and 1914/15 Star Medal.

The British War Medal was awarded to those soldiers who were required to leave their native shore (that is Australia) while on service. The medal is silver and circular. A shortened bust of King George V is on the front, while there is a depiction of Saint George on the reverse. There is a straight clasp carrying a silk ribbon. This has a central band of golden yellow with three stripes of white, black and blue on both sides. The blue stripes come at the edges.

The Victory Medal was awarded to all those who entered a place of war between the 5th of August 1914 and the 11th of November 1918. It was

to commemorate the victory of the Allied Forces. Each of the Allied Nations issued a 'Victory Medal' to their own nationals – Australians were awarded the medal issued by Great Britain. The medal is bronze, with a winged figure of Victory on the front. The reverse has the words 'THE GREAT WAR FOR CIVILISATION', all surrounded by a laurel wreath. The ribbon has a 'two rainbow' design, with the violet from each rainbow on the outside edges moving through to a central red stripe where both rainbows meet.

The 1914-15 Star was authorised in 1918 and was awarded for service in specified theatres of war between the 5th of August 1914 and the 31st of December 1915. The four pointed star is bright bronze, with a crown. There is also crossed swords, overlaid with an oak wreath. The ribbon has the red white and blue colours of the Empire, in shaded and watered stripes.

Edward Alexander Keid's name is located at panel 56 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.

Also see the Keid Family history on 329.



William Keid (170)

Alice Donaghey & Hayley Harris 6S
Sherwood State School 2018

Following attending Junction Park State School in Brisbane Queensland, **William Keid** became a carpenter. After a long day at work, he headed home unaware that he was soon to be a part of the 2nd Light Horse Regiment. At the age of 28, and only five foot seven, he was accepted into 2nd Light Horse Regiment Squadron A, on the 21st of August 1914.

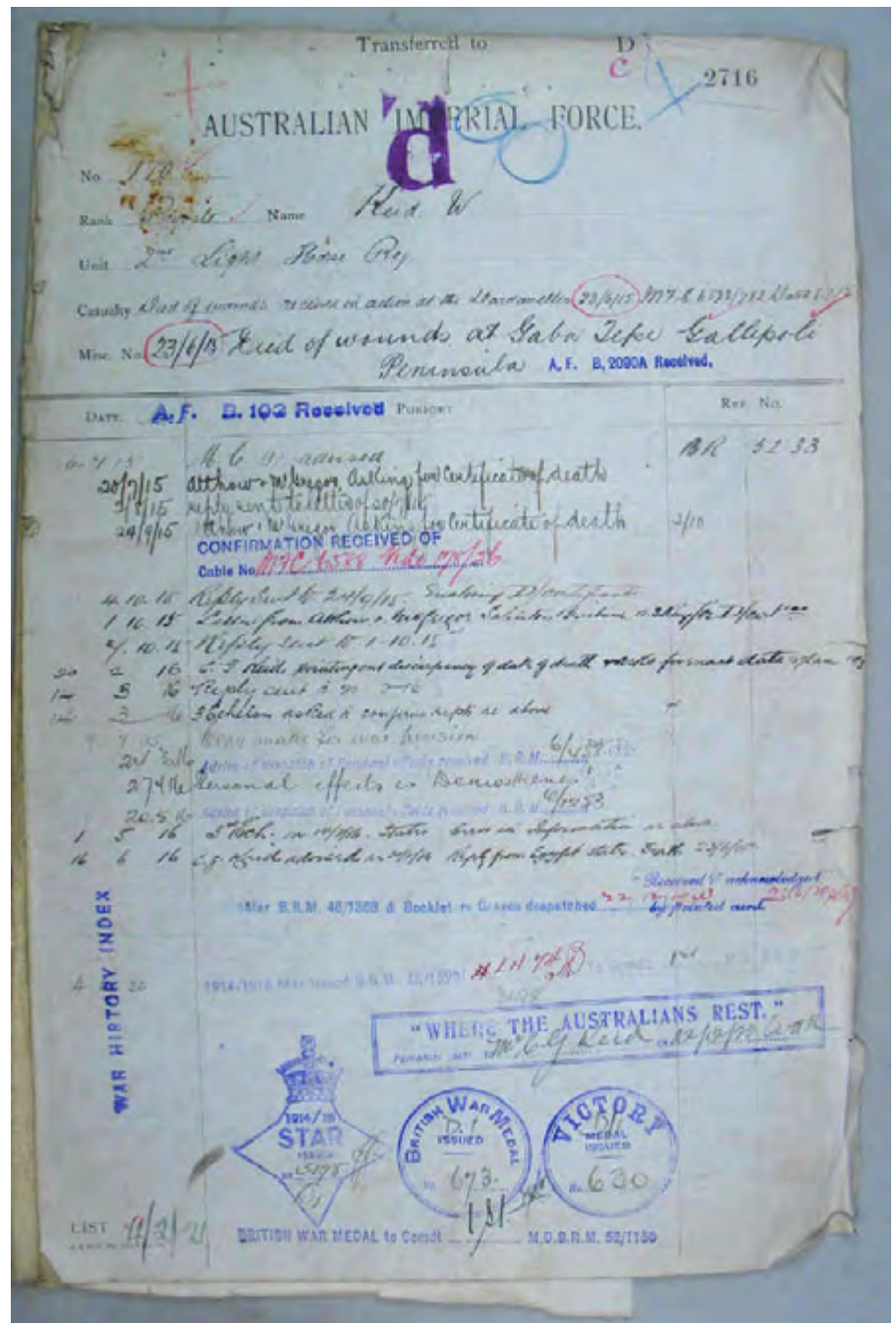
family was sad to see him go but was proud to see him take on such a courageous role. Having lived with them on Molonga Street, Graceville,

Brisbane, for his whole life, he too was sad to part with them but excited for the journey that lay ahead.

After landing at Egypt on the 9th of December 1914, the 2nd Light Horse Regiment took further training and also took part in the North African campaign defending the Suez Canal. Afterwards, they joined the ANZACs and, leaving their



As he had been previously rejected as unfit for His Majesty's service, William Keid was eager to serve for his country. On the 24th of September 1914 he left upon the HMAT A15 Star of England from the Pinkenba Wharf in Brisbane, Queensland. His





School student contributions

horses behind, set sail for Gallipoli in May 1915.

On the 12th of May, 1915, the 2nd Light Horse Regiment landed at the Gallipoli peninsula. There they joined the Allied forces as reinforcements. The very next day, the regiment was charged with the defence of Quinn's Post, which led them to a long and dangerous month of battles.

On the 22nd of June, 1915, Private William Keid was fighting for his life and country. Many hours later, he received a gunshot wound to the pelvis. Unfortunately, he didn't survive long after this.

Sadly, on the 24th of June, 1915, William Keid died on board the ship at approximately 10am and was buried at sea, three miles from Gaba Tepe.



Despite the tragic ending to his story, Private William Keid still earned three medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

A detailed history of the Keid Family and brothers ??? can be found on page

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- <http://www.sherwdipilly.org.au/Pages/Schools%20Projects/William%20Keid-Mia%20Starkey.htm>



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.

Also see the Keid Family history on 329.



William Keid

Researched by: Mia Starkey, CSHS,
Year 9, 2014

Focus Question One:

What are the biographic details of the soldier?

Source 1

Details: Australian War Memorial (AWM). (2014). Roll of Honour-William Keid. Retrieved from <http://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1641123/>

Notes

- Name - **William Keid**
- Service number-170
- Rank-Trooper
- Unit - 2nd Light Horse Regiment
- Service - Australian Army
- Conflict - First World War, 1914-1918
- Date of death - 23 June 1915
- Place of death- Gallipoli, Ottoman Empire
- Age at death- 29
- Place of association- Graceville Queensland, Australia
- Cemetery or memorial details- Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey

Source 2

Details: Australian Government, National Archives of Australia. (2014). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au>

Notes

- Joined on 21 August 1914
- Age - time of enlistment paper - 28 yrs 4 months
- Trade - Carpenter
- Next of Kin - Mother- Mrs Mary E Keid, Molonga St, Graceville
- Cause of death- died of wounds
- At time of enlistment-
 - Height - 5 feet, 7¾ inches
 - Weight - 147lbs
 - Complexion-dark
 - Eyes - Brown
 - Hair- Black
- Previously rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service
- Place of death - Gaba Tepe Dardanelles, Gallipoli Peninsula
- 1 Brown paper parcel - contents - disc, knife, belt, notebook, wallet, letters, photos, pendant, pipe
- Son of Mr. C. G. Keid of Graceville
- Buried at sea 3 miles from Gaba Tepe- 24th June 1915

Source 3 (Visual Source)

Details:The National Library of Australia. (n.d). The Brisbane Courier (Qld:1864-1933) (Saturday 19th June 1915). Retrieved from <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/20030564>



Notes

- William Keid + 5 brothers
- Text reads- SIX OF A FAMILY FOR THE FRONT. The Keid boys, of Graceville, Brisbane, Sons of Mr. Charles G. Keid. Reading from left to right- Private H. C. Keid (30), Private W. Keid (29), Private L. Keid (28), Private E. Keid (26), Private B. W. Keid (22) and Private H. G. W. Kied (20). Four of the boys are already at the Front and the other two are in training at Enoggera. – Photos by Talma, Pegan and Mathewson.
- William Keid- second, top row
- Father- Mr. Charles G. Keid
- Home- Graceville, Brisbane
- Date of newspaper- Saturday 19th June 1915

Source 4

Details: The AIF Project. (2014). William Keid. Retrieved from <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=160734>



School student contributions

Notes

- School- Junction Park State School, Brisbane, Queensland
- Religion- Methodist
- Occupation- Carpenter
- Address- Malonga St, Graceville, Brisbane, Queensland
- Marital status- single (not married)
- Age at embarkation- 28
- Height- 5'7.75" (5 feet, 7.75 inches = 172cm)
- Weight- 147lbs (66 kg)
- Next of Kin- Mrs. Mary. E. Keid, Malonga street, Graceville, Brisbane, Queensland
- Previous Military service- Nil
- Enlistment date- 21 August 1914
- Place of enlistment- Brisbane, Queensland
- Rank on enlistment- Private
- Unit name- 2nd Light Horse Regiment, A Squadron
- Embarkation details- Unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on board Transport A15 Star of England on 24 September 1914
- Rank from nominal roll- Private
- Unit from nominal roll- 2nd Light Horse Regiment
- Place of death- Quinn's Post, Gallipoli
- Wounded in action, Gaba Tepe, 23 June 1915 (gun shot wound, pelvis); died of wounds and buried at sea, 10 am, 24 June 1915, 3 miles from Gaba Tepe.
- Medals- 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Focus Question Two:

What is the soldier's service history?

Source 1

Details: Australian War Memorial (AWM). (2014). 2nd Light Horse Regiment. Retrieved from https://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_10551.asp

Notes

- William Keid's Unit- 2nd Light Horse Regiment
- Raised Enoggera- Queensland- 18 August 1914
- Gallipoli with horses- landed 12 May 1915
- Played defensive role most of campaign
- Did attack the Turkish trenches opposite Quinn's Post-one of most contested positions along ANZAC Line
- First assault wave- mown down + fortunately officer commanding attack had wisdom + courage- call it off.
- 2nd Light Horse Regiment –withdrawn front line- September- left the peninsula 18 December

Source 2

Details: Project Leader (Australian Light Horse Studies Centre). (2009). 2nd Australian Light Horse Regiment. Retrieved from http://alh-research.tripod.com/Light_Horse/index.blog/1861400/2nd-australian-light-horse-regiment-aif-history/

Notes

- Formed part of 1st Light Horse Brigade
- Left on- HMAT A15 Star Of England from Pinkenbar Wharf in Brisbane, Queensland-24 September 1914
- Pennant (Flag)-Green + white, distinguished horse + troop lines, failed identify individual with unit.
- The AIF 1st Australian Division Standing Orders issued in December 1914 ordered Australian Light Horse Regiments- wear 4-inch-wide [10.2cm] blue armband with regiment name marked on band black lettering
- Colour Patch-2nd Light Horse Regiment- cloth 1¼ inches wide, 2¾ inches long, worn on sleeve one inch below shoulder seam, green over white
- Gallipoli- landed 12 May 1915
- Used once offensive activities on 7 August 1915 - attack on Turkish position opposite Quinn's Post.
- 2nd Light Horse Regiment withdrawn front line- September, left the peninsula 18 December 1915



- Served - chaplain with 2nd Light Horse Regiment - Gallipoli + Middle Eastern campaigns

Focus Question Three: How did the soldier die, and does he have any living relatives?

Source 1

Details: The AIF Project. (2014). William Keid. Retrieved from <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=160734>

Notes

- Died of Wounds-23rd June 1915
- Place of death- Quinn's Post, Gallipoli, Turkey
- Age at death- 29
- Gunshot wound, pelvis
- Buried at sea, 10 am, 24 June 1915, 3 miles (4.8km) from Gaba Tepe
- Commemoration details- The Lone Pine Memorial (Panel 2), Gallipoli, Turkey
- Family- Parents - Charles George Keid + Mary Elizabeth Keid, Malonga Terrace, Graceville
- Family - Brothers - Military connections - Sergeant Bennett Walter Keid, Sergeant Edward Alexander Keid, Harold Guy Walker Keid, Henry Charles Keid, Leonard Keid

Source 2

Details: The National Library of Australia. (n.d.). Worked for Red Cross and Needy(Headline from - The Courier-Mail, (Brisbane, Old, : 1933-1954). Retrieved from <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/>

Source 3

Details

Officers of the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, Queensland, 1914, (1914), John Oxley Library, State Library Queensland, Retrieved from http://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/primo_library/libweb/action

Notes

- Group photograph officers- 2nd Light Horse Regiment
- Taken Melbourne before departed for combat overseas
- Col. Robert Mackay Stodart - Commanding Officer of 2nd Light Horse Regiment

Source 4

Details: Miller, S, (2014), Digitised@SLQ- Rev George Green Diaries, Retrieved from <http://blogs.slq.qld.gov.au/ww1/tag/light-horse/>

Notes

- Information from catalogue record at SLQ
- 2nd/14th Australian Light Horse origins - Queensland Volunteer Defence Force
- Units - Queensland Mounted Infantry - service South Africa 1899-1902
- 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment - alliance 2nd Light Horse, 14th Light Horse regiments
- Raised - World War I, service separate units
- 2nd Light Horse - service Gallipoli + Middle Eastern campaigns, including Jerusalem + Beersheba.
- 14th Light Horse served - Middle East +Palestine
- The Reverend Captain George Green - clergyman from Emerald + Rockhampton in Central Queensland when enlisted in the Australian Army - September 1914



Notes

- Date of newspaper- 5 December 1941
- Headline- Worked for Red Cross and Needy
- Article reads - Mrs Mary Elizabeth Keid, who died recently at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs E Feulling, Mareeba, in her 87th year, worked for the Red Cross Society throughout the last war and during the present war until two weeks before her death. She was actively associated with the Baptist Church and worked for the needy. Born in Chewton Victoria, Mrs Keid came to Queensland as a child and finally settled at Graceville in 1913. Formerly Miss Costello, she was married to Mr Charles G. Keid in 1874. Mr Keid died in 1925. Six of their sons served in the last war and four Messrs.

WORKED FOR RED CROSS AND NEEDY

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Keid, who died recently at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. E. Feulling, Mareeba, in her 87th year, worked for the Red Cross Society throughout the last war, and during the present war until two weeks before her death. She was actively associated with the Baptist Church, and worked for the needy.

Born in Chewton, Victoria, Mrs Keid came to Queensland as a child and finally settled at Graceville in 1913. Formerly Miss Costello, she was married to Mr Charles G. Keid in 1874. Mr Keid died in 1925. Six of their sons served in the last war, and four Messrs. Walter, William, Leonard, and Edward Keid, lost their lives. The surviving family includes a daughter, Mrs. B. Maggs (Kaban, N.Q.), and two sons, Messrs. Henry Keid (N.Q.) and Guy Keid (Brisbane). There are eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



Mrs. M. E. Keid

Walter, William, Leonard and Edward Keid lost their lives. The surviving family includes a daughter, Mrs B Maggs (Kaban, N.Q). and two sons, Messers Henry Keid (N.Q) and Guy Keid (Brisbane). There are eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

- Large family
- Mary Elizabeth Keid (William Keid's mother and next of kin) - helped others

Source 3

Details: The Families. (n.d). Retrieved from <http://www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com/families/files/KEID-W-Gen.pdf>

Notes

- William Keid born – 9 June 1885- Pimpama, Qld
- Parents - Charles, George Keid born- 5 June 1856- Brisbane, Died 23 January
- Mary Elizabeth Dale born - 11 November 1857- Chewton Victoria, Died - 2 December 1941- Brisbane
- Married- 25 May 1878- Brisbane
- 9 Siblings- Ethel Dale Keid, Edith Amy Keid, Henry Charles Keid, Leonard Keid, Norman Leslie Keid, Edward Alexander Keid, Robert Keid, Bennett Walter Keid, Harold Guy Keid

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.

Also see the Keid Family history on 329.

Extra Research Notes - William Keid

Source 1

Details: Australian War Memorial (AWM). (2014). Roll of Honour-William Keid. Retrieved from <http://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1641123/>

Notes

- William Keid's name is located at panel 3 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

Source 2

Details: Australian Government, National Archives of Australia. (2014). Retrieved from <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

- Notes Enlistment paper



Walter Edward Kerwin

By Mariana & Kayla, 9K – Corinda State High School, 2017



BORN - 1893
 DIED - 9th of February 1917
 HOMETOWN - London, England
 UNIT - 31st Infantry Battalion

Private Walter Edward Kerwin was a British-born soldier who lost his life in France on the 9th of February 1917 aged only 24 years old as part of the Australian Imperial Force. He was one of the tens of thousands of young ANZACs who tragically lost their lives in France as well as one of thousands whose service to our country is being lost to history.

Kerwin was born in 1893 in London, England, but migrated a few years later to Christmas Creek, Queensland. He worked as a labourer before deciding

to enlist as part of the 31st Battalion in Brisbane on the 10th of July 1915 when he was only 22 years old. While in this battalion, he joined the Anti-Aircraft and Tank Destroyer units. On enlistment he was 5 feet 3 inches tall and weighed 126lbs (National Archives of Australia, 2017). The 31st Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade in Enoggera, Queensland. It then joined the 5th Australian Division in Egypt, proceeding to France in June 1916 where the Battalion would fight its first major battle, Fromelles on the 19th of July 1916 (Australian War Memorial, 2017). Fortunately, Kerwin managed to survive Fromelles, although his Battalion suffered nearly 600 casualties.

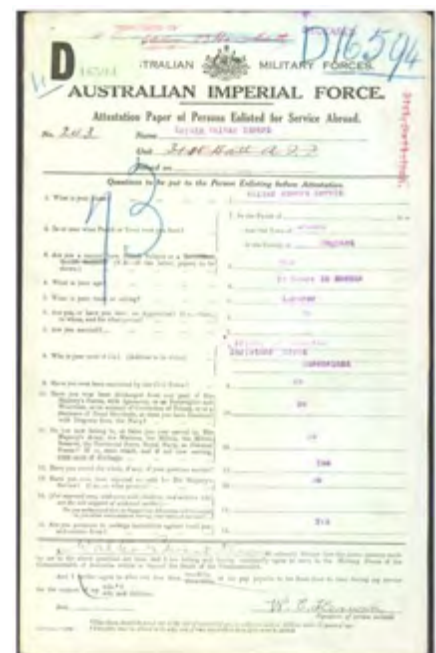
Kerwin was disciplined and punished twice by authorities. He first neglected his duty on the 11th of May 1916 and then he received a military discipline exactly a month later on the 11th of June 1916 (National Archives of Australia, 2017). After this, he continued in the 31st Battalion until he was marched out to the 49th Battalion on January 15th, 1917. He continued in this Battalion until he was wounded in action after spending less than a month on this new battalion on 6th February 1917. He died three

days later from the wounds he received to his chest and abdomen. He was then buried at the Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension in France (Commonwealth Grave Commission, 2017). His death was later mentioned on a 1917 issue of The Queenslander on the list of deaths from Australia. It simply stated: "W. E. Kerwin, Christmas Creek; 9/2/17" (The Queenslander, 1917).

There was no record of a will, and a letter was sent to his next of kin three years after his death, asking if there was someone closely related to Kerwin, such as a brother or sister, who could take the place of "next of kin". The response is unknown; it seems likely that Private Kerwin had no siblings or a family of his own. Kerwin's story is in large part unknown, although the legacy of his actions lives on.

Source 1

Enlistment Papers (National Archives of Australia, 2017)





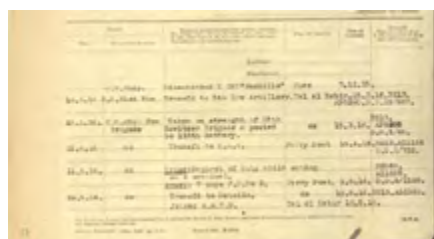
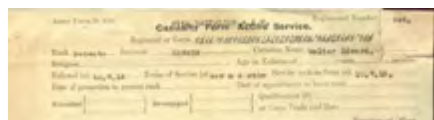
School student contributions

Notes:

- Full name – Walter Edward Kerwin
- Age – 22 years and 10 months
- Service number – 243
- Born – London, England
- Profession – Labourer
- Fought in the 31st battalion
- From Christmas Creek Queensland

Source 2

Service Records (National Archives of Australia, 2017)



Notes:

- Enlisted – 10/7/1915
- Joined AATD – Anti Aircraft and Tank Destroyer
- Was disciplined for not following order – 11/6/1916
- “Marched out to the 49th battalion” – 15/1/1917

31st Australian Infantry Battalion

The 31st Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Enoggera, on the outskirts of Brisbane in August 1915. Some of the battalion's companies, however, were also raised at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria. In early October, these two elements were united at Broadmeadows, and the battalion sailed from Melbourne the following month.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt, and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916. The 31st Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on 19 July 1916, having only entered the front-line trenches 3 days previously. The attack was a disastrous introduction to battle for the 31st - it suffered 572 casualties, over half of its strength. Although it still spent periods in the front line, the 31st played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.

In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line allowing the British front to be advanced and the 31st Battalion participated in the follow-up operations. The battalion subsequently crossed the heavy fighting to breach the Hindenburg Line during the second battle of Bullecourt as the 8th Brigade was deployed to protect the division's flank. The only large battle in 1917 in which the 31st Battalion played a major role was Polygon Wood, fought in the Ypres sector in Belgium on 26 September.

Source 3

31st Australian Infantry Battalion (Australian War Memorial, 2017)

Notes:

- Raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Enoggera
- Was along the outskirts of Brisbane, in August 1915
- Located at the Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria
- Left Melbourne on September (“sailed from Melbourne the following month”)
- Joined 5th Australian Division in Egypt, proceeded to France after on June 1916
- Fought its first major battle at Fromelles – 19 July 1916
- At the battle it suffered 572 casualties (over half its strength)

Source 4

Casualty Details (Commonwealth Grave Commission, 2017)



Notes:

- Walter Edward Kerwin's rank was a private
- He died when he was 24 years old
- He was buried in Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension

Source 5

W. E. Kerwin Service/Casualty Details (Commonwealth Games Commission, 2017)

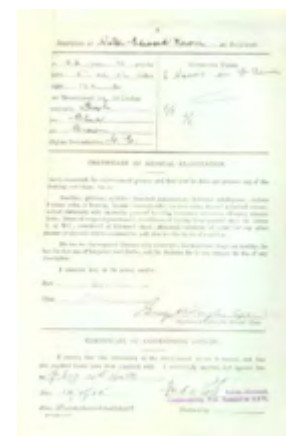
Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment/Service Area	Service Country	Grave/Memorial Reference	Cemetery/Memorial Name	Other
W. E. Kerwin	Private	243	19/07/1916	24	Australian Infantry, A.I.F.	France	V. A. 22	DERNANCOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION	

Notes:

- Rank: Private
- Service number: 243
- Date he died: 09/02/1917
- Age when he died: 24 years old
- Regiment/service area: Australian Infantry, A.I.F
- Grave/Memorial Reference – V. A. 22.
- Cemetery/Memorial Name – Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension

Source 6

Description of W. E. Kerwin (National Archives of Australia, 2017)





Notes:

- Age – 22 years and 10 months
- Height – 5 feet and [3 ½] inches
- Weight – 126 lbs (~57kg)
- Chest measurement – 35 ½

Source 7

W. E. Kerwin Embarkation Rolls (Australian War Memorial, 2017)



Notes:

- 31st Infantry Battalion – November 1915
- Embarked – 9/11/1915
- Place of embarkation – Melbourne
- Ship Embarked on – HMAT Wandilla A62

Source 8

Kerwin Death (The Queenslander, 1917)



Notes:

- Part of the 275th list
- Walter E. Kerwin was one of 6 men that died of wounds on February 1917
- Newspaper article from March [8] 1917
- Newspaper called “The Queenslander”

Source 9

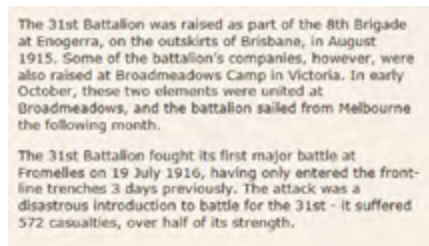
W. E. Kerwin Grave (RSL Virtual War Memorial, 2017)



Notes:

- Located in Dernancourt, Departement de la Somme – Picardie, France
- Co-ordinates – N49.97684, E2.62496
- The cemetery is an extension from the original Dernancourt town of Communal cemetery
- The placement of his grace, is specifically for those who fought in the first world war

Source 10 – 31st Infantry Battalion (Monument Australia Org. 2017)



Notes:

- This Website Signifies the 31st Battalion
- Raised as part of the 8th Brigade
- 8th Brigade was in Enogerra – outskirts of Brisbane
- Some were also raised at Broadmeadows Camp, Victoria
- Early October, the two united at Broadmeadows and sailed from Melbourne the month after
- 31st Battalion fought its major battle at Fromelles – 19/07/1916

References:

- Australian War Memorial. (2017). Awmgovau. Retrieved 17 May, 2017, from <https://www.awm.gov.au/unit/U51471/>
- Australian War Memorial. (2017). Awmgovau. Retrieved 22 May, 2017, from <https://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1758737/>
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission. (2017). Cwgc.org. Retrieved 19 May, 2017, from <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/37423/KERWIN,%20WALTER%20EDWARD>
- Monument Australia. (2017). Monumentaustraliaorgau. Retrieved 27 May, 2017, from <http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/ww1/display/90679-31st-battalion>
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- RSL Virtual War Memorial. (2017). Rslvirtualwarmemorialorgau. Retrieved 27 May, 2017, from <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/cemeteries/155>

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Noel Alaric Lahey

Researched by: Rod Iffinger,
Deputy Principal, Corinda State School

Noel Lahey was born at Pimpama, Queensland. He was educated at Brisbane Grammar School and went on to work in his family's sawmill. He resided at Corinda as did his parents David and Jane Jemima Lahey. His sister Vida (shown below) was an internationally renowned artist and teacher who also contributed heavily to the war effort.



Noel Lahey (centre) photographed in London in 1916 with his sister, artist Vida Lahey, and brother Romeo. Vida had travelled from Brisbane to London to establish a base for her brothers and cousins while on leave during the war.

(Image: Australian War Memorial)

He enlisted on the 5th of August 1915 and was posted to the 25th Battalion, 6th Reinforcement. Following training in Australia he left Brisbane on the *HMAT Seang Bee* on October 21 and arrived in Palestine at the end of February 1916.

A month later he embarked from Alexandria on the *Saxonia* and arrived in Marseilles in early March. In France, Noel Lahey served with the 9th Battalion from March until June 1916, when he received a gunshot wound to the right arm and was evacuated to hospital, firstly in Boulogne and then England.

He later transferred to the 11th Field Company Australian Engineers, part of the 3rd Divisional Engineers, to be with his brother, Romeo.

The Battle of Messines was the first time the Australian 3rd Division saw service on the Western Front, and it was there, on June 9, 1917, that Noel Lahey was seriously wounded in action at Ploegsteert Wood.

With gunshot wounds to his head, chest, left arm and right hand, he was admitted to the 9th Australian Field Ambulance, where he was visited by his brother. The following day, Noel Lahey died of his wounds. He was buried in France in the Pont D'Achelles Military Cemetery, Nieppe, Nord Pas de Calais.



He is remembered in the town of Canungra (where the Land Warfare Centre is located) at St Luke's Anglican Church. A building fund was established in 1917, with £50 given by the Lahey family towards the construction of a memorial church in Noel's memory, on land in Kidston Street acquired from the family for a nominal sum.



Sources

<http://canungraansweredthecall.org.au/>
<http://canungraansweredthecall.org.au/>
<https://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1642071/>

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



John Larkin

41st Australian Infantry Battalion

By St Peters Lutheran College, Mr Evans'
Year 9 SOSE Class, 2017

John Larkin was born and resided in Brisbane, Queensland. Listing his profession as school teacher, on the 13th of January 1916, Larkin enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Force, joining the 41st Australian Infantry Battalion. According to his enlistment papers, he had just turned 19 years old and had previously completed four years as a compulsory trainee.

On the 14th of May 1916, Larkin embarked for overseas, arriving in Plymouth, England, on the 20th of July 1916. On the 29th of November of the same year, he proceeded to France with his battalion. Rising to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, John Larkin was killed in action in Belgium on the 5th of October 1917. He was buried on the same day at Zonnebeke.

In response to a letter dated the 25th of June 1919 from James Larkin, John's father, requesting details "relevant to the condition of the ground where my son 2nd Lieutenant John Larkin, 41st Battalion was buried" (Larkin, 1919), a series of letters followed providing details about his son's final resting place. On the 21st of December 1920, James Larkin was notified that his son's body was to be exhumed and re-interred in Tyne Cot British Cemetery, with the work to be "carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain" (Australian War Memorial, 1920).

A letter from the Major, Officer in Charge Base Records, dated the 6th of April 1921, confirmed his body was exhumed on the 14th of December 1920;

his "identity was established by the inscription 'Jack Larkin from Mother and Father' which appeared on a silver watch found on the remains" (Officer in Charge Base Records, 1921).

In January 1922, John Larkin's family would receive a memorial plaque and scroll, in recognition of those who gave their life serving the Australian Imperial Force.

Bibliography

- Australian War Memorial n.d., *1914–1918 Memorial Scroll and plaque*, accessed 11 September 2017, <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/memorial_scroll>.
- Australian War Memorial n.d., *41st Australian Infantry Battalion*, accessed 11 September 2017, <<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51481>>.
- Your Story, Our History* n.d., Australian Government, pdf, accessed 11 September 2017, <<https://stpeters.fireflycloud.net.au/humanities-ind/year-9-ose/unit-3-history-world-war-1/digging-for-diggers---rsl-project/john-larkin---mr-evans>>.

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Jack Lidgard

#383 11th Machine Gun Company

Researched by: Kevin Alcock, RSL member, on behalf of St. Aidan's Anglican Girls School, 2018

Jack Lidgard was born in Gympie in June 1890, one of six children born to John Lidgard and Amelia Minnicent Kitt of Two Mile, Gympie. Jack's siblings were sisters Lucy Minnie, born in 1880, Sarah Blanche born in 1883 (died in 1885) Ethel Blanche born in 1885, brother Horace Laylor born in 1889 and sister Inez Ivy born in 1891. Jack's father, John, was a gold miner in Gympie.

John Lidgard's brother Thomas, a bricklayer, also lived in Gympie and was married to Amelia's sister Elizabeth Lucy Kitt. They had nine children one of whom, William Lidgard, also served with

the 36th Battalion and later with the 34th Battalion. After Amelia died in 1911, the family moved to Brisbane and initially lived on the corner of Church Street and Sherwood Road in Toowong, later moving to Graceville.

Jack worked as a Commercial Traveller and enlisted on the 15th of May 1916. Jack's older brother Horace had already enlisted on the 28th of October 1915 and left Australia on the 31st of January 1916, posted to the 49th Battalion. Horace was wounded in action on the 14th of August 1916, suffering a gunshot wound to the back and the spine in the battle of the Somme. In April 1917

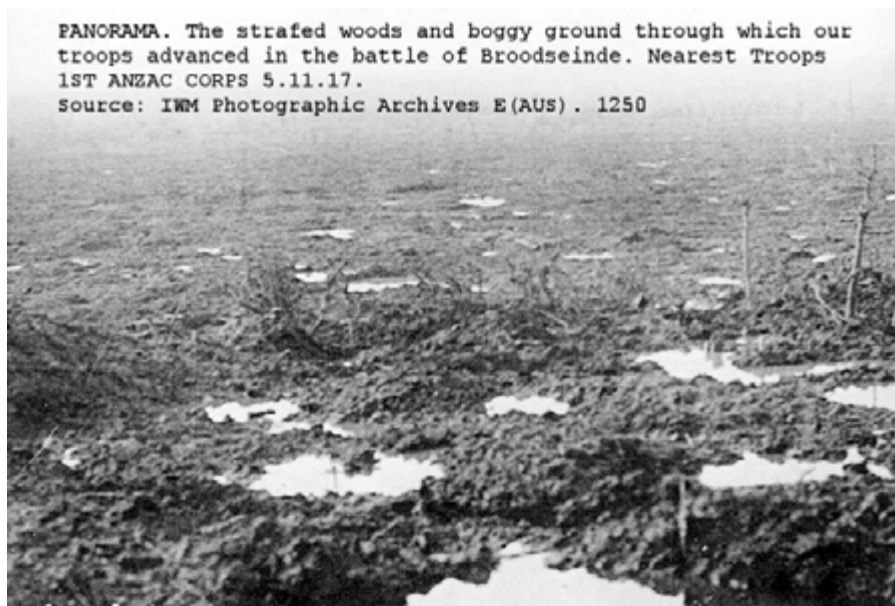
he was transferred to the 5th Machine Gun Company and was later wounded by gas at Passchendaele on the 4th of November 1917. He survived the war, returning to Australia in June 1919 and later died at Greenslopes in 1962.

Jack had spent six months with the Gympie Infantry Volunteers and on enlistment was taken on strength with the 11th Machine Gun Company training on the Vickers Machine Gun at Seymour in Victoria. He left Melbourne for England on the 20th of October 1916 on HMAT 17 *Port Lincon*, arriving via Sierra Leone on HMAT 38 *Ulysses* on the 28th of December 1916. After further training in England Jack arrived in France on the 28th of May 1917 reinforcing the 2nd Machine Gun Company. He was hospitalised in August 1917 suffering from trench Fever and Myalgia returning to his unit in September.

On the 4th of October 1917 the Australian 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Divisions attacked the Germans on Broodseinde Ridge. Jack's Company was part of the 2nd Division. The battle was successful but at a dreadful cost. Jack was posted as Missing in Action. He was later listed as Killed in Action, later confirmed by a Court of Enquiry on the 13th of March 1918. In a statement to that court, Jack's brother Horace told of being told by a Private Edwards of the 2nd Machine Gun Company that he saw Jack lying dead next to a large shell crater. Jack's body



Vickers Machine Gun crew action
AWM image EO 3268



PANORAMA. The strafed woods and boggy ground through which our troops advanced in the battle of Broodseinde. Nearest Troops 1ST ANZAC CORPS 5.11.17.
Source: IWM Photographic Archives E(AUS) . 1250

Thomas Benjamin Lidgard, volunteered to be a munitions worker and was sent to England on the 17th of January 1918. For this work their wives were paid 25 shillings per week plus 2 shillings and 6 pence for each dependant under 16. After eight weeks this dropped to 20 shillings and 2 shillings for each dependant under 16. The men were paid 5 shillings per day for the time they were away. Thomas returned to Sydney in March 1919.

Jack's father, John Lidgard, died in June 1918. Jack's sister Ethel was living with him at the time in Graceville. She was a talented singer and performed successfully in many Eisteddfods as a soprano. She was also active in choral groups. She was determined to have a suitable memorial to her brother Jack and the men of the district who never returned for the war. She instigated a subscription fund to fund the memorial, which was designed by Islay Bennett, and unveiled at the Graceville Memorial Park on the 20th of November 1920 by Maurice Little, the founder of what is now the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-branch.

In 1921, when the Graceville Picture Theatre (now the Regal) opened, Ethel Lidgard was its first owner, and it was often used for fund raising events. In 1922, Ethel Lidgard married Islay Bennet, who was at that time the Shire Clerk of Sherwood Shire. She and her husband later moved to Crow's Nest in Sydney after

was one of the many never recovered and he is listed on panel 31 on the Menin Gate.

Horace Lidgard had been hospitalised at the time of Jack's death but joined the 2nd Machine Gun Company a few days later, on the 7th of October. Horace Lidgard had a somewhat chequered service record, having been sentenced to nine months imprisonment with hard labour at a Court Martial in August 1917 for striking a superior officer. The sentence was suspended after a week and Horace was once more off to the front lines.

He was to face another Court Martial in May 1918 for being AWOL for 19 days and sentenced to 51 days detention. One month later the sentence was remitted and Horace was back off to the front lines once more. He returned to Australia in June 1919 and was discharged in September 1919.

Jack's cousin William Lidgate, with the 36th Battalion 10th Brigade certainly would have participated in the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge. He was transferred to the 34th Battalion on the 30th of April 1918 and would have been part of the Battle of Amiens around Villers Bretonneux. William returned to Sydney in August 1919 and was discharged in December 1919.

It is probably not widely known today, that the Australian Government at the time was keen to support the war effort in England in every way they could. The Australian Government called for skilled volunteers to work in England. William's father (Jack's Uncle)



Menin Gate at Ypres



School student contributions

the Sherwood Shire was amalgamated into the Brisbane City Council in 1925. Islay Bennett died in 1951 and Ethel then moved to Carabella Street in Milson's Point where she lived until her death in 1966.

Jack Lidgard was not married at the time of his death, so his only lasting legacy was through the efforts of his sister Ethel in the form of the Graceville Memorial, and his name on panel 31 of the Menin Gate in Belgium. May he rest in peace.

Sources:

B2455 item Lidgard, Jack (National Archives of Australia)
B2455 item 5 Lidgard, Horace Laylor (National Archives of Australia)
B2455 item Lidgard, William (National Archives of Australia)
Series MT 1139/1 item Lidgard, Thomas Benjamin (National Archives of Australia)
Australian Electoral Rolls 1903-1980
[http: www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com)
[http: www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au)
Marion Mackenzie Oxley Chelmer History Group

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



John Lyell

Researched by: Jackson and Aadam at
Corinda High School, Year 9F, 2016

John Lyell, born in Scotland in 1879, enlisted into the 15th Field Company of the Australian Engineers and was killed in action on the 20th of July 1916. His next of kin was recorded as his brother William Lyell who was from Graceville, Queensland. Although he was only one of thousands of soldiers who died during the war, Lyell was a man who served Australia with pride, representing the true characteristics of the ANZAC Legend.

Lyell worked as a railway employee before enlisting on the 16th of September 1915. As seen on his enlistment papers, Lyell had previous experience serving seven years in the Royal Scouts. Standing at 5 feet 10 ½ inches, weighing 178lbs and with a chest measurement of 38 inches, John Lyell left his brother, William Lyell behind when he enlisted at the age of 36 (National Archives Australia, 2016). He was a member of the 6th Engineer Regiment, an expansion of the Australian Imperial Force which was originally raised during WWI under the command of Harold Elliott. They served in France and Flanders and saw their first major action in July 1916 (Wikipedia, 2016).

There is some evidence regarding the death of Lyell within the sources. It is clear that Lyell's death occurred in France on the 20th of July 1916. As stated on his field service papers, Lyell was killed in action. Further information found in his casualty form in states he was wounded, sent to hospital and died on the same day (National Archives Australia, 2016). His comrades said about his death that he was "shot through the head," and other information recorded suggests that Lyell was wounded and died in hospital (Australian War Memorial, 2016).

Although Lyell did not receive major personal accolades for his service to Australia, his legacy and memory was carried on by his brother and physical objects, such as his headstone and medals (Common Wealth Graves Commission, 2016). John's brother William received John's medal on the 6th of July 1923; these medals were the Victory Medal and the British War Medal which were awarded for entering war or services overseas (The Great War, 2016). Furthermore, John Lyell was given a grave at the Military Cemetery in Rue de Boi, the day after he died which is still open to the public to visit and see the graves of

a majority of soldiers who died in France (Nation Archives of Australia, 2016).

John Lyell may not have possessed traits that made him memorable like Simpson and his donkey but Lyell still severed our country. The ANZAC legend is not about being renowned, the ANZAC legend is about everyone who served our country by leaving their family behind, as John left his brother behind. John Lyell was a normal man with a sense of patriotism, he had the will to fight for his country, and he gave his life in action. That is a true representation of the ANZAC legend.

(National Archives of Australia, 2016)
Born: 1817



Died: 20th July 1916
Birth Place: Fifeshire, Scotland
Unit: 15th Field Company,
Australian Engineers
Place of Enlistment: Enoggera,
Queensland



School student contributions

Source 1

Enlistment Papers (National Archives of Australia, 2016)



Notes:

- Joined 16th September 1915
- Served 7 years in Royal Scouts
- 36 years, 9 months of age during enlistment
- Height: 5feet 10 ½ inches
- Weight: 178lbs
- Chest Measurement: 38inches
- Fair complexion, blue eyes and grey hair
- Worked as a railway employee
- Brother named William Lyell

Source 2

Field Service (National Archives of Australia, 2016)



Notes:

- Rank: Sapper
- Died on the 20/7/16
- Died in France
- Killed in action
- Was buried at Military Cemetery, Rue de Bois
- Buried a day after death (21/7/16)

Source 3

Casualty Form (National Archives of Australia, 2016)

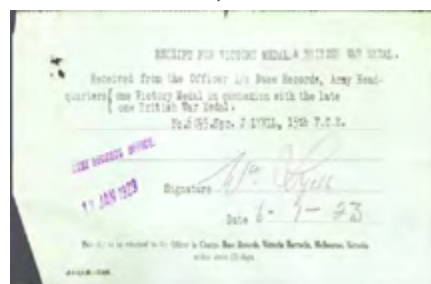


Notes:

- Wounded in the field of France (20/7/16)
- Sent to hospital the same day
- Died the same day
- Buried by Rev.D.S.Bramwell

Source 4

Victory Medal & British War Medal (National Archives of Australia, 2016)

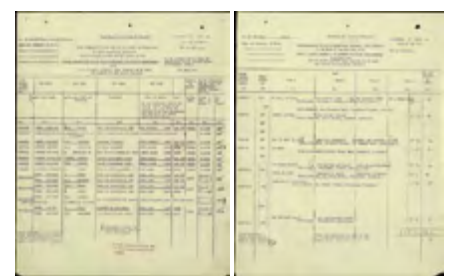


Notes:

- William Lyell receiving medal of John Lyell
- Received Victory Medal & British War Medal
- Received on 6/01/23

Source 5

Headstone (Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2016)



Notes:

- Head stone : none
- Rank: Sapper
- Regiment: Australian Engineers
- Quote written on headstone (quote is shown above)

Source 6

Extra Details on Lyell's Death (Australian War Memorial, 2016)





Notes:

- Was in the 3rd section
- Killed at Fleurbaix
- Buried with 15 others
- The only Lyell
- Cause of death: Shot through the head
- A cross on his grave with his name engraved

Source 7

6th Engineer Regiment
(Wikipedia, 2016)



Notes:

- Originally raised during WWI under the command of Harold Elliott
- Part of the expansion of the Australian Imperial Force
- Serviced in France and Flanders for 2 and a half years
- First major action at Fromelles in July 1916
- Action at Bullecourt, Polygon Wood, Villers-Bretonneux and along the St Quentin Canal
- Disbanded in 1946

Source 8

Medals (The Great War, 2016)



Notes:

- British War Medal and Victory Medal
- Also known as “Mutt and Jeff”
- British War Medal: awarded for entered war or service overseas
- Victory Medal had impressments of rank, name, unit and service number
- Commonly found as family heirlooms

Source 9

William Lyell (Ancestry , 2016)

Notes:

- Brother of John Lyell
- Father named David
- Mother named Isabella
- 8 children including John and William

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For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Charles Herbert Scott Lyon

Researched by: Susi, Rhiann and Leo at Corinda High School, Year 9F, 2016

Lieutenant Charles Herbert Scott Lyon was a World War One soldier of the 15th Australian Infantry Battalion. Before the war, he lived in Sherwood Queensland with his parents Charles and Anne Lyon. He travelled to Belgium where he fought and died for his country. His life was remembered both as part of the ANZAC legend and by those who knew him.

Before his deployment to France, Charles Lyon lived in Brisbane. He was born in Townsville in 1896 but then moved to Sherwood with his family. He worked as a clerk and was employed on the staff at Moreheads Ltd until he enlisted in the Australian Infantry Force on the 27th of July 1915. He was recruited into the 11th Reinforcement of the 15th Battalion and spent two months training in Australia before embarking for France. He left on the 21st of October 1915 on the vessel SS Seang Bee (Australian War Memorial).

Mr. C. W. Lyon, Sherwood, received information on Wednesday night that his son, Second Lieut. C. H. S. Lyon, had died of wounds in France. The deceased soldier enlisted on July 27, 1915, and left Brisbane in October of the same year. Prior to enlisting he was employed on the wool staff of Moreheads Ltd. He received his commission at Trinity College, Cambridge, on August 4.

Figure 1: Newspaper article announcing CHS Lyon's death (Trove, 1917)

In France, the Battalion fought alongside the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions as the 4th Brigade. During this time, Private Lyon was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. On the 26th of September 1917 the British and ANZAC troops advanced on the Germans near a forest named Polygon Wood. They were successful in the battle but there were 5770 Australian casualties including Charles Lyon. He was hit with shrapnel and died the next day. The news of his death was posted in local newspapers, including a short article announcing his death (The Queenslander, 1917) and on a Roll of Honour (The Brisbane Courier, 1923). Charles Lyon was buried in Flanders, Belgium at the Lijseenhoek Military Cemetery. He also has a place in the Commemorative Roll of the Canberra War Memorial (UNSW Australia).

Though he died a young man, he is still remembered as part of the ANZAC legend. Some are skeptical about the legend's place in Australia's history, but the ANZAC legend is about the spirit and comradeship of the soldiers. This can be seen in Charles Lyon. He was a clerk working in the city before he was

soldier, and in many ways does not fit into the traditional ANZAC image of the boy from the bush. In truth, the ANZACs were a diverse group of soldiers who came together through courage and mateship. That much is definitely true and deserves to be remembered.

Source 1

Gravestone at Lijssenthoek Military cemetery



Unit: 11th Reinforcement, 15th Infantry Battalion

No. 3356

Born: 15/6/1896, Townsville, QLD

Died: Died of Shrapnel Wounds, Belgium, 27/9/1917
Hometown/Address: Hood St, Sherwood, Brisbane, QLD

Source 2

Charles Herbert Lyon Scott Enlistment form.



OFFICER
ALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
 Attention Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.
 Name: *Charles Herbert Scott Lyon*
 Unit: *11th Reinforcement, 15th Battalion*
 Address: *Sherwood, Queensland*

Notes:

- Unit: 11th Reinforcement, 15th Battalion.
- No. 3356
- Trade: clerk
- Next of kin: Father, C. W. Lyon

Source 3

Charles Herbert enlistment medical results.

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION
 I have examined the above named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, to-wit:
 Venereal disease, syphilis, infectious diseases, defective intelligence, absence of vision, hearing, speech, locomotion, or other sense, or any other defect which would render him unfit for service as a soldier.
 I consider him fit for active service.

Notes:

- Age: 19 years, 1 month
- Height: 5 feet 7 Inches
- Weight: 140 lbs
- Eyes: Grey
- Hair: Brown
- Declared fit for active service.

Source 4: Newspaper Roll of Honour; C.H.S Lyon.

LYON.—In proud and loving memory of our dear son, Lieut. Charles Herbert Scott Lyon (Bert), late 15th Battalion, died of wounds received at Polygon Wood, on 27th September, 1917.
LYON.—In loving memory of Lieut. Charles Herbert Scott (Bert), who died from wounds received while fighting in France on 27th September, 1917.
 "Tweedsmuir," Sherwood.

Transcribed:

Lyon. - In proud and loving memory of our dear son. Lieut. Charles Herbert Scott Lyon (Bert), late 15th Battalion, died of wounds received at Polygon Wood, on 27th September, 1917.

Lyon. - In loving memory of Lieut. Charles Herbert Scott (Bert). Who died from wounds received while fighting in France on 27th September, 1917. "Tweedsmuir," Sherwood.

Notes:

- Lieut. Charles Herbert Scott Lyon (Bert), Died of wound received at Polygon Wood, 27th September, 1917.

Source 5

Newspaper article announcing CHS Lyon's death.

Mr. C. W. Lyon, Sherwood, received information on Wednesday night that his son, Second Lieut. C. H. S. Lyon, had died of wounds in France. The deceased soldier enlisted on July 27, 1915, and left Brisbane in October of the same year. Prior to enlisting he was employed on the wool staff of Moreheads Ltd. He received his commission at Trinity College, Cambridge, on August 4.

Transcribed:

Mr. C. W. Lyon, Sherwood, received information on Wednesday night that his son, Second Lieut. C. H. S. Lyon, had died of wounds in France. The deceased soldier enlisted on July 27, 1912, and left Brisbane in October of the same year. Prior to enlisting he was employed on the wool staff of Moreheads Ltd. He received his commission at Trinity College, Cambridge, on August 4.

Notes:

- C. W. Lyon received information that his son had died.
- C. H. S. Lyon died in France.
- Prior to enlisting, C. H. S. Lyon was employed on the wool staff of Moreheads Ltd.
- Received commission at Trinity College, Cambridge, August 4.

Source 6

Personal Details of Charles Herbert Scott Lyon



Charles Herbert Scott LYON

Regimental number	3356
Religion	Presbyterian
Occupation	Clerk
Address	Sherwood, Brisbane, Queensland
Marital status	Single
Age at enlistment	19
Next of kin	Father, C W Lyon, Sherwood, Brisbane, Queensland
Enlistment date	27 July 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	15th Battalion, 11th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	237322
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on board HMAAT A48 Seang Gee on 2 October 1915
Regimental number from Nominal Roll	Commissioned
Rank from Nominal Roll	2nd Lieutenant
Unit from Nominal Roll	15th Battalion
Fate	Died of wounds 27 September 1917
Place of burial	Lissenhoek Military Cemetery (Plot XXXIII, Row A, Grave No. 3), Belgium
Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	76
Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	Parents: Charles and Annie LYON, Hood Street, Sherwood, Queensland. Native of Sherwood, Queensland



Notes:

- Name: Charles Herbert Scott Lyon
- Age at enlistment : 19 years
- Date of death: 27th September 1917
- Rank on enlistment – Private
- Unit - 15th Battalion, 11th Reinforcement

Source 7

S.S. Seang Bee A48



Notes:

- Military vessel.
- Transporting troops overseas.
- The S.S. Seang Bee A48 transported the soldiers of the 11th Reinforcement 15th Battalion including C.H.S Lyon.

Source 8

Insignia of the 15th Battalion:



Notes:

- Landscape Rectangle
- Bottom half coloured Royal Blue
- Top half coloured brown.

- Used as the identification of the 15th Battalion

Source 9

Article on the 15th Infantry Battalion

The 15th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited as volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.

The Queensland and Tasmanian recruits were united when the battalion trained together in Victoria. They embarked for overseas just before Christmas. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early February 1915. Australia already had an AIF division there, the 1st. When the 4th Brigade arrived in Egypt, it became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

From May to August, the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead. In August, the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw.

At the end of the month, a detachment from A Company reinforced the 14th Battalion's unsuccessful attack on Hill 60. The 15th Battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there, the AIF was expanded and was reorganised. The 15th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 47th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

In June 1916 they sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in August 1916. Along with most of the 4th Brigade, the battalion suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April 1917 when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. It spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium, advancing to the Hindenburg Line.

Notes:

- Men of the 15th were recruited from Queensland and Tasmania.
- Provided experienced men for the 47th Battalion.
- With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade.



- The battalion fought as ANZACs, in France and Belgium on the Western Front and in Egypt.
- It fought in the major battles of Pozieres and Bullecourt.

Source 10

Battle of Polygon Wood

The battle of Polygon Wood was the I ANZAC component of a larger British and dominion operation staged as part of the third battle of Ypres. This operation was the second of the “Plumer battles”, a series of well-planned, limited advances supported by large volumes of artillery, masterminded by the British general Herbert Plumer. The name “Polygon Wood” derived from a young plantation forest that lay along I ANZAC’s axis of advance.

Scheduled to begin on 26 September 1917, the attack was almost derailed by a German attack on the British X Corps to the south of I ANZAC.

The British and dominion advance began on schedule at 5.50 am on the 26th, with the 4th and 5th Divisions, on the left and right respectively, taking the lead in the I ANZAC sector. The infantry advanced behind a heavy artillery barrage - the noise of this was compared to a roaring bushfire - and they secured most of their objectives without difficulty. The Germans launched several counter-attacks but these were thwarted by the

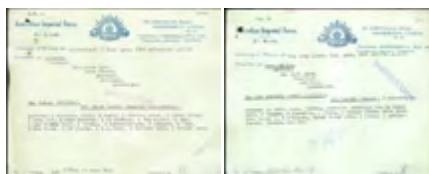
heavy defensive artillery barrages used to protect the infantry consolidating on their objectives; this was a feature of the Plumer battles. The battle cost 5,770 Australian casualties.

Notes:

- The battle began on 26th September 1917
- 5’770 Australian casualties.
- Part of the third battle of the Ypres.
- Was part of the “Plumer” Battles

Source 11

Will Papers (National archives of Australia)

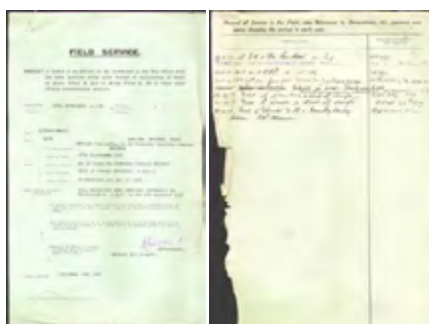


Notes:

- Father Mr. C.W. Lyon (Next of Kin)
- Mother Mrs Annie Lyon (Legatee)

Source 12

Field Service (National Archives, 2016)



Notes:

- 2727th September died of wounds received in action.
- Was held in No. 10 casualty clearing station Belgium.
- Rank 2nd Liuetenant

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For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Ronald Edward Macarthur (4551)

Researched by Tiana Ebzery, Year 6,
Christ the King Primary School, 2018



Private Ronald Edward Macarthur, service number 4551, was born in Childers, Queensland. He grew up on a farm with his family before moving to Corinda, Brisbane. As a young man, Ronald was a Senior Cadet for two years and spent eighteen months in the Militia. Ronald was 5 ft 11 ins tall, with a fair complexion, brown eyes and fair hair. This fit, healthy young man had decided to be part of the great adventure overseas.

Ronald enlisted in the Australian Army on the 8th of September 1915 at the age of 20 years and one month.

His father, Edward, signed the permission form for him to enlist because Ronald was under the age of 21 years. Ronald was assigned to the 47th Battalion. The 47th Battalion was raised in Egypt on the 24th of February 1916. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 15th Battalion, and the rest were fresh reinforcements from Australia, mainly Queensland and Tasmania.

Private Ronald Macarthur had been serving with the 47th Battalion for five months and 23 days in the Suex when he was taken to hospital with an inflamed parotid gland. On the 12th of March 2016, five days after returning to duty, he was readmitted to hospital with mumps. Ronald spent 39 days in hospital before he was then sent back with full strength to Battallia Serapeum in Egypt. During his sickness and his many months in service, Ronald would have regularly thought about home, with memories of warmth and home cooked meals.

On the 2nd of June 1916, Private Ronald Macarthur left Serapeum to sail on the *Caledonia* to Alexandria then onwards to Marseilles. Serving once more, Ronald was then wounded on the 11th of August 1916 in action at Pozieres, a small village in the Somme Valley in France. He was taken to the 13th Australian Field Ambulance Hospital "in the field" France. As he lay in hospital he thought of family, sadly he would not see them again. On the 11th of August 1916, Private Ronald Edward Macarthur was pronounced deceased. The cause of death was shrapnel wounds to the head.

Ronald was buried in Grave 33 Plot 7 Row B in a communal cemetery in Worley Baillon on the Somme, five miles west of Albert, France. It was the 28th of September 1916 when he was farewelled. It was the last time his family and friends back in Corinda would know where he was for certain.

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For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Stanley Angus McDonald

Researched by Wojciech Rozanski,
Indooroopilly State High School, 2018

Stanley Angus McDonald was born in Harrisville in 1890, a small town in the Scenic Rim south of Brisbane. One of five children to Minnie McDonald who resided in Indooroopilly, he was ranked Senior Fourth Engineer Officer of the Seam Ship Celtic during the First World War (AWM, 2018; STOQ, 2018).



The SS Celtic was launched in 1901, a sister ship to the SS Titanic, it was the largest steam ship in the world. Also known as, the RMS Celtic, its maiden voyage on the 26th of July 1901 took her from Liverpool to New York City. By

the beginning of the First World War, she was converted into an armed merchant cruiser, however, due to her high consumption of fuel, was later used to carry allied troops to Egypt (Revolvy, 2018).



In 1917, the RMS Celtic struck a mine off the coast of the Isle of Man with seventeen people being killed in the incident. Subsequently, the ship stayed afloat and was towed back to Peel Bay before being repaired in Belfast. After her relaunch, the RMS Celtic was targeted again in March 1918, where a German submarine (SM UB-77) torpedoed the RMS Celtic in the Irish Sea. During this incident, then-Engineer Stanley McDonald attempted to save the vessel, but drowned in the attempt along with five other men (Revolvy, 2018; STOQ,

2018). Although the ship was severely damaged, she was towed back to Liverpool, repaired and used again.

Stanley McDonald was twenty-eight at the time of his death on board the RMS Celtic and lays buried in the Belfast City Cemetery. Although it is widely known that his mother and four siblings survived him, British records show that he married in 1909 in England to Catherine Elizabeth Postlethwaite at Tynemouth. It is uncertain whether he left behind any other dependants due to his sudden death (STOQ, 2018).

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For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Robert George Mitchell

Researched by Peta McLeod - 2017

Robert George Mitchell was a Private in the 29th Australian Infantry Battalion for WWI, 1914-1918.

He was born in Artsdale, Victoria, to grow up with his father George Mitchell; and his trade being a farmer.

He joined the Australian Army on the 6th of July 1915. His unit, 29th Australian Infantry Battalion, was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria on the 10th of August 1915.

He sadly died during the war on the 7th of October 1916 in France.

To this day you can find him in Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, Lille, Nord Pas de Calais, France.

Thanks to Private Robert George Mitchell and all the other soldiers, we are all safe and can continue our lives unlike all of them that had a very unhappy ending to their life.



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191 and Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



Colin Cameron Munro

By Carle Poole, Olivia Smith, Anneliese Dean, Ella Riddell, Emilie Chenoweth, Maia Tighe-Watt.
St Peters Lutheran College, 2017

(Listed on Indooroopilly monument as C. C. Ross Munro)

Colin Cameron Munro, 122nd Brigade, Royal Artillery Corps (British Army)

KIA on the 23rd of April 1916

Colin Cameron Munro, older brother of Keith who also died in WWI, was born on the 16th of February 1888. Just like Keith, Colin was living and working at the family property 'Bombah' in the St George District of south-west Queensland, when the war commenced. He was aged 27 when he enlisted in 1915, after the report reached him of Keith's wounding in Turkey. Colin was in London, registered at the Howard Hotel on the 31st of July 1915. So, in all likelihood he must have volunteered for the British Army in that city, sometime after that date. Colin joined the Royal Artillery Corps. He became a 2nd Lieutenant in "A" Battery of the 122nd Brigade (of the Royal Field Artillery) that had been attached to the 38th Division in April 1915. Shortly before his death in April 1916, Colin wrote home to the St George newspaper *Balonne Beacon*, in which he spoke "lightly of his many narrow

escapes and hopefully of the victory near at hand".

Colin died of battle wounds in France on Easter Sunday, the 23rd of April 1916. The *Balonne Beacon* newspaper reported his death in the edition of the 29th of April 1916. The newspaper reported that Colin Cameron Munro was proposed as the first name to be entered on the St George and District 'Roll of Honour.' Colin Munro was buried in the Merville Communal Cemetery in northern France. He is interred in the Commonwealth War Graves commission section (grave reference VII, A, 13).

Colin's and Keith's younger brother Ranald (sometimes misspelt as Ronald) William Munro was born on 29th of September 1890. He also lived at Bombah before World War I. Commonly known as William, he joined the Royal Flying Corps (formed on the 13th of April 1912) in early 1916, prior to the death of his older brother Colin. William became a pilot and he mainly flew transfer missions ferrying biplanes to and from the Western Front. He reached the rank of Captain. William Munro survived the war and he



Graves Registration Report on Colin Munro's burial site

(Source: <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty-details.aspx?cid=539252&name=MUNRO,%20C%20C>)

A Grave Registration Unit amended report of 5 August 1920 showed that C.C. Munro had been registered under a misspelling of his surname, that of 'MUNROE'.

returned home to 'Bombah' in 1918. He died in an accidental fall at St George on the 15th of March 1938.

Indocoombe - The Grand Munro Residence on the Hill at Indooroopilly

See the information on 'Indocoombe' at the end of the entry on Colin's brother K R Munro.

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Keith Ross Munro

By Carle Poole, Olivia Smith, Anneliese Dean,
Ella Riddell, Emilie Chenoweth,
Maia Tighe-Watt.
St Peters Lutheran College, 2017

Keith Ross Munro, 182, 'C'
Squadron, 5th Light Horse
- AIF and the 8th (Naval)
Squadron - Royal Naval Air
Service.

KIA on the 9th of August 1917.



PTE. K. R. MUNRO
(5th L.H.), Wounded.
-Foggy photo.

Keith Munro as shown in "The Queenslander Pictorial" supplement to *The Queenslander*, 7 August 2015 (Source: John Oxley Library record no.894241).

Keith Ross Munro served in both the Australian and British armed forces during the First World War, initially with 'C' Squadron, 5th Light Horse Regiment formed at

the Enoggera Barracks in Brisbane, and later with the 8th (Naval) Squadron, Royal Naval Air Service.

Keith was born into a grazing family on the 28th of July 1895. At the outbreak of the First World War Keith was working at his family's property 'Bombah', in the St. George district of south-west Queensland. He and his pastoralist father William Ross Munro travelled to Brisbane where Keith enlisted at the Enoggera Army Camp on the 7th of September 1914, and by the 3rd of October 1914 was accepted into the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) for service overseas. Prior to his army service, Keith had served four years and nine months part-time in the army cadet corps while attending The Southport School (TSS)

on the Gold Coast. Keith's designated next-of-kin was his father William Ross Munro at 'Bombah' St George. Keith was issued the army service number of 182 and placed into the newly-raised 9th Infantry Battalion at the Enoggera Camp, where he began training.

Keith's background as a grazier and proficiency in horsemanship qualified him to apply for transfer to the newly-formed 5th Light Horse Regiment. As the numbers wishing to join the Light Horse were so high, a vigorous selection process involving tests in riding and shooting was conducted. Keith passed these tests and he joined 'C' Squadron of the 5th Light Horse, with the rank of private. The 5th Light Horse travelled to Liverpool in Sydney on the 12th of December 1914. After two days travelling by train, Keith arrived at Liverpool Army Camp and upon arrival the 5th Light Horse Regiment was attached to the 2nd Light Horse Brigade.

Keith, along with his unit, embarked at Sydney on the 29th of December 1914 on



Army transport HMAT Persic, 10 August 1915
(source: Australian War Memorial photographic collection, I.D. number PB0824)



His Majesty's Army Transport (H.M.A.T.) *Persic*. They were sailing to Egypt to join the new Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (A.N.Z.A.C.), then in training outside Cairo. Keith's journey lasted 42 days and along the way he visited Albany, Western Australia (28-31 December), and Aden, Yemen (20 January 1915), and traversed the Suez Canal. The troops were disembarked from the *Persic* at Alexandria on the 1st of February 1915. Keith's unit then entrained for Cairo and proceeded to the A.N.Z.A.C. Camp at Maadi.

The Queenslander newspaper reported on conditions and the activities of the Queensland soldiers in the Egyptian camps. On the 3rd of April 1915, just prior to the historic landing at ANZAC Cove, the newspaper reported on Queensland soldiers enjoying some recreation in Egypt.

The report by correspondent George Millar noted that among the entertainment provided for and by the 5th Light Horse Regiment was the sight of Keith Ross-Munro "on a table in our mess hall, giving 'Alonzo-Splagoni' to our assembled picquets". Millar also mentions conditions as being very like Western Queensland, with warm days and chilly, sometimes windy, nights.

As Keith's regiment was scheduled as the reserve corps, Keith was not part of the initial Gallipoli landings. He landed with the 5th Light Horse Regiment at Anzac Cove on the 20th of May 1915. The regiment went into the front line on the 19th of June 1915. Keith was reported as wounded, around Chatham's Post, at Gallipoli, on the 22nd of July 1915. Keith was also wounded in the attack on the Turkish-held Balkan Gun

Pits, Anzac, on the 28th of June 1915:

"The 5th Regiment moved along Harris Ridge as far as the Balkan Gun Pits, where they were subjected to heavy machine gun and rifle fire from the Echelon trenches, and also from Gaba Tepe. They were also subjected to shell fire from one of our destroyers, the commander of which had not been informed that our men were operating outside our own lines.... The Regiment's casualties during the afternoon were heavy, amounting to 23 killed and 79 wounded." (Wilson, p 19)

Keith did not require hospitalisation for either of these wounds, and remained on front line duty with his regiment until the end of August.

By the 3rd of October 1915, Keith had become seriously ill due to the unsanitary conditions at Gallipoli and was sent to a field hospital. On the 10th of October, he arrived in Malta on the hospital ship *Absaye* and he was admitted to Intarfa Hospital, Malta, suffering from measles. On the 3rd of November, he was evacuated to Britain for recovery on the hospital ship *Regina de Italia*. By the 25th of November, Keith was a patient in the 3rd Southern Hospital, Oxford. He was discharged on leave on the 13th of December. With the evacuation of Gallipoli by the 20th of December, Keith contemplated his future and went to London.



Keith Munro's inscription on the Arras Flying Services Memorial, France
 (source: <http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/99996/ARRAS%20FLYING%20SERVICES%20MEMORIAL>)



During January 1916, Keith investigated obtaining a commission in the British Royal Naval Air Service that had been raised on the 1st of July 1914. Keith was discharged from the Australian 5th Light Horse on the 3rd of February. The next day, the 4th of February 1916, he joined the Royal Naval Air Service. He was granted the rank of Probationary Flight Sub-Lieutenant and he was allotted to the 8th (Naval) Squadron, based at Dunkirk.

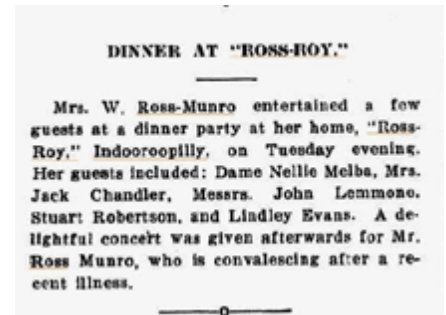
Accompanied by his wife, Keith returned to Australia on a furlough, arriving in Sydney on Saturday the 24th of March 1917. As he was no longer a member of the A.I.F., Keith had to pay for their ship passage home. The couple then travelled by train to the Munro family home in Queensland on the 26th of March 1917. Flight Sub-Lieutenant Keith Ross Munro returned to the Western Front and he was reported missing while flying over France on the 9th of August 1917. His body was never recovered and he has no known grave. Keith Munro was flying a Sopwith Triplane spotting enemy artillery formations when shot down.

Indocoombe - The Grand Munro Residence on the Hill at Indooroopilly

"Indocoombe", the grand residence on the hill at Indooroopilly, designed by the architect Claude W. Chambers, was built in 1897 for the wealthy tea merchant Daniel Collings and his family.

In 1910, 'Indocoombe', with its landscaped grounds and six acres of native woodland off Harts Road, Indooroopilly (now No.66 Harts Rd.), was bought by the St. George District pastoralist William Ross Munro. William Munro renamed his Brisbane town house 'Ross Roy', being a combination of his middle name Ross and name of his eldest son Roy. While Keith and Colin Munro had stronger links to the St George District than to the Indooroopilly District, their inclusion on the Indooroopilly Memorial honoured the important local role that their mother Marie Jane Munro played by hosting Red Cross fundraisers at 'Ross Roy' during World War I.

Photographs from this time show the grounds immediately surrounding the house to be landscaped and well maintained and the remainder of the property being native



Newspaper article detailing a social gathering held at 'Ross Roy' by Keith, Colin and Randal's mother Marie Jane Munro.



The front veranda and gardens of the Ross family home in Indooroopilly "Ross Roy"

growth with a cleared and grassed understorey. The Munros lived at 'Ross Roy' until their deaths. After the finalisation of the estate, 'Ross Roy', with six acres of land, was sold to the United Evangelical Lutheran Church





in 1945 for £16,000 and repurposed as a secondary Lutheran school. 'Ross Roy' has continued to be used by the St Peter's Lutheran College, which has grown to become the largest co-educational Lutheran school in Australia. Initially the only building of the college, it has now been repurposed as the St Peters school offices.

Additional research and detail regarding war service of the Munro brothers provided by Dr Jack Ford.



Restored Boardroom at Ross Roy

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Joseph Harold Nevill

Researched by: Oliver Hewett,
Ambrose Treacy College, Year 7, 2014

Local Indooroopilly man **Private Joseph Harold Nevill** gave his life for Australia.

Born in 1894 in Balmain, NSW, Joseph moved with his father Henry James Nevill, mother Ada Annie Smith and his brothers and sisters to Jackson Street Indooroopilly. There were nine children in his family, however two of his siblings died at the ages of one and two years old. This would have been a difficult time for his family. After Joseph left school he took on the trade of a leather goods worker.

Joseph was 21 years and 10 months old when he enrolled himself in the AIF (Australian Imperial Force) on the 13th of July, 1915. Two of Joseph's brothers, Bertram Henry Nevill and Stanley Cecil Nevill also fought in WWI, however Joseph wasn't as fortunate as his brothers, as he never returned.

Nevill was a part of the 5th Division, 8th Brigade and 31st Battalion, colour patch Brown/Yellow. His service number was 269. His unit trained at Enoggera and left Melbourne on the HMAT A62 Wandilla on the 9th of November 1915.

On the 7th of December Joseph arrived at Suez. For reasons unknown, Nevill was found guilty of conduct to the prejudice of good order on the 5th of May 1916 and was punished with 48 hours field punishment.

On the 16th of June 1916 Joseph left Alexandria and went to join the B.E.F (British Expeditionary Force). He arrived at Marseilles on the 23rd of June.

The 31st Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on the 19th of July 1916. The attack was disastrous. The 31st battalion suffered 572 casualties, over half its strength. Joseph Harold Nevill was one of the many who lost their lives on this day. A statement provided on file (www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=221968-details, October 2014) described his death,

"On the evening of the 19th July 1916 I was standing quite close to the above named man and saw him killed by concussion from a shell, his death being instantaneous; he had no wounds. This happened in 'No man's land' and it was impossible to remove him for burial as he was close to a German outpost."

Joseph was reported missing on the field on the 20th of July 1916. His identification disc was received from Germany and he was reported dead, killed in action, on the 20th of July 1916.

Originally listed as '*no known grave*' he was commemorated at V.C. Corner (Panel No 3), Australian Cemetery Fromelles. In 2010 Joseph Harold Nevill was subsequently identified and interred in the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery, France.

Joseph earned the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He was a local boy who gave his life for our country.

His local memorial is at Keating Park, Indooroopilly in Brisbane.



The new diggers memorial at the site of the Battle of Fromelles.

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



James Albert Parker (4887)

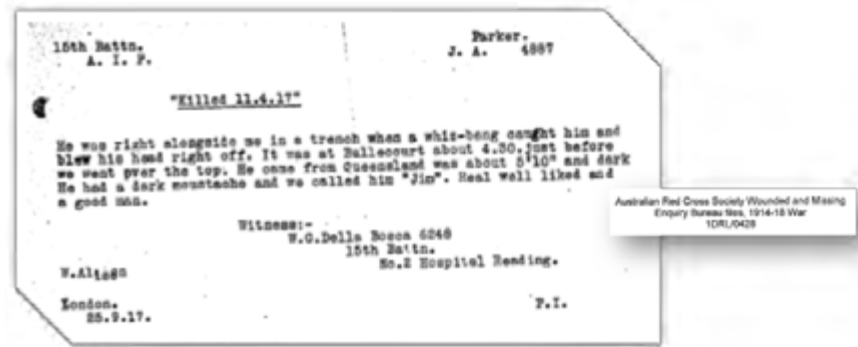
Created by the Social Science Department,
Brigidine College, Indooroopilly
Main Student Contributor: Olivia Noller

The plinth in Keating Park, Indooroopilly, commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by those who were connected to the Indooroopilly region. On the 26th of February 1921, the memorial was unveiled by His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, KCMG, Governor of Queensland. One of those remembered is **Private James Albert Parker**.



James was 25 when he enlisted in the Army on the 9th of September 1915. One year later, both his younger brothers, Edward Charles Parker, aged 24 and Arthur John Parker, aged 21, joined James in the Army. Both his

brothers survived the war, with Arthur discharged for being medically unfit and Edward being wounded in action,



which then caused him to be invalided out of the army. (Gibson, 58)

Private Parker became part of the 15th Reinforcements of the 15th Battalion. His group left Australia for overseas on the 28th of March on board *HMAT Commonwealth*. He disembarked in Egypt on the 5th of May 1916 and spent three months training there.

More training followed in England and then on the 1st of October 1916 they marched into camp in France. By the 16th of October they were in the front line with the 15th Battalion.

From this time until 1918 the battalion was engaged in

bloody trench warfare.

James Parker was involved in an all-out attack on German forces in the region. Support was not forthcoming; wire barriers were swept by machine gun fire and the promised tanks did not meet expectations. For all those who suffer violent deaths through war there are others who have to live with the horrors - as a Red Cross document reveals:

As the ground was lost to the enemy the "well liked and good man's" body was never found. His name appears on the Villers-Bretonneaux, Australian National Memorial Military Cemetery. Private Parker is recorded on panel 77 of the Roll of Honour in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

In 1921, it was hoped that Private James Albert Parker's sacrifice in WWI was not in vain and that peace would prevail.



HMAT 73 Commonwealth
http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

#10214-003

The Queenslander



For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Richard James Price

By Patrick Bock, Oxley State School - 2017

Service Number: 6640

Service: Sapper

Unit: 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company

Richard James Price

was a noble Sapper of the 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company who served alongside his fellow soldiers in World War One. Growing up in Oxley as a child was at times strenuous, and the common anguish was intensified by the fearful, morbid element of war and turmoil. Like most men, Richard was willing to fight for his country, misguided by the façade of honour and courage that had begun to shroud the battle.

Richard had become a sapper, a job that had made his eyes sunken and dark under the powerful influence



of darkness that encapsulated him as he laboured within the subterranean tunnels that he had dug. What started out as an honourable sacrifice for his country quickly became a precarious myriad of anxious labour and fear.

Days for the men during the war were ones rife with fear and agony, and both his mother Adelaide Ellen Augusta Price and his father James shared his growing anticipation until the 22nd of July 1917, when he was K.I.A (Killed in Action).

His blood seeping from his body, and his remaining breaths escaping from his lungs, his last vision until he met the spidery grapple of death was of France, or, as he knew it, his last battlefield. His death was as silent as it was macabre, his body seemingly unnoticed amongst the other corpses, save for those soldiers who offered him a sincere burial.

If it were said that Adelaide and James died of grief, many would believe it. From the day he left Oxley; from the day he left Brisbane; from the day he left Queensland; from the day he left Australia to serve in France, only to eventually meet his untimely and gruesome death, he had served his country.

But serving his country and owing his body in sacrifice is one of the things that defines war and turmoil, one that many have taken. Though we shall grieve, we shall not remain so eternally. Instead we can remember their sacrifice, one that was made for us, who stand here and who read this passage this very moment.

Let us not forget Richard, or any other soldier. Lest we forget.

Name: Richard James Price
Service Number: 6640
Place of Birth: Oxley, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Service: Sapper
DOB: 1893
Place of Death: France
Date of Death: 22nd July 1917
Next of Kin: Adelaide Ellen (mother)
Family Details: Son of James and Adelaide Ellen Augusta Price
Other Details: Date of Embarkation: 17th January 1917
Unit: 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company
Battle at Time of Death: World War One



For more, see Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



Alan Arthur Radcliffe 854

9th Bn 3rd Brigade

Researched by Kevin Alcock, RSL member, on behalf of Sherwood State School, 2018

Alan Arthur Radcliffe was born in Toowoomba on the 24th of October 1889, the son of Oliver Radcliffe and his wife Janet Walker Radcliffe. Oliver Radcliffe was at that time a school headmaster. He was later an inspector of schools, whose job entailed travels throughout the State. Alan was the fourth child of Oliver and Janet. His eldest sister Olive born in 1882, brother Phillip born 1884, brother Frank born 1886 and passing away that same day, and sister Gertrude Violet born in 1888. Alan would be joined by two more brothers, Charles Ernest born in 1891 and John Norman born in 1894.

Alan was to grow up with his brothers and sisters at their home *Kaloma*, a stately five bedroomed home in Kew

Street in Graceville. Alan attended Brisbane Grammar School together with his brothers. Their home in Graceville was situated on an 8,000 square metre block and included a tennis court and stables. Whilst not much is recorded of Alan's sporting abilities, the subsequent success of his younger brothers suggests that the tennis court saw considerable use. His enlistment medical lists him at 5 feet 11 inches tall (180 cm) and 10 stone 10 pounds in weight (68.5 KG) which was athletic for that time.

Alan's father, Oliver, arrived in Brisbane in 1861 with his father Amos and mother Jessie and their eight children. Their first home was a tent near what is now Petrie Bight, at a time when bullock carts

were churning up the dust or, depending on the weather, the mud of Queen Street.

He became a pupil-teacher at Oxley West School, now Sherwood State School. He would go on to become the Acting Chief Inspector of Schools prior to his retirement in 1921. Oliver Radcliffe's legacy to education in Queensland was an enduring one with three sons, Phillip, Charles and John all going on to prominent roles in the field. Alan was to become a business manager, managing a jewellery store for Flavelle, Roberts and Sankey, in Rockhampton from 1910 until he enlisted in the AIF on the 28th of August 1914, a little over three weeks after Australia entered the war, and was posted to the 9th Battalion, which was assembled at Enoggera.

Alan was to embark on HMAT *Omrah* on the 24th of September 1914 with his unit.

Originally destined for the Western Front, they were diverted to Egypt on the entry of Turkey into the war. The unit underwent intensive training before embarking for Mudros Harbour on the island of Lemnos where they prepared for the landing at Gallipoli. The 3rd Brigade were the covering Brigade for the landing with the 9th Battalion, the first ashore on the morning of the 25th of April.

Alan was not to survive that first day and was killed in action in the rush to secure





9th Battalion marching through Brisbane

the heights overlooking the beaches. Small groups of Australians did manage to push on up the ravines to the high ground and were subsequently isolated and eventually overrun by the Turkish counter attack. It would seem that Alan was amongst these groups. He was 25 years of age.

The first roll call for the unit



John Norman Radcliffe
Source: "The Southportonian"

did not take place until a week later, on the 2nd of May. Alan, along with many others, was posted as missing in action. His father thought that he might have been a POW of the Turks and wrote many letters to determine if this was the case, but to no avail. A subsequent Court of Enquiry listed him as Killed in Action. His remains were not recovered until 1919 and are now buried in the Lone Pine Cemetery on the peninsular.

His three brothers all enlisted. Phillip was wounded in France in September 1917 with the 31st Battalion and discharged in Brisbane in July 1918. Charles enlisted but was medically discharged shortly afterwards. Youngest brother, John Norman, was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 1914 and sailed for England. He enlisted in the Royal Garrison

Artillery and finished the war as a Captain having been awarded a Military Cross.

Both of Alan's younger brothers were good sportsmen. Charles was a talented golfer and John enjoyed great success, initially as a tennis player. He was the school's champion, and later after the war, won State Amateur and Open tennis titles. Turning to golf he enjoyed outstanding success winning both amateur and open titles at State level and was runner up at the Australian level. He played with the likes of Walter Hagen and Norman Von Nida. Today the Brisbane GPS Schools compete for the J.N.Radcliffe Tennis Cup. John was a Senior Master at The Southport School (TSS) and in 1936 took a year's leave to complete his Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford, and later became Headmaster at TSS.

Alan's brother Phillip was to teach at Sherwood State School and later became the Principal of the Teachers Training College. He was a great lover of literature, Greek, Latin, and Poetry, and compiled the *Queensland School Reader* comprising, alternately, prose and poetry. He was also a brilliant mathematician. In 1937 he was responsible for the Queensland School Radio Broadcasts by the ABC. Charles was also destined to become a Headmaster at Scarborough State School.

We will never know what Alan might have achieved in life.



He came from a family of high achievers with a great record of service, so it is fair to assume that he would have gone on to achieve much. Alas, we will never know with his death in the rugged hills and valleys around Gaba Tepe. May he rest in Peace.

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Trove <https://nla.gov.au> The Brisbane Courier-Mail, Friday 6th September 1940 P3 Illustrated article "The Southport School's new Head"

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Leslie Caldwell Radcliffe

Researched by: Piper Chapman & Annabelle Duce.

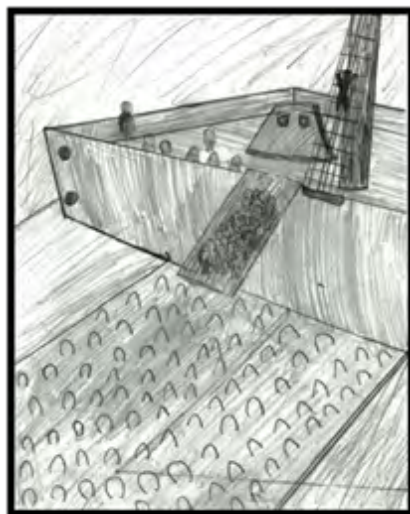
Illustrators: Rory Ebzery & Tara Bui - Year 5 St Joseph's Primary School, Corinda 2016

Information gathered from the National Australia Archives and the Australian War Memorial website.

Leslie Caldwell Radcliffe was born in Sydney, New South Wales. It is unclear whether Emily A. Radcliffe was his mother or sister. However, records show that he had two brothers and his father's name was Frank which, according to war records, was his next of kin. He was a farmer in Queensland before his years as a soldier.



Before Radcliffe enlisted in the Army to fight in World War One, he completed three years of compulsory training as a cadet. Upon enlistment with the Imperial Forces on the 25th of February, 1916, at the Age of 21 and 4 months, he was given the service number 2232. At this time, he was ranked as a Private before becoming a Lieutenant while serving overseas. During the war, his rank changed several times. He was stationed with the 47th Infantry Battalion from April 1916 to August 1917.



Along with thousands of other Aussie soldiers on their way to fight in Europe, Radcliffe embarked on the Barata in Brisbane, on the 16th of August, 1916; months

later disembarking at Plymouth, England on the 13th of October the same year.



Radcliffe was appointed to 2nd Lieutenant on the 1st May 1918, but this was his last promotion.

Three months later, he was killed in action on the battlefields of France near Domart on the morning of the 2nd of August 1918. Red Cross records show that Radcliffe, along with another soldier, Private Sutcliffe, died from concussion when an enemy shell hit the trench where they were stationed.



After Radcliffe's death his personal possessions were all sent to his next of kin, his father. They were a wallet, fountain pen, silver wrist watch and strap, silver spoon, note book, photos, certificate, receipts, cards, letters and his unit colour.

Days after his death, his body was buried at Domart Communal Cemetery in France, overseen by Rev H.H. Harper on the 5th of August 1918.

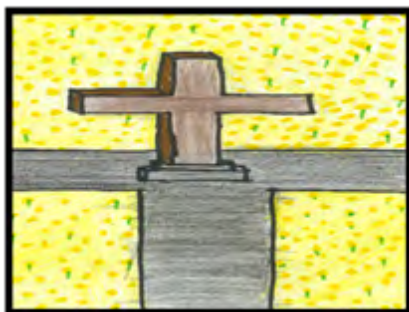


School student contributions

However, his grave was later moved to Hourges Orchard Cemetery in France, a quarter mile from Domart. His grave can be found in Row B, number 59 of the Hourges Cemetery.

Radcliffe's name is honoured in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. For his service he was awarded the Victory Medal which was sent to his father with his personal effects. On the 21st of April 1938, a family member from New Zealand, Dr. D. G

Radcliffe, requested a photo of Radcliffe's grave in France from the Australian War Commission.



2nd Lieutenant Leslie Caldwell Radcliffe will be forever remembered as a willing and brave man who fought for his country in WWI.



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Kenneth Raff

Service number: 3490

By Zoe Cruickshank and Juliet Wyse (6S)
Sherwood State School 2018

Private Kenneth Raff was a member of the 47th Battalion in the Australian Imperial Force; risked his life for us in the devastating First World War and now lies in the beautiful poppy-covered Tyne Cot cemetery in Passchendaele, Belgium.

Raff was a fit young man, with a height of five feet and nine inches, weighing only 58 kilograms. He had a good life beside the Brisbane River in Chelmer, spent with his mother and father. He worked as a draughtsman which, I imagine, would be vastly different to what he was about to experience in the war.

After he said goodbye to his mother and father, Raff and his fellow soldiers stepped aboard the HMAT Seang Bee on their way to Egypt.

Can you imagine how brave, courageous and resilient they must have been to leave their families and friends; knowing they could lose their lives to the devastation of war? In February 1916 Raff stepped off the boat into the busy port of Alexandria in Egypt.

As he disembarked I imagine he thought about how so few ANZACS came back from Gallipoli on that same day and how he could have the same fate as those who didn't.

When he arrived in that ancient land he discovered he had been removed from the 15th Battalion into the newly formed 47th Battalion with his young Queensland mates.

Only three months after arrival, Private Raff and his mates found they were needed,

due to decreased number of soldiers, on the Western Front in the horrible war-zone of France and Belgium. After only three months on the gruesome battlefield of Pozieres, on the 23rd of September 1916, Private Raff was taken to hospital, diagnosed with a horrible case of influenza.

He was let out of hospital after a tiring month only to find himself in hospital again two months later, with a painful condition caused by trudging around in the wet and muddy trenches from the war. Trench foot.

This time he had to stay in hospital until January 1917. Raff and his mates in 47th Battalion were reunited on the battlefield in February 1917 and two months later participated in defending the devastating attack on Bullecourt, France. Unfortunately, many lives were lost, and their battle was not successful.

Afterwards the Australian soldiers' next battle took place in Flanders, Belgium, near the town of Ypres. In the land so far away from home Raff and his brigade had been left alone on the battlefield, as no other units had arrived. Raff clung to his life and yet again survived; in this case, it was the horrific battle of Messines.

On July 1917 Raff and his fellow soldiers arrived on a new battlefield, the most hectic of all, Passchendaele Ridge. The Australians fought with many members of the British Empire





the outskirts of Ypres. Now the fields are flushed with greenery and peppered with blood red dots that are the beautiful flowers, poppies.

We still remember those who fought for us and will continue to thank them for their brave service.

Lest We Forget.

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as they united to bring the war to an end.

The 12th of October 1917 was the start of the first battle of Passchendaele and the ghastly war that would bring Private Kenneth Raff's life to an end. As Flanders field withered to nothing but sharp

sticks scattered throughout this barren land, the brave soldier, Private Kenneth Raff, who fought and risked his life for us, took his last breath and was killed in action.

Like many other soldiers Private Kenneth Raff to this day still lies in the Tyne Cot cemetery on

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Dudleigh Chalmers Ranken

By Charlotte Boothey and Harper Simons,
6M, Sherwood State School, 2018

Captain Dudleigh Chalmers Ranken

Ranken is thought to have been born in Roma in about 1886. At this time it was unknown that he would one day bravely join the British Army. At this point his father was a bank manager in Roma and his mother stayed at home to look after him and his five sisters. In around about 1910, Dudleigh and his family bought a lot of farm land in Sherwood from the Francis Estate. This land was from the corner of Dewar Terrace and Marlborough Street. The family home, Dunella, was on this riverside property.

In 1915 Dudleigh left his job as a brewer and went to England to put his name down for the army. He enlisted in English Army so that his mother would not have to live through the pain of watching him join the army.



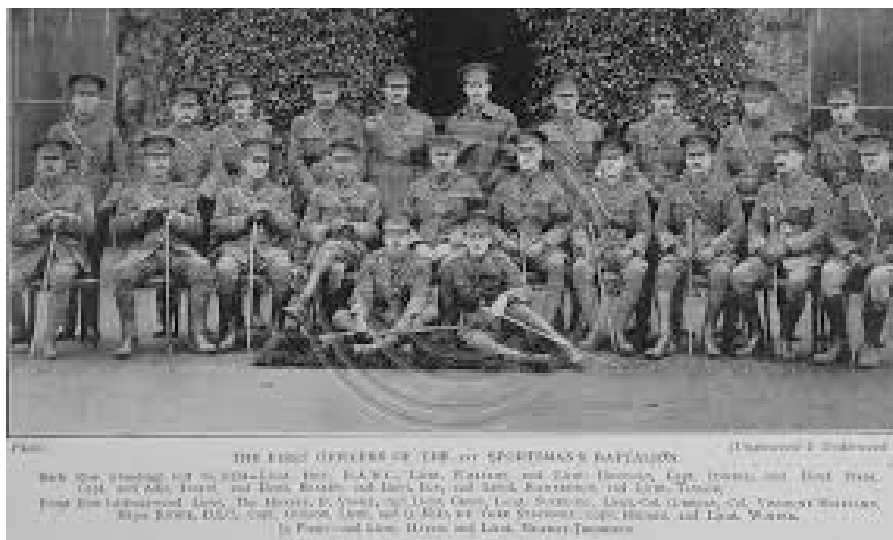
Just over 50% of WWI British Army files were destroyed in a bombing on London in 1940 during WWII so the records of Dudleigh's service have been destroyed. The only information that is left says that Dudleigh was promoted to Captain of the 23rd Battalion of Royal Fusiliers. This special group of British soldiers formed one the 'Pals' battalions which were mostly made up of sportsmen such as cricketers, boxers, golfers and footballers. It also included men from the media. For Dudleigh it must have been quite the experience, to

serve alongside some very well-known men from Britain. Imagine going to war and finding yourself serving with celebrities.

Dudleigh's battalion arrived in Boulogne, France, in November 1915 and bravely fought in the British sector just past the Somme. It is assumed the battalion got involved in the famous Battle of the Somme which began on the 1st of July 1916. Tragically Dudleigh is listed as having been killed in action on the 26th of 1916. His body was never identified.

His mother Anne Marie Ranken died with a broken heart four months after Dudleigh's death. Anne Marie was buried in the graveyard at St Matthews Anglican Church on Sherwood Road. Dudleigh's name was added to her tombstone.

Today the Ranken's legacy lives on in Sherwood. Two streets are named after the Ranken Family, Dudley Street (even though it's spelt incorrectly) and Dunella Street are in memory of the Rankens. Much of the leafy green Sherwood Arboretum used to be part of the Ranken's farm.



References

- ww1photos.com
- www.chapelhill.homeip.net
- Army Service Numbers 1881-1918
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Fusiliers
- <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/community/2688>
- <https://wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/battalion.php?pid=6910>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sportsmen%27s_Battalions



Dudleigh Chalmers Ranken

Researched by Year 6, 2017 Holy Family School Indooroopilly

Captain Dudleigh Chalmers Ranken was born in 1885 and in civilian life was a second brewer in the Queensland Brewing Company at the time of his enlistment. When he joined the forces, he left behind

his mother Anna Maria and father George Ranken, as well as his sisters Mrs. R. Hartigan and Mrs J.H. Cannan.

He joined the Battalion Royal Fusiliers at the time of his enlistment. He passed away



on 27th July 1916 during the Battle of Pozieres in France.

His sacrifice and courage will forever be remembered.

Cabled news was received in Brisbane on Tuesday of the death in France of Captain Dudleigh Chalmers Ranken, of the — Battalion Royal Fusiliers, only son of Mr. and Mrs. George Ranken, of Dunella, Sherwood, and brother of Mrs. R. Hartigan and Mrs. J. H. Cannan (wife of Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Cannan, Officer Commanding the — Battalion, A.I.F.). Captain Ranken, who was in civil life second brewer in the Queensland Brewing Company's service, left Brisbane for England in March, 1915, and got a commission. On May 13 last he was given his first lieutenantcy, and 12 days later was raised to the rank of captain.

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Paul Reynolds

A project of St Peters Lutheran College,
SOSE Class of Year 9 2017

Contributions to this project have been made by Cassie Barnett, Wei-Wei Chiu, Kristin Dittman, Vaishnavi Gopalan, Hailey Graham, Olivia Hudson, Kate Mendel, Tim Rossback, Lara Way, Damon Waugh and Luke Williams with the assistance and supervision of Pam Kalisch-Smith.

As part of this project, the National Australia Archive public record for **Paul Reynolds** were also updated for the Discovering Anzacs page. Amendments were made to all sections of the public record.

Related documents such as service records, enlistment documentation and photos of the grave have been attached to the rear of this document. The majority of information from the documents has been used in the following report, however the original copies may be of interest to you.

Roll of Honour

Service Number	6060
Rank	Gunner, then Driver
Service	Australian Imperial Forces – AIF
Operation	First World War 1914 – 1918
Unit	103 rd Australian Howitzer Battery, 12 th Field Artillery Brigade, 21 st Australian Howitzer Brigade

D.O.B.	June 1894
D.O.F.	12 th May 1916
Cause of Fatality	Illness – Influenza Acute Pulmonary Edema
Place of Fatality	7 th Field Ambulance, France
Cemetery	Sailly-sur-la-Canadian Cemetery, Nords Pas de Calais, France – Plot 1, Row B, Grave 29
Commemoration	Panel 18 – Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial

Enlistment

Roll Title	3 rd Field Artillery Brigade – Reinforcements 12
Civilian Trade	Carpenter
Previous Service	23 Engineers, Brisbane
Enlistment Date	30 th September 1915 (Brisbane)
Enlistment Age	21 Years
Series Number	B2455

Next of Kin	Ellen Hannah Evans - Widow
Place of Association	Cecil Street, Indooroopilly, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Father	George Alfred Reynolds
Mother	Ellen Hannah Evans
Religion	Baptist

Appearance	Mole on chest, Scar on right leg
Height	5 feet, 10 inches
Weight	145lbs
Chest	35/39 inches
Complexion	Fresh
Eyes/Hair	Brown eyes, black hair

Embarkment

Date	9 th November 1915
Departing From	Melbourne
Ship	HMAT Wandilla A62
AWM Embarkment Roll Number	13/31/3

Paul Reynolds was aboard with the following troops:

Service Number	Full Name	Place of Association
6057	ADAMS, Frederick William	Lands Office, Brisbane, Queensland
6140	ALFORD, William Bernard	Ulverstone, Tasmania
6065	ALLOM, Lionel	Hume Street, Toowoomba, Queensland
6064	ANDREW, Charles Thomas	Langshaw Street, New Farm, Brisbane, Queensland
6086	ARMSTRONG, William Joseph	Robertstown, South Australia

6129	BAILEY, Charles Douglas	Oatlands, Tasmania
6058	BALLINGER, Frank Gordon	Station Road, Indooroopilly, Brisbane, Queensland
6087	BAXTER, Percival	109 Cochrane Street, Garden Vale, Victoria
6130	BECKETT, Daniel John	Lottah, Tasmania
6059	BERTWISTLE, Harold	1 Staines Street, Wilston, Brisbane, Queensland
6121	BOON, Harold Eric George	146 Park Street, Hobart, Tasmania
6128	BOTTCHEER, Oscar Cedric	Bransholm, Tasmania
6088	BROOKS, Edwin Stephen	Henry Street, Clarence Park, South Australia
6069	CARSON, Hugh McLaughlin	Harrisville, via Ipswich, Queensland
6122	CHAPMAN, George William	247 Charles Street, Launceston, Tasmania
6070	CHEESEMAN, Joseph William	'Camden Cottage', Gundaroo, New South Wales
6131	COLLINS, Cecil Joseph	Port Cygnet, Tasmania
6127	COOK, Frank Mitchell	Ulverstone, Tasmania
6123	DANIELS, Sydney Wilford	
6096	DENNIS, Edgar Josiah	No 1 State Mill, Manjimup, Western Australia

6068	DIUNN, Herbert	Harrisville, Queensland
6097	ELLIOTT, Herbert Anthony	Cuballing, Western Australia
6132	FARRER, Thomas	103 Argyle Street, Hobart, Tasmania
6074	GOWER, John Hastings	
6098	GRAHAM, James	Sayers Street, Midland Junction, Western Australia
6051	GRANVILLE, Robin Alfred	'Virginia', Nundah, Queensland
6056	HAYES, John Ernest	Queen Street, Brisbane, Queensland
6099	HEID, Leonard	Hensman Road, Subiaco, Western Australia
6100	HERD, James Henry	Carisbrook, Victoria
6124	HILL, Harold George Bingham	Oyster Cove, Tasmania
6067	HILL, William Robert	Gowrie Little Plain, via Gowrie Junction, Toowoomba, Queensland
6101	HOOK, Charles Spurgeon	Geraldton, Western Australia
6052	IMBER, George William	Dalgety's Wharf, Bulimba, Brisbane, Queensland
6102	JACKSON, William Ernest	122 Cantonment Street, Fremantle, Western Australia
6103	JOHNSTON, Herbert George	Dangin, Western Australia
6062	JONES, James Roy	Granville Street, West End, Brisbane, Queensland



School student contributions

6104	LAMB, Robert	Darby, Western Australia
6134	LESTER, William Eric	Baden, Tasmania
6071	LILWALL, William George	Rigby Street, Wooloowin, Brisbane, Queensland
6137	MANION, Francis Patrick	Weld Street, Beaconsfield, Tasmania
6105	MARSHALL, Amos Arthur	Caledonian Avenue, Maylands, Western Australia
6135	MARTYN, Raymond Ernest	340 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania
6138	MAYS, Murray Edward	Ulverstone, Tasmania
6054	McLEAN, Roderick	Clarendon Street, East Brisbane, Queensland
6136	MILLS, Leo William	Lottah, Tasmania
6053	MONTGOMERY, William	Carl Estate, South Brisbane, Queensland
6125	NICHOLLS, Walter Harold Leo	2 Hope Street, Hobart, Tasmania
6135A	O'ROURKE, John Henry	36 New Street, Armadale, Victoria
6107	ORMEROD, Thomas William	Middle Swan, Western Australia
6073	OSBORNE, Arthur Edgar	
6089	PATERSON, Edwin Denis	Myponga, South Australia
6139	PHILLIPS, Thomas Walton Philip	394 Canning Street, North Carlton, Victoria

6108	POLACK, George Edward	35 Burt Street, North Perth, Western Australia
6063	RANKIN, George Frederick	'Piora', Tenterfield Road, via Casino, New South Wales
6060	REYNOLDS, Paul	Cecil Street, Indooroopilly, Brisbane, Queensland
6109	RIELLY, William	G P O Perth, Perth, Western Australia
6133	ROBSON, James Claud	Sheffield, Tasmania
6141	ROCKLIFF, Ingram John	Sheffield, Tasmania
6055	ROLLS, Frederick George	Avenue Road, Mosman, Sydney, New South Wales
6110	SCOTT, Joseph	Jarrahdale, Western Australia
6111	SCOTT, John Elliott	P O Dalwallinu, Dalwallinu
6061	SHIELD, Albert	Felix Street, Wooloowin, Brisbane, Queensland
6142	SIBLEY, Harry Hamilton	3 Edward Street, Hobart, Tasmania
6143	SMITH, Douglas Norman	St Leonards, Tasmania
6126	TOLLAND, Cyril John	St Mary's, Tasmania
6072	WADLEY, Thomas Collins	Richmond Street, Kedrow, Brisbane, Queensland
6066	WALL, Charles James	Ruthven Street, Toowoomba, Queensland
6144	WELSH, Frederick James	21 Hamilton Street, West Hobart, Tasmania

2nd August

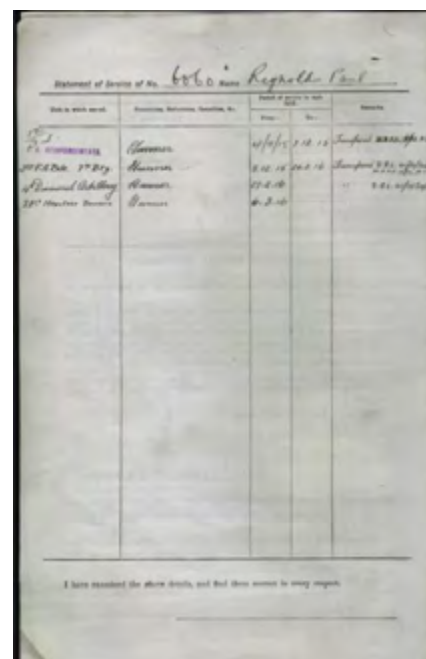
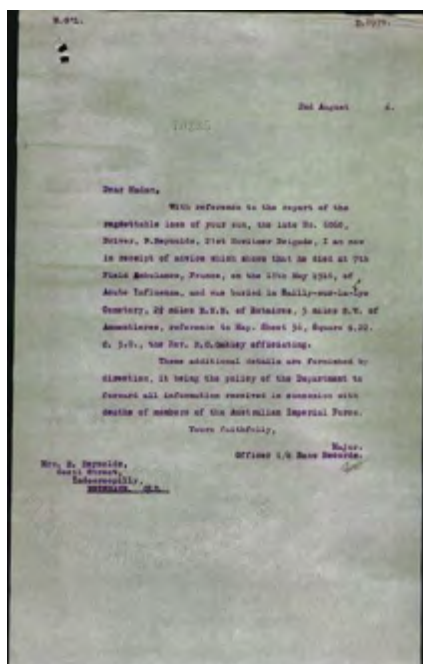
Dear Madam

With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 6060, Driver, P Reynolds, 21st Howitzer Brigade, I am now in receipt of advice that shows that he died at 7th Field Ambulance, France, on the 18th May 1916, of Acute Influenza, and was buried in Saily-sur-la-lys Cemetary, 2 1/2 miles E.N.E of Estaires, 5 miles S.W of Ammentieres, reference to Map. Sheet 36, Square G.22.c. 3.8. the Rev. R.C. Oakley officiating.

These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to forward all information received in connexion with deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force.

Major.
Officer i/c Base Records.

Mrs. E. Reynolds
Cecil Street
Indooroopilly
Brisbane Qld



Following the War

Awarded Medals	Victory Medal, British War Medal, Star 1914-1915
Posted to	Next of Kin - Ellen Hannah Evans
Returned Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disc • Leather Belt • 2 Notebooks • 3 Coins • Jack Knife • Metal Watch • Chain • Wallet • Photos • Purse
Mentions	Reynolds death was mentioned in The Argus on Thursday June 15 1916. A copy of this can be found on Trave .



Francis James Kearsley Robertson (1688)

Researched by: The Social Science Department, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly.
Main Student Contributor: Meg Willmington

The plinth in Keating Park, Indooroopilly, commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by those who were connected to the Indooroopilly region. On the 26th of February 1921, the memorial was unveiled by His Excellency Sir Mathew Nathan, KCMG, Governor of Queensland.

One of those remembered is Trooper Francis James Kearsley Robertson.

Francis Robertson enlisted on the 3rd of August 1915 and served for nearly two years before making the ultimate sacrifice for his country. Robertson joined the 11th Reinforcements of the 2nd Light Horse Regiment as a private.

His prior experience being a station hand and stockman would prove valuable for the role. Robertson and his unit were transported to Sydney and on 4th of October 1915 and were expected to embark to Gallipoli aboard the HMAT A47 Mashobra.

However, as the Anzac forces had been withdrawn the reinforcements were sent to Cairo where they became part of the full regiment.

Throughout June and July (while still based in Romani), Robertson patrolled various outposts in the Sinai.

On the 13th of July, he was hospitalised for with septic sores and did not take part in the battle of Romani. On the 10th of September 1916, he was back into action and drafted into the 1st Light Horse Machine Gun Squadron (formed from various machine gun units from different regiments).

On the 23rd of December he survived the Battle of Maghdaba but was killed in action at Rafa on the 9th of January 1917. The Unit Diary entry summed up the day's events in five lines:

"0600

Arrived about 1^{1/2} miles south of enemies entrenched position

near RAFA attack commenced at 1000 and after a hot engagement lasting all day enemy surrendered at 1730 our casualties were 6 killed and 20 wounded (see list attached) We captured 4 Guns, 4 MGuns & about 1800 prisoners. Our force left battleground at 2200 & Bivouaced at SHEIKH ZOWHID"

The official place of death was listed as El Arish. In 1921, Trooper Robertson was reinterred at the Military Cemetery at Kantara, Egypt. (Plot F, Grave 372). His name appears on Panel 180 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

In 1921, it was hoped that Francis James Kearsley Robertson's sacrifice in WW1 was not in vain and that peace would prevail.



AWM Photo

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY			
Place		Date	Event
RAFA		9/1	0600 Arrived about 1 1/2 miles south of enemies entrenched position near RAFA attack commenced at 1000 and after a hot engagement lasting all day enemy surrendered at 1730 our casualties were 6 killed and 20 wounded (see list attached) We captured 4 Guns, 4 MGuns & about 1800 prisoners. Our force left battleground at 2200 & bivouaced at SHEIKH ZOWHID



1st Light Horse Machine Gun Squadron
Patch



HMAT 47 Mashobra
http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm

Unidentified members of the Machine Gun



Squadron of the 1st Australian Light Horse
Regiment at gun drill



1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory
Medal which would be passed to Trooper
Robertson's Next of Kin



Sources

Print:

Bean, C.E.W. (1948). *Anzac to Amiens*.
Canberra: Australian War Memorial.

Gibson, J. (2013). *Forgotten
Heroes*. Keperra, Australia: James W.
Gibson.

Electronic:

<http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au> (The AIF
Project)

[http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_
lh.htm](http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm)

Australian War Memorial:

Embarkation Rolls

Nominal Rolls

Roll of Honour Cards, 1914-1918 War,
Army

Unit War Diaries

[http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.
aspx?cpage=1](http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx?cpage=1)

www.longlongtrail.co.uk

www.qldwarmemorials.com.au

[https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/
explore/units/225](https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/units/225)

For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Thomas Llewelyn Rowlands

Researched by: Amy Tran, CSHS, 9I, 2014

Focus Question 1:
What are the biographical details of the soldier?

Source 1

Details: FindwarDeacl. (2014)
Retrieved from: <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-deacl.aspx?cpage=1>

Notes:

- Full name: Thomas Llewelyn Rowlands
- Rank: trooper
- Service number: 202
- Date of death: 27/08/1916
- Age: 23
- Regiment/ service: Australian Light Horse
- Service Country: Australian
- Memorial reference: panel 58
- Cemetery name: Jerusalem memorial

Source 2

Details: The Queenslander Tenth Expeditionary. (1914).
Retrieved from: <http://trove.nia.gov.au/ndp/del/page/25033>

Notes:

- Also known as L.T Rowlands
- Second Queensland contingent

Source 3

Details: Australian War Memorial. (n.d). Roll of Honour – Thomas Llewelyn Rowlands.
Retrieved from www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1666031/

Notes:

- Unit: 5th Australian Light Horse
- Service: Australian Army
- Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918
- Place of death: Palestine, Ottoman Empire
- Place of assassination: Ipswich, Australia
- Name is located at panel 5 in Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial

Source 4

Details: Australian War Memorial. (n.d). First World War Embarkment Rolls – Thomas Llewelyn Rowlands.
Retrieved from: www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R2025316/

Notes:

- Date of embarkment: 21 December 1914
- Place of embarkment: Sydney
- Ship embarkment on: HMAT Persic A34
- Rank: private

Source 5

Details: RecordSearch. (n.d). Rowlands Thomas Llewelyn.
Retrieved from: recordsearch.naa.gov.au/namesearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8072290

Notes:

- Place of birth: Ipswich QLD
- Place of enlistment: Ipswich QLD
- Next of kin: father – John Llewelyn Rowlands

Source 6

Details: Mapping Our Anzacs. (n.d). Thomas Llewellyn Rowlands. Retrieved from: mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/file-view.html

Notes:

- British subject
- Stockman
- Single
- John Llewellyn Rowlands – father (Oxley, Queensland)
- Joined on 12 October 1914

Extra Notes:

- Age when enlisted: 21 years 9 months
- Height: 5 feet 7 inches
- Weight: 140 lbs
- Chest measurements: 33/35 inches
- Complexion: reddish
- Eyes: Bluish
- Hair: reddish

Focus Question 2:

What is the soldier's service history?

Source 1

Details: RecordSearch. (n.d). Thomas Llewellyn Rowlands.
Retrieved from: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp>

Notes:

- Latest report – dead
- Unit – 5th Light Horse Regiment
- Number – 202
- Rank – private
- Name – Rowlands T.L

Source 2

Details: Australian Imperial Force – Nominal Roll. (1914).

**Notes:**

- Service number – 202
- Rank: private
- Enrolled 13/10/1914
- Unit: 5LHR

Source 3

Details: Find War Dead. (2014). Retrieved from <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dad.aspx?cpage:ll>

Notes:

- Rank: trooper
- Service 202
- Regiment/service: Australian Light Horse
- Service country: Australia

Source 4

Details: ROWLANDS, Thomas Llewellyn. (n.d). Retrieved from <http://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RCDIG1068892-307-PDF>

Notes:

- No. 202
- Private
- ROWLANDS, Thomas Llewellyn
- 5th Light Horse Regiment

Source 5

Details: 5th Light Regiment. (n.d). Retrieved from https://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_10557.asp

Notes:

- Raised in Brisbane in September 1814
- Sailed from Sydney on 21st December 1914
- Became part of 2nd Light Horse Brigade
- Were considered unsuitable for initial operations at Gallipoli
- Left the peninsula on 20th December 1915
- Played a defensive role
- Was involved in several minor attacks

Focus Question 3:

How did the soldier die and does he have living relatives?

Source 1

Details: Embarkment Roll. (n.d). Retrieved from <http://alh-research.tripod.com/LightHorse/Index.blog/1979/5th-australian-light-horse-regimeny-embarkment-roll-b-squadron>

Notes:

- Subsequently died of accident

Source 2

Details: RecordSearch. (n.d) Thomas Llewellyn Rowlands.

Notes:

- Date of death: 27/8/16
- Place: Sinai Peninsula
- Cause of death: accidentally killed by wall of well collapsing death due to asphyxia
- Nature and date of report: telegram date 31/8/16
- Place of burial: mile north of 13-el-Abd, Sinai Peninsula
- Date of burial: 28/8/16

Source 3

Details: The AIF Project. (2014). Thomas Llewellyn ROWLANDS. Retrieved from: <http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showperson?pid=262713>

Notes:

- Next of kin: Father LJ Rowlands
- Parents: Llewellyn and Florence Rowlands

Source 4

Details: RecordSearch. (n.d). Rowlands Thomas Llewellyn. Retrieved from: recordsearch.naa.gov.au/namesearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode-S072290

Notes:

- Next of kin: father – John Llewellyn Rowlands

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Thomas Llewelyn Rowlands

Researched by: Matilda Khuc, CSHS, 9I, 2014

Focus Question 1:

What are the biographic details of the soldier?

Source 1:

Bibliographic Detail: Mapping Our Anzacs (n.d) Retrieved from <http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/list-name.aspx?name=Rowlands>

Notes:

- Thomas Llewellyn Rowlands roll title was a Light Horse Regiment (5LHR) in December 1914.
- Lived in the parish of Ipswich
- Father is John Llewellyn Rowlands
- Enlisted at the age of 21

Source 2:

Bibliographic Details: Commonwealth War Games Commission (n.d) Retrieved from <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1646905/ROWLANDS,%20THOMAS%LLEWELLYN>

Notes:

- Rank: Trooper
- Service No: 202
- Date of Death: 27.08.1916
- Age: 23
- Regiment/ Service: Australian Light Horse 5th regiment
- Panel Reference: Panel 58
- Memorial: Jerusalem Memorial

Source 3

Bibliographic Details: Australian War Memorial (n.d) First World War Embarkment Rolls – Thomas Llewellyn Rowlands. Retrieved from www.amn.gov.au/people/rolls/R2025316/

Notes:

- Date of Embarkment – 21st of December 1914
- Place of Embarkment – Sydney
- Ship of embarkment – HMAT Persic A34
- Rank – Private

Source 4:

Bibliographic Details: Record Search. (n.d). Rowlands Thomas Llewellyn. Retrieved from recordsearch.naa.gov.au/Namesearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8072290

Notes:

- Place of Birth – Ipswich, QLD, Australia
- Place of Enlistment – Ipswich, QLD, Australia
- Next of Kin – John Llewellyn Rowlands (father)

Focus Question 2:

What is the soldier's service history?

Source 1

Bibliographic Detail – RecordSearch. (n.d). Retrieved from

Notes:

- Age: 21 years, 9 months
- Height: 5 feet, 7 inches
- Weight: 140 lbs (pounds)
- Complexions: Reddish
- Eyes: Bluish
- Hair: Reddish
- Distinctive Marks: Linear Mark on Right Hand and Birthmark on Left Thigh

Source 2

Bibliographic Details: The AIF Project. (2014). Retrieved from <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=262713>

Notes:

- Religion – Church of England
- Occupation – Stockman
- Address – Care of LJ Rowlands, Oxley near Brisbane, Queensland
- Marital Status – Single
- Regimental number – 202
- Enlistment date – 13 October 2014
- Embarkment details – unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A34 'Persic' on the 21st of December 1914

Source 3

Bibliographic Detail – ROWLANDS, Thomas Llewellyn (n.d) Retrieved from <http://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RCIG1068892-307-PDF>



Notes:

- no. 202
- Private
- ROWLANDS, Thomas Llewellyn
- 5th Light Horse Regiment

Source 4

Bibliographic Detail – 5th Light Horse Regiment (n.d)
Retrieved from <https://www.awm.gov.au/units.10557.asp>

Notes:

- Raised in Brisbane in September 1914
- Were considered unsuitable for initial operations at Gallipoli
- Played a defensive roll
- Was involved in several attacks

Focus Question 3:

How did the soldier die and does he have any living relatives?

Source 1

Bibliographic Detail – RecordSearch. (n.d). Retrieved from

Notes:

- 27.08.1916 – Accidentally killed, Asphyxia due collapsing wall of well
- 28.08.1916 – Buried ½ mile north of Bir-el-Abd

Source 2

Bibliographic Detail – The AIF project. (2014). Retrieved from <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=262713>

Notes:

- Age of death – 23
- Place of burial – no known grave
- Commemoration Detail – Jerusalem Memorial, Palestine
- Miscellaneous information from cemetery record – Parents: Llewelyn and Florence Rowlands, Arnwood, Oxley, Queensland.
- Native of Ipswich, Queensland

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Thomas Llewelyn Rowlands

Researched by: J Blahout, CSHS, 9I, 2014



Focus Question 1

What are the biographical details of the soldier?

Source 1:

RecordSearch(2014)
Retrieved from: recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch.Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8072290

Digital Copy: recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=8072290

- Born in Ipswich, Queensland
- Natural born British Subject
- 21 years of age
- He worked as a stockman
- Single (non-married)
- Next of kin, father, John Llewelyn Rowlands
- Father lived in Oxley, Queensland
- Never convicted

- Spent 2 ½ years in Senior Cadets
- Enlisted on the 12th of October 1914
- Aged 21 years 9 months
- 5 feet 4 inches tall
- Chest measurement, 33/35 inches
- “reddish” complexion
- “bluish” eyes
- “reddish” hair
- Linear scar on his right hand
- Birth mark on left thigh
- Enlisted to the 5th Light Horse Regiment
- Assigned to B squadron
- Accidentally killed by wall of well collapsing, death due to asphyxia
- Buried ½ mile North of Bir-el-Abd Sinai Peninsula

Source 2:

Casualty Form – Active Service (1918) Retrieved from: recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?.B=8072290
Page 3.

- 26th of September 1915 – Diarrhoea
- 29th of September 1915 – Diarrhoea
- 13th of November 1915 – Jaundice
- 11th of December 1915 – Jaundice
 - Given light duties

- Killed by wall of well collapsing
 - Asphyxia
 - 31st of August 1916
- 6th of May 1915 – joined the M.E.F
- 11th of December 1915 – Egypt to Maadi camp
- 26th of February 1916 – marched out to Serapeum

Source 3:

Certificate of Medical Examination (1914) Retrieved from: recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=8072290
Page.6

- He was aged 21 years and 9 months on enlistment
- 5 feet 4 inches tall
- Weight, 140 pounds – 63.5 kilograms
- His chest measurement was 33/35 inches
- Reddish complexion
- Bluish eyes
- Reddish hair
- Linear scar on right hand
- Birthmark on left thigh

Source 4:

Focus question 2

What is the soldiers service history?

Source 1:

BirelAbd (2009) Retrieved from:

http://alh-research.tripod.com/Light_Horse/index.blog/1945168/bir-el-abd-sinai-9-august-1916-5th-1hr-aif-unit-history-account/



Source 2:

Thomas Llewellyn Rowlands (2014) Retrieved from: www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=262713

- Regimental number, 202
- Religion: Church of England
- Occupation: Stockman
- Address: Care or LJ Rowlands, Oxley near Brisbane, Queensland
- Marital Status: single
- Age: 21
- Enlisted on the 31st of October, 1914
- Rank: private
- Age of Death: 23
- No known grave
- Commemoration: Jerusalem Memorial and Australian War Memorial
- Parents: Llewellyn and Florence Rowlands, Arnwood Oxley, Queensland

SOURCE 3:

Q and R (2000) Retrieved from: www.anzacs.org/5lhr/pages/5lhrmembersqr1.html

- No.202
- B squadron
- Born in Ipswich, Queensland

- Religion: Church of England
- Single (marital status)
- Stockman
- Father, L.J.Rowlands of Arnwood, Oxley, near Brisbane
- Died on the 27th of August, 1916
- No known grave
- Died of other causes
- Commemorated on the Ipswich, Queensland memorial and on the Jerusalem Memorial, Israel, Parel 58.

Source 4:

Focus Question 3

How did the soldier die and does he have any living relatives.

Source 1:

Field Service (1916) Retrieved from: recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp?B=8072290

- Died on the 27th of August 1916
- Died at the Sinai Peninsula
- Killed by the wall of a well collapsing
- Death due to asphyxia
- Buried ½ mile north of Birel Abd

- Buried on the 28th of August 1916
- Station and date of record: Alexandria, 25th of September 1916

Source 2:

Ancestors of Judith Leslie Brown John (2011) Retrieved from:

www.havesthat.net.au/familyhistory/brownjohn/pafn02.htm#7

Last person in the Rowland's family line. They were traced from Thomas' mother, Florence Mary Rutey Rowlands

- Death listed as cerebral astrocytoma and carcinoma.
- Cancer isn't indicated as actual cause
- Mother's name Emily Elizabeth Gurladys
- Her name was June Mary Snowball

Mother was daughter of Thomas' parents making her his sister and June his niece. June was born the 14th of May 1925. She died on the 5th of June 1993 and was buried three days later on the 8th.



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Albert Schlumpf

Researched by: Rod Iffinger, Deputy Principal,
Corinda State School

Albert Schlumpf was born in Baar, Switzerland on 24th May 1886 to parents Antonie and Julie Schlumpf. He was educated in Switzerland and France before emigrating to Australia in 1909 and resided variously at Brisbane, Blackbutt, Redbank and Bowen before moving to Johnston Estate, Sherwood. His occupation was Labourer. He became a naturalised citizen of Australia in May 1911.



He enlisted late in the war at the age of 30 on the 15th of January 1917 and was posted to the 9th Battalion, 25th Reinforcement. His unit left



Australia sailing from Sydney on board HMAT Hororata on 14 June 1917. On arrival in Europe he was posted to the 15th Battalion.

In April 1918 the Germans launched an aggressive offensive which created a bulge in the British line which encompassed the village of Hamel near Amiens. This resulted in our troops being exposed to German observers and subject to enfilading fire (a sweeping crossfire along the length of our positions). Late in June a major battle would be fought for Hamel under the leadership of General Sir John Monash GCMG KCB VD however PTE Schlumpf was among the casualties killed

near Hamel prior to the great battle. He was killed in action on 8th June 1918.

He is buried at Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension in Picardie, France. PTE Albert Schlumpf was survived by his wife Paulina.

PTE Schlumpf was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



“Lest We Forget”

Sources

- The AIF Project (UNSW \ Canberra) <https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=267850>
- The Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1664414/>
- The National Archives <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/NameSearchResultForm.aspx?MR=20>
- Defence Honours & Awards <http://www.defence.gov.au/medals/imperial/wwi/>
- History Net <http://www.historynet.com/world-war-i-battle-of-hamel.htm>

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Donald Bruce John Sinclair

Researched by: Mitchell Owen, Indooroopilly State School, year 6A, 2017

Local Indooroopilly man, **Sergeant Donald Sinclair**, gave his life for Australia. Born 1890 on the 16th of February, Donald moved from Gympie, Queensland, to Indooroopilly at the age of 23.

When the time came at 24 years of age, he enlisted himself on 18th of August 1914 in the AIF (Australian Imperial Force). He was part of the 1st Division of the Australian engineers, 3rd Field Company. His service number was 5 and he initially held the rank of Sapper. His unit trained hard at Enoggera and left Melbourne on the 1st of November 1914 but little did he know that in one year it would be the last he would ever see his beautiful nation again.

After his voyage on the HMAT Geelong A2 to Egypt via Colombo, he received devastating news from the B.E.F (British Expeditionary Force) that he would fight in the major battle of Gallipoli.

As he landed at the shore of the Ottoman Empire on the 25th of April 1915, he felt sorrow and regret, but he knew there was no going back.



Throughout the war he won many medals (including 1914/15 star medal, British war medal and Victory medal). On the 27th of July 1915 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. One medal after another, he became more confident in what he is doing for his country.

However, on the 1st of August 1915 he was KIA (Killed in Action) in the middle of Dardanelles, Turkey. This unfortunate news was delivered to his father D.G Sinclair shortly after.

On the 17th of May 1916 his possessions, comprising tin, postcards, letters, wallet and note books, were returned to his family.

His local memorial is at Keating Park, Indooroopilly, in Brisbane (as depicted above). Unfortunately, a crane knocked over the memorial while trying to avoid a collision with a car on the 15th of July 1968 and the memorial needed to be rebuilt.



When it was rebuilt the initials of Mr Sinclair's name were incorrectly transcribed. Consequently, the memorial lists his initials as D.B.T. instead of D.B.J. His name is also located at panel 25 in the Commemorative area at the Australian war memorial as indicated by the poppy below.

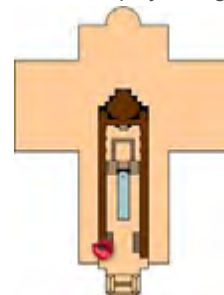
He is buried at the Shell Green Cemetery, Gallipoli; Peninsula, Turkey.

Still to this day, this man shows that an ordinary human can be an extraordinary person. We will always remember him and his sacrifice for his country.

Gibson, J., (2016), *Forgotten Heroes: Indooroopilly War Memorial*, QLD History Journal 22(12), 892-907.

Sources

<https://www.awm.gov.au>
<https://www.naa.gov.au/>
<https://www.sherwdipillyrs1.org.au/>



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Leslie Sinnamon

Researched by: Brynn Belcastro,
CSHS, 9I, 2014

Focus Question 1:
What are the biographical
details of the soldier?

Source 1:
Source Details: Sinnamon, L.
(1916, February 26). Roll of
Honour. The Queenslander,
p.28.



Notes:

- First of a large family to enlist
- Joined in New South Wales

Source 2:
Bibliographic
Details: Enlistment form.
[Image]. (1914). retrieved
from: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=80847444>

Notes:

- Service number: 4300
- Place of birth: Brisbane, QLD
- School Attended: N/A
- Sports Played: N/A
- Service: N/A
- Place of Death: France
- Date of Death: 29-08-16
- Next of Kin: (sister) XENOS MARIAN
- Medals: British War Medals
- Unit: 13th Rein, 13th Batt.
- Other Details:
 - Rank: Private
 - Killed in action

Source 3:
Bibliographic Details: Casualty
form. [image]. (n.d.) Retrieved
from: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=80847444>

Notes:

- April 1916- Taken on strength
- April 1916- Proceeded to join
- April 1916- Disembarked
- September 1916- MISSING

- January 1917- Previously reported missing, now reported killed in action

Source 4:
Bibliographic
Details: Description
of Leslie Sinnamon.
[image]. (1915). Retrieved
from: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=80847444>

Notes:

- Age: 18 years 18 months
- Height: 6 feet 8 ½ inches
- Weight: 124/? lbs
- Eyes: Blue
- Hair: Brown

Focus Question 2: What is the
soldiers service history?

Source 1:
Bibliographic
Details: 13th Battalion (2013).
Retrieved from: http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11200.asp

Notes:

- Embarked overseas late December
- Proceeded to Egypt, arriving early February 1915
- Landed at ANZAC cove late afternoon 25th April 1915
- Battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the ANZAC first line
- In March and April 1918, the battalion helped to stop the German spring offensive
- 1090 killed, 2128 wounded



Source 2:

Bibliographic

Details: 13th battalion AIF (NEW SOUTH WALES) [4th Infantry brigade]. (n.d.). Retrieved from: [Http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-conflicts-periods/ww1/taif/4div/04bdc/13th_battalion_aif.htm](http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-conflicts-periods/ww1/taif/4div/04bdc/13th_battalion_aif.htm)

Notes:

- 1st reinforcements departed Sydney Berrima 22 December 1914
- 2nd reinforcements departed Sydney Seang Bee 11 February 1915
- 3rd reinforcements departed Sydney Seang Choon 11 February 1915
- 4th reinforcements departed Sydney Shropshire 17 March 1915
- 5th reinforcements departed Sydney Kyarra 13 April 1915
- 6th reinforcements departed Sydney Wandilla 14 June 1915
- 7th reinforcements departed Sydney Shropshire 20 August 1915
- 8th reinforcements departed Sydney Runic 9 August 1915
- 9th reinforcements departed Sydney Argyllshire 30 September 1915
- 10th reinforcements departed from Sydney Ballarat 6 September 1915
- 11th reinforcements departed from Sydney Port Lincoln 14 October 1915
- 12th reinforcements departed from Sydney Suevic 20 December 1915
- 13th reinforcements

departed from Sydney

Acneas 20 December 1915

- 14th reinforcements departed from Sydney Ballarat 16 February 1916
- 15th reinforcements departed from Sydney Star of England 8 March 1916
- 16th reinforcements departed from Sydney Star of Victoria 31 March 1916
- 17th reinforcements departed from Sydney Nestor 9 April 1916
- 18th reinforcements departed from Sydney Clan Macgillivray 3 May 1916
- 19th reinforcements departed from Sydney Wiltshire 22 August 1916

Source 3:

Bibliographic

Details: 13th Battalion (Australia). (2014). retrieved from: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/13th_Battalion_\(Australia\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/13th_Battalion_(Australia))

Notes:

- Formed six weeks after the war
- Formed the fourth brigade
- Demobilised in early 1919
- Left Australian in late December and arrived in Egypt in February 1915
- Under the command of Colonel John Monash

Source 4:

Bibliographic Details: The wartime memories project-The Great War 13th Battalion, The Australian Army. (n.d.) Retrieved From: www.wartimememories.co.uk/greatwar/allied/aus-army-greatwar/13btn.html

Notes:

- After a withdrawal from Gallipoli, December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt
- 1020 men killed
- 2128 Wounded

Focus Question 3: How did the soldier die and does he have any living relatives?

Source 1:

Bibliographic Details: Casualty form. [image]. (n.d.). retrieved from: http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/Hem_detail.aspx?Barcode=8084744

Notes:

- April 1916- taken on strength
- April 1916- proceeded to join
- April 1916 Disembarked
- September 1916- MISSING
- January 1917- Previously reported missing, now reported killed in action

Source 2:

Bibliographic Details: Marian Eveline Sinnamon Xenos. (n.d.). retrieved from: http://www.findagrave.com/cgi_bin/cgi?page=gr&GRid=54285299

Notes:

- Birth: 1879, Australia
- Death: December 18th, 1934
- NSW, Australia

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Ronald Alexander Sowden, 4574

Researched by: Rod Iffinger, Deputy Principal
Corinda State School, 2018

Ronald Sowden was born in Brisbane in 1897 and lived in Corinda with his parents Sam and Sara Sowden. He attended Brisbane State School and as a boy served as a member of the Commonwealth Military Cadets for four years before enlisting in the Militia (the equivalent of the Army Reserve today). He enlisted in the AIF on 6th of September 1915 aged just 18. He was posted to the 9th Battalion and after completing training embarked for service in France aboard the HMAT Wandilla on the 31st of January 1916.

He joined the 9th Battalion in France on the 29th of July 1916 and three weeks later he was wounded in action. After recuperating in hospital, he re-joined his unit on the 19th of January 1917. He was again wounded in action on the 11th of May 1917 and re-joined his unit at Havre (France) in June 1917. The fighting moved to Belgium and on the 3rd of November 1917, PTE Sowden was killed in action in the Zonnebeke sector. Cause of death was shrapnel injuries to the head. Due to the conditions at the time he was

buried by his comrades at the rear of the trenches in which they were fighting. His grave is unmarked and a map reference was provided at the time in the regimental records. Private Sowden was only 19 years of age at the time of his death.

His parents were issued his service medals, which included the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Whilst his grave is unknown, his name is recorded on a memorial panel at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial located at West-Vlaanderen in Belgium along with those of the other 54,611 men whose graves are also unknown. They are remembered every evening at 8pm when the bugle sounds the "Last Post" under the memorial arches.



1914/15 Star



British War Medal



Victory Medal

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Robert Stewart Steele

By: Daniel & Jimmy, 9K –
Corinda State High School, 2017

Born: 18th February 1897,
Ebbw Vale, Ipswich, QLD
Hometown: Oxley, Brisbane,
QLD
Unit: 9th Battalion AIF,
11th Reinforcements
Died: 23rd of July 1916 in
France (Age 19) in Pozières



Robert Stewart Steele was an 18-year-old brickmaker from Oxley who, when the time came, enlisted for the war effort. He was killed at the battle of Pozières, barely a month after he had joined the front (National Archives of Australia, 2017). He was one of many soldiers to die in that battle, which is remembered as one of the most poorly thought-out plans in the First World War.

Born to Mr William and Mrs Florence Steele on the 18th of February 1897, he enlisted on the 7th of May 1915 and disembarked on the HMAT Seang Bee (University of New South Wales 2014) to the British Expeditionary Force in Alexandria, Egypt, before being sent to Marseilles, in France. He was sent to Etaples with the Company of the 9th Battalion, then killed in action in Pozières (National Archives of Australia, 2017).

The Battle of Pozières occurred in a small French Village, where both sides were shelling the other constantly. Many men went crazy from shell-shock, now more accurately known as post-traumatic stress disorder. After the shelling had ceased, the Australian forces, driven half-crazy with shell-shock, charged out and attacked the German entrenchments en masse. This could have been what took Robert's life, but as no-one recorded the precise cause of death we may never know. According to author Peter Fitzsimons, "It is the beginning of the worst artillery bombardment that Australian soldiers will ever endure" (Fitzsimons, 2015).

However, Robert Steele was not the perfect soldier. On the 19th of November 1915,

he was AWOL for six hours, and was then sentenced to 7 days of punishment (National Archives of Australia, 2017).

It is unknown exactly where Fielding's body rests. His name is marked on the Australian National Memorial, in France. On the Memorial is a stone tablet with bronze pointers indicating Somme villages that have become synonymous with the hardship of the British and Commonwealth forces. Also on the Memorial are the names of 10,885 Australian soldiers who died and are buried in an unknown grave (University of New South Wales, 2004-16). His name is also written on the Ebbw Vale Honor Stone in Australia (National Archives of Australia, 2017).

Robert Steele, although just one of the many who lost their lives in the terrible events at Pozières, is an example of the sacrifice made by young men right across Australia. He signed up to fight, and then flung himself on the lines, where he fought bravely for Australia. However, the true story is not just one of bravery, but also one of tragedy for the life and family he left behind.

Source 1

Enlistment Papers, 1915
(National Archives of Australia, 2017)



School student contributions

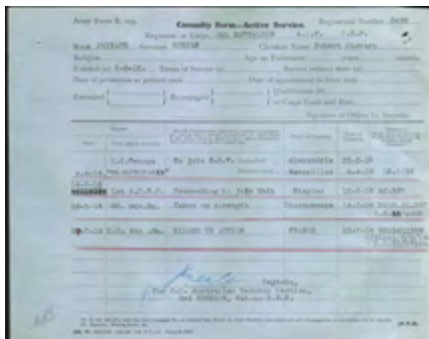


Notes:

- Brick-maker pre enlistment
- Aged 18 years and 7 months during enlistment
- Enlisted May 7th 1915
- 11/9 Unit
- 5 feet 7 1/2 inches, 128 lbs, 35 1/2 inches chest measurement, dark complexion
- Religion- Church of England

Source 2

Casualty Form 1916 (National Archives of Australia, 2017)



Notes:

- Joins the British Expeditionary Force
- Joins up to reinforce the Company of the 9th Battalion
- KIA in France Pozieres

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au>

Source 4

Details (Made between 2004-16) (University of New South Wales, 2017)

Notes:

- Unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on board HMAT A48 Seang Bee on 21 October 1915-
- No known grave
- Miscellaneous information from cemetery records
- Son of Mr. W. STEELE
- Miscellaneous details (Nominal Roll)
- * Stewart spelt Stuart

<https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=286767>

Source 5

Crime 1915 (National Archives of Australia, 2017)

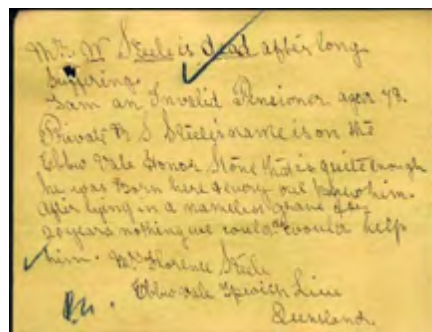


Notes:

- He went AWOL at the 19th of July 1915.
- Punishment: 7 days of work

Source 6

Around 1936 Letter about Father (National Archives of Australia, 2017)



*"Mr W Steele is dead after long suffering. I am an invalid pensioner aged 78. Private R S Steele's name is on the Ebbw Vale Honor Stone. None that is quite enough he was born here & every one knew him. After lying in a nameless grave for 20 years nothing we could do would help him. Mrs Florence Steele
Ebbw Vale Ipswich Line Queensland"*

Mrs Florence Steele

Ebbw Vale Ipswich Line, Queensland

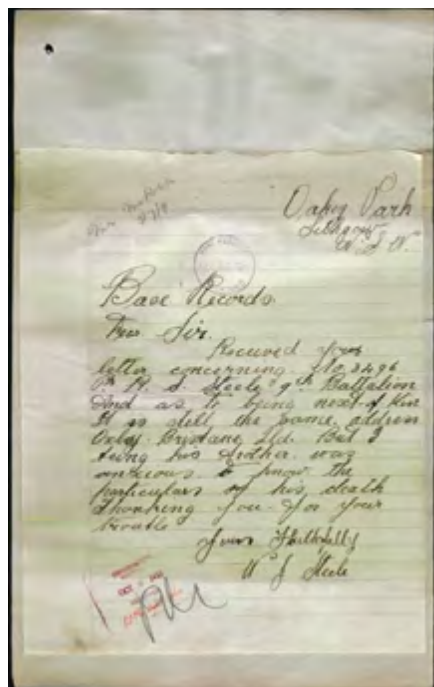


Notes:

- Mother: Florence Steele
- Father died, possibly grief

Source 7

Letter from Brother to Base Records 1916 (National Archives of Australia, 2017)



Base records

Dear Sir

Received your letter concerning No. 3496 Pt. R S Steele 9th Battalion. And as it being next-of-kin it is still the same address Oxley, Brisbane QLD. But I being his brother was anxious to know the particulars of his death. Thanking you for your trouble

Yours faithfully

W. S. Steele

(We are unsure whether his brother or father is W Steele. There is the possibility of them having the same initials, but I don't know for sure).

Source 8

Memorial Details (Made between 2004-16) (University of New South Wales, 2017)

Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

Villers-Bretonneux is a village about 15 km east of Amiens. The Memorial stands on the high ground ('Hill 104') behind the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, which is about 2 km north of Villers-Bretonneux on the east side of the road to Fouilloy.

The Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux is approached through the Military Cemetery, at the end of which is an open grass lawn which leads into a three-sided court. The two pavilions on the left and right are linked by the north and south walls to the back (east) wall, from which rises the focal point of the Memorial, a 105 foot tall tower, of fine ashlar. A staircase leads to an observation platform, 64 feet above the ground, from which further staircases lead to an observation room. This room contains a circular stone tablet with bronze pointers indicating the Somme villages whose names have become synonymous with battles of the Great War; other battle fields in France and Belgium in which Australians fought; and far beyond, Gallipoli and Canberra.

On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and who have no

known grave. The 'blocking course' above them bears the names of the Australian Battle Honours.

Notes:

- 105 foot tower approx. 35 metres
- 10,885 Australians buried in unmarked graves
- Somme villages synonymous with battles

References

Fitzsimons, P. (2015). *ANZACs on the Western Front*. Sydney.
 National Archives of Australia. (2017, May 12th). *Record Search*. Retrieved from National Archives of Australia: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au>
 The Queenslander. (1916, February 12th). *One Search*. Retrieved from State Library of Queensland: http://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/primo_library/libweb/action/display.do?jsessionid=BAB30CC8D83A0BD9EFD35340357DF5C0?tabs=detailsTab&ct=display&fn=search&doc=slq_digito01922393&indx=1&reclD=s=slq_digito01922393&reclDxs=0&elementId=0&renderMode=poppedOut&disp

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Herbert James Strong

Researched by Emma and Hannah, Corinda High School Year 9F, 2016

Born: 2nd September, 1893
Died: 26th June, 1917 (Aged 23)
Hometown: Graceville
Unit: Australian Infantry
41st Battalion



Sergeant Herbert James Strong, a soldier of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), lost his life in France, on the 26th of June 1917, aged 23. His sister, Ruth and his brother-in-law, Will, recorded his contribution to the ANZAC legend.

Strong was born on the 2nd of September 1893 in the town of Graceville, Queensland. Before joining the Australian Imperial Force on the 20th of November 1915, he worked as a Collector (National Archives, 2016). Herbert was never married and was not a father. His

family consisted of his mother, Mary Ann Strong, his father, George Strong, his sister and his brother-in-law, Ruth and Will May (Trove, 2016). His physical appearance included a dark complexion, grey eyes and light brown hair. Although he only worked as Collector before joining, he had some scars on his legs. Weighing only 130 lbs, he was a very brave man for fighting in a war so horrific with such a modest figure.

On the 25th of June 1917 Herbert James Strong was wounded in the thigh and received a compound fracture from the shot. Although, he was injured in the field, he in fact died the next day on the 26th of June 1917 in the 53rd Casualty Clearing Station, France. At the time of his injury, he was carrying many personal items in his inventory. Some of these things included food, water, photos, clothes and other trinkets (The National Archives of Australia, 2016). His burial took place at the Bailluel Communal Cemetery Extension and, to this day, is still located in Plot 1, Row P.

His contribution proved to have a great impact on his family. A few years after his death, an article appeared in a local newspaper (The Brisbane Courier, 1920) commemorating their son's life. The text

inserted by his parents read:
*"Far away from all who loved him,
In a heroes grave he lies;
And tho' his body resteth,
His memory never dies."*

Source 1



Enlistment Forms

Notes:

- Name: Herbert James Strong
- Joined on 20/11/1915
- From the town of Graceville
- Not married
- Next of kin (mother) – Mary Anna Strong
- Dark complexion
- Grey eyes
- Light Brown Hair
- 2 joints missing in his left middle finger
- 1 scar on left calf and 2 on right shin

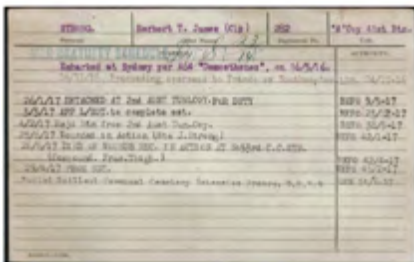
Source 2

Service Forms

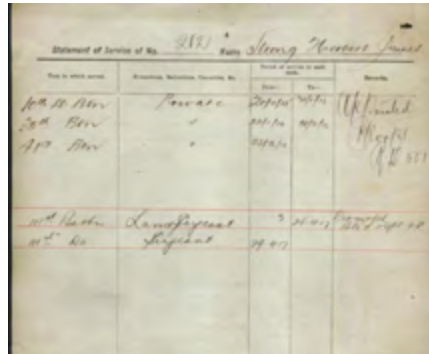
- Service Number: 282
- Died on 26th June 1917
- Died of wounds
- Died in 53rd Casualty Clearing Station, France, in the field
- He was a Sergeant



Source 3: Actions and Casualties



Source 4
Rank Statement



Notes:

- Was a 10th Battalion 'Private' from 20/11/1915 to 22/1/1916
- Was promoted to 35th Battalion 'Private' from 22/1/1916 to 21/2/1916
- Was promoted to 41st Battalion 'Private' from 22/2/1916 to unknown
- Was promoted to 41st Battalion 'Lance Sergeant' from unknown to 28/4/1917
- Was promoted to 41st Battalion 'Sergeant' from 29/4/1917 to his date of death (26/6/1917)

Source 5
Medical History

Notes:

- Was examined on 20/11/1915
- Was examined in Brisbane, Queensland
- Weighed 130 lbs
- Was 5 feet 6 inches tall
- Was born in Graceville, Queensland
- His occupation was a Collector



Source 6: Kit Store and Inventory Form



Notes:

- This form was forwarded to his mother
- At the time of his death, Herbert's Inventory of Effects included the following items:
 - Disc and chain
 - Bible
 - Notebook
 - Pocket book
 - Metal mirror in cover
 - Jug puree
 - Keys on ring
 - Photos
 - Coins
 - Letters
 - Cards

Notes:

- Embarked at Sydney on 16/5/1916
- Wounded in action on 25/6/1917
- Had a compound fracture to the thigh
- Died of wounds the next day
- Unit: A 'Coy 41st

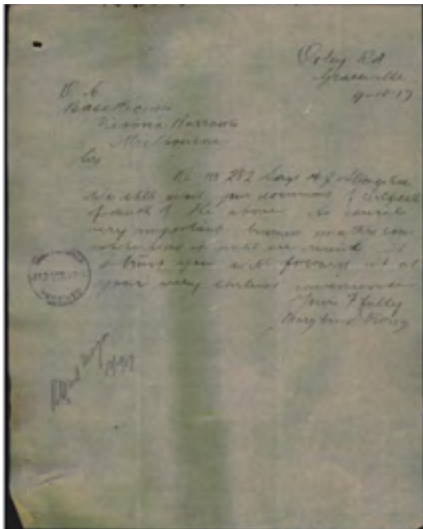


School student contributions

- 2 metal wrist watches and covers
- Brush
- Brush case
- Balaclava
- A pair of gloves
- Auto safety shaving outfit

Source 7

Letter of Death to Parents



Notes:

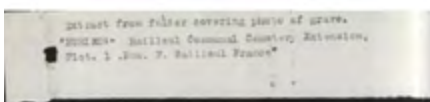
- The letter is dated 9/10/1917
- The letter says:

We still await your document and certificate of death of the above (Herbert James Strong).

As several very important business matters cannot be fixed up until we receive...

I trust you will forward (the) will at your very earliest convenience.

Source 8: Exact Location of Burial



- This was extracted from the covering photo of the grave
- He was buried at the 'Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension'
- He is located in Plot 1, Row P

Source 9

Confirmation of Death



Notes:

- This letter is dated about six months after his death
- It was sent by the major officer in charge – "J. M. Lean"

Source 10

Grave Information



Notes:

- The memorial scroll was to his father (Mr George Strong)
- It was dated 27/3/1922 which was five years after his death and also the same year his family received that letter (Source 8)
- There was a victory medal given to his father on 7/3/1923

Source 11

His memory

STRONG.—In loving memory of our dear son

Herbert James (Bert) Strong who died of wounds in France on 26th June 1917

Far away from all who loved him,

In a heroes grave he lies ;
And tho' his body resteth,
His memory never dies.

Inserted by his loving mother and father.

STRONG.—In loving memory of our dear

brother **Herbert James Strong**, who died of wounds in France, 26th June, 1920.

A record of a stainless life,

Unselfish pure, and high

God rest him in his lonely grave,

Beneath the pale blue sky

Inserted by his sister and brother-in-law, Ruth

and Will May

DEATHS.

When we gaze on your photo, dear uncle,
Our hearts are sad and sore,
Thinking of our darling uncle
That we shall see no more.
A fond and loving uncle you have been,
An uncle so kind and true;
Until the day we pass away
We will remember you.
R.I.P.
Inserted by his little niece and nephew,
Elsie, Mary, Edid, Nell, and Jim.
STRONG.—In loving memory of our dear son,
Herbert James (Bert) Strong, who died of
wounds in France on 26th June, 1917.
Far away from all who loved him,
In a hero's grave he lies ;
And tho' his body resteth,
His memory never dies.
Inserted by his loving mother and father.
STRONG.—In loving memory of our dear
brother, **Herbert Jas. Strong**, who died of
wounds in France, 26th June, 1920.
A record of a stainless life,
Unselfish, pure, and high ;
God rest him in his lonely grave,
Beneath the pale blue sky.
Inserted by his sister and brother-in-law, Ruth
and Will May.



Notes:

- Was remembered by his family (wasn't forgotten)
- His family (his mother and father especially) loved him a lot
- They wrote quotes about him
- His mother and father said that he died in 1917, which is correct
- His sister and brother-in-law said that he died in 1920

Source 12

Group Photo with Herbert James Strong and four others



A GROUP OF QUEENSLANDERS AT SALISBURY PLAIN, FOUR OF WHOM HAVE SINCE DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY.
Back Row—Pte. Arthur Claydon (killed in action on December 24, 1916); Corporal Morgan Jones, of Goodna (killed in action on June 7, 1917); Pte. Allan Snowling (still on active service).
FRONT—Sergeant H. J. Strong (died of wounds on June 21, 1917); Pte. Harry Browning (killed in action on April 21, 1918).
These men left Queensland two years ago with the 4th Battalion.

Notes:

- Reads: A group of Queenslanders at Salisbury Plain, four of whom have since died for their country. Back row.- Pte Arthur Claydon (killed in action on December 24, 1916); Corporal Morgan Jones, of Goodna (killed in action on June 7, 1917); Pte Allan

Browning (still on active service). Sitting.- Sergeant H.J. Strong (died of wounds on June 26, 1917); Pte Harry Browning (killed in action on April 24, 1918). These men left Queensland two years ago with the 4th Battalion.

- Herbert James Strong was promoted to sergeant the day he died, he is known as either a Corporal or a Sergeant by different sources.

Secondary Sources

Source 1

Article from 'St. Thomas Aquinas Forum'

Presbyterians

Origin: A former Catholic priest, John Knox, developed the Presbyterian Church in Scotland based primarily on John Calvin's theological doctrines.

Prime Philosophy: Calvinism

Founder: John Knox

Founding Date: 1560

Mission: The church is called to be Christ's faithful evangelist going into the world, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all he has commanded. It demonstrates by the love of its members for one another and by the quality of its common life the new reality in Christ, through worship, fellowship, and nurturing. It practices a deepened life of prayer and service under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Religious Doctrines

God: Trinitarian Father, Son and Holy Spirit Sacraments: Baptism, Communion

Salvation:

Predestination Scriptures: 66 books, supernaturally inspired, Sola Fide

Church: One company and multitude of men chosen by God, who rightly worship and embrace him by true faith in Christ Jesus, who is the only Head of the church, even as it is the body and spouse of Christ Jesus. This church is catholic, that is, universal, because it contains the chosen of all ages, of all realms, nations, and tongues, be they of the Jews or be they of the Gentiles, who have communion and society with God the Father, and with his Son, Christ Jesus, through the sanctification of his Holy Spirit.

Notes:

- Founder was John Knox
- Founded in 1560 (16th Century)
- Their God: Trinitarian Father, son and Holy Spirit
- Their church: Catholic
- Baptism: Trinitarian baptism
- Women can be ordained to the ministry
- They do not restrict abortion

Source 2

Ship embarked on



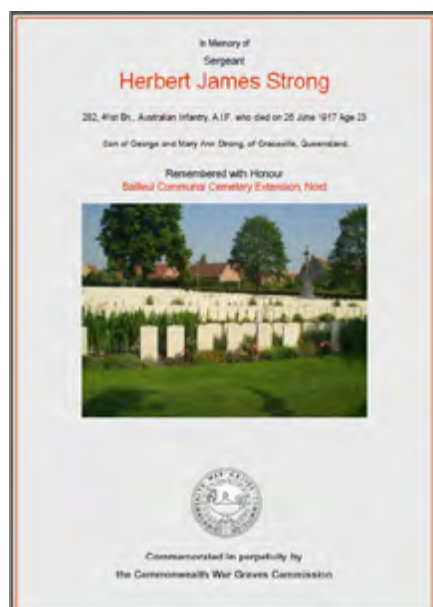


Notes:

- 16/7/1915 - First embarked medical officers from Melbourne
- 22/12/1916 – Embarked medical officers from Sydney
- This could be used for further research to find extra information about Herbert James Strong

Source 3

Commemorative Certificate



Notes:

- Was remembered with honour by Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord

Source 4

Casualty Clearing Station

MONI-DES-CATS.	No. 53 G.G.S.	1. 4.16.	22. 7.17.	Known as Nth. Midland G.G.S.
	No. 50 "	4. 6.17.	3. 3.18.	Known as Northumbrian G.G.S.

Notes:

- The hospital was French
- It was the 53rd Casual Clearing Station

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au/

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



George Sullivan

Researched by students of Christ The King School, Graceville, 2017

George Sullivan, Service Number 1732, was born in Charleville, Queensland, and later moved to Toowong, Brisbane. At school, George spent six years in the cadets and when he left school got a job as a joiner. His closest relative was his widowed mother, Eleanor Sullivan.

George Sullivan joined the army in Brisbane on the 22nd of August 1915 at the age of

18 years and two months. His mother gave her written consent because he was underage. George was five foot, seven inches tall, with a fair complexion, brown eyes and fair hair. He had a scar on his right knee.

George fought in the 11th Reinforcement and the 2nd Light Horse Regiment A.I.F. On the 3rd of May 1916, whilst in Romani, Egypt, he was

hospitalised due to illness. He returned to duty on the 13th of May 1916.

George was wounded in action on the 12th of August 1916. He died that day from his wounds in Romani, Egypt, and was buried in the Etmaler Cemetery in Romani.

On the 29th of January 1923, George received the Victory Medal. He also received the Star and the British War Memorial. George gave his life for his country and no more could have been asked of this brave young soldier.

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Charles Arthur Sutton

Researched by: Jasmine, Jessiah and Caitlyn
at Corinda State High School, Year 9F, 2016

Sgt Charles Arthur Sutton, from Oxley, Queensland, lost his life on the Western Front on the 20th of June 1918. He was one of the many young Australians who served on the Western Front and lost their lives. Sutton represents the true meaning of the ANZAC Legend.

Charles was born in 1890 and worked as a farmer before enlisting in the 9th Australian Infantry Battalion on the 14th of 1916. He enlisted about six weeks after the first Gallipoli landing. At enlistment, he was married to Julia Agnes Sutton, was 25 years and 3 months old, was 5 feet 8¼ inches tall, weighed 168 lbs, had a fair complexion, and his religious denomination was Methodist (National Archives of Australia, 2016). Sutton may have enlisted after hearing of the Gallipoli landing because of the various forms of recruitment material that could be found in Brisbane throughout 1915.

After arriving in the trenches, Sutton served as Sergeant. He died on the 20th of June 20 1918, aged 28. During his active service time, he injured his lower arm (Australian War Memorial). Sutton was wounded and killed at the Battle of the Somme and his memorial is now in the Villers-

Bretonneux in France. After his passing, he appeared in the family notices. His wife and son, Julia and Charlie, left the following message in the newspaper after his death: *"A hero he lived, a hero he fell, For three long years he did his part well; He gave his young life for a cause that was true, Fighting for country, for home, and for you. In a soldier's grave he lies sleeping, One of earth's bravest and best, In our hearts we shall miss him forever, Though we know he is only at rest."* (Trove, 1918)

After his death, his wife, Julia Agnes Sutton, asked for the following message to be left on his grave, *"In fond and loving memory of my dear husband Sergeant Charles Arthur Sutton. Far from the land that gave him birth my hero now does sleep and many silent tear I shed while others are asleep."* (National Archives of Australia, 2016)

Soldiers such as Charles Sutton encouraged the birth of the ANZAC legend through courage and determination towards serving our country. Soldiers did not enlist for the benefit of themselves, but the benefit it provided for everyone else. This is the true meaning of the legend. His determination included that he

probably enlisted after being inspired by the landings at Gallipoli. The ANZAC legend is seen through his sense of national identity, and we commemorate all those who lost their lives each April 25 on ANZAC Day. Lest We Forget.

Born: 1890
Died: June 20 1918 (age 28)
Hometown: Oxley
Unit: 9th Australian Infantry Battalion

Source 1

Enlistment Papers (National Archives of Australia, 2016)



Notes:

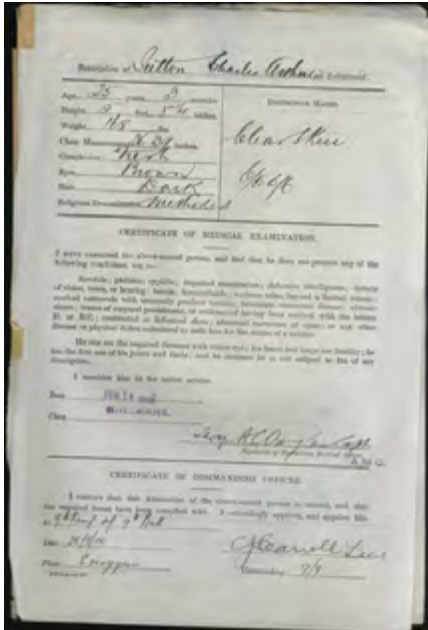
- Aged 25 years and 3 months on entry
- Married to Julia Agnes Sutton
- Born in Samford
- Worked as a farmer before joining, probably around Oxley where his forwarding address was
- Joined AIF in Brisbane, June 14 1915
- Enlisted about 6 weeks after the Gallipoli landing



Far from the land that gave him birth my hero now does sleep and many silent tear I shed while others are asleep.”

Source 6

Appearance (National Archives of Australia, 2016)

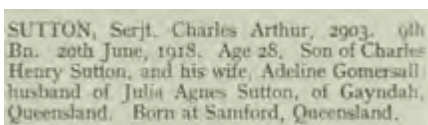


Notes:

- Aged 25 years 3 months
- Height: 5 foot 8 ¼ inches
- Weighed 168 lbs
- Chest measurement: 26.3 inches
- Brown eyes
- Dark hair
- Methodist (religion)
- Herh complexion (fair)

Source 7

Grave Registration Documents (Commonwealth War Graves Commission, N.D.)



Notes:

- Death: 20 June 1918
- Son of Henry Sutton and Adeline Gomersall
- Husband of Julia Agnes Sutton

Source 8

Battle of the Somme (History.com, 2016)

Notes:

- Also known as “Somme Offensive”
- Fought between 1 July and November 1918 in France
- “One of the bloodiest military battles in history.”
- First day of the Somme resulted in 57,470 British casualties
- By the end of the Somme (in November) the British had suffered around 420,000 casualties
 - “The artillery was the key to the offensive, but it did not have the ability to cut all the wire, destroy deep German trenches, knock out all enemy guns, or provide a useful barrage for the infantry attack. “
 - “The British attack was planned by Douglas Haig and Henry Rawlinson, GOC Fourth Army. The two differed about the depth of the offensive and the length of the bombardment, so the adopted plan was an awkward mixture.”

Source 9

Battle of the Somme (Australian War Memorial, N.D.)

Notes:

- Took place along the Somme Valley in France
- “...the relative ineffectiveness of the British artillery against them, and a lack of confidence in the abilities of Britain’s volunteer army, which meant there was a distinct lack of imagination or innovation in the tactics employed.”
- “The offensive destroyed Britain’s mass volunteer army, and for the rest of the war it would be reliant upon conscription for reinforcements.”
- “The major contribution of Australian troops to the Somme offensive was in the fighting around Pozieres and Mouquet Farm between 23 July and 3 September. “
- Australian troops also begun futile attacks around Flers (commune near the northern edge of the Somme) in November
- “Like their British allies, participation on the Somme put the first strain on Australia’s voluntary recruitment system, and led to the first unsuccessful referendum to introduce conscription.”

Source 10

Family Notices (Trove, 1918)



SUTTON.—In proud and loving memory of my dear Husband, and my Father, Training Sergeant Charles Arthur Sutton, who was killed in action in France, on the 20th June, 1918.

A hero he lived, and hero he fell,
For three long years he did his part well;
He gave his young life for a cause that was true,
Fighting for country, for home, and for you.
In a soldier's grave he lies sleeping,
One of earth's bravest and best,
In our hearts we shall miss him forever,
Though we know he is only at rest.
(Inserted by his loving Wife, J. A. Sutton and little Son, Charlie.)

Notes:

- Killed in action (KIA)
- Was definitely loved & missed by his wife & son
- Son: Charlie Sutton
- A hero to their family and the whole nation
- Forever remained in their hearts
- “A hero he lived, a hero he fell

*For three long years he did his part well;
He gave his young life for a cause that was true,
Fighting for country, for home, and for you.
In a soldier's grave he lies sleeping,
One of earth's bravest and best,
In our hearts we shall miss him forever,
Though we know he is only at rest.”*

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For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



Kenneth Robert Taylor (5132)

Researched by the Social Science Department, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly
Main Student Contributor: Tara Brown

The plinth in Keating Park, Indooroopilly, commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by those who were connected to the Indooroopilly region. On the 26th of February 1921, the memorial was unveiled by His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, KCMG, Governor of Queensland. One of those remembered is Gunner, later Bombardier, **Kenneth Robert Taylor**.



The Queenslander Pictorial, supplement to The Queenslander, 1917. (SLQ)

War is a terrible time for all and, when experienced, will alter a person's life dramatically. It is impossible to "un-see" something once it has been witnessed. Kenneth Robert Taylor was born in 1898, he like many other tragedies of war, died young.

Kenneth was killed in action at a mere 18 years of age near Flers, France, on the 30th of December 1916.

Kenneth enlisted for the war on the 14th of June 1915. His brother Stephen enlisted a week earlier on the 7th of



18 Pounder guns in action with an AIF artillery unit

June 1915 and also entered the Australian Army Service Corps. Stephen survived the war and returned to Australia in 1919. Kenneth's other brother Frederick also attempted to enlist but was rejected.

Kenneth began with the rank of Gunner (Private) in the 11th Reinforcements of the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade (FAB).

Records show that on the 27th of September 1915 the Brigade embarked from Melbourne on HMAT A20 Hororata.

Taylor's unit spent a short time at Gallipoli and were withdrawn to Egypt, becoming a part of the newly formed 4th Division. It was here that he moved to the 11th FAB.

Kenneth fought at Pozieres and had taken part in the repulse of a major German counterattack after they had

been pushed to the outskirts of Mouquet Farm. They continued to battle the Germans on the Somme including at Flers in October.

On 30th of December 1916 Kenneth's time ran out.

The unit report shows how his young life ended. (See illustration over).

Bombardier Taylor was buried in the A.I.F. Burial Ground,



WAR DIARY OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY			Army Form Q. 2118. 249	
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	December			
	1916.			
	29th.		Usual shelling by enemy. One gun-pit 43rd Battery struck by 5.9 and gun damaged. n Enemy shelling very continuous during the day afternoon. Batteries did not fire.	
	30th.		Enemy shelling very heavy in vicinity of headquarters during the morning, and again in afternoon. At 4 p.m., a 5.9 hit one of headquarters dug-outs, Killing:- Bombdr. TAYLOR R-X. Gunner McGRATH.	

Grass Lane, Plot 3, Row K, Grave No.10, Flers, France. He is commemorated on Panel 17 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

In 1921, it was hoped that Kenneth Robert Taylor's sacrifice in WWI was not in vain and that peace would prevail.

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<http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au> (The AIF Project)

http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm

Australian War Memorial:

Embarkation Rolls

Nominal Rolls

Roll of Honour Cards, 1914-1918 War, Army

Unit War Diaries

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx?cpage=1>

www.longlongtrail.co.uk



11FAB Patch

Onesearch.slg.qld.gov.au (The Queenslander Pictorial supplement to The Queenslander 1917)
www.qldwarmemorials.com.au
<https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/units/225>
1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal which would be passed to Bombardier Taylor's Next of Kin



http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm

Ship



For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244.



Thomas Henry Tolley 307 PTE

Researched by: Rod Iffinger, Deputy Principal,
Corinda State School, 2018

Thomas Tolley was born in London and emigrated to Australia in (date unknown). He enlisted in Brisbane on the 21st of August 1915 at the age of 26 and was posted to A Coy 31st Battalion AIF. He embarked on the transport ship Wandilla on the 9th of November 1915, bound for active service in France.

He was wounded in action on the 20th of July 2016 and, whilst recuperating from his

injuries following discharge from hospital, he served in the AIF Kit Stores until being posted to the 69th Battalion. He was returned to the 31st Battalion on the 19th of September 1917 and sent to active service in France the following month.

He was killed in action on the 18th of March 1918 and buried at Cabin Hill Cemetery at Wytshaete located north of Messines. The actual location

where he died is recorded simply as being in France or Belgium however it is likely that he was killed in the first battle of the German Spring Offensive which was launched on the 1st of March 1918 in the area of the Somme at Arras.

He was survived by his wife and three children who were residing in London at the time of his death. His widow was issued his service medals, which included the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



31st Battalion Colour Patch



1914/15 Star



British War Medal



Victory Medal

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



George Henry Townson

Researched by: Isobel Taylor and Kate Dunne,
St Aiden's AGS, Year 10, 2014

In the Rue-Du-Bois Military Cemetery in North-West France, 845 tombstones stand in perfectly straight lines. They paint an eerie picture of days gone by. The Rue-Du-Bois Military Cemetery in North-West France is the resting place of soldiers from both the Allied and Central Powers. In Plot I, Row C in Grave number 18, lies **George Henry Townson**. He was born in North Street, Toowoomba, on the 26th of March 1886 and was one of seven siblings. This large family suffered the loss of George Henry at age 30 and then two years later, his younger brother Stanley Joseph was also killed in action, at age 24. Far too young to be pulled away from their families, these boys were only two of the 57,705 Queenslanders who enlisted in The Great War.

Before The Great War, George worked as a bootmaker in Vulture Street. His life before this is somewhat of a mystery. His enlistment document



HMAS Itonus in the Brisbane River

records no earlier information on his life apart from his date of birth and a reference to his religion as "Church of England". On the 12th of September 1911, he married Emily May Goodwin and soon after relocated to Ferry Street, Highgate Hill (formerly Hill End). Ten months and two weeks later, their only child Mabel May Jane Townson was born and in a sad turn of events, George would never see her develop beyond infancy.

It is the 9th of August 1915 and a little over a year since the start of the war. The then 29 year-old father and husband courageously enlisted in the 12 Reinforcements of the 9th Battalion. A few months later, on the 30th of October 1915, this Queensland unit travelled from Australia to Egypt aboard the HMAT Itonus A50. After much training, the young men sailed to France and fought on the Western Front from 1916 to 1918. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozières in the Somme Valley in July 1916. George Henry died at war two months before this battle and since very little information about the 9th Battalion is available, it is unknown as to which battle took George's



Rue-Du-Bois Military Cemetery

life. Sadly, neither George nor the Itonus ever returned to Brisbane, as the boat was torpedoed in the Mediterranean about a year later.

George Henry Townson was killed in action, two months before his daughter's fourth birthday, on the 30th of May 1916. He was one of 53 Australians to be killed in action on that day. Almost one hundred years on, the inscription on his gravestone depicts an almost prophetic tale. "GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN." This saying is all too accurate. He is gone. He made the ultimate sacrifice and died so that Australians might live in peace. But as his gravestone says, he is not and will not be forgotten. George's name appears alongside his brother's on the Oxley Memorial and this monument remains as a link from our community to the brave men and women who laid down their lives so that we wouldn't have to. Private George Henry Townson is gone but is certainly not forgotten.

For more, see Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



Stanley Joseph Townson

Researched by: Isobel Taylor and Kate Dunne,
St Aiden's AGS, Year 10, 2014

Some people are remembered for what they did, some are even rewarded. But the soldiers who gave their lives for ours are not remembered for 363 days of the year. Although they are commemorated in memorials, soldiers such as the **Stanley Joseph Townson** and his brother George fade into obscurity. Stanley's tragic death on the Western Front is a mystery to the public; and his struggle reduced to a mere name on a memorial, remembered twice a year.

The younger of the two, Stanley was born on the 21st of March 1895, in Toowoomba, Queensland. It was here in the family home of North Street, Toowoomba, that he would spend his childhood and his brief adulthood prior to joining the army. As was the custom at the time, Townson had his education and childhood cut short. At 14 years, he began an apprenticeship at the Toowoomba Foundry, where he eventually worked as a fitter and turner for six years.



The SS Runic

At 16 years, Townson joined the Voluntary Cadet Corps four years prior to enlisting. By the age of 20, there is no record of a sweetheart or child to speak of. If he had, there would be more people to remember him, but there also would be more people to grieve.

It may seem surprising that Stanley was the first in his family to enlist, but then again, he had the least to lose, unlike his older brother George, who had a wife and child. On the 24th of April 1915, Townson travelled to the Brisbane Recruiting Office to join the Australian forces: half a year after Australia had pledged allegiance to the mother country, to the last man and the last shilling, something the Townson boys took literally.

After being inducted and assigned the rank of Private, Townson was initially allocated the Service No. 2485. On the 5th of October, as part of the 25th Infantry Battalion, Townson embarked on His Majesty's Australian Transport (HMAT) Warilda A69, initially intended for the East-West Australian Coastal Service but eventually converted into a troopship. The ship docked in Fremantle, Western Australia, to pick up reinforcements. However, this is where Townson disembarked.

It was here that his Service No. was changed from 2486 to 4248; and he was transferred to the 3rd Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery (3rd L. T. M. Bty). He may have been selected for transfer because of his previous experience with machines. This proved to be a fatal mistake. The unit spent the next few months training, until they embarked on the HMAT A54 Runic on the 29th of January 1916. From here, they were transported to the Western Front.

The most memorable aspect of Townson's time on the Western Front was not the battles he fought, but the ones in which he did not have to fight. The battalion's early time on the front was not spent engaging in major conflict, but training or traversing the French countryside. In hindsight, Townson's battalion was extremely lucky in the way that confrontation with the enemy was circumvented. The first large encounter the battalion avoided was the Battle of Fromelles. Fortunately, they had been removed from the area less than a month prior to battle. If they hadn't, Townson's story might have ended much sooner – Australian forces experienced extreme losses during the final battle of the first stage of the Battle of Somme Campaign.

The battalion was again lucky to avoid the second Battle of Albert. They did however fight in the Battle of Pozieres, one of the bloodiest battles of The Great War.



The 3rd L.T.M. Bty. Townson is seen on the bottom row, second from the right

On the 18th of September 1918 Stanley Joseph Townson was killed in action. He died on the Western Front in France, most likely while exchanging fire with enemy lines as part of the 'Hundred Days of Offensive'.

The war diaries of his unit stopped in May, months before his death. The last recorded piece of information by the 3rd L.T.M. Bty is 'there has been a month of splendid weather'. No more information is available to the public about his passing; even the Australian War Memorial lacks the closure Townson deserves.

Stanley Joseph Townson was laid to rest at grave II.J.2 in the Bellicorde British Cemetery, alongside his fellow soldiers and friends. But the 24-year-old's death will not be forgotten. Townson was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, forever memorializing his bravery and strength. Although Private Stanley Joseph Townson and men like him are not commemorated as often as they deserve, the legacy they fought for is ever present in our lives and will never be forgotten.

Fortunately, Townson's unit only partook in the first three days of conflict before being removed from the area. They then passed through the province of Berteacourt, which would be later pounded by German artillery until it was unrecognisable, before travelling through Ypres at one of the only times the three Battles of Ypres were not being waged. From here, the battalion arrived at the Hindenburg Line.

This was where the first lengthy battle the unit engaged in took place. The Battle of Arras

was a long, hard fight. After this, there are no records of the battalion's movements for almost two months. When the war diaries were re-assumed, the battalion took part in the Battle of Passchendaele, a significant battle in the Third Battle of Ypres campaign. They were again fortunate to evade the bloody Battle of Messines.

Although the battalion managed to avoid many major conflicts, they were frequently under fire. Indeed, the handwriting in the war diaries of the unit changes alarmingly often, showing that the officer in charge had either been wounded or killed in action.

For more, see Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



Norman Reginald Webb

Researched by: Indooroopilly State High School students

Norman Reginald Webb enlisted in to the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on the 14th of September 1914, before deploying with his unit to Egypt followed by Turkey, embarking from Brisbane on the Transport A5 *Omrak* on the 24th of September 1914 (NAA, 2018). Born in Paddington, Private Webb attended North Ipswich State School before finding employment as a clerk, which he worked at until his enlistment at age 24 (UNSW, 2016a).

According to the Australian War Memorial (2018), the 9th Australian Infantry Battalion that formed part of the 3rd Brigade, were one of the first Australian units ashore at Gallipoli serving as both an establishing (fortifications) and defending (evacuation) force of the ANZAC's during that campaign. After the failed campaign in Turkey, the Brigade was split on its return to Egypt before being redeployed to the Western Front where it saw action at Ypres, Flanders and the Somme Valley.

Private Webb's service records show he was Wounded in Action (WIA) on the Gallipoli Peninsula on the 25th of March 1915 and was pronounced wounded and Missing in Action (MIA) on the 25th of August 1915 (NAA, 2018).

A Court of Inquiry, which was held in the field in France on the 5th of June 1916, concluded Private Webb was KIA on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Private Webb was awarded the 1914-15 Star (authorised in 1918 and awarded for service in specific theatres), British War Medal (instituted by King George V in 1919) and the Victory Medal (authorised in 1919 and awarded to commemorate the victory of the allied forces) for his honourable service with the 9th Australian Infantry Battalion at Gallipoli (NAA, 2018; UNSW, 2016a).

Due to the tragic circumstances of Private Webb's death, there is

no known grave for him. However, Private Webb is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial (Panel 32) in Gallipoli, Turkey, as well as at the Australian War Memorial (Panel 58). At the time of his death, Private Webb's family were residing on Lambert Street in Indooroopilly, Queensland. Private Webb's brother, Corporal Alfred Clarington Webb also served with the 9th Battalion, AIF, as part of the Australian Army Veterinary Hospital and was repatriated safely to Australia on the 31st of October 1918 (UNSW, 2016b).

References

- AWM. (2018). 9th Australian Infantry Battalion. Australian War Memorial. Retrieved October 2, 2018, from <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51449>
- NAA. (2018). Norman Reginald Webb. National Archives of Australia. Retrieved October 2, 2018, from <https://record-search.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8377363>
- UNSW. (2016a). Norman Reginald Webb. University of New South Wales. Retrieved October 2, 2018, from <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=317260>
- UNSW. (2016b). Alfred Clarington Webb. University of New South Wales. Retrieved October 2, 2018, from <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=316988>



For more, see Indooroopilly War Memorial history on page 244 and St Andrew's Altar Memorial on page 313.



Alfred Webster

Researched by: Sonny Chau, CSHS, 9I, 2014

Focus Question 1: What are the biographical details of the soldier?

Source 1:

Source Details: National Achieves of Australia. (2005) B2455, Webster Alfred
Retrieved From: [Http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=4380340](http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=4380340)

Notes:

Service Number -3217

- Born in Warwick, QLD
- Enlistment in Toowoomba, QLD
- Kin: Alexander Webster (Father)
- Location of Commemoration: Canberra

Source 2:

Source Details: Australian War Memorial. (n.d.) Roll of Honour—Alfred Webster.

Retrieved From: www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1669718/

Notes:

- At Panel 144, Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial
- Rank: Private
- 47th Battalion (infantry)
- Service: Australian Army
- Date of Death. 27th March 1918 (France)
- Killed in action
- Age at death: 27

- Town lived in: Killarney, Australia
- Grave: Dermancourt Communal Cemetery Extension France

Source 3:

Bibliographic Details: Australian Military Forces. (1916)- Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

Retrieved From: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8377685>

Notes:

- British Born
- Trade: Labourer
- Mother: Ellen Webster
- Served in 'CITIZEN FORCES', Newton Park Camp

Source 4:

Source Details: Australian Military Forces. (1916) – Description of Alfred Webster on Enlistment

Retrieved From: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8377685>

Notes:

- 5'5 ½"; 166cm , 160lbs ; 72.6 kg
- Complexion (skin tone): medium (Tanned/brown)
- Eyes: Brown

- Hair: Brown
- Required dental treatment

Source 5:

Source Details: Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum. (n.d.).

Retrieved From: <http://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RCDIG1068843—918-.PDF>

Notes:

- Birthplace: Lanning Downs
- School: Warwick State School
- Two other brothers serving in army, father in home defense

Source 6

Source Details: PTE. ALFRED WEBSTER. [image].(1918).

Retrieved From: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/2364428>

Notes:

- "Son of Mr and Mrs. A.B. Webster"
- Lives in Darra (4077)

Focus Question 2: What is the Soldier's Service History?

Source 1:

Source Details: Australian Military Forces. (1916) Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.
Retrieved from: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8377685>



School student contributions

Notes:

- Served twenty-one days in 'CITIZEN FORCES' at the Newton Park Camp in Toowoomba
- Service Number: 3217
- 47th Battalion
- Joined 7th November 1916
- Once rejected due to poor oral health

Source 2:

Source Details: Australian War Memorial. (n.d). First World War Embarkation Rolls- Alfred Webster.

Retrieved From: www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1911702

Notes:

- Rank: Private
- 47th Infantry Battalion – 2 to 10 reinforcements
- Embarked on the 22nd December 1916
- Embarked at Sydney
- Embarked on HMAT Demosthenes

Source 3:

Source Details: Australian War Memorial. (n.d). 47th Battalion
Retrieved From: www.awn.au/units/unit_11234.asp

Notes:

- Part of the Australian imperial forces (A.I.F.1st)
- Raised in Egypt, 24th February 1916
- Half originated from Battalion 15 other portion were new (e.g. Alfred Webster) from Queensland and Tasmania
- Of the 12th Brigade in The Australian Division
- Arrived in France on 9th June and on the 3rd of July entered the trenches

- At Pozieres, it participated in its first major battle
- 47th Battalion played a role in turning the Great Spring offensive by defeating attacks around Dernancourt during the last days of April
- One of the Battalions attacks against Dernancourt depicted in a diorama
- Disabled in 31st May 1918
- Sergeant Stareley Mac Dougall awarded Victoria Cross
- Casualties: 661 killed, 1564 wounded

Source 4

Source Details: Deaton, C. (2011). Battle Scarred: The 47th Battalion in the First World War.

Retrieved From: www.gould.com.au/Battle-Scarred-The-47th-Battalion-in-WW1-p/bsp006.htm

Notes:

- Fought many uneven (to their disadvantage) battles
- Lost many (over half), one of the highest casualty rates- only 73 remained
- Found self at innumerable disadvantages
- One of the most costly campaigns

Source 5

Source Details: Colour Patch [of the 47th Battalion] [image]. (n.d.).

Retrieved From: www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11234.asp

Notes:

- Colour patch is a circle halved by a brown upper section and a dark blue lower section

- Upon external research, it is a replica of the 15th Battalion's colour patch, but in lies of the elongated rectangle, the 47th Battalion uses a circle (15th battalion is half the 47thBattalion)

Source 6

Source Details: NEO's 47th BW1918.[image].(1918). Retrieved From: www.40th-bn.org/images/47th-bn-ncos.jpg

Notes:

- The &5 remaining soldiers of the 47th Battalion
- Taken in 1918 (external source: in Belgium)

Focus Question 3: How did the soldier die and does he have any living relatives?

Source 1

Source Details: National Achieves of Australia. (2005). B2H55, WEBSTER ALFRED.

Retrieved From: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/HemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8377685>

Notes:

- Family name (surname): Webster
- Kin: Alexander Webster – father

Source 2

Source Details: Australian Military Forces. (1916). Attestation Papers of Persons Enlisted for service Abroad.

Retrieved From: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/HemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8377685>



Notes:

- Mother: Ellen Webster

Source 3

Source Details: Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

Retrieved From: <http://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RCDIG1068843--918-PDF>

Notes:

- Three brothers (including Alfred Webster) serving in the A.I.F.
- Father serving in home defense (Alexander Webster)
- Lived in Darra, Brisbane

Source 4

Source Details: Robertson, 1. (2012). Alfred Webster.

Retrieved From: www.wiki.com/wiki/webster-1723

Notes:

- Son to: Alexander Webster and Ellen (Gibson) Webster
- Brother to: Jeannie A. (Webster) Mutch, Alexander O. Webster, Mary B. Webster, James Webster, Peter C. Webster, Halbert Ben Webster, Ellen F. Webster, Maggie Webster, Randolph G. Webster, Douglas L. Webster, Edward Webster and Richard W. Webster.
- Unknown: Spouse children

- Has immediate nieces/nephews

Source 5

Source Details: Statement of service of No.3217 (1918).

Retrieved From: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/HemDetail.aspx?Barcode=8377685>

Notes:

- Killed in Action
- Killed in France. March 27th, 1918
- Was buried

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191 and Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



Douglas Lennox Webster

By Annie and Asal - Oxley State School - 2017

Name: Douglas Lennox Webster
 Service Number: 4820
 Place of Birth: Tannymorel, near Warwick
 Service: Australian Army
 DOB: 8 February 1900
 Place of Death: France
 Date of Death: 9 August 1918
 Next of Kin: Ellen Webster (Mother)
 Family Details: Douglas Lennox Webster's parents are Alexander Webster and Ellen (Gibson) Webster
 Other Details: Inscribed on his grave was Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe in his gentle Breast
 Unit: 26th Australian Battalion
 Battle at time of Death: First World War, 1914-1918

Douglas Lennox Webster was an Australian soldier, born on the 8th of February 1900. He was an important part of the 26th Australian Battalion, and bravely fought for Australia in the First World War, which began in 1914 and ended after four long, arduous years. His death was a painful warning to many others who were considering sacrificing their lives for the war, although it was a reflection of his audacity and fearlessness. Inscribed on

his grave was: Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe in his gentle Breast.

He silently passed away in the beautiful though war-torn countryside that was France, on the 9th of August 1918. He was a great role model for other soldiers in the Australian Army, which was the service Douglas Lennox Webster endured. His service number was 4820, and was still remembered by his familiars in Tannymorel, near Warwick; his birthplace. Especially his dear parents, Alexander Webster and Ellen (Gibson) Webster. Ellen Webster was Next of Kin, she was Douglas Lennox Webster's closest relative.



For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191 and Oxley War Memorial history on page 295.



Myrtle Elizabeth Wilson

Researched by: Isobel Taylor and
Kate Dunne, St. Aidan's Anglican Girls' School,
Y10, 2014

The enigma that is **Myrtle Elizabeth Wilson**, an unrecorded hero of WWI, graces the Sherwood Shire War Memorial. A name, an incorrect rank and sketchy dates are all the public has to attribute to her memory. However, when digging deeper through archives, war records and the like, it is possible to build a picture of this elusive heroine.

Myrtle's childhood is somewhat of an unrecorded mystery. She was born in Fitzroy, Victoria in 1877. Her parents – Andrew Stevens Wilson and Catherine McNaughton Wilson (nee Craig) – were married in the Catholic Apostolic Church in 1866. They were wed by Andrew's father Rev. Wilson. Keeping close ties with his side of the family, Andrew built a family home at 141-145 Brunswick Street in 1883 with his brother. However, one year later the Wilson family left



Australian nurses outside No. 7
General Hospital

Victoria and moved to Chelmer, Brisbane.

Unfortunately, Myrtle fell out of the record books until 1898. Because of this, her childhood and schooling life have been reduced to mere speculation. However, it is certain that even before becoming a nurse, Myrtle was no stranger to tragedy. Her family suffered greatly when her father passed away. Myrtle herself was merely 21 years old. It is possible that this devastating event sparked her determination to help people. To do so, she became a nurse at the Brisbane General Hospital. From here, she eventually joined the QAIMNS – Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. It was this service to her country that led to her inevitable demise in France.

The QAIMNS was the overarching nursing unit for all Western Allied Nurses. However, the QAIMNS had a history of leadership and administration problems. The British Army assumed power over their role in the war, but nurses were paid by their respective countries. Because of this, nurses were paid and treated differently. Canadian nurses, for example, wore blue uniforms and were paid

well and highly respected. Australian nurses, on the other hand, were given far less respect or assistance from the Australian War Office.

Myrtle shipped out for France from Bundaberg on the 14th of April 1915, aboard the *Orantes*; destined to serve in the 7th British General Hospital along with other QAIMNS Sisters. However, her wish to help soldiers never came to fruition. Myrtle contracted pneumonia and died on the 23rd of December, 1915. In a cruel twist of fate, she passed away in the very hospital she was due to serve in. Following tradition, Myrtle was buried by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Wimmeraux.

Despite her heroic intentions, Myrtle was not commemorated. Her name is not included in the Roll of Honour for the First World War nor on the Roll of Honour in Fitzroy Town Hall. Even the records in the Commemorative Roll are sparse and inaccurate. Her unit (the QAIMNS), her date of death and place of rest are all recorded correctly but her rank is not. She was a Staff Nurse, not a Sister. This blunder concerning rank extends to most nurses of the First World War. As a result of dying before active service, Myrtle was not recommended for a QAIMNS nursing award. She is however, commemorated on the Bundaberg and Sherwood Shire War Memorials.



School student contributions

Myrtle's family – her four siblings James, Andrew, Godfrey and Lillian May, and her mother Catherine – had to live on through her death. Catherine Wilson was a very resilient woman. The merchant's daughter lived to 82 years of age. She continued to live in the historic house *Roses*, Victoria Avenue, Chelmer with Lillian. She passed away in 1923. Although Catherine was Myrtle's next of kin, it was Lillian who wrote to the QAIMNS after Myrtle's demise. Eventually, years after Myrtle had passed, the

government finally returned her effects, transferred her pay and sent her records back to her sister Lillian May.

The records of Myrtle Elizabeth Wilson, which grace the pages of history, are few and far between. So much is unknown about this mysterious and courageous lady. The few documents that do exist, do not even have an accurate birth date. It is only right that her life is finally recorded accurately, so her relatives and community can honour her immense selflessness, 100 years after her tragic passing.



Myrtle's Gravestone in Wimmeraux

For more, see Graceville War Memorial history on page 191.



The Graceville War Memorial

Fallen Heroes Honoured
and in Memory Evergreen





The Graceville War Memorial

Fallen Heroes Honoured and in Memory Evergreen

At the end of the Great War, communities all over Australia felt moved to honour the sacrifice of their young men by erecting memorials. In some cases, memorials were commissioned by local councils, such as the plaques by the Stephens, Coorparoo and the Sherwood Shires, and the war memorials erected in Yeronga Memorial Park, the Memorial Gates at the entrance to Langlands Park and the War memorial in Graceville Memorial Park. In other cases, the memorials were the creation of local associations such as progress associations. The soldiers' memorial at Oxley and the Mount Gravatt Roll of Honour are good examples. For most of the fallen, their relatives would have no opportunity to visit the site in which they lay; and for many there was no grave at all, with their names recorded in the vast lists of those with no known grave at Villers Bretonneux, Menin Gate and Tyne Cot.

The following narratives are an attempt to tell the story of the men and one woman who are commemorated on the Sherwood Shire Memorial in Graceville Memorial Park. It is not my intention to produce

a scholarly work but rather to simply tell the story as best as it can be pieced together from documents contained in official records. Other researchers may choose to pursue details of earlier lives and family descendants. The memorial lists the names of 53 residents of the former shire who died during the Great War.

The names are listed in true military fashion in descending order according to rank and alphabetical order and I will adhere to this protocol in the following document.

The unveiling of the Sherwood Shire memorial was a very important event for the shire. The Sherwood Shire Council had set aside land on Oxley Road Graceville as a Memorial Park. The erection of the War Memorial was at the instigation of Miss Ethel Lidgard of Graceville; sister of Pte Jack Lidgard who was killed at Passchendaele and who is commemorated on the memorial (See below).





A granite obelisk, designed by the Shire Clerk was erected upon which a bronze plaque listing the names of 53 shire residents who had perished in the war was fixed.

The memorial was unveiled on 29th November 1920 by Lieutenant Edwin (Maurice) Little of Corinda, a former school teacher who had lost both eyes and his right hand when a bomb exploded in his hand at Gallipoli. The ceremony was reported in the Brisbane Courier on Monday 30th November. Maurice Little was the inaugural President of the Sherwood RSSAILA. Also present at the unveiling was Brigadier James Howard Cannan, President of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. Queensland.

Brigadier "Bull" Cannan had been the commanding officer of the 15th Battalion at Gallipoli. One of the officers in the 15th Battalion was Brig. Cannan's elder brother, Major Douglas Cannan who was killed at Sari Bair Ridge, Gallipoli in August 1915; and whose name was included on the Graceville Memorial. Also listed on the memorial was Brig Cannan's brother in law, Capt. Dudleigh Chalmers Ranken of the 23rd Royal Fusiliers who it was reported, although being from a local family, enlisted in a British Regiment so that his mother (he was her only son) would not see him in uniform. Also present was the Member for Oxley, Charles Elphinstone who was himself a returned soldier.

Included in the memorial were plantings of an avenue of trees from Oxley Road to the memorial as well as trees planted around the perimeter of the park. The Graceville Memorial listed citizens who were residents connected to the shire and many of the names commemorated on the Graceville Memorial are also listed on the Oxley Memorial (which was erected by the Progress Association of Oxley).

*Compiled by Ian Lang,
November 2015*

Wilson, Myrtle Elizabeth

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service

It has been difficult to find many details of Myrtle Wilson. The Australian War Memorial has no details on file, save for a few scant details of her death in December 1915. Myrtle Wilson is not listed on the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour but rather the Commemorative Roll. Myrtle had joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, which was a British Organisation. Her file in the British national archives provides little information apart from records of correspondence between Myrtle's sister, Lillian and the British authorities regarding her pay after her death. Myrtle Wilson was probably born around 1877 in Fitzroy, Melbourne. Her parents Andrew and Catherine Wilson moved to Queensland and

established their family at "The Roses", Victoria Avenue, Chelmer.

By the time Myrtle departed for overseas, her father was deceased but her mother continued to live in the family home at Chelmer. Myrtle had trained as a nurse at the Royal Brisbane Hospital but by 1915, it would appear that both she and her sister Lillian were working at the hospital in Bundaberg. There is some documentary evidence to suggest that Lillian eventually became the Matron at Bundaberg.

Myrtle departed for England sometime in April 1915 on the "Orontes" and joined the QAIMNS in June 1915. She probably paid her own passage for the trip to England. It is likely that Myrtle had the rank of Sister when nursing in Australia but the QAIMNS documents record her as a Staff Nurse. Correspondence from Lillian Wilson refers to Myrtle as "Sister" and her gravestone gives her that title.

She was posted to the 7th British General Hospital near Boulogne on the Channel Coast where she worked until early December 1915. The Matron in Chief recorded in her diary: 9th Dec-Miss Wilson very ill, 19th Dec- Miss Wilson Dangerously Ill- Family informed; 23rd December – Miss Wilson critically ill; later died. She was 38 and one of six nursing staff from QAIMNS to die from illness during the course of the war.



Myrtle had died of pneumonia, no doubt caused in part by a lack of suitable drugs at the time and a punishing workload. She was buried at the Wimmeraux Communal Cemetery outside Boulogne and her sister Lillian chose the inscription "Behold I come quickly" from the Book of Revelations. Wimmeraux Cemetery is located on sandy soil and consequently all the headstones in the cemetery lay flat on the ground.

Myrtle had made a will in Brisbane in 1913 in which she had nominated bequests to her mother, sister, and brothers James, Andrew and Godfrey.

Cannan, Douglas Herman

Major 15th Battalion

Douglas Cannan was one of six children born to John Kearsey Cannan and Elizabeth Christian Cannan. Douglas's father was a bank manager. Soon after Douglas's birth in Townsville in April 1880, the family moved to Brisbane and settled at "Leswell" Chelmer. Douglas like his brothers attended Central Boys State School and then Brisbane Grammar. Service was obviously something that was instilled in the Cannan boys from a young age. Douglas and his younger brother James both received commissions in the 9th Infantry Regiment (Citizens Forces) in 1904. Both continued to serve as part time officers until the outbreak of war.

At the time of his enlistment, Douglas was 34 years old, single and employed as the secretary and manager of the Queensland Fish Marketing Board. He was commissioned as a Captain in the 15th Battalion in command of "D" Company. The Battalion Commander was Douglas's younger brother James.

The 15th battalion would form part of the 4th Brigade AIF under Brigadier John Monash. The battalion travelled to Sydney where they embarked on the "Ceramic" on 22nd December 1915 and arrived in Alexandria on 31st January 1915.

The 4th brigade went ashore at Gallipoli late in the afternoon of the 25th April and immediately moved from the beach up a gully (Monash Gully) to a precarious position on the heights which eventually bore the name of an officer of the 15th; Quinn's Post. The 15th remained on Gallipoli holding the line at Quinn's for the next month. On 1st June, Douglas was evacuated to Lemnos with tonsillitis and rejoined his company ten days later. Douglas was promoted to Temporary Major on the 11th July.

Birdwood, the British Commander at Anzac, was under some pressure to secure a breakthrough to the heights above the beach-head. The ultimate goal was the commanding hill named Chunuk Bair and in early August, a series of coordinated attacks was planned to drive

the Turks from the high ground. The first of these offensives (a diversion really) was the attack on Lone Pine (where Albert Jacka won the first Australian Victoria Cross) followed by a second landing of British troops at Suvla. The main offensive was planned for the northern sector of the Anzac beachhead which entailed an advance at night along the beach before turning inland to scale a series of ridges towards the heights of Hill 971 also known as Sari Bair. The 4th Brigade would be part of this action on 8th August.

As was often the case at Anzac, the planning did not live up to expectations and the 4th Brigade soon found themselves lost in the dark in a bewildering tangle of gullies; primarily due to a reliance on Greek guides rather than the maps which had been issued. It was soon apparent that no advance could be made and the Battalion Commander of the 15th, Lieutenant Colonel James Cannan ordered a withdrawal. The battalion war diary records that during the 8th August, eight officers were wounded and eight officers were missing. Among the missing was Douglas Cannan.

The official records indicate that Douglas was listed as Wounded and Missing. The August offensives were a failure all round and the Anzac front settled into a stalemate which was eventually ended with the withdrawal of all forces in December.

Back in Egypt; investigations were conducted into the fate of



Douglas Cannan. Conflicting statements from witnesses variously reported that Douglas had been captured, that he had been shot and left behind when the battalion withdrew, and even one witness who stated that he had attended Douglas's burial. The final determination was that Douglas had been killed in action and probably "buried by the Turks." The findings were relayed to Headquarters signed by Douglas's younger brother, James.

Douglas's personal effects (which in the case of officers included all uniform items) were eventually returned to the family in Chelmer. His eldest brother, John K. Cannan (jnr); a solicitor with his own firm in the city handled the winding up of Douglas's estate. Douglas had named his elder sister, Catherine as sole executor.

When the Imperial War Graves Commission returned to Gallipoli in 1919, no trace of Douglas Cannan could be found. He is commemorated on the Australian Memorial at Lone Pine. Douglas, as a Grammar old boy, is also commemorated in the "Golden Book" at Brisbane Grammar.

Douglas's brother, James, who went on to serve on the Western Front and subsequently as Quarter Master General during World War two applied for the Gallipoli Medallion on behalf of Douglas in 1967.

Ranken, Dudleigh Chalmers

Captain 23rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers

Dudleigh Ranken was probably born in Roma about 1886 where his father was a bank manager. He was one of six children born to George and Anna Marie Ranken, and was their only son. Around 1910, the Ranken family purchased a parcel of farm land at Sherwood from the Francis estate which extended from the corner of Dewar Terrace and Marlborough Streets through to a point opposite Sherwood Road and down to the banks of the Brisbane River. The property included the family home, "Dunella". One of Dudleigh's sisters; Eileen, married James Cannan who went on to command the 15th Battalion AIF at Gallipoli.

Sometime in 1915 it would seem that Dudleigh resigned his position as a brewer and travelled at his own cost to England to enlist. There is a family story that states he enlisted in England so that his mother "would never see him in uniform."

About 60% of British WW1 service files were destroyed during an air raid on London in 1940 and details of Dudleigh's military career would appear to have been destroyed. The information that is available indicates that Dudleigh was commissioned as a Captain in the 23rd Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London). The 23rd battalion was one of the

many so called "pals" battalions raised as part of Kitchener's New Army; and was also known as the sportsmen's battalion.

The 23rd arrived in Boulogne in November 1915 and saw action in the British sector north of the Somme. It would appear that the battalion was engaged in the Somme offensive which began on 1st July 1916. Dudleigh is listed as being killed in action on 27th July. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Dudleigh Ranken as being commemorated at the British Memorial at Thiepval, near the village of Pozieres. The Thiepval memorial lists the names of 72,000 British soldiers killed in France (90% of those named died in the second half of 1916) and who have no known grave. A ceremony is conducted at Thiepval on the 1st July each year to honour those men.

Dudleigh's mother; Anna Marie, died four months after Dudleigh was killed; perhaps as a result of the grief she suffered at the death of her only son. Anna Marie was buried in the Anglican cemetery on Sherwood Road and her gravestone also mentions her son, Captain Dudleigh Ranken.

The Ranken farm was eventually sold off to the Sherwood Shire in 1923 for the creation of the Sherwood Arboretum. Included in the arboretum is an avenue of Kauri Pines planted to honour the shire citizens who gave their lives in the Great War. No



doubt one of the trees honours Dudley Ranken. The name of Dudley Street (although incorrectly spelt) as well as the name of the family home, Dunella Street, perpetuate the legacy of the Ranken family in the Sherwood district on the land which was once their farm.

Dunsdon, Charles Edward

Lieutenant 3rd Field Company Australian Engineers

Charles Dunsdon was born in Toowoomba to Edward and Elizabeth Dunsdon in 1885. As a boy he attended Middle Ridge State School in Toowoomba and given that he also enlisted in Toowoomba it is reasonable to assume that he spent most of his life in that town.

Charles enlisted on the 18th August 1914 and must have been one of the first volunteers to enlist in Toowoomba when recruitment began. He was given the regimental number of 3. At the time of his enlistment he gave his address as South Street, Toowoomba and named his brother Walter of the same address as his next of kin. Both parents were deceased.

Charles gave his occupation as draftsman, and with such a background was posted into the 3rd Field Company Australian Engineers. His unit embarked in Melbourne on the "Geelong" on 22nd September 1914; barely one month after he enlisted. When one considers the travelling

time from Toowoomba to Melbourne, training would have been seriously curtailed. Upon arrival in Egypt, the engineers were tasked with constructing the camps and associated infrastructure to house the soon to arrive Australian troops.

The War Diary of the 3rd FCAE gives a graphic picture of the type of work being performed by the sections in preparation of the landings at Gallipoli. Maps were being produced in different scales (no doubt Charles's drafting skills were useful) and a transport ship had been designated to carry stores and materials when they landed on the 25th April 1915. The diary has no entry between the 21st April and 1st May; which is indicative of the frantic work being carried out by the engineers in those first few days.

The engineers were employed in making bombs out of jam tins, pegging out and digging trenches and saps, laying wire entanglements as well as more mundane tasks such as providing drinking water and erecting shelters for headquarters staff. The construction of Watson's Pier by Signals Captain Watson and 2nd Field Engineers was a further example of the vital work performed by engineers in those first few months. While on Gallipoli, Charles was promoted to corporal on 16th May and to staff sergeant on 26th July.

Charles was evacuated to the #2 Australian General Hospital on Mudros Island on 9th August (which coincided with the series of failed offensives at the Nek and Suvla) with pleurisy. He returned to the peninsula on 24th September.

After the evacuation of Gallipoli the Australian forces in Egypt went through a period of reinforcement and expansion. Charles went off to officer training and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on 5th March 1916. His unit was shipped to Marseilles in June 1916 and during the voyage, Charles was promoted to Lieutenant.

Field Engineers followed the infantry to the Armentieres sector of the western front and when Haig called the Australian divisions south to the Somme for the assault on Pozieres in July and August, the engineers followed.

On the 9th August in the vicinity of Sausage Gully, Charles was fatally wounded. Accounts collected by the Red Cross some months later vary but it is fairly certain that Charles and Captain Riddell were consulting a map when a high explosive shell landed nearby. Charles was struck in the neck by a piece of shrapnel and died almost immediately, Riddell was also injured. Some Red Cross accounts reported that Charles had been buried near where he fell and a wooden cross with his name engraved was erected, either by men from his own unit or a company of pioneers.



The ground around Pozieres would continue to be a battleground for another month, and would again be fought over during 1918. When the Imperial War Graves Commission began to consolidate scattered burials at the conclusion of hostilities, no trace of Charles's grave was found. Charles's brother Walter moved from Toowoomba to Kew Street, Graceville soon after Charles was killed; and it is no doubt for this reason that Charles is commemorated on the Graceville War Memorial erected in 1920.

Charles was also eventually commemorated on the panels of the Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux when construction began in 1933. The National Memorial was officially dedicated by King George VI and contains the names of over 10,000 Australians who were killed in France and have no known grave.

On the site of a windmill in the village of Pozieres today is a commemorative stone which reads:

"The ruin of the Pozieres windmill which lies here was the centre of the struggle on this part of the Somme Battlefield in July and August 1916. It was captured by Australian troops who fell more thickly on this ridge than on any other battlefields of the war."

Hinton, Herbert Gerald *Lieutenant 2nd Light Horse Regiment*

Herbert Hinton was born in Brisbane in February 1879. He attended Central Boys School up to year six (probably equivalent to the Scholarship examination). In November 1899, aged 20, Herbert volunteered for the Queensland Mounted Infantry contingent which sailed to Cape Colony, South Africa during the Boer War. Details of his service in South Africa are sparse but it is recorded that he was for a time evacuated to England. Herbert also advised that he had been commissioned as a Lieutenant in Warrens Mounted Infantry and the South African Light Horse during the South African campaigns.

When Herbert applied for an officer's commission in September 1914, he was 34 years old, married to Mabel Cecilia Hinton and had four children. He stated his occupation as commercial traveller and named his wife Mabel of "Wanelta" Graceville as his next of kin.

Herbert was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment on 8th September 1914 and embarked on the "Star of England" in Brisbane just two weeks later.

The 2nd Light Horse arrived in Egypt on 9th December 1914 and proceeded to camp at Mena for extensive training. Herbert was promoted to Lieutenant in February 1915.

The original plan for the Gallipoli campaign was for the infantry to land and close off the peninsula to reinforcements while the more mobile light horse brigades would range north along the peninsula towards Constantinople (Istanbul). When the original plan was thwarted by stronger than anticipated Turkish resistance, the decision was made to land the light horsemen as infantry at Anzac. The 2nd Light Horse; minus their horses, landed at Anzac on 12th May. On the 19th May, Herbert was wounded slightly in the eye but he returned to duty the same day.

The hottest spot at Anzac was Quinn's post at the head of Monash Gully. Quinn's Post was the farthest point inland on the Anzac line, situated on the edge of an escarpment, with the Turkish trenches only metres away. The Post was named after Major Harold Quinn of the 15th Battalion, whose company held the position from the first day. In late May, the Turks exploded an underground mine at Quinn's Post, followed by an infantry assault which captured the Australian positions and allowed the Turks to enfilade down Monash Gully to the beach.

The 2nd Light Horse was charged with recapturing the positions at Quinn's Post through an all out charge on the 7th August. During this assault, Lieutenant Hinton was killed. He was buried at the cemetery at Shrapnel Gully, the



same cemetery in which Major Quinn was laid to rest one week earlier.

Communications between Gallipoli and Australia were slow and tortuous in 1915. Signals were sent from Anzac to Lemnos, then on to Cairo before being communicated to London for despatch by cable to Melbourne. Such difficulties meant it took considerable time for the Australian authorities to be able to provide death certificates. Herbert's wife Mabel had four children to support and although her husband had allotted nine shillings of his daily pay to her, this of course ceased once he had died. Herbert's file contains a number of letters from Mabel and a firm of solicitors requesting a death certificate so that a life assurance policy with AMP could be redeemed as well as bank balances transferred. Mabel was finally granted a war widow's pension of 91 pounds a year, as well as 13 pounds a year for each child.

Mabel also received the personal effects of her late husband, which included a full set of mess dress and his Boer War medals. Mabel and the children left Chelmer to live near relatives in Sandgate in 1916.

Berry, Roy Morley

2nd Lieutenant 25th Battalion

Roy Berry was a member of a prominent pioneering family from the Sherwood district. His parents, William Kinkead

and Annie Maria, lived in Berry Street Sherwood; and there is also a Kinkead Street adjoining Berry Street. There is a heritage listed memorial in the Sherwood cemetery to Robin Edwin Berry who was killed in the Transvaal, South Africa in 1902. It is possible that Robin Berry was Roy's elder brother.

Roy Berry originally enlisted in Brisbane on 9th October 1915. He gave his age as 27 years and named his mother as his next of kin. Documents in Roy's file in the National Archives suggest that Roy had been employed as a costing clerk by the Commonwealth Railways in Melbourne. It is not unreasonable to assume that he had taken leave from his employer to travel back to Brisbane to see his parents before enlisting.

Even though Roy had begun the enlistment process as an ordinary soldier, on 3rd March 1916 he applied for an officer's commission and was accepted as a second lieutenant in the 7th reinforcements of the 25th Battalion. Time was spent in training at Enoggera and six months after being commissioned, Roy embarked on the "Clan McGilvray" in Brisbane and arrived in Plymouth on the 2nd November 1916.

Roy was posted initially to the 7th Training battalion at Rolleston on Salisbury Plain before being posted to France on 23th January 1917. Three days later he was taken on strength by the 25th Battalion.

Roy's battalion at this time were holding the line at La Sars, close to Flers. The winter of 1916/17 had been bitterly cruel and the men in the trenches were exposed to snow and sleet. Rations when they arrived were often cold or even frozen. The German's were holding the higher ground and although there was no thought of mounting an attack in those conditions the enemy artillery continued to target the frontline outposts with regular bombardments. During one of these bombardments on 7th February, Roy Berry was killed. He had been with his battalion for 12 days.

The Australian War memorial has on file a number of reports collected by the Red Cross into the circumstances of Roy's death, which all recounted similar events. The history of the 25th Battalion AIF; "Black over Blue" contains excerpts from a letter written by Private O'Brien five days after the event:

"Roy was in charge of post similar to oursthings were quiet so he(Roy) went into a trench for a bit of a rest..... Soon after this Fritz began shelling the post.....One got poor old Roy and a bomber. The man was killed instantly, but Roy lingered for about two hours but never regained consciousness."

The Red Cross interviews that were conducted many months later confirm O'Brien's account and also mention that Roy was a popular officer. He was



buried just behind the post where he fell and a wooden cross was erected over his grave. Ironically just two weeks after Roy was killed, the men of the 25th woke to discover that the Germans had abandoned their positions and withdrawn several kilometres to the Hindenburg Line.

Roy's grave remained undisturbed through the remainder of the war. His remains were reinterred in the Adanac Military Cemetery (Canada spelt backwards as most of those interred are Canadians). In due course, Roy's mother received his personal belongings and kit and a pension of two pounds a fortnight.

Annie also received Roy's medals, a memorial scroll and commemorative plaque, a copy of his commission and three photographs of his grave.

Roy's younger brother, Percy Norman Berry also served. He was a member of the 2nd Light Horse and returned to Australia at the end of the war.

Lyon, Charles Herbert Scott

2nd Lieutenant 15th Battalion

Charles Lyon was born in Townsville. By the time of his enlistment his family, father Charles William and mother Annie, had moved to Hood Street, Sherwood. Charles presented himself for enlistment in Brisbane on 27th July 1915. He stated his

occupation as clerk and was 19 years old.

Charles was drafted as a private into the 11th reinforcements of the 15th Battalion. He departed from Brisbane on the "Seang Bee" on 21st October 1915. By the time Charles arrived in Egypt, the Australian forces had been withdrawn from Gallipoli and were undergoing a period of expansion. Half of the original 15th Battalion which had been on Gallipoli since May 1915 were designated to create a new battalion, the 47th. Charles and the rest of the reinforcements joined the 15th to bring it up to full strength. During his sojourn in Egypt, Charles was hospitalised briefly with mumps.

The newly reinforced 15th Battalion arrived in Marseilles on 8th June 1916 and proceeded to the "nursery trenches" around Armentieres. In July, the battalion was called to the Somme and saw its first major battle at Pozieres in July and August. After being taken out of the line Charles was promoted to Lance Corporal. As winter approached Haig; the supreme British commander in France closed down the front. The winter was extremely severe, with troops exposed to snow and sleet. Charles was promoted to corporal on 22nd November and was made sergeant in February the following year.

With the arrival of spring on the Somme, the Germans began a planned withdrawal back to pre-prepared defensive

positions on what was called the Hindenburg Line. The 15th Battalion along with the rest of the 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions pursued them cautiously. Charles however was headed in the opposite direction. On the 31st March 1917 he was posted to the Officer Cadet Battalion in Cambridge, England.

On 4th August 1917, Charles was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the 15th battalion. He rejoined his unit in Belgium on the 20th August. The Australian 1st Division were at this time engaged in a series of bite and hold operations outside Ypres which had begun in June at Messines and progressed to the Menin Road. The next objective was a wooded area named Polygon Wood on the trench maps. The 15th Battalion in company with the three other battalions in the brigade would assault the enemy positions behind a creeping artillery barrage. The battalion diary for September 1917 records that the unit suffered fairly light casualties in this operation, with only 14 other ranks and one officer being killed. Unfortunately the one officer was Charles Lyon.

Red Cross reports indicate that he had been struck in the abdomen (or back) by a high explosive shell. He was placed on a stretcher (or trolley) and taken to a Field Ambulance Unit and then to a Casualty Clearing Station where he consequently died. His death is recorded officially as Died of Wounds.



Charles was buried close to the Casualty Clearing Station and his grave marked. At the end of the war, the Imperial War Graves Commission began to consolidate the known graves into military cemeteries. This theatre of the war has perhaps the greatest number of cemeteries, including the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery and Memorial in the world; Tyne Cot near Passchendaele. Charles was finally interred in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery near Poperinghe. His parents received photographs of his grave as well as two medals, a memorial scroll and a commemorative plaque.

Radcliffe, Leslie Caldwell

2nd Lieutenant 49th Battalion

Leslie Radcliffe was born in Sydney on 29th October 1894. His family moved to North Queensland while he was young. Leslie attended Brisbane Grammar until he was 15. The Golden Book at Brisbane Grammar, which records all past students who enlisted in the First World War, lists six Radcliffes who were Leslie's brothers and cousins; one of whom, John, was a Rhodes Scholar.

When Leslie enlisted on 25th February 1916 aged 21, he was living in Ayr and working as a cane farmer. He gave his father as his next of kin with the same address so it is reasonable to assume that he was working on the family

cane farm. Although only 21 Leslie had previous military experience with the 2nd Light Horse and in signalling. He was drafted as a private into the 11th reinforcements of the 47th Battalion.

After two weeks of home leave in May 1916, Leslie boarded the "Boorara" in Brisbane on 12th August. He arrived in Plymouth on 13th October and by February 1917 was with his unit. Leslie had joined his unit at a very unsettling time. The 47th Battalion had a reputation in the AIF as a bunch of "toffs and street loafers and wasters all mixed in together." After a mauling at Bullecourt in 1916, the 47th were in a rest area in early 1917.

The commanding officer was replaced in January 1917 by Lt. Colonel Imlay who had a reputation as a "hard man." Soon after Leslie joined the unit, Imlay ordered a route march to toughen up the battalion. A number of men fell out of the march and Imlay ordered that the defaulters receive 14 days pack drill. One of the defaulters, Private Noud, while waiting for the drill to commence committed suicide with his own rifle in front of the battalion. This incident would no doubt have had a lasting effect on the newly arrived reinforcements like Leslie.

In June 1917, the Battle of Messines began with the exploding of 19 mines under the German lines. The 47th battalion advanced 800 metres under a creeping artillery barrage on the first day and

continued to hold the line gained. Messines was the opening of a series of battles that became known as The Third Battle of Ypres or more commonly Passchendaele. During this period, Leslie was promoted to corporal and then lance sergeant.

After the final assault on the Passchendaele Ridge in October 1917, Leslie was posted to the officer cadet battalion in Oxford, England. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant on 1st May 1918 and on 22nd May joined his new battalion, the 49th on the Somme.

After the decisive battle of Villers Bretonneux in April 1918, the Australian divisions were holding the line while regrouping for the Battle of Hamel (July). On 2nd August 1918, while waiting to go into the line at the Battle of Amiens, Leslie Radcliffe was killed in action. The battalion war diary simply records "2nd Lieutenant Radcliffe killed by shell fire." Leslie's parents, who had by this time moved briefly to Thallon Street, Sherwood, were informed of his death but soon after returned to North Queensland.

Leslie was buried in a nearby civilian cemetery, Domart-Sur-La-Luce with the Rev. H. Harper in attendance. In 1934, the Imperial War Graves Commission wrote to Leslie's mother, his father having died, to seek her permission for Leslie's remains to be reinterred in the Hourges Orchard Military Cemetery.



The reason given for the reinterment was that his grave would be better cared for in the new location. Emily Radcliffe, writing from Ayr, gave her permission. In 1938, Doctor D. Radcliffe of Otago Region, NZ, wrote to enquire if the family could obtain photographs of his brother's new grave. He was informed that the request could be granted with the payment of six shillings.

It is unlikely that Leslie Radcliffe ever lived in the Sherwood District. The reason for his name appearing on the Sherwood Honour Roll is probably attributable to his uncle, who lived at Sherwood and whose son Alan Radcliffe (see below) also appears on the memorial.

Cooling, William Henry

#253 Sergeant 26th Battalion

William Cooling was born in December 1894 at Corinda, the only son of Henry and Ellen Cooling. By the time of his enlistment, his family's address was given as "Oxley, near Brisbane." The embarkation roll listed his occupation as state school teacher and given that he lived in the Oxley District, he may well have been a teacher at Oxley School. By the time William enlisted, his father had died, leaving his mother a widow. It is reasonable to assume that his salary as a teacher was supporting both his mother, and his younger sister, Ida.

Prior to his enlistment in May 1915, William was a member of the 9th Infantry Battalion, Oxley Regiment of the Citizen Military Forces. This prior military experience would see him promoted to Sergeant of A Company; 26th Battalion when he arrived at Enoggera for basic training. After just one month at Enoggera, the 26th sailed on H.M.A.T. "Ascanius" bound for Melbourne and ultimately Egypt.

The 26th Battalion was one of two Queensland Battalions raised at Enoggera in early 1915 as part of the newly created 2nd Division AIF. The 26th was comprised of mainly Queenslanders and Tasmanians, whilst its sister battalion, the 25th was almost exclusively Queenslanders. The 2nd Division was destined for Gallipoli, where they would relieve the 1st Division who had been holding the ridges since April 1915.

After the failed August offensives at Suvla Bay and The Nek and the heroic battle of Lone Pine, the ANZAC front settled into a quiet stalemate. When the 26th arrived at ANZAC on 12 September, they performed a mainly defensive role at Courtney's Post and Steele's Post.

On 22 October, just over a month after his arrival at ANZAC, William Cooling was admitted to a Field Ambulance station with shrapnel wounds to the abdomen. Later that day he was transferred to a Casualty Clearing Station for evacuation but he died that

same day. He was buried in a cemetery near the CCS with an Army Chaplain conducting the ceremony. His religion was given as Methodist.

As was the usual practice, William's mother as next of kin, was informed that her son had died of wounds. A clerical error incorrectly listed his death as occurring on 22 September, not 22 October. This error was to cause his mother great anguish as soon after being informed of his death she received a letter from her son dated 17 October, some three weeks after his supposed death.

William's mother was granted a military pension of \$26 per year. His army file contains a number of letters from his mother seeking clarification on his date of death and she even sends the letter of 17 October as proof that the date of 22 September must not be correct. This matter, she writes needs to be cleared up so that a death certificate can be issued and Williams' life insurance and his bank account can be transferred to her. She was obviously very dependent on this money to support herself and her last surviving child, daughter Ida. Ellen had been named the sole beneficiary of William's Last Will and Testament, with the prophetic heading "*in the event of my death.*" During this long correspondence Ellen and Ida Cooling continued to reside at "Oxley, near Brisbane." In the middle of 1916, Ellen received two parcels containing the personal effects of her late



son: comforter, letters, wallet, photograph, watch, belt and three coins.

At the end of the war, the Australian Government, placed advertisements in all newspapers calling for the next of kin of deceased servicemen to contact the armed services so that medals could be issued. William's sister, Ida replied advising that her mother had died and that she was the sole surviving relative of William Cooling. The medals were duly issued to Ida, 1914-15 Star, the Empire Medal and the Victory Medal. Ida also completed the Roll of Honour Card. At some time after William's death, a palm tree was planted in the grounds of the Sherwood Methodist Church (now Uniting Church) in his memory. It is probable that this may have been the church he and his mother and sister attended as his religion was given as Methodist, and the tree may well have been planted by his mother and sister. During recent renovations to the church and grounds, the palm tree was removed and the plaque commemorating William Cooling has been placed on another tree in the church grounds.

William Cooling is also commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial. His grave is located in the Embarkation Pier Cemetery at Gallipoli. He is buried with almost 300 fellow soldiers from the Empire. A photograph of William Cooling is held in the Australian War Memorial collection.

Guthrie, John Marsland

Sergeant 11th Field Artillery Brigade

John Guthrie was barely 18 years old when he enlisted on 28th September 1914. He stated he was employed as a clerk with Queensland Railways and gave his address as simply Sherwood. It is possible that he was living with his uncle; William Guthrie, of Skew Street, Sherwood. He named his mother, Elizabeth, as his next of kin; however Elizabeth's address was C/- Miss Marsland of Cotton Street Sandgate. John's cemetery details list his father as Arthur Drummond Guthrie but letters in John's service file from his mother indicate that Arthur Guthrie abandoned his wife and children in 1907, and his whereabouts were unknown. The same letter says that as a result of being abandoned, Elizabeth had no home. She would appear to have been living with her sister, Miss Marsland, for a time before gaining employment as a cook in a railway construction gang. The situation faced by Elizabeth (her only daughter had been killed in a riding accident in 1910) provides evidence of the possible motivation for young John to enlist; as he allotted 3/6 of his 5 shillings a day to his mother.

John had previous military experience with a Field Artillery Brigade and was promptly drafted into the 301st Mechanical Transport

Company. He embarked on 22nd December 1914 in Melbourne and landed at Anzac on the first day. There was not much call for motor transport on the peninsula and John reverted to a field artillery battery as a gunner. Whilst stationed on Gallipoli, John was promoted first to corporal and then to sergeant.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the Australian forces regrouped in Egypt. John was posted to the 11th Field Artillery and accompanied the brigade to Havre in France where they were issued with new 18 pounder guns and limbers. The artillery supported Australian Infantry actions at Pozieres in July and August; Flers and Bullecourt in October and November.

On 11th March 1917, John was posted to an artillery school for two weeks. When he rejoined his unit, they were supporting assaults against the Hindenburg Line at Lagnicourt. On 15th April, John's battery was called to provide a covering barrage on the flank of an advance by the 56th Battalion. In order to be able to locate the targets, the battery had to move out of concealed positions. When the German artillery observers spotted the exposed guns, they called down counter battery fire. The brigade war diary records that one officer and twelve other ranks were killed, as well as the loss of two guns and 3000 rounds of ammunition.



John and the other 11 gunners were laid to rest in the H.A.C. (Honourable Artillery Company) Cemetery in the same row. His personal belongings were eventually returned to his mother after advertisements were placed by the authorities in newspapers seeking her whereabouts. Elizabeth had been reduced to a state of homelessness after her husband abandoned her and the children. After the death of her son she had no family on which to rely. Elizabeth Guthrie moved around the state with the railway construction crew, being located at Ferny Grove, Samsonvale and Baralaba. It took some time for her son's effects to be delivered to her as her address was not constant. It would appear that Elizabeth applied for repatriation benefits in 1935.

The Brothers Keid

Charles and Mary Keid were the parents of nine children, six of them boys. By 1914 the family had moved to "Chewton", Molonga Terrace, Graceville. All six of the Keid boys enlisted in the First World War; and four of them would lose their lives. Three of the deceased brothers are commemorated on the Sherwood Shire memorial. The story of the Keid family's sacrifice has been recorded in a number of media reports recently as well as in a book by Cedric Hampson; "The Brothers Keid." Since the stories of all six boys are so interwoven, I have grouped

their narratives together, and in the interests of completion, I will include Leonard Keid. Leonard, the only brother to be married with a family, is not listed on the Sherwood Memorial but is instead commemorated on the Coorparoo Shire Memorial at Langlands Park.

All six brothers are listed on the Sherwood Methodist Church Roll of Honour.

Bennet Walter Keid

3809 Sergeant 49th Battalion

Bennet (usually known as Walter) Keid was born at Ormeau. He attended school at Junction Park State School and Christian Brothers Gregory Terrace; this in spite of the fact that his mother was a devout Baptist. Walter was the fourth eldest of the six brothers and by the time he enlisted on 6th May 1915, four of his brothers had already enlisted. His elder brother Leonard enlisted nine days later.

Walter was drafted as a reinforcement into the 49th Battalion and embarked from Brisbane on the "Itonus" on 30th December 1915. When he arrived in Egypt the AIF was going through a period of expansion after the withdrawal from Gallipoli. The 49th Battalion was being created out of a nucleus of Gallipoli veterans from the 9th Battalion and newly arrived reinforcements.

The 49th continued to train in Egypt for the next three months during which time

Walter was promoted to corporal and then sergeant. The battalion left Alexandria in June 1916 and arrived in Marseilles on 12th June. From Marseilles, the battalion was transported by train to the rear areas of the western front for acclimatisation to the business of trench warfare.

Haig; Supreme British Commander in France and Belgium; launched the Battle of the Somme on the 1st July 1916. As the situation on the Somme called for increasing manpower, Haig brought three Australian Divisions (1st, 2nd and 4th) to the staging areas around Albert to use in the assault on Pozieres.

The 1st and 2nd Divisions were thrust into the struggle for Pozieres first during late July and early August, and had secured the village and the important blockhouse on the site of a windmill above the village. It was now the turn of the 4th Division; which included the 49th Battalion, to continue the offensive towards a ruined farm which the Germans had heavily fortified by extending the cellars and creating a line of three defensive trenches. The farm was depicted on the maps as "La Ferme du Mouquet" but the Australians referred to it as "Moo Cow Farm" or "Mucky Farm."

The assault on the farm began at midnight on the 3rd/4th September 1916. It was conducted on an ever narrowing front that was enfiladed by German artillery and machine guns on three



sides. The ground was so churned up that advancing troops could not recognise a trench line when they reached it. Attempts to dig new trenches were unsuccessful due to the loose ground caving in. The 49th was finally withdrawn from the battle for Mouquet Farm without the objective being reached at considerable cost. The 4th Division had sustained 4650 casualties. The 49th Battalion has sustained 430 out of a strength of 1000. Amongst those listed as killed were Walter Keid and his elder brother Leonard.

Red Cross Wounded and Missing Reports indicate that Sergeant Keid was killed outright by shell fire. Walter was the third of the brothers to have lost his life in the war, but would not be the last.

Edward Alexander Keid

#1153 T/Sergeant 9th Battalion

Edward Keid had been born in Brisbane and as a boy attended Junction Park State School like his brothers. He enlisted in Townsville on 9th October 1914 and gave his age as 25 years and occupation as selector. Edward was single and apparently had no family in North Queensland at the time as he named his mother Mary Keid of "Chewton" Molonga Terrace Graceville as his next of kin. In spite of Edward's early enlistment date, two of his brothers had already joined up; William and Harold (known as Guy).

Edward was drafted into the 9th Battalion, part of the 3rd Brigade 1st Division AIF. The 9th was the first infantry battalion to be raised in Queensland when war was declared. The first contingent of the 9th had already departed for overseas when Edward joined and he was drafted into the 1st reinforcements which left Melbourne on the 22nd December 1915. Upon arrival in Egypt, Edward was taken on strength by the 9th and proceeded to go through extensive desert training in preparation for the landing at Anzac.

The 9th Battalion was one of three battalions which first hit the beach at dawn on the 25th April. Edward would remain on Gallipoli for the remainder of the campaign, being promoted to corporal as the evacuations took place in December 1915. A period of retraining and reorganisation followed in Egypt and the 9th Battalion arrived in Marseilles on the 3rd April enroute to the Western Front.

Haig; Supreme British Commander in France and Belgium; launched the Battle of the Somme on the 1st July 1916. As the situation on the Somme called for increasing manpower, Haig brought three Australian Divisions (1st, 2nd and 4th) to the staging areas around Albert to use in the assault on Pozieres.

The 1st Divisions was thrust into the struggle for Pozieres during late July and early August, and had secured the village and

the important blockhouse on the site of a windmill above the village. During this action, Edward would have been subjected to some of the most intense artillery barrages of the war. The 1st Division were withdrawn for rest recuperation while the 2nd Division continued the assaults.

With Pozieres secured, it was now the turn of the 4th Division; which included the 49th Battalion (to which his brothers Leonard and Bennett belonged), to continue the offensive towards a ruined farm a few hundred metres along the ridgeline from Pozieres; which the Germans had heavily fortified by extending the cellars and creating a line of three defensive trenches. The farm was depicted on the maps as "La Ferme du Mouquet" but the Australians referred to it as "Moo Cow Farm" or "Mucky Farm."

The assault on the farm began at midnight on the 3rd/4th September 1916. It was conducted on an ever narrowing front that was enfiladed by German artillery and machine guns on three sides. During the assault by the 49th, both Leonard and Bennet were killed, their bodies not recovered. When the 1st Division was thrown back into the line at Mouquet Farm, it was reported that Edward scoured the battlefield looking for his two brothers.

The Australian divisions were withdrawn from the Somme late in September 1916 for much needed reinforcements



and re-equipment. While resting behind the lines, Edward was posted to the 3rd Training Battalion in England. It would be heartening to think that this posting was an attempt to provide Edward with a period of recovery after the tragedy he had experienced in France.

While in England, Edward was promoted to temporary sergeant. He was to fall foul of the authorities twice while in England; once for being absent without leave and once for refusing to provide a leave pass to the sergeant of the guard. On both occasions he was simply reprimanded which perhaps implies that the commanding officers were still concerned about the state of his mental health.

Edward returned to his unit on 6th June 1917, just as the Battle of Messines was launched. The 9th Battalion continued to be thrust into the line in a series of engagements in the Ypres salient during the remainder of that summer and into autumn.

By November of 1917, the British forces had advanced some 15 kilometres from Ypres and Haig was insistent that the line push on towards the village of Passchendaele, despite soaking rain that turned the battlefield into quagmire. On 1st November, during an attack near Zonnebeke, Edward received a shell wound to the head. He was transported back behind the lines to a casualty clearing station near Poperinghe, just west of Ypres. Edward succumbed to his

wounds the following day and he was buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.

Edward was the fourth son of Mary and Charles Keid to die in the war. His death would spark the family into action to save their remaining two sons (see postscript below).

Leonard Keid

Lieutenant 9th/49th Battalion

Leonard Keid had been born in Pimpama in October 1886. As a boy he attended Junction Park State School and then St. Josephs Gregory Terrace. He qualified as an accountant and according to his application for a commission (potential officers did not complete the attestation papers that ordinary ranks did) he was employed as a paymaster with Queensland Railways.

Five of the six Keid brothers gave their address as Molonga Terrace, Graceville. Leonard was married with three children, living at Watson Street (off Bennetts Rd) Coorparoo when he presented himself for enlistment on 5th May 1915. An article in the Courier Mail 2nd August 2014 "The Keid Family lost four sons in less than 2 and a half years" reports a family story that Leonard had received an anonymous white feather (symbol of cowardice) in the post, thus prompting him to join up, in spite of the fact that the family expectation was that he would remain at home as he was the only one of the six brothers who was married and with children. According to

the article, Leonard's brother; Walter, perhaps to support his brother's decision, enlisted the following day.

Leonard enlisted on 5th May (Walter did indeed enlist the following day) and received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant on 7th July 1915 and was drafted, along with brother Walter, into the reinforcements for the 9th Battalion, amongst which were two other Keid brothers, Henry and Edward, who had enlisted in October 1914.

Leonard and Walter departed Brisbane on the "Warilda" on 5th October 1915 and arrived in Egypt just as the ANZACs were being evacuated from Gallipoli. In December of 1915, Leonard wrote to Army Records enquiring into the circumstances of the death of yet another brother, William who had been erroneously reported as having died in hospital in Malta (see William Keid below). He had in fact been buried at sea in June 1915. The mistake was explained as a clerical error.

During the sojourn in Egypt, the Australian forces were expanded to double the size, creating four divisions out of two. This was achieved by splitting existing 1st and 2nd division battalions to create the nucleus of two new battalions. Leonard's 9th battalion was split to form the 49th Battalion of the 4th Division. Brother Walter also transferred to the 49th in February 1916. After additional training and the inclusion of new reinforcements from



The Graceville War Memorial

Australia, the 4th Division arrived in Marseilles on 12th May 1916.

In July 1916, Haig (Supreme British Commander on the Western Front) launched the Somme offensive. Casualties were enormous but Haig was determined to keep up the pressure. Three of the four Australian divisions in France were deployed to the Somme. (The other division, the 5th had already suffered a mauling at Fromelles). The Australians were to go into their first major action at Pozieres.

The 1st and 2nd Divisions were thrust into the struggle for Pozieres first during late July and early August, and had secured the village and the important blockhouse on the site of a windmill above the village. It was now the turn of the 4th Division to continue the offensive towards a ruined farm which the Germans had heavily fortified by extending the cellars and creating a line of three defensive trenches. The farm was depicted on the maps as "La Ferme du Mouquet" but the Australians referred to it as "Moo Cow Farm" or "Mucky Farm."

The assault of the farm was conducted on an ever decreasing front that was enfiladed by German artillery and machine guns. The ground was so churned up that advancing troops could not recognise a trench line when they reached it. Attempts to dig new trenches were unsuccessful due to the loose ground caving in. In an

attack beginning at 5:10am on 3rd September 1916, A Company with Lt. Keid as acting company commander (the company commander of "A" Coy, Captain Walker, had been arrested) advanced on the farm under an intense artillery barrage. Subsequent investigations by the Red Cross suggest that Leonard Keid was killed when an enemy dugout he was entering was hit by a large artillery shell. Leonard was originally listed as Missing :Presumed Killed in Action as his body was not seen again after the shell impact. Later it was confirmed from eyewitnesses that he had in fact been killed. Sadly his brother Walter would have been nearby, if not in the same action. Sergeant Walter Keid was Killed in Action the next day. Neither body was ever recovered.

William Keid

#170 2nd Light Horse Regiment

William Keid was the first of the six brothers to enlist, and would be the first of the four to be killed. William had been born in Brisbane and attended Junction Park State School. Upon joining he named his mother; Mary Keid of "Chewton" Molonga Terrace, Graceville as his next of kin. At the time, William was 28 years old and employed as a carpenter.

William was drafted into the 2nd Light Horse on 21st August 1915. The 2nd LHR was the first

of the Light Horse Regiments to be raised in Queensland. Less than one month after enlisting, William and the rest of the unit embarked on the "Star of England" bound for Egypt. Whilst the Australians were at sea, England declared war on Turkey.

When the Light horse arrived in Egypt, they were engaged in patrolling the approaches to the Suez Canal. After the landings at Gallipoli, the authorities decided to land the light horsemen as reinforcement infantry. The 2nd Light Horse landed at Gallipoli on 11th May and was immediately rushed to relieve the 15th Battalion at Quinn's Post. Almost immediately, the light horsemen were called upon to repel a Turkish onslaught of bomb throwing and infantry attacks.

For his action at Quinn's Post on 13/14th May, William along with eight other men from his unit was recommended for the French Medaille Militaire by the regimental commander. In William's case it was reported that he threw a greatcoat over an unexploded bomb and sat on it allowing his comrades to continue the offensive. It seems unusual for Australian soldiers to be recommended for a French gallantry award and there is no record of the recommendation being approved. There was a further recommendation that William be Mentioned in Despatches for valuable services rendered between 6th May and 28th June. These must be arbitrary dates



as William did not arrive on Gallipoli until 11th May and he had already been evacuated by hospital ship and buried at sea by 28th June. William's file indicates that the Mentioned in Despatches was promulgated (after his death) but he was not entitled to the bronze oak leaf which would be attached to a medal ribbon signifying MID.

After holding the line at Quinn's Post, the 2nd LHR moved into bivouacs in Monash Valley before going back into the line at Pope's Post. William's file indicates that he received a gunshot wound to the pelvis on 23rd June 1915. He was evacuated to the Hospital Ship Gascon where he subsequently died of his wounds; and was buried at sea, three miles off Gaba Tepe (the ANZAC beach head) with Chaplain Warner reading the service.

There was some confusion as to the circumstances of William's death as they were related to the family in Graceville. The family were originally informed that William had died of his wounds in Malta and was buried there, yet other sources obviously did not support this statement. It is likely that William's father, hoping to get to the bottom of the matter, wrote to his eldest son; Lieutenant Leonard Keid (see above) when he was evacuated from Gallipoli in December of 1915. Leonard wrote to Army Records in Cairo (he probably hand delivered the letter) on 28th December requesting clarification as to William's fate. He received a

reply dated the following day (probably the swiftest piece of military communication in history) that stated the information regarding the burial in Malta was incorrect. The mistake was based on a clerical error. William had indeed been buried at sea. Eventually the family were informed of the correct version.

Obviously William has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Australian memorial at Lone Pine, Gallipoli.

Postscript

When Edward Keid was killed at Passchendaele in November 1917, the Keid Family had lost four sons. Harry Keid, the youngest of the six brothers, had already returned to Australia for "family reasons" and representations began to have the last surviving brother, Henry Keid returned to Australia also.

On 27th November 1917, the Chief Secretary to the Queensland Premier T.J.Ryan sent a cable to the Australian Agent General in London; Andrew Fisher:

"Relatives of Private H.C.Keid strongly desire his return to Queensland (stop) Five of his brothers have been on active service 4 killed(stop) Keid now on furlough in London where I understand General Birdwood is at present(stop) Good opportunity to represent matters. Chief Secretary Brisbane"

The interesting aspect of this communication is that it came from the Queensland Premier and not the Prime Minister. The cable requests Keid's return to Queensland, not Australia. This is perhaps an indication of a political aspect to the matter. Ryan's Labor government was strongly anti conscription, unlike Prime Minister Hughes who had been expelled from the Labor Party for his pro conscription policy. The second conscription referendum had just been defeated.

In invoking the assistance of Andrew Fisher; a former Labor Prime Minister who had close connections to Queensland (Fisher had been the member for Gympie in the Federal Parliament), Ryan's representations may be seen as an attempt to circumvent the Prime Minister and deprive Hughes of a political opportunity.

In due course, Henry Keid was repatriated back to Queensland on the orders of General Officer Commanding Australian Imperial Forces, Lt General Birdwood.

Of the four Keid brothers killed in action, only one has a known grave. William who died of wounds off Gallipoli was buried at sea. The bodies of Leonard and Walter were never recovered from Mouquet Farm. They are instead commemorated on the tablets at the Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux.

It was reported that when Mary Keid, mother of the boys, was



approached for a donation to erect a war memorial at Graceville Memorial Park, she told the collector "I have already given four sons."

The story of the Keid family is certainly one which even today evokes a profound sense of loss. Perhaps other families made similar sacrifices, but the contribution of the Keid family is one which deserves to be remembered. For more on the Keid family see page xx.

Sutton, Charles Arthur

*#2903 Temporary Sergeant
9th Battalion*

Charles Sutton was born in March 1890 at Samford. At age 21 he joined the Queensland Police Force and served mainly at Esk and Yarraman before resigning in March 1914. On 8th June 1915, Charles married Julia Agnes in the Albert Street Uniting Church. Just 6 days later, Charles enlisted and was drafted into the reinforcements for the 9th Battalion. At the time of his enlistment Charles stated his occupation as farmer and his age as 25 years. Charles named his new wife as next of kin but they obviously had not had time to find a home as Julia's address was given as C/- Mrs Carr, Bacon Factory (Foggitt Jones Bacon Factory) Oxley.

The reinforcements were transported to Sydney by train where they boarded the "Ayrshire" on 3rd September 1915 and set sail for Egypt. By the time Charles arrived in Egypt, the bulk of the AIF had been withdrawn from Gallipoli

and were now in camp around Cairo undergoing expansion and reinforcing before being deployed to the western front. While in camp, Charles was promoted to corporal. The 9th Battalion arrived in Marseilles on 3rd April 1916.

In July 1916, Haig (Supreme British Commander on the Western Front) launched the Somme offensive. Casualties were enormous but Haig was determined to keep up the pressure. Three of the four Australian divisions in France were deployed to the Somme. (The other division, the 5th had already suffered a mauling at Fromelles). The Australians were to go into their first major action at Pozieres. During the 1st Division's assault on the village of Pozieres, Charles was wounded in a rather delicate place, but after a month convalescing he was able to rejoin his unit.

Charles was wounded on a second occasion at Flers in December 1916. He received severe shrapnel wounds to his right leg and was evacuated to hospital in England for surgery. After spending time in a convalescent depot and the 3rd Training Battalion at Codford, Charles rejoined his unit which was engaged in the final stages of the battle of Passchendaele in Flanders.

In May 1918 Charles was sent off to a short course army school and upon his return was promoted to temporary sergeant. On 20th June 1918, it was reported that Charles had been killed in action near Albert

on the Somme. There are no Red Cross reports to shed any light on the circumstances of his death and the Australian War memorial lists him as being buried at the Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux.

By the time of Charles' death, Julia had moved to Grantham. She requested an inscription for his headstone but it was too long. Inscriptions had to be 66 characters or less; including spaces. There is no record that she amended the text.

Foott, Arthur Patrick

#2570 1st/4th Pioneer Battalion

Arthur Foot was born on Dundoo Station in the Warrego district in 1879. His father, Thomas Wade Foott was the owner of the station, having moved to Queensland from Bourke, NSW. Thomas died in 1884 (some reports suggest his death was due to stress caused by the drought) leaving his wife, Mary Hannay Foott and two young sons, Arthur and Cecil destitute. Mary by accounts from the time was an educated woman. She was able to work as a journalist and wrote poetry. Mary Foott's best known poem is "Where the pelican builds."

The family moved to Toowoomba for a short while before Mary opened a private school at Rocklea. The school must have been reasonably successful as she was able to have her sons educated at Brisbane Grammar from 1889 to 1890.



When Arthur Foott presented himself for enlistment in March 1916, he was 36 years old, married to Grace Olivia, and was living in Kew Street Graceville. He had one daughter, Grace Patricia Hannay. At enlistment, Arthur reported that he was currently serving with a commission in the 1st Field Company Engineers, Citizens Forces. Unusually Arthur did not apply for a commission in the AIF but enlisted as a private soldier and was drafted into the 4th Pioneer Battalion as a reinforcement.

Pioneers were essentially combat engineers, tasked with trench and dugout construction as well as assisting signallers laying telephone cables and establishing headquarters posts. Arthur embarked on the "Seang Choon" in Brisbane on 19th September 1916 and arrived in Plymouth on the 9th December. During the sea voyage Arthur was promoted to acting sergeant but on arrival in England he reverted to the ranks.

After five months in training in Perham Downs, Arthur was shipped to Belgium where he transferred to the 1st Pioneer Battalion. In June 1917, the battle of Messines opened a series of operations which became known collectively as the Third Battle of Ypres or more commonly Passchendaele. The 1st Pioneers were supporting the Australian 1st Division as they were brought up to the line for action around the Menin Road

just east of Ypres. The pioneer war diary outlines continuous work by the pioneers in constructing mule tracks and a light railway as the 1st Division advanced towards the Passchendaele Ridge.

On 17th September 1917, while working in the forward area, Arthur Foott was killed. There is scant evidence surrounding his death, no Red Cross reports are available and Arthur's file simply states that he was buried at the Menin Road South Military Cemetery.

Arthur's wife, Grace Foott, received a war widows pension of two pounds per fortnight, and his daughter received one pound. In 1920, Grace remarried, her surname was now Grew, and she moved to Priory Street, Indooroopilly. Arthur's mother Mary died in 1918.

Arthur's elder brother, Sir Cecil Henry Foott CMG. CB., had a distinguished military career in the War. He was a professional soldier who attained the rank of Brigadier General and was knighted in the field by the King.

Lyell, John Garland

#6095 6th/15th Field Company Engineers

John Lyell was born in Ladybank, Fifeshire, Scotland; the second son of David and Isabella Lyell. He attended school in Ladybank and served as a professional soldier for seven years in the Royal Scots Regiment before serving a further five years in the reserves.

John and his elder brother William emigrated to Australia after their parents died. At the time of his enlistment John was working for Queensland Railways, and was probably living with his married brother, William at Graceville. When John presented himself for enlistment on 16th September 1916 he was 38 years old. He was drafted as a reinforcement into the 6th Field Company Engineers and embarked from Brisbane on the "Runic", arriving in Egypt on 27th February 1916.

On 18th March, John was transferred to the 15th FCE as a sapper. The word sapper comes from the French word "sappe" meaning to dig; which is a fairly apt description of the work required by engineers in the First World War. On the 29th June, John and his unit arrived in Marseilles and boarded a train for the northern sector of the western front, arriving near Armentieres on 7th July.

Sir Douglas Haig; the British Expeditionary Force's Commander in Chief commented on the newly arrived Australians "splendid physique... mad keen to kill Germans and to start doing it at once." The 15th Brigade of the AIF under Brigadier Harold "Pompey" Elliot; supported by the 15th FCE attacked the German line at Fleurbaix on the 19th/20th July, just short of two weeks after their arrival.

Tactics at this early stage of the AIF campaign in France were directed wholly by the British and displayed the old maxim



that generals usually fight the current war with tactics from the last. The assault on the German lines at Fleurbaix (as well as the assault by the 5th AIF further down the line at Fromelles) was totally unsuccessful. A frontal assault without artillery support against an entrenched enemy would always fail. The engineers who were following up the infantry were tasked with digging saps (trenches perpendicular to the front line towards the enemy) when it was reported that John Lyell had been killed.

Subsequent enquiries with the Red Cross uncovered witnesses who reported that John had been struck in the head by a sniper's bullet and died instantly. One witness described John as an "elderly man", which to some of the youngsters in the AIF he probably appeared to be, he was nearly 40. It was also reported that John was buried in a cemetery in the same row as "15 others." The war diary of the 15th FCE does not record more than two fatalities from the company on those days so the others were most likely infantry men.

John was buried in the Military Cemetery at Rue-de-Bois and his brother requested that his headstone be inscribed as follows: "His big kind heart was his greatest enemy."

John Lyell is listed on the Graceville Memorial with the rank of corporal, however his military records have no notation of such a promotion. Perhaps the error was due

to confusion over the rank of sapper.

Strong, Herbert James

#282 Sergeant 41st Battalion

Herbert Strong was born to Mary Anna and George Strong at Graceville and attended Sherwood State School. It is possible that the Strong family were long time residents of the district, there being a Strong Avenue running off Oxley Road parallel to Graceville Avenue. Herbert's mother also reported that Herbert's eldest brother served in the Boer War.

When Herbert presented himself for enlistment on 20th November 1915, he was 22 years old and employed as a clerk with Queensland Railways. He named his mother; Mary Anna, as his next of kin and stated his home address to be Oxley Road, Graceville.

Herbert was originally drafted into the 35th Battalion but before embarkation he was transferred to the 41st battalion and promoted to corporal. The 41st battalion which had been raised at Enoggera embarked for overseas on the "Demonthenes" from Sydney on 18th May 1916 and arrived in Plymouth on the 20th July.

The 41st Battalion was part of the 11th Brigade; 3rd Division AIF. The 3rd Division, unlike the other 4 Australian divisions was not sent directly to the western front. Instead the 3rd Division spent considerable time in England training under the new divisional commander, Maj.

Gen. John Monash and was not deployed to France until the beginning of 1917.

The 41st battalion spent the early months of 1917 rotating in and out of the line around the French / Belgian border area near Armentieres. During this time Herbert was transferred to the 2nd Australian Tunnelling Company, which was engaged in preparing some of the massive 19 underground mines that would be fired later in the year. It seems that Herbert was not cut out for underground work as he returned to the 41st after only a week. Herbert was promoted to sergeant in April.

After the campaigns in France in 1916, Gen Sir Douglas Haig was anxious for a new offensive in the summer of 1917. He chose to direct his forces against the Germans around the Ypres salient in Belgium. The offensive would begin with the simultaneous firing of 19 mines under the German lines in front of the village of Messines; followed by an intensive artillery barrage and an infantry advance of some 800 metres.

Prior to the opening of the Battle of Messines on 7th June; the 41st Battalion were tasked with manning the front line while the brigades that were to take part in the assault assembled in the rear. After the success of Messines, the 41st were taken out of the line for a short rest before the 11th Brigade was pushed back into the line near Warneton. The task was to straighten the line by digging a new forward



trench line, in clear view of the enemy. This period is referred to in the 11th Brigade history as the "18 Days." The entire brigade was subjected to constant artillery, machine guns and deadly sniping. The action was so intense that the 41st Battalion Diary has no entries at all for this period, even battalion administrators were hard pressed.

During the 18 days, on the 25th June, Herbert Strong, was evacuated to the 53rd Casualty Clearing Station with a compound fracture to the thigh caused by machine gun fire. He died of his wounds later that same day. There are no Red Cross reports into the circumstances of Herbert's death and he was buried in the nearby Bailleul Communal Cemetery.

His parents received his personal effects and photographs of his grave. When the memorial Scroll and King's message was delivered to the family, Herbert's rank was stated incorrectly as Lance Sergeant. Errors over his rank persist with him being listed on the Graceville Memorial as corporal.

Hall, David

#189 41st Battalion

David Hall was a 27 year old labourer when he enlisted on 10th December 1915. He was married to Matilda Hall and they had a daughter, Matilda Jean. He stated his address as Darra, Queensland and his occupation as labourer.

David enlisted around the same time as Herbert Strong (see above) and Sidney Haggar (see below) and like Herbert and Sidney was drafted into the newly created 41st Battalion. The battalion embarked on the "Demosthenes" in Sydney on 18th May 1916 and sailed for Plymouth via Cape Town.

The 41st Battalion was part of the 11th Brigade; 3rd Division AIF. The 3rd Division, unlike the other 4 Australian divisions was not sent directly to the western front. Instead the 3rd Division spent considerable time in England training under the new divisional commander, Maj. Gen. John Monash and was not deployed to France until the beginning of 1917.

As a newly arrived battalion to the front, the 41st was stationed in an area referred to as the nursery trenches near Armentieres. This area had not seen any serious fighting since 1914 and was considered an ideal location to accustom troops to the business of trench warfare; even though there were no trenches as the ground was too boggy. The front in this sector was made up of built up breastworks about 8 feet high made out of sand bags.

Soon after taking up position in the front line, the battalion commander was ordered to organise a raid on the enemy lines on 11th February at Square Farm. These raids served two purposes; the first being to give the troops exposure to contact with the

enemy, and the second being to gather intelligence about the strength of the enemy. A party of 40 men comprising three officers and two platoons set off at midnight, after a short artillery barrage to cut the German wire.

Cutting barbed wire entanglements using artillery was an art form that field artillery found difficult to master. On this particular raid, the wire was not cut and the raiding party being held up at the German wire abandoned the enterprise. The war diary of the 41st records that as the party was withdrawing they came under intense fire from machine guns and minenwerfers (heavy trench mortars). No mans land was also illuminated by searchlights.

Casualties from the raid were one O/R killed, 8 O/R wounded. Sadly the one ordinary rank killed was David Hall. Red Cross reports indicate that he was killed outright by concussion of a heavy mortar. His mates carried the body back to the Australian lines and David was buried in a nearby military cemetery at Cite BonJean.

Soon after David's death, Matilda and young Matilda moved from Darra to live with David's unmarried sister at Newmarket; and then to Enoggera to live with Matilda's mother. Matilda was granted a war pension of two pounds per fortnight and one pound for young Matilda.



It is difficult to explain how David's name appears on the Graceville memorial and yet does not appear on the Oxley Memorial, which lists a number of young men from the Oxley and Darra district.

Bourke, William Michael Sylvester

*#24 14th Light Horse Regiment/
52nd Battn*

William Bourke was born in August 1897 at Coraki on the Richmond River in Northern New South Wales. He attended the convent school at Ballina NSW but left school at 14 to help his mother raise his younger brothers and sisters. By the time of his enlistment, the family's address was "Darra, Ipswich Line."

William enlisted in Brisbane on the 3rd January 1916. His age at enlistment was given as 19 years and 5 months and his occupation as labourer. He was initially drafted into the 14th Light Horse with the regimental number of 24.

The 14th Light Horse 1st Reinforcements sailed from Sydney on H.M.A.T. "Beltana" and landed in Devonport, Plymouth Harbour, England in July 1916. Soon after disembarking, William was admitted to Devonport Hospital with mumps, where he celebrated his 20th birthday. On discharge, he was sent to Rolleston on Salisbury Plain and taken into the 13th Training Bn. After the Battle of Pozieres on the Somme in July – August 1916; there was a serious

shortage of manpower to replace the heavy losses of the AIF. In all likelihood, William was encouraged to transfer to the infantry.

On 28th November 1916, William arrived at the huge British Expeditionary Force Camp at Etaples, France known as the Bullring. On the 13th December he joined the 52nd Battalion. The 52nd was a newly formed battalion raised in Egypt in early 1916 as part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Division. The battalion was a mixture of Gallipoli veterans and new reinforcements. At this time William would have sown on his Unit patch, a circle of white over blue.

In the early months of 1917, the 52nd were involved in a huge offensive against the enemy in France, advancing as the Germans withdrew back towards the Hindenburg Line. On 3rd February 1917, just two months after joining the unit, William was wounded. Official records list the wound as "*slight, remained on duty.*" His mother, Helena Bourke, was informed by telegram that he had been wounded.

Less than two months later, William was killed in action at Lagnicourt in France. His mother wrote: "*My son was a runner for the company and was killed while taking an important message from headquarters and is buried at headquarters which I believe was somewhere about Lagnicourt(sic) as that was the day of the battle.*"

The official records list the death as K.I.A., Artillery Fire. His age at the time of his death is recorded as 20 years and 8 months.

His mother had perhaps received a letter from William's Commanding Officer or a mate relating the details of his death, and she was certain that he had been buried. Langincourt is located in the Somme Valley, near the more well known Bullecourt. In the years between William's death and the armistice, this land would be fought over two more times, and sadly the grave of William Bourke, if it existed, was lost.

His mother wrote repeatedly to the authorities requesting information of her son's resting place and requesting the return of any of his personal effects. Unfortunately she was not successful. Finally, six years after her son's death, the family received William's medals; The British Empire Medal and the Victory Medal. By this time the family had moved to the Summit, near Stanthorpe.

William Michael Bourke is commemorated on both the Oxley War Memorial and the Graceville War Memorial.

Bradnam, Victor Percy Bennett

#5349 12th Battalion

Victor Bradnam was a 30 year old painter who lived with his married sister, Mrs Young at "Rose Cottage" Jerrold Street, Graceville. At enlistment he gave his father; Mt T. Bradnam



of Kentish Town Road, London as his next of kin.

Victor enlisted in 31st January 1916 in Brisbane and was drafted as a reinforcement into the 12th Battalion. He departed from Sydney on the “Hawkes Bay” on 20th April and arrived in Weymouth, England on the 7th July.

On the 10th July 1916, just three days after arriving in England, Victor went absent without leave. He was confined to quarters for 7 days but during this time he was absent from four defaulter’s parades. He was given 168 hours of Field Punishment #2 (FP #2 meant that the defaulter would have to spend 2 hours in every 24 shackled. If taken literally, this would have meant that Victor was on FP#2 for 84 days; a totally improbable punishment. The recording of 168 hours is in all likelihood a misprint in his files).

In spite of the punishment meted out, Victor again went absent on 28th July. This time he was sentenced to detention in the stockade for 8 days. It must have been apparent to the military authorities that such a record of going absent was an indicator that something was seriously wrong. Regardless, Victor embarked for overseas on the 9th August and reached his battalion; which was in a rest area behind the lines in Belgium, on the 23rd August.

On the 2nd September 1916, it would appear from testimony later given at a court of inquiry

that Victor attempted suicide by gunshot. The regimental medical officer stated that in his opinion Victor had “lost his mentality”, and recommended that he be assessed for discharge. While waiting for the discharge process to take effect, the company commander ordered that Victor be placed on a suicide watch.

Victor was placed in the orderly room where he would sleep among a number of soldiers who would stand watch during the night. Evidence taken at the court of inquiry records that there was a shortage of candles and so sentries were instructed to light a candle only if they suspected any movement from Victor. In spite of the precautions, and in the view of the inquiry, a slack attitude by the sentries, Victor somehow obtained a rifle and cartridge and shot himself in his bunk, sustaining a fatal wound to the head in the early morning of 4th April 1916.

Victor was buried at the Klein Vierstraat British Cemetery with the Rev. Milne in attendance. The official version relayed to his family was that Victor had died of wounds, and the Roll of Honour at the Australian War memorial also states that he died of wounds. When his sister in Sherwood wrote requesting more details she was coolly informed that Victor had committed suicide.

The circumstances surrounding Victor’s death illustrate one of the less praiseworthy aspects of any war. Soldiers are often subjected to incredible stress

which results in self inflicted wounds or death. Instances of soldiers taking their own lives during World War 1 are rare but nonetheless certainly did happen. Most often this could be put down to what we would call post traumatic stress. In Victor’s case it is perhaps attributable to a pre-existing mental condition which was exacerbated by military life.

Cook, George Frederick

#2638 25th/9th Battalion

George Cook was 24 years old when he enlisted on 5th August 1915. He stated that he was married to Elsie Matilda Cook and they had one son, Leonard George. George’s address was Lockwood Street, Sherwood where he and his family were apparently living with his parents, Frederick and Elizabeth.

George reported he had been born in Maryborough, Victoria but his family obviously moved to Sherwood when he was young as his wife advised that George had attended Sherwood State School.

After a period of home leave, George embarked on the “Seeang Bee” in Brisbane on 21st October 1915 as a reinforcement for the 25th Battalion. By the time George arrived in Egypt the entire Australian Corps had been evacuated from Gallipoli and were in the process of expanding the size of the force from 2 divisions to 4 divisions. During this process



George was transferred to the 9th Battalion; another Queensland regiment, on 4th March 1916. The 9th Battalion arrived in Marseilles on 3rd April and proceeded north by train to the “nursery sector” around Armentieres to become accustomed to fighting on the Western Front.

In July 1916, Haig (Supreme British Commander on the Western Front) launched the Somme offensive. Casualties were enormous but Haig was determined to keep up the pressure. Three of the four Australian divisions in France were deployed to the Somme. (The other division, the 5th had already suffered a mauling at Fromelles). The Australians were to go into their first major action at Pozieres and the 1st Division; which included the 9th Battalion would be first into the line on 21st July. During the assault on the village of Pozieres, George received a gunshot wound to the arm and was eventually evacuated to a military hospital in Norwich, England to recover.

George rejoined the 9th Battalion on 17th November. The brigade at that time was manning trenches around Flers and Guedecourt. Haig had closed down the front in that area as winter approached. Rather than contending with the enemy, the Australians were faced with the severest winter in 40 years. Temperatures plummeted to -15 Centigrade, and the Australians were exposed to the elements without suitable winter clothing.

George reported sick in late January 1917 and was evacuated to Reading War Hospital with nephritis (trench fever). His wife was informed that he was in hospital and telegrams sent on the 14th and 27th February informed her that George was “progressing favourably” and “improving.” On 15th March, George was still progressing favourably.

George’s condition took a turn for the worse in late March. He was admitted to Alderney Isolation Hospital in Dorset with severe cerebro spinal fever (meningitis). George lingered for three weeks but finally died on 24th April. He was buried the same day in Wareham Military Cemetery with Chaplain Harper presiding and a military escort in attendance.

George’s widow was entitled to a funeral benefit from the Loyal Sherwood Forest Lodge of the M.U.I.O.O.F. (Oddfellows Lodge or Rechabites) and a widow’s pension amounting to three pounds per fortnight for herself and young Leonard. By the time that war medals were being distributed, Elsie had remarried (Mrs Rossner) and was living in Booval, Ipswich.

George’s father, Frederick enlisted soon after his son on the 27th September 1915. He was almost 50 years old but was nevertheless drafted into a remounts unit and shipped off to Egypt. Soon after George’s death, Frederick was slated for discharge on the grounds that he was “over 45.” If age was going to be a factor, perhaps it would have been prudent to

refuse Frederick at enlistment rather than ship him all the way to Egypt for the decision to be made.

Both George and Frederick Cook are commemorated on the Roll of Honour in the Sherwood Methodist (now Uniting) Church.

Dodd, Alfred Searle

#3003 49th Battalion

Alfred Dodd was born in Maryborough, Qld and attended school in Townsville. He presented himself for enlistment on the 26th September 1916 armed with written permission from his parents; Susan and Ambrose Dodd of Appel Street, Chelmer, and a letter from the Commanding Officer Naval Reserve Brisbane stating that the Navy gave its permission for Alfred to enlist. Although he had stated he had 4 years experience in the Navy Reserve, according to his father he was primarily a bandsman. Alfred stated that he was 19 years old and employed as a mercer.

One month after enlisting, Alfred embarked with reinforcements for the 49th Battalion on the “Marathon” in Brisbane. Such a short period between enlistment and embarkation illustrates the desperate need for reinforcements on the western front after the mauling that three Australian divisions received at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm in July and August of 1916.



Alfred disembarked in Plymouth on 9th January 1917 and was sent to the 12th Training Battalion at Codford. Four months later he was posted overseas travelling via the camps at Etaples to Belgium. He arrived at his unit on 13th May 1917.

After the failure of the Somme campaign in 1916, to gain the breakthrough he so desperately wanted, General Sir Douglas Haig shifted his attention to Flanders and the Ypres salient. His plan called for a great offensive to begin in front of the village of Messines. On the 7th June 1917; 19 huge underground mines exploded all along the front, followed by an intense artillery barrage and an infantry advance of some 800 metres. The 49th Battalion as part of the 4th Division AIF jumped the bags at 9:00am to advance across the shattered ground.

Sometime during the day, Alfred Dodd was killed in no man's land. Red Cross reports of his death are conflicting with some witnesses claiming he was hit by a sniper and others claiming he was struck by an artillery shell. Given that many of the witnesses were not interviewed until several months later, and were in hospital recovering from wounds or gassing; it is not surprising that memories become faded or soldier's identities are mixed up. Regardless of his fate, Alfred's body was never recovered. He had been with the battalion 25 days.

At war's end, an imposing memorial was constructed at the eastern gate of the city wall in Ypres, Belgium. Known as the Menin Gate, the names of some 55,000 Commonwealth soldiers who perished in Flanders and have no known grave are inscribed on the tablets there. Every evening since the gate's construction in 1923, the last post is played at 8:00pm (except for the years of occupation in WW2) by local volunteers to honour the sacrifice made 100 years ago.

Three months before Alfred's death, his elder sister Alice Maud Dodd enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service. She saw service in Egypt and Salonika aboard a hospital ship and returned to Australia in 1919.

Douglas, Alfred Lionel

#3032 26th/ 48th Battalion

When completing the Roll of Honour Circular in 1920, Mrs Amy Douglas of Mary Street, Sherwood reported that her son, Alfred, had been born in Silkot, Punjab, India. She stated he attended school in Nottingham, England and had qualifications in railway construction and marine engineering. By the time of his enlistment on 24th August 1915, Alfred was 22 years old and employed as a fireman on the railways. Alfred's father had died in 1910 and as a dutiful son, Alfred allotted four fifths of his pay to his mother.

Alfred was drafted as a reinforcement for the 26th

Battalion and embarked on the "Itonus" in Brisbane on 30th December 1915. While the ship was waiting to take on West Australian reinforcements in Fremantle, Alfred went AWL for 26 hours and was fined 2 days pay.

By the time Alfred arrived in Egypt, the entire Australian force had been evacuated from Gallipoli and was in the process of doubling its size, by creating two new infantry divisions to supplement the two that had been on Gallipoli. Rather than joining the 26th Battalion, Alfred was transferred to the 48th Battalion on 9th March. The 48th was predominantly a West Australian battalion and there were so many members of the 48th from the Leane family (including the battalion commander) that the battalion was referred to as the Joan of Arc Battalion (Maid of Orleans; made of all Leanes). The 48th was part of the newly created 4th Division AIF.

After brigade training in Egypt the 48th embarked for France; arriving in Marseilles on 19th June. Like all of the newly arrived Australian battalions, the 48th travelled by train to Hazebrouk where they were billeted. The battalion war diary for the remainder of the month is primarily concerned with the weather (it was wet) and the tardiness in receiving officer reinforcements from ANZAC Corps.

On 1st July 1916, Haig (Supreme British Commander on the Western Front)



launched the Somme offensive. Casualties were enormous but Haig was determined to keep up the pressure. Three of the four Australian divisions in France were deployed to the Somme. The Australians were to go into their first major action at Pozieres and the 1st and 2nd Divisions were put into the line in late July. After these two divisions had exhausted themselves in gaining the high ground above the village, the 4th Division was brought up to defend the ground captured.

Pozieres is renowned for the intensity of the artillery barrages laid down by the German defenders; and the 48th Battalion was to suffer the most of any of the Australian units. Between the 5th and the 7th August, the 48th suffered 598 casualties (out of a nominal strength of 950); over 100 of which were killed with the rest wounded. At the roll call on the 8th August after being pulled out of the line; apart from the casualties listed above, there were 76 missing. Among the missing was Alfred Douglas.

Red Cross Wounded and Missing reports failed to point definitively to Alfred's fate, and there was even a search of prisoner of war records to see if he had been captured. It was not until a court of inquiry was held in early 1917 that Alfred was officially listed as Killed in Action. The authorities were tardy in providing the necessary death certificates to Alfred's mother which prompted her

to write to Base Records; in addition to two letters from Mutual Life Assurance with a similar request. Amy Douglas's circumstances no doubt made her rather dependant on the income that would come from the life policy as well as the war gratuity and a war widow's pension.

As late as 1927, the imperial War Graves Commission was writing to Amy to inform her that searches of the battlefield had failed to uncover her son's remains. In 1933, The Australian Government resolved to erect a lasting memorial to all the Australians who had fallen in France and had no known grave. The Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux across the Somme from Pozieres was officially dedicated by King George VI in 1938. Alfred Douglas is commemorated on the memorial tablets with some 10,000 others at Villers Bretonneux.

Dunn, William Knox

#5571 2th Battalion

William Dunn was born into a Scots Presbyterian family in Dublin. Both his father, James Knox Dunn and his brother Ralph Knox Dunn shared the middle name of the founder of the Presbyterian Church, as did William.

The family emigrated to Australia when William was a young boy as his father reported William attending both Sherwood State School and Brisbane Normal School. The

family home was "Keppoch" Berry Street Graceville. Keppoch is the ancestral home of the Macdonald Clan in the Scottish Highlands and is further indication of the family's strong Caledonian roots.

William enlisted on the 25th January 1916. At the time he stated his occupation as stockman and gave Keppoch as his home address; although other documents indicate that he may have been working in the Central Queensland area prior to enlistment. William's younger brother Ralph, who was just 18, had enlisted in September 1915, and it is not unreasonable to think that the family requested William; who was 31 years old, to enlist also to keep an eye on his brother. Fortuitously both brothers were posted to the 25th Battalion.

William embarked on the "Clan McGilvray" in Brisbane on 7th September 1916 and arrived in Plymouth on 2nd November. By the 21st November he was in a training battalion at Rolleston. On 31st July William was finally taken on strength by the 25th Battalion.

The 25th Battalion were in a rest area when William arrived, recovering from the arduous battles of 1916. The billets were in the Reniscure district near Hazebrouk and training consisted of practicing infantry advancement by company, battalion and brigade. It was also harvest time and up to 100 men a day were detailed to help local farmers get in the summer wheat.



The third battle of Ypres (often referred to as Passchendaele) began in June 1917 with mine explosions and artillery barrages at Messines. Plumer (the British Corps Commander) adopted a bite and hold strategy to continue the offensive east from Ypres towards the Passchendaele Ridge and by September, the 25th Battalion were brought up to the line to continue the offensive along the Menin Road. As the battalion moved up, William reported to a Field Ambulance with trench fever (nephritis). He was evacuated to the 58th General Hospital at Rouen and then spent the next three months in convalescent depots before returning to his unit which was by this time wintering in Messines.

The 25th Battalion remained in the Messines area for several months, which was relatively quiet. When Ludendorff launched Operation Michael on 21st March 1918 on the Somme, the British Army stationed there could not withstand the advance of German shock troops and beat a hasty retreat surrendering all the ground won on the Somme in 1916.

Haig realized that Michael had the capacity to split the British and French, capture the ports of Boulogne, Dunkirk and Havre and possibly win the war. To halt the German advance, Haig called on the Australian divisions resting in Flanders. By this time the five Australian Divisions were now under the command

of Lieutenant General John Monash in a single corps. Monash rushed the third and fourth divisions to the Somme and succeeded in stemming the German tide at Villers Bretonneux on Anzac Day 1918. In order to buy time for the counter offensive, the remainder of the Australian Corps were brought to the Somme in early May.

The 25th Battalion, as part of the 2nd Division was tasked with holding the line in the strategically vital triangle formed by the confluence of the Ancre and the Somme Rivers. On the 28th May, it was reported that William Dunn had been killed in action.

Red Cross reports reveal that William had received two gunshot wounds to the back while digging a sap perpendicular to the front line trench. He was buried in the Heilly Cemetery near Ville-sur-Ancre (the village on the Ancre) with a wooden cross erected. At the end of the war, William's remains were reinterred in the much larger Ribemont Communal Cemetery four miles from Albert. His family were provided with photographs of his grave.

William's younger brother, Ralph was fortunate to survive the war. He was wounded on five occasions; the most serious being multiple gunshot wounds and a fractured skull. He returned to Australia in the middle of 1919. William's parents James and Elizabeth left Berry Street in 1922 to live at Wickham Terrace.

Enright, Michael (Joseph)

#2263 25th Battalion

Michael Enright was born in December 1896 and attended Oxley State School as a boy. His attestation papers indicate that he enlisted on 12 August 1915. At the time he was only 18 years and nine months and so needed his parent's permission. His file contains a handwritten letter in a childlike script (probably written by Michael himself) which reads:

Dear Sir

I give my consent that my son Michael Enright may enlist in the expiditionary (sic) forces.

The letter is signed by his mother, Mrs S. Enright, in an even shakier hand. His enlistment papers indicate that his father was deceased and that he was the sole support for his widowed mother, allotting 3 shillings from his pay of 5 shillings per day to his mother whilst he was in the army. Like his mother who from her handwriting seems to have had difficulty with writing, Michael would appear to have had only a limited education. He took two attempts to sign his enlistment papers, originally spelling his name incorrectly.

Michael was drafted into the 3rd reinforcements of the 25th Battalion with a regimental number of 2263. The 25th Battalion had been raised at Enoggera in early 1915 as part of the 2nd Division of the AIF. The Battalion was comprised almost exclusively



The Graceville War Memorial

of Queensland volunteers. When Michael enlisted, the 25th were about to reinforce the 1st Division at Gallipoli. He would join the battalion proper after the evacuation of Gallipoli as reinforcement at Ismailia in Egypt in February 1916.

The Battalion disembarked in Marseilles from Egypt on 14 March 1916 and proceeded by train north to Armentieres near the Belgian border. They were the first Australian battalion in France. This was a fairly quiet sector on the western front and the British commanders used this sector to initiate new battalions into the business of trench warfare.

General Haig, Supreme British commander on the Western Front was planning a big push in the south of the British sector through the Somme River valley. It was to be the largest battle of the war so far, and was timed to commence on the 1st of July 1916. The attack was a disaster, with the British suffering 60,000 casualties on the first day. In spite of this, Haig was determined to push on and the 1st, 2nd and 4th Australian Divisions were moved south from the Armentieres sector to Albert to take part in the Somme offensive. Whilst waiting to go into the line, Michael Enright went Absent Without Leave (AWL) for two days. He was disciplined and given 14 days Field Punishment No. 2, but this sentence was reduced (no doubt because the battalion was about to go into battle) to 14 days pay withheld.

The second division's objective was to take a blockhouse which had been built on the site of a windmill in the village of Pozieres, half way between Albert and Bapaume. The windmill occupied a position on the highest part of the ridge, was behind two lines of trenches, and provided a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. The attack, the first major offensive by the 25th Battalion since arriving in France, was to begin just after midnight on the 29th July. The attack was a failure, with the 25th Battalion suffering 343 casualties (from a strength of a little less than 1000 men). On the site of the windmill today is a commemorative stone which reads:

"The ruin of the Pozieres windmill which lies here was the centre of the struggle on this part of the Somme Battlefield in July and August 1916. It was captured by Australian troops who fell more thickly on this ridge than on any other battlefields of the war."

Sadly, one of those who "fell more thickly" was Private Michael Enright. He was originally listed as "Missing" on 29 July 1916. His mother, as his next of kin, was informed that Michael was missing in August 1916 and she began to receive a war pension in September of that year.

In March 1917, a Mr William Ridings of Oxley, Queensland wrote to Army Base Records in Melbourne with an unusual account. Perhaps the fact that

the letter was not written by Michael's mother is another indication of her limited ability with writing. Mr Ridings states that in respect of Michael Enright "*his mother has heard that he is in England and that he is insane.*" According to the writer, Mrs Enright heard this story from another 25th Battalion mother whose son reported that one of his mates said that "*one of his mates, Mick Enright, was in hospital and was completely mad.*"

The army records office dismissed the initial claim as having no substance but Mr Ridings somehow obtained the letter from the 25th Battalion man (Pte John (Jack) Brown) and sent it to base records. Base records pointed out in their own communications that the claim is unlikely to have substance as if Private Enright was still alive, he would have by now had some communication with his family. Also there were no records of him having been admitted to hospital in England or elsewhere.

Finally 12 months after the Battle of Pozieres, while the Battalion was enjoying a well earned rest, a Board of Inquiry was convened and it was determined (probably by questioning men from Michael's Lewis Gun Section who took part in the attack) that Pte Michael Enright was Killed in Action on 29 July 1916 at Pozieres. By this time, there were no personal effects found to send to his mother. She was informed that her son was now Killed in Action.



At the end of the war, next of kin were requested to supply some information for the National Roll of Honour. If Sarah Enright did so, the document has not survived.

The 14-15 Star, British Empire Medal and Victory Medal were sent to Sarah in 1921 along with a pamphlet entitled "Where the Australians rest." Sadly for Sarah, the pamphlet would have been of little comfort as her son, like the other 11,000 Australian soldiers killed in France has no known resting place. He is, instead, commemorated on the Australian National memorial at Villers Bretonneux

Michael is also commemorated in the name of Enright Street, opposite the lower oval of Oxley State School on Oxley Road.

Fisher, Joseph William #880 9th Battalion

Joseph (Joe) Fisher was born in November 1891, the second son of a prominent mining family in Charters Towers. His father, Roger James Fisher had been a coal miner in the Cumberland District of Northern England who had emigrated to Queensland. Roger became part owner of the Cumberland Gold Mining Company on the Etheridge Field near Charters Towers and by the time that Joe was born, his father and uncle were well established as prominent members of the community. Roger was a crack rifle shot winning the Queen's Shoot in

1901, and was also the Colour Sergeant in the Kennedy Regiment (A volunteer colonial militia). With such a pedigree, it is not surprising that young Joe followed in his father's footsteps.

After attending school in Charters Towers, Joe became an engine driver, stationary (stationary steam engines powered the hoists and battery in underground mines) and also joined the Kennedy Regiment. By 1913 when the family moved to Raceview near Ipswich, Joe had also been promoted to Colour Sergeant of the regiment. Joe resigned from the Kennedy regiment to join his family in Ipswich.

At the outbreak of war, Joe was employed as an engine driver (stationary) at the Aberdare Colliery at Raceview, near Ipswich, where his father was the owner. On 21 August 1914, just two weeks after war was declared, Joe enlisted. He was drafted into the 9th Battalion, one of the first battalions raised as part of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division of the AIF. With his previous military training in the Kennedy Regiment, Joe was promoted to Lance Corporal one week after enlistment. The battalion sailed for Egypt in September of 1914 and whilst on board ship, Joe requested that he be allowed to revert to the rank of Private in a different company. Such requests were common as soldiers wanted to be with their mates. Joe was allowed to switch to "C" company as a private, but was then immediately promoted to

Lance Corporal again in his new company.

The AIF disembarked in Egypt for training and by April 1915, were preparing for the landings at Gallipoli on the 25th. The 9th Battalion were among the first group ashore, landing at 4:50am, near the promontory known as Gaba Tepe, to the south of Anzac Cove.

Just five days after the landing, L/Cpl Joseph Fisher was listed as Killed in Action at Gaba Tepe. An obituary notice appeared in the Northern Miner (Charters Towers) in June 1915 stating in part:

"-----he volunteered at once, for there was north country blood in the boy, moving with the gallant ninth battalion."

Information from the Gallipoli battlefield was sketchy and having been advised of their son's death, Joe's parents sought further information. Joe's file in the National Archives contains an intriguing letter from the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department to the Secretary of Department of Defence. The letter states that Joe's father, Roger Fisher had written to the Prime Minister in June 1915 seeking details of his son's death. The letter also states that Roger Fisher is "well known" to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister at the time was Andrew Fisher. It is possible that Roger Fisher and Andrew Fisher though not brothers were related; and there were certainly many similarities in their histories.



Both arrived in Queensland from England in 1885, perhaps on the same ship. Both had experience in coal mining in the UK (in Cumberland and Ayrshire), and both became involved in both coal and gold mining in Queensland. Andrew Fisher worked in the Burrum Coalfields and on the Gympie Goldfields as an engine driver (stationary), the same occupation as Joe Fisher and Joe's elder brother, Roger Jnr. Andrew Fisher came into labour politics through the formation of the Engine Driver's Union. During the federal election campaign of 1914, Fisher as leader of the Australian Labor Party, famously pledged to defend the empire "*to the last man and the last shilling.*"

Regardless of the intervention of the Prime Minister, no further details were able to be provided to the family. There was no recorded burial. In March 1916, official confirmation of the death of Joe along with a brown paper parcel containing photos, cards, a pocket book, comb and mirror, beads and coins and Egyptian ornaments was sent to the family home in Raceview.

Up until this point in the narrative, there is little connection with Joe and the Oxley District. Sometime before 1922, Roger snr gave up his interest in the coal mine at Ipswich and moved to William Street, Sherwood. At around the same time (1921), Joe's elder brother, Roger jnr,

was elected as a councillor in the former Sherwood Shire Council. His occupation was listed as engine driver (stationary) at Foggitt Jones Bacon Factory (located at Oxley) and he lived in Station Road, Oxley. It is perhaps this connection that saw Joseph's name appear on the Oxley Memorial. In 1931, Roger jnr was drowned in Oxley Creek during floods, whilst attempting to cross the Oxley Golf Course.

Lance Corporal Joseph William Fisher, 9th Battalion is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; The War Memorial and Roll of Honour Charters Towers and the Australian National Memorial, Lone Pine, Gallipoli along with 4,900 other Australians who have no known grave.

Fielding, Robert Alfred

#4164 15th/ 47th Battalion

Robert Fielding was 43 years old when he enlisted on 15th October 1915. He stated his occupation as insurance inspector and gave his address as Dutton Park. He was married to Margaret but had no children. Robert named Margaret as his next of kin and she had moved to Sherwood while he was away to live with Robert's brother, Thomas, who was the Headmaster at Sherwood State School.

Given Robert's age and his background, it would seem that he was best suited to an administrative job; but as was often the case with military

authorities, such factors were obviously ignored and Robert was drafted as a private in the reinforcements for the 15th Infantry Battalion. He embarked on the "Kyarra" in Brisbane on 3rd January 1916 and arrived at the Australian Camp at Serapeum in Egypt on 19th February.

The Australian forces were undergoing a huge expansion in Egypt in early 1916. Original battalions were split to provide a nucleus of Gallipoli veterans for two new battalions. The 15th Battalion, to which Robert had been originally assigned, was split to create the 47th Battalion. Robert, along with a number of new reinforcements were added to the 47th to bring it up to strength.

The 47th Battalion would earn a rather questionable reputation in the AIF. It was widely reported that when officers and NCOs were being assigned, the commanding officer of the 15th took the opportunity to unload a number of men who had proved less than worthy of command. In addition, the numbers of ordinary soldiers were made up of men from hospitals in Egypt, VD wards and in some cases defaulters from the stockade. One historian described the makeup of the 47th as a "bunch of toffs and wasters and street loafers." It would be interesting to know what Robert Fielding made of this.

The 47th Battalion was one of the last battalions to leave Egypt for France, but not before the unit disgraced



itself by not showing respect to the Prince of Wales when he inspected the troops. On the voyage to Marseilles, one of the senior officers drank himself senseless and would be eventually dismissed from the service. Alcohol continued to be a problem for the battalion when the first pay was issued in Northern France.

As part of the 4th Division, the 47th Battalion was moved to the Somme in July of 1916 to support Haig's grand offensive at Pozieres. During the Pozieres campaign, Robert Fielding was reported as Missing in Action. His wife was duly informed and enquiries began to be made into the circumstances of his disappearance. Witnesses who were interviewed in various hospitals all reported that Robert was with the unit when they were evacuated and that he was quite well. Margaret Fielding even received a telegram from Robert dated 29th August (some three weeks after he had allegedly gone missing) stating that he was enjoying a "splendid leave" in England. Surprisingly this period of leave is not recorded on Robert's file.

It was only after the Commanding Officer of the 47th sent a telegram to Australian HQ in September stating that Robert was with his unit that the matter was cleared up. Robert had been confused with another man in the 47th, Harold Fielding who had indeed gone missing. How such an error could be made is quite difficult

to understand, given that witnesses described Robert Fielding as tall, thin, with grey hair and a grizzled moustache. Harold Fielding was 18 years old with red hair.

Undoubtedly the experiences of Pozieres and Mouquet Farm rattled the entire Australian force that had fought there. The three divisions sustained a total of 23,000 casualties and only a prolonged rest period and reinforcement would return the units to fighting strength.

In October 1916, while still in a rest area, the 47th would be again tainted with ill discipline linked to alcohol. Three officers; Judd, Odgers and Koch were found fall down drunk at the Sweet Lavender Tea Rooms. All three were court martialled (Koch had a previous charge of drunkenness from the boat voyage to Marseilles) and dismissed from the army. A new commanding officer was appointed to tighten discipline before the battalion went back into the line at Benafray Wood at Flers. Robert Fielding, as a strict Methodist, was no doubt horrified at the behaviour of his superiors.

The winter of 1916/17 was extremely harsh, particularly for troops manning the front lines. Mud and slush covered the bottom of the trenches to a depth of several feet. Neither side was interested in attacking raids but artillery continued to bombard positions, almost as a matter of honour. The 47th Battalion war diary records

that while holding the line during the month of November 1916, 13 other ranks and one officer were killed; all from shell fire. Among those killed was Robert Fielding. He is buried, in company with two other 47th Battalion men who were all killed on 28th November 1916, in the Bull's Road Military Cemetery near Flers.

Unlike the incident in August at Pozieres, it would seem that Margaret did not make any enquiries with the Red Cross into the nature of Robert's death. Margaret received her husband's personal effects which included a scarf and mittens as well as a testament and two gospels. From February 1917, Margaret received a war widow's pension of two pounds per fortnight.

John Howard Fielding

#747 15th Battalion

According to the Roll of Honour Circular completed by his father, John Fielding had been born in Boonah in 1893. By the time he was ready to attend school, his father who was a school head teacher had transferred to Bald Hills and it was there that John began his education. His father also reported that John had trained as a teacher, probably under the pupil teacher scheme. By the time that John enlisted in October 1914 however, he stated on his attestation papers that he was the Clerk of Petty Sessions, presumably at the Brisbane Magistrates Court.



The Graceville War Memorial

John epitomised the stereotype of those first recruits into the AIF. He was 21 years old, single and six feet tall. He gave his address as Bald Hills and the address of his next of kin, his father Thomas, as State School, Sherwood. John was drafted into the 15th battalion as a private on 26th October 1914.

The 15th battalion was commanded by Lt. Col. W. H. (Bull) Cannan, a career officer with the Citizens Forces before the war, and a man with strong connections to the Sherwood District. The 15th Battalion was primarily composed of Queenslanders with one company being Tasmanians. The remainder of the 4th brigade was made up of a battalion from NSW (13th Btn), a battalion from Victoria (14th Btn which was later known as Jacka's mob after its most decorated soldier, Albert Jacka who won a VC at Lone Pine and a MC at Pozieres), and a combined West Australian / South Australian battalion (16th Btn). Given that the brigade was made up of such widely distributed units, training in their home states was cut short and the brigade assembled in Melbourne under the Brigade Commander John Monash before embarking on the "Ceramic" for Egypt on 22nd December 1914.

The battalion arrived in Egypt on 3rd February 1915 and went into camp at Heliopolis outside Cairo. The first contingent of Australians had been in Egypt for two months and had been formed into an Australian

Corps. The later arrivals were combined with a number of New Zealand units into a second corps, which was given the telegraphic code "ANZAC". Training in the desert continued through February and March. On the 12th April 1915, the 4th Brigade travelled by train to Alexandria where they boarded a transport bound for Mudros Harbour on the island of Lemnos. The troops of the 15th remained on board their transports, practising boarding boats and horse barges.

The landing on the beach at Gallipoli began at 4:40am by troops of the 3rd Brigade. The 4th Brigade did not begin landing until 5:00pm; by which time the Australians had advanced to the second ridge.

Monash took his brigade up a deep gully, which was later named Monash Valley, towards a precarious position at the head of the gully which would eventually be named Quinn's post after the commander of C Company of the 15th. Quinn's Post was the furthest position occupied on the first day and remained so throughout the campaign. The trenches at Quinn's were right on the edge of an escarpment and only a few metres from the Turkish positions. Any counter attacks mounted by the Turks would be aimed at Quinn's.

It was reported that on 30th April, John Fielding was killed at Quinn's Post. Reports indicate that the Reverend Wray officiated at the burial. Standard procedure in notifying next of kin was for a telegram

to be sent to the Commanding Officer of the nearest Military District who would then arrange for a clergyman to inform the relatives. Since John had listed his religion as Methodist, this task probably fell to the Minister at the Sherwood Methodist Church.

The Australian military authorities were unprepared for the casualties that resulted in the first weeks at Gallipoli. The process of providing certificates of death was chronically delayed. Soldier's estates could not be finalised until death certificates were issued, particularly if the soldier had not made a will (which John Fielding had not). In an effort to resolve the matter Thomas Fielding engaged Morris, Fletcher and Stevens Solicitors (Later Morris, Fletcher and Cross) to deal with the authorities. John's file in the National Archives contains numerous items of correspondence relating to the winding up of his estate and the distribution of his deferred pay. Almost a year after his death, John's father received two parcels of his son's personal effects, some photographs, a cardboard box and an Identity disc. In 1915, procedures had not been put in place to photograph graves as occurred later in the war. For many of the families of those killed at Gallipoli, the resting place of their loved ones remained a mystery.

At the conclusion of the war, the Australian government sent a team of war grave



investigators to Gallipoli to consolidate burials into cemeteries and to provide permanent headstones. Although records indicated that John Fielding had been buried at Quinn's Post, by 1921 no trace of his remains was located. Instead a headstone was placed in the Quinn's Post cemetery with the inscription "Believed to be buried in this cemetery".

Thomas Fielding, who had advised that his address was now Thallon Street, Sherwood, received John's Medals; the 1914/15 Star, The Empire Medal and the Victory Medal as well as a memorial scroll and a memorial plaque.

Gibbings, Alfred John

#3142 47th Battalion

Alfred Gibbings was born at Chauleigh in England and emigrated to Australia with his parents when he was 15. His father was in receipt of a British War Pension. At the time of Alfred's enlistment, his family address was given as Devondairy, Oxley. His mother stated that Alfred was engaged in farming and dairying but other documents give his occupation as bread carter.

Alfred presented himself for enlistment at the recruiting depot in Adelaide Street, Brisbane on 3rd November 1916, just five days after the defeat of the first conscription referendum. On his attestation papers, he stated that he had been refused enlistment previously with the reason

"chest: under standard." His medical details gave his height as just 5 foot 2 inches (157 cms) and his chest measurement as 31 inches. He was 19 years and six months old. The fact that he was now fit for induction is testament to the perilous state in which the AIF now found itself, in meeting the need for more men in Belgium and France.

Alfred was sent to Sydney as part of the 8th reinforcements for the 47th Battalion. He left Sydney two days before Christmas, and arrived in Plymouth, England on 3rd March 1917. Alfred was posted to the 12th Training Battalion and a fortnight later was in hospital with mumps for 18 days.

By 20th June, Alfred was in France and on the 10th of July he joined his battalion. In October of 1917, the 47th Battalion were engaged in the battle for the ridge on which sat the village of Passchendaele to the west of Ypres in Belgium. This would be the bloodiest battle of the war.

Red Cross reports of several eye witness accounts indicate that Alfred Gibbings was shot in the head by a sniper on 11 October 1917 whilst recovering a Lewis gun from a shell hole. He died instantly. The witnesses then state that the survivors of the group had to withdraw, leaving Alfred's body behind. During the next few days of the battle after Passchendaele was finally taken, Alfred's body was recovered. An official document

records he was buried "1000 yards south of Passchendaele and 1000 yards northeast of Zonnebeke."

At the conclusion of the war, the remains of soldiers buried around the old battlefield were collected and reinterred in what would become the largest War Cemetery in the world; Tyne Cot. Alfred was buried there along with 12,000 other Commonwealth soldiers, 1,368 of whom are Australians. In addition, the memorial panels at Tyne Cot contain the names of almost 34,000 soldiers killed in Flanders and who have no known grave. This 34,000 is in addition to the 55,000 commonwealth servicemen with no known grave commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres only a few kilometres away.

In 1922, Alfred's parents received his medals, the Empire Medal and the Victory Medal, along with a commemorative plaque and scroll and a photograph of his grave at Tyne Cot.

Pte Alfred John Gibbings, 47th Battalion is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane.

Griffin, William

#442 15th Battalion

William Griffin was born in Brisbane and attended Indooroopilly State School. He had several years service in the military cadets and was apprenticed into the drapery trade. At the time of his enlistment on 26th



The Graceville War Memorial

October 1914, William was 35 years old and employed as a commercial traveller in the drapery business. He stated his address as Graceville near Brisbane and named his mother; Emma Griffin, as his next of kin. His father George was deceased.

William was drafted into the 15th Battalion which was being raised at Bell's Paddock, Enoggera. He would have felt quite at home in the 15th as there were a number of Graceville men in the unit, including the commanding officer Lt Col "Bull" Cannan and his brother Duncan. A sergeant in the 15th; Edwin Little, the son of a clergyman from Ipswich would also appear in the story of William Griffin. Edwin Little would unveil the Graceville War Memorial in the presence of "Bull" Cannan in 1920. (see introduction above).

While in camp, William was absent for a number of hours. He had been getting a tattoo and was admonished. The 15th sailed for Melbourne to join the other battalions in the 4th Brigade and to begin training under the Brigade Commander, John Monash.

Eventually the 4th Brigade sailed from Melbourne on 22nd December 1914 and arrived in Egypt on 3rd February 1915, going into camp at Heliopolis outside Cairo. The first contingent of Australians had been in Egypt for two months and had been formed into an Australian Corps. The later arrivals were combined with a number of New Zealand units

into a second corps, which was given the telegraphic code "ANZAC". Training in the desert continued through February and March. On the 12th April 1915, the 4th Brigade travelled by train to Alexandria where they boarded a transport bound for Mudros Harbour on the island of Lemnos. The troops of the 15th remained on board their transports, practising boarding boats and horse barges.

The landing on the beach at Gallipoli began at 4:40am by troops of the 3rd Brigade. The 4th Brigade did not begin landing until 5:00pm; by which time the Australians had advanced to the second ridge. The 15th Battalion dug in at a precarious position at the head of Monash Valley. The situation at Anzac in the first few weeks was extremely dangerous. The Turks were determined to throw the invaders back into the sea and vicious hand to hand fighting ensued as both sides battled to gain ground. The Turks had had months to prepare their defences but for the Australians, trenches and dugouts had to be constructed in haste, often under heavy enemy fire.

On 10th May 1915, a section of trench near Pope's Hill collapsed and William Griffin was killed. Such was the intensity of the fighting at the time that William was not buried at Beach Cemetery for five days. On the 23rd May, a general ceasefire was arranged so that both Turk and Australian could

retrieve and bury their dead. The 15th Battalion CO took the opportunity to conduct a Court of Inquiry into the death of William Griffin. In addition to Company Commander Duncan Cannan, the court heard expert testimony from Lt Newbolt of the NZ Engineers who advised that the ground was geologically unstable and prone to slip. Because the trench had been dug at night, and with great speed, it would have been impossible for anyone without extensive geological experience to have foreseen the danger. The court concluded that no person was to blame for the collapse and it should be deemed an accident.

William's mother was informed that he had been Accidentally Killed on 10th May 1915 and had been buried at Beach Cemetery with the Rev, Power in attendance.

Soon after the notification of William's death, his brother in law, Mr R.A. Wheeler wrote to base records questioning the date of William's death as he (Mr Wheeler) had received a postcard dated 17th May (one week after his death). The official response was that the army records were correct and William probably made a mistake with the date on the postcard.

William's mother was informed in 1917 that he had been buried in Shrapnel Valley Cemetery but this is incorrect. Commonwealth War Graves Commission records show that William Griffin is buried at Beach Cemetery on the



southern point of Anzac Cove overlooking the sea. He is buried close to John Kirkpatrick Simpson (of donkey fame).

Hagger, Sidney Edwin

#182 41st Battalion

Sidney Hagger was born in Charters Towers and attended school there. At the time of his enlistment, his family had moved to Oxley where Sidney was employed as a carter.

Sidney enlisted on 17 Nov 1915 and was drafted into the 41st Battalion which was in camp at Bell's Paddock, Enoggera. While in training, Sidney was charged with being *"inattentive on parade and making a false statement"* for which he received 48 hours Confined to Barracks. He was again on a charge when he overstayed home leave, prior to embarkation; this time he received 7 days CB and forfeiture of six days pay (the period he overstayed).

The 41st sailed from Sydney on 18 May 1916. Sidney was again in trouble on the transport, being charged with *"breaking away from quarters at sea."* This time he was penalised 20 days pay and had to *"make restitution of three shillings."*

After arriving in England and being sent to training, Sidney was again on a charge; *"Conduct prejudicial to the good order and discipline"* and *"Insolence to an NCO."* He endured another seven days CB.

Sidney arrived in France on 29 November 1916, almost 12 months after enlistment and joined the 41st as a reinforcement. By April of 1917, the 41st was in the frontline at Ploegsteert (soldiers called it Plugstreet) just across the Belgian border from Armentieres in Northern France. Official documents record that Sidney Hagger died of wounds on 15 April 1917 .

The normal procedure followed when a soldier died was to contact the appropriate clergyman in the soldier's home town, who would then inform the next of kin personally.

Sidney's sister, in writing to seek more information about her brother's death informed Base Records that in the case of Sidney, the *"notification sent to Minister of God, who calmly readdressed it to my mother. The shock was terrible as we did not even know that he was wounded."*

His sister had perhaps assumed that Sidney was wounded in a hospital for some time and failed to recover. It is more likely that he was recovered from the battlefield by Field Ambulance stretcher but died at an Aid Post or Casualty Clearing Station within hours.

In February 1918, the Hagger family received Sidney's personal effects: Letters, eight fountain pens (one broken), wallet, badges, photos, coins and a ring. Sidney was

buried in the Berks Cemetery extension in Flanders near Ploegsteert Wood. A photograph of his grave was sent to his parents in 1920 and his war medals were sent in 1922, by which time the family had left the Oxley district.

Hodge, Harold Frederick

#3166 52nd Battalion

Harold Hodge was born in Rosewood where his father, Robert Samuel Hodge was engaged in the rural produce business. He attended the local school before attending Southport High School (now The Southport School) along with his brother John who was twelve months younger than Harold. Both boys were members of the school cadets.

In 1909, Robert Hodge was elected to the Queensland Lower House as the Member for Burnett. Robert was subsequently elected as the member for Nanango, a position he held until 1920. As a member of the Legislative Assembly, Robert obviously decided that he needed a Brisbane residence when parliament was sitting and the family moved to "The Laurels" Corinda. (Not to be confused with a famous property of the same name at Chelmer)

By 1916, both Harold and John were working as station hands in Central Queensland. They both enlisted on the same day, 28th July 1916 in Emerald.



Harold was 19 and John was 18. Since both were under 21 they would have needed their parent's written permission, but no such documents are evident in either file.

The brothers travelled to Brisbane, no doubt visiting their family at Corinda before reporting to Enoggera where they were both drafted into the 52nd Battalion. The 52nd was a battalion comprised primarily of men from South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. The unit had received a severe mauling at Mouquet Farm near Pozieres in September 1916 and was in desperate need of reinforcements. Harold and John were placed in the same platoon at Enoggera and embarked on the "Demosthenes" from Sydney on 23rd December 1916. The practice of placing brothers or mates who enlisted together in the same battalion or company was wide spread throughout the AIF and in some way contributed to the strong bond of mateship born out of the AIF.

The reinforcements landed in Plymouth on 3rd March 1917 and proceeded to Codford camp where both boys were hospitalised with mumps. On 26th April the pair were posted to the 13th Training Battalion at Sutton Veney. On 9th June, John and Harold were absent from camp for 18 hours, and were each admonished by the Battalion CO and fined one day's pay.

The brothers arrived in France on 26th June and were taken on

strength by the 52nd in Flanders on 16th July. Harold and John remained in the same platoon and began training for the unit's next action in the drawn out battle of Passchendaele.

On the 18th October 1917, while holding the line at Polygon Wood, Harold Hodge was killed by an artillery shell blast. His brother John who was close by received massive wounds to his chest and thigh from the same blast. Red Cross reports indicate that Harold was buried in a marked grave behind the trench line. At the end of the war, the Imperial War Graves Commission consolidated isolated burials into military cemeteries. Harold's remains were reinterred at Dochy Farm New British Cemetery at Passchendaele and his parents, Robert and Elizabeth received his personal effects and photographs of his grave.

John Hodge was evacuated to military hospitals in England where his wounds were assessed to be permanently debilitating. He was repatriated to Australia and discharged as medically unfit in January 1918.

Robert Hodge had suffered greatly with the death and maiming of his two boys. He died in 1924 at the age of 57 and is buried in the Sherwood Anglican Cemetery on Sherwood Road.

Jones, Oscar Harold

#8894 13th Field Ambulance

Oscar Jones was born at Oxley and attended Sherwood State School and Brisbane Grammar. His father, George Jones was the station master at Sherwood and the family lived in the Station Master's house.

When Oscar enlisted on 25th September 1915, he was 22 years old and employed as a clerk. His younger brother Arthur had enlisted 12 days before. Oscar was drafted into the staff of the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital and embarked from Sydney on the "Ballarat" on 16th February 1916.

He arrived in Egypt on 23rd March and spent the next five months attached to the hospital at Zeitoun. Oscar was in England by August and in France on 27th October 1916. At about this time Oscar was attached to the 13th Field Ambulance which was attached to the 13th Infantry Brigade. Oscar's job would primarily have been as a stretcher bearer transporting wounded back from the front lines to field ambulance and casualty clearing stations as the battles of Flers and Bapaume raged.

The winter of 1916/17 was severe and not surprisingly Oscar contracted bronchitis. Spring and summer of 1917 saw the focus of Australian operations shift from the Somme to Flanders and the vital Ypres salient. Stretcher bearers were kept busy with casualties from



Messines (June), Menin Road (September) and Broodseinde (October).

Haig wanted to continue the advance to the Passchendaele ridge and even when the weather turned against him, would not be dissuaded from his goal. As the rains came down the troops became mired in thigh deep clinging mud.

It was reported that stretcher bearers had to work in teams of 16 to carry one wounded man back through the quagmire.

Exhaustive work in cold wet muddy conditions was likely to lead to trench foot, trench fever, typhoid and influenza and casualties going sick at Passchendaele began to mount. Among those sick was Oscar Jones. He reported sick to his own field ambulance with a fever on 1st February 1918. Two weeks later he was in hospital in England with the diagnosis of nephritis (trench fever). Oscar's exhausted state did not allow for a swift recovery and he was transferred to the Australian Hospital at Harefield on 30th May. Oscar's condition began to deteriorate and a medical board convened on 11th June determined that he was unfit for service and should be repatriated to Australia for discharge.

Oscar's brother, Arthur was also at Harefield recovering from wounds he had received at Passchendaele. On 23rd June, Oscar died with his brother by his side. He was afforded a military funeral in the grounds of Saint

Mary's Church at Harefield. Several patients and staff of the hospital including Arthur were in attendance; and two chaplains read the service.

Arthur recovered from his wounds and returned to Australia in 1919. By 1923 the Jones family had moved to "Littlethorpe" Oxley.

Jones, Trevor Warwick 41st Battalion

Trevor Jones came from a well to do family from the Welsh border area. Although both he and his elder brother, Lancelot (Lance) Alban Jones, were born in Warwick, Warwickshire; they attended Malvern College in the spa town of Malvern, in the neighbouring county of Worcestershire. Malvern was a prestigious public boarding school for the sons of the middle class and had a fine reputation for producing scholars, soldiers and sportsmen, particularly cricketers.

The Jones family emigrated to Australia and settled at "Merrilees" Sherwood. Both Trevor and his elder brother Lance were members of the 9th Infantry Battalion Citizens Forces, with Lance holding a commission. Lance enlisted in August 1914 but Trevor did not enlist until September of 1915, perhaps as stated by his mother, in order that he might gain matriculation into Queensland University.

When Trevor enlisted on 16th September 1915, he was 20 years old and being under 21

provided written approval from his mother, Zoe Annie Clara Jones. The document has a line where his father should have signed but Captain Mervyn Jones, a master mariner, had died in 1902. Trevor was employed as a chemical analyst with the state government.

Upon arriving at Enoggera, Trevor was initially posted into a depot battalion. His file contains a letter signed by a Dr Henly of Wickham Terrace and dated 21st November stating that Trevor was unable to attend roll call as he was suffering from bronchitis. On 15th February 1916, Trevor was drafted into the 41st Battalion which was being raised at Enoggera at the time.

While in camp Trevor became ill and was admitted to the Royal Brisbane Hospital where he died on the 1st April 1916. The cause of death, no doubt after a post mortem, was recorded as Intussusceptions; an intestinal obstruction.

Trevor Jones was buried at the Francis Private Cemetery at Francis Lookout on Dewar Terrace, Sherwood. This cemetery is officially listed in the register of Commonwealth War Graves; Trevor Jones is the only serviceman buried there. Trevor's father, Captain Mervyn Jones is buried in the same cemetery.

Trevor's brother, Lancelot, was a Captain in the 9th Battalion AIF. He was wounded twice at Gallipoli and repatriated back to Australia in early 1916.



Kerwin, Walter Edward

#243 31st/5th FAB/49th Battalion

The connection between Walter Kerwin and the Sherwood Shire is difficult to establish, but since there were only two soldiers in the AIF with that surname and initial it is more likely that Walter is the serviceman named, even though his middle initial has disappeared from the memorial. (The other Kerwin was from country Victoria).

Walter Kerwin was born in Chelsea, London. He would appear to have had no living relatives in Australia as he named a Mr Hassall (a friend) of Christmas Creek via Beaudesert as his next of kin. Walter also lived at Christmas Creek and stated his occupation as farm labourer. Walter stated that his nearest living relative was an uncle; Mr Bourke of Chelsea. It is possible that Walter had some connection to the Lahey family of Corinda (see below). The Laheys had extensive sawmilling and timber cutting interests in the Canungra and Christmas Creek areas, and if such a connection existed, may provide a reason for his name appearing on the Sherwood Memorial.

Walter enlisted at Brisbane on 10th July 1915 and was drafted into the 31st Battalion. He departed on the "Wandilla" and arrived in Suez on 7th December. As part of the restructure and expansion of

the AIF, Walter was transferred to the 25th Howitzer Battery of the 5th Divisional Artillery, perhaps in the belief that his rural background had given him some skill in handling horse teams.

The 25th Battery remained in Egypt for 7 months during which Walter was put on a charge twice for neglect of duty. Eventually he arrived in England in August 1916 where he spent time in training before being deployed to Etaples in France on 30th November.

On 18th January 1917, Walter was transferred back to the infantry as a reinforcement for the 49th Battalion. Less than three weeks after joining the 49th at Flers, Walter received serious injuries to his chest and abdomen. He was taken to the 13th Field Ambulance and then the 54th Casualty Clearing Station where he died of his wounds on 9th February 1917.

Walter was buried in the Dernacourt Communal Cemetery and his personal effects and medals were dutifully sent to Mr Hassall at Christmas Creek.

Lahey, Noel Alaric

2743A 25th/9th/ 11th Field C Engineers

Noel Lahey came from a large family of 12 children. His eldest sister, Vida, would become a well known Queensland artist, and Noel's eldest brother; Romeo, would be the catalyst for the establishment of Queensland's first National Park.

Noel Lahey was born at Pimpama and probably attended school at Pimpama before the family moved to Corinda. The family home was named "Wonga Wallen"; which is a district near Pimpama in the foothills of Tambourine Mountain. The Lahey family had extensive interests in timber cutting and milling in the Canungra area and when Noel completed school at Brisbane Grammar, he worked in the family business as a saw miller.

When Noel enlisted on 5th August 1915, he was the third of the Lahey brothers to do so. At the time he stated his home address as "Wonga Wallen" Corinda and named his father, David as his next of kin. Noel was drafted into the 6th reinforcements for the 25th Battalion which at that time was about to be deployed at Anzac. He embarked on the "Seang Bee" in Brisbane on 21st October and arrived in Egypt just as the Australians were being evacuated from Gallipoli back to Egypt.

During the expansion of the AIF in Egypt in early 1916, Noel was transferred to the 9th Battalion; another Queensland battalion, to bring its numbers up to strength after being split to create the 49th Battalion. Noel arrived in Marseilles on 3rd April and travelled by train to the northern sector of the western front for acclimatisation to the business of trench warfare.

After Haig launched the Somme Offensive in July 1916, three of the four Australian



divisions in France were brought to the Somme to continue the offensive. The 9th Battalion, being part of the 1st Division was first into the line at Pozieres. Noel sustained a gun shot wound to the arm during this action and was evacuated to the 13th General Hospital in England.

At the same time that Noel was deployed to France, his sister Vida suspended her artistic endeavours and travelled to England to provide a base for her three brothers who were all now fighting in France; perhaps with the hope that they might be able to enjoy some leave in England in the company of their big sister. There is evidence that at least Noel and Romeo were able to both be in England at the same time as the Australian War memorial has in its collection a photograph taken in 1916 of Vida, Noel and Romeo.

After discharge from hospital, Noel was posted to a convalescent depot at Perham Downs. He may have been in close contact with his brother Romeo as while at Perham Downs, Noel requested a transfer to the 11th Field Company Australian Engineers (the same unit as Romeo). Upon being posted back to France on 25th November, Noel was indeed transferred to the 11th FCAE. To distinguish him from another man in the unit with the same regimental number, an "A" was added to Noel's number of 2743.

The engineers were attached to the 11th Infantry Brigade

of the 3rd Division and accompanied the brigade in rotations in and out of the line during the winter of 1916/17 and then to Flanders for the preparations of the Battle of Messines which began on 7th June 1917. The 11th Brigade were charged with consolidating gains made in the neighbourhood of Ploegsteert Wood (the men called it Plugstreet). On 9th June, Noel was admitted to the 13th Field Ambulance with wounds to his head, chest, right arm and left hand. His brother, Romeo visited him but Noel died of his wounds the next day.

Noel Lahey was buried in the Pont de Archelles Military Cemetery near Armentieres and his personal effects were sent to his father at Corinda.

Vida Lahey remained in England until the armistice, after which she toured France and the Netherlands before returning to Australia to continue her painting.

"Rejoicing and remembrance: Armistice London 1918" was painted on her return and is now in the collection of the Australian War Memorial. Vida is perhaps best known for her painting *"Monday Morning"* which depicts a woman (perhaps her mother, Jane Jemima Lahey) washing clothes by hand. *"Monday Morning"* is in the collection of the Queensland Art Gallery.

Romeo Lahey had studied civil engineering before the war, holding degrees from both Sydney and Queensland Universities. In 1914, at the

urging of his father, he began to champion the creation of a National Park in the border ranges, the same country that his family had been logging in for many years. His pleadings were not responded to until the election of the Ryan Labor Government in 1915 when the Lamington National Park was gazetted. Having achieved his aim, Romeo was now free to enlist which he did in July 1915; eventually being commissioned as a Lieutenant in the 11th Field Company Engineers. At the conclusion of the war, Romeo remained in London to study town planning before returning to Australia and continue his conservation work.

He was instrumental in the creation of the Binna Burra Lodge along with Arthur Groom and became the inaugural president of the Queensland National Parks Association; a position he held until his death in 1968.

Lidgard, Jack

#383 11th Machine Gun Company

Jack Lidgard was a 26 year old commercial traveller of Graceville when he enlisted on 18th May 1916. He had been born in Gympie and spent 6 months with the Gympie Infantry Volunteers.

Jack was drafted into the 11th Machine Gun Company and travelled to Seymour in Victoria for training with the Vicker's Heavy Machine Gun. He embarked from Melbourne on



20th October 1916 and travelled to England via the Cape and Sierra Leone before arriving in England on 28th December.

Jack was transferred to the 5th Division Machine Gun Company and spent a further six months in training in England before arriving in France on 30th June 1917. He was to spend some time in hospital in France with mumps and myalgia before finally joining his unit on 29th September 1917.

Just five days later, Jack was listed as Missing in Action. A court of inquiry conducted five months later in March 1918 finally determined that Jack had been killed in action on 4th October by a shell blast at Passchendaele. His body was never recovered.

At war's end, a huge memorial was constructed at the eastern gate in the town of Ypres in Belgium to commemorate almost 55,000 British and Dominion (Commonwealth) troops who perished in Flanders. Jack Lidgard's name is carved on the tablets of the Menin Gate. Every evening since 1924, with only a short respite during the German Occupation 1940-44, a ceremony is held at 8:00pm at the Menin Gate which includes the playing of the Last Post and the laying of wreaths.

Jack Lidgard's sister, Ethel, who continued to live in Graceville was so grieved by her brother's passing that she instigated a subscription fund for the erection of a

permanent memorial to all the men of the Sherwood Shire who had paid the supreme sacrifice. The Sherwood Shire War memorial was unveiled in Graceville Memorial Park on 20th November 1920.

Macarthur, Ronald Edward

#4551 15th/47th Battalion

Ronald Macarthur came from a distinguished line of Australian pioneers. He was the great great grandson of the third governor of New South Wales, Phillip Gidley King and was also related to the Macarthur family of Camden NSW. In addition he was related by marriage to the pioneering Leslie brothers who opened up the Darling Downs.

Ronald had been born in Childers, perhaps when his father was stationed there as a surveyor for Queensland Railways. He attended Brisbane Grammar and then went on to the Hawkesbury Agricultural College to continue the family tradition of pastoralism. While at Hawkesbury he won a prize for an essay on dairying as well as numerous sporting prizes.

At the time of his enlistment in September 1915, Ronald gave his address as "Bootawa" Mt Mee via Kilcoy. He was 20 years old and went to the recruiting depot with a telegram from his father; Edward Hannibal Macarthur, stating: "*Mother and I consent to you in expeditionary force.*"

At Enoggera, Ronald was drafted into the 14th reinforcements for the 15th Battalion and embarked for overseas on the "Wandilla" in Brisbane on 31st January 1916. He arrived in Egypt in February 1916. The Australian forces were undergoing a huge expansion in Egypt in early 1916. Original battalions were split to provide a nucleus of Gallipoli veterans for two new battalions. The 15th Battalion, to which Ronald had been originally assigned, was split to create the 47th Battalion, part of the newly created 4th Division. Ronald, along with a number of new reinforcements were added to the 47th to bring it up to strength.

The 47th Battalion would earn a rather questionable reputation in the AIF. It was widely reported that when officers and NCOs were being assigned, the commanding officer of the 15th took the opportunity to unload a number of men who had proved less than worthy of command. In addition, the numbers of ordinary soldiers were made up of men from hospitals in Egypt, VD wards and in some cases defaulters from the stockade. One historian described the makeup of the 47th as a "*bunch of toffs and wasters and street loafers.*"

The 47th Battalion was one of the last battalions to leave Egypt for France, but not before the unit disgraced itself by not showing respect to the Prince of Wales when he inspected the troops. On the voyage to Marseilles, one



of the senior officers drank himself senseless and would be eventually dismissed from the service. Alcohol continued to be a problem for the battalion when the first pay was issued in Northern France.

On 1st July 1916, Haig (Supreme British Commander on the Western Front) launched the Somme offensive. Casualties were enormous but Haig was determined to keep up the pressure. Three of the four Australian divisions in France were deployed to the Somme. The Australians were to go into their first major action at Pozieres and the 1st and 2nd Divisions were put into the line in late July. After these two divisions had exhausted themselves in gaining the high ground above the village, the 4th Division was brought up to defend the ground captured.

Pozieres is renowned for the intensity of the artillery barrages laid down by the German defenders. The 4th Division had to simply withstand the barrages while holding the line in expectation of a counter attack which never came. The 47th Battalion war diary for the period from 7th to 12th August 1915 simply states "Bombardment heavy. Considerable casualties inflicted on battalion."

During this horrendous onslaught, Ronald Macarthur sustained a shrapnel wound to the head. He was carried to the 13th Australian Field Hospital where he died of wounds on 11th August 1916. Ronald

was buried in the Warloy-Ballon Communal Cemetery Extension near the hospital.

Ronald's father politely but persistently wrote to the authorities to obtain details of his son's death and the whereabouts of his personal effects. Eventually in mid 1917 he received a letter from the CO of the hospital and a consignment of personal effects which included a wallet, wristwatch, photographic film, negatives and photographs (but surprisingly no camera) and a diary. In March 1918 a further parcel arrived containing a tin whistle and a book of views of Egypt.

On the site of the Battle of Pozieres today is a commemorative stone which reads:

"The ruin of the Pozieres windmill which lies here was the centre of the struggle on this part of the Somme Battlefield in July and August 1916. It was captured by Australian troops who fell more thickly on this ridge than on any other battlefields of the war."

Mitchell, Robert George

#1911 4th Pioneers

Robert Mitchell was one of four boys born to James and Annie Mitchell. James Mitchell was the Registrar of Titles in the Queensland Government and may have been working in Rockhampton at the time of Robert's birth.

The family relocated to "St Elmo", Oxley and Robert attended Oxley State School and then Brisbane Grammar School from 1908 to 1911. Robert must have been an exceptional student because at that time, most students left school at year 8 (Scholarship). None of his brothers attended Grammar. The Mitchell home, "St Elmo" became Hopetoun at Corinda before being demolished in 2013.

Robert's elder brother, James, had enlisted in the 25th Battalion and was seriously wounded in the dying days of the Gallipoli Campaign. Just after receiving the news of James' wounding, Robert enlisted on 6th December 1915. At the time of signing up, Robert was 22 years old and working as a surveyor. He was originally drafted into a Field Engineers Battalion, where his surveying skills would have been useful but soon after he was transferred into the 4th Pioneer Battalion. Pioneers were essentially front line engineers, engaged in trench and sap digging. They were also combat troops and could be used as infantry.

Robert arrived in Suez on 18th May 1916 and was promoted to acting Sergeant. One month later he disembarked in Marseilles, bound for the large Australian Troop depot at Etaples. Upon reaching his Unit in July 1916, he reverted to the rank of private.

In July and August 1916, the 4th Pioneers were attached to the 2nd Infantry Division which



was engaged in the battle of Pozieres. On 3rd August as the battle of Pozieres culminated in the attack on the windmill, Private Robert Mitchell was killed during an artillery barrage. The Red Cross reports into his death indicate that he was killed outright by the concussion of a large shell. Witnesses reported *“there was not a mark on him.”* Robert had been with his unit for 11 days. On the site of the windmill today is a commemorative stone which reads:

“The ruin of the Pozieres windmill which lies here was the centre of the struggle on this part of the Somme Battlefield in July and August 1916. It was captured by Australian troops who fell more thickly on this ridge than on any other battlefields of the war.”

Robert’s mates recovered his body and he was buried at Becourt near Albert. A photograph of his grave was sent to his family, a copy of which is contained in Robert’s military file in the National Archives. Sadly this ground would be fought over again in 1918 and the grave of Robert Mitchell was lost.

Private Robert George Mitchell is also commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane and the Roll of Honour, Great Hall, Brisbane Grammar School. Like the other 10,000 Australians who died in France and have no known grave, Robert Mitchell is commemorated on the tablets

at the Australian National Memorial, Villers Bretonneux.

Robert’s brother James, who was wounded on Gallipoli, was discharged as unfit. His wounds entitled him to a Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) pension and he saw out his days living in Coorparoo. A second brother, Thomas, originally enlisted in the 25th Battalion like James but was transferred to the Pay Corps where he saw overseas service.

Another brother, Corporal Thomas William Mitchell enlisted in the 2nd Field Ambulance. He was awarded the Military Medal for actions under fire in the battle of Polygon Wood in Flanders 1917.

McLune, Edward **#2783 25th/9th Battalion**

Edward McLune was a 26 year old labourer when he enlisted on 24th July 1915. He was one of three brothers who had been born in Ipswich and by the time of his enlistment his parents were deceased. Edward gave his address as C/- Miss Collins of Norman Street, East Brisbane and named his eldest brother James McLune of “Oakleigh” Francis Estate, Corinda as his next of kin.

Edward was originally drafted as a reinforcement for the 25th Battalion and embarked on the “Seang Bee” in Brisbane on 21st October. Edward’s arrival in Egypt in December 1915 coincided with the withdrawal of all the Australian forces

from Gallipoli. For the next three months, the Australian Corps would be doubled in size by creating new battalions. Edward was transferred to the 9th Battalion; another wholly Queensland Battalion, in March 1916 and one month later arrived in Marseilles.

From Marseilles, the 9th travelled by train north to the rear areas behind the front at Strazelle where they went into billets in preparation for further training and instruction on the use of the newly issued trench mortars.

This area of the front was comparatively quiet and the battalion rotated in and out of the line frequently. The part of the line in front of the 9th was heavily defended by a well placed German machine gun and the Brigade Commander decided that a trench raid could provide the battalion with valuable experience as well as knocking out the troublesome machine gun. On 11th June, a raiding party of 5 officers and 150 other ranks was assembled from volunteers and began training for the raid which would take place on the night of the 1st and 2nd of July. The raid was supported by artillery and trench mortars and resulted in a number of enemy being captured as well as the machine gun, which the battalion eventually presented to the Queensland Government. The battalion war diary recorded that 53 enemy were killed but the battalion suffered one officer and five other ranks killed, one of which was Private Edward McLune.



Edward's mates were able to bring his body back to the Australian lines and he was buried in the Rue de Bois Military cemetery near Fleurbaix. Edwards few personal possessions were returned to his brother, James, at Corinda.

Price, Richard James

#6640 54th Tunnelling Company

Richard Price was the son of James and Adelaide Price who lived at Oxley. As a boy he attended Oxley State School. At the time of his enlistment, Richard gave his occupation as railway shunter. He was 22 years old.

Richard was originally drafted into the Engineers but was subsequently drafted into the 3rd Tunnelling Company as a sapper. Tunnelling companies were being formed from 1916 onwards in a response by the military to take the war underground. Tunnellers were engaged in offensive and defensive mining operations under the front lines. The effects of their work can still be seen today in the mine craters around Hill 60 and the Caterpillar, Ypres in Belgium and the Lochnager Crater near Albert on the Somme in France. Tunnelling was a highly skilled occupation and Richard, along with the reinforcements for 3rd Tunnelling Company spent some time at Seymour in Victoria during the second half of 1916 in training. He was granted home leave

prior to embarkation and his file records that he was AWL during this time and fined 10 shillings.

Richard Price, along with a contingent of reinforcements for various engineer, tunnelling and pioneer units sailed from Melbourne in January 1917 and arrived in Plymouth in March of that year. By April, Richard and the other reinforcements were in the vast British Expeditionary Force camp at Etaples in France.

On 1st May, Richard joined the 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company which was stationed at the front near Loos. The tunnellers were engaged in mining operations under Hill 70 as well as constructing dugouts in the walls of the quarries around Noeux-le-Mines.

On 22nd of July, Richard Price was struck in the head by a shell fragment from a German 5.9 Howitzer. Red Cross reports of the incident state that he was waiting well behind the lines with his mate, Sid Turner, for transport back to their billet when a shell landed close by. He was buried at a nearby cemetery, Hersin Communal Cemetery, with a chaplain present. There are 55 Australians buried at Hersin, 54 of them from the 3rd Tunnelling Company. Several members of the unit wrote to Richard's family in Oxley after his death. His best mate, Sid Turner was reported to be particularly overcome at his death.

Sapper Richard James Price is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; and

rests with his mates at Hersin Communal Cemetery south of Lille, France. He is also commemorated in the name of Price Street, opposite the lower oval of Oxley State School on Oxley Road.

Radcliffe, Alan Arthur

#854 9th Battalion

Alan Radcliffe was born in Toowoomba where his father was a school headmaster. Alan's father, Oliver Radcliffe, gained promotion to be an Inspector of Schools in the Department of Public Instruction (now Education Department). By the time Alan and his brothers were ready to attend Brisbane Grammar, the family had settled at "Kaloma", Graceville.

When Alan enlisted in Rockhampton he was employed as a business manager with the firm of Flavelle, Roberts and Sankey. At enlistment on 28th August 1914, he reported that he was 24 years old and had several years experience with the military cadets. Alan was drafted into "C" Company of the 9th Battalion which was being raised at Enoggera. "C" Company was comprised almost exclusively of men who had rushed to enlist from the Central Queensland area.

Alan embarked on the "Omrah" at Pinkenba Wharf on 24th September 1914 and after delays in Sydney owing to the likelihood of German raiders in the western Pacific, proceeded on to Albany where the huge



The Graceville War Memorial

fleet of Australian and New Zealand recruits assembled. The first division of the AIF were originally bound for the western front but while at sea, Turkey entered the war and the Australians were diverted to Egypt to protect the vital Suez Canal.

After a period of training in Egypt, the 9th Battalion as part of the 3rd Brigade arrived at Mudros Harbour on the Greek island of Lemnos where they practiced boat drills and landings. The third brigade had been chosen by Birdwood to be the covering force (first ashore) during the landings at Gallipoli on the 25th April with the 9th Battalion on the far right.

The confusion that occurred on the beach as troops began to land and push up into the ravines that dominated the landscape has been well documented. It is certain that small parties of Australians were able to push on to the heights which dominated the peninsula. It is also certain that most of these isolated groups were overrun by Turkish counter attack and the men perished. Later evidence would suggest that Alan Radcliffe was among one such party.

When the 9th Battalion could be assembled at Gallipoli for a roll call after that first day, many men had been killed, wounded or were missing. Among those listed as missing was Alan Radcliffe. His father when informed of the uncertainty of his son's situation wrote constantly to the authorities requesting news. He even

wrote that he had received word from a returned 9th Battalion man that his son was a prisoner at Constantinople. Base Records advised that lists of POWs were being collated by the American Ambassador (the US at this time being a neutral) but unfortunately Alan Radcliffe was not listed as a POW.

It was not until 5th June 1916, while the 9th Battalion was in France that a Court of Inquiry determined that Alan Radcliffe had been killed in action. In February 1918, almost three years after Alan went missing, Oliver Radcliffe received a parcel with his son's personal belongings which included some books, letters, photos and cards.

In 1922, after Oliver Radcliffe had received Alan's medals, he also received an identity disc which had been recovered with the remains of Alan Radcliffe by the Graves Registration Unit at Gallipoli. In all likelihood, Alan had been killed well beyond the Turkish lines and had been buried by the Turks in 1915. His remains were exhumed and reinterred at the Lone Pine Cemetery.

Alan Radcliffe's three brothers also enlisted. Phillip and Charles, who were both school teachers were both discharged as medically unfit. Phillip had sustained serious wounds at Polygon Wood and Charles was discharged from Enoggera due to illness. Alan's youngest brother John was in England on a Rhodes Scholarship when war was declared. He

gained a commission in the Royal Horse Artillery and was awarded a Military Cross. John returned to Australia in 1919. All of the Radcliffe boys are commemorated in the Brisbane Grammar Golden Book along with their cousin Leslie Radcliffe (see above).

Raff, Kenneth

#3490 15th/ 47th Battalion

Ken Raff was born in Brisbane and attended the Brisbane Normal School. His father then arranged for him to have private tutoring and he qualified as an architectural draftsman, probably working in his father's conveyance and surveying company, where his brother Eric also worked at a surveyor. The family, Harry and Clara Raff and the two boys, lived at Chelmer although Harry Raff gave his business address, Isles Love Building, Adelaide Street, for correspondence.

When Ken enlisted on 3rd August 1915 he was 25 years old and was drafted as part of the 11th reinforcements for the 15th Battalion. He embarked on the "Seang Bee" in Brisbane on 21st October and arrived in Egypt around Christmas 1915, finally joining the 15th in February 1916.

As part of the expansion of the AIF that was underway at that time, Ken was transferred to the newly created 47th Battalion on 3rd March. Unlike most other battalions in the AIF, the 47th was not strictly a state based unit; with numbers being made up from reinforcements from



Victoria and Tasmania as well as some Queenslanders from the 15th Battalion. The 47th would earn a reputation in the AIF for ill discipline and poor leadership, particularly at the company level.

The 47th was one of the last battalions to leave Egypt for France; not arriving in Marseilles until June 1916. They had little time to get accustomed to trench warfare before being called in to the Somme Offensive at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm in July and August.

Ken had a period in hospital with influenza in September and was again hospitalised in November with trench feet. He rejoined the 47th in January 1917 and saw action at Bullecourt in April and then in the support lines at Messines in June.

Messines had been the opening to a series of actions in Flanders that Haig; Supreme British Commander, hoped would lead to the breaking open of the front and allow an advance on to the Belgian Ports. Plumer; The British Corps Commander in Flanders, had experienced success at Messines, Menin Road, Polygon Wood and Broodseinde. The final obstacle was the ridge on which stood the villages of Zonnebeke and Passchendaele but by that time, the weather had turned against the attackers. Constant rain turned the battlefields into seas of slush and clinging mud. The ground was so unstable that the big guns used to lay

down a protective barrage could only fire a few rounds before they sank into the mud. The roads and lines of communication were so cut up that ammunition and supplies were in short supply at the front.

In spite of the obvious indications of a less than successful outcome, Haig pressured Plumer to continue to press on to Passchendaele. Many military historians would agree with the words of Charles Bean (Official Australian Historian) that Haig's gamble would become "the most questioned of his career."

In the early morning of 12th October 1917, the 47th Battalion; in conjunction with other units of the 4th Division crossed the jump off tapes and began a slow slog towards the red line following the Ypres-Rouliers railway line. The mud and inadequate artillery protection doomed the attack from the beginning. The attack was called off later in the day when the last unwounded officer of the battalion; Captain Gibson, was severely wounded. By nightfall the entire 4th Division was back at the start line. The 4th Division had lost 1000 men in the disaster; one of which was Ken Raff.

The bodies of the dead lay out in no man's land until the ridge was finally taken by the Canadians in November who then set about burying the fallen Australians. Ken Raff; like so many who fell at Passchendaele, was buried at Tyne Cot Cemetery.

Tyne Cot was constructed around a number of concrete blockhouses and pill boxes on the crest of the ridge, which are now integral to the cemetery. Tyne Cot is the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world and contains the graves of 1400 Australians, as well as the names of 35,000 Commonwealth soldiers who have no known grave.

Ken Raff's parents received his personal belongings almost a year after his death. They included a wallet, razor, photos and a tin of ostrich feathers. The Raff family left Chelmer in 1921 and moved to Albion.

Rowlands, Thomas Llewelyn

#202 5th Light Horse Regiment

Thomas Rowlands was born in Ipswich and attended the Southport School, then named Southport High School from 1907 to 1909. Sometime before 1914, his family moved to Oxley. Thomas enlisted on 14th October 1914 and gave his occupation as stockman. He was drafted into the 5th Light Horse, comprised almost exclusively of Queenslanders, which sailed from Sydney in December 1914 bound for Egypt.

After the initial landings at Gallipoli, the Light Horse was sent to the peninsula as reinforcements, without their horses. Thomas remained on Gallipoli from May until September 1915 when he was evacuated sick to Lemnos. He



remained in hospital in Egypt until February 1916 when he rejoined his unit. By this time, the Light Horse was defending the Suez Canal, patrolling in the Sinai Peninsula.

On 27th August 1916, Thomas Rowlands was accidentally killed when a water well he was digging collapsed. An enquiry into the incident reported that Trooper Rowland was alone at the bottom of the well, which was about 14feet deep. The working party had stopped for a smoke and Thomas sat down in the bottom of the well to rest. He was covered by about five foot of sand when the well wall collapsed. Witnesses reported that it took about 15 minutes to free him from the well shaft and that when he was brought to the surface, artificial respiration was administered for almost an hour until the medical officer arrived and pronounced Thomas deceased. The enquiry found that no person was to blame and that if Thomas had not been sitting down at the time he may well have survived unscathed.

His mates buried Thomas close to where he died at Bir El Abd and a Chaplain performed the burial service. The site of his burial was recorded, along with map references but by the time the war came to an end, all trace of the grave had been lost.

Thomas's family received a parcel of his personal effects which as well as the usual letters and postcards contained a rubber stamp and two race programs. Thomas' younger

brother, Severne Llewelyn also enlisted in November 1915. He was severely wounded on the Western Front in early 1917 and was repatriated to Australia later that year with a war pension of one pound per fortnight.

Trooper Thomas Rowlands, 5th Light Horse is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; the Community Honour Board in the Chapel of St Alban the Martyr, The Southport School and the Jerusalem War Memorial Cemetery Israel.

Schlumpf, Albert # 7544 9th/15th Battalion

Albert Schlumpf was born in Zug, Switzerland just south of Zurich. His wife; Paulina, when completing the Roll of Honour circular reported that he had emigrated to Australia at age 20 and was a naturalized citizen. She also reported that he had attended school in Switzerland and France.

When Albert enlisted on 15th January 1917, he stated he was 30 years old and employed as a labourer. He lived with his wife and one child at Mary Street, Johnston Estate, Sherwood.

After a period of training in a depot battalion at Enoggera and a period of home leave, Albert travelled by train to Sydney where he embarked on the "Hororata" on 14th June 1917 as part of the 25th reinforcements for the 9th Battalion. A note in red pen on Albert's attestation papers

indicates that a second child was born between the time he enlisted and the time he embarked. After arrival in Liverpool in late August, Albert spent some time in the training battalions at Sutton Veney interspersed with periods of hospitalisation due to mumps.

Albert was posted overseas to the Bullring at Havre in March 1918 and then was transferred to the 15th Battalion on 17th April 1918. This period of time coincided with the German Spring Offensive; Operation Michael, which drove the British Army on the Somme all the way back to within gun range of Amiens. In an effort to stem the German onslaught, Haig called the Australian divisions in Flanders south to meet the advance. The five Australian divisions had been formed into a single corps, under the direction of Lieutenant General John Monash. On the 25th April, two divisions of Australians drove the Germans out of the village of Villers Bretonneux.

While Monash planned his first counter attack (which would come at Hamel in July) the Australians pursued a period of what was called "peaceful penetration". This entailed establishing forward listening posts and trench raids to gather intelligence.

While manning one of these listening posts out in front of the main defensive line at Hamel, Albert Schlumpf was killed instantly by an artillery shell exploding directly in the post. Numerous Red



Cross Wounded and Missing reports confirm the facts of his death but reveal some other curious details. A number of witnesses described Albert as “Norwegian or Swede”. This may have been just a case of ignorance but may also have been Albert’s way of diverting attention from his Swiss German pedigree (many citizens of German descent, including John Monash himself, had their loyalty questioned, some to the point of internment). One witness described Albert as a “regular toff” which probably is a reflection on his speech as a non native speaker of English. It may also have been a reference to his stature; he was over six feet tall. Several witnesses reported that he “could speak any language you asked him.” It is most likely that he spoke French and German fluently due to his upbringing, and he would have been a valuable asset to his battalion when it came to communicating with the French inhabitants.

While Albert was in England, his mother had died in Zurich and left a bequest of 8000 Swiss francs. Albert had dutifully added a codicil to his will stating that in the event of his death, the Swiss bequest would go to his wife Paulina and their two children. There are several letters from the Swiss Consul in Brisbane directed to the military authorities requesting copies of death certificates so that the inheritance could be progressed.

Albert was buried in the military cemetery at Corbie, not far from where he fell and photographs of his grave were sent to his widow. Paulina Schlumpf and her children were still living at Sherwood when medals were distributed in the 1920’s.

Sinnamon, (Robert) Leslie

#4300 13th Battalion

Leslie Sinnamon was born into the large Sinnamon family that had taken up farming land around Seventeen Mile Rocks. His parents, George and Isabella lived at “Rosemount”, Oxley. Leslie attended Seventeen Mile Rocks State School and may then have become a Pupil Teacher at the school as he listed his occupation on his enlistment records as *Bank Clerk, Teacher 3 years*. Given that his age at the time was 18 years and 8 months it is reasonable to assume that his teaching was as a pupil teacher. Correspondence from his sister, Marion Xenos (nee Sinnamon) indicates that Leslie was living with his sister and her husband at Bowen Hills prior to enlistment. Marion was 19 years older than Leslie and she referred to him as “*her boy*” and “*my son*.”

Leslie enlisted on 20 August 1915 at Sydney Town Hall and was drafted as a reinforcement for the 13th Battalion, a NSW regiment. He sailed for Egypt on 20th December 1915 and joined the 13th Battalion in

June 1916. The 13th was at that time being remodelled to accommodate the expansion of the AIF, with a mixture of old Gallipoli veterans and new reinforcements. The reconstituted battalion arrived at Marseilles on 8th June 1916 and moved directly to northern France.

Haig, Supreme Commander of the British Expeditionary Force had been assembling a huge force which he would employ in the “Big Push”, planned to begin on 1st July 1916. Despite suffering casualties of 60,000 on the first day, the Battle of the Somme continued, with limited gains and appalling casualties. By the end of that month, the Australian First and Second Divisions, at great cost, had taken Pozieres. It was now time for the 1st Division, of which the 13th Battalion was part, to go back into the line and continue the offensive North West along the ridge from Pozieres towards Mouquet Farm. The farm, which the Australians called “Moo Cow Farm” was nothing but a tumble of bricks, but it had deep cellars and the Germans had heavily fortified it.

The advance on the farm was difficult due to a narrow front and heavy artillery bombardment of the Australian trenches. On 29 August, almost one month since Pozieres had been taken but with less than one kilometre advanced since, Leslie Sinnamon was listed as missing after an aborted attack on the farm.



Leslie's sister, Marion, was informed by telegram that he was "Missing". She wrote to Army Base Records seeking further details but the reply simply stated there was no further news. Marion would have appeared to have searched newspapers in the hope of finding out more as she wrote again asking if one of a number of unidentified bodies recovered in France may be her "son".

Some seven months after he was reported "Missing"; a Board of Enquiry established that Leslie Sinnamon was killed in Action on 29 August 1916. There are no Red Cross records to suggest that enquiries were made into Leslie and since seven months had now past, the possibility of him being wounded somewhere could be discounted. Marion requested that his personal effects, particularly a sheepskin jacket, be forwarded to her but she was informed that none have come to hand.

In an ultimate irony, when service medals were distributed at the end of the war, the strict military regulations stated that medals would first go to the father, then mother, then brothers, then sisters. As Leslie's parents were still alive, it was they who signed for the receipt of the medals.

Private Robert Leslie Sinnamon, 13th Battalion is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane and the Australian National Memorial, Villers Bretonneux.

Sowden, Ronald Alexander

#4574 9th Battalion

Ronald Sowden was barely 18 when he enlisted on 6th September 1915. He was employed as a clerk with Queensland Railways and lived with his parents at "Dalkeith" Corinda. Ronald embarked with reinforcements for the 9th Battalion in Brisbane on 31st January and arrived in Alexandria on 5th March 1916.

Ronald did not join his unit straight away but spent some time in Egypt before being shipped to the large British camp at Etaples nicknamed the "Bullring" on 11th July. While Ronald was waiting to join his battalion, the 9th were put into the line at Pozieres on 23rd July and received significant casualties. After they were withdrawn, Ronald joined them on 29th July. After a period of rest and re-equipping, the battalion was again thrust into the battle for Mouquet Farm on 21st August; further along the ridge from Pozieres. During this engagement, Ronald was slightly wounded and required a few days at a field hospital.

After the shocking experiences of Pozieres, the battalion was sent to the rear areas behind Ypres in Belgium to recuperate and begin training for the next "stunt." Ronald reported to a casualty clearing station with a septic hand on 14th November but returned to his battalion 11 days later. In January 1917, Ronald again presented to a casualty clearing station with a

septic arm. It is quite possible that this was a recurrence of the earlier infection and since there were no suitable drugs to treat such injuries, infections could be serious.

Nevertheless Ronald made a full recovery and was back with his unit by late February. The 9th by this time had moved with the rest of the 1st Division back to the Somme and were holding the line at the juncture of the Somme and Ancre Rivers. The winter had been particularly severe, particularly for men out in the open in muddy trenches. In April Ronald was hospitalised with influenza and by the time he rejoined the battalion in May, his mates were preparing to go up against the Hindenburg Line at Baupume.

On the 7th May 1917, Ronald was wounded for the second time. This time it was more serious as he had gun shot wounds to the face, arm and buttocks. After a month in a field hospital he returned to his unit. In September Ronald was granted 12 days leave in England, returning to the battalion on 19th September.

The 1st Division had been brought to Flanders to continue the series of advances that had begun in June 1917 at Messines and continued along the Menin Road towards the ridge on which sat the villages of Zonnebeke and Passchendaele. The 1st Division was moving up to the jump off tapes at Broodseinde Ridge on 3rd November when Ronald was struck in the



head by a high explosive shell fragment, killing him instantly. The commanding officer of the battalion reported that Ronald had been buried by the men in his company and approximate grid references were taken.

Sadly, when isolated graves were being consolidated by the Imperial War Graves Commission, there was no trace of Ronald's grave. Instead his name was added to the tablets on the Menin Gate at Ypres along with the names of 55,000 other Commonwealth soldiers who perished in Flanders and have no known grave. Since 1923, every evening a solemn ceremony is held at the Menin Gate which concludes with the reciting of the ode and the playing of the last post.

Eventually Ronald's parents, Samuel and Sarah received his few personal effects, the Empire medal and Victory Medal and a memorial scroll and plaque. Sarah Sowden also was granted a pension of 17 shillings and sixpence per fortnight.

Steele, Robert Stewart

#3496 9th Battalion

Robert Steele was born at Ebbw Vale near Ipswich and attended Bundamba State School. He stated his occupation as brickmaker, although the Roll of Honour Circular completed by his step mother, Florence Steele records his occupation as miner. Both occupations seem feasible as this district had

both coal mining and pottery industries at the time.

When Robert enlisted on 5th August 1915 he was just 18 years old. He gave his address as Oxley and named his father, William Steele of the same address as his next of kin. Exactly two months after enlistment Robert embarked on the "Warilda" in Brisbane as part of the 11th reinforcements for the 9th Battalion. When the reinforcements arrived in Egypt plans were well advanced to withdraw all the Australians ; including the 9th Battalion, from Gallipoli. Robert would spend the next four months in Egypt while the 9th took on reinforcements and sent half of the Gallipoli veterans to form a new battalion; the 49th.

Robert arrived in Marseilles on 4th April and travelled by train to the large training camp at Etaples before finally rejoining the 9th on 14th May 1916. The 9th was originally positioned in the sector of the front around Armentieres where they could become accustomed to the routines of the front. In May the unit rotated in and out of the line at Fromelles and Petillion. In June at Sternwerk the battalion took part in a series of trench raids to, in the words of the written orders: 1) capture prisoners 2) destroy machine guns and trench mortars 3) develop esprit de corps within the battalion. The raids were according to the battalion diary quite successful although there did need to be an inquiry into the loss of 18 revolvers.

On 1st July, the Battle of the Somme began and fell well short of the expectations of Haig and his army commander Gough. To continue the offensive, Haig called three of the Australian Divisions in France to the Somme (A fourth division, the 5th, had been put into the line at Fromelles in early July, principally as a diversion; and suffered appalling casualties)

The 9th as part of the 1st Division would be first into the fighting to capture the village of Pozieres. The battalion arrived behind the lines at Albert on 13th July and began training for their first big stunt. The first division entered the front line at Pozieres on 23rd July and succeeded in capturing the village, all the while being heavily shelled from well dug in positions further up the slope from Pozieres. During the action of 23rd July, Robert Steele was reported as killed in action.

There are no Red Cross Wounded or Missing reports into his death and his file simply states Killed in Action. No body was ever recovered, which was the fate of so many who fell at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm that summer.

Robert's father wrote to Base Records on several occasions to enquire into the circumstances of Robert's death but no further information was forthcoming.

The Australian Government resolved to construct a lasting memorial to those who lost



The Graceville War Memorial

their lives in France but have no known grave. The project was delayed due to a conflict over the design of the memorial and a shortage of funds. Finally on 22nd July 1938; almost twenty years since the war's end, King George Sixth officially dedicated the Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux. There are over 10,000 names on the tablets at Villers Bretonneux.

It is likely that the authorities wrote to the next of kin of those 10,000 to inform them that their loved ones would finally be commemorated as in Robert's file there is a letter from his step mother, Florence Steele which states in part that Robert's father is deceased and she is now an old lady of 78 years. She also states that she does not see the need to rebury Robert in the new cemetery (Florence obviously misunderstood the purpose of the letter) and that Robert's name appears on the memorial at Ebbw Vale. Strangely Robert Steele does not appear on the Oxley Progress Association Memorial at Oxley, even though he was for a time associated with the district.

Sullivan, George

#1732 2nd Light Horse Regiment

George Sullivan was born in Charleville and attended Milton State School as a boy. When George enlisted on 23rd August 1915, he was 18 years old and stated his occupation as joiner. He also stated that he had

previous military experience in the cadets and in the 2nd Battery of the Field Artillery. His mother, Elanor Sullivan had signed a document giving her permission for George to enlist and had noted that George's father was deceased. George gave his home address as Golf Street Chelmer where he lived with and supported his mother.

The embarkation roll lists George as a reinforcement for the 2nd Light Horse Brigade when he boarded the "Mashobra" in Sydney on 4th October. The embarkation roll also indicates that George had allotted his entire pay of five shillings a day to his mother; which is a clear indication that his widowed mother was reliant on her son for financial support.

George and the rest of the reinforcements arrived at Ismailia on the southern approach to the Suez Canal in December and George was posted to B Troop, C Squadron of the 2nd Light Horse. For three months, the Light Horse Brigades patrolled the western bank of the canal to deter a possible Turkish attack from the Sinai. When the bulk of the Australian forces departed Egypt for the western front, the mounted troops from Australia and New Zealand remained around the canal to defend this vital communication link.

The war diary of the 2nd Light Horse is very brief in describing the activities of May and June with constant patrolling and scouting into the Sinai Desert. The only incident of

note would appear to have been the bombing of the Australian camps by German Taube aircraft which caused some casualties and resulted in a stampede of some three hundred horses.

In July, the troops were engaged in the construction of defensive works in the vicinity of Romani (modern day Ramanah) to counter a perceived Turkish/ German advance towards Alexandria and the canal.

On the night of the 3rd August, Turkish infantry attacked the Australian positions with superior numbers. The Australian fought a rear guard action during the night, often employing "Cossack" outposts (a number of men would fire off a fusillade of shots and then mount up and gallop to the rear). When day broke, the heat, soft sand and lack of water became as big an enemy as the Turks; but still the Light Horse Men continued their tactics of hit and run while meeting the onrushing infantry. It was reported that the commander in the battle; "Galloping Jack" Roysten wore out 14 horses as he raced from one skirmish point to another with a bloody bandage wrapped around his thigh. Men who were in danger of being overrun were rescued by mates who at times had several men hanging on to their stirrups.

The attack was finally repulsed when the Turks, some of whom were bare footed, became exhausted in the soft sand. For the 2nd Light Horse, Romani



was a great success with nine killed and 30 wounded. George Sullivan was one of the wounded. He died later that day. George was buried at the Etmaler Cemetery at Romani with the Rev Teece reading the service.

In April 1917, George's mother finally received his personal effects; a notebook, 2 badges and six Bedouin artefacts, and was awarded a pension of two pounds per fortnight. In 1925 the remains of Trooper George Sullivan were reinterred in the Kantara War Memorial Cemetery on the banks of the canal he gave his life to defend.

Tolley, Thomas Henry

#307 31st Battalion

Thomas Tolley was born in Canning Town, London. When he enlisted he reported that he was married to wife Ellen and had three children, but unusually Ellen and the children were living in Canning Town. Perhaps Thomas had sent his wife and children back to England for the period of his enlistment. Thomas gave his occupation as fireman (most likely a locomotive fireman on the railways) and his address as C/- F. Young of Sherwood.

Thomas enlisted in Brisbane on 21st August 1915, having been previously rejected due to flat feet. He was 26 years old at the time and was drafted into A Company of the 31st Battalion which was being partly raised at Enoggera. The Queenslanders travelled by

train to Broadmeadows where they met up with Victorian recruits who would make up the numbers in the composite battalion. The 31st embarked from Melbourne on the "Wandilla" on the 9th November 1915.

After a sea voyage of a month, the "Wandilla" arrived at Suez and the troops went into camp for further training. The 31st Battalion was part of the newly created 5th Division, and arrived in Marseilles on 23rd June 1916. The Division was placed in the quiet sectors of the front near the French Belgian border to learn the business of trench warfare but less than a month after arriving in France; the division would be put into the line at Fromelles.

Haig had begun his Big Push on the Somme on the 1st July and things had not gone well. In an effort to divert German troops away from the front on the Somme and therefore relieve his hard pressed brigades, Haig decided on a feint north of the Somme to distract the enemy. The feint would be provided by the inexperienced 5th Division on 19th and 20th July. Just as things had gone badly on the Somme, so too did the Fromelles attack. During this action, Thomas Tolley sustained a gun shot wound to the hand which required treatment in England. Thomas could have counted himself lucky. The 5th Division suffered 5,500 casualties at Fromelles and were so knocked about that they ceased to be a viable

fighting force for the rest of 1916.

By August of 1916, Thomas had recovered from his wound and was posted to a number of training and depot battalions in England for the next 12 months, no doubt being able to see his wife and family on periods of leave. Thomas was posted back to the 31st in October 1917, where the battalion was preparing to go into the line at Polygon Wood.

After the exhaustive battles in Flanders during the latter half of 1917, both sides settled into a period of relative quiet, with occasional trench raids and artillery duels conducted to harass the enemy rather than make any substantial gain. The 31st War Diary describes days on end of frost, fog and drizzle during which the battalion rotated in and out of the line every ten days or so. It was during one of these periods of inactivity that Thomas Tolley was killed on 18th March 1918 at Wytschaete. Thomas's luck which had spared him at Fromelles had now deserted him. For the entire month of March, the battalion war diary lists only 6 fatalities; which by the standards of the day was exceedingly light.

Thomas was buried at Cabin Hill Cemetery, not far from where he fell, close to the village of Messines. There is no indication of a pension being awarded to Ellen and the children but it is almost certain that such a payment was made. A Mr Dart, secretary of the Loyal Sherwood Forest



Lodge wrote requesting certificates of death so that a funeral benefit could be paid. It is impossible to determine whether Ellen Tolley returned to Australia. Perhaps Thomas's name on the Graceville memorial is due to his landlord; F. Young of Sherwood.

Webster, Alfred

#3217 47th Battalion

Alfred Webster was one of four brothers born in and around the Southern Darling Downs. Alfred was born at Killarney near Warwick. At the time of his enlistment in Toowoomba on 7 November 1916, he was 27 years old, single, and gave his occupation as labourer. His next of kin was stated as being his father, Alexander, who lived in Rowe Terrace Darra and may have been the Postmaster there.

Upon enlistment, Alfred was placed in the 11th Depot Battalion before being transferred into the 49th Battalion. On the day of embarkation, 22 December 1916, he was transferred again into the 47th Battalion as a reinforcement. The relatively short period of training in Australia before embarkation (6 weeks) is indicative of the urgent need to provide men to the Western Front at this time. The first of the conscription referenda had recently been defeated. In fact, Alfred recorded that he had originally been refused enlistment due to defective teeth. By late 1916, either his teeth had been fixed

or the medical criteria had been relaxed.

Alfred arrived in Plymouth Harbour in March 1917 and within a month was in hospital with mumps. It seems that there was a mumps epidemic around this time in the training camps as several other soldiers whose stories appear above also were hospitalised with this disease. By June 1917, Alfred had crossed the channel to France and eventually joined his unit which was now in Flanders. The 47th was involved in the conflict around Messines, Broodsinde Ridge and Passchendaele.

After Flanders, the battalion spent time in rest and training before going into the line again in the Somme in March 1918 in an attempt to halt and turn the German spring offensive. Operation Michael was Ludendorff's last gamble to force a decisive victory on the Western Front. The 47th Battalion were moved into the line around Dernacourt in an attempt to hold the German advance. The situation was chaotic as this area was virtually virgin ground with very little in the way of defensive trenches. On the 27 March, the 47th was charged with establishing a defensive line on a railway embankment just west of Dernacourt. It is probably in this action that Alfred Webster was killed. The battalion suffered 80 casualties that day and almost two entire companies were taken prisoner as the Germans outflanked the defenders.

Alfred was buried in Dernacourt Communal Cemetery Extension along with another 480 Australians who fell at Dernacourt. The "Queenslander Illustrated" in May 1918 contained a photograph of Alfred Webster, as well as details of his death, which prompted a Mr A. Cooper of Tannymorel to write to the military authorities enquiring into the settlement of Alfred's financial affairs as Mr Cooper was "*monetarily interested.*" There is no indication as to whether the debt was paid.

As was usual practice, any personal effects were despatched to the next of kin but the file indicates that Alfred's effects were "*lost at sea.*" The Roll of Honour Card was completed by Alfred's mother who indicated that Alfred had four brothers, three of whom were abroad, and his father Alexander was in the Home Defence.

Alexander requested that the following inscription be placed on Alfred's gravestone:

*"Crown him with many crowns,
A lamb upon his throne."*

Private Alfred Webster is also commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane.

Webster, Alexander (Douglas Lennox)

#4820 26th Battalion

Douglas Webster was one of four brothers born in and around the Southern Darling Downs. Douglas was born at



Tannymorel near Warwick. For most of Douglas Webster's military career he is known as Alexander as this is the name under which he enlisted. It was not until after his death that his mother wrote to Base Records to inform them that his real name was Douglas Lennox Webster (she included a copy of his birth certificate). She also stated that his age at the time of his death was 18 years and six months. Given that he enlisted in December 1915 and was Killed in Action in August 1918, it would seem that Douglas was just shy of his sixteenth birthday when he enlisted. His mother's letter confirms this stating that he was "*to (sic) young*" and he used his father's name.

On Douglas's enlistment papers he gave his occupation as band cutter although his mother when completing the Roll of Honour Card gave his occupation as railway porter. Douglas was drafted as a reinforcement in the 26th Battalion. The 26th was originally raised at Enoggera in March 1915, as a Queensland and Tasmanian battalion, and saw service on Gallipoli before being reorganised in Egypt before going to the Western Front.

In April 1916, Douglas embarked in Sydney enroute for England. He was admitted to the hospital on board the transport ship with V.D. where he spent 17 days. This would not be the only time Douglas stepped outside the boundaries. The journey

to England was quite long, probably due to the route going via the Cape of Good Hope to avoid German submarines in the Mediterranean. By December of 1916, young Douglas was in the Australian depot at Etaples where he was charged with "*gathering wood outside segregation camp contrary to standing orders*" and fined seven days pay. By February 1917 Douglas had joined his battalion. In June of that year he spent two weeks at the army sniping school. Soon after rejoining the battalion, Douglas was again before the Commanding Officer, this time for "*Neglect to obey orders*" and was sentenced to 7 days Field Punishment #2 (Field Punishment #2 meant that the offender would have to be shackled with cuffs for two hours in every 24) In the ensuing months, Douglas ran afoul of his superiors for disobeying orders while on a work party and using improper language to an NCO, for which he received a total of 14 days FP#2.

After the German advances in the spring of 1918 were halted near Villers Bretonneux, Foch, the Supreme Allied Commander planned a huge counter offensive that he hoped would drive the enemy back to the Hindenburg Line. However unlike the tactics that were employed on the Somme in 1916, by 1918 commanders had learnt a lot about mounting a successful attack. The 26th Battalion diary for August of

1918 demonstrates the detail in the planning, containing maps of artillery barrages, aerial photo reconnaissance photos and briefing notes for tank commanders. This new coordinated method of warfare, employing infantry, armour, aircraft and artillery, which had been pioneered by General Monash, ANZAC Corps Commander, earlier in the year proved to be decisive in the action to come. The 26th had been practicing infantry advances with tanks in preparation for their role in the drama throughout the early days of August. The great offensive began on 8th August and the following day, Douglas Webster was reported as killed in action. Ludendorff, the German commander would later describe the 8th August as "the blackest day."

Douglas was probably buried on the battlefield where he fell as some time later his remains were exhumed and he was laid to rest at Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres along with 983 other Australians. He is in good company as amongst the fallen at Heath Cemetery are two V.C. winners as well as a D.S.O. and a Military Medal. His mother gave his age when killed as 18 years and 6 months. His father asked that the following words be inscribed on his grave:

*"Safe in the arms of Jesus'
Safe in his gentle breast."*

Private Douglas Lennox Webster is also commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial.



Forgotten Heroes

A suburban war memorial sheds its secrets

The stories behind the names on the
Indoороopilly War Memorial

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October 2013





JUST A BUNCH OF MEANINGLESS NAMES on a marble pillar.

Twenty-nine names incised in black on white stone.

Twenty-nine names from the Indooroopilly community commemorated on the War Memorial monument in Keating Park.

Each Anzac Day their memory is upheld, their names honoured.

But do we know who they were? Can we put faces to names? Can we understand how they died? Probably not.

Yet, when you start to delve into those names, when you open the files of their lives, the stories appear. The names become people. And the names have families. They were a living, vital part of the fabric of our society. They lived on our street; they went to our school; they attended our church. They were friends or neighbours or acquaintances of our parents or grandparents. Their lives intertwined with ours.

The stories that emerge with the opening of the record are poignant; the statistics grotesque.

Three men die on the first day of the landings at Gallipoli, 25 April 1915.

Two brothers die on the same day on the same battlefield in France.

A boy of 17 is shot to pieces after only 19 days at the front.

A body lying unknown in a mass grave is recovered and identified 93 years after his death.

A watch buried with its wearer is returned to the victim's father 12 years after his burial.

In a single 14-hour night 1,900 young Australians are slaughtered in no-man's land.

Of 7,000 graves in a military cemetery, almost 5,000 are unidentified.

Almost 11,000 Australians killed in France have no known grave.

The following pages attempt to give identity to the forgotten names, to recreate that part of their lives that was given up in the face of the threat to a nation's freedom and way of life.

Unsuspecting of the horrors they would encounter, or perhaps in spite of them, they left their homes and families to answer a call of personal responsibility and national patriotism, and never came back.

Countless names of 'deathless dead' are inscribed on hundreds of monuments Australia-wide. A litany of names of ordinary people who experienced the extraordinary. An army of young that went to war but never returned.

The nation hailed them as heroes and pledged not to forget. But, nearing 100 years on, the names are in danger of losing meaning. They no longer represent people with whom

we can relate. They face the threat of becoming forgotten heroes.

Personalising the names is within our reach with the ready availability of official records, and it is a fitting exercise to undertake in our quest to honour that pledge, 'lest we forget'.

THE INDOOROOPILLY WAR MEMORIAL

THE INDOOROOPILLY WAR MEMORIAL located in Keating Park, Indooroopilly, was erected in 1921 as an initiative of the Indooroopilly Progress Association. A meeting of the Association held in mid-1920 decided to undertake the project.

As the *Brisbane Courier* newspaper reported on 7 July 1920:

Indooroopilly Progress Association. At the quarterly general meeting of the Indooroopilly Progress Association, Mr C S Eden (president) in the chair, it was decided, in view of the removal of the restrictions under the War Precautions Regulations, to proceed with the erection of the Fallen Soldiers' Monument.

Further reports in the press traced the development of the project.

The *Brisbane Courier*, 13 October 1920: *At the annual meeting of the Indooroopilly Progress Association, Mr C S Eden presiding, it was*



The Indooroopilly War Memorial

decided to place the order for the Fallen Soldiers' Monument and expedite its erection. The following officers were elected: President, Mr G S Crouch; vice presidents, Messrs Welch and Eden; secretary, E E Richards; treasurer, H Norman Wilson (both re-elected); with an executive of 18. . .

The Brisbane Courier, 8 February 1921: At a meeting

of the Indooroopilly Progress Association executive on Thursday night, the secretary (Mr E E Richards), reported that good progress had been made with the Soldiers' Monument which is to be unveiled by his Excellency the Governor, on Saturday, February 26 [1921].

The marble monument, commemorating the names

of soldiers from the district who died in World War I, was designed by Mr H W Mobsby, the Government photographer and artist at the time. He was a local resident living at Station Road, Indooroopilly.

The monument was formally unveiled by the Governor of Queensland, Sir Matthew Nathan KCMG, on the 26th February 1921, and the event was fully reported in the press in an article published in the Brisbane Courier, issue Monday, 28 February 1921:

*A Lesson to the Living.
Indooroopilly Memorial Unveiled by the Governor.
"The country will not forget either those who lost their lives, or those who have been left behind to mourn them," said his Excellency, the Governor on Saturday afternoon, when unveiling the monument to fallen sailors and soldiers which has been erected by public subscription through the Progress Association of Indooroopilly. "Monuments such as this," continued Sir Matthew Nathan, "will keep green for neighbours and fellow citizens, the memory of individual heroes. They should do something more. They should be a lesson to the living, as well as a memorial to the dead. The thought of the sacrifice made by these men should make others think what they, in their turn, can sacrifice for their country's good. There is a sacrifice that most of us can make to help this land – the sacrifice of our hates and prejudices which not*



*Indooroopilly War Memorial
Photo: J Gibson Nov 2012*



only cause war, but mar the joys of peace. These are the elements of which are built up the more material hindrances to the unity of the State, and to the progress towards better conditions.”

The ceremony of unveiling the monument was followed by a brief silence, after which “The Last Post” was sounded. The citizens’ laurel wreath was then placed upon the monument by the Governor, who was followed by relatives and friends of the fallen soldiers with floral tributes, which were laid upon the base of the pillar.

Lieut-Colonel Cameron MHR, urged the necessity for encouraging among the community as a whole, that fine spirit of co-operation which had animated the men of the Australian Imperial Forces.

Alderman J F Maxwell also spoke.

A vote of thanks to his Excellency was moved by the president of the Progress Association (Mr G S Crouch), and supported by the vice-president (Mr Eden). Anthems were rendered by the combined choirs of the district under the baton of Mr G K Seymour, Miss Bradley officiating as organist. His Excellency, who was attended by Colonel Parsons (private secretary), inspected a company of Toowong cadets who, commanded by Captain Smartt, acted as a guard of honour.

The monument, which was designed by Mr H W Mobsby,

is constructed of white Carrara marble and granite. It stands in a prominent position near the railway station, and is 10ft in height, the base being 5ft square.

A moulded granite cap bearing a lamp surmounts the column, the front panel of the latter bearing 25 names of residents of No 1 Ward of Taringa Shire who gave their lives for their country. Below the honour roll is a verse from Laurence Binyon’s poem, “For the Fallen”, the whole forming a solid and permanent representation of a community’s respect for their fallen comrades in the Great War.

Further names were added after the unveiling.

The Brisbane Courier in its issue dated 11 July 1921 reported the addition of four more names, bringing the total to 29; the initial 25 names on the front face, and the additional four names on the reverse face of the monument:

At the general meeting of the Indooroopilly Progress Association on Thursday, the honorary secretary (Mr E E Richards) reported the addition of four names to the Soldiers’ Monument, thus completing the memorial, and that after payment of all accounts there was a small credit balance. It was resolved to hand over the monument to the Taringa Shire Council as a citizens’ tribute to the memory of the lads who ‘dared and died’ in the cause of the Empire. The members

of the sub-committee were thanked for their successful efforts in the erection of the memorial special thanks being accorded to Mr Richards for his work.

Finally the work of the Progress Association in the matter of the erection of the War Memorial was completed, and passed into the hands of the Shire Council: . . . The secretary, Mr E E Richards, reported having handed over the small credit balance of the Monument Fund to the Council; the Shire Council having accepted the monument on behalf of the residents and subscribers, the association’s responsibilities were now terminated.

(Brisbane Courier 8 February 1922)

Initially located at the intersection of Station Road and Westminster Road, the monument was relocated in 1970 from its street location to its present position in Keating Park. Here it is the focus of annual Anzac Memorial services when the sacrifice made by those whose names are recorded is commemorated.

NAMES ON A MONUMENT

ON WAR MEMORIALS and monuments all over Australia, long lists of names commemorate men and women of local districts who served in time of war and paid the ultimate price, losing their lives for the welfare of



The Indooroopilly War Memorial

their country. At the time the monuments were raised the names had deep significance. They were known in the community. Their families and friends lived in the area. The circumstances of their lives and the nature of their deaths were understood.

However, with the passage of time, the passing of the generations, and the scattering of the families, the names on the monuments have largely lost local significance. Each Anzac Day community homage is paid at the feet of district war memorials right across the nation, lest we forget; but few today, and fewer as time goes by, will be remembered in a personal way. Enquiries suggest that little, if anything, has been recorded of these people – who they were, where they lived, where they served, how they died. They have slipped into obscure anonymity.

The Indooroopilly monument contains the names of 29 people from the local district who died in the First World War, and the object of this project is to identify each one, to discover something of the families they belonged to, and to record the circumstances of their wartime service and the manner and place of their deaths.

The names recorded on the front face of the monument are as follows:

BARDWELL H W
HEMMING V C
BOYLE J J
HOMER H R
BRADLEY W J
HOMER H W
BRYDON K M
LARKIN J
BURNS A
McDONALD S
DAVIDSON E R
MUNRO C C ROSS
DAVIDSON P
MUNRO K ROSS
ELLIOTT R V
NEVILL J H
ELLIOTT T W
REYNOLDS P
GREGORY E G
ROBERTSON F J K
GREGORY G
TAYLOR K R
HAYMEN F G
WEBB N R
HAYS J W

The names recorded on the reverse face of the monument are as follows:

BAKEY J F
PARKER J A
COUPLAND C G
SINCLAIR D B T

These are the names of the fallen. Many, many more sustained wounds that impacted the rest of their lives. Untold numbers returned unscathed physically, but carried scarred memories as long as they lived.

All who served at war left loved ones to worry or mourn.

Of the deaths recorded on the memorial, five men fell at Gallipoli, three on the first day of the initial landings, 25 April 1915:

W J Bradley, F G Haymen and N R Webb.

D B Sinclair died on 1 August, and H R Homer on 12 November, 1915.

The greatest number fell on the western front in France and Belgium.

P Reynolds died in France 12 May 1916, and J H Nevill died at Fromelles on 19 July 1916. Five men died within four days of each other at Pozieres and Villers Bretonneux in 1916 – brothers, E R Davidson and P Davidson on the same day, 5 August; R V Elliott, 6 August; J F Bakey, 7 August; and E G Gregory, 8 August. K R Taylor died on 30 December 1916.

Those who died on the western front in 1917 were: J A Parker, 11 April; C C Ross Munro, 23 April; H W Bardwell, 7 June; C G Coupland, 23 June; J Larkin, 5 October; K M Brydon, 12 October; T W Elliott, 19 November.

Two men died during 1918 – V C Hemming on 6 May, and J W Hays on 29 September, less than six weeks before the end of the war.

The Sinai Peninsula campaign in 1917 claimed two men at the Battle of Rafa near El Arish: F J Robertson on 9 January and J J Boyle on 12 January.

One man, K Ross Munro, transferred from the Australian Army to the British Air Force and died in action over France on 9 August 1917.

Two men died in England: A Burns as the result of an aircraft accident at Gosport



airfield on 20 April 1917, and H W Homer who died in an English hospital on 1 June 1917 as the result of wounds received in France.

One man on the monument, G Gregory, returned to Australia and died at his home in Brisbane on 7 July 1920, his death attributed to the effects of gas poisoning received in France.

The remaining name on the monument, S McDonald, is unique in that he was a member of the merchant marine and lost his life when his ship was torpedoed in the Irish Sea in 1918. He was buried in Ireland.

Of the twenty-eight men whose bodies remained overseas, many have no known grave and their bodies have never been recovered.

The names of all those whose last resting place is unknown are recorded on memorials located on, or in the vicinity of, the battlefields where they went missing.

One man, whose body lay undiscovered for 93 years, was recovered in 2010. From an unmarked mass grave of approximately four hundred bodies buried at Fromelles by the Germans, the remains of J H Nevill, together with the bodies of about one hundred others, were positively identified by modern DNA technology, exhumed, and re-interred in a specially dedicated war cemetery.

THE STORIES OF THE PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THE INDOOROOPILLY MONUMENT

HIS MAJESTY'S AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORTS (HMAT)

A fleet of transport ships was leased by the Commonwealth Government for the purpose of conveying enlisted troops to the war zones.

The first fleet of 28 Australian and 10 New Zealand troopships assembled at King George Sound, Albany, WA, and departed on 1 November 1915.

Troopship A5, HMAT Omrah

HMAT *Omrah* of the Orient Line was the first ship to leave Brisbane with troops for service overseas. Here she is pictured leaving Brisbane on the 24th September 1914, loaded with men of the 9th Battalion.



Her identifying number, A5, is clearly seen painted on her hull. Anxious families, relatives and friends line the edge of Pinkenba wharf as the ship is pulled into the Brisbane River to head downstream.

The rails of the ship are lined with newly enlisted men and boys on their way to war and the defence of the British Empire. Many will never come back.

Somewhere, among the soldiers watching family and friends disappear in the diminishing distance, are three Indooroopilly men who were destined not to return: Lieutenant Frank Granville Haymen, and Privates William John Bradley, and Norman Reginald Webb.

All three fell on the day of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli, 25 April 1915.

This photo was published in the *Brisbane Courier* on 30 September 1914.



The Indoeroopilly War Memorial

BAKEY, J F

Private John Frederick Bakey,
3694, 15th/49th Battalion, KIA
7.8.1916

JOHN FREDERICK BAKEY was 35 years 8 months old when he enlisted at Bell's Paddock Camp, Enoggera, Brisbane, on the 17th August 1915. He was attached to the 12th reinforcements of the 15th Battalion and assigned the service number 3694.

John Bakey was born at Indooroopilly, the youngest of a family of eight or nine children born to Stephen and Annie Bakey (nee Bourke or Burke). The Bakey family were living at Waverley Road, Taringa, when he went to war and he nominated his mother, then a widow, as next-of-kin. His father, Stephen, had died in 1899, and four of his siblings had also died before he enlisted.

A Roman Catholic, he was single and working as a labourer before his enlistment.

Private John Bakey travelled to Sydney, probably by train, for the voyage to his theatre of war. He left Australia aboard the troopship, A23, HMAS *Suffolk*, on 23 November 1915 headed for Egypt and further training. He was taken on strength with the 15th Battalion on 6 March 1916 and the next day was transferred to the 49th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir.

The 49th Battalion had been raised in Egypt on 27 February 1916 as part of a strategy to double the size of the AIF.

Approximately half of its complement was composed of veterans from the 9th Battalion returned from Gallipoli following their withdrawal from that campaign. The rest were fresh reinforcements, predominantly Queenslanders including, presumably, Private John Bakey.

On the 26th March he was diagnosed with meningitis and admitted to No 2 Australian Stationary Hospital where he was subsequently passed fit and cleared for duty a week later.

His unit was deployed to join the British Expeditionary Force at the Western Front, and left Alexandria aboard the HT *Caledonia* on 2 June 1916, arriving Marseilles on the 9th June.

The history of the battalion relates that the 49th Battalion arrived in France on the 12 June 1916 and moved northwards to the trenches of the Western Front where they were engaged in the series of engagements that had commenced at the beginning of July and became known as the Battle of the Somme.

They arrived at the front on 21 June 1916 and were soon deployed to Pozieres, a small French village in the valley of the Somme where intense fighting saw its fall to the allies on 23rd July. Private Bakey's battalion engaged in their first major action in the battle for Mouquet Farm, near the village of Pozieres, a fierce encounter that obliterated the farm

complex and resulted in heavy losses for the Australians. Advancing from Pozieres north towards the farm, then a stronghold of the Germans, the battle for Mouquet Farm began on the 5th August 1916.

Two days later, on 7th August 1916, Private John Bakey disappeared on the battlefield, never to be seen again.

Eight months later, an official Court of Enquiry held at Lavieville, France, on 26th April 1917, determined that he was 'Missing in Action, 7.8.1916.' This verdict was subsequently revised by a second Court of Enquiry held 'in the field' on the 3rd August 1917, to 'Killed in Action, 7.8.1916.'

No trace of him was ever found.

Others, whose names have been commemorated on the Indooroopilly monument, were also killed in the same series of battles around Mouquet Farm – men probably known to John Bakey. Private Eric Davidson and his brother Private Percy Davidson both died on the 5th August; Private Robert Elliott on the 6th August; and Private Ernest Gregory on the 8th August.

The Australian War Memorial simply places Bakey's death in France, and the cemetery or memorial details identify the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, in the far north of France.

The memorial at Villers-Bretonneux is the Australian National Memorial erected to commemorate all Australian



soldiers who died in France and Belgium during the First World War, and especially to name those whose graves are not known. It stands within the Villers-Bretonneux Military cemetery. Almost 11,000 Australian soldiers are commemorated by this memorial, Private John Frederick Bakey included.

His name is also located at panel 143 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

BARDWELL, H W

Private Harold William Bardwell, 2275, 41st Battalion DOW 7.6.1917

HAROLD WILLIAM BARDWELL was only 16 years and 3 months old when he enlisted for war service at Brisbane on 26 June 1916. He must have been one of the youngest recruits to get into the Army!

His enlistment papers record his age as 18 years and 3 months. But a death notice run in the *Brisbane Courier* on 28 July 1917 states his age at death to have been 17 years 3 months, which made him only 16 years 3 months when he enlisted. With a discovered birth date of 11 March 1900, there is no doubt about his real age.

He understated his age by two years. He was a teenager, a mere boy.

Harold William McGavin Bardwell was the second of four children born to Frederick James Bardwell and his wife, Elizabeth Chep Bardwell, nee McGavin. The children were: Muriel Edith, born 1898; Harold William born 1900; Daisy Nell, born 1901 died 1974; and Walter Howard, born 1909 died 1998.

Harold's father was a commercial traveller and Harold himself, a draper's assistant. From at least 1913 to the mid-1920s they lived in various locations in Taringa and Indooroopilly including Union Street, Ada Street and Swann Road. At the time of his enlistment they were living at 'Haroldean', Grosvenor Road, Indooroopilly.

His mother, Mrs Elizabeth Bardwell of that address, was nominated as his next-of-kin.

Harold claimed affiliation with the Baptist Church, although his name was subsequently commemorated on an honour board within the local Methodist Church.

On joining up, young Private Harold Bardwell was assigned to the 4th 41st Battalion – the 4th Reinforcements – with the service number 2275.

His embarkation from Australia was on the Troopship A36, SS *Boonah*, which left Brisbane on 21 October 1916 and arrived at Plymouth, England, on 10 January 1917.

For a 16-year-old, ostensibly an 18-year-old, that trip must have been a fabulous holiday experience.

His contingent marched into training camp at Durrington, near the town of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England, on 14 January 1917. He had a period of sickness when he was hospitalised in Fargo Hospital, a 1000-plus-bed hospital established at Larkhill army base on the Salisbury Plain, just north of Stonehenge. Here he was kept ten days for treatment.

On 2 May 1917 his unit proceeded overseas from Folkestone to France where they were stationed at Etaples a small town and fishing port on the Canche River in northern France about 27 km south of Boulogne.

During World War one the town became a vast Allied military camp and a giant hospital 'city' catering for as many as 22,000 wounded or sick. It was the principal depot and staging camp for reinforcements of the British Expeditionary Force, and a centre for rigorous troop training prior to deployment to the front.

On 17 May Harold Bardwell was moved to the front line.

From the accounts of the activities of the 41st Battalion it seems that his unit was employed in a supporting role at Messines in Flanders near Ypres.

The Battle of Messines took place in the week from 7th to 14th June 1917. The assault by the allies on the German lines was memorable for its association with one of the most memorable operations



The Indooroopilly War Memorial

of the war – the detonation of huge mines laid in tunnels excavated under the German defences.

The focus of the attack was Hill 60, a strategic elevated position held by the Germans. Throughout the previous year a network of underground tunnels had been driven from the British lines towards the target and, from November 1916, the operation had been in the hands of the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company.

At 3.10am on 7th June 1917 the mines were detonated, 19 of the 21 exploding in an enormous blast that ripped apart the ground above, annihilating in an instant 10,000 unsuspecting German troops. The simultaneous detonation of the 455 tons of explosive is said to have been heard in London, and caused the greatest loss of life of any man-made non-nuclear explosion in history.

At the time of the blast, and after only 19 days at the front, Harold Bardwell was in hospital, critically wounded. On the 5th June 1917 he received multiple gunshot wounds in action and died two days later on the 7th June (the day of the horrific explosion) at No 2 Casualty Clearing Station located in the field in France. He was buried by the Chaplain, Rev G K Tucker, at Trois Arbres cemetery, Steenwerck, 3½ miles WNW of Armentieres; grave location, Plot 1 Row N Grave 15.

He was only 17.

Early in 1918, his father made a plea for his son's personal effects to be returned:

In reference to personal effects of my late son No 2275 Pte H W Bardwell, 4th Reinforcement, 41st Battalion, I am very anxious to get the personal effects of my boy and as we were advised of his death as far back as June 1917, I feel that it is quite time I knew what became of the few things that he should have had with him.

Kindly look into this matter at your earliest convenience. F J Bardwell

In reply, his father received this communication dated 14 December 1918, from Base Records:

No personal effects have been received other than the package forwarded to Mrs E Bardwell on 15th March last. Subsequent advice from London states that there were no personal effects in kit.

What was in that package was pathetically little:

2 discs, letters, Testament, metal mirror, cigarette case, 1 Franc note.

The name H W Bardwell is located at Panel 133 in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. His name is also commemorated on the Honour Board of the Anzac Memorial Chapel, part of the Indooroopilly Uniting Church, Brisbane.

BOYLE, J J

Trooper John James Boyle,
1083, 2nd Light Horse, DOW
12.1.1917

JOHN JAMES BOYLE joined the Army at Brisbane on 9 February 1915 when he was 21 years and 10 months old. His parents were Indooroopilly residents, Frank and Catherine Boyle (nee O'Loughlin) who owned and operated a bakery on Moggill Road where they lived. From at least 1903 Frank ran the bakery assisted by his eldest son, Francis, then a 22-year-old. His wife Catherine was engaged in domestic duties, raising a large family of twelve – 9 boys and 3 girls. As they grew, various members of the family became actively involved in the business. By 1913, the business was carried on by Frank, with 32-year-old son Francis the assistant baker. Daughters Catherine Mary junior (aged 26) and Sarah (aged 22) were machinists, presumably in the bakery. Wife Catherine was engaged in domestic duties.

Four of the Boyle brothers, including John, joined up for war service with the Army. William Thomas Boyle, 312, aged just 19, joined up on 20 August 1914, and was among the earliest recruits from Indooroopilly. He sailed from Brisbane with the 9th Battalion in September 1914. Isaac Henry Boyle enlisted on 1 December 1914 at age 25; and Francis Boyle, the oldest brother, enlisted on 17 January 1916 when he was 35. John did not return, but died on the Sinai Peninsula in 1917.



John Boyle joined up as a Private, or Trooper as it was in the Light Horse, attached to the 2nd Light Horse Regiment with the service number 1083. He nominated his mother, Mrs Catherine Mary Boyle of Moggill Road, Indooroopilly, as his next-of-kin, and described his occupation as 'labourer'.

The family claimed affiliation with the Roman Catholic Church.

Six months were spent training in Australia before he was posted overseas as part of the 7th reinforcements. His contingent left Sydney aboard the Troopship A9, *Shropshire*, on 20 August 1915, to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at the Gallipoli Peninsula, and he is shown to have joined his regiment there on the 13th November 1915. The regiment had been deployed to Gallipoli without their horses since May 1915 and served mostly in a defensive role. Boyle would have spent a month at Gallipoli, because the full withdrawal of the troops, including the 2nd Light Horse, took place over the nights of the 18th and 19th December 1915.

The Anzac forces drew back to Egypt and John Boyle disembarked from the *Ionian* at Alexandria on Boxing Day, 26 December 1915.

On 14 January 1916 his unit marched out from camp in suburban Heliopolis in Cairo and two days later, on the 16th, they were stationed at Wardan, awaiting further deployment.

Between January and May 1916, the regiment was engaged in the protection of the Nile River Valley and in the defence of the Suez Canal.

Indications are that James Boyle was sent to Romani, 35 km east of the canal, on the 4th July as part of the Anzac Mounted Division led by the legendary General Sir Harry Chauvel, and would have taken part in the battle at Romani from the 3rd to the 5th August 1916. Private Frank Robertson, also a trooper in the 2nd Light Horse, whose name is also on the Indooroopilly monument, was in the same action at Romani. They were probably good mates – 'cobbers' in arms. He, too, was to meet his death in the desert.

The battle of Romani turned back the Turkish advance, ending the threat to the Suez Canal and marking the beginning of the push by the British forces towards Palestine.

In November 1916, the regiment was involved in the Allied advance across the Sinai Desert and the actions against the Turks on the Palestine frontier. Trooper James Boyle would have been part of Chauvel's Anzac Mounted Division that engaged in the Battle of Magdhaba, 30-40 km inland from El Arish. Chauvel's force for the attack on Magdhaba consisted of three brigades of the Anzac Mounted Division, including the 2nd Light Horse. In making his advance Chauvel employed the strategy of riding the horses for

40 minutes, walking them for 10 minutes and resting for 10 minutes every hour.

Chauvel mounted his attack on Magdhaba on 23 December 1916.

Trooper Boyle survived that attack but not the subsequent engagement at Rafa. Both he and Frank Robertson died as a result of the action at Rafa on the 9th January 1917.

On the day of the action at Rafa, Trooper John James Boyle received wounds to body and face that proved fatal. He was admitted to the 1/2nd Lowland Casualty Station at El Arish, Egypt, on the 10th January with gunshot wounds to arm, penetrating, right lung, mouth, penetrating. The multiple nature of his wounds suggests that he was caught by machine gun fire. Two days later he succumbed to his wounds and he died on the 12th January 1917.

His burial took place at El Arish Military Cemetery on the day of his death in Grave 11, the ceremony conducted by Chaplain Rev H K Gordon who had also buried Robertson three days previously.

After the war, Boyle's body was exhumed and re-buried at Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. The notification to his mother advising that his body had been re-interred at Plot F, Grave 396, was sent on the 16th December 1921. His father had died in January 1921.



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Trooper John James Boyle's name is commemorated on panel 3 in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, in Canberra.

BRADLEY, W J

Private William John Bradley
327, 9th Battalion, KIA
25.4.1915

WILLIAM JOHN BRADLEY was born in Ludlow, England and, in 1912, had come to Australia where he lived with his uncle and probably worked for him as a carpenter. In 1914, when Britain declared war on Germany on the 4th August, William was living with his uncle at 'Esperance', John Bradley's residence in Jackson Street, Indooroopilly. Being English-born, and with his stated next-of-kin, his mother, Mrs Alice Bradley, then living at 2 Stafford Rd, Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales, he must have felt compelled to play his part in the conflict. A mere twenty-one days after the declaration of war, on 25 August 1914, William enlisted in the AIF and was assigned service number 327. He has been acknowledged as one of the first men to volunteer in Brisbane.

With the rank of Private, he was attached to the 9th Battalion, the first battalion recruited in Queensland. He was 30 years old and unmarried when he joined up.

Bradley embarked for overseas on 24 September 1914 leaving from Brisbane aboard the troop

ship SS *Omrah* headed for Egypt where initial training was to take place. A photo of the Orient liner about to leave the Pinkenba wharf in Brisbane loaded with troops appeared in the *Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 30 September 1914.

The troops arrived in Egypt in early December and remained there in training at Cairo until the end of February. Leaving Alexandria on the last day of the month the battalion sailed for the Greek island of Lemnos lying to the west of the Dardanelles. The soldiers stayed on Lemnos for eight weeks. On the 24th April the troops were told that the battalion had been chosen to make the landings at the Gallipoli peninsula. They were transferred to the warship HMS *Queen* which steamed to her position for the landing. At midnight the men of the Queensland 9th Battalion were assembled on deck to clamber down the ship's sides and into the waiting boats that would take them ashore. With the first boats about 50 yards off shore the bombardment commenced from the Turkish lines. From the cliffs above the beach, deadly fire raked across the advancing boats and the men wading the shallows towards the shore. In the pre-dawn of 25th April, William Bradley was one of those who made it to the beach and managed to storm the low cliffs at what has since become Anzac Cove in the face of fierce fire from the Turks, and to dig-in facing the enemy lines.

Private William John Bradley was one of those who fell on the first day of battle contesting that pathetic patch of inhospitable terrain. Lying somewhere in the scrub that covered the gullies and ridges, his fate initially remained unknown and he was posted as 'missing in action'. However, he did not survive the day. Whether during the night or the daylight hours, he was killed in the fierce action that followed the landings.

In the confusion of the battlefield his whereabouts were unknown and he was officially listed as 'Missing from action at the Dardanelles'. This notification was later revised to 'Killed in action, Gaba Tepe, 25/4/15.'

William Bradley's death was recorded in a newspaper article titled *Heroes of the Dardanelles* appearing in the *Brisbane Courier*, on Saturday, 10 July 1915:

Personal notes. Private W J Bradley, 9th Battalion, recently reported to have died of wounds, was a nephew of Mr John Bradley, contractor, of Indooroopilly. He was formerly a member of the Territorials in England, and won a cup for the rifle shooting championship of the County of Monmouth. Private Bradley, who had been in Queensland only 12 months when war broke out, was one of the first men to volunteer in Brisbane, joining the 9th Battalion.



For six years his mother heard nothing from the military authorities apart from the basic details of his death. In desperation she wrote the Australian Minister for Defence a plaintive plea for information. Her letter to Senator G F Pearce dated 27 October 1921 reads:

Is it possible for your department to forward me the place of burial of my son William John Bradley. He was one of the Anzacs who fell at Gallipoli at a place called Gaba Tepe on the 25th April 1915. As I have never received any full particulars regarding the death of my son, only that he fell at Gaba Tepe, it would be very consoling to me if you could forward any more information concerning his death. Also would it be possible to send me a photograph of his grave or place of burial. The attached paper with his full name and regiment etc, I send to you. Hoping you will give an early reply.

I shall feel extremely grateful to you for any information you can give.

His answer is not known.

The Australian War Memorial records the place of burial of Private William John Bradley, 327, 9th Battalion, C Company, at Lone Pine, Gallipoli, Turkey, and his name appears on panel 31 of the Lone Pine Memorial in the Lone Pine Cemetery.

His name is also recorded on Panel 55, in the Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial,

Canberra. A photo of him was published in *The Queenslander* newspaper issue 24 July 1915, page 27.

A window in the Anzac Memorial Chapel, Indooroopilly Uniting Church, commemorates his death. And a memorial to him exists in St Andrew's Anglican Church, Indooroopilly, as well.

William Bradley's death on the original Anzac Day became the catalyst for the dedication of the proposed new Indooroopilly Methodist Church as an Anzac Memorial. The then Governor of Queensland, Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams officially laid the foundation stone of the church on 29 April 1916, the first Saturday after the first anniversary of Anzac Day, and proclaimed it to be the 'Anzac Memorial Church'. Subsequent legislation banning the use of the word 'Anzac' to name buildings threatened the legality of the name, but permission was granted by the Prime Minister of the day, Hon William Morris Hughes, to maintain the use of the name in this instance. It is believed to be the only church building – possibly the only building of any nature – officially designated as an Anzac Memorial.

BRYDON, K M

Lieutenant Kenneth MacKenzie Brydon, 14th Field Coy Engineers, KIA 12.10.1917

KENNETH MACKENZIE BRYDON, son of John Mackenzie Brydon and Marianne Helena Brydon, enlisted on 25 July 1915, at Brisbane. Born on the 29th January 1893, his age at his enlistment was recorded as 22 years 7 months. He was a civil engineer, unmarried, and Presbyterian. At the time of enlistment, he was living with his widowed mother in the now historic Indooroopilly home, 'Tighnabruaich', near the Indooroopilly railway station. His father, a prominent Brisbane businessman, and a noted Presbyterian layman, died when Kenneth was just two years old. Their home, 'Tighnabruaich' had been built by Henry Stanley, brother of the Colonial Architect, FDG Stanley, who designed the house. Henry Stanley owned the house from about 1899 to 1891.

Interestingly, another name on the Indooroopilly monument had associations with 'Tighnabruaich', that of V C Hemming, whose family owned the house from about 1906 to 1945. It is probable that Brydon and Hemming were close friends – they joined up within six days of each other.

Two Brydon siblings also served in the war: his older sister Jean, a nursing sister, who was awarded the Royal



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Red Cross (2nd Class) in 1919; and his younger brother, Leonard, who was wounded in the arm at Gallipoli, served in France, and was promoted to Lieutenant. Both returned to Australia after the war.

Kenneth Brydon was taken into the Field Company Engineers on the 1st January 1916, and appointed 2nd Lieutenant, presumably because of his engineering qualifications. He was attached to the 20th reinforcements. Unusually, it seems, he remained in Australia for 14 months before being sent for duty overseas. It may have been that he was engaged in training new recruits.

The 20th reinforcements embarked on the troopship A60, HMAT *Aeneas*, on 30 September 1916 from Sydney bound for Plymouth, England, where the troops disembarked on the 19th November.

Another six months passed before he was sent to the front.

On the 1st May 1917 he was sent to France and a fortnight later taken on strength with the Australian 5th Division Engineers, 14th Field Company, on the 16th May, where he was one of seven officers and approximately 220 other ranks.

He was promoted to Lieutenant on 27 July 1917.

The war diary of the 14th Field Company Engineers for 12 October 1917 describes the work the company was engaged in that day:

One section with a carrying party of 100 from 57th Btn laid 265 duckboards on the Helles track . . . one section worked on dugout accommodation in Westhoek Ridge . . . one section commenced the sinking of two wells on the reverse slope of Westhoek Ridge . . . one section completed splinter-proof RAP [Regimental Aid Post] at Garter Point.

During that day the company was also involved in the transfer of a large quantity of stores to Westhoek Ridge. Lieutenant Brydon was engaged on one of these tasks, leading his men, directing operations, when they came under artillery fire. The war diary records that:

Lieut K M Brydon was killed about 4pm by a shell . . . He was buried there.

His place of burial is recorded at the Hooze Crater Cemetery, Zillebeke, Belgium, two miles due east of Ypres.

He was 24.

Lists of his remaining effects including clothes and personal items, and some tools of trade, that were returned home to his mother, are detailed in full in his service file. Among his effects is recorded 1 housewife, believed to be a portable sewing repair kit issued to soldiers and pronounced huzzif. Some of Lieutenant Kenneth Mackenzie Brydon's remaining effects were claimed by his brother, also in the Army, Cadet Officer (later Lieutenant) Leonard A Brydon.

Mrs Brydon went on to a distinguished career in women's education and is the subject of an entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

Extensive articles outlining her career appeared in the *Brisbane Courier*, issues 26 February 1916 and 29 December 1932.

Kenneth Brydon's name is located at panel 23 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

BURNS, A

Lieut Alexander Burns, 15th Battalion/47th Battalion, Flt Lieut RFC, Killed 20.4.1917

ALEXANDER BURNS, was a 22-year-old mechanical draftsman with the Queensland Government Railway workshops when he enlisted at Brisbane on 15 July 1915. His parents, James and Helen Burns lived at Lambert Road, Indooroopilly, in a house they called 'Hazeldean'. Alexander was living at Rosewood when he enlisted, perhaps to be closer to his place of employment, and his name features on the Rosewood School Honour Board suggesting he went to school there.

Alexander Burns was the second son of James Kerr Burns and Helen Johnman who had married in 1884. The discovered family was: Jessie, born 1886; Helen, born 1887; James, born 1890;



Alexander, born 1893; and Annie (Queenie), born 1896. The family's religious affiliation was Presbyterian.

Both boys served in World War 1; Alexander – Alec – was killed, James returned permanently disabled.

James Burns was wounded at Gallipoli and invalided to England where he was admitted to hospital in Oxford on the 12th November 1915. His left leg was subsequently amputated above the knee and he was discharged in England on 22 July 1916, permanently unfit for active service.

The father, James Kerr Burns was a railway inspector and apparently associated with the railways all his life. That probably explains Alec's employment with the railway workshops.

After five months in training with the 15th Battalion, Alec was appointed 2nd Lieutenant on 17 January 1916 and four months later he left on the long journey that would take him to the front line. He embarked at Sydney aboard the troopship A16, HMAT *Star of Victoria*, on 31 March 1916, headed for Egypt. On 7 June 1916 he embarked at Alexandria for the British Expeditionary Force on board the *Huntspill*, disembarking at Marseilles on 14 June 1916.

Burns appears to have been in a reinforcements camp until 5 August 1916 when he was dispatched to his unit at Etaples in northern France. On 10 August 1916 he joined the

47th Battalion AIF, and on the 12th August he was taken on strength with the battalion in France where it was engaged in the trench warfare of the Western Front in the area of Pozieres.

On the 11th October 1916 he was promoted 'in the field' to the rank of Lieutenant.

The war service of Lieut Alexander Burns then took a new direction. On 22 October 1916 he was discharged from the AIF in London to accept appointment to a commission in the British Royal Flying Corps and he joined No 2 Royal Flying Corps School of Instruction, Oxford, on the 23rd October 1916. Apparently he was stationed at Grange Gosport for the next six months, seeming to suggest that he was involved in flying instruction rather than learning to fly. But that is not clear.

An aeroplane accident claimed his life on 20 April 1917 at Grange Gosport.

Advice was transmitted to the Australian authorities that:

Lt Alexander Burns AIF, attached RFC, No 59 Res Squadron died at 9.30pm, 20/4/17, result of an aeroplane accident here yesterday afternoon. From OC RFC Grange Gosport. Dated 21/4/17.

A telegram was sent to Mrs Burns on 20 April 1917, 8.10 pm:

I regret to inform you your son seriously injured in aeroplane accident this afternoon. Doing as well as can be expected. Both legs broken. Will wire later and write. Admitted to hospital.

A follow-up telegram was sent on the 21st April 1917:

Deeply regret to inform you your son died at 9.30 pm tonight in hospital result of aeroplane accident your son James advised writing.

The nature of the accident was not stated and has not been discovered.

Notification was made in the Queensland newspapers with his name included in the 295th and 296th casualty lists appearing in the *Queenslander* on 19 May 1917.

Lieut A Burns Indooroopilly Died (result of accident) 20/4/17

Grange Gosport, the airfield where Alexander Burns lost his life, was the home of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) School of Special Flying, located at Gosport, a district of Portsmouth on England's south coast. The site was prepared as an airfield for the RFC in February 1914 and the first flying units arrived on 6 July 1914. The aircraft stayed for only a few weeks before departing. The Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) then used the drome for about 3 months. The RFC then returned and utilised the airfield from 6 January 1915 until 1 April 1918 when the RFC and the RNAS were amalgamated to form a new service, the Royal Air Force (RAF).



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The name of Alexander Burns does not feature in the records of the Australian War Memorial or the National Archives of Australia after his discharge from the Australian Army. His name is not included in the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, presumably because he served in the latter stages with British forces and was not a member of the AIF at the time of his death.

Neither is there a record of his place of burial.

Further research will be needed to uncover these details of his war service.

It seems unfortunate and regrettable that Australian records do not acknowledge his service and his death after his transfer to the British forces. This policy places severe restriction on the access of records of many Australians who served, and denies them recognition in the halls of commemoration at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

COUPLAND, C G

Private Charles George Coupland, 1843, 4th Pioneer Battalion, DOW 23.6.1917

CHARLES GEORGE COUPLAND was married and living at Jackson Street, Indooroopilly, when he enlisted in the Army on the 4th October 1915. He was one of three men in Jackson Street, all close neighbours, who did not survive the war – William Bradley and Joseph Nevill who

were next-door neighbours, and Charles Coupland who lived a few doors away on the other side of the street.

Confusion is apparent in his service record regarding his surname. He is variously identified as 'Coupland' and 'Copeland'. Both names are used when he personally signed documents. His enlistment papers were signed 'Coupland'; his will was signed 'Copeland'. And his birth in 1879 is registered as 'Copeland'. Why he chose to register differently is not known. The authorities chose to retain the name entered and signed on his attestation papers – Charles George Coupland – and that is how he is recorded on the Indooroopilly monument.

But as far as his descendant family is concerned, the name 'Copeland' seems to have taken precedence.

Charles George Coupland was born on 7 October 1879, the eldest son of Charles Edward Copeland and Rose Ann Goopy. Their family (registered as 'Copeland'), is believed to have been: Charles born 1879; James 1881; Florence 1882; Catherine 1884; Rose 1887; and Percy 1897, who died in infancy.

On 4 October 1915, Charles Coupland joined up in Brisbane, enlisting as a Private, No. 1843, 2nd reinforcements of the 4th Pioneer Battalion.

Pioneer Battalions performed construction tasks in forward areas not requiring the special

equipment of engineers, constructing trenches and dugouts and the like. They could, and did, serve as infantry in the front line. The 4th Pioneer Battalion (Queensland) was formed in Egypt on the 10th March 1916 and served in Egypt and on the Western Front.

Charles Coupland was 36 years old, a labourer, and Roman Catholic, and he nominated as his next-of-kin, his wife Mrs Agnes Coupland, of Jackson Street, Indooroopilly. Also living at home was his seven-year-old son, Harold Roy, later identified as Harold Roy Copeland.

Private Coupland boarded the troopship, RMS *Mooltan*, in Sydney, and sailed for Egypt on the 12th April 1916 with the 2nd Reinforcements. The troops disembarked in Alexandria on 18th May and remained in training camp until early June when they proceeded to join the British Expeditionary Force in France. The *Ionian* left Alexandria on 6 June 1916 and disembarked its contingent of reinforcements at Marseilles on 15 June.

Three weeks later they were in northern France, and on 8 August they marched out to join their unit in the field. The men were taken on strength with the 4th Pioneers two days later on 10 August 1916.

Charles Coupland committed the indiscretion of being half-an-hour late reporting in on the 3rd November 1916, and was given 14 days' forfeiture of pay



for being absent without leave, in the field, between 2100 and 2130 hours (9pm to 9.30pm) on that day.

Nothing else appears in his record until the fateful day, 23 June 1917, when he died of wounds at Wulverghem, in Belgium, in the aftermath of the Battle of Messines.

In August 1916 the Fourth Division, to which the 4th Pioneers were attached, was engaged in action on the heights of Pozieres, repulsing a major German counterattack, following which it was involved in the battles at Mouquet Farm in September. Charles Coupland's company, when not caught up in battle, would have been feverishly maintaining the trench system, shoring up soggy earth parapets, laying duckboards, pumping out water – all the construction tasks associated with keeping hundreds of men protected from enemy artillery and rifle fire.

The Pioneers saw action again in April 1917 when the Fourth Division attacked the Hindenburg Line at Bullecourt, and in June when they were part of the Battle of Messines, the Allied offensive that was launched by the massive detonation of 19 underground mines killing an estimated 10,000 German troops.

On 23 June the day of his death, his unit was working on the construction of communication trenches when he was struck by an exploding high explosive artillery shell

and subsequently died of his wounds.

There is no mention of his retrieval or admission to hospital, or what time elapsed between his wounding and his death. Only the cryptic, Died of wounds received in action.

He was buried at Boyles Farm, just east of Wulverghem, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of Messines. Today's designation of the cemetery is Wulverghem Lindonhoek Military Cemetery, Messines, Belgium. It lies a half-mile north-west of the village of Wulverghem, 6 miles south-south-west of Ypres. The grave reference is V B 28.

His personal effects returned to his wife Agnes comprised: *a devotional book, Rosary (broken), scapulars, wallet, photos, letters, unit colours, post cards, 2 coins, 2 gold rings, purse.*

After his death, his widow Agnes Gertrude Copeland, married Anthony Theodore Andonara on 25 April 1918, and their place of residence is recorded as 'Castelia', Leopard St, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane.

The son of Charles and Agnes, the seven-year-old when his father joined up, retained the family name, Copeland. Harold Roy Copeland married Amy Agnes Cahill in 1929.

Reference is also made in Charles Coupland's service file to a Miss Kate Copeland, 193 Constance St, The Valley, Brisbane, who made a request in 1920 for information relating to Charles Coupland's grave.

She is believed to be his sister, Catherine.

The name Charles George Coupland is located at panel 174 in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial at Canberra. That the name should be 'Copeland' has not been officially recognised.

DAVIDSON, E R

Private Eric Russell Davidson
1666, 26th Battalion, KIA,
5.8.1916

ERIC RUSSELL DAVIDSON joined up on the 20th May 1915. Born in Taringa, he was 23 years and 11 months old at the time of his enlistment. He was attached to the 2nd Reinforcements, 26th Battalion.

Eric was unmarried, a Presbyterian, and an 'engineer' by profession.

He was the son of Frank and Amelia Davidson who were living at Westminster Road, Indooroopilly, when he enlisted.

He and his brother Percy joined up within a week of each other. Percy enlisted five days earlier. Both brothers would never return home. Both were killed on the same day less than a year later.

Eric Davidson embarked for overseas on 17 August 1915 at Brisbane on the troopship, A9, HMAT *Shropshire*, bound for the Anzac campaign. Arriving in Egypt, the 2nd Reinforcements engaged in training, based in Cairo, in readiness for active duty at Gallipoli. Correspondence sent home



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indicates that they embarked from Alexandria in the week of the 4th October 1915 headed for the Dardanelles.

A postcard written to his younger sister, Millicent, dated Sunday night, 3rd October, reads:

Dear Mill, How are you getting on these times? I must write a few lines to you tonight as we are leaving for the Dardanelles in the morning. I believe we have to get up at three in the morning and be ready to march off for the train at five. We take the train from here to Alexandria and from there we take the boat to the Dardanelles. I am wondering how poor Percy is getting on Mill. One does not get much news here concerning the fighting. I went to church parade this morning and it was fine. There must have been about two thousand men there. Oh well, Dear Mill, goodbye for the present and live in hopes that things will come out alright. Remembering me to all I remember. Your aff bro Eric.

He was taken on strength with the 26th Battalion at Anzac on 17 October 1915. Given that the complete Anzac force was evacuated from the Gallipoli Peninsula in December 1915, Eric Davidson was likely involved in that operation. He was part of the force that withdrew to Mudros on the Mediterranean island of Lemnos, and on the 9th January 1916 they disembarked at Alexandria, Egypt.

Two months later, his unit proceeded to join the British Expeditionary Force in France. They embarked at Alexandria on 15 March 1916, and disembarked at Marseilles on 21 March 1916.

The 26th Battalion mounted the first trench raid undertaken by Australian troops on the Western Front on 6th June 1916. The battalion fought its first major battle around Pozieres between the 28th July and the 7th August.

It was during this action, on the 5th August, that Eric Davidson was posted as missing in action. And his brother, Percy, in the 25th Battalion, also went missing that day.

The two battalions were fighting as part of the 2nd Division.

Eric Davidson was one of a 6-man team operating a machine gun at the time of his death. Moving into a forward position with the team he disappeared, taken down no doubt by a bullet or shell fragment, and not missed until the team regrouped. An extract of a letter written by Lieut Vivian Cooper on 3rd February, received 24th March 1917, reads:

Yes, I knew Eric, very well – not only did he leave Australia with me, but he was on the Lewis Gun with me also. Many times Eric and myself have spoken together and I had every opportunity of knowing him well. He turned out a good soldier and game.

On the night of the 28th July Eric was on No1 Gun attached to A Coy. He and two other chaps stuck to the gun right through and came out on the 29th OK.

On the 4th August we again attacked in the same ground. Eric was with the same gun and left the Parapet at the word "Go". The team – six men – were moving in single file and working up a Boche Sap. One of his team mates told me that when within 30 yards of the Enemy's trench he missed Eric. In an attack everything is more or less confusion and nobody knows what happened to his mate until the morning. Even before the Enemy's line is reached, Stretcher Bearers are at work and a thorough search is made the morning afterwards. After an attack there are three or four days of Hell let loose – wounded men are the chief consideration and there is no time to risk lives in burying the dead. All personal property is collected from the killed – this is never neglected and special parties are sent out to do it. I can't understand what happened to Eric's.

I am afraid that is all I can tell you – the Battalion has him posted as Missing.

I have written the Rev A Brown and will get in touch with him and find if Eric's personal effects had been removed and the Bearer perhaps killed or missing, otherwise the Rev A Brown would have sent them on to his Battalion as no man buries a soldier without first



removing his personal property. Should I hear from Rev Brown I will let you know. It's hard that both Eric and his brother should be killed. Eric would die fighting hard – it's for the world's welfare.

It must have been a quick end otherwise he would have been brought in as a hundred men searched for wounded that night.

It's a glorious but Hellish war.

Lieutenant Cooper does not disclose that he almost died in the same action. His service record reveals that he received a shrapnel wound to his head, saved apparently by his helmet. A bomb fragment penetrated his helmet leaving him with a depressed bone fracture. He recovered and became highly decorated, surviving the war with the rank of Captain.

The record of 'missing in action' was subsequently revised to 'killed in action' 5 August 1916.

Interestingly, the record of his burial is dated seven months later, 6th March 1917, when his burial is shown to have taken place at Mouquet Farm, the ceremony conducted by Chaplain Rev W A Brown. The circumstances of those missing seven months are still to be discovered.

The Battle of Mouquet Farm closely followed the Battle of Pozieres, both offensives in the Battle of the Somme. Mouquet Farm (irreverently dubbed Moo Cow Farm) was a heavily

defended German position little more than a kilometre-and-a-half from Pozieres. The British attack began on the 5th August 1916, the day the two Davidson brothers were posted missing.

The farm was eventually captured on the 26th September. In that period of seven weeks, some 6,800 Australians were killed or died of wounds.

Both Eric and Percy Davidson perished on the first day of the action.

Their bodies apparently were buried, or perhaps lay untended, on the battlefield. Eric's body eventually must have been recovered and was buried at Mouquet Farm months later.

Percy's body appears not to have been recovered.

Even today, 96 years later, unidentified human remains are being dug up unintentionally from the fields around Mouquet Farm.

A list of Eric Davidson's personal effects returned to his father reads:

3 cap comforters, scarf, box of paints.

Ten years after the war, in 1928, Private Eric Russell Davidson was exhumed from his grave at Mouquet Farm in the vicinity of Pozieres, and re-interred at the military cemetery at Serre Road Cemetery No 2, near the village of Beaumont-Hamel, France.

Commonwealth War Grave Commission records for Serre Road No 2 Cemetery show that of just over 7,000 burials, the staggering number of almost 5,000 are unidentified.

The grave location for Private Eric Russell Davidson is Plot 14, Row C, Grave 11. Advice to that effect was conveyed to his father in a letter dated 13 April 1928.

Remarkably, some effects recovered from the original grave of Eric Davidson at Mouquet Farm were also returned to his father, sent a month later from Base Records, on 11 May 1928.

Please find enclosed herewith the identity disc of your son, the late No 1666, Private E R Davidson, 26th Battalion, also silver watch, which were recovered by the Imperial War Graves Commission at the time of this soldier's re-burial in Serre Road Cemetery No 2 and forwarded to Australia for disposal.

These mementoes, though now greatly impaired by long exposure, the former particularly so, will doubtless be valued on account of their former intimate association with your son, and I trust same come safely to hand.

Twelve years after Eric Davidson's death on the battlefields of France, his watch was returned to his parents, having been buried with him all that time! His father wrote acknowledging receipt of the items saying, *they will be most sacred to both of us.*



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The Australian Roll of Honour records his death on 5 August 1916 in France, and the place of burial at Serre Road Cemetery No2 France.

His name is recorded on Panel 107 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

DAVIDSON, P

Private Percy Davidson,
1662, 25th Battalion, KIA
5.8.1916

PERCY DAVIDSON enlisted at Brisbane on the 14th May 1915, five days before his brother, Eric, did the same. Percy, the older of the two by 18 months, was aged 25 years 5 months.

Percy was the second, and Eric the third, of nine children born to Charles Francis Bruce Leslie (Frank) Davidson and his wife Amelia (nee Russell): Frank, 1888; Percy, 1889; Eric, 1891; Jessie, 1893; Millicent, 1895; John, 1897; William, 1899; James, 1902; and Edward, 1904.

The eldest brother, Frank Leslie Davidson, also served in the First World War, attached to the 4th Field Company Engineers. He was wounded in action in France in April 1917 suffering gunshot wounds to his left arm, and was repatriated to England before returning to Australia in 1919.

Their parents, Frank and Amelia Davidson, and the family lived at Westminster Road, Indooroopilly, but later relocated to Yarraman, and later still, to Neranwood.

Percy Davidson was a machinist, a planer, working at the local Indooroopilly sawmill located in the vicinity of the present El Dorado Picture Theatre. The mill seems to have been established by his father, but subsequently changed hands. According to *'Geographical Overview of Sawmilling'*:

'Frank Davidson had a sawmill on Moggill Road, Indooroopilly, in the period 1902-05. The Jarrah Millar's Karri and Jarrah Company built a sawmill at Indooroopilly about 1906, possibly taking over Davidson's Mill. It was not listed after 1911.'

Percy was probably working at the Indooroopilly mill, and possibly Eric as well.

The Davidson family were Presbyterian, the affiliation acknowledged on the attestation papers of both Percy and Eric. Their father, Frank, was a member of the Indooroopilly Presbyterian congregation at the time of its inauguration in late 1915. The family's connection with the Indooroopilly Presbyterian Church in Station Road Indooroopilly was maintained into the following generation.

On enlistment Percy Davidson was attached to the 25th Battalion, 'A' Company. He embarked on the HMAT *Aeneas* on 29 June 1915 to join the Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli, disembarking at Gallipoli Peninsula on 4 September 1915.

A month later he was

hospitalised at 7th Field Ambulance on the 4th October 1915 suffering from dysentery, but was discharged back to duty on the 9th October.

His next movement is recorded disembarking at Alexandria on 9 January 1916 from the *Hororata* after sailing from Mudros on Lemnos Island. Brother Eric Davidson was recorded on the same ship. Presumably they were among the forces evacuating from Gallipoli in December 1915 after the disastrous campaign.

On the 14th March 1916 Percy boarded ship bound for the British Expeditionary Force in France, disembarking at Marseilles on the 19th March. His brother, Eric, followed the same path arriving two days later.

Percy had ten days furlough in England, leaving France on 7th May 1916, returning on the 17th.

Then followed three months in France until his Battalion saw action in the Battle of the Somme at Mouquet Farm. Both the 25th and 26th Battalions, as part of the 7th Brigade, faced action together at Mouquet Farm. Whether they had been in action in Pozieres prior to Mouquet Farm is uncertain.

In the horror of the battlefield, the mud and slush of the heavily contested ground, the chaos of exploding shells and machine gun bullets, Percy, like his brother, simply vanished. The two brothers were reported missing in action on the same



day, 5th August 1916, the first day of the offensive.

A letter from Base Records to a member of the family dated 4th October 1916 reads:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 22nd ultimo, concerning No 1666 Private E R Davidson, 26th Battalion, and No 1662 Private P Davidson, 25th Battalion, as missing on 5/8/16, and concerning whom no further information has been received.

With regard to the procedure in connection with "missing" men, it is understood that a roll call takes place after an engagement, and exhaustive inquiries are made regarding any soldier who fails to answer his name. If same fail to elicit any information concerning him, the report "missing" is forwarded to Headquarters, and thence transmitted by cable message to Australia . . .

Private Percy Davidson remained unaccounted for and the requisite Court of Enquiry held on the 25th July 1917, almost a year later, pronounced him 'killed in action 5/8/1916'.

His body must have been recovered, however, because his records show that his remains were exhumed and re-buried at Serre Road No2 Beaumont-Hamel at Plot 30, Row C, Grave 5.

His fate is remarkably similar to that of his brother, and Percy's last resting place is in the same French cemetery as Eric's.

Percy was 26½ when he died, Eric was 25.

His name is recorded on the Register of Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

The Australian Roll of Honour records his death on 5 August 1916 in France and the place of burial at Serre Road Cemetery No 2, France.

His name is recorded on Panel 104 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

Three years after the war, when the Indooroopilly monument was erected at Westminster Road opposite the home of the Davidson family in 1921, Mrs Davidson could not bring herself to watch the ceremony of dedication performed by the Queensland Governor.

The memories were all too painful.

ELLIOT, R V

Private Robert Ventress Elliot, 2359, 15th Battalion, KIA 6.8.1916

ROBERT VENTRESS ELLIOT, whose surname is wrongly spelt 'Elliott' on the Indooroopilly monument, was one of three brothers who served in World War 1, two of whom did not return. The family lived at Foxton Street, Indooroopilly, at the time of their sons' enlistment, and their father, Francis, is nominated as next-of-kin. Francis Elliot had migrated from England arriving in Queensland in 1885, subsequently marrying

a shipboard companion, Mary Ann White, in 1888. Five boys were born to Francis and Mary: John, 1888; Henry, 1890; George, 1891; Robert, 1895; and Thomas, 1898.

Robert Ventress Elliot was born in Mt Morgan in 1895, and it seems that the family grew up there before moving south to Brisbane. At the time of Robert's enlistment, his father Francis was a printer living at Foxton Street, Indooroopilly, where he is recorded from at least 1913 to 1925.

Robert Elliot was a 20-year-old storeman when he enlisted in the Army at Enoggera on 7 May 1915. He was taken on as a private and assigned to the 7th reinforcements, 15th Battalion, with the service number 2359. His religious affiliation was Church of England.

After three months of initial training, Private Robert Elliot embarked at Brisbane on 20 August 1915 on the troopship A9, His Majesty's Australian Transport, HMAT *Shropshire*. On board also were other Indooroopilly recruits who were destined not to return home – John Boyle and Eric Davidson.

He was taken on strength at Lemnos Island on 23 October 1915 preparatory to sailing for Gallipoli to reinforce the 15th Battalion which had been there since the day of the first landings. It was the closing stages of the campaign and Robert Elliot's time at Gallipoli would have been about seven or eight weeks. The last of



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the forces on the peninsula, thousands of men, withdrew on the night of Sunday 19th December 1915. Total casualties are said to have been one officer and four men wounded. Not a man was lost.

Safely on the island of Lemnos, Elliot succumbed to a bout of influenza that put him into the 24th Casualty Clearing Station hospital on Christmas Eve and kept him there until the 2nd January. He rejoined his unit ten days later on the 12th.

Little is contained in Private Robert Ventress Elliot's file to indicate what actions he participated in and it is only from the history of the 15th Battalion that we can trace his movements until the time of his death a year after leaving Australia.

After some time in Egypt the battalion was dispatched to the Western Front in France. Robert Elliot sailed on the Transylvania from Alexandria on 1 June, arriving at Marseilles on 8 June 1916. From there the men were carried by troop train to northern France and the front line where they became caught up in the frightful conditions of trench warfare.

Robert Elliot's first, and only, major action would have been at the Battle of Pozieres. With the apprehension of approaching battle, it is little wonder that Robert found himself on a charge of drunkenness on 19 July, just a week before they went into action. He was fined 168 hours

(one week) forfeiture of pay for his indiscretion, a discipline that seems trivial and petty in view of his supreme sacrifice just 18 days later.

From 27 July 1916 his battalion was engaged with German forces in a two-week struggle for the small French village of Pozieres. Primarily an Australian battle, horrendous losses were suffered. The war historian Charles Bean is credited with saying that the Pozieres ridge is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth. Private Robert Elliot did not see the end of that action. He died there in the closing stages, on 6 August 1916.

All that remained to be posted home to his family in two packets were:

in one; One wallet (damaged), letters, photos and in the other; Testament, military book, 2 brushes.

Private Robert Ventress Elliot is yet another of the vast number of fallen Australians of World War 1 who have no known grave. If his remains were recovered they could not be identified. More likely they were never retrieved but destroyed or covered by the pounding artillery that scarred the landscape beyond recognition.

His memory is preserved in France at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, the Australian National War Memorial built in 1938 to commemorate and record the names of almost 11,000

Australians who have no known grave.

His name is also recorded on panel 75 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

ELLIOT, T W

Private Thomas William Elliot, 1894, 47th Battalion/42nd Battalion, Accidentally killed 19.11.1917

THOMAS WILLIAM ELLIOT, the brother of Robert Ventress Elliot, was 19 years old when he enlisted in the armed forces on the 30th December 1915, seven months after his brother joined up. Both young men were destined not to return. A third brother, older and married, Driver George Elliot 5761, survived but died young, aged 30, in 1921, his life possibly shortened by the war.

Thomas Elliot enlisted as a Private, service number 1894, and was attached to the 3rd reinforcements of the 47th Battalion. Despite the correct spelling of his name on his attestation papers, the name on the Indooroopilly monument, like that of his brother, has been recorded with two 't's – perhaps not surprising, as the documents produced by the enquiry into his death did the same.

Thomas recorded his occupation as printer, the same trade as his father, perhaps helping in a family business. He was unmarried and aligned



with the Church of England. At the time of his enlistment he lived at Foxton Street, Indooroopilly, with his father and stepmother Jeanne (nee Gardiner). Thomas' mother Mary Ann had died in 1899 and his father had since re-married – twice. His father Francis Elliot was nominated as next-of-kin.

Private Thomas Elliot left Australia for the war zone on 1st May 1916, embarking at Brisbane on the troopship A46, HMAT *Clan McGillivray*. After further training in Egypt he left from Alexandria on 6 August 1916 aboard the *Megantic* for training camp in England.

On 23 September 1916 he was taken on strength with the 42nd Battalion, and later entries indicate that he became part of the 11th Light Trench Mortar Battery.

Light trench mortars were small, easily manoeuvred artillery pieces employed in attacking trenches, machine gun posts and barbed wire entanglements. Essentially a barrel of 2 inch or 3 inch calibre mounted on a pair of splayed legs, it was capable of lobbing small, but highly effective bombs over a relatively short range on to enemy fortifications with devastating results. Indications are that the 42nd Battalion was equipped with two of the light trench mortars, and that Private Thomas Elliot was a member of the small team that operated one of them.

Thomas Elliot's 42nd Battalion was shipped to France from Southampton on 26 November 1916 and entered the frontline a month later, to endure a bitter winter in sodden trenches. The battalion saw major action at Messines on 7 June, at Warneton on 31 July, at Broodseinde on 4 October and at Passchendaele on 12 October. At Passchendaele the battalion lost over a third of its strength, suffering badly from gas attacks and from 'trench foot'. Elliot survived all these actions and the horrendous weather and battlefield conditions only to die from a tragic – and probably preventable – accident behind his own lines.

Not all deaths at war were caused by enemy action. Many resulted from illness and disease; others occurred by accident. Thomas William Elliot died as the result of a tragic road accident.

On the night of 19 July 1917 a message was forwarded from the 7th Field Ambulance to the commanding officer of the 11th Trench Mortar Battery reporting the death of Private Thomas Elliot.

From 7th Aust Field Ambulance to c c 11th Aust LTM Battery 19.11.17

1894 Pte Elliott T W was brought here dead this evening.

Death was stated to be due to an accident with a motor lorry.

An official Court of Enquiry was convened in the field on the

following day, 20 November, to investigate the circumstances of the death of Private Thomas Elliot. Statements were taken from two witnesses:

1st Witness. Capt Porter, George Reginald, states:

I am Officer Commanding the 11th T M Battery.

No 1894 Private Elliott, Thomas William, was under my command, attached from 42nd Battn AIF.

At about 8.30am on the 20th November 1917, it was reported to me that Pte Elliott T W had been killed. I received information in writing from the 7th Aust Field Ambulance to this effect. Pte Elliott was not engaged on any military duty at the time.

Sgd G R Porter Capt 11th ALTM Battery

[Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery]

2nd Witness. No 270 Pte Max Robertson states:

I am a Private in the 11th TM Battery. Pte Elliott T W and I were walking home from Steenwerck at about 7.30pm on the 19th inst, a motor lorry was heard overtaking us, and Pte Elliott stated we will get a ride on this lorry, he then crossed over from the left to the right of the road leaving me on the left. The lorry that passed us had an ammunition trailer and a Howitzer attached. I made no attempt to board the lorry, as soon as the lorry had passed I heard groans from the right side of the road. I searched the spot and found



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Pte Elliott lying unconscious on the road. I had the body conveyed to the 7th Fld Amb immediately and was present when the Medical Officer in charge pronounced life to be extinct. The night was dark but I could not see how the accident happened. Pte Elliott was quite sober at the time.

Sgd M Robertson Pte 11th ALTM Battery

The finding of the Court of Enquiry was immediate and succinct:

1894 Pte Elliott T W attached to 11th A L T M B met his death by misadventure. No blame can be attached to any person.

It is not difficult to imagine Thomas Elliot, walking back to camp with his mate Max Robertson – a fellow Queenslander – weary, cold, and ready for bed, trying to hitch a ride on the lorry or its trailer slowly grinding by in the darkness. And the panic and horror as a foot, slipping in the mud and slush, pitched him under the wheels of the heavily laden vehicle. He died before help could arrive.

Private Thomas William Elliot was buried at Trois Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck, France, (3½ miles west-north-west of Armentieres) by Rev T Theodore Webb of the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station; the grave location, Plot 2, Row B, Grave 20.

His name is located at Panel 135 in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

GREGORY, E G

Private Ernest Gordon Gregory, 3305, 25th Battalion, DOW 8.8.1916

ERNEST GORDON GREGORY enlisted at Enoggera on 9 October 1915. One of two brothers who both lost their lives as a result of the war, Ernest Gregory joined up two weeks after his brother, George, who was almost 15 years his senior. Although Ernest's second given name was Gordon, he was registered with the second given name of 'George', a circumstance that caused some confusion and angst later on.

Ernest was born on 2 January 1887, the youngest of ten children born to Brookfield farmer, Charles William Gregory, and his wife Theresa Bryan (nee Toop).

The children, born over a period of twenty years, were:

Annie Ellen 1867; Mary Jane 1868; William Albrecht (Albert) 1870; George 1872; Elizabeth 1874; Jessie Charles 1876; Maurice Edmund 1878; Arthur 1881; Frank 1883; and Ernest Gordon 1887.

Their mother, Theresa, died in 1903, aged only 39.

In 1913 the family was living at Station Road, Indooroopilly.

Ernest was 27 years 9 months old at enlistment, a clerk, unmarried and Methodist.

His widower father, Charles William Gregory, who later moved to live at the home of his married daughter,

Mary Jane (Mrs G Rose), of Pioneer Street, Toowong, was nominated as next-of-kin.

Ernest Gregory enlisted as a Private and was attached to the 7th reinforcements of the 25th Battalion, the same contingent as his brother George. Both brothers were posted to the same battalion and sailed from Australia on the same day, 30 December 1915, on the same troopship, A50 HMAT *Itonus*.

Little is recorded in Private Ernest Gregory's file and his service history is short. Less than ten months after joining up, he was dead as a result of wounds received in action in France.

He spent time training in Egypt before proceeding to France.

He left Alexandria aboard the *Oriana* on 21 March 1916 and disembarked at Marseilles on 27 March. The 25th Battalion was the first AIF battalion to arrive in France.

Fighting as part of the 2nd Division, the battalion was engaged in the Battle of the Somme in northern France and saw heavy action in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 7 August during which time it suffered 785 casualties.

In the fighting at Pozieres, around the Windmill, and northwards along the ridge towards Mouquet Farm, the AIF suffered more than 23,000 casualties in little more than six weeks between 23 July and 5 September 1916. Of these casualties, nearly 7,000 were killed, died of wounds, or were 'missing'



The site of the action at the Windmill at Pozieres, which claimed so many lives, including that of Ernest Gregory, is marked with a memorial that carries the following words:

THE RUIN OF POZIERES
WINDMILL WHICH LIES HERE
WAS THE CENTRE OF THE
STRUGGLE IN THIS PART OF
THE SOMME BATTLEFIELD IN
JULY AND AUGUST 1916. IT WAS
CAPTURED ON AUGUST 4TH
BY AUSTRALIAN TROOPS WHO
FELL MORE THICKLY ON THIS
RIDGE THAN ON ANY OTHER
BATTLEFIELD OF THE WAR.

Both brothers were probably in the same action at Pozieres. Both became casualties on the same day. Ernest died; George had a narrow escape, being slightly wounded. His death would occur after his return to Australia.

In the action at the Windmill, Private Ernest Gregory suffered gunshot wounds to the legs, on the 5th August, probably from German machine gun fire. He was retrieved and admitted to the 4th Field Ambulance, but he died three days later on 8 August 1916.

His burial is recorded at Boulogne cemetery, grave 3713.

In the aftermath of the war this grave location was revised. A letter to his father dated 29 November 1923, gives the amended registration:

Boulogne Eastern Cemetery,
Plot 8 Row B Grave 127 – the

same location, but different registration.

Ernest Gregory's few remaining possessions were returned to his father in due course: *rubber stamp, card.*

In 1922, when his father took receipt of the customary memorial plaque, he returned it to have a correction made. Ernest's second given name had been inscribed 'George' instead of 'Gordon'. The authorities at first indicated that a revision could not be made, but then relented on the grounds of a discrepancy in the records:

... arrangements will be made to have the embossed lettering removed and the plaque inscribed with the soldier's true name. This concession is only being made because the duplicate attestation paper also contains the name of 'Gordon', which raises a reasonable doubt as to the accuracy of the original.

Presumably the changes were made and a new plaque issued.

His name is located at Panel 104 in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, and a photo of Private Ernest Gordon Gregory appears in *The Queenslander* newspaper, 21 October 1916.

GREGORY, G

Private George Gregory, 3091A, 25th Battalion/9th Battalion, died from the effects of gas, 7.7.1920

GEORGE GREGORY, one of the older recruits in World War I, was aged 43 years 3 months at enlistment. And he was a family man. He was married to Lilian May (nee Hutchinson) and had two children, Theresa Alice, born 15 August 1902, and Thelma May, born 29 March 1905. His wife, Lilian May Gregory, living at Station Road, Indooroopilly, when he enlisted, is recorded as his next-of-kin.

Of all the names on the Indooroopilly monument, George Gregory has the distinction of being one who survived the hostilities and returned to Australia.

Born at Brookfield on 21 June 1872, George Gregory was the fourth of ten children of Charles William Gregory of Brookfield, and his wife Theresa. George's father was a farmer but George was a 'Telegraph Linesman'. The Gregorys nominated 'Methodist' as their denominational preference, but the Gregory name does not appear on the Indooroopilly Methodist Church honour board.

Private George Gregory, 3091A, joined up at Enoggera, Brisbane, on 25 September 1915, a fortnight before Ernest (his younger brother by nearly 15 years) did the same. He was attached to the



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25th Battalion and sailed for overseas duty leaving Brisbane on 30 December 1915 on board the HMAT *Itonas*. On the 8th February 1916 he joined the battalion in Egypt at Hebeita. He was transferred to the 9th Battalion on 28 February 1916 and proceeded to join his new battalion at Zeitoun, a suburb of Cairo. A month later the 9th Battalion boarded the *Saxonia* and sailed from Alexandria on the 27 March 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force in France. They disembarked at Marseilles on the 3rd April and were transported by troop train to the Western Front.

He saw action when the 9th Battalion was involved in the Battle of Pozieres in France from 25 July to the 7 August 1916 – the same action that took his brother's life. It was possibly in that clash with the German forces that he was slightly wounded in the left forearm in July 1916. However, he suffered no permanent disability and did not leave the line. He must have gone through subsequent engagements without injury.

He was transferred again, on 3 December 1916, when he was attached to the 1st Division Anti-Gas School for duty as batman to the officer-in-charge, Lieutenant (later Captain) Cheshire. Lieutenant Frank Lothian Cheshire, 9th Battalion, was seconded from the Battalion on the 9th December 1916 as officer-in-charge of the 1st Australia Division Anti-Gas School. He was promoted

Captain on 18 June 1917 and awarded the Military Cross on 4 June 1918. He was invalided out of France and returned to Australia in 1918. Cheshire, who came from Inglewood, would have known George Gregory as they sailed on the same ship, the *Itonas* from Australia, and their service lives were parallel.

What the work of the Anti-Gas School was has not been discovered, but it seems certain that it would have entailed examining the effects of exposure to various types of gas being used in warfare, and to investigate preventative measures that could be taken to mitigate those effects. Whatever those measures were, it seems highly probable that both George Gregory and his commanding officer, Captain Cheshire, were exposed to gas in the course of those investigations – 'guinea-pigs' in their own research. Cheshire was invalided out of the Army in 1918, but survived. George Gregory returned home in 1919, but died a year later.

George Gregory was granted leave in England from 21 February to the 9th March 1918 and on the 5th May 1918, he was attached to Division Headquarters presumably in France, and it seems that he saw out the war there. It is very likely that he was suffering the effects of exposure to gas at the time.

On 29th January 1919 with the war over, he embarked ship for

return to England en route for Australia and home.

He returned aboard the *Suffolk* and was welcomed back into the family, the occasion reported in the pages of the *Brisbane Courier*, 19 June 1919:

A welcome home was tendered to Private George Gregory, a son of Mr C W Gregory, of Pioneer Street, Toowong, on Saturday afternoon. Pte. Gregory, with his brother Ernest, enlisted with the 25th Battalion in September 1915, and left for the Front in December of the same year. After spending some weeks in Egypt, George was transferred to the ninth [battalion] reinforcements and remained in Egypt for some time after Ernest's battalion had left for France. The two brothers never met again, for in August 1916, Ernest made the supreme sacrifice at Pozieres. The function, which was confined to relatives, 36 of whom attended, was held at the residence of Mr Arthur Gregory (a brother of the soldier), at Auchenflower. Refreshments were served in the large breakfast-room, the table centre being occupied by a large "welcome home" cake. The soldier's regimental colours, blue and black, were conspicuous in the table and indoor decorations. The toasts, "The King" and "The Occasion", were duly honoured, after which all stood in silence for two minutes as a tribute to the brother who would never return.



George Gregory was discharged from the Army on the 30th July 1919. However, all was not well with George. He died at Brookfield a year later on 7th July 1920 and is buried at Brookfield Cemetery. A claim was made for a war pension on the basis that his death was war-related, but whether that was successful is not disclosed. It patently was, however.

An entry on a website of the Australian War Memorial, records that George Gregory died *'from the effects of gas'*, and the AWM Roll of Honour records his cause of death as *'Due to War Service'*.

His name is located at Panel 56 in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

HAYMEN, F G

Lieutenant Frank Granville Haymen, 9th Battalion, KIA 25.4.1915.

FRANK GRANVILLE HAYMEN was among the earliest enlistments of World War one. He apparently enlisted in Brisbane on 18 August 1914, just two weeks after war was declared.

Information regarding his enlistment is drawn from his application for a commission in the AIF dated 5th September 1914.

Frank Haymen was one of two Indooroopilly young men, both surveyors, both destined to die, who joined up on the same day. Jack Sinclair went into the

Australian Engineers, Frank Haymen into the 9th Battalion.

Information contained in the application indicates that Frank was born on 14 September 1891, a British subject, almost 23 years old. His next-of-kin is stated to be his mother, Mrs M G Haymen, of 'Grafton', River Terrace, Kangaroo Point. A notation on his file records his father as Mr M G Haymen, c/o National Bank, Brisbane and 'Grafton', Indooroopilly, Brisbane.

At the time of his application, Frank Haymen was qualified as an authorized surveyor. He was also an undergraduate fourth-year student in Civil Engineering at the University of Queensland. He was unmarried, and his stated religion was Church of England.

The application was successful and he was duly commissioned with the rank of Lieutenant and posted to the 9th Battalion. His appointment as an officer of the 9th Battalion was announced in the *Queenslander* newspaper on 5 September 1914:

Appointment of officers. Following is a list of the officers selected for the Queensland quota of the Australian Imperial Force: . . .

7th Infantry, Lieutenants F G Haymen AIC . . .

Lieutenant Haymen embarked on the troop transport A5, HMAT *Omrah* at Brisbane on 24 September 1914, the first ship to leave Brisbane with troops for the front. He appears in a photograph of 31 officers

taken on board the ship at sea in October 1914. (AWM. C02496)

On board the same ship were two other Indooroopilly recruits whose names are inscribed on the Indooroopilly monument – William Bradley and Norman Webb. All three were to die on the first day of the landings at Anzac Cove.

As one of the three officers of 'E' Company, Frank Haymen would have been among the first to leave the boats to wade ashore, leading his 120 men to the comparative protection at the bottom of the cliffs at the top of which the Turks were entrenched. In the hell of the close encounter with the enemy and the first storming of the Turkish trenches at Gaba Tepe, Lieutenant Frank Haymen was hit and killed. With the uncertainty of the time of death, the official advice to his next-of-kin stated that . . . *he was killed in action at Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli Peninsula, on the 25th/28th April 1915, and was buried at Gaba Tepe . . .*

A report in the *Courier Mail* dated 6 May 1915 recorded his death.

*When can their glory fade?
They died for their Empire.
Australian heroes . . .
Lieutenant F G Haymen was the son of M G Haymen, manager of the Queensland National Bank, head office. He was a Queensland University boy, and commanded the University unit. Out of respect for his memory the University is being closed today and tonight*



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Frank Granville Haymen was the eldest of a family of six known children born to Marmaduke Granville Haymen and Florence Maude Lucretia (Goertz) Haymen who were married in 1890. Frank was born in 1891; Charles 1893; Emily 1895; John 1902; Margaret 1903; and Nell in 1912. All the sons died early. Frank died at Gallipoli at age 24, Charles at age 14, and John died aged 22. Emily married Arthur Stanley Roe on 22 January 1917. Margaret married Charles Carr Clark at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Indooroopilly, on 12 December 1928. Nell married Captain Timothy Patrick Honnor, of the Royal Marines in Malta on 12 July 1937.

Frank Haymen's father served with the head office of the Queensland National Bank in Brisbane for 49 years and was general manager from 1920 to 1937 when he retired. From 1911 to 1918 he was a trustee of the Brisbane Grammar School.

When the new war memorial library was being built at Frank Haymen's school, the Brisbane Grammar School, his father donated a memorial window to commemorate his death. The *Brisbane Courier* recorded the occasion in the issue of 30 July 1924:

The War Memorial Library of the Brisbane Grammar School is nearing completion . . . The library is octagonal in shape, and provides for 12 windows, all of which are being filled with stained glass. These are

all presented as memorial windows . . . The following list shows the subjects of the windows:- . . . (6) Honestas (Honour) presented by Mr M G Haymen, in memory of Lieut. F G Haymen; . . .

Mr Haymen was also involved in the creation of the memorial to the 9th Battalion housed in the Anzac Square crypt. He was a member and officer of the 9th Battalion Association whose prime objective was the raising of a suitable memorial to the men of the 9th Battalion who lost their lives in World War I. The memorial was unveiled by the Governor-General, Lord Gowrie, on 17 August 1937.

Two of the daughters married into prominent Queensland families.

Emily's husband, Arthur Stanley Roe, son of Reginald Heber Roe the first vice-chancellor of the University of Queensland, was Queensland's first Rhodes Scholar.

Margaret's husband, Charles Carr Clark, a distinguished naval officer in World War II, became engineer rear admiral of the Australian Navy, and responsible for all Australian naval shipping construction.

Frank Granville Haymen's name is inscribed on the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli, and is also recorded at Panel 56, in the Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

The date of his death is recorded as 25 April 1915.

HAYS, J W

Private John William Hays, 220, 31st Battalion. KIA 29.9.1918

JOHN WILLIAM HAYS was living at Finney Road Indooroopilly, when he joined the armed forces at Enoggera on 26 July 1915. Born in 1889, he was aged 25 years 9 months at the time of his enlistment, and was employed as a carpenter. He was the son of Job and Mary Lofts Hays, Kenmore, and his father, Mr Job (or Joseph) Hays, was nominated as next-of-kin. The family were Methodist and John Hays' name is recorded on the Honour Board of the Anzac Memorial Chapel, part of the Indooroopilly Uniting Church.

John Hays was one of three brothers who enlisted and served overseas. Older brother Samuel aged 28 and younger brother George aged 20, both enlisted in 1915. Both returned to Australia.

Private John Hays, service number 220, was attached to 'A' Company of the 31st Battalion which was raised at Enoggera in August 1915. The Queensland companies travelled south to link up with companies formed in Victoria and the battalion sailed for overseas from Melbourne. John Hays embarked on the troopship, HMAT *Wandilla*, at Melbourne on the 9th November 1915, and he reached Suez on 7 December 1915.



The battalion spent six months training in Egypt before embarking on the *Hororata* at Alexandria on the 16th June 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in France. A week later they disembarked at Marseilles on 23 June 1916.

The battalion arrived at the front line on 16 July 1916 and, just three days later, it was engaged in its first major battle at Fromelles. The action was disastrous for the battalion. They suffered 572 casualties, more than half their strength including, apparently, Private John Hays. He is reported wounded on the second day of the action on the 20th July 1916, sustaining gunshot wounds to the leg and an injury to the eye.

This was the action where another Indooroopilly soldier in the 31st Battalion, Private Joseph Nevill, vanished without trace on the battlefield. But John Hays was retrieved and taken back behind the lines where he was transferred to hospital at Boulogne. According to a letter to his father, the injuries were not considered serious. . . . *He is not reported as seriously wounded and in the absence of further reports, favourable progress may be assumed.* . . .

Irrespective of that optimistic report, it was to be sixteen months before he rejoined his unit in the field.

From August 1916 to 25 November 1916 he was stationed at Etaples, the large

training camp and hospital in northern France and later at the Australian General Hospital at Boulogne, a large tented hospital treating battle casualties. He spent two months at the 2nd Division Base Depot at Le Havre from 8 June until 10 August 1917 at which time he was moved to England, and he remained three months at a base depot there.

After the disaster of Fromelles the battalion played no major offensive role for the remainder of 1916, and its only large-scale action in 1917 was at Polygon Wood on 26 September. However, Private John Hays was not involved with the battalion during that time, and it is likely that he was still recuperating.

It was not until the 9th November 1917 that Private John Hays was posted back to France. He entered through Le Havre four days later and marched out to his unit on the 16th, rejoining the battalion on the 23rd November.

The battalion was generally held in reserve during 1918 but took part in the Battle of Amiens on the 8th August, and John Hays would have been involved in that action.

In September 1918 the 31st Battalion was deployed in action to breach the Hindenburg Line and they engaged the enemy in the Battle of St Quentin Canal, under the command of the Australian, General John Monash.

The St Quentin canal passes under the village of Bellicourt in a tunnel 5km long. The Hindenburg Line ran west of the village and barges in the tunnel were used to shelter German reserves. About 5km south of Bellicourt the canal is open. The 5th and 3rd Australian Divisions and two American divisions attacked the Hindenburg Line across the St Quentin Canal tunnel in a battle that was fought from the 29th September to the 2nd October 1918.

Having cheated death at Fromelles, luck finally ran out for John Hays in the final stages of the war. Private John Hays was killed on the first day of the action at St Quentin Canal on the 29th September 1918, less than six weeks before hostilities ended with the armistice, 11 November 1918.

He was buried at the Nauroy Road British cemetery 7½ miles north-north-west of St Quentin and 2¾ miles west-south-west of Wiancourt. The cemetery on the outskirts of Bellicourt village contained the graves of 21 Australian soldiers who fell in the battle, including that of John Hays.

The main cemetery for the action had been formed at Bellicourt with the dead buried in Plot 1. After the war the cemetery was enlarged and the bodies from surrounding battlefields were buried in Plot 2. The bodies contained in the Nauroy Road Cemetery, including that of Private Hays, were exhumed in 1920 and re-



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interred in the military cemetery at Bellicourt.

His grave is registered at Bellicourt British Cemetery, France, Plot 2, Row 1, Grave 5.

His name is recorded on Panel 118, the Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial.

HEMMING, V C

Private Victor Charles Hemming, 2731, 12th Battalion, DOW 6.5.1918

VICTOR CHARLES HEMMING was the only son of H B Hemming, Indooroopilly solicitor, who was a partner in the Brisbane law firm, Wilson and Hemming whose offices were at Harding Chambers, Adelaide Street, Brisbane. Hemming was the owner of 'Tighnabruaich' the historic house that still stands in Clarence Road, Indooroopilly, beside the rail bridge over the Brisbane River. He had bought the property in 1904 and he and his wife Fanny Amelia (nee Brown) and their family lived there until about 1910 when he and his wife became estranged. Fanny and the children left to live elsewhere.

Hemming moved to 'Witton House', Indooroopilly sometime prior to 1918. It was the large property in Witton Road that was subsequently sold to the Catholic Church as the site of Nudgee Junior College. When he sold the Witton Road property to the Catholic Church in the mid-1930s,

Hemming had the house removed and reinstated in the grounds of 'Tighnabruaich' where it remained until it was demolished about 1967. 'Tighnabruaich' remained in Hemming's tenure until his death in March 1942 when it was requisitioned by the Australian Defence Department and utilised for military purposes.

Interestingly, Kenneth Brydon, whose name is also on the Indooroopilly monument, nominated 'Tighnabruaich' as the address of his widowed next-of-kin mother at the time of his enlistment, in July 1915, seeming to suggest that she occupied the house or part of it as a tenant. Kenneth Brydon joined up just six days before Victor Hemming did.

Victor Charles Hemming, the only surviving son and the youngest of the Hemming children, was a 20-year-old clerk, perhaps working in his father's law firm, when he enlisted on 31 July 1915. He identified himself as Church of England. With the service number 2731 he was attached to the 6th Reinforcements of the 26th Battalion. After approximately three months training, Private Victor Charles Hemming was sent overseas, embarking at Brisbane on HMAT A48 *Seang Bee* on 21 October 1915.

His first Christmas away from home was spent in an army hospital in Egypt where he was confined from 13 December 1915 to 5 January 1916 with mumps.

Private V C Hemming found himself moved from one battalion to another as the returning Australian forces were reconstituted into new units after the withdrawal from Gallipoli. On 1st March 1916 the 52nd Battalion was raised at Tel el Kebir in Egypt, drawing about half its recruits from the 12th Battalion that had been at Gallipoli since the beginning. It was part of a strategy to double the size of the AIF. Initially Victor Hemming was attached to the 12th Battalion, but on 2 April 1916 he was transferred from the 12th Battalion to the 52nd. Two months later he embarked with the 52nd Battalion at Alexandria, boarding the *Ivernia* on 5 June headed for France to join the British Expeditionary Force. They disembarked in Marseilles on 12 June 1916 and headed for the war zone.

After arriving in France the battalion provided a supporting role until it saw its first major action at Mouquet Farm on 3 September 1916, where it was involved in a key assault suffering heavy casualties. Victor Hemming appears to have missed this action because of hospitalisation in England. He was taken on the hospital ship *St Patrick* on 17 August 1916 at Rouen France for England, and admitted the next day, 18 August, to the 3rd London General Hospital where he remained for over three weeks. He was discharged from hospital on 11 September.



He was in Hospital again in October and November 1916, discharged on 12th December after 57 days undergoing treatment for illness.

The Battalion spent the winter of 1917 alternating between duties at the front line and training and labouring behind the line.

With the formation in England of the 69th Battalion on 19th March 1917, Victor Hemming was transferred on 23rd March from the 52nd Battalion to the new 69th Battalion and taken on strength three days later.

The 69th Battalion was short-lived and disbanded on 19 October 1917.

On 19 September 1917 Victor Hemming transferred back to the 52nd Battalion spending about six months at a training camp in England.

He left Sutton Veny, the huge military barracks and training camp on the Salisbury Plain, close to Warminster in southern England, on the 19th March 1918, and proceeded overseas to France with reinforcements for the 12th Battalion. They crossed the channel from Southampton to Le Havre on 20th March and the next day marched out to the front where they were taken on strength with the 12th Battalion five days later on 26th March.

In March and April 1918 the 12th Battalion helped to stop the German spring offensive. From 9th to 29th April 1918 the battalion was involved in

the Battle of the Lys and Victor Hemming would have been a participant in this action. Only four days after that battle, however, on 4th May, he was mortally wounded. Hit by shell blast shrapnel, he sustained a compound fracture of the right knee. He was retrieved by the 3rd Field Ambulance and conveyed to the 15th Casualty Clearing Station on 6th May, but he died that day.

Private Victor Charles Hemming was buried at Ebblesham Military Cemetery, between St Osmer and Hazebrouck, in the far north of France, south-east of Calais. The cemetery had been established by the 2nd and 15th Casualty Clearing stations when they came to the area in April 1918, and it was used for burials until July 1918.

The death of Private Victor Charles Hemming was announced in the Brisbane press in the 23 May 1918 issue of the *Brisbane Courier*:

Mr H B Hemming of Witton House, Indooroopilly, has been advised that his only son, Victor Charles Hemming, who left Brisbane some three years ago, was killed in action in France on April 27 last.

[Should be 6 May]

The name of Victor Charles Hemming is recorded at Panel 66 in the Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

HOMER, H R

Private Harry Raymond Homer, 3593, 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance, 7th Field Ambulance, DOD 12.11.1915.

HARRY RAYMOND HOMER was, incredibly, one of five brothers who enlisted for service in World War 1. Of the eligible males in the family of George and Elizabeth Homer of Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly, all joined up – or tried to. The eldest son, Lauderdale George Homer, enlisted on 21st August 1914, at age 21 years 6 months, not quite two weeks after war was declared. He was passed fit for active service, but just a fortnight later, on the 3rd September, he was discharged medically unfit with no reason recorded.

Of the other four brothers who enlisted, two died at war, two survived.

Harry Homer was one of the two brothers who died.

Born at Kington, Herefordshire, England, Harry was 19 years 8 months old when he enlisted at Enoggera on 16 November 1914, soon after his brother was unexpectedly discharged. Harry, too, was almost rejected, on the grounds of having varicose veins, but on re-examination, he was accepted for service.

A carpenter by trade, he was affiliated with the Church of England.



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Benjamin George Homer, his father, a carpenter, of 'Mayfield', Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly, was nominated as next-of-kin.

Private Harry Homer, service number 3593, was attached to the newly-formed 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance that had been raised at Enoggera in September 1914. After a month in training, the 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance left Brisbane aboard the troop transport, A30, HMAT *Borda*, bound for Egypt on 16 December 1914.

For some unspecified infringement of regulations, on 30 January 1915, he was fined £5 and confined to barracks for 28 days.

Then, on 11 August 1915, he was transferred from the 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance to the 7th Field Ambulance, apparently in response to a request to be in the same unit as his brother, Herbert.

Indications are that his unit remained in training in Egypt for some seven or eight months until 4th September 1915 when the 7th Field Ambulance sailed to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli. During their time in Egypt, Private Harry Homer had been designated as a 'bearer' – presumably a stretcher-bearer – but on 14th March he was promoted to 'driver', the rank he held at the time of his death.

For two months, as a member of the Field Ambulance, Harry Homer was exposed to the war being waged on the Gallipoli Peninsula, heavily involved with the wounded and the dying, all of whom had to be carried or driven from where they fell to the

Clearing Stations to be nursed or buried. In so doing men like Harry Homer followed in the tradition of stretcher-bearers like Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick, 202, of the 3rd Field Ambulance. Simpson and his donkey immortalised the efforts of all stretcher-bearers who toiled to bring in the wounded and the dead, unable to protect themselves.

Following two months at the Dardanelles, Harry Homer succumbed to a different enemy – disease.

On the 9th November 1915 Homer was evacuated sick from the 7th Field Ambulance and admitted to the Casualty Clearing Station where he died three days later. He died of 'acute jaundice' on 12th November 1915, at No.16 Casualty Clearing Station, Anzac.

Medical advice indicates that acute jaundice would have been a symptom of viral hepatitis leading to severe liver failure, a condition quite capable of causing death within three to four days.

The official report of his death made to his father in a letter dated 19th February 1916, indicates that he had been promoted to Lance Corporal.

. . . the late 3593, Lance Corporal H R Homer, 7th Field Ambulance.

Lance Corporal Harry Homer died in the presence of family. His brother Bert (Herbert William) was with him at the time of his death in hospital. This is evident from the contents of a letter preserved in his military file. His father, George Homer of Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly, Brisbane, wrote to the Officer

Commanding Base Record Office in Melbourne on the 8th December 1916 – over a year later – complaining of lack of news.

I wrote to ask you about 6 weeks ago for a more effective a/c, also a statement up to date of death of my son, Harry Raymond Homer, who died of illness at Gallipoli, Nov 12/15. I also asked for a certificate of death but cannot have an answer, and had his brother not been with him at the [time] he died I should never had known what had become of my son.

I have repeatedly called at the offices in Brisbane but they can do nothing and told me to write to the Base Record Office, Melbourne, hoping you kindly furnish me with particulars of same.

My son left Brisbane with the 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance and transferred in Egypt to his brother's unit, 7th Field Ambulance and went to Gallipoli together. His number etc., L Corpl Harry Raymond Homer, 3593, late 505 7th Field Ambulance, late 2nd Light Horse. An answer will be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully, George Homer

The anguish felt by families at home wanting to know the circumstances of the death or injury of their loved ones, and their frustration at the lack or absence of information, is clearly evident in this letter.

The name of Private Harry Raymond Homer is recorded on the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli and also at Panel 182 in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.



HOMER, H W

2nd Lieutenant Herbert William Homer MM, 3509, 7th Field Ambulance, and 26th Battalion. DOW 1.6.1917.

HERBERT WILLIAM HOMER was one of two brothers who died in World War 1. The other was Harry Raymond Homer. Sons of Mr and Mrs George and Elizabeth Homer, initially of Belgrave Road, later of Station Road, Indooroopilly, one was lost at Gallipoli, the other in France.

Losing one son in the war would have been shocking; losing two, devastating.

Herbert – Bert - was the second-oldest of the surviving Homer children, and one of five in the family who joined up.

Born in Kington, Herefordshire, England, he was 21 years old at the time of his enlistment at Enoggera on 22 February 1915, and was working as a clerk for the Queensland Government Railway. His service number was 3509 and he was attached to the 7th Field Ambulance of the Australian Army Medical Corps. He nominated his mother, Mrs E S Homer living at Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly, as his next-of-kin. His religious affiliation was Church of England.

In April 1915 Bert Homer was designated a 'waggon orderly', and after some three months in training he embarked at Brisbane with the 7th Field Ambulance on the troopship,

A11 HMAT *Ascanius* departing on the 24th May 1915, bound for Egypt and Gallipoli.

In Egypt Bert apparently linked up with his younger brother, Harry, who requested a transfer to join the 7th Field Ambulance, presumably so the two would be in the same unit.

On 19 July Bert Homer gained promotion to Lance Corporal. Promotion continued in the October when, in the absence of his regular sergeant who was ill, his rank was raised to temporary Corporal, acting Sergeant.

The 7th Field Ambulance departed Egypt on 4 September 1915 when the unit sailed to join the Expeditionary Force at the Dardanelles, taking the two Homer brothers with it. Bert would have seen action for about three months until the withdrawal of all troops was effected on the nights of 18th and 19th December 1915. However, his younger brother did not make it. Illness, rather than enemy action, took the life of Harry Raymond Homer who contracted acute jaundice and died on 12th November. Bert was there to witness his passing.

With the evacuation from Gallipoli in mid-December 1915, the 7th Field Ambulance was stationed in Mudros on the island of Lemnos, and Bert also spent time in hospital with jaundice, but recovered.

The forces regrouped in Egypt and the 7th Field Ambulance embarked at Alexandria for France on the 14th March 1916

sailing on the *Minneapolis*, arriving at Marseilles on the 19th March 1916.

In France Bert Homer was promoted to Acting Sergeant Clerk to cover the evacuation, due to illness, of the regular sergeant. His promotion to rank of Sergeant Clerk was confirmed on 8 April 1916. On 25 September 1916 he was promoted again, to Staff Sergeant.

He saw action in France and was awarded the Military Medal in October 1916, but the place, the date and the action have not been discovered.

The notice from the military authorities to his mother read:

I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Second Supplement No 29794 to the London Gazette of 20th October 1916, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, No 3509, Staff-Sergeant W H Homer, 7th Field Ambulance.

Awarded the Military Medal

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the Field to the undermentioned non-commissioned officer:-

*No 3509 Staff-Sergeant
HERBERT WILLIAM HOMER*

The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No 62 of 19th April 1917.



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Staff-Sergeant Herbert Homer was transferred to the 26th Battalion on 12 March 1917 and promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on 7 April 1917.

On 3 May 1917, the 26th Battalion, part of the 2nd Division, was engaged in a major assault on the Hindenburg Line in the second Battle of Bullecourt. The Division held its gains against furious counterattacks. On that day 2nd Lieutenant Herbert Homer was seriously wounded in action, evacuated from the battlefield to No 3 Casualty Clearing Station, and next day admitted to hospital at Abbeville with severe gunshot wounds to his back. He was evacuated to England from Le Harvre on the 19th May 1917 aboard the HS *Grantully Castle* and admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital on 20 May. But he did not recover.

His death is recorded on 1 June 1917 at the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth England. He died of gunshot wounds to the supraclavicular (back of the neck) region.

Herbert William Homer was buried in England at Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, in the Australian Military Burial Ground in grave No. 179362 consecrated ground, the ceremony taking place at midday 5th June 1917. He was 23 years old. The burial was conducted with full military honours.

The official report of the funeral, dated 6 June 1917, reads:

The deceased officer was buried with full Military Honours. Band, Firing Party, and a party of mourners provided by the 9th Reserve Battalion stationed at Deep Cut, near Farnborough, were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag, and surmounted with several lovely floral tributes. Prior to the interment a Service was held in the Chapel at the cemetery by Chaplain Richards of the AIF Administrative Headquarters, London. The coffin was borne to the graveside by members attached to the Administrative Headquarters. Private E T Homer (brother) 7th Field Ambulance AIF of No 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Miss V Mills (friend) 3 Ormond House Cheltenham, and Mr J M Campbell representing Queensland Government and of 409 Strand EC, were present at the funeral. Lieut Niven of the Administrative Headquarters AIF London, represented the Commonwealth Military Authorities at the funeral. Temporary oak memorial to be erected by Commonwealth Military Authorities. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside.

The official registration of the site of the grave as advised to his next-of-kin is: Brookwood Military Cemetery, Plot 11, Row E, Grave 8.

As Bert had been present at his brother Harry's death at Gallipoli, so Bert himself died with a brother at his side. The record of the burial service records that a third brother,

Ernest, was present at Bert's funeral. Private Ernest Thomas Homer, 15750, had enlisted in the 22nd Reinforcements of the Army Medical Corps on the 3rd February 1916. Arriving in England in January 1917, he transferred to the 7th Field Ambulance, presumably to be with his brother, Bert, and was taken on strength with their unit in France on 26 February 1917. His time at the front was short. Just a month later he was hospitalised with pleurisy. He was in London, on furlough in June when Bert died in the London hospital.

Ernest survived the war, discharged medically unfit in March 1918.

Yet another Homer son served in the AIF, Private A C Homer, 63995, General Service Reinforcements. Alfred Charles (Fred) Homer enlisted on 13 July 1918 and left for overseas on 14 September. He was stationed in Cairo when the Armistice was declared on the 11th November, but was still dispatched to London where he performed administrative duties until his return to Australia in June 1920. He did not see service in a theatre of war.

2nd Lieutenant Herbert William Homer's name is commemorated at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, located at Panel 107.



LARKIN, J

2nd Lieut John Larkin, 41st Battalion, KIA 5.10.1917

JOHN LARKIN was a 19-year-old schoolteacher when he joined up for war service on the 13th January 1916, having previously served in the Senior Cadets with the rank of Lieutenant.

His parents, James and Sarah Ann Larkin were living at Foxton Street, Indooroopilly, where they would have been close neighbours of the Elliot family, also of Foxton Street, who lost two boys in the war.

John Larkin enlisted as a private with the service number 9121. He was attached to the 41st Battalion then being formed, and his service number was revised to 5. He nominated his father as next-of-kin and allied himself with the Church of England.

The 41st Battalion was raised at Bell's Paddock Camp – now Enoggera Barracks – in Brisbane, in February 1916, with recruits from Brisbane, north Queensland and the northern rivers districts of NSW.

The 41st Battalion travelled south for their embarkation, presumably transported by train from Brisbane. On 15 May 1916, almost on the eve of his embarkation for overseas, Larkin was promoted to Sergeant and attached to the battalion's headquarters.

The troops embarked at Sydney on 18th May 1916 aboard the transport A64,

HMAT *Demosthenes*, bound for England where they disembarked at Plymouth on 20 July 1916. While the battalion was in England awaiting deployment to the front lines, John Larkin appears to have spent six or seven weeks at a school for officers. He rejoined his unit at the end of October and proceeded overseas to France on 29 November 1916. The 41st Battalion entered the front line on Christmas Eve, 1916.

According to the Battalion's history, in the winter of 1917 there were alternating periods of service in the front line, and training and labouring behind the lines. Larkin must have missed most of that. He was posted to officer's training school at Trinity College, Cambridge, in England, and entered the school on 10 January 1917. Four months later he graduated from the course and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on 4 May 1917 and posted to General Infantry Reinforcements. Within ten days he was back in France, passing through Etaples to rejoin the battalion on 22 May.

The battalion had a supporting role at the battle of Messines in June 1917 and John Larkin would have led his men in that action.

Except for ten days in September, from the 8th to the 17th, which he spent in a Dieppe Hospital recovering from illness, Larkin was involved in the Battalion's activities throughout the next four months.

On the 4th October 1917 the Battalion was engaged in the battle of Broodseinde, part of the Passchendaele campaign fought in Flanders.

The attack began before dawn. As the Australians were advancing they were confronted by a line of German troops coming towards them. They met in the middle of no-man's land. The Australians cut through the German line and gained their objective, but at heavy cost. The action was the most successful Allied attack of the Passchendaele operation. The battalion captured its objectives, contributing to an Allied victory. However, the day after the initial assault, 5th October, in the aftermath of the main action, 2nd Lieutenant John Larkin was killed in action.

It seems he was buried where he fell. He was buried on the day of his death at Zonnebeke, by Rev W A Moore of the 43rd Battalion.

After the war James Larkin, John's father, wrote to Base Records in Melbourne, on 25 June 1919, anxious about the state of his son's grave:

Now that peace terms have apparently been definitely accepted and signed, and a renewal of hostilities appears remote, I am anxiously seeking information relative to the condition of the ground where my son, 2nd Lieutenant John Larkin, 41st Battalion, was buried . . .

I understand this area was, at a later date under shell fire both



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from our own and the enemy's guns and also in German occupation for some time afterwards, and I am afraid that this last resting place of our dear dead boys may have been torn up and totally destroyed, leaving no trace of what remained of them. I shall be very grateful for any information you can afford me on the matter.

The pathos of families grieving for sons lost on foreign soil is clear to see.

The following year, three years after his death, John Larkin's body was exhumed on the 14th December 1920, and re-interred at Tyne Cot British Cemetery, Passchendaele, 5¼ miles east-north-east of Ypres. Positive identification was made by the recovery of his identity disc and a watch found on the remains in the original grave.

A letter from Base Records to his father written on 6 April 1921 reads:

The Officer in Charge, Australian Graves Services, London, has advised that the remains of your son, the late 2nd Lieutenant J Larkin, 41st Battalion, were exhumed on the 14th December last and reburied in Tyne Cot British Cemetery, Passchendaele. Identity was established by the inscription "Jack Larkin from Mother and Father", which appeared on a silver watch found on the remains.

It is also advised that the watch in question is being forwarded to this office and when same

comes to hand, it will be promptly transmitted to you.

The watch was subsequently returned to his father with a letter dated the 31st August 1921.

In 1925, John Larkin's parents, James and Sarah Larkin, were still living in Foxton Street, Indooroopilly with John's only sister, Edith.

Tyne Cot cemetery in Belgium is the largest Commonwealth War Graves cemetery, containing the graves of almost 12,000 soldiers, and the largest number of Australians in any one cemetery of World War 1 – 1,368 – of whom 791 are unidentified. Two German pill-boxes are preserved in the cemetery.

John Larkin's name is recorded at Panel 134 in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

McDONALD, S

Fourth Engineer Officer,
Merchant Navy, SS Celtic.
KIA 31.3.1918

STANLEY ANGUS McDONALD is unique among the names on the Indooroopilly War Memorial in that he met his death serving with the British Merchant Navy. His service history is not to be found among the records of the Australian War Memorial with the exception that his name is included on the Commemorative Roll.

The Commemorative Roll includes the names of those Australians who in other respects would qualify as eligible for the Roll of Honour, but who were members of the armed forces of allied countries; members of the Merchant Navy; and others who served in various ways.

Stanley Angus McDonald was born in October 1890 to parents Angus and Minnie (nee Finch) McDonald who are recorded living in Indooroopilly at Montague Road, a road whose name has since been changed to Coonan Street. They were living there in 1903 and 1909 when his father Angus died. In 1913, Minnie, now widowed, was still at that address.

Stanley was the second oldest of a known family of five: Henry born 1888; Stanley 1890; Dorothy 1893; Gladys 1895; and Marjorie 1899. He also had a family of seven half brothers and sisters by his father's



earlier marriage. After the war in 1921, Minnie McDonald was then living at Station Road Indooroopilly and she would have been a keen observer of the dedication in that year of the monument that carried her son's name.

Stanley was aged 24 when war was declared but whether he was living at Indooroopilly or was already overseas is not known. He did not enlist in the Australian armed forces, but chose to join the mercantile marine in Britain, later dubbed the Merchant Navy.

RMS *Celtic* was a very significant ship in which to serve as an engineer officer. Launched in 1901 for the celebrated White Star Line, it was the first ship to exceed 20,000 gross tonnage and, at the time it was built, it was acknowledged as being the largest ship ever constructed. Its maiden voyage occurred on 26th July 1901. Until the outbreak of World War 1, *Celtic* was engaged in carrying more than 2,000 passengers on the Trans-Atlantic route from Liverpool to New York via Queenstown in Ireland, and return. In April 1912 she was the first ship into New York following the disaster of the *Titanic* sinking.

When war broke out in 1914 the ship became an armed merchant cruiser, but this role was changed to that of troopship in 1916. In this capacity she carried troops from England to the theatres of war, including Egypt, in the

process experiencing some very lucky escapes from enemy attacks. *Celtic* survived the war, but not without extensive damage and loss of life. When Stanley McDonald joined her crew has not been determined, but it is recorded that he served as Senior Fourth Engineer Officer. Being part of the engine room crew he must have felt vulnerable to sea-borne attack.

In 1917 *Celtic* struck a German mine while off the Isle of Man, killing 17 of those onboard.

The mine tore a huge hole in her, but the flooding was confined to the No 1 hold. Badly damaged, the ship was towed to the port of Liverpool where repairs were effected and she was returned to duty six weeks after the event.

Celtic came under attack again the next year, this time from a German submarine in the Irish Sea soon after leaving Liverpool. In March 1918 the German U-boat UB-77 shot two torpedoes into *Celtic* causing the deaths of six people, one of whom, it is believed, was Fourth Engineer, Stanley McDonald, whose death is recorded on 31 March 1918 – killed in action. The ship was prevented from sinking by beaching it in shallow water. It was subsequently refloated and taken to Belfast for repairs.

Stanley McDonald was buried at Belfast City Cemetery on 17 May 1918, some six weeks after his death, presumably indicating that his body was not removed from the crippled ship

until it reached Belfast. In a bizarre turn of phrase, his last place of residence was stated to be the morgue *Celtic*. The location of his grave at Belfast Cemetery is described as Plot 167 in the Glenalina Extension. Another victim from *Celtic*, also killed on the 31st March, is buried in the same cemetery. His grave is marked simply, unknown sailor.

In Brisbane, a year later, a tribute appeared in the *Brisbane Courier* on 31st March 1919, the first anniversary of his death:

A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley A McDonald, engineer, SS Celtic who gave his life for his country, March 31st 1918, aged 26 years and 7 months.

Until 1928 much the same memorial notice was inserted by his mother annually in the *Brisbane Courier* on the day of his death, varied only to include:

. . . killed at sea by enemy attack March 31st 1918.

The names of the people on the Commemorative Roll, including that of Stanley Angus McDonald, are in a book located in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.



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MUNRO, C C ROSS

2nd Lieut Colin Cameron
Ross Munro, 122 Brigade,
Royal Field Artillery
DOW 23.4.1916

COLIN CAMERON ROSS MUNRO is not easily found in the military records held by the Australian War Memorial, a circumstance that causes some consternation when it comes to constructing a profile of his war service. His name does not appear on the nominal roll of those who enlisted in the Australian armed services, or on the embarkation roll of those who were transported overseas. And, although he died as a result of wounds received in action, his name is not among those recorded on the Roll of Honour. However, the Commemorative Roll does contain his name and identifies his service with the 'A' Battery, 122nd Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery – a unit of the British Army.

The reason that Colin Munro's name is absent from Australian military records is that he enlisted in the British Army, and travelled to England privately to do so. All information on his life and war service has been gleaned from contemporary newspaper accounts and from genealogical sources.

Colin Cameron Ross Munro was the second child in a family of six born to William Ross Munro and Mary Jane (nee Cameron) who owned the pastoral property 'Boombah' at St George, in south-western Queensland:

Donald Norman Roylston, 1886; Colin Cameron, 16.2.1888;

William Ronald (or Ranald), 1890; Constance Jean, 1893;

Keith Ross, 1895; and Margaret Hazel, 1898.

Three of the brothers took part in the war: Ranald and Colin sailed to England and joined the British forces there; Keith joined the Australian Army, transferring to the British forces when he was overseas. Ranald Munro served in the Royal Air Force, surviving the war and completing his service as a Captain. Colin and Keith both perished.

The name Colin Cameron Ross Munro, and the names of two brothers, Keith Ross and Ranald Ross Munro, are recorded on a memorial plaque located in St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Brisbane, which was unveiled by the Governor-General, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, on the 13 August 1916. A news report was carried next day by the *Brisbane Courier*:

A solemn service of commemoration was held in St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Leichhardt Street, yesterday morning, when an honour board bearing the names of members and adherents of the church who are serving at the Front, or have fallen, was unveiled by his Excellency, the Governor-General . . . The honour board bore the following names . . . Keith Ross Munro, Colin Cameron Ross Munro

. . . *Ranald Ross Munro* . . .

The family demonstrated a marked affinity for the name 'Ross' and it was subsequently absorbed into the family surname. The memorial plaques in St Paul's Church identify the given name 'Ross' with the names of each of the brothers; and, many years later in 1944, the funeral notice of the father is listed alphabetically under 'R' for 'Ross Munro' rather than 'M' for 'Munro'. Certainly, the inscriptions on the Indooroopilly monument imply that 'Ross Munro' had become a combined surname.

The *Queensland Figaro*, 22 May 1915, reported the pending departure of Colin Munro and two mates intent on joining the Royal Horse Artillery.

Mr Jack Chandler leaves by the Osterley to join King Edward's Horse; also Mr Colin Ross-Munro, and Mr Ralph Clifton.

Following a farewell at a public function in St George on the 25th May, he boarded the *Osterley* in Brisbane on 5th June bound for England. Word was published in the *Queensland Figaro*, on the 2nd October 1915 that he had arrived in London at the end of July. His arrival in London was noted and a correspondent to the Queensland paper *The Northern Miner* on 8 September reported:



Mr Jack Chandler and Mr Colin Munro, who came over together from Brisbane in the Osterley are staying at the Imperial Hotel, Bloomsbury. Mr Munro is a son of Mr Ross Munro, whose pastoral properties are in the Charleville district and whose wife and family are at Indooroopilly. Young Mr Munro, who was last in England with his father in the Coronation year, has now come over in the hope of getting a commission in the Royal Artillery . . .

Quite a number of Queenslanders are still coming over to join one or other of the units for the war. The particular corps to which they seem to gravitate are the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Artillery. If they cannot get into the former, they apply for the latter.

Colin Munro received his commission in the British Army and served as Second Lieutenant with the Royal Field Artillery attached to 122 Brigade operating a howitzer battery. A letter he wrote from the front line was published in regional Queensland papers, including the *Western Star* and *Roma Advertiser*, 15 March 1916:

St George Volunteer in France. The following letter was published in the Balonne 'Beacon'. Colin Munro who is with a howitzer brigade somewhere in France, writes to a St Georgeite:

'Am situated about 2000 yards away from no man's land, that is the bit of country between our trenches and the Germans. I came here (into action) about six hours before 1915 went bung! [31st December] Not much doing here in the winter, so other officers tell me, but some afternoons it gets warm enough. Was in a small dugout the other day when the Germans sent over about one hundred 4.9 shells; they lobbed all around . . . one hit the corner and knocked sandbags everywhere. The next day they put one on top of it, and killed two and wounded seven – right in the place we were sitting the day before. A sniper had a go at me last Wednesday; he put a bullet alongside my ear, which sent me deaf for a short time, and another near my shoulder – so I shifted my position pretty lively you can bet. . . By jove I would give a lot to see this d-- war over, but I think we have them by the beard, and it will only take a bit of time . . . Nothing to do here at nights, only listen to a gramophone and swap lies . . . The happiest day of my life will be when I touch Australia again, and once back, I will take a bit of shifting . . .'

But Lieutenant Colin Cameron Munro would not touch Australia again. A little over a month after this letter was published at home he was dead as a result of wounds received in action in France on 23 April 1916.

The report published in the *Warwick Examiner and Times* 15 May 1916 reads:

The many friends of Lieut Colin C Munro regretted to hear of his death in action on the Western Front on Easter Sunday. Deceased, who was a fine young fellow with a magnetic personality that caused him to be beloved by all, was the second son of Mr and Mrs W Ross Munro of Boombah Station, St George district. He left for the front in company with Mr Jack Chandler of Warwick, and both were in the same brigade throughout. Two other brothers also responded to their country's call. The Munro family has been largely associated for many years with everything foremost in the St George district, and deep and sincere have been the expressions of sympathy to them from a large circle of friends. Deceased was aged about 28 years.

The Australian Commemorative Roll, which is in book form, is located in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. It records his place of burial, at Merville Communal Cemetery, France.



The Indooroopilly War Memorial

MUNRO, K ROSS

Trooper, Keith Ross Munro,
182, 5th Light Horse
Regiment
Discharged AIF 3.2.1916.
Flt Sub Lieut RNAS. KIA
9.8.1917

KEITH ROSS MUNRO was the youngest of three brothers who enlisted for service in World War 1. One came home from the war, the other two lost their lives. Sons of William Ross Munro and Mary Jane (nee Cameron) of 'Boombah' Station, St George, and later of 'Ross Roy', Harts Road, Indooroopilly, Ranald survived, but his two brothers, Colin and Keith, were killed.

William Ross Munro's large, imposing home at Indooroopilly, was acquired in 1910. He named it 'Ross Roy' – 'Ross' after his second given name, and 'Roy' a contraction of his eldest son's given name 'Royston'. It was a landmark house then, and it remains a landmark house now, preserved and heritage listed.

Keith Ross Munro was the first of the three brothers to join up and the only one to enlist in the Australian Army. His older brothers enlisted with the British forces, travelling to England to do so.

Born on 28 July 1895 at St George, Keith Ross Munro was educated at the Southport School. He enlisted at Enoggera, on 7th September 1914, joining the 5th Light Horse Regiment as a trooper with a service number of 182.

His stated age at enlistment was 20 years 2 months but, according to his recorded birth date, he was only 19 and 2 months, a year younger than he said, and not yet out of his teens. He gave his occupation as 'grazier', and professed to be Presbyterian.

After three months in training, Keith Munro embarked at Sydney on the 21st December 1914 on board the A34, HMAT *Persic*, for service overseas, arriving in Egypt on 1 February 1915. His unit was not involved in the initial landings at Gallipoli but arrived there in late May without their horses to be attached to the 1st Australian Division.

His regiment was mostly engaged in defensive duties, but on 28 June the 5th Light Horse was involved in an attack on the Balkan Gun Pits. In moving along Harris Ridge, they came under heavy enemy machine gun and rifle fire. Furthermore, they were blanketed by shellfire from an allied destroyer whose captain was unaware that they were in the target area. As a result, their casualties were heavy; 23 killed and 79 wounded. Keith Ross Munro was one of the wounded. Fortunately, his injuries were not severe and he remained on duty.

It took a bout of illness to take him out of the line. In October 1915 he was admitted to hospital at Gallipoli with measles. It was serious enough to require his evacuation by hospital ship to

Malta where he was initially admitted to Intarfa Hospital and subsequently taken by hospital ship to England where he was admitted to Southern General Hospital in Oxford in November.

Keith Ross Munro served with the AIF until the 3rd February 1916 when his service record indicates that he was discharged.

His discharge, however, did not signify an end to his war service. Like his two older brothers, Colin and Ranald, he joined the forces of England. He obtained a commission in the Imperial (British) Army serving as Probationary Flight Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). His brother, Ranald Ross Munro, who survived the war, was also an aviator, a Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps.

While in London, and prior to his discharge from the AIF, Keith Munro married Ethel Styles on 26 January 1917 and they spent a three-month furlough travelling back to Australia to visit Munro's parents at 'Ross Roy' Indooroopilly, before returning to England to rejoin his unit.

A pilot flying missions over enemy territory, Flight Sub-Lieutenant Keith Ross Munro's luck ran out on the 9th August 1917. Initially posted as missing, it was subsequently reported that he had been killed in action. He met his death flying a Sopwith Triplane, N6290 "Trixie", over the battlefield of Polygon Wood in



France. He had been married less than seven months. He has no known grave.

His name and the names of his two brothers, Colin Cameron Ross Munro, and Ranald Ross Munro, are recorded on a memorial plaque in St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Brisbane, which was unveiled on 13 August 1916 by the Governor-General of Australia, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson.

Keith Munro's wife gave birth to a daughter on 29th March 1918 and Ethel named her Keitha Ross Munro. Keitha grew up in England with her mother and a stepfather, but came to be a prominent figure in Australian ballet. In 1940 she became one of the first ballerinas of the Borovansky Australian Ballet Company, and subsequently the company's stage manager. She was a frequent guest at 'Ross Roy', living for a time with her grandparents.

Keitha Ross Munro married Sydney Shakespearean actor, David Cahill (also recorded as Placid Cahill), on 21st April 1951 and they established their home at 3 Innes Road, Greenwich, Sydney. Keitha and David Cahill continued to live in Sydney, and in 1973 Keitha formed the North Shore Ballet Centre specialising in ballet supplies. Keitha died in June 2010 aged 92. At time of writing the business still ran in the Sydney suburb of Chatswood, run by Peter Cahill, the great-grandson of Keith Ross Munro.

William Ross Munro, Keith's father, lived to age 94 at 'Ross Roy'. He died on the 14th May 1944 and was buried at the Chapel Hill Cemetery in the grounds of the Chapel Hill Uniting Church. His son, Ranald Ross Munro, who predeceased him, is also buried there.

The palatial 'Ross Roy' house passed out of Munro family ownership following the death of William Ross Munro. It was bought in 1945 when St Peter's Lutheran College was established at Indooroopilly and remains well preserved, the centrepiece and focus of what today is Australia's largest Lutheran school – a fitting legacy of the Ross Munro family.

A connection between the Munro family and the Presbyterian Church at Indooroopilly was forged when Mr and Mrs Ross Munro gave the church organ at the time of the opening of the church in 1922.

Sadly, the name Keith Ross Munro does not occur on the Australian Roll of Honour, or on the Australian Commemorative Roll.

NEVILL, J H

Private Joseph Harold Nevill,
269, 31st Battalion, KIA
19.7.1916

JOSEPH HAROLD NEVILL and William Bradley – another name on the Indooroopilly monument – were next-door neighbours when war was declared in August 1914. The Nevill family lived at No.20 Jackson Street, Indooroopilly, the Bradleys lived at No.16.

Of the large Nevill family – 16 in all – three brothers enlisted in the Army and saw overseas service. Joseph Harold Nevill aged 21 years 10 months, enlisted first on 13th July 1915, closely followed by his younger brother, Stanley Cecil six weeks later on 31 August 1915, then Bertram Henry, the eldest son of the family, on 11 April 1917. Just on twelve months after he joined up Joseph was lying dead on a battlefield in France. His two brothers survived to return home.

Private Joseph Nevill's service number was 269, and he was assigned to the 31st Battalion then in the process of being formed. He was single, a leather-goods worker, and professed to an affiliation with the Church of England.

He came from a large family. His father, Henry James Nevill, married twice; firstly to Ada Annie Smith by whom there were nine children, then, following her death, to Gertrude Elizabeth Sexton who bore him seven more. Henry and Gertrude Nevill and their family came to live at



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Jackson Street, Indooroopilly, from about 1903. Henry was still living there at the time of his death in June 1943, and Gertrude's name was still on the roll there in 1958.

The 31st Battalion of the AIF was raised at Enoggera, Brisbane, in August 1915, together with some companies formed in Victoria. The Queensland and Victorian contingents came together in early October and the battalion sailed from Melbourne aboard the troopship *Wandilla* on the 9th November 1915.

The battalion fought its first major battle on 19th July 1916 at Fromelles, a village in Northern France between the towns of Lille and Arras. The troops had entered the front line trenches only three days previously. The attack was disastrous for the battalion. It lost more than half its strength – 572 casualties.

One of those casualties was Private Joseph Harold Nevill. He was killed instantly by a shell blast in the open ground in front of the German trenches.

The account of an eyewitness recorded the moment of his death.

On the evening of the 19th July, 1916, I was standing close to the above man and saw him killed by concussion from a shell. His death being instantaneous, he had no wounds. This happened in 'No man's Land' and it was impossible to remove him for burial as he was close to a German outpost.

It is likely that it was the first engagement of the battle. Joseph Nevill would have climbed out of the trench and charged towards the trenches of the enemy only to be mowed down by the enemy fire in 'No man's land' before he reached the objective.

The official record of his death reads:

Australian Pte J H Nevill, 269, 31st Btn. Fell in the neighbourhood of Fromelles on 19/7/16.

The Battle of Fromelles, fought on the night of the 19-20 July 1916, was the first major battle fought by Australian troops on the Western Front. When the troops of the 5th Australian and 61st British Divisions attacked at 6pm on 19 July 1916, they suffered disastrously at the hands of German machine gunners. By 8am on the 20th July the battle was over and more than 7,000 Australian and British troops lay dead or wounded – 5,533 of them Australian. Over 1900 Australians died. And in just fourteen hours! German casualties were little more than 1,000.

The carnage cannot be imagined.

Joseph Harold Nevill's remains lay unmarked for more than 90 years, buried in a mass grave at Pheasant Wood, Fromelles, interred by the Germans after the battle. Only in recent years was the mass grave containing approximately 400 bodies located by an Australian forensic archaeologist, and

the recovery of bodies for proper burial commenced. An intensive and highly technical process of DNA analysis was put in hand in the year 2010 leading to the formal identification of more than 100 of the bodies. One of those identified was Joseph Harold Nevill.

The database established to record the names of those recovered from the mass grave at Pheasant Wood includes this entry:

269 Private Joseph Howard Nevill [should be Harold] 31st Battalion Identified 2010

A new cemetery dedicated as the place of burial of the identified and unidentified bodies recovered from the mass grave at Pheasant Wood has been created by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission close to Fromelles, and Private Joseph Harold Nevill is now identified by his individual, named headstone.

His name is located at panel 119 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

A memorial stained glass window in the Anzac Memorial Church, part of the Indooroopilly Uniting Church, Brisbane, commemorates his memory.

His photo appears in the *Queenslander* newspaper issue 27 July 1918 p28.



PARKER, J A

Private James Albert Parker,
4887, 15th Battalion, KIA
11.4.1917

JAMES ALBERT PARKER was an unmarried 25-year-old farmer living in the Indooroopilly district when he enlisted in the Army on 9 September 1915. An address quoted on his enlistment papers refers to both Fig Tree Pocket and Kenmore. However, the address of his next-of-kin, his widowed mother Mrs Mary Ann Parker, is simply Indooroopilly Post Office, Brisbane.

Although a stated Methodist, his name does not feature on the honour board of the Indooroopilly Methodist Church.

James Parker was the eldest son in the family of five children of James and Mary Ann Parker who lived at Witton, a district of Indooroopilly. At the outbreak of war his mother was widowed, his father having died in 1909. James appears to have been living at Fig Tree Pocket working on a farm.

Both his younger brothers also joined up and survived the war. Edward Charles Parker enlisted on 20 July 1916, aged nearly 24, and Arthur John Parker enlisted on 15 January 1916 at the age of 21.

Edward was both gassed and wounded in action with multiple gunshot wounds that caused him to be invalided out of the Army. Arthur was discharged medically unfit before the end of the war.

Private James Parker was assigned the service number 4887, and he was attached to the 15th reinforcements of the 15th Battalion.

His unit left Australia for overseas service on 28 March 1916 on board the troopship A73, HMAT *Commonwealth*.

The troops disembarked in Egypt on 5 May 1916, and spent three months in training before heading to join the British Expeditionary Force, leaving Alexandria for England on the *Megantic* on the 6th August 1916. They left the 4th Training Battalion in England on 30 September 1916 and marched into camp at Etaples in France on 1 October. Twelve days later, on the 13th October, they marched out to join the 15th Battalion in the field. On the 16th they were at the front line.

Fighting as part of the 4th Brigade in the 4th Division, the 15th Battalion suffered very heavy losses in April 1917 at the first battle of Bullecourt, a major offensive on the German Hindenburg Line that ran through the little village of Bullecourt.

On the 11th April, the 15th Battalion, in company with the 13th Battalion, led the assault on the German line, followed closely by the 14th and 16th Battalions. It was a battle that was supposed to have had the support of tanks and artillery, but both were wanting. Positions captured in an early morning advance by the Australians had to be

abandoned during the day as the expected support did not eventuate or was ineffectual.

According to the commander of the 4th Brigade, Lt-Col J M A Durrant, speaking at a lecture given in Brisbane in December 1923:

... On the fatal April 11 they were all in position for the second time to attack. In 24 hours the men had tramped 18 miles in the dark and they still had the battle in front of them. At zero hour the first two companies moved off and as soon as they started the loss from shell fire commenced . . . Only two tanks actually got through the wire . . . those two tanks then got stopped. The machine gun fire was terrific. Then men got across the wire [barbed wire entanglement] on the bodies of the men of the battalions which went before them. When they had taken their objective – a front of 1000 yards – they were not strong enough to hold the position . . . eventually most of the men rather than be captured chanced a run to their own lines over an open space directly covered by the enemy's fire. Out of 700 men 520 were lost in the engagement. The total loss for the brigade out of 3000 men was 2300.

More men were lost in the retreat than in the initial advance.

As a member of the 15th Battalion, Private James Parker was caught up in the horror of that hellish morning on 11th April when his unit



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led the charge towards the German trenches. Whether he was stranded on the wire, or took a bullet in the open, or succumbed in the enemy trenches, will never be known. But he died on that day, and his body was not recovered.

He has no known grave.

James Albert Parker's name is included on the Villers-Bretonneux Australian National Memorial erected to commemorate all Australian soldiers who fought in France and Belgium during the First World War, to their dead, and especially to name those of the dead whose graves are not known.

He is recorded on Panel 77 on the Roll of Honour in the Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

REYNOLDS, P

Driver Paul Reynolds, 6060, 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, 21st Howitzer Brigade. Died of disease 12.5.1916

PAUL REYNOLDS was living in Indooroopilly, at Cecil Street, when he enlisted on 30 July 1915. He was 21 years and 3 months old when he joined up, a carpenter by trade, and his stated religious affiliation was Baptist. One of a family of four boys and three girls he was living with his mother, Mrs Ellen Hannah Reynolds, who he nominated as next-of-kin. Ellen Reynolds was widowed. Her husband, Paul's father, George Alfred

Reynolds, died in 1911 when Paul was 17. After the war, Ellen moved to Bardonia in 1922.

Paul enlisted as a driver in the 12th Reinforcements of the 3rd Field Artillery with the service number 6060. Driver Reynolds later became Gunner Reynolds on 4 November 1915, a few days before he embarked for the war zone. He was shipped overseas on the troop transport A62, HMAT *Wandilla*, which departed from Melbourne on 9th November 1915. Also on board the ship were John Hays of Kenmore, and Joseph Nevill of Indooroopilly. All three were destined not to come home.

The *Wandilla* disembarked its troops at Suez on 7th December 1915 and the next day, the 8th December, at Heliopolis, Cairo, Gunner Reynolds was taken on strength of the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, 7th Battery.

On 27 February 1916, he was transferred to 4th Division Artillery at Tel-el-Kebir, the large tented training centre for Australian reinforcements 70 miles north-north-east of Cairo on the edge of the Egyptian desert. A week later, on 6th March 1916, he was taken on strength of the 21st Howitzer Brigade, then in the process of formation, and posted to the 103rd (Howitzer) Battery, one of three batteries in the brigade operating 4.5-inch howitzer artillery pieces.

The newly formed unit left Alexandria, Egypt, on 25 March 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force,

disembarking at Marseilles, France, on 1 April 1916. The 103rd Battery entered the front line at Fleurbaix, a small village 4 miles south-west of Armentieres, on 29 April 1916. At this location they were destined to be fully involved in the Battle of Fromelles on 19 July 1916, a battle that would prove to be a complete disaster for the Australians – *the worst 24 hours in Australia's entire history*. But Paul Reynolds escaped the carnage of Fromelles and it is doubtful if he saw any action at the front before he succumbed to illness. He survived only six weeks in France.

He was admitted to the 7th Field Ambulance in France on 5 May with *acute influenza*, and died on the 12 May 1916. Other records indicate the acute influenza was in fact pneumonia.

The death of Paul Reynolds from a seemingly innocuous complaint such as influenza highlights the huge part that disease played in the mortality of troops serving at the front line. It has been claimed that disease was the cause of nearly as many fatalities as the fighting. And, given the horrific conditions that the men had to endure in waging trench warfare, it is hardly surprising that so many died of illness rather than injury. Rotting corpses in shallow graves, unwashed clothes, unwashed bodies, overflowing cesspits – the environment they shared at the front was toxic. Rats and lice, the absence of sanitation,



and a lack of hygiene, made for the inevitable spread of infection and fever.

The winter of 1916 was said to be one of the worst on record. Snow, ice, wet and slush, combined to make conditions intolerable. In the close confines of their living there was little prospect of men escaping contagion. Once ill, there was limited access to effective treatment and hospitalisation.

At the beginning of 1918 a virulent strain of influenza appeared, swiftly spreading worldwide as a pandemic of monstrous proportions. In just three years from January 1918 to December 1920 it was reported to have infected 500 million people in all countries on earth and to have killed 50 to 100 million of them. One theory suggests that it originated in the huge military hospital at Etaples. Whether or not the war caused the disease, it most likely was a big factor in hastening the spread of the pandemic.

Paul Reynolds was buried on the day of his death by Rev R C Oakley, the burial taking place at the Canadian cemetery at Sailly-sur-la-Lys, France, 5 miles south-west of Armentieres. The grave location is given as Plot 1, Row B, Grave 29. Whether or not he died from influenza or pneumonia or an early strain of Spanish flu, he was a victim of his environment and a casualty of the terrible conditions that soldiers at war have to endure.

The list of his personal effects returned to his mother reads:

Disc, leather belt, note book, coins (3), jack knife, metal watch (no glass), chain, wallet, photos, purse.

The name of Paul Reynolds is listed at Panel 18 in the Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

ROBERTSON, F J K

Private Francis James Kersey Robertson, 1688, 2nd Light Horse, KIA 9.1.1917

FRANCIS JAMES KEARSEY ROBERTSON was 20 years 9 months old and unmarried when he enlisted in the Army on 3rd August 1915. Described as both a station hand and a stockman, he was drafted into the 2nd Light Horse Regiment as a private with the service number 1688, and became part of the 11th reinforcements.

His father, Mr Walter Thomas Robertson, was nominated as next-of-kin. The name of W T Robertson was to become almost synonymous with the Australian Red Cross. Formed in Melbourne on 13 August 1914, the Red Cross founded a branch in Queensland a week later. Both Mr and Mrs Robertson were involved in the Queensland Branch, virtually from its inception. Mrs Robertson was a foundation member of the Queensland Executive at its inauguration in August 1914, and Mr Robertson was its Chairman

from its second annual meeting on 14 August 1916, and for many years. Interestingly, Mrs Ross Munro, the mother of Keith and Colin who also died in the war, was a near neighbour and probably a close friend. The Robertsons lived at 'Iona', Lambert Road, Indooroopilly; the Ross Munros at nearby 'Ross Roy' in Harts Road. Mrs Ross Munro was also a member of the Queensland Red Cross executive committee, and both were at one time vice-presidents.

Walter Robertson, Francis' father, was a man of some prominence in the Brisbane business community. He was founding proprietor of Robertson Tait & Co, wholesale iron and steel merchants and took an active part in civic affairs, notably through his long association with Queensland Red Cross. He was treasurer of the Imperial Service Club, and was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1918. He was a member of the committee responsible for the creation of the city's iconic Anzac Memorial dedicated 11 November 1930.

Private Frank Robertson's unit was transported to Sydney where they embarked for overseas on 4 October 1915 aboard the troop transport A47, HMAT *Mashobra*. At the time of his embarkation his regiment was in action at Gallipoli and he would have fully expected to be sent there. However, before they reached Alexandria, all



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forces had been withdrawn from the peninsula. The 2nd Light Horse evacuated Anzac Cove Gallipoli at midnight on the 18th December and arrived at Mudross the next day. The regiment arrived at Alexandria on 27 December 1915, and was established at Aerodrome Camp, Heliopolis, Cairo, for re-fitting and re-organising. The 11th Reinforcements, including Frank Robertson, were absorbed into the regiment two days later.

After a fortnight at Heliopolis, the re-formed regiment moved out to the front at Wardan on the 14 January 1916. Here they were engaged in training and outpost duty. They moved to El Minia, and in February the regiment was engaged in patrolling the desert fringe. For three months there was no contact with the enemy.

From mid-May the regiment was stationed at Kantara, on the Suez

Canal, and at the end of the month it moved to Romani 23 miles east of the canal. Throughout June and July the regiment was engaged in patrol duty to various outposts in the Sinai with their base at Romani.

Private Robertson was admitted to hospital in Port Said on 13 July with *septic sores*; then on 21 July, he was transferred to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbassia, Cairo, with *septic sores, mild*. He spent the rest of the month and August out of action, missing the battle of Romani

that turned back the Turkish advance on the canal on 4 August 1916.

After Romani the 1st Light Horse Brigade, of which the 2nd Light Horse Regiment was a part, became engaged in the Anzac Mounted Division's determined campaign to drive the German and Ottoman army across the Sinai Peninsula and into Palestine. As part of this force, the 1st Light Horse Machine Gun Squadron was formed from the machine gun units of the various regiments, and Frank Robertson was drafted to be part of this squadron on 10 September 1916.

Frank Robertson, as a member of a machine gun crew, would have been heavily involved in the actions that took place at the Turkish outposts on the Palestine frontier. He survived the Battle of Maghdaba on the 23rd December, but was killed in the action at Rafa on the 9th January 1917, the action that completed the re-capture of the Sinai Peninsula.

Rafa was situated east of El Arish, close to the Mediterranean coast, on the border of Palestine, an obstacle to the Australian push east. The Light Horse regiments and supporting forces began their attack on Rafa at dawn on 9th January, the various units deployed to encircle the enemy outpost. The 2nd Light Horse regimental diary records that at 6am they were 1½ miles south of the enemy's position. The

strongly entrenched enemy troops held their fire until the Light Horse were advancing along a sunken road when the action began about 10am. The *hot engagement* lasted all day and claimed the life of Private Frank Robertson.

The same action also claimed the life of another Indoeroopilly soldier, 23-year-old John James Boyle. Boyle was a trooper in the 2nd Light Horse and he was caught by multiple gunshot wounds to head and body in the action at Rafa. He lingered for a few days but died of his wounds on 12 January. No doubt the two lads were mates.

Frank Robertson was buried on the day of his death, presumably where he fell, at a spot 51° from a lone tree and 312° from a telegraph pole on the north side of a sunken road, probably the road along which they had advanced. The ceremony was officiated by chaplain Rev H K Gordon.

Presumably these coordinates were sufficient to allow the retrieval of his body at a later date because, three years later, his body was recovered on the 19th January 1920, and re-interred at El Arish Military Cemetery, Egypt. Then, almost two years later still, advice was given on the 21st December 1921, that his remains had been removed once more, to the established Military Cemetery at Kantara, Egypt, *for the purpose of concentration*. His grave identification there is Plot F, Grave 372.



The name of Francis James Kearsy Robertson, is included at Panel 180, Commemorative Area, the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, and a photo, PO3452.009, can be found by searching on-line the WW1 Pictorial Honour Roll of Queenslanders.

SINCLAIR, D B J (Wrongly shown as SINCLAIR D B T on the Indooroopilly monument)

Donald Bruce John (Jack) Sinclair, 5, 3rd Field Coy Engineers, KIA 1.8.1915

DONALD BRUCE JOHN SINCLAIR was one of the earliest recruits to sign up for war service. He enlisted on the 18th August 1914, only 14 days after Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914, and a mere 8 days after the first call was made for recruits.

Donald Sinclair and his older brother, David, joined up on the same day, in the same regiment and with consecutive regimental numbers. Donald was No.5 and David No.6, in the 3rd Field Company Engineers.

Aged 24 years, Donald Sinclair (always known as Jack) was a surveyor, as was his brother, a qualification that suited his assignment as a Sapper, or engineer, to the Australian Engineers, 1st Section.

He was the younger of two sons born to Donald George Sinclair and his wife Agnes

(nee Love) living at Finney Road, Indooroopilly. His father was nominated as next-of-kin.

Both brothers left Australia from Melbourne on 22 September 1914, less than a month after joining up, embarking on the troopship A2, *Geelong*. Their troopship was one of the Australian fleet that sailed from Albany on 1 November 1914 taking the troops of the Australian Imperial Force to the war zone. On the day of their departure Jack's brother was promoted to Corporal, the first in a long line of promotions. The flotilla landed the Australians in Egypt in early December and they spent time in training at Cairo in the shadow of the pyramids.

With the decision to send an Australian force to the Dardanelles, the Sinclair brothers found themselves committed to the Gallipoli campaign. On 5 April 1915 they proceeded to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at Alexandria and then to Lemnos in preparation for the landings at Anzac Cove.

In a letter from David Sinclair to his aunt in Rockhampton subsequently published in the *Morning Bulletin* on 17 July 1915, he describes in graphic detail the landing and the early stages of the conflict.

Our landing was magnificent. We stood off the peninsula until just before daybreak when they commenced to land us in small boats. The enemy were on the beach to meet us. The first couple of boatloads all

got killed. Then our men got a landing. Some men had to jump out into 6ft of water and get ashore the best way they could. We landed and then fixed bayonets and charged up the hill. The Turks could not hold us and we forced them up the hill. Then they kept up a hail of bullets and our men were dropping right and left. It was on a Sunday we landed and Sunday night was one of the worst nights imaginable. There were over 2000 wounded lying on the beach and some were in awful agony. At any rate we established a position and got our guns up, and although the Turks were attacking us all the time we have held our own and advanced our position a bit. The Turks came up to within about twenty yards of our trenches and we fixed bayonets and drove them back. As soon as we charge them they cry 'Allah, Allah', and when we overtake them they fall on their knees with their hands uplifted to heaven. They can fight and fight well, but our fellows are perfect demons and they do like the bayonet. It is terrible waiting in the trenches with the shrapnel raining all around you and you stuck there unable to do anything so that when you get the order to charge you welcome it.

The Germans amongst the Turks are very clever and brave. Their uniform is similar to that of the New Zealanders and dozens of German officers have jumped into our trenches and commenced giving orders



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in perfect English in the hope of leading us into a trap. This has not occurred once but dozens of times. Just to give you some idea of their trickery, a German officer and a bugler came right up to our trenches the other night when the fighting was at its height and the bugler blew our charge. We should have fallen into a nice trap only we had previously got the order that we were to take no notice of bugle calls. They had all their guns trained on us and if we had charged we would have been slaughtered.

Both brothers were wounded in later actions.

David received a gunshot wound to the neck on 5 May and was very lucky to survive. In his letter he states:

I was only a week in the firing line when I was put out with a bullet through my neck, and consequently I was invalided to hospital. They are patching me up as quickly as possible, and I expect to get back into the firing line in a week or so. I had rather a narrow escape as the bullet went in about an inch below the left ear and came out on the right of the throat. Thank goodness it was only a flesh wound and no bones were broken.

Jack's injury was not specified although his father was notified on 20 May that he had been wounded at Gallipoli. Jack was promoted in the field at Gallipoli to Sergeant on 27 July 1915, but just a few days later, on the 1st August 1915, he was killed in action, the circumstances unknown.

Donald Bruce John (Jack) Sinclair was buried at Shell Green Cemetery No.1 about 1,150 yards (just under $\frac{3}{4}$ mile) south of Anzac Cove. The grave location was initially described as Row 6, Grave 7, but ultimately became Plot 1, Row F, Grave 10.

David Sinclair survived Gallipoli and went on to serve in France where he rose through the ranks to become Major David George Sinclair. On 7 April 1918 he was mentioned in the despatches of the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces, General Sir Douglas Haig, *for conspicuous services rendered*. He returned to Australia after the war and in 1922, at St Andrew's Church of England, Indooroopilly, he married Nora Kathleen Jackson, the daughter of the Indooroopilly schoolmaster.

Donald Sinclair – Jack – declared himself to be Presbyterian, but he is honoured by the St Andrew's Anglican congregation in Indooroopilly where he is commemorated on an honour board dedicated to men who died at Gallipoli. His family probably attended the Anglican Church in the absence at that time of a Presbyterian Church in Indooroopilly.

The name Donald John Sinclair is commemorated at Panel 25 in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

TAYLOR, K R

Gunner Kenneth Robert Taylor, 5132, 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, 11th Field Artillery Brigade. KIA 30.12.1916.

KENNETH ROBERT TAYLOR was only 18 when he joined up with the armed forces on 14 June 1915. A clerk with the AMP Society, he was living at Westminster Road, Indooroopilly, the home of his parents, Frederick William and Mabel Annette Taylor. At a later time the Taylors lived at 'Woy Woy', Stanley Terrace, Taringa.

Being a resident of Westminster Road, Kenneth Taylor would have been a close neighbour of the Frank Davidson family and their two sons, Percy and Eric, both of whom lost their lives at the war in France.

He named his father as next-of-kin and allied himself with the Church of England. There were three boys in the family, but no girls – Stephen Edward born 1889, Frederick Reginald born 1891, and Kenneth Robert born 1898. Stephen also served and Frederick tried to but was rejected. 25-year-old Stephen joined up a week before Ken, on 7 June 1915, and just over a fortnight later, on 24 June 1915, he married Roschen Brunnich of Taringa at St Andrew's Church of England, Indooroopilly. Stephen Taylor served in the 17th Australian Army Service Corps, the units responsible for maintaining the distribution of food, fuel, equipment, ammunition and



general supplies to the troops at the front. He survived the war and returned to Australia in 1919.

Kenneth Robert Taylor was taken into the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade with the rank of Gunner (the equivalent of Private), and became part of the 11th reinforcements.

The 11th reinforcements were shipped to Egypt from Melbourne where they embarked on 27 September 1915 on the troopship HMAT *Hororata* to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force deployed at Gallipoli. They embarked at Alexandria on 15 November 1915 and arrived at the Gallipoli Peninsula on 21 November.

The involvement of the reinforcements to the 3rd Field Artillery would have been rather limited. It was towards the end of the campaign. The final evacuation of Gallipoli at Sulva Bay and Anzac Cove took place on the night of 19-20 December 1915, miraculously, without a casualty, and the last troops from Helles, further south, withdrew on 8-9 January 1916, again without loss of life.

On their return to Egypt from the Dardanelles, the 3rd Field Artillery disembarked from the troopship *Caledonia* at Alexandria on Boxing Day, 26 December 1915.

When the 4th Division was formed in Egypt in February 1916 the 10th and 11th Field Artillery Brigades were attached to it. Gunner Ken Taylor was transferred to the

11th Field Artillery Brigade and taken on strength on 18 March 1916. The next day, the 19th March 1916, he was promoted to Bombardier, the rank equivalent to 'Corporal'.

The 4th Division's 11th Field Artillery Brigade consisted of four artillery batteries, each having three 18-pound guns and one howitzer battery having six 4.5-inch howitzers. Ken Taylor would have been part of a squad operating one of the big guns that were responsible for laying down a barrage over the enemy lines before the allied troops were called to advance.

He had seen action at Pozieres and been part of the repulse of a major German counterattack after which they had pushed north to the outskirts of Mouquet Farm. They continued to be engaged with German forces on the Somme including at Flers in October. It was at the Battle of Flers on 15 September 1916 that British tanks were introduced for the first time into modern warfare with limited success.

Bombardier Kenneth Taylor met his death on the battlefield on the 30th December 1916 while serving with the 11th Field Artillery Brigade. What the circumstances were surrounding his death are not known, but it does not appear that the unit was engaged in a recognised major battle at the time. He was buried in the field, a half-mile north-west of Flers, 3¾ miles north-west of Combles, a burial that was to be subject to a future exhumation.

In a letter to his father dated 5 February 1925, the site of Kenneth Taylor's final resting place is quoted as the AIF Burial Ground, Grass Lane, ¾ mile west of Gueudecourt, the grave location described as Plot 3, Row K, Grave 10.

The Roll of Honour records his grave at AIF Burial Ground Flers France. An excellent photograph of Kenneth Taylor and his brother Stephen is included in the collection of the Australian War Memorial, the image number, ID P00117.040.

He is commemorated in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, at Panel 17.

WEBB, N R

Private Norman Reginald Webb, 1004, 9th Battalion. KIA 25.4.1915

NORMAN REGINALD WEBB was one of three Indooroopilly men who were to die on the day of the first landings at Anzac Cove. All three fell on the 25th April 1915 as the Australian forces tried desperately to gain a foothold on the Gallipoli Peninsula – William Bradley, Frank Haymen and Norman Webb.

Norman Reginald Webb was always known by his second given name, 'Reg'. A clerk aged 24 years and unmarried, he enlisted on 14 September 1914, only a few weeks after war was declared. He was assigned to the 9th Battalion as a private with the service number 1004. A few days prior



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Webb's 22-year-old brother, Alfred Charrington Webb, 752, also enlisted in the 9th Battalion, the first battalion to be raised in Queensland, and they were to see action together.

Norman Webb nominated his father, Sydney Webb, as next-of-kin. Sydney and his wife Annie and their children, lived at Lambert Road, Indooroopilly, in a house they called 'Leonta'. Sydney Webb was trained in coach painting and was employed as a foreman painter on the railways.

In 1893 Sydney Webb had been involved in a highly dangerous attempt to rescue members of an Ipswich family whose house was swept away in the flooding of the Brisbane River in February that year. For his brave and heroic action he was awarded the Silver Medal of the Royal Humane Society at a function held at Ipswich in the presence of the Governor on 22 September 1894. Nine others also received awards at the ceremony.

Living at Lambert Road and working on the railways, the Webb family are likely to have known the Burns family in the same street whose son Alex was also killed at the war.

Norman Reginald (Reg) Webb and his younger brother Alfred embarked on the troopship A5, HMAT *Omrah*, departing Brisbane on 24 September 1914. Both were in the 9th Battalion's 'F' Company. *Omrah* rendezvoused with another 27 Australian transports and 10

New Zealand transports at King George Sound, Albany WA, and the fleet carrying the first detachment of the Australian and New Zealand Imperial Expeditionary Forces sailed from their safe anchorage on 1 November 1914 at 5.45am, escorted by six warships.

Following further training in Egypt, the 9th Battalion sailed to join the Gallipoli campaign expeditionary force. 'F' Company, including the two Webb brothers, embarked on the *Ionian* at Alexandria on 2 March 1915 and both were among the forces landed at Gallipoli about 4.30am on the 25th April 1915. Alfred later claimed to have been the first man ashore. Both were casualties that day; Reg died, Alfred was badly wounded.

Norman Reginald Webb disappeared at Gaba Tepe on that terrible day of the landing. He was posted 'wounded at Gaba Tepe and missing in action'. His body was never found. Subsequently, he was pronounced 'killed in action at Gallipoli Peninsula on 25 April 1915' by a military Board of Enquiry that was held in France over a year later on 5 June 1916.

Alfred sustained severe gun shot wounds to his chest and side and was invalided out for repatriation in a London hospital.

Almost a year later the parents still did not know what had happened to Reg. Worse still, they were led to believe that he might still be alive. A letter

dated 7 March 1916 was sent from the Australian Red Cross to Base Records, Melbourne, regarding the possibility that Webb was alive and in London.

Re Private N R Webb 1004 9th Battalion

I have just received a statement signed by Sergt Major F W Middlebank 663 9th Btn, Harefield Hospital, in which he states that the above is employed at Headquarters, Horseferry Road, and was seen there on 29th October and 4th December 1915. The last record we have is wounded and missing List 101. Sergt J E Kenyon 741 9th Btn also says Webb is almost certain to be in England.

However, these reports proved to be erroneous and referred to Reg's brother Alfred, who was in England at the time recovering from his wounds. It was to be nearly eighteen months before Sydney Webb heard that a Court of Enquiry had declared that his son Reg was dead.

Alfred Webb recovered from his wounds and remained in London working for Australian Military Headquarters. While living in London he met and married Margaret Gladstone Reid on the 21st December 1916. They subsequently returned to Australia after the war.

Both parents became involved in community affairs. During the war they established a program of concert-socials that were a feature of the army camps around the city. In 1915 Mrs Webb was a founding member of the



Women's Mutual Service Club and, after the war, Sydney Webb and his wife became involved in the welfare of discharged prisoners and prison reform. The Centenary History of the Methodist Church in Queensland, *Annals of Achievement* by Rev R S C Dingle, records that Sydney Webb was the first Superintendent of the Home for Discharged Prisoners, a social service work of the Methodist Church begun in 1922. He and his wife continued in that mission for eight years. Mr Webb was also chaplain to Queensland prisons for about ten years. He travelled in all the States studying prison reform and was closely associated with reforms brought about in Queensland.

Although the family had been associated with the Methodist Church through the father's participation as a Sunday School superintendent and as a local preacher in many places including the Albert Street Methodist Church in Brisbane, Reg Webb's name does not appear on the Honour Board of the local Indooroopilly Methodist Church. However, it does appear in a memorial to soldiers who fell at Gallipoli held by the local St Andrew's Anglican Church, Indooroopilly.

Norman Reginald Webb has no known grave. He is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli, Turkey, and at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, in the Commemorative Area, on Panel 58.

SEARCHING THE RECORD

ALL WHO HAVE AN INTEREST in searching the record of those who served in the First World War should feel encouraged to do so. There is a wealth of information available from sources that can be accessed via the internet. All the records used in the compilation of this record were obtained from internet sources including the following:

Military service records

The service records of individuals enlisted in the Australian armed forces can be accessed at '[recordsearch.naa](#)'.

From page displayed select '[name search](#)'.

Enter family surname; select '[World War 1](#)' from drop-down menu; click on '[search](#)' box.

Select '[refine this search result](#)' to reduce number of searches.

Insert given name or service number if known.

Click on '[search](#)' box.

Select '[display](#)'; click on '[view digital copy](#)'.

The initial page of the service record is displayed. Scroll through the successive pages.

Embarkation Roll

The embarkation roll records the names of those who departed Australia for service overseas. Information recorded includes the name of the ship, the date of its departure, the port of departure, and the forces being transported.

Details of the personnel embarking include: name, rank, regimental service number, age, address and occupation at enlistment, marital status, next-of-kin, religious affiliation, date of enlistment, and pay scale.

There are links to other associated records including the nominal roll, the roll of honour and commemorative roll.

The roll can be accessed by entering '[embarkation roll](#)' in the search engine. Select '[search the First World War Embarkation Rolls](#)'.

Enter full name (if known) and click on '[search](#)' box.

Click on displayed name to reveal embarkation summary information.

Click on '[view digitised record](#)' for an image of the original roll.

Enlarge image as necessary and scroll down for required name.

Roll of Honour

The Roll of honour records the names of Australians who died as a result of active service and whose names are commemorated at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

The roll can be accessed by entering '[roll of honour](#)' in the search engine. Select '[search the Roll of Honour](#)'.

Enter full name (if known) and click on '[search](#)' box. From the names displayed, click on the required name.



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The displayed page records name, rank, date and place of death, cause of death, age, where from, and cemetery or memorial details.

The location of the name on the commemorative panel at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra is described and shown graphically.

WW1 history

For histories of various conflicts, armed units, battalions, commanders, places and events associated with the war, enter the relevant subject in the search engine and scroll through the resulting references for desired information, paying attention to associated links.

The definitive history of the First World War written by the celebrated Australian historian, Charles E W Bean, is available in digitised form in its entirety on the internet. Enter '[Bean history WW1](#)', or similar, into the search engine and select '[First World War Official Histories](#)'. Scroll down the page where the contents of the 12 volumes are itemised. Select by subject and click on subject heading: eg. Volume II – 'The story of Anzac'. Click to open and make relevant selection from contents page.

Military unit war diaries

Digitised images of war diaries can be accessed on the internet. Enter '[war diaries](#)' in the search engine and select '[First World War Diaries](#)'. Scroll down the page that opens to '[Contains](#)', the index of

contents. Scroll down the page to the relevant classification: eg. '[Class 23 Infantry](#)'. Click on selected classification, scroll down to '[Contains](#)', scroll down to selected category: eg. '[9th Infantry Battalion](#)'. Click on selected category and scroll down to selected time frame: eg. '[1915, May](#)'.

A photographic image of pages of 9th Battalion's war diary for May 1915 is displayed.

War Graves

Generally, the places of burial of WW1 dead are included in the service record of the deceased member of the armed services, and on the Roll of Honour entry. More information on the cemetery site can be obtained by accessing the website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Enter '[Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#)' into the search engine.

Contemporary newspaper accounts

Newspaper accounts of the time are an invaluable extension of the record that is available from official sources. Accounts of battles, farewell events, casualty lists, photographs – the newspapers of the day were full of war stories. The vast majority of Australia's newspapers are available online in digitised form and searchable by particular name or phrase.

Enter '[trove](#)' into the search engine. Select '[Australian Newspapers Online](#)'. Under '[Search articles](#)', click on '[Advanced Search](#)'.

Enter search subject in appropriate search box: eg. Specific name or phrase. Scroll down, enter appropriate date range. Scroll down, select newspaper: eg. *The Brisbane Courier* or select all newspapers in a specific State. Scroll down, click '[Search](#)'. Scroll through displayed references, click on appropriate reference, digitised image of article will appear.

Published newspapers are only available up to 1955.

Abbreviations

War service records and war diaries utilise abbreviations for many military terms. For explanation of terms, enter '[WW1 abbreviations](#)' into the search engine and open any of the available websites.

ODE OF REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon 1914

LEST WE FORGET



The Soldiers on the Stone

The story of the servicemen commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial who fell in the Great War compiled from official records.





Introduction

The writing of the story of the soldiers on the Oxley War Memorial began more than twenty years ago. At that time I was a teacher at Oxley State School. Every year when the school commemorated ANZAC Day, children would bring flowers which would be laid at the memorial across the road from the school. I thought it would be fitting if there was a reading of the names on the Roll of Honour and perhaps some details of their lives during the ceremony. At that time, research into World War 1 and individuals involved was a painstaking affair requiring the writing of letters to government authorities and only scant information was publicly available. Nevertheless a Roll of Honour was able to be produced and has been incorporated into the school's commemoration each year since.

With the advent of the internet and email, as well as the

release of detailed data on individuals and units involved in the conflict, and the coming of the centenary of the War, I have been moved to revisit those names and to write their stories with greater access to the official records. Perhaps in some small way this account will honour the memory of those men who willingly went to fight a war across the world for an empire of which they were proud to be a part.

This is by no means an official account, but rather a personal interpretation, as well as an attempt to complete a task that has lain dormant for some time. I have dispensed with providing references for each fact presented. In some cases, conjecture has been necessary to fill in gaps in the narrative and any errors in fact that I have recorded I accept as part of the need to record each individual story. I have also included general information about the campaigns of 1915-18 to put some of the stories in context.

The fifteen soldiers whose names are recorded on the Memorial reflect the wider story of Australia's involvement in the Great War. With the exception of one, all of the volunteers were single. They were aged between 18 and 30, with at least one enlisting underage. They served in conflicts in Gallipoli, Palestine, France and Belgium. Some have no known grave and are recorded on the vast lists of "missing" at Villers Bretonneux, Tyne Cot and Lone Pine. A number of them

were past students of Oxley State School.

There remains one name on the memorial which has so far eluded any attempt to gather information. The memorial lists a W. Crock but the Roll of Honour held at the Australian War Memorial has no such name listed. Assuming perhaps a spelling error, variations on the surname, Cook, Crook, Crooke, Crowe were unable to provide any matches. Searches of Naval Records were negative, and even British Records were not informative. It may be that W. Crock was not a soldier but rather a civilian whose duties in supporting the war led to his death. At the time of compiling this history, W. Crock remains a mystery.

A recurring feature of each soldier's story is the anguish that can be felt in the letters of those back at home contained in the National Archives enquiring into some details about their loved one's death, or requesting that his personal effects be returned. Their passing would leave a permanent sadness which can still be felt when reading those letters.

The source of most of the information gathered has come from the Australian War Memorial's invaluable website, in particular the Roll of Honour, Embarkation Rolls and Red Cross Casualty enquiries. The National Archives has a digitized record of each serviceman's file. Direct





quotes from primary source documents are in Italics.

Background information on particular battles and cemeteries was sourced from the AWM's battlefield guide "Anzacs on the Western Front"

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Bourke, William Michael, Sylvester

William Bourke was born in August 1897 at Coraki on the Richmond River in Northern New South Wales. He attended the convent school at Ballina NSW but left school at 14 to help his mother raise his younger brothers and sisters. By the time of his enlistment, the family's address was "Darra, Ipswich Line."

William enlisted in Brisbane on the 3rd January 1916. His age at enlistment was given as 19 years and 5 months and his occupation as labourer. He was initially drafted into the 14th Light Horse with the regimental number of 24.

The 14th Light Horse 1st Reinforcements sailed from Sydney on H.M.A.T. "Beltana" and landed in Devonport, Plymouth Harbour, England in July 1916. Soon after disembarking, William was admitted to Devonport Hospital with mumps, where he celebrated his 20th birthday. On discharge, he was sent to Rolleston on Salisbury Plain

and taken into the 13th Training Bn. After the Battle of Pozieres on the Somme in July – August 1916; there was a serious shortage of manpower to replace the heavy losses of the AIF. In all likelihood, William was encouraged to transfer to the infantry.

On 28th November 1916, William arrived at the huge British Expeditionary Force Camp at Etaples, France known as the Bullring. On the 13th December he joined the 52nd Battalion. The 52nd was a newly formed battalion raised in Egypt in early 1916 as part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Division. The battalion was a mixture of Gallipoli veterans and new reinforcements. At this time William would have sown on his Unit patch, a circle of white over blue.

In the early months of 1917, the 52nd were involved in a huge offensive against the enemy in France, advancing as the Germans withdrew back towards the Hindenburg Line. On 3rd February 1917, just two months after joining the unit, William was wounded. Official records list the wound as "*slight, remained on duty.*" His mother, Helena Bourke, was informed by telegram that he had been wounded.

Less than two months later, William was killed in action at Lagnicourt in France. His mother wrote: "*My son was a runner for the company and was killed while taking an important message from headquarters and is buried at headquarters which I*

believe was somewhere about Lagnicourt(sic) as that was the day of the battle."

The official records list the death as K.I.A., Artillery Fire. His age at the time of his death is recorded as 20 years and 8 months.

His mother had perhaps received a letter from William's Commanding Officer or a mate relating the details of his death, and she was certain that he had been buried. Lagnicourt is located in the Somme Valley, near the more well known Bullecourt. In the years between William's death and the armistice, this land would be fought over two more times, and sadly the grave of William Bourke, if it existed, was lost.

His mother wrote repeatedly to the authorities requesting information of her son's resting place and requesting the return of any of his personal effects. Unfortunately she was not successful. Finally, six years after her son's death, the family received William's medals; The British Empire Medal and the Victory Medal. By this time the family had moved to the Summit, near Stanthorpe.

William Michael Bourke is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Graceville War Memorial, Brisbane; Australian War Memorial Canberra and the Australian National Memorial, Villers Bretonneux, France along with some 11,000 other Australians killed in France who are "missing" with no known grave.



COOLING, William Henry

William Cooling was born in December 1894 at Corinda, the only son of Henry and Ellen Cooling. By the time of his enlistment, his family's address was given as "Oxley, near Brisbane." The embarkation roll listed his occupation as State School Teacher and given that he lived in the Oxley District, he may well have been a teacher at Oxley School. By the time William enlisted, his father had died, leaving his mother a widow. It is reasonable to assume that his salary as a teacher was supporting both his mother, and his younger sister, Ida

Prior to his enlistment in May 1915, William was a member of the 9th Infantry Battalion, Oxley Regiment of the Citizen Military Forces. This prior military experience would see him promoted to Sergeant of A Company; 26th Battalion when he arrived at Enoggera for basic training. After just one month at Enoggera, the 26th sailed on H.M.A.T. "Ascanius" bound for Melbourne and ultimately Egypt.

The 26th Battalion was one of two Queensland Battalions raised at Enoggera in early 1915 as part of the newly created 2nd Division AIF.

The 26th was comprised of mainly Queenslanders and Tasmanians, whilst its sister battalion, the 25th was almost exclusively Queenslanders. The 2nd Division was destined for Gallipoli, where they would relieve the 1st Division who had

been holding the ridges since April 1915.

After the failed August offensives at Suvla Bay and The Nek and the heroic battle of Lone Pine, the ANZAC front settled into a quiet stalemate. When the 26th arrived at ANZAC on 12 September, they performed a mainly defensive role at Courtney's Post and Steele's Post.

On 22 October, just over a month after his arrival at ANZAC, William Cooling was admitted to a Field Ambulance station with shrapnel wounds to the abdomen. Later that day he was transferred to a Casualty Clearing Station for evacuation but he died that same day. He was buried in a cemetery near the CCS with an Army Chaplain conducting the ceremony. His religion was given as Methodist.

As was the usual practice, William's mother as next of kin, was informed that her son had died of wounds. A clerical error incorrectly listed his death as occurring on 22 September, not 22 October. This error was to cause his mother great anguish as soon after being informed of his death she received a letter from her son dated 17 October, some three weeks after his supposed death.

William's mother was granted a military pension of \$26 per year. His army file contains a number of letters from his mother seeking clarification on his date of death and she even sends the letter of 17 October as proof that the date

of 22 September must not be correct. This matter, she writes needs to be cleared up so that a death certificate can be issued and Williams's life insurance and his bank account can be transferred to her. She was obviously very dependent on this money to support herself and her last surviving child, daughter Ida. Ellen had been named the sole beneficiary of William's Last Will and Testament, with the prophetic heading "*in the event of my death.*" During this long correspondence Ellen and Ida Cooling continued to reside at "Oxley, near Brisbane." In the middle of 1916, Ellen received two parcels containing the personal effects of her late son: comforter, letters, wallet, photograph, watch, belt and three coins.

At the end of the war, the Australian Government, placed advertisements in all newspapers calling for the next of kin of deceased servicemen to contact the armed services so that medals could be issued. William's sister, Ida replied advising that her mother had died and that she was the sole surviving relative of William Cooling. The medals were duly issued to Ida, 1914-15 Star, the Empire Medal and the Victory Medal. Ida also completed the Roll of Honour Card.

At some time after William's death, a palm tree was planted in the grounds of the Sherwood Methodist Church (now Uniting Church) in his memory. It is probable that this may have been the church he and his



mother and sister attended as his religion was given as Methodist, and the tree may well have been planted by his mother and sister. During recent renovations to the church and grounds, the palm tree was removed and the plaque commemorating William Cooling has been placed on another tree in the church grounds.

Sergeant William Cooling, No 253, 26th Battalion AIF is remembered on the Oxley War Memorial, the Graceville War Memorial, and the Australian War Memorial Canberra. His grave is located in the Embarkation Pier Cemetery at Gallipoli. He is buried with almost 300 fellow soldiers from the Empire. A photograph of William Cooling is held in the Australian War Memorial collection.

Enright, Michael (Joseph)

Michael Enright was born in December 1896 and attended Oxley State School as a boy.

His attestation papers indicate that he enlisted on 12 August 1915. At the time he was only 18 years and nine months and so needed his parent's permission. His file contains a handwritten letter in a childlike script (probably written by Michael himself) which reads:

Dear Sir

I give my consent that my son Michael Enright may enlist in the expeditionary (sic) forces.

The letter is signed by his mother, Mrs S. Enright, in an even shakier hand. His enlistment papers indicate that his father was deceased and that he was the sole support for his widowed mother, allotting 3 shillings from his pay of 6 shillings per day to his mother whilst he is in the army. Like his mother who from her handwriting seems to have difficulty with writing, Michael would appear to have had only a limited education. He took two attempts to sign his enlistment papers, originally spelling his name incorrectly.

Michael was drafted into the 3rd reinforcements of the 25th Battalion with a regimental number of 2263. The 25th Battalion had been raised at Enoggera in early 1915 as part of the 2nd Division of the AIF. The Battalion was comprised almost exclusively of Queensland volunteers.

When Michael enlisted, the 25th were about to reinforce the 1st Division at Gallipoli. He would join the battalion proper after the evacuation of Gallipoli as a reinforcement at Ismailia in Egypt in February 1916.

The Battalion disembarked in Marseilles from Egypt on 14 March 1916 and proceeded by train north to Armentieres near the Belgian border. They were the first Australian battalion in France. This was a fairly quiet sector on the western front and the British commanders used this sector to initiate new battalions into the business of trench warfare.

General Haig, Supreme British commander on the Western Front was planning a big push in the south of the British sector through the Somme River valley. It was to be the largest battle of the war so far, and was timed to commence on the 1st of July 1916. The attack was a disaster, with the British suffering 60,000 casualties on the first day. In spite of this, Haig was determined to push on and the 1st, 2nd and 4th Australian Divisions were moved south from the Armentieres sector to Albert to take part in the Somme offensive. Whilst waiting to go into the line, Michael Enright went Absent Without Leave (AWL) for two days. He was disciplined and given 14 days Field Punishment No. 2, but this sentence was reduced (no doubt because the battalion was about to go into battle) to 14 days pay withheld.

The second division's objective was to take a blockhouse which had been built on the site of a windmill in the village of Pozieres, half way between Albert and Bapaume. The windmill occupied a position on the highest part of the ridge, was behind two lines of trenches, and provided a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. The attack, the first major offensive by the 25th Battalion since arriving in France, was to begin just after midnight on the 29th July. The attack was a failure, with the 25th Battalion suffering 343 casualties (from a strength of a little less than 1000 men).



On the site of the windmill today is a commemorative stone which reads:

"The ruin of the Pozieres windmill which lies here was the centre of the struggle on this part of the Somme Battlefield in July and August 1916. It was captured by Australian troops who fell more thickly on this ridge than on any other battlefields of the war."

Sadly, one of those who "fell more thickly" was Private Michael Enright. He was originally listed as "Missing" on 29 July 1916. His mother, as his next of kin, was informed that Michael was missing in August 1916 and she began to receive a war pension in September of that year.

Throughout the course of the war, the 25th Battalion would experience the heaviest casualty toll of any A.I.F. Battalion. With a nominal strength of just under 1000 men, the battalion, would be reinforced 21 times. When the battalion was disbanded in late 1918, the roll of honour listed 2821 wounded and 1026 killed. Michael Enright was one of them.

In March 1917, a Mr William Ridings of Oxley, Queensland wrote to Army Base Records in Melbourne with an unusual account. Perhaps the fact that the letter was not written by Michael's mother is another indication of her limited ability with writing. Mr Ridings states that in respect of Michael Enright "his mother has heard

that he is in England and that he is insane." According to the writer, Mrs Enright heard this story from another 25th Battalion mother whose son reported that one of his mates said that "one of his mates, Mick Enright, was in hospital and was completely mad."

The army records office dismissed the initial claim as having no substance but Mr Ridings somehow obtained the letter from the 25th Battalion man (Pte John (Jack) Brown) and sent it to base records. Base records points out in their own communications that the claim is unlikely to have substance as if Private Enright was still alive, he would have by now had some communication with his family. Also there were no records of him having been admitted to hospital in England or elsewhere.

Finally 12 months after the Battle of Pozieres, while the Battalion was enjoying a well earned rest, a Board of Inquiry was convened and it was determined (probably by questioning men from Michael's Lewis Gun Section who took part in the attack) that Pte Michael Enright was Killed in Action on 29 July 1916 at Pozieres. By this time, there were no personal effects found to send to his mother. She was informed that her son was now Killed in Action.

At the end of the war, next of kin were requested to supply some information for the National Roll of Honour.

If Sarah Enright did so, the document has not survived.

The 14-15 Star, British Empire Medal and Victory Medal were sent to Sarah in 1921 along with a pamphlet entitled "Where the Australians rest." Sadly for Sarah, the pamphlet would have been of little comfort as her son, like the other 11,000 Australian soldiers killed in France has no known resting place.

Pte Michael Joseph Enright, 25th Battalion is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Graceville War Memorial, Brisbane; Australian War Memorial Canberra and the Australian National Memorial, Villers Bretonneux. He is also commemorated in the name of Enright Street, opposite the lower oval of Oxley State School on Oxley Road.

Fisher, Joseph William

Joseph (Joe) Fisher was born in November 1891, the second son of a prominent mining family in Charters Towers. His father, Roger James Fisher had been a coal miner in the Cumberland District of Northern England who had emigrated to Queensland. Roger became part owner of the Cumberland Gold Mining Company on the Etheridge Field near Charters Towers and by the time that Joe was born, his father and uncle were well established as prominent members of the community. Roger was a crack rifle shot winning the Queen's Shoot in



1901, and was also the Colour Sergeant in the Kennedy Regiment (A volunteer colonial militia). With such a pedigree, it is not surprising that young Joe followed in his father's footsteps.

After attending school in Charters Towers, Joe became an engine driver, stationary (stationary steam engines powered the hoists and battery in underground mines) and also joined the Kennedy Regiment. By 1913 when the family moved to Raceview near Ipswich, Joe had also been promoted to Colour Sergeant of the regiment. Joe resigned from the Kennedy regiment to join his family in Ipswich.

At the outbreak of war, Joe was employed as an engine driver (stationary) at the Aberdare Colliery at Raceview, near Ipswich, where his father was the owner. On 21 August 1914, just two weeks after war was declared, Joe enlisted. He was drafted into the 9th Battalion, one of the first battalions raised as part of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division of the AIF. With his previous military training in the Kennedy Regiment, Joe was promoted to Lance Corporal one week after enlistment. The battalion sailed for Egypt in September of 1914 and whilst on board ship, Joe requested that he be allowed to revert to the rank of Private in a different company. Such requests were common as soldiers wanted to be with their mates. Joe was allowed to switch to "C" company as a private, but was then immediately promoted to

Lance Corporal again in his new company.

The AIF disembarked in Egypt for training and by April 1915, were preparing for the landings at Gallipoli on the 25th. The 9th Battalion were among the first group ashore, landing at 4:50am, near the promontory known as Gaba Tepe, to the south of Anzac Cove.

Just five days after the landing, L/Cpl Joseph Fisher was listed as Killed in Action at Gaba Tepe. An obituary notice appeared in the Northern Miner (Charters Towers) in June 1915 stating in part:

"-----he volunteered at once, for there was north country blood in the boy, moving with the gallant ninth battalion."

Information from the Gallipoli battlefield was sketchy and having been advised of their son's death, Joe's parents sought further information. Joe's file in the National Archives contains an intriguing letter from the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department to the Secretary of Department of Defence. The letter states that Joe's father, Roger Fisher had written to the Prime Minister in June 1915 seeking details of his son's death. The letter also states that Roger Fisher is "*well known*" to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister at the time was Andrew Fisher. It is possible that Roger Fisher and Andrew Fisher though not brothers were related; and there were certainly many similarities in their histories.

Both arrived in Queensland from England in 1885, perhaps on the same ship. Both had experience in coal mining in the UK (in Cumberland and Ayrshire), and both became involved in both coal and gold mining in Queensland. Andrew Fisher worked in the Burrum Coalfields and on the Gympie Goldfields as an engine driver (stationary), the same occupation as Joe Fisher and Joe's elder brother, Roger Jnr. Andrew Fisher came into labour politics through the formation of the Engine Driver's Union. During the federal election campaign of 1914, Fisher as leader of the Australian Labor Party, famously pledged to defend the empire "*to the last man and the last shilling.*"

Regardless of the intervention of the Prime Minister, no further details were able to be provided to the family. There was no recorded burial. In March 1916, official confirmation of the death of Joe along with a brown paper parcel containing photos, cards, a pocket book, comb and mirror, beads and coins and Egyptian ornaments was sent to the family home in Raceview.

Up until this point in the narrative, there is little connection with Joe and the Oxley District. Sometime before 1922, Roger snr gave up his interest in the coal mine at Ipswich and moved to William Street, Sherwood. At around the same time (1921), Joe's elder brother, Roger jnr,



was elected as a councillor in the former Sherwood Shire Council. His occupation was listed as engine driver (stationary) at Foggit Jones Bacon Factory (located at Oxley) and he lived in Station Road, Oxley. It is perhaps this connection that saw Joseph's name appear on the Oxley Memorial. In 1931, Roger jnr was drowned in Oxley Creek during floods, whilst attempting to cross the Oxley Golf Course.

Lance Corporal Joseph William Fisher, 9th Battalion is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Graceville War Memorial, Brisbane; The War Memorial and Roll of Honour Charters Towers, Australian War Memorial Canberra and the Australian National Memorial, Lone Pine, Gallipoli along with 4,900 other Australians who have no known grave.

Gibbings, Alfred John

Alfred Gibbings was born at Chauleigh in England and emigrated to Australia with his parents when he was 15. His father was in receipt of a British War Pension. At the time of Alfred's enlistment, his family address was given as Devondairy, Oxley. His mother stated that Alfred was engaged in farming and dairying but other documents give his occupation as bread carter.

Alfred presented himself for enlistment at the recruiting depot in Adelaide Street, Brisbane on 3rd November 1916, just five days after the

defeat of the first conscription referendum. On his attestation papers, he stated that he had been refused enlistment previously with the reason "*chest: under standard.*" His medical details gave his height as just 5 foot 2 inches (157 cms) and his chest measurement as 31 inches. He was 19 years and six months old. The fact that he was now fit for induction is testament to the perilous state in which the AIF now found itself, in meeting the need for more men in Belgium and France.

Alfred was sent to Sydney as part of the 8th reinforcements for the 47th Battalion. He left Sydney two days before Christmas, and arrived in Plymouth, England on 3rd March 1917. Alfred was posted to the 12th Training Battalion and a fortnight later was in hospital with mumps for 18 days.

By 20th June, Alfred was in France and on the 10th of July he joined his battalion. In October of 1917, the 47th Battalion were engaged in the battle for the ridge on which sat the village of Passchendaele to the west of Ypres in Belgium. This would be the bloodiest battle of the war.

Red Cross reports of several eye witness accounts indicate that Alfred Gibbings was shot in the head by a sniper on 11 October 1917 whilst recovering a Lewis gun from a shell hole. He died instantly. The witnesses then state that the survivors of the group had

to withdraw, leaving Alfred's body behind. During the next few days of the battle after Passchendaele was finally taken, Alfred's body was recovered. An official document records he was buried "*1000 yards south of Passchendaele and 1000 yards northeast of Zonnebeke.*"

At the conclusion of the war, the remains of soldiers buried around the old battlefield were collected and reinterred in what would become the largest War Cemetery in the world; Tyne Cot. Alfred was buried there along with 12000 other Commonwealth soldiers, 1368 of whom are Australians. In addition, the memorial panels at Tyne Cot contain the names of almost 34,000 soldiers killed in Flanders and who have no known grave. This 34,000 is in addition to the 55,000 commonwealth servicemen with no known grave commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres only a few kilometres away.

In 1922, Alfred's parents received his medals, the Empire Medal and the Victory Medal, along with a commemorative plaque and scroll and a photograph of his grave at Tyne Cot.

Pte Alfred John Gibbings, 47th Battalion is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Graceville War Memorial, Brisbane; Australian War Memorial Canberra and the Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Cemetery, Belgium.



Hagger, Sidney Edwin

Sidney Hagger was born in Charters Towers and attended school there. At the time of his enlistment, his family had moved to Oxley where Sidney was employed as a carter.

Sidney enlisted on 17 Nov 1915 and was drafted into the 41st Battalion which was in camp at Bell's Paddock, Enoggera.

While in training, Sidney was charged with being *"inattentive on parade and making a false statement"* for which he received 48 hours Confined to Barracks. He was again on a charge when he overstayed home leave, prior to embarkation; this time he received 7 days CB and forfeiture of six days pay (the period he overstayed).

The 41st sailed from Sydney on 18 May 1916. Sidney was again in trouble on the transport, being charged with *"breaking away from quarters at sea."* This time he was penalised 20 days pay and had to *"make restitution of three shillings."*

After arriving in England and being sent to training, Sidney was again on a charge; *"Conduct prejudicial to the good order and discipline"* and *"Insolence to an NCO."*

He endured another seven days CB.

Sidney arrived in France on 29 November 1916, almost 12 months after enlistment and joined the

41st as a reinforcement. By April of 1917, the 41st was in the frontline at Ploegsteert (Soldiers called it Plugstreet) just across the Belgian border from Armentieres in Northern France. Official documents record that Sidney Hagger died of wounds on 15 April 1917.

The normal procedure followed when a soldier died was to contact the appropriate clergyman in the soldier's home town, who would then inform the next of kin personally.

Sidney's sister, in writing to seek more information about her brother's death informed Base Records that in the case of Sidney,

the "notification sent to Minister of God, who calmly readdressed it to my mother. The shock was terrible as we did not even know that he was wounded."

His sister had perhaps assumed that Sidney was wounded in a hospital for some time and failed to recover. It is more likely that he was recovered from the battlefield by Field Ambulance stretcher but died at an Aid Post or Casualty Clearing Station within hours.

In February 1918, the Hagger family received Sidney's personal effects: Letters, 8 fountain pens (one broken), wallet, badges, photos, coins and a ring. Sidney was buried in the Berks Cemetery extension in Flanders near Ploegsteert Wood. A

photograph of his grave was sent to his parents in 1920 and his war medals were sent in 1922, by which time the family had left the Oxley district.

Private Sidney Hagger, 41st Battalion is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Graceville War Memorial, Brisbane; Australian War Memorial Canberra and the Berks Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery Extension, Belgium.

Mitchell, Robert George

Robert Mitchell was one of four boys born to James and Annie Mitchell. James Mitchell was the Registrar of Titles in the Queensland Government and may have been working in Rockhampton at the time of Robert's birth.

The family relocated to "St Elmo", Oxley and Robert attended Oxley State School and then Brisbane Grammar School from 1908 to 1911. Robert must have been an exceptional student because at that time, most students left school at year 8 (Scholarship). None of his brothers attended Grammar. The Mitchell home, "St Elmo" became Hopetoun at Corinda before being demolished in 2013.

Robert's elder brother, James, had enlisted in the 25th Battalion and was seriously wounded in the dying days of the Gallipoli Campaign. Just after receiving the news of James' wounding, Robert enlisted on 6th December



1915. At the time of signing up, Robert was 22 years old and working as a surveyor. He was originally drafted into a Field Engineers Battalion, where his surveying skills would have been useful but soon after he was transferred into the 4th Pioneer Battalion.

Pioneers were essentially front line engineers, engaged in trench and sap digging. They were also combat troops and could be used as infantry.

Robert arrived in Suez on 18th May 1916 and was promoted to acting Sergeant. One month later he disembarked in Marseilles, bound for the large Australian Troop depot at Etaples. Upon reaching his Unit in July 1916, he reverted to the rank of private.

In July and August 1916, the 4th Pioneers were attached to the 2nd Infantry Division which was engaged in the battle of Pozieres. On 3rd August as the battle of Pozieres culminated on the attack on the windmill, Private Robert Mitchell was killed during an artillery barrage. The Red Cross reports into his death indicate that he was killed outright by the concussion of a large shell. Witnesses reported *"there was not a mark on him."* Robert had been with his unit for 11 days.

On the site of the windmill today is a commemorative stone which reads:

"The ruin of the Pozieres windmill which lies here was the centre of the struggle on this part of the Somme Battlefield in July and August 1916. It was captured by Australian troops who fell more thickly on this ridge than on any other battlefields of the war."

Robert's mates recovered his body and he was buried at Becourt near Albert. A photograph of his grave was sent to his family, a copy of which is contained in Robert's military file in the National Archives. Sadly this ground would be fought over again in 1918 and the grave of Robert Mitchell was lost.

Private Robert George Mitchell is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Graceville War Memorial, Brisbane; Roll of Honour, Great Hall, Brisbane Grammar School; Australian War Memorial Canberra and the Australian National Memorial, Villers Bretonneux, France.

Robert's brother James, who was wounded on Gallipoli, was discharged as unfit. His wounds entitled him to a Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) pension and he saw out his days living in Coorparoo. A second brother, Thomas, originally enlisted in the 25th Battalion like James but was transferred to the Pay Corps where he saw overseas service.

Another brother, Corporal Thomas William Mitchell enlisted in the 2nd Field

Ambulance. He was awarded the Military Medal for actions under fire in the battle of Polygon Wood in Flanders 1917.

Price, Richard James

Richard Price was the son of James and Adelaide Price who lived at Oxley. As a boy he attended Oxley State School. At the time of his enlistment, Richard gave his occupation as railway shunter. He was 22 years old.

Richard was originally drafted into the Engineers but was subsequently drafted into the 3rd Tunnelling Company as a sapper. Tunnelling companies were being formed from 1916 onwards in a response by the military to take the war underground. Tunnellers were engaged in offensive and defensive mining operations under the front lines. The effects of their work can still be seen today in the mine craters around Hill 60 and the Caterpillar, Ypres in Belgium and the Lochnager Crater near Albert on the Somme in France. Tunnelling was a highly skilled occupation and Richard, along with the reinforcements for 3rd Tunnelling Company spent some time at Seymour in Victoria during the second half of 1916 in training. He was granted home leave prior to embarkation and his file records that he was AWL during this time and fined 10 shillings.



Richard Price, along with a contingent of reinforcements for various engineer, tunnelling and pioneer units sailed from Melbourne in January 1917 and arrived in Plymouth in March of that year. By April, Richard and the other reinforcements were in the vast British Expeditionary Force camp at Etaples in France.

On 1st May, Richard joined the 3rd Tunnelling Company who were stationed at the front near Loos. The tunnellers were engaged in mining operations under Hill 70 as well as constructing dugouts in the walls of the quarries around Noeux-le-Mines.

On 22nd of July, Richard Price was struck in the head by a shell fragment from a German 5.9 Howitzer. Red Cross reports of the incident state that he was waiting well behind the lines with his mate, Sid Turner, for transport back to their billet when a shell landed close by. He was buried at a nearby cemetery, Hersin Communal Cemetery, with a chaplain present. There are 55 Australians buried at Hersin, 54 of them from the 3rd Tunnelling Company. Several members of the unit wrote to Richard's family in Oxley after his death. His best mate, Sid Turner was reported to be particularly overcome at his death.

Sapper Richard James Price is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Graceville War Memorial, Brisbane; Australian War Memorial Canberra and

rests with his mates at Hersin Communal Cemetery south of Lille, France. He is also commemorated in the name of Price Street, opposite the lower oval of Oxley State School on Oxley Road.

Rowlands, Thomas Llewelyn

Thomas Rowlands was born in Ipswich and attended the Southport School, then named Southport High School from 1907 to 1909. Sometime before 1914, his family moved to Oxley. Thomas enlisted on 14th October 1914 and gave his occupation as stockman. He was drafted into the 5th Light Horse, comprised almost exclusively of Queenslanders, which sailed from Sydney in December 1914 bound for Egypt.

After the initial landings at Gallipoli, the Light Horse was sent to the peninsula as reinforcements, without their horses. Thomas remained on Gallipoli from May until September 1915 when he was evacuated sick to Lemnos. He remained in hospital in Egypt until February 1916 when he rejoined his unit. By this time, the Light Horse was defending the Suez Canal, patrolling in the Sinai Peninsula.

On 27th August 1916, Thomas Rowlands was accidentally killed when a water well he was digging collapsed. An enquiry into the incident reported that Trooper Rowland was alone at the bottom of the well, which

was about 14feet deep. The working party had stopped for a smoke and Thomas sat down in the bottom of the well to rest. He was covered by about five foot of sand when the well wall collapsed. Witnesses reported that it took about 15 minutes to free him from the well shaft and that when he was brought to the surface, artificial respiration was administered for almost an hour until the medical officer arrived and pronounced Thomas deceased. The enquiry found that no person was to blame and that if Thomas had not been sitting down at the time he may well have survived unscathed.

His mates buried Thomas close to where he died at Bir El Abd and a Chaplain performed the burial service. The site of his burial was recorded, along with map references but by the time the war came to an end, all trace of the grave had been lost.

Thomas's family received a parcel of his personal effects which as well as the usual letters and postcards contained a rubber stamp and two race programs. Thomas' younger brother, Severne Llewelyn also enlisted in November 1915. He was severely wounded on the Western Front in early 1917 and was repatriated to Australia later that year with a war pension of one pound per fortnight.

Trooper Thomas Rowlands, 5th Light Horse is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Graceville War



Memorial, Brisbane; Australian War Memorial Canberra; the Community Honour Board in the Chapel of St Alban the Martyr, The Southport School and the Jerusalem War Memorial Cemetery Israel.

Sinnamon, (Robert) Leslie

Leslie Sinnamon was born into the large Sinnamon family that had taken up farming land around Seventeen Mile Rocks. His parents, George and Isabella lived at "Rosemount", Oxley. Leslie attended Seventeen Mile Rocks State School and may then have become a Pupil Teacher at the school as he listed his occupation on his enlistment records as *Bank Clerk, Teacher 3 years*. Given that his age at the time was 18 years and 8 months it is reasonable to assume that his teaching was as a pupil teacher. Correspondence from his sister, Marion Xenos (nee Sinnamon) indicates that Leslie was living with his sister and her husband at Bowen Hills prior to enlistment. Marion was 19 years older than Leslie and she referred to him as "*her boy*" and "*my son*."

Leslie enlisted on 20 August 1915 at Sydney Town Hall and was drafted as a reinforcement for the 13th Battalion, a NSW regiment. He sailed for Egypt on 20th December 1915 and joined the 13th Battalion in June 1916. The 13th was at that time being remodelled to accommodate the expansion of the AIF, with a mixture of

old Gallipoli veterans and new reinforcements. The reconstituted battalion arrived at Marseilles on 8th June 1916 and moved directly to northern France.

Haig, Supreme Commander of the British Expeditionary Force had been assembling a huge force which he would employ in the "Big Push", planned to begin on 1st July 1916. Despite suffering casualties of 60,000 on the first day, the Battle of the Somme continued, with limited gains and appalling casualties. By the end of that month, the Australian First and Second Divisions, at great cost, had taken Pozieres. It was now time for the 4th Division, of which the 13th Battalion was part, to continue the offensive North West along the ridge from Pozieres towards Mouquet Farm. By the time the 4th Division were called into the line, the farm, which the Australians called "Moo Cow Farm" was nothing but a tumble of bricks, but it had deep cellars and the Germans had heavily fortified it.

The advance on the farm was difficult due to a narrow front and heavy artillery bombardment of the Australian trenches. On 29 August, almost one month since Pozieres had been taken but with less than one kilometre advanced since, Leslie Sinnamon was listed as Missing after an aborted attack on the farm.

Leslie's sister, Marion, was informed by telegram that he was "Missing". She wrote to

Army Base Records seeking further details but the reply simply states there is no further news. Marion would have appeared to have searched newspapers in the hope of finding out more as she wrote again asking if one of a number of unidentified bodies recovered in France may be her "*son*".

Some seven months after he was reported "Missing"; a Board of Enquiry established that Leslie Sinnamon was killed in Action on 29 August 1916. There are no Red Cross records to suggest that enquiries were made into Leslie and since seven months had now past, the possibility of him being wounded somewhere could be discounted. Marion requested that his personal effects, particularly a sheepskin jacket, be forwarded to her but she was informed that none have come to hand.

In an ultimate irony, when service medals were distributed at the end of the war, the strict military regulations stated that medals would first go to the father, then mother, then brothers, then sisters. As Leslie's parents were still alive, it was they who signed for the receipt of the medals.

Private Robert Leslie Sinnamon, 13th Battalion is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Graceville War Memorial, Brisbane; Australian War Memorial Canberra and the Australian National Memorial, Villers Bretonneux.



Townson, George Henry

George Townson gave his place of birth as Toowoomba but by the time of his enlistment, his home address was in Stanley Street, East Brisbane. George listed his wife, Emily as his next of kin, and he had two daughters. His occupation was boot maker and he was 29 years old. He allotted 4 shillings of his daily pay to his wife, with 1 shilling in deferred pay (to be redeemed on discharge) leaving 1 shilling for his own needs.

George enlisted on 9 August 1915 and was drafted into the 12th reinforcements of the 9th Battalion, embarking on 30 October for overseas. The 9th Battalion was one of the first battalions raised at the outbreak of war in 1914. It was one of the first battalions ashore at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915. After evacuation from Gallipoli, the 9th was stationed in Egypt where the battalion was split to form the 49th Battalion. Those Gallipoli veterans remaining were supplemented with reinforcements from Australia, one of whom was George Townson and his brother Stanley (See Stanley Townson below). After being shipped to Marseilles, the 9th spent time at Etaples before moving into the line.

April and May were relatively quiet in the British Sector of the front in 1916. A common practice was to put new battalions into the line in and around Armentieres, close to

the Belgian Border. This sector was often referred to as the “nursery” where troops could get their first taste of the war in France. The ground around this sector was, and is today, dead flat. The water table is less than 60cms below the surface and therefore any trenches that were dug would soon become water logged. Instead raised breastworks were built. It was reported that the ground was too boggy for any kind of advance. The front line was supplied with piped water and troops received a hot meal every day.

The relative peace was shattered on 30 May 1916 when the Germans launched an attack on the 9th and 11th Battalions of the 3rd Brigade at Cordonnerie Farm. The attack, one of the first that the newly arrived Australians faced, was very one sided with the 9th and 11th suffering 111 casualties. The Germans had suffered only eight casualties, six of which happened when a grenade went off accidentally in their own lines.

By the standards of the battles to come in July and August, this was a very small affair but sadly among the 111 Australian casualties was Private George Townson, Killed in Action. Records indicate that he was buried that same day in the Rue-du-Bois Military Cemetery with a Chaplain in attendance.

In spite of the fact that he was buried the same day as he died, there appears to have been a delay in recording

the death. Some two months later, a telegram was sent to Base Records in Melbourne stating that George’s wife, Emily had received news from “*private sources*” that her husband had been killed (the private sources could well have been George’s brother Stanley); and could Melbourne confirm this. Obviously, she had not received any official notification by this date which can be somewhat explained by the fact that she changed address twice during this period. Curiously, George’s file indicates that his identity was only established on 22 June, three weeks after he was buried. His wife was notified officially of his death in August 1916.

George had provided well for his family in the event of his death, with a life assurance policy from Mutual Life. In addition, his wife was granted a war widow’s pension of 2 pounds per fortnight with a further 1 pound 15 shillings to his daughters Mabel and Emily. Three copies of a photograph of his grave were sent to his wife.

At war’s end, George’s war medals are sent to his father, as was the normal protocol, who was living at Darra.

Private George Henry Townson is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Australian War Memorial Canberra and is buried at Rue-du-Bois Military Cemetery near Armentieres in France.



Townson, Stanley Joseph

Stanley Townson was born in Toowoomba and attended school there. His trade was listed as “Fitter and Turner, Toowoomba Foundry”. He enlisted on 24 April 1915, one day before the Gallipoli Landing. At the time of enlistment in Toowoomba, he was drafted into the 25th Battalion, a Queensland regiment, as a reinforcement. The 25th at this time was training at Enoggera but rather than sail with the bulk of the 25th in June, Stanley did not sail until October 1915. By this time his elder brother had also enlisted (see George Townson above) and it is quite possible that Stanley began to request a transfer to the 9th Battalion to be with his brother.

The records are quite confusing as to what happened but it is recorded that Stanley Townson embarked in Brisbane and then disembarked in Fremantle. He appeared again on a different embarkation roll, this time in Fremantle, with a different service number, a different battalion (12th Battalion) and on a different ship. The fact there were now two sets of enlistment documents for the same person was most unusual. Normal procedure if a soldier wanted to change units was for him to retain his original service number. This situation was the cause for confusion later in Stanley’s service career when next of kin were notified.

By the time Stanley arrived in Alexandria in March 1916, he was now in the 9th Battalion, the same battalion as his brother George, and found his way to the front via Marseilles and the “nursery” trenches near Armentieres (see above). It can be assumed that Stanley was with the battalion during the attack on the Australian lines at Cordonnerie Farm in May 1916 during which his brother was killed in action. It may also be a reasonable assumption that Stanley had communicated George’s death to the family at home as the “private sources” referred to in the telegram to Base Records from George’s widow.

After a stint in the quiet sector, the 9th Battalion, as part of the 1st Division AIF was transferred south to the Somme in preparation for the “big push” which Haig planned for July. The Australian 1st Division was to enter the battle at Pozieres at midnight on 22 July. On 23 July, during the assault of the German trenches, Stanley Townson received a gunshot wound to the left hand. Two days later he was in the 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen from where he was evacuated to England. Even though a wound of this type would be referred to as “GSW Mild” the injury must have been sufficiently serious to warrant time at Harefield Military Hospital in England.

The standard notification sent to next of kin by telegram was despatched: “*Regret advise Pte S Townson wounded.*”

Promptly advise anything further received.” His father sought further information, and was provided with the standard response:

“In the absence of further reports, it is assumed that satisfactory progress is being maintained.”

By September of 1916, Stanley was back with his battalion where soon after his arrival he was detached temporarily to 3rd Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery. The trench mortar (Often referred to as Stoke’s mortar after its inventor) was a relatively new weapon. It consisted of a smooth three inch steel tube, a base plate and two supporting legs. It was rather dangerous due to the effect of the recoil when fired and had a tendency for the bomb to explode in the tube. The Australian War Memorial has a Stoke’s Mortar with an exploded barrel in its collection. Stanley transferred permanently to the 3rd A.L.T.M.B. in November of 1916

The Australian Divisions were in Flanders in 1917, engaged in action around Ypres and Passchendaele. Stanley’s records have virtually no entries for the year of 1917 so it can be assumed that he spent this time in the line with Infantry Brigades to which his battery was attached.

In early 1918 the Germans launched a huge offensive called “Operation Michael.” The battles would reclaim all the gains that the B.E.F. had made



through the Somme Valley in 1916 and 1917 pushing the British Sector back as far as Villers Bretonneux. During this period, Stanley Townson was reported “buried by shell” on 17 March 1918. He spent a few days in a Casualty Clearing Station but was soon back in the line, which is a clear indication of the desperate need to have every available man fighting with his unit at this time. In June 1918, Stanley was admitted to hospital with influenza, but was discharged to his unit ten days later.

By September of 1918, the Australian Divisions under Monash had halted the German advance on the Somme and had pushed the enemy back to Peronne. From Peronne, even though the Australians were exhausted, they pushed on towards the Hindenburg Line. It was fairly obvious by this time that the German Armies were close to collapse and an end to the war was in sight. Just two months before the Armistice, Stanley Townson was killed in action at Bellicourt.

The confusion over Stanley’s service number resulted in his parents being informed twice of his death. His parents wrote to seek further information and enquire about his personal effects. Sadly there was no positive response to either request on file.

Stanley Townson was buried in Bellicourt British Cemetery and in 1922 his family were given the opportunity to nominate an

inscription for his headstone. His father chose:

“Oh for the touch of a vanished hand

And the sound of a voice that is still.”

Base Records replied that this inscription was too long (only 66 characters inclusive of spaces allowed) so please choose another one. Stanley’s father did not respond and so the headstone was prepared without an inscription.

Two brothers who had gone to considerable lengths to be together in life are buried 100 kilometres apart in death. Private Stanley Joseph Townson is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Australian War Memorial Canberra and is buried at Bellicourt British Cemetery in France.

Strangely, Stanley and George Townson are the only Oxley soldiers whose names do not also appear on the Graceville memorial. See the section on the memorials for further details.

Webster, Alfred

Alfred Webster was one of four brothers born in and around the Southern Darling Downs. Alfred was born at Killarney near Warwick. At the time of his enlistment in Toowoomba on 7 November 1916, he was 27 years old, single, and gave his occupation as labourer.

His next of kin was stated as being his father, Alexander,

who lived in Rowe Terrace Darra and may have been the Postmaster there.

Upon enlistment, Alfred was placed in the 11th Depot Battalion before being transferred into the 49th Battalion. On the day of embarkation, 22 December 1916, he was transferred again into the 47th Battalion as a reinforcement. The relatively short period of training in Australia before embarkation (6 weeks) is indicative of the urgent need to provide men to the Western Front at this time. The first of the conscription referenda had recently been defeated. In fact, Alfred recorded that he had originally been refused enlistment due to defective teeth. By late 1916, either his teeth had been fixed or the medical criteria had been relaxed.

Alfred arrived in Plymouth Harbour in March 1917 and within a month was in hospital with mumps. It seems that there was a mumps epidemic around this time in the training camps as several other soldiers whose stories appear above also were hospitalised with this disease. By June 1917, Alfred had crossed the channel to France and eventually joined his unit which was now in Flanders. The 47th was involved in the conflict around Messines, Broodsinde Ridge and Passchendaele.

After Flanders, the battalion spent time in rest and training before going into the line again in the Somme in March



1918 in an attempt to halt and turn the German spring offensive. Operation Michael was Ludendorff's last gamble to force a decisive victory on the Western Front. The 47th Battalion were moved into the line around Dernacourt in an attempt to hold the German advance. The situation was chaotic as this area was virtually virgin ground with very little in the way of defensive trenches. On the 27 March, the 47th was charged with establishing a defensive line on a railway embankment just west of Dernacourt. It is probably in this action that Alfred Webster was killed. The battalion suffered 80 casualties that day.

Alfred was buried in Dernacourt Communal Cemetery Extension along with another 480 Australians who fell at Dernacourt.

The "Queenslander Illustrated" in May 1918 contained a photograph of Alfred Webster, as well as details of his death, which prompted a Mr A. Cooper of Tannymorel to write to the military authorities enquiring into the settlement of Alfred's financial affairs as Mr Cooper is "*monetarily interested.*" There is no indication as to whether the debt was paid.

As was usual practice, any personal effects were despatched to the next of kin but the file indicates that Alfred's effects were "*lost at sea.*"

The Roll of Honour Card was completed by Alfred's mother who indicated that Alfred had four brothers, 3 of whom were abroad, and his Father Alexander was in the Home Defence.

Alexander requested that the following inscription be placed on Alfred's gravestone:

*"Crown him with many crowns,
A lamb upon his throne."*

Private Alfred Webster is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Graceville War Memorial, Brisbane; Australian War Memorial Canberra and is buried at Dernacourt Communal Cemetery Extension in France.

Webster, Alexander (Douglas Lennox)

Douglas Webster was one of four brothers born in and around the Southern Darling Downs. Douglas was born at Tannymorel near Warwick. For most of Douglas Webster's military career he is known as Alexander as this is the name under which he enlisted. It was not until after his death that his mother wrote to Base Records to inform them that his real name was Douglas Lennox Webster (she included a copy of his birth certificate). She also stated that his age at the time of his death was 18 years and six months. Given that he enlisted in December 1915 and was Killed in Action in August 1918, it would seem that Douglas was just shy of

his sixteenth birthday when he enlisted. His mother's letter confirms this stating that he was "*to (sic) young*" and he used his brother's name.

On Douglas's enlistment papers he gave his occupation as band cutter although his mother when completing the Roll of Honour Card gave his occupation as railway porter. Perhaps it was his brother who was the band cutter. Douglas was drafted as a reinforcement in the 26th Battalion.

The 26th was originally raised at Enoggera in March 1915, as a Queensland and Tasmanian battalion, and saw service on Gallipoli before being reorganised in Egypt before going to the Western Front.

In April 1916, Douglas embarked in Sydney enroute for England. He was admitted to the hospital on board the transport ship with V.D. where he spent 17 days. This would not be the only time Douglas stepped outside the boundaries.

The journey to England was quite long, probably due to the route going via the Cape of Good Hope to avoid German submarines in the Mediterranean. By December of 1916, young Douglas was in the Australian depot at Etaples where he was charged with "*gathering wood outside segregation camp contrary to standing orders*" and fined seven days pay. By February 1917 Douglas had joined his battalion. In June of that year he spent two weeks at the



army sniping school. Soon after rejoining the battalion, Douglas was again before the Commanding Officer, this time for “Neglect to obey orders” and was sentenced to 7 days Field Punishment #2 (Field Punishment #2 meant that the offender would have to be shackled with cuffs for two hours in every 24) In the ensuing months, Douglas ran afoul of his superiors for disobeying orders while on a work party and using improper language to an NCO, for which he received a total of 14 days FP#2.

After the German advances in the spring of 1918 were halted near Villers Bretonneux, Foch, the French Supreme Commander planned a huge counter offensive that he hoped would drive the enemy back to the Hindenburg Line. However unlike the tactics that were employed on the Somme in 1916, by 1918 commanders had learnt a lot about mounting a successful attack. The 26th Battalion diary for August of 1918 demonstrates the detail in the planning, containing maps of artillery barrages, aerial photo reconnaissance photos and briefing notes for tank commanders. This new coordinated method of warfare, employing infantry, armour, aircraft and artillery, which had been pioneered by General Monash, ANZAC Corps Commander, earlier in the year proved to be decisive in the action to come. The 26th had been practicing infantry advances with tanks

in preparation for their role in the drama throughout the early days of August. The great offensive began on 8th August and the following day, Douglas Webster was reported as killed in action. Ludendorff, the German commander would later describe the 8th August as “the blackest day.”

Douglas was probably buried on the battlefield where he fell as some time later his remains were exhumed and he was laid to rest at Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres along with 983 other Australians. He is in good company as amongst the fallen at Heath Cemetery are two V.C. winners as well as a D.S.O. and a Military Medal. His mother gave his age when killed as 18 years and 6 months. His father asked that the following words be inscribed on his grave:

“Safe in the arms of Jesus’

Safe in his gentle breast.”

Private Douglas Lennox Webster is commemorated on the Oxley War Memorial, Brisbane; Graceville War Memorial, Brisbane; Australian War Memorial Canberra and is buried at Heath Cemetery , Harbonnieres, France.

***They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye,
steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.***

***They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.***

Extract of “For the Fallen” by R.L. Binyon Sept 1914

The Oxley Memorial

The Oxley Progress Association erected a memorial to the fifteen citizens of the district who had paid the supreme sacrifice. The memorial was a stone statue of a slouch-hatted World War One soldier with arms reversed standing on a stone column. The original statue was created by monumental mason Frank Williams of Ipswich. The site chosen for the memorial was in the grounds of the non-denominational church which stood on the corner of Oxley Road and William Street (Now Bannerman Street). The memorial was unveiled at a Welcome Home function held in the school grounds across the road and was unveiled by Mrs Elphinstone the wife of Mr. A.C.Elphinstone M.L.A on the 12th February 1921.

It is interesting to note that some of those listed on the Oxley memorial had no direct connection with the Oxley District, however their next of kin or close relative may have for a time lived in the district, which qualified their sons and brothers for inclusion.



The non-denominational church building was eventually removed from the site but the memorial has remained in situ, albeit with some refurbishments and renovations over the intervening years. The memorial is now located in a small park on the corner of Bannerman Street and Oxley Road, known as Oxley Memorial Place. The original stone figure on the memorial was replaced in 2006 with a replica. The original digger is now housed at the Sherwood Services Club.

The Graceville Memorial

The unveiling of the Sherwood Shire memorial was a very important event for the shire. The Sherwood Shire Council had set aside land on Oxley Road Graceville as a Memorial Park. The erection of the War Memorial was at the instigation of Miss Ethel Lidgard of Graceville; sister of Pte Jack Lidgard who was killed at Passchendaele and who is commemorated on the memorial. A granite obelisk, designed by the Shire Clerk was erected upon which a bronze plaque listing the names of 51 shire residents who had perished in the war was fixed.

The memorial was unveiled on 29th November 1920 by Lieutenant Edwin (Maurice) Little of Corinda, a former school teacher who had lost both eyes and his right hand when a bomb exploded in his hand at Gallipoli. The ceremony was reported in the Brisbane Courier on Monday 30th November. Maurice Little was the inaugural President of the Sherwood RSSAILA. Also present at the unveiling was Brigadier James Howard Cannan, President of the R.S.S.I.L.A. Queensland. Brigadier "Bull" Cannan had been the commanding officer of the 15th Battalion at Gallipoli. One of the officers in the 15th Battalion was Brig. Cannan's elder brother, Maj. Douglas Cannan who was killed at Sari Bair Ridge in August 1915; and whose name was included on the Graceville Memorial. Also listed on the memorial was Brig Cannan's brother in law, Capt. Dudleigh Chalmers Ranken of the 23rd Royal Fusiliers who it was reported, although being from a local family, enlisted in a British Regiment so that his mother (he was her only son) would not see him in uniform. Also present was the Member for Oxley, Charles Elphinstone who was himself a returned soldier.

Included in the memorial were plantings of an avenue of trees from Oxley Road to the memorial as well as trees planted around the perimeter of the park. The Graceville Memorial listed only those citizens who were residents of the shire, which may account for the exclusion of the Townson brothers and W. Crock from Oxley.

Sherwood Roll of Honour

The Sherwood Shire Council, to honour its citizens who had enlisted in the Great War, commissioned the creation of a Roll of Honour, which listed the 265 men and 7 women of the shire who enlisted in World War 1. Oxley was a suburb of the Sherwood Shire. The Roll was prominently displayed in the Shire Hall, now the Corinda Municipal Library. With the inclusion of the Sherwood Shire into Greater Brisbane, the Roll of Honour became the responsibility of the Sherwood Indooroopilly R.S.S.A.I.L.A. The Roll is now prominently displayed in the Sherwood Services Club.



St Andrew's Altar





Private Frederick Campbell

48, 9th Battalion, KIA 2 May 1915

Researched by: Dr Peter Crossman,
St Andrews Anglican Church, Indooroopilly, 2015

This name is listed on the plaque of the Gallipoli Altar in the chapel of St Peter in the Anglican Church of St Andrew's, Indooroopilly, in Lambert Road. The Altar was erected in memory of men of the parish who fell at Gallipoli. Ten names are listed. Six of these names are also included on local memorial rolls in parks. Fred's name is not included on a park memorial roll.

Fred Campbell (number 48, 9th Battalion) enlisted on the 21st of August 1914 in Toowoomba. He was 19 years and 3 months. He was born in Taringa and went to the Indooroopilly State School, where he served in the Cadets. His trade was a

tailor, his religion was stated to be Church of England and he was single. Fred was five feet and seven and one half inches tall (171cm) and eight stone and eleven pounds in weight (56kg), with a dark complexion, blue eyes and brown hair, and with several noticeable scars.

Fred marched in to the 9th Battalion at Enoggera on the 1st of September 1914. He was assigned to the Battalion's Machine Gun Section by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Lee. His rank remained that of Private, although he was temporarily a Driver in Egypt.

He embarked with the Battalion on His Majesty's Australian Transport Ship *Omrah* for Egypt from Brisbane on the

24th of September 1914.

The Battalion disembarked in Alexandria on Sunday the 6th of December 1914 and proceeded immediately to Mena Camp in Cairo where training commenced.

Fred's next of kin was his father, Edward Morency Campbell, a timber getter, who lived at Kenmore, and later at Upper Brookfield, and who served for three years in the AIF at Gallipoli and the Western Front before returning to live in Chapel Hill.

Edward enlisted on the 11th of January 1915, also in the 9th Battalion as part of an early draft of reinforcements, the 4th for the Battalion. Edward later transferred from the infantry to the engineers. He stated his religion to be Roman Catholic. His wife Mary, Fred's mother, was his next of kin.

The Battalion embarked for Mudros Bay on Lemnos Island on the transport ship *Ionian* on Monday the 1st of March 1915, disembarking on the 6th of March. The Battalion trained and waited on Lemnos until the landing.

The 9th Battalion was the first to land at Anzac Cove on Sunday, the 25th of April, and Fred was killed on Sunday, the 2nd of May 1915, aged twenty. The 9th Battalion War Diary states the Battalion moved to a bivouac position on the 1st of May, before returning to the firing line on the 3rd of May. On the 2nd of May the Battalion recorded four casualties, one of whom was presumably Fred.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

HMAT Omrah with the 9th Battalion aboard, lying at Pinkenba on the day of embarkation.

Source: AWM.



The personnel records state this position as “Gaba Tepe”, but this was used as a general reference to the Anzac landing area and not to a particular location. However his father was able to inform the Australian War Memorial in the Roll of Honour Circular that the locality of his death was Shrapnel Gully.

There is no known grave for Fred. His name is commemorated on Panel 31 of the Lone Pine Memorial.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P02768.007

Graves and the memorial at Lone Pine Cemetery containing the names of the missing, taken in 1936.

Source: AWM.



Herbert Gerald Hinton

Lieutenant, 9th Battalion, KIA 7 August 1915

Researched by: Dr Peter Crossman, St Andrews Anglican Church, Indooroopilly, 2015

This name is listed on the plaque of the Gallipoli Altar in the chapel of St Peter in the Anglican Church of St Andrew's, Indooroopilly, in Lambert Road. The Altar was erected in memory of the men of the parish who fell at Gallipoli. Ten names are listed. Six of these names are also included on local memorial rolls in parks. Herbert's name is not included on a park memorial roll.



Source: *The Queenslander*, 26 September 1914, p23, alh-research web site.

Herbert Hinton applied for a commission in the Australian Imperial Force in Brisbane on Saturday the 8th of August 1914. The 2nd Light Horse Regiment was formed, as part of the 1st Light Horse Brigade in the AIF, on Tuesday the 18th of August 1914 at Enoggera, from men in southern Queensland and northern NSW. His application was recommended by the

Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. R. M. Stodart, on the 8th of September and by the District Commandant on the 11th of September, and he was appointed to a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and posted to A Squadron, 2nd Light Horse Regiment.

This was unsurprising, as he had served in the South Africa War as a member of the first Queensland contingent from November 1899 to June 1902, being promoted to Lieutenant on the 23th of February 1901. Furthermore, he was already serving in the militia as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment at the time of the commencement of the Great War.

Herbert was born on the 23rd of February 1879, and so was 35 years and 6 months when he applied for his commission in the AIF. He was five feet and eight and three quarter inches tall (175cm) and ten stone in weight (63kg).

He went to the Boys Central State School, where he reached Sixth Standard. He worked as a commercial traveller. His religion was Church of England. In 1909 he married Mabel Cecilia Mahony at All Saints' Church in Wickham Terrace. She had been a famous local swimmer,

completing the Brisbane to Bremer River swim in 1905. They had four children; three sons, Kenneth, Stanley and Norman; and one daughter, Doris Mahony (sic) Frances. Mabel was named as his next of kin, and her address at the time of his application was "Wanetta", Graceville. ("Wanetta" was the name of a schooner off Thursday Island on which Herbert worked as sheller in 1905.) Following Herbert's death, Mabel moved to several addresses at Sandgate. In 1949 she moved to the Mahony home "Rathgar" in Roseberry Terrace, Chelmer, with her eldest son. She passed away in 1953.

Herbert embarked with the Regiment on HMAT *Star of England* from Pinkenba Wharf in Brisbane on Thursday the 24th of September 1914 for the voyage to Egypt. He was promoted to Lieutenant on Monday the 1st of February 1915 in Egypt.

The 2nd Light Horse Regiment landed at Anzac on Wednesday the 12th of May 1915 without their horses to fight as infantry. Herbert was lightly wounded in late May. He survived until the August battles when he was killed in action on Saturday the 7th of August 1915. On this day there were a number of diversionary attacks, including the infamous charge at The Nek by the light horsemen of the 8th and 10th Light Horse Regiments. The 2nd Light Horse Regiment was ordered to undertake a similar attack at Quinn's Post.



The intention was to attack in four consecutive waves of 50 men. Unfortunately, other supporting attacks had failed and the Turks were aware of the impending attack. The first wave was annihilated with 49 casualties. The subsequent attacks were cancelled by orders of intelligent senior officers, sadly unlike the case at The Nek. Herbert was in the second wave. However, as the official historian recorded: "Lieut. Hinton ... was killed when covering by fire the withdrawal of the wounded [from the first wave]"¹.

Herbert was buried in the Shrapnel Valley Cemetery at Anzac, shown in the following photograph. His grave is Plot 4 Row D Grave 14.



Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

1 Bean, CEW The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918 Volume II The Story of Anzac: from 4 May 1915 to the Evacuation 13th edition, 1944, p631 fn72.



Stanley Angus McDonald

Researched by: Dr Peter Crossman,
St Andrews Anglican Church, Indooroopilly, 2015

Stanley Angus McDonald is unique among the names on the Indooroopilly War Memorial, in that he met his death serving with the British Merchant Navy. His service history is not to be found among the records of the Australian War Memorial with the exception that his name is included on the Commemorative Roll.

The Commemorative Roll includes the names of those Australians who in other respects would qualify as eligible for the Roll of Honour, but who were members of the armed forces of allied countries; members of the Merchant Navy; and others who served in various ways.

Stanley Angus McDonald was born in October 1890 to parents Angus and Minnie (nee Finch) McDonald who are recorded living in Indooroopilly at Montague Road, a road whose name has since been changed to Coonan Street. They were living there in 1903 and 1909 when his father, Angus, died. In 1913, Minnie, now widowed, was still at that address.

Stanley was the second oldest of a known family of five: Henry born 1888; Stanley 1890; Dorothy 1893; Gladys 1895; and Marjorie 1899. He also had a family of seven

half brothers and sisters by his father's earlier marriage. After the war, in 1921, Minnie McDonald was then living at Station Road, Indooroopilly, and she would have been a keen observer of the dedication in that year of the monument that carried her son's name.

Stanley was aged 24 when war was declared but whether he was living at Indooroopilly or was already overseas is not known. He did not enlist in the Australian armed forces, but chose to join the mercantile marine in Britain, later dubbed the Merchant Navy.

RMS *Celtic* was a very significant ship in which to serve as an engineer officer. Launched in 1901 for the celebrated White Star Line, it was the first ship to exceed 20,000 gross tonnage and, at the time it was built, it was acknowledged as being the largest ship ever constructed. Its maiden voyage occurred on the 26th of July 1901.

Until the outbreak of World War One, *Celtic* was engaged in carrying more than 2,000 passengers on the Trans-Atlantic route from Liverpool to New York via Queenstown in Ireland, and return. In April 1912 she was the first ship into New York following the disaster of the *Titanic* sinking.

When war broke out in 1914, the ship became an armed merchant cruiser, but this role was changed to that of troopship in 1916. In this capacity she carried troops from England to the theatres of war, including Egypt, in the process experiencing some very lucky escapes from enemy attacks.

Celtic survived the war, but not without extensive damage and loss of life. When Stanley McDonald joined her crew has not been determined, but it is recorded that he served as Senior Fourth Engineer Officer. Being part of the engine room crew, he must have felt vulnerable to sea-borne attack.

In 1917 *Celtic* struck a German mine while off the Isle of Man, killing 17 of those onboard.

The mine tore a huge hole in her, but the flooding was confined to the No 1 hold. Badly damaged, the ship was towed to the port of Liverpool where repairs were completed, and she was returned to duty six weeks after the event.

Celtic came under attack again the next year, this time from a German submarine in the Irish Sea soon after leaving Liverpool. In March 1918 the German U-boat UB-77 shot two torpedoes into *Celtic* causing the deaths of six people, one of whom, it is believed, was Fourth Engineer, Stanley McDonald, whose death is recorded on the 31st of March 1918 – killed in action. The ship was prevented from sinking by beaching in shallow



water. It was subsequently refloated and taken to Belfast for repairs.

Stanley McDonald was buried at Belfast City Cemetery on the 17th of May 1918, some six weeks after his death, presumably indicating that his body was not removed from the crippled ship until it reached Belfast. In a bizarre turn of phrase, his last place of residence was stated to be the morgue *Celtic*. The location of his grave at Belfast Cemetery is described as Plot 167 in the Glenalina Extension. Another

victim from *Celtic*, also killed on the 31st of March, is buried in the same cemetery. His grave is marked simply, *unknown sailor*.

In Brisbane, a year later, a tribute appeared in the *Brisbane Courier* on the 31st March 1919, the first anniversary of his death:

A tribute of love to the memory of Stanley A McDonald, engineer, SS Celtic who gave his life for his country, March 31st 1918, aged 26 years and 7 months.

Until 1928 much the same memorial notice was inserted by his mother annually in the *Brisbane Courier* on the day of his death, varied only to include:

. . . killed at sea by enemy attack March 31st 1918.

The names of the people on the Commemorative Roll, including that of Stanley Angus McDonald, are in a book located in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.



William Lenard Pacey

Gunner (1618), 7th Battery Field Artillery,
Died of Wounds Received in Action,
Wednesday 25 August 1915

Researched by: Dr Peter Crossman,
St Andrews Anglican Church, Indooroopilly, 2015

This name is listed on the plaque of the Gallipoli Altar in the chapel of St Peter in the Anglican Church of St Andrew's, Indooroopilly, in Lambert Road. The Altar was erected in memory of the men of the parish who fell at Gallipoli. Ten names are listed. Six of these names are also included on local memorial rolls in parks. William's name is not included on a park memorial roll.

William Pacey (number 1618, 7th Battery Australian Field Artillery, 3rd AFA Brigade) enlisted in Brisbane on Tuesday the 18th of August 1914. He was just 20 years old, born on Saturday the 4th of August 1894. He was

born in Kenmore and served in the Cadets and the militia artillery. He was a farmer, his religion was stated to be Roman Catholic (although his brother, James Pacey, put down Presbyterian) and he was single. William was five feet and six and one half inches tall (169cm) and 132 pounds in weight (60kg), with a dark complexion, grey eyes and brown hair. His next of kin was listed as his father, James Pacey, of Kenmore, via Indooroopilly.

He embarked with the Battery on S.S. *Rangatira* for Egypt from Brisbane on Thursday the 24th of September 1914 and disembarked in Alexandria

on Thursday the 10th of December 1914. The Battery moved to the Divisional camp at Mena on the 11th of December to begin training.

On Thursday the 8th of April 1915, the Battery embarked at Alexandria and arrived on the 12th of April in Mudros Bay on Lemnos Island, where the Battery was reviewed by General Birdwood. At 8.00am on Monday the 26th of April 1915, the Battery disembarked with four guns at Anzac Cove and commenced the difficult task of operating artillery in the problematic terrain and exposed positions of Anzac.

William survived until Saturday the 21st of August 1915. The War Diary of the 7th Battery recorded the events of that morning. From 0900 to 1030, William's gun, Number 2, was engaged in shelling Turkish positions on Gun Ridge. At that point: "2 guns on Gun Ridge replied and took No 2 Gun out of action by a direct hit, wounding Gnrns



Source: Pacey family photograph, "Bill posing in front of the pyramids".



Source: Welcome to South Ribbles in the Great War: A WFA Leyland & Central Lancashire project "Pacific Steam Navigation Co passenger liner Ortona: built in 1899, converted to a cruise ship in 1910 and renamed Arcadian, and sunk by a U-boat in 1917"



Pacey (dangerously), H Clark (dangerously), [?] (slightly) and Stormouth (severely)".

William was embarked on the hospital ship *Arcadian*. On Wednesday the 25th of August 1915 he died of his wounds and was buried at sea, near Malta. A letter from a nurse on the ship to his family recorded his grace and courage: "The

night before your son passed away, he asked me to write to you. He was very badly wounded, being hit in the shoulder and abdomen. His case was quite hopeless from the time we took him on board the hospital ship at Suvla Bay. I know you will be glad to hear he endured his sufferings with the greatest courage possible

and through it all showed wonderful unselfishness and gentleness to those around him."

As William was buried at sea, there is no grave for him, but his name is commemorated on Panel 11 of the Lone Pine Memorial.



Sydney John Penhaligon

3rd Field Ambulance, Private (77)

Died of Wounds Received in Action, Friday 14 May 1915

Researched by: Dr Peter Crossman,
St Andrews Anglican Church, Indooroopilly, 2015

This name is listed on the plaque of the Gallipoli Altar in the chapel of St Peter in the Anglican Church of St Andrew's, Indooroopilly, in Lambert Road. The Altar was erected in memory of the men of the parish who fell at Gallipoli. Ten names are listed. Six of these names are also included on local memorial rolls in parks. Sydney's name is not included on a park memorial roll.

Sydney Penhaligon (number 77, 3rd Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps) enlisted in Brisbane on Tuesday the 18th of August 1914. He was just 20 years and one month. He was born in Indooroopilly and attended the Indooroopilly State School and Kelley's College. He was serving in the militia in the Army's Medical Corps. Sydney was a postal assistant (letter carrier), his religion was stated to be Church of England and he was single. He was five feet and seven and one half inches tall (171cm) and 152 pounds in weight (69kg), with a fresh complexion, grey eyes and brown hair.

His next of kin was listed as his father, William Henry Penhaligon, of "Truro", River



Source: Penhaligon family photograph.

Road (now called Coronation Drive), Toowong, Brisbane.

He embarked with the 3rd Field Ambulance on S.S. *Rangatira*

for Egypt from Brisbane on Friday the 25th of September 1914 and disembarked in Alexandria on Wednesday the 9th of December 1914. The Field Ambulance moved by overnight troop train to Cairo and then tramcars to the divisional camp at Mena early on the 10th of December to begin training.

The 3rd Field Ambulance embarked at Alexandria on Thursday the 1st of March 1915 in a number of transport ships, and arrived on the 6th of March in Mudros Bay on Lemnos Island where considerable re-arrangement of men and stores took place.

At 5.00am on Sunday the 25th of April 1915, the 3rd Field Ambulance landed in two boats at Anzac Cove, to experience immediate enfilading fire and begin their task of treating casualties.

The War Diary of the 3rd Field Ambulance recorded the events of the 14th of May at the location shown in the



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

G00932

Original taken by CEW Bean on 3 May 1915. On Anzac Beach the 3rd Field Ambulance and Ordnance were located under the cliff to the right.

Source: AWM.



photograph above. Digging was proceeding to construct more wards for patients. Then: "A 4.7 shrapnel shell fell in the camp and the following casualties are recorded: No 77 Pte S. J. Penhaligon right thigh shattered by shrapnel and shrapnel wound of left leg – dangerous – No 195 Pte F. W. Jones..." .

Sydney was embarked on the hospital ship *Gascon*. Later on the same day he died of his wounds and was buried at sea, about three miles off Gallipoli.

As he was buried at sea, there is no known grave for him, but his name is commemorated on Panel 69 of the Lone Pine Memorial.

Sydney wrote diaries during his time in the AIF, and these were published in by Beverly Walker in a book titled, in the words used by Sydney himself, "I have done my duty".



Jack Sinclair

Sergeant (5), 3rd Field Company, Australian Engineers, KIA Sunday 1 August 1915
Researched by: Dr Peter Crossman, St Andrews Anglican Church, Indooroopilly, 2015

This name is listed on the plaque of the Gallipoli Altar in the chapel of St Peter in the Anglican Church of St Andrew's, Indooroopilly, in Lambert Road. The Altar was erected in memory of men of the parish who fell at Gallipoli. Ten names are listed, including that of Jack Sinclair. Six of these names, including Jack's, are also included on local memorial rolls in parks, although his initials are incorrect (DBT) on the Keating Park memorial.

Jack Sinclair (number 5, 3rd Field Company, Australian Engineers) enlisted in Brisbane on Tuesday the 18th of August 1914. He was 24 years and six months old. He was born in Gympie on Sunday the 16th of February 1890, and attended the Maryborough and Rockhampton grammar schools, during which time he served for three-and-a-half years in Cadets. His trade was an assistant surveyor, his religion was stated to be Presbyterian and he was single. Jack was five feet and ten inches tall (178cm) and 152 pounds in weight (69kg), with a fair complexion, blue-grey eyes and auburn hair. His rank was Sapper until he was promoted to be Sergeant on Gallipoli on the 27th of July 1915.

Jack's next of kin was his father, Donald George Sinclair, a postmaster, who lived at Finney Road in Indooroopilly at the time of Jack's enlistment. By the date of Jack's death he had moved, with Jack's mother Agnes, to Longreach, and later to Ipswich.

Jack embarked from Melbourne with the 3rd Field Company on transport ship *Geelong* on the 22nd of September 1914, disembarking at Alexandria in Egypt on the 10th of December 1914 and proceeding to Mena Camp, where training commenced the next day. They embarked on transport ship *City of Benares* on the 4th of April 1915 at Alexandria for Mudros Bay on



Source: Bean CEW Volume II of the Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918 p476. The tunnels and mines were constructed by 3rd Field Company. The Turkish Trench was renamed Leane's Trench.

Lemnos Island in preparation for the landing on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Jack was killed in action on Sunday the 1st of August 1915. The July and August 1915 war diaries of the 3rd Field Company are unfortunately missing from the AWM collection. However the official history describes the relevant action in which Jack was killed. This is in *CHAPTER XVII THE PREPARATORY DEMONSTRATIONS – LEANE'S TRENCH* in Volume II *The Story of Anzac – From 4 May 1915 to the Evacuation*.

In preparation for the later attack on Lone Pine, this action entailed an attack on and capture of the Turkish trenches opposite Tasmania Post by a party from the 11th Battalion under Captain R. L. Leane during the night of the 31st of July and 1st of August. The 3rd Field Company constructed four tunnels towards the Turkish trenches culminating in mines.

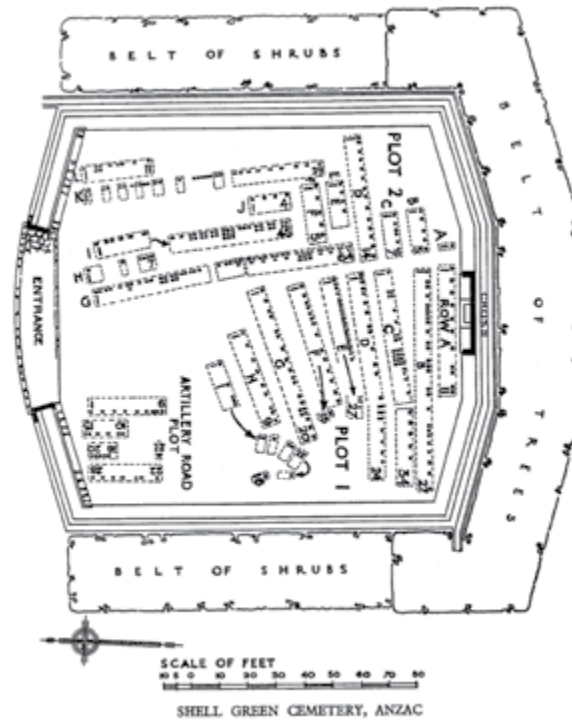
One mine exploded prematurely, two exploded by order of Captain Leane and one failed to explode at all. Subsequently there was considerable engineering activity through the night and the following day in converting the tunnels to communication trenches and in repairing and defending the captured trenches. It is presumably during this activity in the early hours of the 1st of August that Jack was killed.



He was buried at Shell Green Cemetery in Plot I Row F Grave 10, which can be noted in the following plan. His

father nominated the text "HE GAVE UP HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS" for his headstone, although poignantly he stated to the Commonwealth War

Graves Commission and to the Roll of Honour Circular that Jack's age at death was 24 and not the correct age of 25 years.



Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



Norman Reginald Webb

Private (1004), 9th Battalion, KIA 25 April 1915

Researched by: Dr Peter Crossman,
St Andrews Anglican Church, Indooroopilly, 2015

This name is listed on the plaque of the Gallipoli Altar in the chapel of St Peter in the Anglican Church of St Andrew's, Indooroopilly, in Lambert Road. The Altar was erected in memory of the men of the parish who fell at Gallipoli. Ten names are listed, including that of Reginald Webb. Six of these names, including Reginald's, are also included on local memorial rolls in parks.

Reginald Webb (number 1004, 9th Battalion) enlisted in Enoggera on Monday the 14th of September 1914. He was 24 years and 6 months old. He was born in Paddington, Brisbane, and went to the North Ipswich State School. His trade was stated to be a

clerk, but his father advised in the AWM's Roll of Honour Circular that he was a student-at-law and a school teacher. His religion was stated to be Methodist and he was single and preferred to be known by his middle name. Reginald was five feet and four inches tall (163cm) and eleven stone and three pounds in weight (71kg), with a dark complexion, brown eyes and brown hair. Reginald's next of kin was his father, Sydney Webb, of "Leonta", Lambert Road, Indooroopilly.

Reginald marched in to the 9th Battalion at Enoggera on the day of his attestation. He was assigned to F Company with the rank of Private. He embarked with the Battalion

on S.S. *Omrah* for Egypt from Brisbane on Thursday the 24th of September 1914. The Battalion disembarked in Alexandria on Sunday the 6th of December 1914 and proceeded immediately to Mena Camp in Cairo where training commenced.

The Battalion embarked at Alexandria for Mudros Bay on Lemnos Island on the transport ship *Ionian* on Monday the 1st of March 1915, disembarking on the 6th of March. The Battalion trained and waited on Lemnos until the landing.

The 9th Battalion was the first to land at Anzac Cove on Sunday the 25th of April, and Reginald was reported wounded and missing on that day. Fighting on the day of the landing was highly confused, with small parties of infantry pushing inland and in many cases being isolated and lost. Individuals often became solitary or mixed up with other units through the course of the day.

He was reported as missing several times in the records during 1915, and he remained in that official state until a Court of Inquiry was convened in France on the 5th of June 1916. This Court determined he was officially killed in action on the day of the landing. He had disappeared and there were no official burial or casualty reports, nor any reports from the Turkish side, and all putative reports from soldiers of the Battalion had been found to be false or unreliable. The confusion about



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C00083

Source: AWM. The 9th Battalion camp in the desert about 10 miles from Cairo. On the far right is one of the pyramids at nearby Giza.



his status became worrying as some reports stated that he was alive and even working in the AIF headquarters in London (this was later confirmed to be his brother, Alfred, also of the 9th Battalion, who was wounded on the day of the landing) and an “eye witness” even later reported him killed in action on the 25th of July 1916 at Pozieres.

There is therefore no known grave for Reginald. His name is commemorated on Panel 32 of the Lone Pine Memorial.



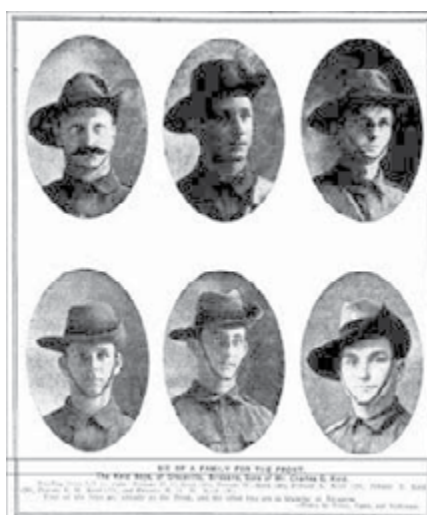
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Source: AWM. Looking from high up Shrapnel Gully on the afternoon of the landing at Anzac Cove, showing the terrain faced by the 9th Battalion, including Reginald.



The Keid family and their contribution to early Brisbane and World War One





The Keid Family of Chewton Graceville

By Beulah Cox

Based on a talk given by Beulah Cox at the Oxley-Chelmer History Group, the 21st of April 2017

Most people passing 33 Molonga Terrace in Graceville would be unaware of the historical contribution made to the history of Brisbane by the family who built their home there over 100 years ago, when Graceville was an emerging suburb soon after the railway station was built.

Among the passengers on the *Fortitude*, the first of the ships carrying free settlers from England, were two brothers, Charles George Keid and Henry Keid, who arrived with their wives. Charles George was married to Jane Walker and Henry to her sister Ann Walker. In 1862 another brother, Thomas, arrived with his wife and 6 children on the *Aranda*.

As the sons of a landscape gardener, the three brothers used the skills learnt from their father and became successful settlers in the new colony. Charles took up land on the edge of the settlement and was able to supply water and wood from his land, as well as selling milk from his cows. Charles later moved to Adelaide Street with his wife, Jane, and his two children, Jane and Charles George Jr; born in 1851 and

1856 respectively. Charles George owned property in Spring Hill including a guest house where the current Alliance Hotel now stands, adjoining Keid Lane just off Leichhardt Street.

Henry Keid experienced great success with a large garden in Margaret Street, growing a large variety of stone fruit, as well as citrus and bananas. His knowledge of chemistry was sufficient to join the partnership of Owen Gardiner and Thomas Tristram in the manufacture of soda water and cordial.

The third brother, Thomas Keid, was a ship's captain and ran a ferry across the Brisbane River. His business was lucrative enough for him to have purchased three houses by 1869.

Letters to their parents in England reveal a willingness to remain in the fledgling state, "*since the separation from New South Wales, all things are better*".

First generation Australians

Charles George Jr married Mary Elizabeth Dale in Brisbane in 1878. Mary had come to Pimpama with her mother Elizabeth Winn, who

had met her future husband Henry Dale on the journey from England to Melbourne. They married soon after their arrival and travelled to Chewton, a town in the Victorian goldfields.

Mary was born at Chewton in 1856, the same year her father died. However, her mother married again to William Taylor Walmsley, and three children were born. One, Jane Jemima, married David Lahey from the well-known pioneering family who owned a timber mill at Canungra, and later here in Brisbane.

Vida Lahey was the eldest of 11 children born to David and Jane at Pimpama. She earned a reputation for her distinctive art works and was a key figure in the development of the Queensland Art Gallery when they lived at Indooroopilly in the years between 1910 and 1912.

Charles George Jr had met Mary Elizabeth Dale when he moved to Pimpama to start a farming venture in dairying, an industry that had replaced cotton, sugar cane and arrowroot. The marriage certificate lists Charles George Jr as a tailor and he was 21. The children of the marriage were: Ethel Dale Keid, born 1880, Brisbane; Mary Elizabeth Dale Keid, born 1882, died 1882; Henry Charles [Harry] Keid, born 1883; William [Bill] Keid, born 1885; Leonard Keid, born 1886; Edward Alexander [Ted] Keid, born 1889; Robert Keid, born 1891, died 1892; Bennett Walter Keid, born 1893; and



Harold Guy Walker Keid [Guy], born 1895.

All but the eldest Ethel were born at Pimpama and the seven survivors had their early education there. The family moved to Brisbane and took up residence at 33 Molonga Terrace, Graceville, and Charles George Jr resumed his tailoring occupation.

It is not known when the family home in Graceville was built, but Bill, the second son and a qualified carpenter, is known to have constructed it with the help of his father and brothers. Bill was born in 1885, so an educated guess at the age of the house would probably be early 20th century, maybe around 1910. It was named *Chewton* after Mary's birth place in Victoria.

By the outbreak of WWI in 1914, all six of the Keid boys were in employment that covered a broad cross section of the workforce in Queensland. Harry and Ted went north and followed the gold discovery at Charters Towers and later settled permanently at East Evelyn, a small area of rich rain forest west of Innisfail; William had qualified as a carpenter; Leonard was a qualified accountant and employed as a paymaster by Queensland Railways; Bennett Walter was employed as a Postal Clerk; and Guy was a student at Queensland University's first campus in George Street. The oldest child and only (living) daughter Ethel had gone to North Queensland with Harry and Ted.

The boys had been educated at Pimpama and Junction Park state schools, and Bill and Walter attended St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace, most probably for secondary education. Brisbane State High did not exist prior to 1913 and private schools offered the best opportunity for further education.

The other siblings remained in Brisbane, although Bill had spent a couple of years in Charters Towers and Rockhampton working for Queensland Railways. His athletic and cricketing skills were legend.

A call to war

In 1914, Australia was very much part of the British Empire and Australians believed support for the empire was the price of Australia's security. The call to serve King and country was paramount in the minds of many, and the Keid boys were no exception. Britain wanted fit young colonials bronzed by the Australian sun who had endured the harsh bush life where they mastered the handling of wild horses and developed the code of mateship that was to set them apart in a category of their own on the battle field. Their spirit of adventure, initiative and daring was paramount.

Many rushed to enlist because they thought the conflict would be over before Christmas and were fearful they would miss out!! Little did they realise what lay ahead as the fittest and strongest in the land, from pioneering stock, sailed away

believing the pledge made by Prime Minister Andrew Fisher that "*Australia would defend the Empire to the last man and the last shilling*".

When recruitment opened on the 11th of August 1914, there were long queues at Enoggera, the largest camp in Australia. On a more local level, tents were erected at Bell's Paddock, Enoggera, in readiness to train the volunteers.

First of the Keid boys to enlist was William, aged 29 and the second oldest in the family. He joined the 2nd Light Horse - A Squadron, a Queensland regiment, as a trooper, on the 21st of August 1914, fulfilling his ambition to be part of the tradition made famous during the Boer War. Guy, aged 19 and the youngest, enlisted on the 2nd of September 1914. His part-time service in the Reserve Australian Medical Corps qualified him to join the 3rd Field Ambulance A Section at Enoggera. William and Guy sailed from Melbourne where they underwent some training, and William was able to train his horse at Flemington Racecourse. Harry and Ted joined the AIF on the 5th of October 1914 in Townsville and were appointed to the 9th Battalion composed of Queenslanders.

At the end of October, 28 Australian troop ships and 10 New Zealand transports left Albany in Western Australia, arriving at Alexandria on the 5th of December where they were despatched to their respective training camps,



sleeping in the open on the desert sand in Egypt where they realised that they were far away from home in Australia.

As part of the first wave of enlistments, the four Keid brothers found themselves in a world beyond imagination, many thousands of miles from their homes. Egypt was nothing like Queensland! All four brothers were part of the landing at Gallipoli on the 24th of April, together with New Zealand, British, Canadian and French troops who had landed on several beaches on the Peninsula. The Anzacs numbered 27,000, of which 8,100 became casualties in the landing. 2,300 were killed or died of wounds.

A series of tragedies

Harry was among the first casualties, wounded as he waded to the beach. Discharged from the ANZAC Base Hospital in Weymouth in England on the 2nd of September, he re-joined the 9th Battalion at Gallipoli until the 18th of November, and was back at Alexandria on the 4th of January 1916 for deployment to the Western Front.

Ted was not wounded and stayed at Gallipoli with the 9th Battalion until December. He was promoted to corporal and saw out the whole campaign. A special Gallipoli medal for six months continuous service on the Peninsula was designed and struck by Hardy Brothers in Brisbane, and Ted was one of only 100 who received one. Arriving at Lemnos for a rest

period was a welcome change from the deprivations and disease of Gallipoli.

Guy also spent the whole campaign at Gallipoli. A letter he wrote from Egypt to a friend in Brisbane is a first-hand account of his experience as a member of the 3rd Field Ambulance. In his words, *“they carried the wounded for days on end, there were groans and shrieks of agony accompanied by the wiz of bullets and bursting of shells”*.

Despite the hardships, and being under constant enemy fire, they built dugouts and a hospital. The tone of the letter was that he was resigned to what was happening, and he held a philosophical attitude of his experience. The spirit of adventure was tempered by harsh realities.

The high number of Gallipoli casualties meant reinforcements were needed. Disease was rampant, Europe was enduring a very hot summer and the fit young bronzed Anzacs *“whose strength and bounding energy had been the envy of the British”*, were weakened by dysentery, typhoid, influenza and lice.

Bill and his mates had remained at Mena Camp in Egypt, preparing to leave for Lemnos when the call came for volunteers to leave the Light Horse and fight in the infantry at Gallipoli. The plan to divide them was opposed by the Australian and New Zealand higher command, so the whole Brigade went to Infantry with

the Light Horse exchanging their saddlery for infantry equipment, and the Light Horse maintained its independent identity.

On the 13th of May the 2nd Light Horse took over the responsibility for Quinn’s Post where Bill was wounded as a result of action on that day, when he threw his coat on a Turkish grenade that had landed in the Australian trench. The bomb exploded, and he spent time in the hospital ship before his death from wounds on the 23rd of June. He was buried at sea on the 25th of June 1915. Bill was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Military Medal for his action at Quinn’s Post, the last place to be attacked.

Guy, as a member of the 3rd Field ambulance, was among the last to leave Gallipoli on the 27th of December 1915, in an evacuation that has been described as *“the most successful operation of the Gallipoli campaign”*.

Charles and Mary Keid had received the pink telegram delivered by a boy on a bicycle, giving them the news that one of their sons would not be returning home, and conveying the condolences of the King, the Queen, the Government and the Army. *The Courier-Mail* published a list of casualties on the 13th of July 1915 with the following comments: *“Private W Keid was a carpenter by trade, and was well known in Charters Towers where he worked for some years. Up to a year ago he was engaged*



in a Government maintenance gang on the Central Railway, but for the last year before his enlistment he lived in Brisbane. He was a good all-round athlete, and took a special interest in cricket, playing with the Sherwood Club. He was well liked wherever he went, and leaves many close friends who will mourn his death”.

Military experts have said the charge on the Gallipoli Peninsula is one of the most famous in history, while at the same time the campaign is recorded as a military blunder, with soldiers *being sent on a fool’s errand*. John Lahey, an Irish priest and army chaplain from Perth was also at the landing. He returned to Perth in 1918 and his admiration and affection for the Australian soldiers are expressed in his own words: *“the more I knew them, the more I admired and loved them. Their bravery has been written in deeds that will live to the end of the world”.*

Today there is a panel on the Lone Pine Memorial south of Quinn’s that has the names of 21 members of the 2nd Regiment of the Australian Light Horse, including that of Trooper W. Keid.

The news of the Gallipoli landing reached Australia, and Leonard had made the decision to enlist after talking to his wife about it, and prompted by the receipt of an anonymous white feather. He was married with three children and would have been exempt but the fact that four of his brothers had gone was a strong motivating force in his decision.

Walter also thought the time had come to help the war effort and enlisted at Enoggera with Leonard. Both were posted to reinforce the 9th Battalion, with Leonard leaving Australia on the 5th of October and Walter on the 30th of December 1915.

Following training at Tel el Kebir in Egypt, the last two Keid brothers to enlist did not remain in the 9th Battalion with Harry and Ted. Instead, they were put in the 49th, a newly formed battalion of new recruits and veterans. By the end of March, following the tedious training in the desert, all four were on their way to Marseille. Guy was already on his way aboard the *Oriana*. The diaries and letters sent home by Australian soldiers tell of the extraordinary kindness and hospitality of the French citizens.

The spring offensive, otherwise known as the Battle of the Somme, began on the 1st of July 1916, and after three attempts by British soldiers to take Pozzieres had failed, the Australian 1st Division was given the job. Ted was with the 9th Battalion, but Harry had been chosen as an escort to General Birdwood, the Australian commander, and attached to Australian headquarters.

A paragraph from Cedric Hampson’s book, *The Brothers Keid*, quotes *“at the end of July while they were at rest behind the line the men of the 49th met those of the 9th Battalion who were on their way to fresh billets at St. Regar. This*

was the last opportunity for Lieutenant Leonard Keid and Sergeant Bennett Walter Keid to speak with Ted.The 49th spent its rest period in gas drill and in the inevitable route marching. Ted stayed with the 9th Battalion in France until the end of October when he was seconded for duty with the 3rd Training Battalion in England”.

Guy’s unit had become the 13th Field Ambulance in Egypt, and on 21st July he was posted to the 49th Battalion. It is thought that the three brothers, Leonard, Guy and Walter, would have had contact when Leonard and Walter came out of the line on rest.

Fighting was heavy around Moquet Farm with many unsuccessful attempts to capture it, and the Australians were to attack with three battalions including the 49th. The total Australian casualties along the Pozzieres two-kilometre ridge were 23,000 dead, and Leonard and Walter were among them. There was a belief in the Keid family that Leonard and Walter were killed on the same day and that Guy spent the evening in an unsuccessful search for their bodies.

The Red Cross was told that Leonard’s body was never recovered after the advance on Moquet Farm. A witness at the time said he was a strict *“disciplinarian but well-liked by his regiment. His brother Sergeant Walter Keid was killed in the same engagement”*. Their deaths are listed as the 3rd and 4th



of September 1916, and they have no known graves.

Sergeant Ted Keid took part in the Third Battle of Ypres. On the 1st of November 1917 he was wounded by artillery fire and admitted to 8th Canadian Field ambulance with shrapnel wounds to the head. He died the next day at the Casualty Clearing Station. He is buried at Lyssenthock Cemetery in Belgium.

Survivors return home

Guy, understandably, was profoundly affected by the deaths of his brothers and was sent to England from where he returned to Sydney on the *Nestor*. Army records simply state his discharge from the Army on the 15th of March 1917 was for "*Family Reasons*".

Guy arrived back in Australia on the 8th of March 1917. He resumed living at Chewton while completing his university studies in geology which took him to many parts of Queensland, Tasmania and Asia.

He was particularly successful as an economic geologist, and worked at the Golden Plateau mine in Cracow, in Banana Shire, Queensland, finally settling in Tasmania where he became the Chief Geologist in the Department of Mines.

Guy married Clare Kerry Dillon in Victoria and they returned home with their daughter Peggy after Grandpa Keid died in 1926. The three of them stayed at *Chewton* for a number of years, and Peggy attended All Hallows School.

Kerry was a very capable manager and organised a wonderful wedding celebration for Leonard's youngest daughter Elsie when she married Frederick Armstrong in 1935. He died in Tasmania in 1969.

Those who knew him had testified to his gregarious nature and his high achievements. The attempts to stifle the larrikin in him during his wartime experience in France brought him face to face with military punishment, but it seems that these experiences were accepted in his usual philosophical outlook while performing his duties in the 13th Field Ambulance.

Part of the obituary in the *Hobart Mercury* reads: "*Guy was a big man, big in heart, convivial and forthright, a raconteur with a fund of rare stories with astounding climaxes which always endeared him to the mining fraternity wherever he might be; and behind it all – a record of solid accomplishment in his profession*".

Harry had spent 20 months in France, where he was one of the casualties of the bitter winter of 1916/17. After a week at the General Hospital in Rouen for pneumonia, he was admitted to the War Hospital in Bath, England, where he met his future wife Laura Foyle who was a volunteer at the hospital, helping the patients with correspondence, reading to them, mending clothing and general support where it was needed.

He married Laura, whose father was listed on the marriage certificate as an engine driver, and Harry's father as "*Gentleman*", at the parish church in Wilsford, Wiltshire, and returned to Australia on the *Corinthian*. His discharge states "*Family Reasons*". The date was the 23rd of March 1918.

The Premier of Queensland, Mr. T. J. Ryan, had cabled the Queensland Agent General in London to seek the support of General Birdwood for Harry's return to Australia as he felt the Keid family had done enough.

Harry was the last home and he returned to East Evelyn to find his Winchester 38/40 rifle just where he had left it, and again started the scrub clearing that he had begun before the war. Laura finally arrived from England and she quickly embraced the demands of bush life without the comforts of a normal home.

Jane was born in 1919, and their first two-storeyed house was built following the birth of twins Ted and Hazel in 1921. Two more children followed, Peg in 1923, and Walter, the only one born in the new hospital at Herberton, in 1935. Laura was well-liked in the community and taught sewing at the local school.

A strained relationship existed between Harry and his sister Ethel, and his time spent at Gallipoli and France was probably the reason. Like many who have been involved in active warfare, he refused to talk about his experience



and would not attend Anzac ceremonies and parades because the bugle reminded him of the burials of lost mates in the battle field. Harry died in 1969 and is buried at the Herberton Cemetery.

Sadness at home

After the war, back home at Graceville, Charles and Mary – now known as Grandpa and Grandma Keid – experienced the sorrow that came with the deaths of four sons.

Their loss was well known in the community and one letter, written on behalf of the Sherwood Shire Council expresses the recognition of the grief they suffered.

Part of it says: *“It is realised how great your trial must be in the loss of four brave lads who have paid the supreme sacrifice, and whilst expressing the hope for the early recovery of this son from his illness and for a safe and speedy home-coming, the Sherwood council desires to honour your family for the great and noble part you have taken for the name of Freedom, Justice, and Liberty, in this great world war”.*

In acknowledging the mothers of Australia who had done their duty, Grandma Keid received from the Commonwealth Government a brooch with five bars, representing subsequent sons after the first enlistment. The names of William, Walter and Ted are among the names of the fallen at the Graceville Memorial.

The Keid family home, like so many other homes in Australia,

was a sad place when the war was over, as Charles and Mary grieved the loss of their four sons. However, they did their best to resume normal lives by spending many hours in the garden on their property that extended to the Brisbane River behind their home. They grew vegetables and many types of fruit. The large room under the house served as a storage place for jams and preserves that were distributed among the family, most often to Leonard's wife, Eliza.

Leonard's son Les was a favourite grandson – he is said to have been the image of his father - and he spent five years living with his grandparents until Eliza re-married, and he returned to live with his sisters. Eliza's life was not a happy one as she struggled to survive with the three children after her second husband, John Anderson, died. The Depression hit hard and the three children left school early. Les qualified as a fitter and turner, and joined the Australian Army. He died when the *Montevideo Maru* was torpedoed in 1942.

Grandma Keid is remembered by her grandchildren as a kind person, always interested in helping others. Apart from a minor stroke, she lived through her sadness with dignity and managed to keep herself active through the heartache she endured. She worked tirelessly for the Red Cross and hosted fund raising afternoon tea parties for both Christ the King and St Joseph's parishes, practising ecumenism when

bigotry was rife in Australia. There are reports of the roses and other blooms that graced the tables of guests, all came from her garden.

Grandma Keid preferred to be active rather than sitting with her crochet and tatting. She appreciated the support of her family, such as daughter-in-law Kerry who probably had Grandma's best interests at heart, but that did not suit Grandma. She decided to sell *Chewton*, and Harry came to supervise the sale. Ethel came to Brisbane and took Grandma Keid to live with her in Mareeba. Guy, Kerry and Peggy moved to Coorparoo.

Mary Elizabeth Keid [Grandma] died in Mareeba on the 2nd of December 1941. As she had pre-arranged, her body was brought to Brisbane and buried with her husband at Toowong Cemetery.

Epilogue

I live a few streets away from Molonga Terrace and pass *Chewton* often. The house is no longer on high blocks, but has been lowered to almost ground level, with the veranda overlooking a large green lawn.

The story of the Keid family and their contribution to the war effort draws comments from all who hear it. It is a story of the willing sacrifices of those who answered the call in 1914, six of them from one family in Graceville, who had one son resting in the Aegean Sea, one in a Belgian cemetery, and two in unknown graves in Flanders, before WWI had ended in 1918.



The World War One Survivors and Their Ladies Who Founded the RSL Sub-Branch





A Tribute to Colonel David Gifford Croll CBE VD MB ChM (1885 - 1948), Pediatrician, Pathologist, General Practitioner, Doctor-soldier and Philanthropist and Sister Marion Winifred Croll AANS (d.1954)

Based on an address by Major General Professor John Pearn AO RFD, former Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force, on the occasion of the unveiling of the Croll Memorial Precinct at Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch, Corinda on Sunday 4th August, 2006.

“A tower of strength in time of trouble and a man of sure counsel”

The Croll Memorial Precinct perpetuates the memory of a singular Queenslander. Gifford Croll and his wife, Marion Winifred Croll, had no children; but their philanthropy and legacy has enriched and will continue to enrich the lives of many.

Dr David Gifford Croll, always known as “Gifford”, was a pioneer paediatrician in Queensland, and the founder of the discipline of pathology in Queensland, as the specialty is understood today. A distinguished doctor-soldier, Gifford Croll contributed much to both the clinical and the collegiate worlds of medicine and health in the northern State.



He served as a senior paediatrician at the Hospital for Sick Children, later (1968) renamed the Royal Children’s Hospital in Brisbane, for 20 years. Also, his service in the Sherwood-Corinda-Graceville-Oxley region of Brisbane’s outer western suburbs is remembered by the thousands of families he cared for as their much-respected “G.P.” for 36 years.

Early Life

Gifford Croll was born a Scot in Glasgow in 1885. His father, Andrew Usher Croll, was a restless Scot who emigrated to New Zealand where the family bought a cattle property

on Mercury Island. Andrew Croll’s attempts to raise cattle were unsuccessful and the family moved to Waiheke Island, some 40 kilometres to the north-east of Auckland in the Hauraki Gulf. There, Gifford’s father engaged in general farming. The young Gifford spent his preschool and primary school life on Waiheke Island, never far from the sea.

He enrolled as a boarder at St John’s College, Auckland; but his father, again restless, emigrated to Sydney where the young Gifford completed his secondary school at that centre of excellence for gifted boys, the Fort Street High School. He matriculated to the University of Sydney and graduated with his degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery in 1910. While at the University of Sydney he enlisted as a soldier in the Sydney University Scouts, later to become the Sydney University Regiment.

A “G.P.” in Sherwood and Corinda, Brisbane

In 1910, Gifford Croll was appointed as a Resident Medical Officer at the Brisbane General Hospital, and was then subsequently appointed as the Medical Officer for the (then) Hospital for Sick Children, later (after 1943) the Brisbane Children’s Hospital and later (after 1968), the Royal Children’s Hospital. Gifford Croll initially lived near the railway line at Sherwood, the sylvan (as now) suburb at the outer extent of the expanding city of Brisbane. He lived in a big, low-set



home on Sherwood Road. He ministered to the people of the outer western suburbs of Brisbane for 36 years, less his time away on war service, as their “G.P.”. He was universally respected in this role, attending innumerable house-calls and was one of the best-recognised citizens of those outer western suburbs of the expanding City of Brisbane.

In 1912 he married Miss Marion Winifred Payne, a nurse and the daughter of the Secretary of the Brisbane General Hospital. She was to be his life-long companion.

It was recorded by Dr T.A. Price, a close friend of Gifford Croll, on both the Queensland and Federal Councils of the (then) British Medical Association in Australia that:

“Dr Gifford Croll was one of the best members of the BMA in Australia, a good example of independence combined with co operation, and, incidentally, a very pleasant man with whom to work. The main years of his professional life were spent as a general practitioner in the same district [Sherwood, Graceville, Corinda and Oxley] in Brisbane. [His style] when he was constantly overworked, was not to get an assistant or a partner [but] he looked round for a good reliable man who wanted to settle down in practice and invited him to become a ‘friendly rival’. The first man was such a success that a second started in the same way in the district. This

made it easy for all of them to get away for alternative weekends and to provide an efficient service during holidays or when sickness prevailed”.

In later life Gifford Croll moved to Joseph Street in Sherwood, on an extensive property with a frontage on the Brisbane River. He built a boatshed in his backyard, and brought gravel himself from the gravel banks at Seventeen Mile Rocks, to build a slipway in his back garden. There was moored the *Marion*, the auxiliary yacht named after his beloved wife. He loved sailing, yachting and all aspects of the river scene and took a keen interest in the Boy Scouts. It was said that:

“He was particularly interested in the Sea Scouts, and at the age of 60 was still able to demonstrate to the scouts that he could climb the mast of his yacht. He had a cultured mind and a rare gift of courage. Gifford Croll loved beautiful things ... the sea and all connected with it were his hobby and delight”.

A Pioneer Paediatrician

I wrote in *Focus and Innovation - A History of Paediatric Education in Queensland*, in 1986, that: “Dr D. Gifford Croll was another educational pioneer in paediatric medicine a man who worked indefatigably for the special place of children’s medicine in all aspects of health in Queensland; and one who, in the pre-chemotherapeutic days prior to the discovery of sulphonamides in 1932, and in

the context of his indefatigable role promoting immunization, ‘was a great innovator’ when it came to the management of children’s diseases”.

Dr Croll was appointed to the Honorary Medical Staff of the Hospital for Sick Children in Brisbane, initially as Out-Patient Physician in 1912. In 1913 he was promoted as Physician to In-Patients. After he returned from war service in 1919, he continued as a Senior In-Patient Physician until 1932. He served a period as Superintendent of the Hospital for Sick Children in Brisbane, where his citation of the Memorial Roll of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Medical Association records that:

“His work, at the Brisbane Children’s Hospital, on the treatment of diphtheria and plumbism [lead poisoning] was of outstanding merit”.

At the Hospital for Sick Children in Brisbane, he served with two other of Australia’s leading paediatricians who, also as doctor-soldiers, were national leaders in military medicine of their era. Those two colleagues included Colonel A.G. Butler DSO, the Gallipoli veteran who went on to become the official Medical War Historian of the First World War, and a founder of the Australian War Memorial; and Major (later Group Captain) Sydney Fancourt McDonald who served as Senior Physician also at the Hospital for Sick Children for 23 years (1923-1946). Each of these



three pioneering paediatricians and doctor-soldiers went on to be elected President of the Queensland Branch of the British Medical Association.

The Pioneer Queensland Pathologist

Prior to 1912, doctors in Queensland conducted their own urine and blood tests in the side rooms of their surgeries. Pathology Departments, as such, did not at that time exist in hospitals. Following his appointment to the Hospital for Sick Children in 1912, Gifford Croll immediately established the first Pathology Department in Queensland in the basement of the newly-built "Courier Block" of the Children's Hospital. His pathology associate, "Lulu" Crawford, as a young girl had been a friend of his family. She was to write in 1948:

"When Dr Croll came to the Hospital for Sick Children in Brisbane as a Resident Medical Officer, he was not long on the staff before he realised the need for some kind of diagnostic laboratory. He sent me a telegram whilst I was still at school in December 1911, offering me the post of 'Clinical Assistant' to the Hospital. This, in effect, turned out to be the first clinical pathological laboratory in any Queensland hospital. He laid the foundation of the Department of Pathology, based initially at the Hospital for Sick Children, which [from its site in the HSC grounds] was to serve all the hospitals under the Brisbane South

Coast Hospitals Board. In the year of his death, 1948, the staff of that Pathology Department had risen to forty".

Today, two of the biggest pathology organizations in Queensland, Queensland Medical Laboratories and Sullivan and Nicolaidis, together employ over 3000 staff members.

Dr Croll's pioneering work in pathology arose from the clinical diagnostic challenges that confront all paediatricians. In 1912, filariasis was common in Brisbane and every child who was admitted to the Hospital for Sick Children was tested for this blood nematode, the lifecycle of which had recently been established by Dr Thomas Lane Bancroft (1860 - 1933), working particularly at his laboratory at Burpengary, near the sea at Deception Bay. Tuberculosis was common, and "tuberculin tests by the von Pirquet technique were commonly done, but the bulk of the work was haematology, diphtheria diagnosis, typhoid diagnosis by the living culture hanging-drop method; and stool microscopic inspections and investigations for ankylostomiasis or hook worm". It was written by Miss Crawford that:

"Dr Croll, in his youthful enthusiasm, realised the place science would take in medicine in the future; and his inspiration, technical efficiency and sound knowledge were to see their legacy over the ensuing three decades".

At that pioneering laboratory at the Hospital for Sick Children, fronting Herston Road, Dr Croll's first equipment consisted of an incubator, paraffin oven, dry heat sterilizer, a Cambridge "rocker" microtome, and a hand-driven centrifuge. His laboratory made their own glassware connections and Miss Crawford and he developed and employed special skills of glass-blowing. It was said that "glass connections made in the laboratory for ward use [for drainage suckers and the like] should always have smoothed ends to facilitate quick use".

Gifford Croll was known as an inspirational person, and as one who while "always cheerful of the prestige of his little [pathology] department, wished always to maintain good relations with his colleagues of the clinical, medical and nursing staff of the Children's Hospital".

A Doctor-Soldier

Having trained as an Infantry Officer with the Sydney University Scouts, Croll enlisted as a Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps, in the Citizen Forces, immediately upon his graduation as a doctor. In 1912, he was appointed as the Officer Commanding 3 Medical Company, based in Petrie Terrace in Brisbane; and in 1914 was promoted to the rank of Major. Following the outbreak of the First World War, he served as Principal Medical Officer of the 1st Military District, based



in Victoria Barracks in central Brisbane. Photographic records exist showing his leadership in training of river crossings, including the ferrying of stretcher cases across the Brisbane River at Moggill in 1912.

In 1915, he enlisted in the First Australian Imperial Force as a Major and was appointed as Second in Command of the 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance, a unit which he commanded throughout 1916 and 1917. In 1917 he was promoted to Assistant Director of Medical Services of the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division. After the Armistice in November of 1918, he served into 1919 as Deputy Director of Medical Services for Egypt. For his exemplary service he was decorated as a Commander (Military Division) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Colonel Croll's influence between the two World Wars was also significant as he served as a natural role model for young doctors; and after the establishment of the Medical School in Brisbane in 1936, he was influential in his counsel and encouragement of the enlistment of medical students and young doctors at the outbreak of the Second World War.

In World War II, Colonel Croll commanded the Camp Hospital in Brisbane (in 1940), and after Pearl Harbour, was appointed as Commanding Officer of the 112th Australian General Hospital. For 18 months (1942-

1944), he commanded the 101st Australian Convalescent Depot. For his service in the Second World War he was Mentioned in Dispatches. He was transferred to the Retired List on his 60th birthday in July 1944. In the inter-war years, Colonel Croll was known for his special sympathy (and his own personal pride) in being the "G.P." to many returned servicemen and women. He had been an active member in the formation of the Sherwood Sub-Branch of the RSSAILA on the 10th of September 1919 and had given wise counsel about the formation of another inner western Brisbane branch, the Graceville-Chelmer group which was formed in 1927. This latter was subsumed into the Sherwood Sub-Branch of the RSSAILA in 1932.

Collegiate Medicine

Dr Gifford Croll was well known and universally respected for his leadership within the collegiate and political worlds of medicine. He served for 26 years as a Councillor of the Queensland Branch of the British Medical Association. He was elected its President in 1924; and in the year before his death, was elected to the prestigious office of Honorary Vice-President (1947- 1948). He represented the Queensland Branch on the Federal Committee of the British Medical Association and on its Council for 16 years (1926-1942). He is particularly remembered for his role as a Director of the Australasian Medical Publishing Company, in which he served for 20 years

(1928-1948). His role was influential in the maintenance of standards in the publication of the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

Always an enthusiast for the Hippocratic traditions of medical education, he was a member of the Medical Ethics Committee and a member of the Postgraduate Medical Education Committee, this latter established by the Senate of the University of Queensland. Another eminent Queensland doctor and colleague, Dr T.H.R. Mathewson, wrote of his collegiate service to the profession of medicine: "Dr Gifford Croll rendered distinguished service to the British Medical Association as well as to the community as a whole".

In his later years, Gifford Croll developed an interest in medical history, and wrote a biography of Dr Alfred Jefferis Turner, his former "Chief" under whom he had served when the former was a young doctor at the Hospital for Sick Children in Brisbane. It was recorded that in his later years:

"Dr Croll gave a large amount of time and trouble to his research in going through old records and journals, and such industry was known only to those with whom he was closely associated. The more he searched, the more impressed he became by the evidence of the amazing industry and scientific acumen of his old 'Chief', Dr Alfred Jefferis Turner".



A Philanthropist

Dr David Gifford Croll died in the winter of 1948. His wife, Marion Winifred Croll, remained in their home at Joseph Street, on the Brisbane River at Sherwood. On a visit to her sister in Singapore in 1954, the aircraft carrying her overshot the runway and she was killed. Marion had herself come from a “medical” family; her father Mr A.P. Payne, having been the Secretary to the Brisbane General Hospital. In the terms of Gifford Croll’s will, his home was to be sold and the endowment given to the Returned and Services League of Australia, then the RSSAILA. *(Records indicate that it was the former Croll home and surgery in Sherwood Rd that was bequeathed to the RSL. They occupied it from 1955 to 1965 before selling it to help them move to another home; ‘After meeting all charges, the whole transaction netted just over \$15,000 for the building fund’ - Ed.)* His home in Joseph Street was on two blocks, which were sold in 2004 for a combined sale price of \$5.3 million. His philanthropic bequest established the financial security of the Sherwood-Indooroopilly Branch of the RSL, whose members pay ongoing tribute to Croll’s philanthropy and generosity; and to his loyalty to his comrades and his foresight.

On the 4th of March 1976, the Croll Memorial Hall was named at the Sherwood Services Club, on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of that

service club in Brisbane’s west. The Croll Memorial Hall was officially opened by Sir Wilfred Kent-Hughes, himself a Military Cross winner and active militia officer who had known Gifford Croll for many years. With changes in structure, and the need for commercial impetus at the Sherwood Services Club, it was decided to purchase extra land fronting Clewley Street, where the “military” and “veteran” activities of the club would be more suitably conducted, than in the more commercial atmosphere of the Sherwood Services Club. Adjacent land was purchased for \$54,000 in 1973.

In 2006, the forecourt of the Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub-Branch Headquarters was re-landscaped, and a Memorial Wall erected, bearing the facade name of “The Croll Memorial Precinct”. It was formally opened on Sunday the 4th of August 2006 by Major General Professor John Pearn, himself a senior doctor-soldier who, like Gifford Croll, was also a paediatrician with former major interests in pathology, and who himself served as a Senior Paediatrician for four decades at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Brisbane. Today, the Croll Memorial Precinct also features the

Kokoda Stone, brought from Papua New Guinea, in tribute to those gallant Australians who fought on the Kokoda Track from July to November 1942.

A bronze plaque on the Memorial Wall of the Croll Memorial Precinct reads in tribute:

“Colonel David Croll, CBE, VD, *mid*, MB (Syd), (1885-1948), served in both World Wars, was an eminent Queensland doctor-soldier, and a staunch supporter of the RSL. His Wife was a Nursing Sister in the AIF in World War One.

Dr and Mrs Croll bequeathed their family home and surgery to the Sherwood sub-branch in 1954. The building became the sub-branch headquarters and was dedicated as *The Croll Memorial Centre*. In 1967 the title transferred to the new sub-branch premises at Corinda. Following various changes over the years, the title now attaches to this site in front of *The Harry Dalziel VC Centre* as *The Croll Memorial Precinct*-opened 6 August 2006 by Major General John Pearn, AM RFD, former Surgeon General to the ADF.”





Harry Dalziel VC

Based on the website created by Harry's son David at www.harrydalzielvc.org

See also: <http://www.sherwdipillyrsl.org.au/Pages/Dalziel.html>

DALZIEL VC, # 1936 Private Henry 15th Infantry Battalion 4th Infantry Brigade 4th Division AIF

“For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in action with a Lewis gun section. His company met with determined resistance from a strong point which was strongly garrisoned, manned by numerous machine-guns and, undamaged by our artillery fire, was also protected by strong wire entanglements. A heavy concentration of machine-gun fire caused many casualties, and held up our advance. His Lewis gun having come into action and

silenced enemy guns in one direction, an enemy gun opened fire from another direction. Private Dalziel dashed at it and with his revolver, killed or captured the entire crew and gun, and allowed our advance to continue. He was severely wounded in the hand, but carried on and took part in the capture of the final objective. He twice went over open ground under heavy enemy artillery and machine-gun fire to secure ammunition, and though suffering from considerable

loss of blood, he filled magazines and served his gun until severely wounded through the head. His magnificent bravery and devotion to duty was an inspiring example to all his comrades and his dash and unselfish courage at a critical time undoubtedly saved many lives and turned what would have been a serious check into a splendid success.”

(London Gazette:
17th August 1918)

Harry Dalziel was born at Ragged Camp a small mining camp near Irvinebank in North Queensland on 18th February 1893. He was a son of James Dalziel and his wife Eliza Mary (Maggie) Dalziel. While a teenager Harry, a talented athlete and horseman, won the North Queensland High Jump Championship. As a young boy Harry and his brother Victor were credited with discovering the tin samples which led to the opening of the Boulder Mine near Emuford.

Harry had a medium complexion, blue eyes and black curly hair. His religious denomination was the Church of England. Found fit for service by Dr Philip S Clarke, Harry was taken into the army the 22nd of January. He embarked from Brisbane on the 16th of April 1915 onboard the 6,953-ton London-registered steamer Kyarra, which took the 5th reinforcements for the 15th Battalion to Egypt.





Harry joined the 15th BN at Quinn's Post on Gallipoli on the 13th of July as Lance Corporal. In August the 4th Infantry Brigade led by Brigadier General John Monash attacked and captured Hill 971 and in doing so suffered a great number of casualties. A Company of the 15th then supported the 14th Battalion in their unsuccessful attack on Hill 60. Harry Dalziel was transferred suffering from rheumatism from the peninsula on the 28th of August to a hospital ship.

He proceeded to France on the 14th of August 1916 and rejoined the 15th Battalion. The 15th had just emerged from 10 days of heavy fighting at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm where the 4th Division had suffered 4,600 casualties. On the 9th of September Harry was appointed driver before his battalion entered the fighting at Flers and then Gueudecourt. Harry welcomed the respite from the bitter fighting as the Germans began to withdraw from their position on the 17th of March. Harry returned to his unit during the battle at Bullecourt, where the 4th Division had 1,170 officers and men taken prisoner by the Germans.

With the 4th Div, Harry was at Messines Ridge at 3.10am on the 7th of June when General Herbert Plumer exploded 19 of the 21 underground mines that had been positioned in tunnels that had been dug under no man's land beneath the enemy trenches. The Australian 3rd Division's Infantry attacked

from the right of the British line. They were joined by the 4th Australian Division and the New Zealand Division soon after. Messines Ridge fell to the ANZAC troops just 93 minutes after General Plumer detonated his mines.

On the 31st of July, as the battle of Passchendaele began, the heavy rain turned the battle field into a quagmire. Harry was wounded in the arm by shrapnel the 3rd of October and admitted to the 11th General Hospital at Dannes-Camiers. Doctors feared Harry could lose the use of his arm if they attempted to remove the shrapnel, so he was invalided to England on the 29th of October, rejoining the 15th Battalion in the field on the 7th of June.

Now with the doubling of the number of Lewis guns available for each Division, Harry Dalziel was allocated one of his platoon's Lewis Guns. The Battle of Hamel, although not a large battle, saw the introduction of a battle plan designed by the Australian Lieutenant-General John Monash. The 15th Bn were given the task of capturing a position known as Pear Trench. Some men managed to get through the wire before the attack virtually came to a halt in the face of heavy enemy fire from Pear Trench. This tactic brought the fire from the opposing German machine-gunners to a halt. The 15th then rushed the enemy trenches only to be held up by another machine-gun on their

left. Seeing this, Harry left his gun in the hands of his mate and, armed only with his two revolvers, single handedly rushed the German machine-gun, killing two of its crew and capturing the rest.

Harry was taken to the 4th Australian Field Ambulance where it was decided to send him to the 12th General Hospital at Rouen, France. Four days later, as Harry fought for his life, Lt-Col Terrence Patrick McSharry, Commanding Officer of the 15th Battalion, supported by Brig-Gen Charles Harry Brand, Commander of the 4th Division, recommended him for a Victoria Cross. Harry Dalziel's Victoria Cross was the 1,000th Victoria Cross awarded. The date of Hamel and Harry's bravery, the 4th of July, has particular significance for Americans, it being their Independence Day and at the time there being attached to the Australians "10 companies from US battalions ... to give the newly arrived American Expeditionary Force experience".

After lifesaving treatment in France, Harry was taken to England on the 19th of September on the Hospital Ship Panama and admitted the next day to the 4th London General Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, which catered for both military and civilian patients. On the 13th of December 1918 Private Harry Dalziel was taken to Buckingham Palace where King George V invested him with his Victoria Cross.



Discharged from hospital on the 5th of January 1919, he embarked for Australia onboard "Kanowa" and, arriving in Melbourne on the 7th of March, was admitted to the 1st Military Hospital. Harry Dalziel's World War One army service came to an end when he was discharged, classified medically unfit, in Brisbane on the 16th of June 1919.

On the 17th of May 1920, Harry was appointed to a temporary position in the Australian Air Corps in Melbourne but 29 days later he was discharged. Unable to return to his old job with the railways, Harry returned to Atherton and worked a small soldier's settlement block he called "Zenith". On the 8th of August 1920 he married 29-year-old Brisbane nurse Ida Maude Ramsay, a daughter of Richard John Ramsay and his wife Rhoda (White). During the depression years, Harry, like thousands of others, was forced to travel seeking employment. He and his brother (ex -# 58085 Pte Victor Dalziel) were trying their luck mining for gold in Bathurst, New South Wales when Ida's serious illness forced Harry's immediate return to Queensland.

In 1933 Harry joined the Citizen Military Forces and served as a Sergeant in the 9/15th Bn. With them he attended the opening of the Queensland Parliament as a member of the King's Colour Escort, being the first

VC to do so. While living with Mr Napier, 37 Railway Terrace, Milton, Brisbane, in the 1930s, Harry was a regular participant at the Brisbane ANZAC Day marches. Harry traveled to Sydney in April 1938 to march with a group of Boer War and World War I Victoria Cross recipients who had assembled from all over Australia for the ANZAC Day March.

A prolific writer of songs and poetry, Harry also exhibited his paintings and pottery at the Brisbane Show. Like many who had been awarded the Victoria Cross during the First World War, Harry, a War Pensioner, volunteered for service in the Second World War, naming his wife Ida Maude Dalziel, who was still living at "Zenith", as his next of kin. Aged 47 years and 4 months he was taken into the army on the 14th of June 1940 with the 11th Training Battalion. Made Sergeant, he assisted in training new recruits, and was a regular speaker at recruiting drives and comforts fund appeals. Harry injured his left leg in January 1943 and was admitted to hospital for treatment. From the mid 1940s into the 60s Harry and family lived at Ardoyne Rd, Oxley. In 1956, Harry sailed to London on SS Arcadia with 34 other Australian VC's. Back in Brisbane in September, Harry, a member of the Sherwood Sub-Branch of the RSL, officially opened the YMCA Camp Warrawee at Joyner on the North Pine River.

On 28 August 2003, The Hon Danna Vale MP, Minister for Veteran Affairs, opened the Harry Dalziel VC Dialysis Centre in the Greenslopes Private Hospital, Brisbane. The Officers club at the Enoggera (Brisbane) Army Barracks is named "The Harry Dalziel VC Club". The army barracks at Enoggera and Singleton in New South Wales both have roads named after Harry, as does the Brisbane suburb of Nundah. On the Atherton Tablelands, the Atherton RSL Club has a display of photographs of Harry and duplicates of his medals in the "The Harry Dalziel VC Memorial Bar". This bar was opened by Keith Payne VC. In a nearby park a mounted First World War Artillery piece stands as a Memorial to Pte Harry Dalziel VC.

On the 15th of October 2005, the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC officiated at the naming of Sherwood Indooroopilly's building at Corinda as *The Harry Dalziel VC Centre* in the presence of Harry's son David.

Harry was still living with his family when he suffered a stroke. He was taken to Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital, Brisbane where he died on the 24th July 1965 aged 72 years. Three days later he received a service with full military honours at St Johns Cathedral and at Mt Thompson Crematorium.



Maurice Little

Blind Hero of Gallipoli and Founding President of Sherwood RSL Sub-branch

By: Jim Gibson

One hundred years ago the name Lieutenant Edwin Maurice Little was recognised as the epitome of the Anzac spirit. In 1915 and throughout WWI his name was known by virtually everyone in south-east Queensland and beyond. Now, that fame has largely gone. Outside the ranks of the Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL he is virtually unknown. But his is a story that should be retold. In this centenary year of the end of WWI it is vital that the stories of those who forged the Anzac legend should not be forgotten but be recorded for the inspiration of future generations.

The story of Maurice Little is not just the story of a young Australian who fought at Gallipoli; it is the story of one

who was able to rise above severe personal misfortune to find meaningful life beyond war. And it is the story of another whose self-sacrifice, devotion and belief enabled him to reach a potential that otherwise may have escaped him.

Maurice Little's story came to light for this writer during a project to identify the names of the people recorded on the honour board of the Indooroopilly Uniting Church. The Indooroopilly Uniting Church was result of the 1977 union of the Indooroopilly Presbyterian Church and the Indooroopilly Methodist Church when Church Union occurred.

The Methodist Church there dates from 1876 and has a unique history as a dedicated Anzac memorial. It was formally designated the Anzac Memorial Church by the Governor of Queensland when he laid the foundation stone of the church on 29 April 1916. Of the 28 names recorded on the honour board, the name 'E M Little' was one.

A search of the digitised records of WWI service personnel revealed that E M Little's next-of-kin was Rev William Little, a Methodist minister of religion, the first settled minister of the

Methodist congregation at Indooroopilly from 1911 to 1914. The service record also revealed that Edwin Maurice Little was born in Barcaldine, Queensland. He was 21 years old when he enlisted with the 15th Battalion AIF. He left Australia as a sergeant on 22 December 1914 on board the troopship *Ceramic*.

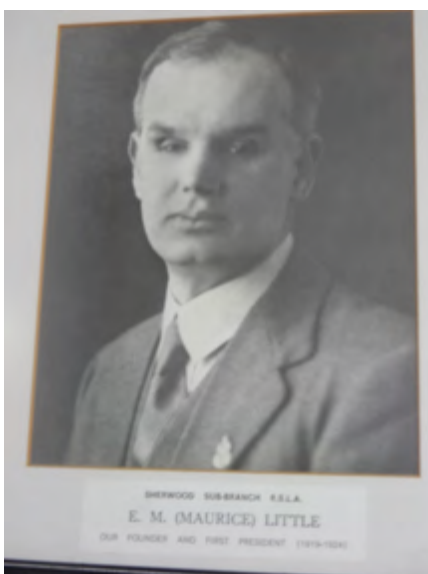
His record showed that he served at Gallipoli and was severely wounded on the 29th of May 1915 when a bomb – or hand grenade – went off in his hand before he could release it. The injuries he received resulted in the loss of both eyes, the amputation of his right hand, permanent stiffness in his left knee, the loss of teeth in his upper jaw and severe facial lacerations.

The severity of his wounds and his close association with the congregation through his minister father prompted further investigation. What action was he engaged in to receive such wounds? Where did the action take place? What recovery did he make?

Here was a man who was not killed at war, but was severely handicapped for the rest of his life.

What effect did it have on his future life? What do you do when you are returned from war, completely blind and without your right arm?

In researching the involvement of the 15th Battalion at Gallipoli, it became clear the battalion was responsible for holding that section of the





line known as Quinn's Post. This was where the opposing trenches came closest to each other – a mere seven metres! It was a place of intense fighting, where Turkish cricket ball bombs were used constantly, thrown or rolled down the slope into the Australian position. It was here the Australians countered with jam-tin bombs, crude grenades made with assorted pieces of metal, wire, glass and the like, packed with explosive into bully beef or jam tins and ignited by a six-second wick, lit with a match. It was one of these that almost took Maurice Little's life, and left him blind and maimed.

The internet site *Trove* revealed many references to Maurice Little.

At the time of his enlistment he was a school teacher at Gladstone, personable and popular, a respected member of the Gladstone Presbyterian Church, an athlete prominent in the local cricket and football clubs, and a valued member of staff at Gladstone State School. He was given a send-off party hosted by the Mayor of the town when he enlisted just six weeks after war was declared.

More information was gleaned from CEW Bean's official history which is available, digitised, on-line.

Bean's account of the 15th Battalion's involvement at Quinn's Post included a number of references to Maurice Little, who was promoted in the field to 2nd Lieutenant. The other

invaluable resource found when searching for references to Quinn's Post was the book written by Prof Peter Stanley, titled *Quinn's Post*. This book recounted in great detail the various actions that took place there, providing the context for Lieut Little's time at the front line.

On the 29th of May 1915 after being continuously in the trenches for five weeks, either in the front line or in the reserve, Maurice was caught up in a fierce action launched by the Turks before dawn. A mine was detonated in a tunnel dug up to the Australian trenches. The blast destroyed the front trench killing those who occupied it, then the Turks surged forward capturing that portion of the Australian front line. In the desperate counter attack that ensued, Lieut Maurice Little, who was leading a section against the invaders, was grievously wounded when the jam-tin bomb he was about to hurl at the enemy exploded in his hand.

Maurice was taken to the aid station on the beach and treated by Dr Guy Luther. Little lay on the beach all that afternoon and was evacuated that night on the hospital ship *Gascon*, to be admitted a week later to the Australian General Hospital at Alexandria, Egypt.

In the course of further research contact was made with descendant family of Maurice living in Brisbane.

That contact opened a window to a precious store of

information. In their possession was a collection of some 30 letters written initially by Maurice, and latterly by the nursing staff of the hospital on his behalf. The letters detailed Maurice's activities in training, his voyage on the troopship *SS Ceramic*, his time in camp in Egypt and the lead-up to his landing at Gallipoli.

Later letters, sent by his nurses after his admission to hospital, went on to advise Maurice's parents of his condition and his slow progress to recovery. Without their care and their diligence in writing, a vital part of the story of Maurice Little may have been lost.

Subsequently, it was learned the letters themselves had almost been destroyed. Lying in a box of unwanted household material, their historic importance not realised, they were discovered by chance and rescued before the contents of the box were discarded.

The letters revealed the dedication of the nursing sister who was on duty when Maurice was admitted to the hospital on the 7th of June 1915, more dead than alive. Sister Bessie Crowther sat down that night after his admission and wrote a letter to his parents, reassuring them that he was in good hands and that all that could be done was being done.

Bessie Crowther, whose formal name was Lizzie, was to become the driving force in Maurice's future. She applied herself to his on-going care



and attention and kept a constant stream of letters going back to Maurice's parents in Australia.

She revealed that she was a Church Missionary Society nurse working in the Sudan when war broke out, and when the wounded from Gallipoli began flooding into the Egyptian hospitals, she offered herself as a nurse to help with their care and recuperation.

Maurice's treatment lasted months. Despite the gravity of his condition and the dismal prospects of his future, Maurice never lost his inner sense of cheerfulness and determination to ignore his own misfortune. He never failed to impress those around him of his cheeriness and fortitude in dealing with his condition brought on by his crippling injuries. These inner qualities were noted particularly by two Brisbane Army chaplains who visited him during his hospitalisation and who wrote to his father to convey these sentiments to him.

Inevitably, affection borne of dependence and trust grew between Maurice and Bessie, and it must have come as a complete surprise when he learned that Bessie was actually 23 years his senior. She was born in 1870; he, in 1893!

She was old enough to be his mother. That revelation, however, may have changed the relationship that was growing between them, but it did not end it. Maurice

became acutely aware that any independence he was achieving was through the dedication of Bessie who saw to his every need. At some time in the future he would be discharged from the hospital and have to fend for himself with the well-meaning cooperation of strangers, or become totally dependent on the care his parents could provide. If he could take Bessie into his future, a measure of independence would be assured. He begged her to marry him – and she agreed.

Maurice was discharged from the hospital on the 25th of August, 12 weeks after his admission; totally blind and still unable to walk without assistance because of his crippled knee. Through Bessie's wide network of friends and colleagues in the Egyptian Anglican community, it was arranged that Maurice would enter a guest house-cum-convalescent home, called *Fairhaven*, on the outskirts of Alexandria. Operated by members of the Church of England, it was primarily a place of rest and recuperation for Church of England missionaries.

Bessie and her friends attended to the plans for the wedding which took place on the 18th of September 1915, almost a year to the day from when he enlisted. He was just 22, she was 45.

They were married in the chapel of the military barracks by a senior cleric in the Church of

England with the assistance of Chaplain Rev George Green, the chaplain at Quinn's Post who had ministered to Maurice on the beach at Anzac Cove while he was waiting evacuation. Maurice was carried to his place in front of the altar in a chair fitted with carry poles each side. After the wedding, a reception was held at *Fairhaven* for almost 50 guests. Apart from a cable telling them that he was to be married, Maurice's parents in Australia would know nothing of the wedding for another five or six weeks when letters would arrive home.

Maurice and Bessie finally boarded ship in Alexandria on the 19th of October, a month after the wedding. He was going home; she was going into a new field of service as wife and carer, to a new country and a new culture. As daughter-in-law, she was entering a family she did not know and had never met. She was making a huge sacrifice for Maurice, handicapped and totally dependent – a man young enough to be her son; a man she had known for only four months.

The ship they boarded was the *Kanowna*, the first ship purpose-fitted as an Australian hospital ship. Previously a passenger vessel on the England-Australia run, she now had wards and operating theatres and x-ray facilities for the care and treatment of patients. *Kanowna* had left from England and called at Malta before picking up the wounded and ill from Egypt,



including Maurice and Bessie. During the voyage home, Bessie was attached to the on-board nursing staff.

Prior to their departure Maurice had sent a cable to his parents advising them that they were married and on their way home. This information was passed to the press by Maurice's father and the newspapers loved it. The Ipswich paper, *The Queensland Times*, played it up in its issue of the 23rd of October. *Romantic war wedding*, they headed their article.

What must be regarded as the most remarkable romance of the war to date has eventuated in Egypt . . .

And it went on to describe the circumstances.

The courage and devotion of the blind soldier's wife and the splendid manner in which

Lieut Little has borne his affliction will awaken a responsive chord in the hearts of many . . .

Kanowna arrived in Perth on 12 November. Three days later the *Sydney Morning Herald* ran an article headlined: *An Heroic Nurse*. The paper declared ...

A remarkable instance of self-sacrifice on the part of a hospital nurse in Egypt . . .

And it related the story of Maurice and Bessie as told to it by an Army Chaplain who had been in the same hospital as Maurice.

. . . He [the Army Chaplain] had read and heard of acts of supreme self-sacrifice on the part of women, but considered that the nurse's actions stamped her as one of the world's heroes.

The story was taken up by newspapers around the country, and the legend of Maurice and Bessie as heroes of Anzac was born.

An interview with Bessie on board ship, published in a Broken Hill newspaper on the 19th of November, recorded Bessie saying:

I feel that this is my work. I want to make him fortunate in his misfortune . . .

The article was repeated next day in the *Ipswich Times* – the Little family's local paper. With reports such as these, it is not surprising that journalists made a point of seeking them out at each port of call around the Australian coast – Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. By the time the ship got to Brisbane, Maurice and Bessie were household names.

Maurice and Bessie arrived in Brisbane on the 28th of November 1915 and Maurice was taken off the ship in a chair fitted with carry poles each side. It was just six months since his wounding. Extensive press items reported his arrival and his return to live with Bessie at the home of his parents at North Ipswich, where his father was the local Methodist minister.

On the 9th of December, a civic reception was staged at Ipswich Town Hall to express the appreciation of the people to these two heroes and to make a presentation to them. The Town Hall was filled to capacity and the crowds overflowed on to the streets outside. Maurice was given a Bible written in Braille – 29 volumes, needing a bookshelf seven feet long to hold it. Unfortunately no trace of that unique gift has been found. It is unknown by the descendent family.

Later, in June, a second, similar, function was held in Brisbane at the Wesley Methodist Church. Hosted by the Governor, Maurice was presented with a lounge chair and a sum of money collected by public subscription to help furnish a house they had acquired at Scott St, Corinda.

Maurice's recovery was slow but sure and he began to accept requests to speak at functions about his war experiences and to support various causes relating to the welfare of returned servicemen. He became focused on the welfare of wounded men returning from battle. Always, he was accompanied by Bessie. At just 23, he proved to be an accomplished speaker, passionate and persuasive.

He was invited to be a speaker at the first Anzac Day proceedings held at Ipswich on 25th of April 1916 but had to decline because of illness.



Following the fearful losses at Gallipoli and then on the Western Front, recruitment numbers fell alarmingly. Maurice was one of those who believed that if reinforcements did not continue to flow to the battle zones, the soldiers at the front would be placed in greater danger than ever. He took a public stance in favour of recruitment and placed himself firmly on the side of compulsory conscription when that issue was put to the Australian people in the referendums of 1916 and 1917.

He became a representative of the National Referendum Council and was referred to as *Lieut Little, the blind hero from Gallipoli*. His appearance at public meetings was well covered in the Brisbane press. Despite his efforts, both referendums failed to win the support of the Australian people.

Four days after that first Anzac Day, the foundation stone of the Anzac Memorial church at Indooroopilly was laid and the church was opened on the 1st of September 1917. Maurice was a guest at the opening celebrations and took part by unveiling the church honour board that now bears his name.

Maurice was also alarmed by the level of community immorality, particularly the consequences suffered by wives and families at the hands of drunken husbands. He joined the movement advocating six o'clock closing

of hotels in an attempt to stem the amount of time men spent in public bars. Again he received due recognition in the press, but to no avail. Six o'clock closing was not adopted in Queensland, although it was in some, but not all, the other States.

Given his active involvement in these contentious issues, it is not surprising Maurice was approached to stand in the State election to be held in 1918. Despite his youth and his disability, he was selected to contest the Bremer electorate for the newly established Nationalist Party. Standing against an entrenched Labor candidate and future Premier, Frank Cooper, 24-year-old Maurice was never going to win; but he put up a good fight and took 35% of the vote. Frank Cooper held the seat for more than 30 years.

The plight of those blinded at war also deeply concerned Maurice and he formed an association with Sir Arthur Pearson, the leading personage in Britain promoting the welfare of the blind in Britain. Pearson had established St Dunstan's Home for soldiers blinded by injuries received during World War One.

In 1919, Maurice founded the Sherwood Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA) – now the Returned and Services League Australia (RSL) – one of the earliest sub-branches established in Queensland. He was still only

26. He became its inaugural president and was instrumental in the erection of the Graceville War Memorial monument. He remained in the office for five years declining to accept nomination in December 1924.

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Sherwood Sub-branch in 2009, the story of their foundation president was published in a booklet written by Ralph Fones. Titled *Optimism in Adversity*, it is a tribute to Maurice Little and his wife Bessie, and their positive outlook on life that overcame personal misfortune.

Maurice Little was a talented writer and an aspiring poet. In 1923 he produced a volume of his poetry titled *Sonnets and other Poems*. It was published by the Queensland Book Depot and released in Brisbane the following year. A collection of his lovely poems accessible on-line.

Sonnets and other Poems was favourably critiqued by the *Brisbane Courier* on the 25th of October 1924 under *Books of the Week*. In a lavish testament to the character of its author they described it as:

. . . the work of a brilliant lad who was blinded in the war. . .
. Every poem is of delicate workmanship with a gay lilt and a happy debonair spirit, full of sane and cheerful optimism . . . they will give pleasure to all lovers of poetry . . .

In 1925 he and Bessie left Australia, travelling to England where he entered Oxford to



undertake a University course in Economics. It is understood Bessie sat in the lecture rooms with him taking notes for him, but he did not receive a degree as he was unable to take the necessary examinations.

He was proficient in reading and writing Braille and taught himself to use a typewriter left-handed. Bessie and Maurice left Oxford in mid-1929 having lived there four years. Soon thereafter they went back to Egypt, no doubt to renew acquaintances with their friends there, and they stayed at *Fairhaven* where they had been married 14 years earlier.

In 1931 they returned to Australia after six years away, but chose to live in Sydney at suburban Burwood, rather than Brisbane.

Maurice and Bessie returned to England three years later, in March 1934, but they were destined not to see Australia again. They sailed from Brisbane for Egypt where they stayed for about three months before going on to England. Here Maurice devoted his time to writing, producing at least two short stories that were published in Brisbane newspapers, and an unpublished manuscript

titled *The Eleventh Plague*, a novel based on the clandestine activities of a drug-running syndicate in Egypt.

They lived for a time in Tunbridge Wells, then at Bromley in Kent and it was there that Maurice died on the 18th of August 1938. His death was believed to have been hastened by his war injuries. Maurice was 45 when he died. Bessie was then 68.

His funeral took place at St John's Church Tunbridge Wells on the 22nd of August and he is buried in the municipal cemetery there. An obituary appeared in the Kent and Sussex Courier on the 26th of August 1938, a copy of which was obtained from a member of the Kent Family History Society. In a classic case of misreporting it stated that he:

. . . was probably the first British soldier to be wounded at Gallipoli. He was taking part

in the first attack on April 29 . . . when, just as he was landing from the boat, a shell burst

under him . . .

Don't trust what you read in the newspapers!

Bessie continued to live in England another 20 years. In her later years she apparently suffered dementia and when she became unable to look after herself, Maurice's only sister Alice, then aged 57 and unmarried, went to England in 1952 to live with her and care for her; a self-sacrificing service that lasted five years. It is obvious Bessie had kept in touch with Maurice's family in the years after his death.

Lizzie Maurice Little – Bessie's formal name from the time of her marriage – died on the 6th of June 1958, aged almost 88. There is no knowledge of any extended family surviving her death.

The story of Maurice and Bessie is truly inspirational.

It is a story of sacrifice – the sacrifice of Maurice on the field of battle, and the sacrifice of Bessie who left her chosen vocation and devoted herself to his recovery. He overcame the scars of war to lead a full and meaningful – if shortened – life. She was the channel through which all things achieved by Maurice were accomplished.

Jim Gibson
May 2018



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REPORT No. 23/6/15
 Head of wounds at Saba Cape - Gallipoli
 A.F. 2.103 Received
 A.K. 2.200A Received
 CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF
 Cable No. 477-6588 Feb 1916
 "WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST"



NO. 673

NO. 630

NO. 673

NO. 630