

ANZAC DAY

IN THE RIVERINA & CENTRAL WEST



25TH APRIL 2024



Commemorative booklet proudly presented by
Michael McCormack MP
Federal Member for Riverina



BRIEF STOP: Light Horsemen coming to a halt outside Bethlehem in the Sinai region in World War I. Corporal George Frederick Pentelow brought this and a number of other images, including those on the following three pages, from the desert front when he returned to Australia in 1919.

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This booklet may contain names and images of deceased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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ON DUTY: South Australian Light Horseman George Frederick Pentelow (1894–1984) (with his horse, and inset) served in the Sinai and Palestine in 1916–17 and brought the original photograph of the burial of the two Diggers, reproduced on the following pages, home from The Great War. On the back, in pencil, he simply wrote: "Lonely Graves Hedjaz Line".



PICTURE CAPTURES ANZAC ESSENCE

LIGHT horses of the First World War to this day evoke such powerful imagery about the ANZAC legend and what it means to serve Australia in our darkest days.

Every one of those gallant steeds who went to the 1914–18 conflict gave their all ... and then some ... to the tasks they were asked to perform.

So many fell in the line of duty and ultimately only one, Major General Sir William Bridges's horse Sandy, made it back to Australia.

To not be moved by the historic photograph which graces the cover of this, the 14th annual edition of the Riverina ANZAC Day publication, as well as the feature story inside these pages, is to have something other than blood coursing through your veins.

Walers made such a significant contribution, especially in the desert campaigns.

Eternal gratitude must be given to what these equine marvels did and how they helped win the war.

Forlornly looking at the graves of their fallen troopers, these two horses show what embodies the ANZAC spirit and modern Australian Defence Force leadership and principles – service, courage, respect, integrity and excellence.

Over recent years there has been something of a resurgence in numbers attending 25 April marches and parades as well as interest in the day and its history.

Remember always, ANZAC Day is about sacrifices in all wars and peacetime service, too.

Gallipoli is a pivotal place and moment not just in our past, but also our present and future.

Each and every community across the Riverina and Central West pitched in enthusiastically to war efforts and, in doing so, guaranteed a proud military tradition to stand the test of time.

This booklet, by its words, honours the memory of the brave men and women who, by their deeds, provided so much so we can now enjoy the peace and freedoms we have inherited.

Michael McCormack

THE HONOURABLE
MICHAEL McCORMACK MP
Federal Member for Riverina
Shadow Minister for International
Development and the Pacific



*A day in the desert when
time, soldiers*



en
iers and horses stood still...





TEENAGE TROOPER: A handsome but also haunting image of boy soldier Clarence William Radburn who was only 19 when he lost his life in World War I.

BRAVE BOYS BURIED AS HORSES STAND GUARD

HORSES know.

They just do.

Amongst the world's most intelligent creatures, horses instinctively pick up very quickly on what is going on around them and the emotions of the humans with whom they come in contact.

They react accordingly.

The Australian War Memorial photograph reproduced on the cover of this year's commemorative Riverina ANZAC Day booklet is one of the most touching images of World War I.

It shows two beautiful Walers standing dutifully, quietly behind the grave markers of their beloved companions, fallen Australian Light Horsemen.

The crosses carry the names of Military Medallist Sergeant Louis Shannon Brook and Forbes teenager Clarence William Radburn.

Both men were killed when ambushed by Turkish soldiers whilst on patrol in Palestine little more than six weeks before the Armistice brought to a close the deadliest global conflict in human history at that point in time – the supposed “War to end all Wars” ... World War I.

The saddled horses had poignantly participated in the Christian burial, conducted by Army Chaplain and Presbyterian Minister Donald Dow.

When the funeral entourage departed, the horses remained ... mourning for lost mates.

The solemn sight was graphically captured on film.

The scene marked a moment in time when two devoted equine companions, loyal to the end, stood in sombre reflection in what no doubt was an eerie silence, the stillness punctuated perhaps only by the occasional zephyr from the surrounding hot desert.

Tragically ... remarkably ... the actual location of Sgt Brook and Trooper Radburn's burials is now a mystery.

Despite thorough notes being taken and maps drawn as to the whereabouts of the graves, authorities were unable to pinpoint them after war's end.

Tpr Radburn's father James received a copy of correspondence sent to Frederick Albert Brook who

on 27 March 1920 wrote to the Officer in Charge of Base Records, Melbourne, asking for photographs of the graves of his late son and that of Tpr Radburn.

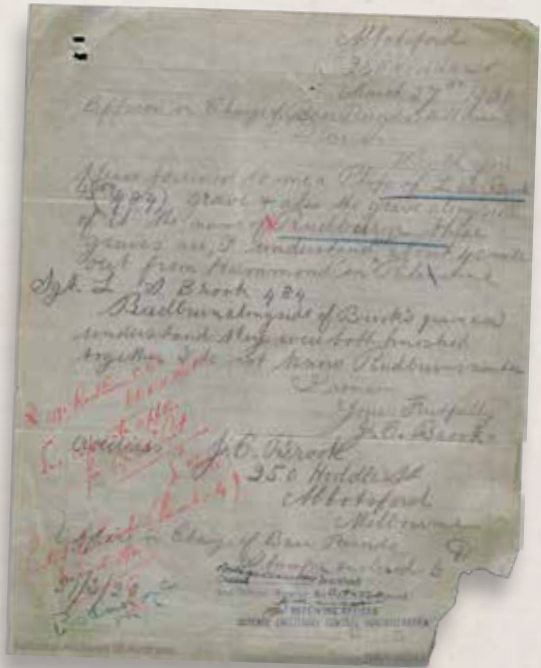
“These graves are, I understand, about 40 mile out from Hammond (sic) in Palestine,” Mr Brook wrote.

What Mr Brook could not have possibly known was how much careful attention had gone into recording the precise spot of the fallen men's graves.

Both Sgt Brook and Tpr Radburn's Casualty Form – Active Service papers state they were buried “in a Wadi at a point W of 1st Culvert S of 8 span Bridge about 5½ miles N of ZEIKA about 400 yds from Railway”.

That is very specific.

continued ...



A FATHER'S PLEA: Letter regarding the boys' burial.

A wadi is the Arabic term traditionally referring to a river valley.

The railway mentioned is the Hedjaz line, near Amman, Jordan, where the men were killed on 28 September 1918, although their original crosses were marked 29.9.18.

Despite the exactness of the details, grave registration units could not find the plots in 1922 by which time the crosses had disappeared.

“I regret to advise you,” the Base Records Officer responded to Mr Brook on 11 October 1922, “that notwithstanding the most exhaustive inquiries the overseas authorities have failed to locate the final resting places of the late soldiers.

“While no effort will be spared to further prosecute the search, it is felt on account of the considerable time that has now elapsed since the original application was received, that a refund of your remittance should be made, pending the receipt of a more favourable report.

“I am therefore returning herewith stamps to the value of 6d. (six pence), and it will be appreciated if you will kindly acknowledge receipt by signing and forwarding to this office the enclosed receipt form at your earliest convenience.”

Sgt Brook and Tpr Radburn were victims of circumstance – being in the wrong place at the wrong time – but the poignancy of their trusty steeds maintaining watch over their graves leaves an indelible mark on the legend of the Light Horse to this day.

These courageous country lads were not unlike despite the age and rank difference, as both were from regional families and both had suffered the loss of loved ones.

Their individual tales make for fascinating reading as their lives (and deaths) eventually became entwined.

Here is the background to how they came to being together on that fateful day ...

TRAGIC CHILDHOOD

Clarence Radburn was born at Neville, near Blayney, on 28 May 1899, the year after the marriage at Carcoar of his parents James (1874–1956) and Catherine, née Young, who was born in 1876.

Sorrow was a constant for the family.

In 1901 another son, Clement John, was welcomed into the world at Bombala but lived just 15 months, passing away on New Year's Day 1903.

On 20 August 1905, James Duncan Radburn was born at Grenfell. He would live a long life, serving in World War II – in 3 Australian Pack Transport Company at discharge in 1943, eventually passing away at Narromine in 1988.

Tragedy struck the family in 1912 after Mrs Radburn underwent an operation in Forbes Hospital on 7 December for hydatids on the liver.

Just 36 years of age, she took a bad turn and never rallied, her heart giving way five days after the surgery, leaving a grieving husband and two young boys, aged 13 and seven.

Mrs Radburn's body was taken by train to Blayney on the afternoon of her death and she was buried in Neville Cemetery with the infant son who had predeceased her.

On their headstone is inscribed “Lead Kindly Light” after now Saint John Henry Newman's 1833 hymn, which reflects on being “amid the encircling gloom”.

Sadly, an even deeper pall of gloom would descend on the Radburn family after Clarence, still a mere boy, went off to war.

In the meantime, James remarried, exchanging vows with Miss Byna Mary Sykes of Neville at the Carcoar Presbyterian Church on 9 June 1915, during the heaviest snowstorm in the town in many years, according to *The Leader and Orange Stock and Station News*. Byna would live a long life, passing away in 1977 in her 99th year.

TOO YOUNG FOR WAR

According to the Australian War Memorial: "During the First World War, the Australian Army's enlistment age was 21 years or 18 years with the permission of a parent or guardian. Although boys aged 14-17 could enlist as buglers, trumpeters and musicians, many gave false ages in order to join as soldiers. Their numbers are impossible to determine."

One such under-age enlistee was Clarence Radburn who was just 17 years and nine months of age when he put pen to paper at Forbes on 21 March 1917.

Clarence said he was 18, whilst listing his father as next-of-kin.

He was described as being five feet, 10½ inches (179 centimetres) tall and 10 stone (63.5 kilograms) in weight with a fair complexion, grey eyes and brown to chestnut hair. He was a Presbyterian.

Under the slouch hat and plume, his face shows a freshness yet certain intensity of one who had seen much and been through a lot, despite his youth.

Initial training for Private Radburn was completed at Menangle, a military base which has a fascinating but not well-known history of its own.

The Australian Light Horse Camp was established after drunken unrest amongst the troops at the Casula and Liverpool camps in February 1916, later called the Battle of Central Station.

These events led to 6pm hotel closing in New South Wales – a law that remained in place until 1955.

At 9am on 14 February 1916, at Casula Camp, it was announced to recruits the current training session would be extended into the evening, meaning a 27-hour stretch for some.

As many as 5,000 recruits refused to accept extra duty and went on strike to protest against what they felt were poor conditions at the camp.

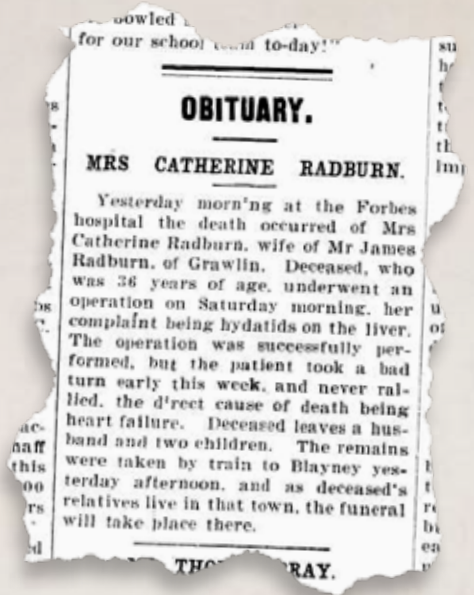
The soldiers left the camp and marched towards the centre of Liverpool, where they were joined by other recruits from camps around the district.

The number of protesters now reached as many as 15,000 and they invaded a number of local hotels, drinking the bars dry, refusing to pay and vandalising buildings.

The soldiers then took control of Liverpool train station, overpowered the engineers and commandeered trains heading towards Sydney, where they began rampaging drunkenly through the city streets.

Shops and hotels were looted and people were forced to seek refuge in churches to avoid the soldiers. Police reinforcements were called in and began battling the soldiers in Sydney's streets.

At Sydney's Central Railway Station, armed military guards found a group of more than a hundred drunken soldiers destroying a toilet block and demanded they surrender. A shot was fired by a rioting soldier over the heads of the guards and in retaliation the guards returned fire, killing one soldier (Private Ernest William Keefe, 26) and seriously injuring eight others. *continued ...*



SAD NEWS: A tearsheet from The Forbes Advocate of Friday 13 December 1912 conveying the tragic tale of Catherine Radburn's passing.



AT REST: The headstone marking the grave of Clarence Radburn's mother and baby brother.

This incident had a sobering effect on the soldiers and many surrendered to police and military guards, although small bands of soldiers continued to cause mayhem throughout the night.

Following the riot, court-martialling resulted in the discharge of 279 trainees. However, as Australia was desperate for recruits to fight the war, many soldiers escaped punishment and were sent overseas.

The only remaining evidence of the gun battle which took place at Central Station in 1916 is a small bullet hole in the marble by the entrance to Platform 1.

After the riots the Casula camp was closed and the troops in training were distributed to other camps, including one at Menangle Park, in February 1916.

Military authorities leased the racetrack from the Menangle Park Racing Club.

The course was relatively new, the first thoroughbred race meeting having only been conducted there on 6 August 1914 (two days after the start of Australia's involvement in the war) with Lieutenant Colonel (later Brigadier General) John Lamrock (1859-1935), who distinguished himself at Gallipoli and on the Western Front, officiating as judge.

It is now the site of NSW harness racing headquarters and has been the sport's showpiece track in this State since the closure of the 120-year-old Harold Park paceway on 17 December 2010.

OFF OVERSEAS ...

His training done, Pte Radburn embarked at Sydney on 11 June 1917 per the ultimately ill-fated 7,243-ton HMAT *Port Lincoln* A17 making her fifth and final voyage carrying Australian troops to the front.

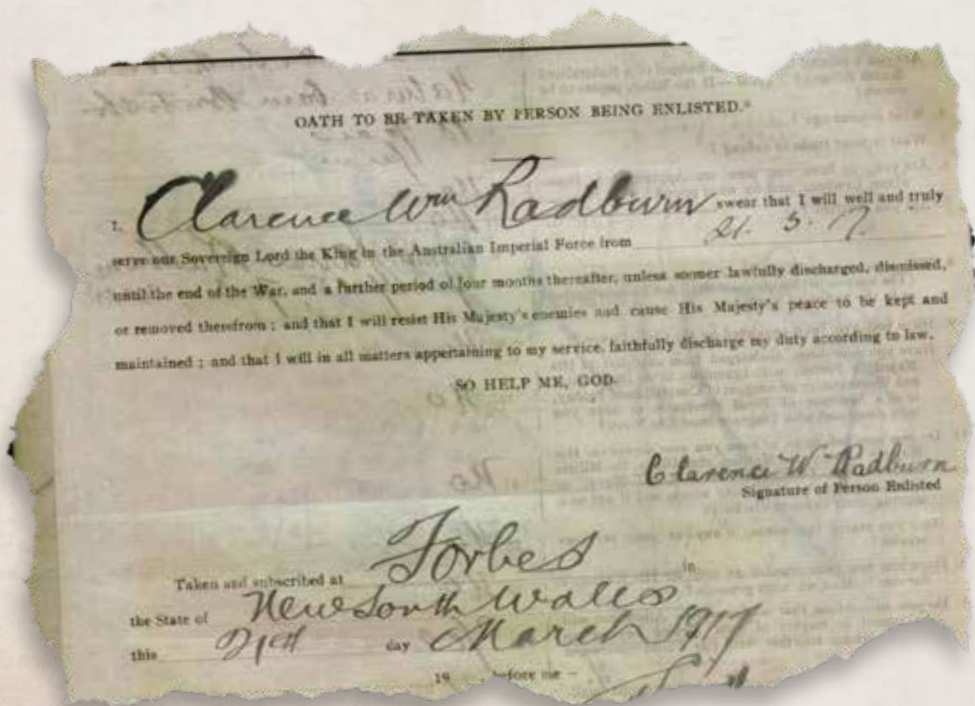
After the war *Port Lincoln*, built in 1912, changed names, with ownership, to *SS Cambrian Princess* in 1927, *Clan Graham* in 1930 and *Maritima* in 1938. She was torpedoed and sunk by submarine *U-522* 640 kilometres north-east of St. John's, Newfoundland, on 2 November 1942 whilst carrying explosives and general cargo to Glasgow from New York. Thirty-two crew members perished.

Pte Radburn, Service No. 3371, was part of the 33-strong 28th Reinforcements of the 1st Light Horse Regiment.

Amongst those 27 single and six married men in the back-up deployments were five other locals.

On board with Pte Radburn were Bert Broughton, a 30-year-old Henty farmer; Leonard Bell, 22, groom, of Wagga Wagga; Richard Beasley, 40, painter, Coolamon; Herbert Gordon Throsby Lamb, 19, bank clerk, Tubbul via Young; and Albert Donald MacDonnell, 37, farmer, Morven via Culcairn.

All left Australia ranked as Privates and all, except Clarence Radburn, returned safely home.



SIGNED OATH: Clarence Radburn's enlistment papers.

Of the five, London-born Private Beasley was the only one who did not see out the war, invalided back to Australia on 12 November 1917 on the troopship which had been converted to a hospital vessel, HMAT *Karoola* A63, suffering rheumatism and general debility developed at Gallipoli.

Pte Beasley was one of the many who gave an incorrect age in order to be allowed to serve. In his case, however, he understated his years and a 1917 Army disability document stated his true age at last birthday as 53.

FARMING FAMILY

Louis Brook was born at Pimpinio, Horsham, in Victoria's Wimmera region, on 5 March 1893, the second child of Frederick Albert Brook (1865-1929) and his wife Eliza (née Bullen) (1866-1945) who married in 1890.

Tragedy also befell the Brook family.

When Louis, known as Lou, headed off to war it was the last time he would see his sister, named Burly Vera.

Burly Vera was laid to rest after her death at just 17 years of age on 25 October 1916.

Her ornate grave, surrounded by ironbarks, is in a lonely corner of a small cemetery at Curban, between Armatree and Gilgandra.

It is a distinctive grave with four stone corner posts and club style finial tops and a steel bow and picket design fence including spear top pickets between the arched bows.

The marble marker includes her name as well as that of her beloved brother Louis, with "thy will be done" etched underneath.

When Fred Brook succumbed to a lengthy period of ill health, on 26 January 1929, *The Gilgandra Weekly* reported he had "settled in the Curban district some 20 years ago, having purchased 'Hillside' from the Victorian land syndicate which was responsible for so many excellent settlers in these regions". *continued ...*



BULLET HOLE: *The only remaining evidence of a gun battle which took place at Central Station in 1916 is a small bullet hole in the marble (circled) by the entrance to Platform 1.*

TOP SOLDIER: *John Lamrock was a horse racing official and noted leader of The Great War.*

The newspaper said Mr Brook left a widow, three sons and a daughter to mourn their loss.

“Of a quiet unassuming nature the late Mr Brook was regarded as a sound man of affairs, and an excellent neighbour, an ideal husband and father, and a genial and staunch friend, who was esteemed by all who knew him,” the *Gilgandra* paper wrote.

Fred and Eliza Brook are buried together in Preston General Cemetery, Bundoora, Victoria. Eliza’s epitaph simply reads: “A wonderful mother.”

Louis Brook came from good stock. Hard-working, trustworthy people.

His upbringing held him in good stead for the leadership responsibilities he would be given in due course in the service of the nation.

QUICK TO SIGN UP

Farming was the trade Louis Brook put down when he signed to serve God, King and Country on 28 August 1914.

Australia’s involvement in the First World War began when Great Britain and Germany went to war on 4 August 1914, with both Prime Minister Joseph Cook and Opposition Leader Andrew Fisher, who were in the midst of a Federal election campaign, pledging full support for Britain.

Mr Fisher, who would win the 5 September poll, was attending a public meeting at Coolamon when telegraph messenger Harry Jeffries burst into the hall and handed over an urgent message which read: “England declared war on Germany midnight last night.”

When he spoke, the Labor Leader, in response to Irish-born Captain John McGovern (1846-1929) shouting “Hear, hear!” to the news, said: “I am not one to say ‘hear, hear’ to war, but what I do say is, now that we know that

the war is really on, and that we are responsible for our share in the protection of the Empire, it is the duty of Australia to stand by the Mother Country to the last man and the last shilling.”

Private Brook was amongst the first to enlist, hence his low Service Number – 484.

He put his address as “Hillside”, Curban, with his father as next-of-kin.

Pte Brook’s signed oath, taken and subscribed in Sydney, was witnessed by then Major Hugh Venables Vernon (1877-1935) whose death, at age 57, in Sacred Heart Hospital, Young, was attributed to war service. H V Vernon was the fifth president of the NSW Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (now RSL).

Irish-born Lieutenant-Colonel John Baldwin Hoystead Meredith (1864-1942), soldier and doctor who was commanding 1LH, certified Pte Brook’s attestation was all it should be at Rosebery and the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) had another country boy amongst the nation’s best and bravest.

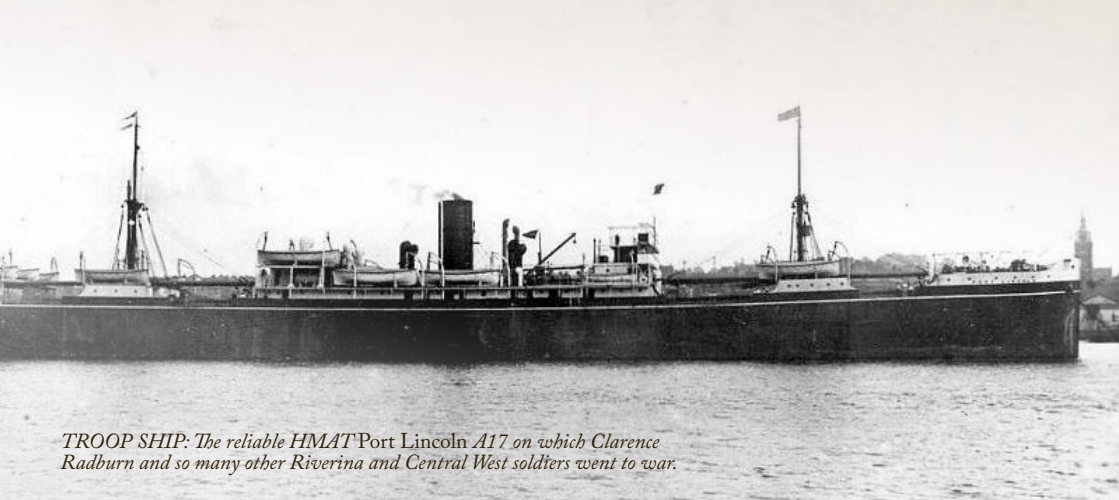
Pte Brook was 21 years and five months of age, 5’11” (180cm) tall and weighed 10 stone 13 pounds (69.3kg).

He had a florid complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. He was a member of the Church of England.

LOCAL LADS APLENTY

The AIF rapidly yet thoroughly readied the men for service and Pte Brook boarded HMAT *Star of Victoria* A16 with 153 others in 1st Light Horse Regiment’s C Squadron departing Sydney on 20 October 1914.

Star of Victoria, completed on 10 January 1914, weighed 9,162 tons with an average cruise speed of 13½ knots, or 25 kilometres per hour.



TROOP SHIP: The reliable HMAT Port Lincoln A17 on which Clarence Radburn and so many other Riverina and Central West soldiers went to war.

REST IN PEACE: The graves of Louis Brook's family members – his parents Fred and Eliza in Preston General Cemetery, Bundoora, Victoria and (bottom right) his sister Burly Vera in the small, lonely Curban Cemetery.



Requisitioned by the Commonwealth in 1914, she spent August-September being converted to carry 1,000 troops.

Under her original name and that of *Port Melbourne* (she was renamed in 1916), she made eight transport voyages from Australia commencing with the first convoy when she carried the 1st Light Horse Brigade to Alexandria in Egypt.

The ship was owned by the Commonwealth and Dominion Line Ltd of London and leased by the Commonwealth until 2 October 1917 after which she came under the control of the British Admiralty.

She saw service again in World War II and survived that conflict to be eventually broken up in 1948.

C Squadron, 154 men, included a significant contingent from the Riverina and Central West.

Amongst them were:

- Second Lieutenant Robert Hurley Wordsworth, 20, "Wongla", Cowra;
- Service No. 393 Sergeant Henry Glansville Bernie, 32, a carter from Cowra who hailed from Monteaqle near Young;
- 394 Sergeant Raymond Robert Matheson, 20, farmer, from "Binni View", Cowra;
- 397 Private Fred Barrow, 24, labourer, "Pine Mount", Woodstock;

continued ...



AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

818

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 480

Name

Louis Shannon

Unit

7th Light Regiment

Joined on

28. 5. 14

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name?

2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?

Deceased

1. Louis Shannon Brook

2. In the Parish of in or near the Town of *Pyramus* in the County of *Barossa, Victoria*

ENLISTED: Louis Shannon Brook was amongst the first to sign up for service to God, King and Country.

- 400 Private Henry James Chivers, 22, farmer, "Yarra", Cowra;
- 409 Private Charles Edward Gwilliam, 19, postal assistant, Brisbane Street, Cowra;
- 426 Private William Henry Peters, 26, labourer, Bligh St, Cowra;
- 430 Private Edward Lyell Roffe, 25, labourer, Bligh St, Cowra;
- 441 Private Trevor Leslie Todhunter, 31, grazier, Cowra;
- 442 Signaller Fred Harold Tomlins, 23, farmer, Cowra;
- 443 Private Percy Henry Treasure, 21, labourer, Holmwood near Cowra;
- 465 Private Ernest Cameron Moffat, 28, grazier, "Aloeburn", Boree Creek;
- 466 Corporal John Philip Sheahan, 29, Police Constable, Parkes;
- 490 Private Thomas Harold Geale, 22, station hand, Murrumburrah-born, whose parents were at Temora and he was living at Wagga Wagga;
- 493 Shoering-smith John Hutchinson, 36, labourer, Murrumburrah;
- 513 Private John Blenkinsop, 22, farmer, Boree Creek;

- 515 Private Tom Osborne Fitch, 27, wool classer, Tullamore;
- 528 Private William John Temple, 25, labourer, Edward St, Wagga Wagga;
- 530 Lance-Corporal William Henry Gray, 24, agent, Parkes; and
- 565 Private Edward Charles Manson, 26, sawmiller, Wyalong.

They were part of history – the *Star of Victoria* sailing in a convoy of 38 Australian transports or troopships (36 from Albany and two from Fremantle) and 10 New Zealand transports, bound for the Middle East.

On board were 21,500 Australians, 8,500 New Zealanders, 12,000 horses from both countries and medical and military equipment and supplies.

The soon-to-be ANZACs were about to experience the fight of their lives ... one not all would survive.

Sadly, of those C Squadron members with Riverina origins, Troopers Manson and Moffat were both killed in action on the same day in the same place – 18 May 1915 at Monash Valley and buried at Quinn's Post, Gallipoli.

Two others died of illness – one just before the guns fell silent across Europe and one a month later.

Staff Quartermaster Sgt Bernie died of malaria and pneumonia in Gaza Base Hospital on 21 October 1918 and Sgt Chivers died of endocarditis at Port Said, Suez Canal, Egypt on 11 December 1918.

IN THE FIELD

Thirteen days into his voyage, Clarence Radburn was recognised for his diligence with a promotion to the rank of Trooper.

He disembarked at Suez on 6 August 1917 and marched into the isolation camp at Moascar, near the town of Ismailia, Egypt.

Tpr Radburn's service was unfortunately interspersed with bouts of illness – on 1 December 1917 he was admitted to the 14th Australian General Hospital (AGH) at Abbassia, Cairo, with rheumatism, 14 June 1918 to the 31st AGH at Port Said with an inflamed stomach and on 10 July 1918 he was a patient in the Boulac Depot Convalescent Hospital suffering jaundice.

Pte Brook joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli on 9 May 1915.

He contracted a septic throat and was taken off the peninsula and admitted to the Mena Convalescent Depot with tonsilitis and then the Australia and New Zealand (the term ANZAC was not yet in official use) Convalescent Hospital at Helouan.

Discharged to duty on 4 December 1915, he was promoted to Lance-Corporal on 23 January 1916 before proceeding to join the Western Frontier Force.

This Force was raised from British Empire troops during the Senussi Campaign from November 1915 to February 1917, under the command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF).

Orders for the formation of the force were issued on 20 November 1915, under Major General Alexander Wallace, CB.

The force concentrated at Mersa Matruh on the coast and began operations against the Senussi in late 1915.

The triangle of Senussi activity centred around three points in Egypt – Matruh, Siwa and Sollum.

Mersa Matruh was the centre of the Allied operations against the Senussi uprising in Western Egypt.

The total Australian troop commitment to the Force was 1,283 on 1 January 1916; 1,441 on 1 February 1916; and 1,312 on 1 March 1916.

Fighting with the Desert Mounted Corps, an ANZAC Division, the newly promoted Sgt Brook was wounded in action during the six-day Battle of Tel el Khuweilfe, part of the Southern Palestine Offensive, which began on 1 November 1917, the day after the EEF victory at the Battle of Beersheba, which included the famous charge of the Australian Light Horse, during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign.

After a stalemate in Southern Palestine, a series of co-ordinated offensives were launched by British Empire units on the Ottoman Empire's German-commanded Yildirim Army Group's front line, which stretched from Gaza inland to Beersheba.

During the exchanges, the road from Beersheba to Jerusalem via Hebron was cut just north of the town in the southern spur of the Judean Hills. Here, Ottoman units strongly defended the road and the Seventh Army headquarters at Hebron.

Over ensuing days, attacks by the 53rd (Welsh) Division, the ANZAC Mounted Division and the 5th Mounted Brigade (Australian Mounted Division) attempted to capture the Tel el Khuweilfe position. Attacks were made by the British infantry and Yeomanry cavalry, and Australian and New Zealand mounted brigades.

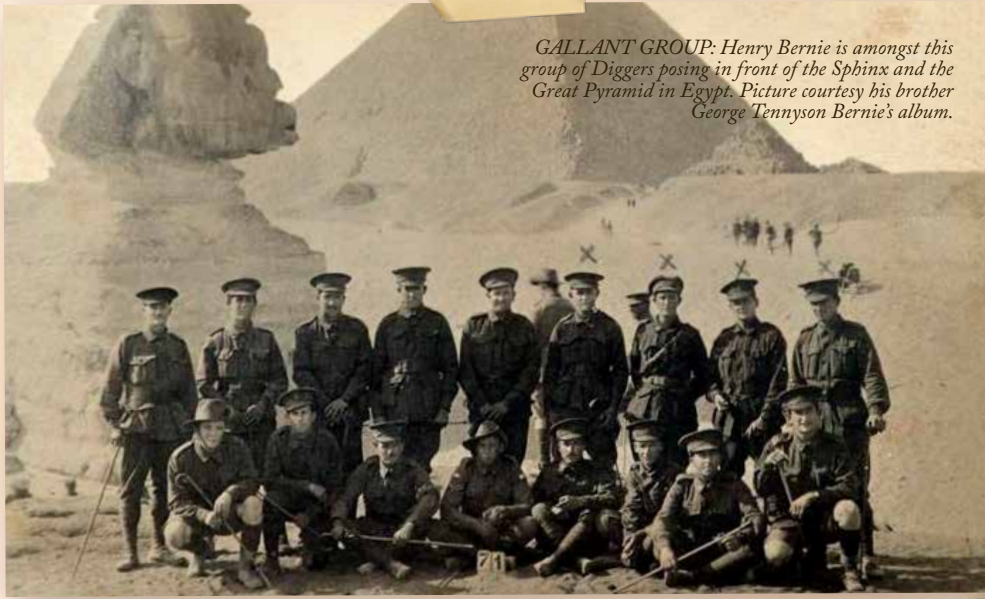
Despite their failure to dislodge the Ottoman defenders, the continuing pressure pulled in Ottoman reserves, which could have made the EEF attacks at Gaza during the night of 1-2 November, and at Hareira and Sheria on 6-7 November, more fiercely contested.

Sgt Brook was admitted to the 35th Casualty Clearing on 3 November with a gunshot wound to the left side of his chest, near the armpit. *continued ...*



TROOP CARRIER: The sturdy HMAT Star of Victoria A16 which was part of the original convoy of ANZAC ships to World War I.

GALLANT GROUP: Henry Bernie is amongst this group of Diggers posing in front of the Sphinx and the Great Pyramid in Egypt. Picture courtesy his brother George Tennyson Bernie's album.



ILL-FATED: (above) Private Henry Chivers who died of disease in Egypt a month after hostilities ceased.



RETURNED: (left) Private Tom Fitch made it home in October 1915 discharged medically unfit after fracturing ribs at Gallipoli.

On 6 November, in co-ordination with the attacks on Hareira and Sheria, the 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division, with the Imperial Camel Brigade covering their flanks, made another inconclusive assault with artillery support. This fight continued the following day, until the Ottoman defenders began to withdraw, as a consequence of the loss of Hareira, the evacuation of Gaza and the weakening of the Sheria position, all of which threatened to outflank the Tel el Khuweilfe position.

Ultimately, it was a victory for the British Empire forces.

Describing some of the action during this battle in the *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18*, Volume VII, Sinai and Palestine, Sir Henry Somer (Harry) Gullett (1878-1940) eloquently wrote: "But there is compensation in the thought of the splendid dash and daring with which the mounted machine-gunners raced their teams forward to almost certain destruction under a hail of fire, and in the magnificent fashion in which they served their guns within forty yards of the Turkish line. In every engagement in the long campaign this spirit distinguished the light horse machine-gun squadrons. In fight after fight their support alone made the advance of the sparse lines of riflemen possible; wherever the adventurous Light Horseman went, he knew that galloping close at hand were the heavily burdened pack-horses of the gunners, ready to come into action a few moments after a halt was ordered."

After his initial hospitalisation for treatment, in the following weeks Sgt Brook spent time in the 43rd



SIBLINGS: Signaller Fred Tomlins with his sister, Jessie, of the Australian Army Nursing Service.

SURVIVED WAR: (top) Private Percy Treasure returned to Australia on 15 November 1918 via HT Port Darwin with three other C Squadron members, Shoeing-Smith John Hutchinson, Corporal John Sheahan and Signaller Fred Tomlins.

WARRIOR: (bottom) Private Edward Roffe saw action at Gallipoli, in the Desert Campaign and on the Western Front.



Stationary Hospital, then the 44th, 14th AGH and British Red Cross Convalescent Depot before being taken on strength to the Desert Mounted Corps at Port Said on 8 December 1917.

On 11 May 1918 Sgt Brook joined the 1st Light Horse Training Regiment for, as his papers detailed, cadre duty (menial tasks) at Moascar.

He marched out to rejoin his regiment in the field on 10 August.

DIED AS HEROES

And so it came to be Sgt Brook was added to what was called Chaytor's Force, named after its commander, Major General Edward "Fiery Ted" Chaytor (1868-1939), a renowned military commander of New Zealand troops in the Boer War and the First World War.

This unit, comprising 11,000 men, was a composite division-sized force which served in the EEF during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign and was detached from the Desert Mounted Corps for deception operations.

Chaytor's Force operated from 13 August to 31 October 1918.

Three days before what would be his final day, Sgt Brook demonstrated his true mettle, deservedly earning a Military Medal.

continued ...



TRUE ANZAC: Private Ernest Moffat lost his life at Gallipoli.

'FIERY TED': General Edward Chaytor



His recommendation for the award read: "At Amman on 25/9/18 for devotion to duty and gallantry in that he, after his troop had passed through a wire entanglement coming under heavy machine gun fire and were unable to withdraw, showed great merit and initiative in cutting the wire while under heavy machine gun fire thus enabling his troop to retire to base."

It was this heroism that led Light Horse comrades such as Trooper William McTaggett, who was a Redfern carter before the war, to comment after Sgt Brook's death: "The Sergeant was popular and his death caused a gloom in the regiment."

Tpr McTaggett, from his sick bed in 14th AGH on 14 November 1918, reported for the Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files that: "He (Sgt Brook) and another man went into a village on the left flank of Amman, as a patrol, to see there were no Turks and they were both shot in the back by Bedouins and killed instantly."

Twelve days later, from the same hospital, Trooper Alister Hall Ross of the 1st LHR's Machine Gun Squadron and a cattle dealer from Muswellbrook, said: "we heard a couple of shots fired and we rushed round to where they were fired and saw him and the trooper lying dead ... It was about 15 miles above Amman close to the station of Mafrak. We saw some Bedouins getting away as quickly as possible and we raced after them ..."

Tpr Ross reported that two of the Bedouins "got away on camels" on account of, as Sergeant Robert Stanley Trethewey, a labourer from Orange, reported, "rough country".

Sergeant Major William Clifford Jones, a butcher from Dungog, said as many as 24 Bedouins had paid the ultimate price for the ambush.

Of Sgt Brook, Corporal William Hardy, a butcher who was born at Hill End and who was in the 14th AGH with malaria, summed up the feeling of all on 12 November when he said of Sgt Brook: "He was a universal favourite."

Major Andrew Kerr Butter, a Trangie farmer, agreed, saying: "Brook was a well liked chap."

Lieutenant Stewart Robertson Macfarlane, a grazier who lived in Sydney, said: "I was not present but was told of it the following day by Lt (George Herbert Somerville) Cundy who saw it happen. I also heard it from Lt (Hubert Ernest) Frost who also saw it happen. They took the squad out and buried these two men where they fell. They were buried by Maj. (Geoffrey Hamlyn Lavicount) Harris MC. Official intimation of Brook's decoration came through in orders the day after he was killed."

Major Harris (1881-1964), who oversaw the burials, was born on the Tumut Plains, became a grazier there and served in both the Second Boer War (South African War) of 1899-1902 as a trooper in the First Australian Horse as well as World War I after which



EYE WITNESS: Lieutenant George Cundy

he commanded the 7th Light Horse (Australia Horse) Regiment, a militia unit.

Evidence in relation to the deaths of Sgt Brook and Tpr Radburn was also given to the Red Cross by Sergeant John Francis Clancey, a driver from Gilgandra, Trooper Ralph Coote, blacksmith and floorman from Orange, Reverend Donald Dow, Temporary Corporal Ernest Albert Parmiter, Wagga Wagga boundary rider, and Trooper Clyde Gilford Ortleby Stafford, farmer from Binnaway.

The sad news was conveyed to Tpr Radburn's father and stepmother by Presbyterian Minister, the Reverend James Thomas Thorburn (1860-1935), who received the awful intelligence late in the evening of Wednesday 2 October and journeyed out to "Fairfield", Grawlin, that night.

"Much sympathy is felt in theirs and the nation's loss," eulogised *The Forbes Times* of 4 October.

BRAVE CHAPLAIN

Rev. Dow, born at Abbotsford in Victoria on New Year's Eve 1879, was 38 when he left Sydney per SS *Port Lyttleton* on 24 June 1918.

How he managed to serve as a chaplain for the AIF is worth re-telling.

The Gippslander and Mirboo Times of 20 June 1918 reported his recruitment thus:

"The Rev. Donald Dow, who put in several years in Mirboo North, has been accepted as a chaplain for active service in Egypt and Palestine. He preached here a couple of Sundays back. The following, taken from last Friday's 'Messenger,' should prove most interesting reading to his many local friends:-

"The appointment and departure of Chaplain Donald Dow for special service in Egypt and Palestine has a bit of romance behind it, and, as the Chaplain-General says, is 'the smartest and promptest piece of work that has been done in connection with appointment of chaplains for the front.' Mr Dow completed his theological course at Ormond College so recently as 1910. From the beginning of the war his name has been on the list of applicants for a chaplaincy, and was often before the Executive, but somehow it never secured selection, though he had the special claim of having been trained in the Commonwealth Forces. When he left his home at Mansfield to attend the General Assembly he little dreamt that a sudden call to the far-away front was in store for him. On the afternoon of Thursday, the Chaplain-General received this phone message from the Adjutant General's Department: 'Please nominate special chaplain for Egypt; must be good rider, and ready to go at short call,' Dr Rentoul replied, 'How long can you give me? I must range over the six States of Australia for a good rider.' The answer was, 'Till Saturday at latest, urgent!' Thereupon the Chaplain General bethought him that the General Assembly was then in session, and its Moderator happened to be Senior-Chaplain for Victoria. So he phoned to Colonel Macrae Stewart asking him to state the facts to the Assembly, and 'to ask if any of the Victorian chaplains recently nominated could ride, and was willing to go to Egypt?'

continued ...



SAW IT HAPPEN: Trooper Hubert Frost who witnessed the tragedy.



SOMBRE ROLE: Major Geoffrey Harris MC oversaw the burials of Sergeant Louis Brook and Trooper Clarence Radburn.

“Or, failing that, was any of the Victorian applicants able to ride, and willing to go to Egypt?” This message a lady typist at the Assembly Office took down, and sent it in to the Moderator. So the message was read to the Court, and the pursuit of the quest entrusted to the effective energy of Chaplain R Wilson Macaulay. After meeting with some refusals, Mr Macaulay lighted upon Donald Dow, and, like a soldier and a man, Donald Dow answered at once to the call. Early next day he was in the Chaplain-General’s study filling in the military form of application, and working out the various details of uniform, outfit, embarkation, parade service, and so forth.

“I’m glad we have found you,” said the Chaplain-General. “You are the true type of an officer and a chaplain. But I regret that you have to go into Egypt in the worst season of its heat. August, September and October are bad in Egypt and Syria. Are you sure you can face it?” Then Donald Dow answered with a quiet smile, and a certain tremor of the lips, “If I shirked this call I could not go back home and face my wife. She’s Stanley Reid’s sister, and has had two brothers killed in battle. And I could not face my own-self!” Then silence fell, and then the Chaplain-General said to his ex-student, “You have said, and done a fine thing! ‘Stan Reid’ rode through the dangerous ‘donga’ in South Africa the Dutch burghers call ‘hell,’ and saved a British position. And I have no doubt you so will save men!”



RELAYED TRAGIC MESSAGE: Reverend James Thorburn

“That very afternoon of Friday, Donald Dow, at headquarters, was made Chaplain to the AIF, and his preparations were gladly expedited by Major Macfarlane, who, himself of Highland blood, formed a large estimate of this straight, lithe, quietly effective young Highland-Australian officer, Chaplain Donald Dow. It is also, they think at headquarters, a great advantage that he has been trained in the Commonwealth Defence Forces. By the time this is published, he will be at sea, on his way to the far Eastern front.”

Rev. Dow returned to Australia on 29 April 1919. The husband of Winifred and father of Betty and Stewart, he died on 19 June 1955, aged 75, and was buried with his parents, Thomas and Agnes, in Boroondara General Cemetery at Kew.

LEGENDARY

The deeds of Clarence Radburn and Louis Brook belong to the ages.

Their lives are long over but their legacies will stand the test of time as a shining example to others of what the spirit of the Light Horsemen meant and the part they played in winning the war.

They now belong in the pantheon of Light Horse legends.

Tpr Radburn’s war-time effects comprising, amongst other things, a camera, a diary, Testament, wallet containing four foreign notes, damaged gold wristwatch, three badges, postcards and letters were returned to his father on 17 March 1919.

Sgt Brook’s last possessions came in two lots – a box in hessian which was despatched via HMAT *Wiltshire* A18 on Boxing Day 1918 and an envelope which arrived at Curban on 19 September 1919.

The box contained a fur waistcoat, leather waistcoat, two tunics, a pair of breeches, parts of rifle pieces, two damaged watches, mittens, a soap tin, devotional book, coins including three Turkish sovereigns, mirror, two charms and a ribbon, badges and photos.

The inventory of effects states: “The sum of five shillings was extracted from this kit and forwarded to staff pay office, Cairo.”

The second package, in paper, included his identity disc, brushes in a leather case, badge, bell, buttons and a timetable.

Sgt Brook’s Military Medal was received by his father in 1920.

Tpr Radburn and Sgt Brook are remembered at the Jerusalem Memorial, Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel, which contains 2,514 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 100 of them known unto God.

The subjects of this feature are amongst the 3,300 Commonwealth servicemen who died during World War I in operations in Egypt or Palestine and who have no known grave.

Their names are also in bronze on Panel 2 of the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and on their place of association war memorials, at

Forbes and Gilgandra, respectively.

As for the two steadfast horses and all the other magnificent Light Horses, only one made it back home.

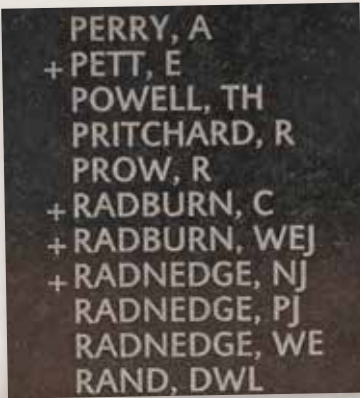
The lone returnee was Sandy, whose owner Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges died at sea in 1915 from wounds sustained at Gallipoli.

Sandy, from Tallangatta in north-east Victoria, was one of 6,100 horses sent to Gallipoli but very few of the animals were put ashore. The horses were returned to Alexandria and from there Sandy went to France in 1916, then to England and back to Australia where he saw out his days, being turned out to graze and live peacefully until his death, in May 1923, at the Central Remount Depot at Maribyrnong in Victoria.

However, a well-researched article headed "They shot the horses – didn't they?" by Jean Bou in the Australian War Memorial's *Wartime* magazine of Spring 2008 – www.awm.gov.au/wartime/44/page54_bou – dispelled the myth that all of the horses were destroyed then and there.

It is worth reading.

The Light Horse story is a truly Australian story and a country one at that. It is why many Riverina communities still honour the memory of the Light Horse and why, locally, Harden-Murrumburrah and Wagga Wagga in particular have erected life-sized statues to commemorate their fame and preserve and protect these mighty steeds for all to see and admire for all time.



CHAPLAIN: Reverend Donald Dow laid to rest our Light Horse legends.

HOMETOWN HERO: Clarence Radburn is remembered at the Forbes War Memorial and also (below) on the Honour Roll at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, as is the man slain alongside him, Louis Brook.



PRICE J.L.
QUARMBY
RADBURN C.W.
RAFFERTY J.J.
RANDALL C.H.

WAGGA WAGGA SON



DETERMINED: Private Bill Wheeler, who did his family and town proud.

WILLIAM Wheeler from Wagga Wagga.

It has a certain ring to it ... a sense of charm.

And Bill James Wheeler had plenty of character ... and so many other attributes besides.

He was brave, daring, resilient and tough.

Bill was a Digger ... an ANZAC ... a Kangaroo.

Born on 28 July 1893 in Wagga Wagga, he was the first son and second child of George Wheeler (1862-1960) and his wife Sarah Elizabeth née Tilden (1868-1944).

The couple had seven children in 18 years, but Bill was the only boy to survive beyond infancy.

Bill's sisters were Annie (born 1892), Margaret (1900), Maria (1903), Alice (1905) and Mary known as Molly (1910).

His brother George died at just 10 days old in 1907.

George and Sarah ran the Royal Hotel on the corner of Baylis and Forsyth streets, having previously leased the Prince of Wales Hotel. The family lived on Best Street.

Bill's enlistment papers described him as 22 years and four months of age, weighing eight stone, two pounds (51.7 kilograms) and being five feet, four inches (162.5 centimetres) tall.

He signed on at Wagga Wagga on 1 December 1915 – a famous military date in this famous military town.

This was the day the Kangaroo March left Wagga Wagga with 88 courageous souls, including Private Wheeler, as the original cohort of what became a historic contingent in the Australian Imperial Force's 55th Battalion.

The Kangaroos' trek – 560 kilometres (350 miles) – was the longest of the World War I recruiting marches.

Its members would serve with distinction on the Western Front, earning a Victoria Cross (John Ryan of Tumut), seven Military Medals and two Distinguished Conduct Medals.

Pte Wheeler left Sydney per HMAT *Ceramic* A40 on 14 April 1916 with the 55th Battalion's 2nd Reinforcements of 152 men – 58 of whom gave their address as Wagga Wagga or a property on the outskirts of town.

These men included three sets of brothers – Charles and Edward Fitzgerald, Allan and Leslie Jackson and Herbert and Thomas Oakman – all of whom, thankfully, made it home when their duty was done.

Pte Wheeler disembarked at Port Said in Egypt on 16 May 1916 and the following month boarded HMT *Arcadian* at Alexandria for Southampton.



CONVALESCING: Bill Wheeler (front, right) nurses his wounded arm in an English hospital.

A KANGAROO HERO

From England, Pte Wheeler went to Étapes in northern France, arriving on 11 September and taken on strength into the unit with which he sailed.

He was now in the thick of it on the Western Front, where no quarter was given nor asked.

On 18 May 1917, his unit needed to move to the front line between Noreuil and Bullecourt with the least dangerous access being via a sunken road, one section of which was exposed to the German guns.

As Pte Wheeler's group was on that section, the Germans shelled the road, causing many casualties.

In fact, Pte Wheeler was the only survivor of the attack, but he had suffered a serious wound to and fracture of his right arm.

So severe were his injuries, doctors feared they would need to amputate the limb but Pte Wheeler insisted on making every effort to save it.

Fortunately, doctors worked miracles and saved Pte Wheeler's arm, but he had to wear a specially designed leather brace around his arm for the rest of his life.

He spent many months recuperating, firstly in the 3rd Stationary Hospital in Rouen, France, then being transferred to Tooting Military Hospital, in south London and then to 1st Auxiliary Hospital (Harefield House), the only solely Australian hospital in England which, at its peak use, accommodated more than 1,000 beds and had a large nursing and ancillary support staff.

His father was advised per a 7 June 1917 telegram that his son had been wounded.

When he had not heard anything for four weeks, Mr Wheeler wrote to Army authorities on 13 July 1917 and received word back from Base Records in August that his son's condition had improved, in September that he was "progressing favourably" and in November that he was now "convalescent".

Soon after, Mr Wheeler was advised "the absence of further news indicates that he is progressing favourably, it being the usual practice of the overseas authorities to advise the Department of any material change in a soldier's condition".

When he was well enough to return to Australia, Pte Wheeler boarded HMAT *Runic* A54 five days before Christmas 1917 and headed home, disembarking in Sydney on 13 February 1918.

Pte Wheeler was discharged medically unfit on 13 August 1918.

His condition meant he had to spend considerable time recuperating in hospital in Sydney so his father made the decision to sell the hotel in Wagga Wagga and move to the State capital.

Bill endured 21 operations on his arm and extensive occupational therapy, assisted by the Repatriation Department at the rehabilitation centre.

On 12 December 1922, in Saint Joseph's Catholic Church at Newtown, Bill married 22-year-old Ada Grehan, the Cowra-born daughter of James and Elizabeth.

Bill and Ada had six children: George (known as Frank), Bill (who died in 1936 aged just 10), Betty, twins Marie and Mary, and Carmel.

They named their home "Noreuil" in memory of the small village near where Bill was wounded.

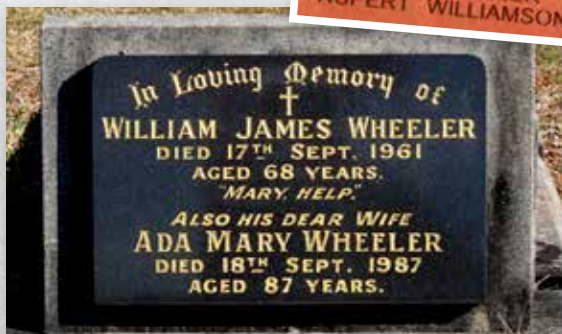
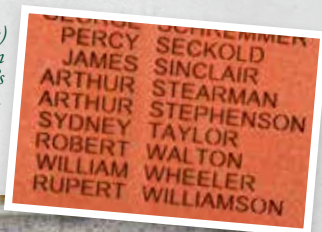
As his granddaughter Deborah Wheeler proudly wrote in her 2017 book *My Pop was a Kangaroo ANZAC*: "Bill showed remarkable loyalty to his family all his life. As a young boy, he was a very loving grandson, son, and brother. As an adult, he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He always put his family before himself. His tenacity and resilience were key factors in his life. He never let his disability hold him back; instead, he strove to create a better future for everyone. He never lamented the sacrifices he made for his country, or the consequences of his disability. For whilst his arm was damaged, his spirit and legs were not."

Bill Wheeler died in Sydney on 17 September 1961 aged 68; his widow lived until 18 September 1987, passing away in her 88th year.

They are buried together in Woronora Cemetery and Crematorium, Sutherland.

*HONOURED: (right)
William Wheeler's name on
the Wagga Wagga RSL Club's
Kangaroo March monument.*

*HEADSTONE: (below)
Remembering Bill Wheeler
and his beloved wife Ada.*



A LOVE SO FAIR IN

IT IS said love conquers all.

Not even the darkest days of World War II or a long stint as a Prisoner Of War could deny the romance of Jack Halley and Marjorie Sutherland.

The marble honour scroll near the entrance to the 1925 vintage Bendick Murrell Memorial Hall includes 34 names – 29 magnificent men and five wonderful women – from the district who served in the conflict of 1939–45.

Amongst those brave locals are Private John Burns Halley of the 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion and Signaller Marjorie Sinclair Sutherland of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS).

Pte Halley was born at Weston in the Hunter region of New South Wales on 11 May 1913, the fifth of six children and the second son of Scottish emigrants George Robertson Halley (1869–1950) and his wife Elizabeth Marshall, née Burns (1873–1949).

STEAM SHIP: The SS Ortona which brought the Halley family to Australia in 1909. Later, this vessel was used as a troop ship for the Australian Imperial Force.

Their first four were born in Scotland; the Halleys emigrating to Australia via the SS *Ortona*, arriving in Sydney on 11 June 1909.

Interestingly, *Ortona*, which was launched in 1899, was converted into a cruise ship and renamed *Arcadian*. She became a troopship in 1915, serving as the headquarters ship for Sir Ian Hamilton during the Gallipoli campaign.

On 15 April 1917, she was hit by a single torpedo fired by German submarine SM *UC-74* whilst en route from Salonika (also known as Thessaloniki) to Alexandria and sank in the Aegean Sea within five minutes, with the loss of 277 lives out of the 1,335 on board.

Amongst the dead was the eminent French-born British bacteriologist, Sir Marc Armand Ruffer, returning to Alexandria after advising on the control of an epidemic afflicting troops based at Salonika. He is renowned as a pioneer of modern paleopathology.

Farm manager John Halley, known as Jack, enlisted at Paddington the day after ANZAC Day in 1940.



THE MIDST OF WAR

He was described as having a fair complexion, yellow hair, blue-grey eyes and being five feet, six-and-a-half inches (168.9 centimetres) tall.

Taken on strength by the Infantry Wing at Ingleburn, Pte Halley was transferred to the 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion on 17 May 1940 and embarked via HMT *Ulysses* on 7 August that year out of Melbourne for the two-month voyage to Liverpool, England.

From there, Pte Halley went to Colchester, Glasgow, the Middle East and on to Crete, Greece, where he was reported as missing on 4 June 1941.

Later, it was confirmed Pte Halley was being held as a Prisoner Of War in Stalag VII-A (the largest POW camp in Nazi Germany, located just north of the town of Moosburg in southern Bavaria) and then Stalag VIII-B (later renumbered Stalag-344, near the village of Lamsdorf, now Łambinowice, in Silesia).

He survived the gruelling ordeal, was back in the United Kingdom by 19 May 1945, returned to Australia and married his sweetheart Marjorie Sutherland in Mosman

on 21 July that same year.

Marjorie was born at Culcairn on 28 July 1916.

She was the third of 13 children and the second daughter of Archibald Cook Sutherland (1887-1960), originally from Caithness, Scotland, and his wife Olive May, née Forbes (1891-1963), who he married in her hometown, Strath Creek, in central Victoria, on 27 March 1913.

Five Sutherland family members served Australia in World War II and one, tragically, made the supreme sacrifice.



Marjorie's younger siblings, Gunner Forbye Cook Sutherland, born 1922, 2nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Gunner Margaret Annie Sutherland, 1924, 52nd Searchlight Battery at Townsville, Gunner Marian Olive Sutherland, 1920, AWAS, and Private James Gordon Sutherland, 1918, 2/13th Australian Infantry Battalion, all served.

Farm hand James, known as Jim, died on 13 June 1941.

continued ...



BELOVED: Marjorie Sutherland's parents Archibald and Olive.

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Kriegsgefangenen-Stammlager: Stalag VII A Moosburg											Bestätigung der Befreiungsmarkte Nr. 92564 Dist. Stalag VII A											
S Des Kriegsgefangenen 19. Aug. 1941	Name: HALLEY											Staatsangehörigkeit: BRITISH. (AUSTRALIAN)										
	Vorname: JOHN BURNS											Dienstgrad: SOLDAT										
	Geburtsdag und -ort: 11. 5. 1913 WESTON (New Sth Wales)											Truppenteil: 1st PALMER'S Gun. BATT. Komp. usfo.: D										
	Religion: PRESBYTERIAN											Zivildberuf: LANDWIRT. MALKER Berufs-Gr.: .										
	Vorname des Vaters: GEORGE											Matrikel Nr. (Stammrolle des Heimatlandes): NA 13380										
Familienname der Mutter: BURNS											Befangennahme (Ort und Datum): KRETA 1.6.1941											
											Ob gesund, krank, verwundet eingeliefert: GESUND											
Bildbild											Nähere Personalbeschreibung											
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											Name und Anschrift der zu benachrichtigenden Person in der Heimat des Kriegsgefangenen											
											MUTTER MRS J. HALLEY SWANSON, 49 WESTON, NEW Sth WALES AUSTRALIA.											
National Archives of Australia											LED											
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CAPTURED: Jack Halley's Prisoner Of War papers from Nazi camp Stalag VII-A Moosburg.

According to official papers: "Three bombs dropped near Sutherland's dugout and he was wounded in the legs. He was removed to No. 4 AGH (Australian General Hospital), and operated on, and died coming out of anaesthetic while an air raid was in progress. He was buried in Tobruk Cemetery by Padre Francis."

The personal inscription on his headstone reads: "He shall grow not old as we that are left grow old."

Aged just 22, he was buried in grave 443 at Tobruk War Cemetery.

When she enlisted, at Paddington, on 5 September 1942, Marjorie listed her father as next-of-kin, her occupation as home duties and her address as "Caithness", Bendick Murrell.

Her sisters and Jim all listed the family property as their residence.

Marjorie was described as being 5'4" (162.5cm) tall with hazel eyes and brown hair.

Her AWAS days numbered 1,137 – all within Australia.

With the war over and Jack and Marjorie receiving their discharges, they were free to start their lives as husband and wife.

They were married nearly 40 years and had four children, Peter, Heather (Mrs Robinson), Jeannie (Mrs McIllhatton) and Craig.

Marjorie passed away suddenly on 22 August 1985, aged 69. Jack died on 29 April 1995, aged 81.

At the bottom of both of their plaques where their ashes lie in Norwood Park Crematorium, Canberra, it states: "Always remembered" and certainly they should be, for their efforts, and the service and sacrifice of all from Bendick Murrell who gave so mightily to the cause, helped ensure freedom and victory in World War II.

Of those named on the tablet commemorating Bendick Murrell's WWII servicemen and women there were three who made the ultimate sacrifice, one being Pte Sutherland.

Private John Thomas Lowe, 25, died of illness at Borneo on 15 June 1945, having been a POW for more than three years.

Pte Lowe suffered greatly during his service.

Enlisting at Bendick Murrell on 20 March 1941, this Young-born soldier went to 5th Training Battalion, Tamworth, before leaving for overseas from Melbourne

on Marnix van St Aldegonde (HMT *EE*).

HMT *EE* was a Dutch liner which had undergone conversion to a troopship. It sailed with two other Dutch passenger ships and Royal Australian Navy escorts in a convoy to Singapore, leaving Melbourne on 30 July 1941.

The convoy arrived at Keppel Harbour in Singapore on the morning of 15 August.

Pte Lowe went down with pneumonia and was placed on the dangerously ill list on 24 September.

On 9 April 1942 he was reported missing; his final years must have been ones of the misery and suffering.

Private James John Ryan was born at Young and enlisted in his hometown on 24 October 1939, a month after hostilities began.

He was a welder-blacksmith.

A member of the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion, Pte Ryan was killed in action at Florina, Greece, on 13 April 1941, aged 23.



SUFFERED: (above)
Private John Lowe
KLA: (right) Private
James Ryan



RELATED:
(right) The same
family names
dominate the
Bendick Murrell
World War II
honour roll.

IN HONOUR OF THOSE WHO SERVED
FROM BENDICK MURRELL AND DISTRICT
1939 - 1945

BREW H.W.	CLOSE L.W.
CROWE B.M.	CROWE M.J.
FARNSWORTH E.D.	FARNSWORTH F.W.
FISHER L.M.	FISHER R.K.
FISHER S.	GROUND'S B.J.
GROUND'S M.H.	HALLEY J.B. POW
HUNTER R.H.	JAMES J.T.
LOWE G.R.	LOWE J.W.
LOWE J.T. †	LOWE N.I.
O'BRIEN R.J.	PRICE R.A.
RYAN J.J. †	RYAN P.W.
SLAVEN J.	SUTHERLAND F.C.
SUTHERLAND J.G. †	SUTHERLAND M.A.
SUTHERLAND M.O.	SUTHERLAND M.S.
STINSON W.J.	THOMPSON C.G.
THOMPSON D.R.	TRACEY T.F.
WILLIAMS C.K.	ZIEBELL E.C.

† Killed in Action
P.O.W. Prisoner of War



AT PEACE: Where heroes rest ... World War II veterans Jack and Marjorie Halley are together, forever, at Norwood Park Crematorium, in Mitchell, Canberra.

POCKET BOOK FAILED TO SAVE GRENFELL HERO

JUST above what seems to be a bullet hole drilled right through the muddied pocket book of World War I soldier Private William Wigram Harris is the eerie message he wrote sometime before his death in France: “Please wright (sic) to these addresses if I get killed”.

Pte Harris listed three people, including his father Eley Harris, to whom the pocket book would eventually be returned.

So many stories have been written about pocket books, medals, coins and other items in the pockets of soldiers stopping a bullet and saving the lives of their owners.

But in this tragedy, was Pte Harris’s pocket book not enough to save him from a fatal German bullet on 5 November 1916? No-one among Pte Harris’s descendants knows, but it is quite possible and cannot be ruled out.

William was the third born of 13 children of Grenfell couple Eley Wigram Harris (1869-1946) and Mary Jane Harris, née Williams (1875-1913) who were married on 6 February 1892 at Young and lived on the farming property “Lancewood”.

Born on 23 August 1896, William signed up for the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on 13 July 1915, about a month shy of his 19th birthday, but one *Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad* signed by William has his age as 22 years and 11 months, whilst another attestation paper has his age as “22 years 4 months”, with a line running through 4 months. At that time, anyone aged between 18 and 21 required the permission of a parent or a guardian to enlist.

Details given after William’s death for his name to be included on the Australian War Memorial’s Roll of Honour gives his age at the time of death as 20. The young hero did not live to celebrate his 21st birthday.

A farmer working on the property “Mylandra Park” when he enlisted and allocated to the 1st Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements, William stood five feet, eight inches (173 centimetres) tall, weighed a mere 120 pounds (54.4 kilograms), was of fair complexion and had brown eyes and good eyesight.

An undated photograph of William held by the AWM defies the image of a person with a modest build. It depicts a strong young man with a steely gaze, the type of



BRAVE DIGGER: Private William Wigram Harris, of Grenfell, left behind a life on the land at Grenfell to give his life on a muddy French battlefield.

bloke you would want in the trenches next to you.

It was from a trench that William leapt with his mates and took his last steps during the Battle of Gueudecourt on the Western Front.

Before then, after not even three months of military training in Australia, William sailed from Sydney on HMAT *Themistocles* A32 on 5 October 1915, disembarking at the Tel El Kebir Australian Army training camp in Egypt on 14 February 1916 and later stepping ashore at Marseilles with the 1st Brigade in France on 28 March.

William “copped a Blighty” on 29 June, suffering a gunshot wound to his right forearm – bad enough for him to be evacuated to England for treatment and recuperation.

On 27 July, a recovered William rejoined his unit back in France and was soon to die in one of the worst campaigns of WWI – the Battle of the Somme.

POCKET BOOK: (right) *The mud-spattered cover of William Harris's pocket book with what appears to be a hole drilled through to the other side by a German bullet.*



SAD MESSAGE:

(right) *The three people who William Harris asked to be written to in the event of his death. Below the request in William's pocket book could be a hole from a fatal bullet.*

Four months into the campaign, the Battle of Gueudecourt in November 1916 was muddy and bloody beyond the imagination of our current generation and William's 1st Battalion, D Company, was in the thick of it, attacking the Germans near the intersection of Bayonet Trench and Hilt Trench, known as the triangle.

The Battalion's diary writer described how the enemy, in the hour leading to the charge, targeted the Australians' assembly point with "golden shower" rockets from Hilt Trench and then a "light barrage" of artillery followed by an abnormal number of flares "creating great difficulty for our coys (companies) who were getting into position".

You can only imagine the misery of the Diggers lying in the mud at the jumping off point painfully aware the Germans knew they were coming.

At 12.30am on 5 November, the British heavy guns opened up to herald the start of the assault on the German lines.

"Our guns opened a heavy shrapnel barrage on a line 50x (yards) short of the enemy's front line," the diary reads. "C and D Coys pushed forward under it as far as possible, and advanced as the barrage crept forward. The barrage moved too fast for our men as the going was very heavy and the men were tired already by their long march through the mud to the position of assembly. After our advance had proceeded between 100x and 150x the enemy opened heavy rifle, machine gun and bomb fire. The trenches were strongly held. C & D Coys were not

able to secure a footing in the trench, and retired to the assembly trench."

A second equally futile and tragic raid was launched at 1.04am by C, D and B companies.

"This attack was met as before by heavy rifle, MG and bomb fire, and was again forced to retire. We suffered many casualties during these assaults," the diary reads.

In fact, by 7am the diary recorded a grim casualty list of two officers killed in action, three officers wounded, three officers missing and another wounded and missing, five "other ranks" killed in action, 81 wounded, 71 missing, one dying of wounds and four slightly wounded but remaining on duty.

Poor William was one of the 71 reported missing, later confirmed dead, in the disastrous failed attack – one year and one month after the young hero set sail from home shores on the *Themistocles*.

According to the Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files 1914-18 War, William was buried about 450 yards (411 metres) north-north-west of Gueudecourt, but his identifiable body was never found again by recovery teams sent in the following year to retrieve remains. He is among 1st Battalion men listed as having an unknown grave.

How his muddied pocket book was recovered is still a mystery, but to this day it and his war service medals remain treasured memories of him held by his family.



JUNEE SAILOR FIRST TO DIE ON AUSSIE SOIL

ON A cold and lonely beach far away from his safe Junee home, his wife and newborn daughter, Able Seaman William Leonard Edward (Bill) Danswan and shipmate Able Seaman Thomas Todd became the first Australians killed on home soil in World War II as a result of enemy action.

In a tragic twist of fate for the famed railway town and as recorded in the 2022 edition of this annual ANZAC Day book, Junee was also the home of Private Wilf Knight, the first New Zealander reported killed in World War I's Gallipoli campaign.

On 14 July 1941, seven months before Japanese bombs rained down on Darwin on 19 February 1942 killing an estimated 235 people, AB Danswan, aged 23, and AB Todd, aged 30, were killed at Beachport, South Australia, when a sea mine sown by a German ship exploded as they were attempting to render it harmless.

The two Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ratings from the rendering mines safe team at *HMAS Torrens* in Adelaide and their officer-in-charge, Lieutenant Commander Arthur Greening, had been despatched to Beachport to disarm the mine, which two local fisherman had found drifting in Rivoli Bay about 13 kilometres from the town on Saturday 12 July.

According to a contemporary report in *The South Eastern Times* newspaper in nearby Millicent, the mine was brought into a bay at Beachport on Sunday and pulled ashore where the Navy team on Monday morning decided to push it back into the sea and tow it to another beach 1.6 kilometres further away from town for detonation.

There are differing accounts of what happened next and we will never really be certain what caused the fatal blast that robbed two young men of their lives about 2pm that day.

One version has it that a demolition charge attached to the mine exploded early whilst AB Danswan and AB Todd stood nearby – that version was later disputed.

Another version is that the iron spherical mine (covered in “horns” which set off an explosive chain reaction when they come into contact with a hard surface) had not been secured properly and an incoming wave shifted the mine,

EARLY CASUALTY: World War II came to Australian shores in July 1941 when Able Seaman William Leonard Edward (Bill) Danswan was killed by an exploding sea mine.



SHIPMATE: Able Seaman Thomas Todd

causing a horn to hit the sand and explode the mine.

This version says a demolition charge had been set and about 800 metres to a kilometre of cable was laid out to a point where the Navy team could trigger an explosion safely. However, the cable crossed a railway line and before the mine could be exploded a rail car, or a trike, ran over the cable, severing it. Reportedly, the two Naval ratings returned to the mine to reset the charge, but the mine suddenly was moved by a wave and exploded when one of the horns smashed into the sand.

Standing just a metre or two away from the exploding mine, AB Danswan died at the scene. AB Todd's family say he was taken to hospital where he died from his injuries.

On 16 July 2021, a memorial service was held at Beachport to mark the 80th anniversary of the tragedy.

Commanding Officer Navy Headquarters South Australia, Commander Alastair Cooper, represented the RAN at the service.

In his address, Cdr Cooper said AB Danswan and AB Todd were doing something that took courage in cold blood.

"They did it because it meant safety for the Beachport community," Cdr Cooper said.

"Their service had meaning, their action mattered and that spirit of service and sacrifice is something we must seek to emulate."

TEMORA BORN

Bill Danswan was born in Temora on 16 March 1918, one of four sons of Leonard Leslie and Lillian Edith Danswan. Mr and Mrs Danswan also had a daughter, Ngarie.

All four boys enlisted for military service in WWII – Bill and Les in the RAN, Bernie in the Army and Charles in the Royal Australian Air Force.

All but Bill survived the war.

Bill enlisted in the RAN on 9 November 1934, aged 16, was given the rank of Ordinary Seaman II and Service Number 20548 and posted to HMAS *Cerebus*, near Melbourne. A couple of years later, he was rated Ordinary Seaman. He was described in Navy papers then as being five and a half feet (167 centimetres) tall, with fair hair and fair complexion, hazel eyes and a small scar on his left shin.

He was taken onboard HMAS *Canberra* in November 1935, after which he was promoted to Able Seaman, but failing vision forced him off the ship in February 1941 and threatened his

Navy career. He was classified as "shore service only" and posted to HMAS *Torrrens* in Adelaide in March 1941, just four months before his untimely death.

Some 18 months after Bill's departure from HMAS *Canberra*, the ship was crippled in the Battle of Savo Island off Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands on 9 August 1942. The heavy cruiser was hit by 24 salvos in less than two minutes fired by a strong Japanese naval force, killing 84 of the crew, most of whom Bill would have known. The ship was sunk the next day by a US Destroyer.

Whilst serving on the *Canberra*, Bill married Margaret Dean in Sydney in 1939.

Bill and Margaret had one child, a daughter named Gloria who was born on 15 March 1941, the day before Bill's 23rd birthday.

Sadly, Bill only got to see and hold his daughter once – when he visited Juneec in June 1941. Gloria was just three months old at the time and grew up never knowing her father who had laid down his life for his country.

continued ...



FATAL MINE: Able Seaman Danswan pictured with the mine which took his life in 1941.

TOBRUK SOLDIER: Junee's Private Jim Chattaway stands next to a sea mine at Tobruk. He was killed in action less than a month before Bill Danswan was killed by a sea mine in South Australia.



News of AB Danswan's death broke in Junee a few days after the explosion and it was a bitter day indeed for the Junee community as the town was notified of the death of three local men at the one time.

FUNERAL SERVICE

Reports had also arrived that 33-year-old Private Jim Chattaway had been killed in action at Tobruk on 22 June 1941 and 39-year-old Private Alex Larkings – who had also served in WWI – had died of wounds at Tobruk on 27 June. He was one of five brothers who enlisted for service in the Great War and returned to Australia safely.

In another strange twist to this story, the Australian War Memorial holds a photograph of Pte Chattaway standing next to a beached sea mine, most likely in the Middle East in 1941.

Bill Danswan was buried in the Beachport Cemetery after a funeral service in the small town attended by Margaret.

The South Eastern Times reported 17 returned soldiers from Beachport and Millicent marched in the cortege from the Beachport coffee palace and formed a guard

of honour at the cemetery.

Pallbearers “carried the casket to the graveside beneath a Union Jack canopy. Many beautiful floral tributes were placed on the grave,” the newspaper reported.

A Memorial Service for Bill and Private Basil Brock, who was killed in action at Tobruk on 21 July 1941 (a week after Bill and less than a month after Pte Chattaway and Pte Larkings) was held in St Luke's Anglican Church in Junee on Sunday 10 August. Wagga Wagga newspaper *The Daily Advertiser* reported a large attendance at the service and said wreaths were placed at the Soldiers Memorial on Broadway for the two men.

In November 1942, Bill's body was exhumed and transported to Junee where a funeral service was held in St Luke's before Bill was interred in the Junee Cemetery – laid to rest in his home town where family and friends could visit and honour him.

One person who certainly did not forget Bill was Lcdr Greening, who reportedly struggled to come to grips with the death of AB Danswan and AB Todd. On the first anniversary of the tragedy he placed an In Memoriam for them in *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

Seven years after the fatal explosion, Lcdr Greening still paid tribute to his fallen comrades.

An In Memoriam published in Adelaide newspaper *The Advertiser* on 14 July 1948 read: "In memory of Able Seaman TW Todd and WLE Danswan RAN who were killed at Beachport July 14 1941 by the explosion of a mine. Today and every day I will remember them – Lt-Cmdr A Greening RAN (R)."

The sea mine which claimed the lives of AB Danswan and AB Todd is believed to have been sown by the German raider *Pinguin*, which laid mines off the entrance to Spencer Gulf around November 1940 to disrupt shipping in the area. Mines which broke their moorings and floated to the sea surface were known to wash up on beaches.

The *Pinguin* left Germany in June 1940 and was lurking in the Indian Ocean in August where she captured the Norwegian tanker *Storstad* off the north-west cape of Western Australia in October.

The German raider then moved south and east where she laid mines near Sydney and Newcastle on 28 October and in Bass Strait off Wilsons Promontory and Cape Otway on October 30 and 31.

Pinguin had quite some success, with the British steamer *Cambridge* the first to go under after striking a mine off Wilsons Promontory on 11 November, followed by a number of other vessels, including the American vessel *City of Rayville*, which was reportedly the first American ship to be sunk in World War II.

In the first week of November, *Pinguin* laid mines off the entrance to the Spencer Gulf, including the rogue fatal mine which drifted into Beachport and took the lives of Bill Danswan and Thomas Todd.

A memorial which commemorates AB Danswan and AB Todd was erected in 1974. It overlooks the sea, about two kilometres east of Beachport, just off the Millicent Road. A number of commemorative services have been held there over the years, the latest being just last year. It was attended by a number of descendants of the two men, including Bill's granddaughter, Sharon Smith.

An audio podcast about the tragedy was launched in Adelaide on the day of the service. Titled *When The War Comes Home*, it was produced by Megan Spencer for the Virtual War Memorial Australia and can be listened to for free on its website.



REST IN PEACE:
(above) *The Junee* grave of Able Seaman William Danswan.

MEMORIAL:
(right) *The Beachport* memorial to Bill Danswan and Thomas Todd.



RAIDER: *The German raider Pinguin is believed to be the warship which laid the mine which took the lives of Bill Danswan and Thomas Todd.*

KOORAWATHA KID WINS

ROBERT Charles McColl came into the world just 15 days before the horrors of World War I ended.

As former Australian War Memorial Director Dr Brendan Nelson often points out: “62,000 Australians lost their lives in the First World War for us, another 60,000 died within a decade of returning.”

It was a terrible time.

The Great Depression and the rise of Fascism and Nazism in the 1930s made the world – Europe in particular – volatile and vulnerable.

Born at Cowra, Robert was the fourth child of Hugh Ormiston McColl (1872-1948) and his wife Jessie Mary Ann, née Fisher (1881-1962). His parents wed in the Grenfell Methodist Church in 1911 and welcomed Melva in 1912, Hugh (1914) and Maisie (1916).

Robert enlisted in Sydney for duty with the Royal Australian Air Force on 16 August 1941 and was allotted Service No. 413227.

Our airmen were the best of the best ... bravest of the brave.

Flight Lieutenant Robert (Bob) McColl was no different. His commitment to the cause was exemplary ... and then some.

He was a decorated officer and one who endured the privations of capture.

Indeed, *The Cootamundra Herald* of 23 February 1945 glumly reported: “Residents of Koorawatha and district sympathise with Mr and Mrs H O McColl, of ‘Strathmore,’ regarding their son, Flight-Lieutenant Robert Charles McColl, who has been reported missing as a result of air operations over Norway.

“Flt-Lt McColl was attached to Beaufighters of Coastal Command, and was a member of an Australian crew who attacked a merchantman with rockets in Lyse Fjord, Norway, in January.”

In fact, it was 9 February when Flt-Lt McColl, as pilot, and his navigator, Warrant Officer Leslie Leonard MacDonald 421749, took off from Royal Air Force

HONOUR ROLL OF KOORAWATHA & DISTRICT 1939 – 45

ADAMS, J
ANDERSON, J A
BARRETT, L W
BERGHOFER, E D J
BERGIN, L D
BLEWETT, W J
BOYD, T G
BRADDON, R P
BRISTOL, J H
BROWN, D S
BROWN, F C
BURT, A W
CALLAGHAN, R T
CLOSE, H H
COBLE, E F
COBLE, L E
COOKE, E S
CROKE, A B
CROKE, A J
CUDMORE, D M
DAVISON, C R
DEAN, H W
DEAN, J R
D'ELBOUX, D F
D'ELBOUX, J M
D'ELBOUX, L M

D'ELBOUX, R L
DIXON, W R
DOWNES, W F
DUFFEY, D K
DUFFEY, J F
FAULKNER, J N
FAULKNER, P C
FAULKNER, W K
FISHER, H R
FITCH, F J
GILL, J W
HAWKINS, S G
HEMBROW, A E
HEMBROW, H
HEMBROW, J (K)
HEMBROW, W R
HERIOT, E H
HEWITT, S M
HILL, A P
HILL, A
HILL, G H
HOGO, T L
HUNTLEY, G C U
HUNTLEY, N L S
HYDE, W H
HYDE, R

KEYS, H C
LANGFIELD, A K
LANGFIELD, A W
LARSON, J
LUKE, C J
LUKE, M
MACDOUGAL, L
MANNING, R
MARSHALL, J L
MCCOLL, J M
MCCOLL, R A
MCINERNEY, B Y
MCINERNEY, J C
MCINERNEY, R G
MORGAN, J L
NEWHAM, A R
NORRIE, J K
NORRIE, J M
NORRIE, J
O'DWYER, W J
O'NEILL, A
O'NEILL, K
O'NEILL, N
ROBERTS, W L
ROSS, L
RUSSELL, H

SADLER, A (K)
SADLER, J A
SADLER, M
SHAW, E M
SHIRLOW, H R
SHUMACK, E F
SHUMACK, R
SIEGERT, F
SIEGERT, J A
SIEGERT, N H
SUTHERLAND, C R
SUTHERLAND, H J
SUTHERLAND, W J
TRENGOVE, C D
TRENGOVE, D E
TRENGOVE, E J
TRENGOVE, J A T
WARD, J A
WARD, J P
WARD, P
WAUGH, M B (K)
WAUGH, W J
WEST, L J (K)
WEST, T H
WILLIAMS, J T
WRIGHT, C G

(K) KILLED

HONOURED: Robert McColl is not on the Koorawatha War Memorial but his first cousins, brothers John and Ross McColl, both born at Cowra and also of the Koorawatha district, are remembered there.

SWEETHEART AND DFC

Dallachy, Moray, Scotland, in RAAF 455 Squadron's Beaufighter *NV 199*.

The Dallachy Wing participated in the strike, including 11 Beaufighters from 455 Squadron.

It was led by Wing Commander Colin George Milson, RAAF, DSO and Bar, DFC and Bar, 402379.

The Wing suffered badly from accurate anti-aircraft fire and was also intercepted and attacked by German Fw 190 fighters.

Flt-Lt McColl and WO MacDonald's plane was shot down over the North Sea. The crew survived but were taken prisoner.

Beaufighter *UB-V, NV 196* crewed by Warrant Officer Donald Ernest Mutimer 410694, as pilot and Pilot Officer John Douglas Blackshaw 432095, navigator, was also shot down and tragically both crew members were killed. WO Mutimer was two days shy of turning 25 whilst Plt-Off. Blackshaw was only 20.

It proved a costly raid, with nine Beaufighters lost from the Wing and only the German destroyer *Z-33* damaged in the strike.

Flt-Lt McColl spent some time in German prison camps before the Russian advance liberated him.

Once freed, this dashing Air Force pilot wasted no time, marrying Catherine Mosely Ivatt, 22, of Surrey, at Holborn, Middlesex, in England, in April 1945.

She had been a transport driver in the Royal Air Force. Her papers show she departed Southampton, England, for Australia on 19 May 1946.

Flt-Lt McColl was discharged from service on 1 February 1946.

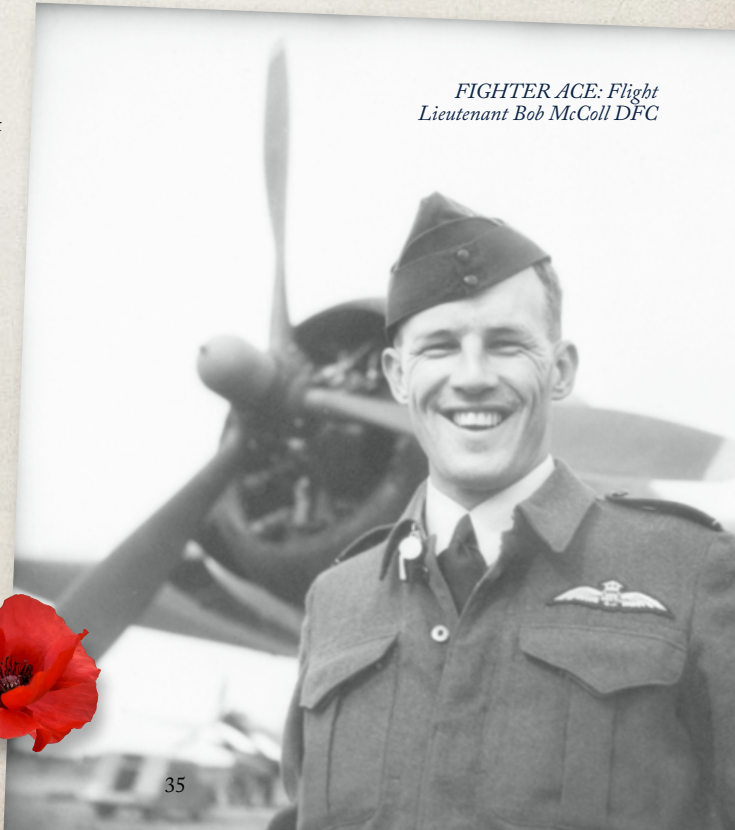
For his "leadership on many daring sorties on enemy shipping", Flt-Lt McColl was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross, presented by New South Wales Governor, Lieutenant-General Sir John Northcott KCMG, KCVO, CB, at Government House, Sydney, on 27 February 1947.

Sadly, Flt-Lt McColl passed away at Grenfell on 2 December 1970, aged just 52. His widow would live another 42 years.

Their love story was a beautiful tale – one of a handsome, gallant fighter pilot marrying his English sweetheart and returning home a hero.

As for Melbourne-born Les MacDonald, he, too, survived being a Prisoner Of War, was discharged on 1 November 1945 as a Flying Officer, came home and married Pamela Wilson in Sydney in 1946. He died on 1 February 1972, at age 58, his wife outliving him by 37 years.

FIGHTER ACE: Flight Lieutenant Bob McColl DFC



SHOT DOWN: Warrant Officer Leslie MacDonald

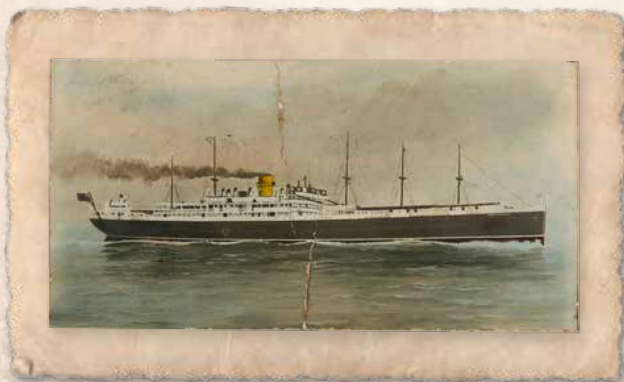


MEN FROM YOUNG KEEN TO DO THEIR DUTY



MATES: (above) Private Edward Flynn with Gunner Charles Western, both of Young, who survived the horrors of The Great War.

AT SEA: (below) Troop ship HMAT Argyllshire A8 on which many young men from Young set off for war.



WHEN the call came and troops were needed to defend the Empire, Young and district answered with speed and in numbers.

Young gave mightily to the World War I effort, with 777 locals enlisting.

Of the 146 men in 1st Field Artillery Brigade 3rd Battery in the first convoy of ships, at least 13 hailed from the Young area.

Sadly, four did not make it home, having paid for their duty with their lives.

Of the others, many who did return were broken and shattered. Such was the ferocity of the fighting.

They went to war on the 10,392-ton HMAT *Argyllshire* A8, leaving Sydney on 18 October 1914 and arriving at Alexandria, Egypt, on 8 December.

Corporal Leonard Russell Cooper's war story is a remarkable one.

Born in New York, he listed his sister, Dora Cooper of Tubbul via Young, as his next-of-kin when he signed on with the Australian Imperial Force in Sydney on 24 August.

At the time, Corporal Cooper, 24, was an inspector with the Pastures Protection Board, living in the Empire Hotel, Young.

Soon after disembarking, Cpl Cooper was granted a temporary commission with the British Army and it was whilst in this service, as a Second Lieutenant in the 29th Divisional Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery, he drowned when the SS *Marquette* was torpedoed and sunk in the Aegean Sea, 36 nautical miles (67 kilometres) south of Salonika, Greece, on 23 October 1915 by SM *U-35*.

A total of 167 people perished, including 10 nurses from the Royal New Zealand Army Nursing Service. The sinking and loss of nurses caused public outrage in New Zealand, especially in the South Island where most of the nurses originated. The deaths were used in propaganda to encourage men to enlist.

Amongst the 3rd Battery, from Young, was Gunner Reginald Spencer, 19, a carter whose war ended when he was declared medically unfit after slipping a cartilage in his knee and returning to Australia on 20 July 1917.

The remaining 11 all served at Gallipoli.

Captain Charles Wolseley Thompson, 45 upon enlistment, of "Woodbine", Moppit Road, Young, returned to Australia aboard HMAT *Themistocles* A32, disembarking in Melbourne on 2 July 1917.

Tragically, Gunner Arthur Lee, a horse driver of the Criterion Hotel, died in Flers, France, on 16 November 1916, aged 32, after sustaining multiple shrapnel wounds when hit by a piece of gas shell.

He was, according to witness Gunner John Clegg Taylor, "buried in the same place as Lieutenant (Ivon Carlston) Bromilow", who had succumbed from wounds nine days earlier.

A year later Gnr Taylor would also die of wounds, in Belgium.

Young later also mourned two bakers who initially were part of the 3rd Battery.

Gunner Ninian Duncan, 26, was killed in action at Écoust-Saint-Mein, France, on 4 May 1917.

Gunner Joseph James Dirou, 27, was killed by a shell on 21 July 1917 at Zillebekke, Belgium, and buried in the military cemetery at Reninghelst.

"Short and dark, he was our cook, we called him 'Chef'," mourned Sergeant Henry Smith.

Joe's parents, Joseph (1860-1928) and Bridget (1862-1957), suffered more than any parents should.

They lost another son, 17-year-old William, on 7 September 1903 after he was kicked in the head playing football at Young.

On 7 June 1918 *The Young Witness* and *Burrangong Argus* reported: "Mr Joseph Dirou has been notified that his son Private Fred Dirou, 2nd Batt., previously reported killed in action, died on 14th May."

The sorrow of losing a third son must have been almost too much to bear.

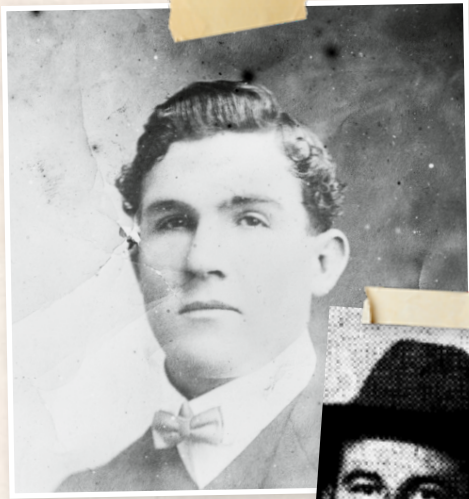
Frederick Ignatius Dirou, 23, a grocer, died of wounds in the General Hospital at Boulogne, France.

He had been in bed in a hut alongside the railway siding at Borre at 2.50am on 8 May when a shell landed, killing outright or mortally wounding 15 men and injuring seven others including Pte Dirou, according to Bugler Geoffrey Percy Dalmar.

Bug. Dalmar described Pte Dirou's injury as "a slight wound in the knee" and said he "was in good spirits". He was surprised to hear Pte Dirou had later died. They were, he said, "particular chums".

The injury, on the right knee joint, ultimately required amputation of the limb and the popular Pte Dirou passed away at 9.45am on 14 May.

Seven Young originals of the 3rd Battery returned to their loves ones, albeit much worse for wear.



SUPREME SACRIFICE:
(above) Gunner Arthur Lee

WOUNDED: (right)
Carcoar-born Gunner
Denis Murphy



Driver Bertie William Marina, a 29-year-old squatter upon enlistment, suffered a wounded right leg from shrapnel and later a fractured skull at Gallipoli and was invalided back to Australia via HMAT *Nestor* A71 in early 1916.

Gunner Albert Elliott Penrose, 20, a clothier, of Temora Road, Young, was discharged medically unfit and also returned in 1916.

Similarly, Gunner Denis James Murphy, 20, labourer, sustained a gunshot wound to his right thigh, necessitating his discharge and return in 1916.

Gunner Thomas James Prothero, 24, labourer, was wounded in action in France in 1917 and came home the following year.

Great mates, Gunner Charles Malcolm Western and Private Edward Richard Flynn, saw plenty of action at the Dardanelles and later in other theatres of war and lived to tell their tales.

Gnr Western was a 30-year-old bookkeeper on departure and spent time at Tel el Kebir, Egypt, after Gallipoli, being discharged medically unfit in 1918.

Pte Flynn had hospital stints for myalgia and rheumatism, yet did his duty on the Western Front before his 1918 homecoming.

Private Leslie Miller, 24, wheelwright, of the Australia Hotel, Young, suffered shellshock and debilitating illnesses, making it home two days before Christmas, 1918.

ALWAYS REMEMBER THE FALLEN AND OUR VETERANS

Royal Australian Navy Commodore Darron Kavanagh AM CSC delivered the following keynote address in Wagga Wagga's Victory Memorial Gardens on ANZAC Day 2023.

WHAT a great honour it was to take the salute for the march this morning!

ANZAC Day commemorates the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops on the Gallipoli peninsula on 25 April 1915.

We gather as always, not to glorify war, but to remind ourselves that we value who we are and the freedoms we possess; and to acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who contributed to shaping the identity of our nation, and those that continue to serve.

I am with you to remember those from Wagga Wagga and the surrounding district, of all generations, who have served our nation and paid the ultimate sacrifice; never again to return home to the land they loved; never again to see their family and friends.

Sadly, our World War II service members are now very few in number. Known as the Greatest Generation – they helped our allies to defeat hate, cruelty and greed in Europe and across the Indo-Pacific.

These veterans, both women and men, who returned tempered by war, took on the task of rebuilding Australia. We are all in their debt and we pay our respects to those of that generation of citizens still with us today.

I know that I am speaking to some of you who can recall from personal experience the trauma of war, which affected your families. Each in a unique way.

The experience of wars in Korea and Vietnam remains vivid in the hearts and minds of many Australians. 2023 marks 50 years since the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Over 60,000 Australians, including ground troops, Air Force and Navy personnel, served



IN STEP: Members of Wagga Wagga's Royal Australian Air Force march during last year's ANZAC Day parade and service where Royal Australian Navy Commodore Darron Kavanagh AM CSC delivered his keynote address.

KEYNOTE: Royal Australian Navy Commodore Darron Kavanagh AM CSC delivers a message about our military past, present and future on ANZAC Day 2023, in Wagga Wagga's Victory Memorial Gardens.



in Vietnam; 523 died as a result of the war and almost 2,400 were wounded. The war was the cause of the greatest social and political dissent in Australia since the conscription referendums of the First World War. Many of our service personnel met a hostile reception on their return home. Today our Vietnam veterans have taken pride of place at the front of the march as a fitting tribute to their service.

Those of us in uniform today have inherited the legacy of those who served in these wars; they epitomised the spirit and values displayed in every battle in which Australians have proven themselves. The qualities of self-sacrifice, courage and a fair go for others. Their example offers both inspiration and sets the required standard for us.

There are also younger Australian Defence Force (ADF) veterans who equally deserve our respect and our gratitude. Marked by their experience far from our shores, many have lost friends and there is still much pain from these losses. These veterans stand alongside us every day, making their contribution to this city; serving their country and community just as the earlier generations of veterans have done.

ANZAC Day was first commemorated during the First World War to ensure that the sacrifices made by Australians and New Zealanders on the shores of Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 would not be forgotten. Today all Australians pause to reflect on the contribution made by all of our past and present service personnel

who have chosen a life of service to their country.

There are tens of thousands of Australian headstones in immaculately kept war cemeteries across the world. Underneath their names, there are usually a few simple words from their families as a reminder that they will never be forgotten. Eighty-two of them are here at the Wagga Wagga War Cemetery which I visited this morning.

The men and women of today's ADF strive daily to emulate the qualities of self-sacrifice, courage and a fair go for others demonstrated by those who have come before us in the Australian uniform. Their example offers both inspiration and the required standard of us.

Nearly 1,900 officers and sailors of the Royal Australian Navy made the ultimate sacrifice. For the majority of them, their grave has no headstone, and there was no burial service. Their ships sank quickly and became their eternal resting place.

Today when our ships pass their location, we stop, say a prayer, and cast wreaths in the sea above where our ships are resting and rusting on the sea floor. We consider these sailors "forever on patrol", and recite the words:

They have no grave but the cruel sea
No flowers lay at their head
A rusting hulk is their tombstone
Afast on the ocean bed.
Lest We Forget.

BAND HITS A HIGH NO

Major Greg Peterson's address in response to the Australian Army Band Kapooka being granted Freedom of the City of Wagga Wagga by Mayor, Councillor Dallas Tout, on 15 October 2023.

IT GIVES me great pleasure to address you all today as the Commanding Officer of the Australian Army Band, and Head of Corps of the Australian Army Band Corps.

I extend my sincere thanks to the City of Wagga Wagga Council for the privilege of being granted the Freedom of Entry to the City of Wagga Wagga to the Australian Army Band.

I would also like to thank the City of Wagga Wagga Council for your generous hospitality at today's official reception, and I hope that you all get the chance to share your memories and experiences of the Australian Army Band here in the Riverina.

Whilst the origins of this morning's ceremony date back to medieval times, the focus of my address to you today looks towards the future, with a focus on the role that the Australian Army Band will play in terms of providing a musical effect within a strategic environment.

I think we would all agree that the times we live in are complex, dynamic and uncertain. In order to meet those challenges, the soldier musicians of today are teams of highly trained, equipped and professional men and women who are dedicated to serving their nation through music. The strength of our people comes from the unique diversity of skill and experience which exists within our teams; and it is this strength which allows the

Australian Army Band to operate as an effective and fully integrated unit within the Australian Defence Force.

It can be said that the strategic use of music within Defence is a force multiplier. Army bands have the ability to enhance, influence and strengthen the relationships within domestic and international communities. Whilst our contribution to soft diplomacy can be difficult to measure in a tangible sense, its unique power of bringing communities together through the combination of hearts and minds is increasingly being recognised at the highest levels of Defence.

In recent months, the focus for the Australian Army Band has been to re-engage with our military and civilian clients in the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Here in the Riverina, the Australian Army Band has played its part by delivering high quality live performances; whether it be in local venues in support of the community; or on parade grounds in support of Defence. Since live performances and fund-raising have been permitted, the Australian Army Band has raised over \$17,000 from a wide range of community engagement concerts; with 100 per cent of proceeds going directly to local and regional charities.

The impact of these funds enable a range of initiatives – from supporting kids with cancer, to providing further opportunities for wellness and wellbeing for our veterans.



POMP AND CEREMONY: Wagga Wagga Mayor, Councillor Dallas Tout, reads the proclamation granting Freedom of the City to the Australian Army Band Kapooka.



AT EASE: Kapooka's Army Band has done so much good for recruits marching out at the completion of their basic training as well as the local community over seven decades.

TE WITH CITY HONOUR

Connections such as this are not exclusive to Wagga Wagga. The long arm of the Australian Army Band has reformed connections in regional centres which include Albury, Wodonga, Tumut and Griffith to name just a few. Looking further out, our community outreach initiatives have seen the Australian Army Band travel to places as far afield as Mildura and Broken Hill.

The success of these trips is not just in the high-quality entertainment on offer; it's also measured in unique ways – such as the first time that an Indigenous community has heard an Army Band; or for younger generations, the first time they've seen a woman wear our nation's uniform in person.

Overseas, our soldier musicians are now being utilised as a pivotal Defence asset in terms of achieving soft diplomacy in the South West Pacific region; an alignment which meets the outcomes of the recent Defence Strategic Review.

And in recent news, the Australian Army Band Kapooka is in the planning stages of supporting the Sukuna Bowl activity in Fiji later this year, where they will be responsible for conducting ceremonial and community engagement duties alongside the Republic of Fiji Military Forces Band.

In their primary role, the Australian Army Band continues to support almost weekly march-outs at the home of the Australian Soldier – the 1st Recruit Training

Battalion. Quite interestingly, one of the last things that a soldier hears might well be some clear direction from their Platoon Sergeant, but it will definitely be the sound of an Australian Army Band playing *Waltzing Matilda* as they embark on their journey in the profession of arms.

This year alone has seen an increase in official tasking across military and community engagement within the Riverina, with the Australian Army Band expected to complete well over 300 official tasks by the end of the year. Not only does it mean that Australian Army Bands are busy, but the increase in demand speaks to the need for music within our communities, and also the functional role it plays within the Defence environment.

Today – we gather here to celebrate over 70 years of the Australian Army Band, not just for the work we do at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion, but also for the work they do in the community. The unique poetry of today is this – if you listen carefully, you should be able to hear the Rock Band of the Australian Army Band Kapooka doing their final sound check. It's quite poignant that instead of being at their own reception, the Australian Army Band are out in the community, ready to entertain and engage.

In closing, I sincerely thank the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Wagga Wagga for the trust and high regard that you have placed in the Australian Army Band today. In return, the Australian Army Band is committed to telling Army's story right here in the Riverina for many more years to come.



SPECIAL DAY: (from left) Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Rogers, Major Greg Peterson and Wagga Wagga Mayor Councillor Dallas Tout admire the magnificent illuminated address, marking the significance of the occasion.

2024 ANZAC DAY RIVERINA AND CENTRAL WEST

Service Times and Venues

ARDLETHAN (includes Beckom)

- 6am Dawn Service at the RSL Club Rooms, Deakin Street, Beckom.
- 10.45am Assemble and march from Ardlethan Post Office, Yithan Street, to cenotaph, Memorial Hall, Ariaah Street.
- 11am Service begins at cenotaph.
- Noon Community lunch, Ardlethan Memorial Hall, Ariaah Street.

ARIAH PARK (includes Quandary)

- 10.45am Assemble for march at Bowling Club, Coolamon Street. March to cenotaph.
- 11am Service at cenotaph. Afterwards, lunch will be served at the Bowling Club.

BARELLAN

- 2.50pm Assemble for march at Barellan War Memorial Club. March along Bendee and Boree streets. Leeton Town Band in attendance.
- 3pm Service and wreath-laying ceremony at cenotaph, Mulga Street. Afternoon tea served at the Barellan War Memorial Club following the service.

BARMEDMAN

- 10.30am Assemble and march along Queen Street to Soldiers Memorial Park.
- 11am Service at Soldiers Memorial Park.

BENDICK MURRELL

- 9am Wreath-laying ceremony at Bendick Murrell Memorial Hall.

BETHUNGRA

- 6.15am Dawn Service at Bethungra Memorial Park, Olympic Highway. Catafalque party in attendance. Wreath-laying ceremony.

BIMBI

- 2pm Commemorative service at cenotaph. Wreath-laying ceremony. Cadet catafalque party in attendance.

BOGAN GATE

- 5.30am Dawn Service at the Monument, Hutton Street. Followed by breakfast in Memorial Hall.

BOOROWA

- 6am Dawn Service at War Memorial, Marsden Street.
- 10.15am Assemble outside Boorowa Post Office, Marsden Street.
- 10.30am March from Marsden Street to War Memorial.
- 11am Minute's silence.

BRIBBAREE

- 3.45pm Assemble at Bowling Club.
- 4pm March to cenotaph (next to Bribbaree Fire Shed).
- 4.15pm Memorial service at cenotaph. Wreath-laying ceremony. Cadet catafalque party in attendance. Followed by refreshments, Bribbaree Bowling Club.

CANOWINDRA

- 6am Dawn Service at cenotaph, Memorial Park, Gaskill Street.
- 10.45am Assemble at corner of Ryall and Gaskill streets and march to Memorial Park.
- 11am Service at the cenotaph, Memorial Park.

CARAGABAL

- 4pm Service at the cenotaph, Mid-Western Highway, conducted by students from Caragabal Public School. Afterwards, refreshments will be available at the Caragabal Pub.

COLLINGULLIE

- 8am Service at Memorial Hall, Sturt Highway. Breakfast afterwards.

COOLAMON (includes Marrar)

- 6am Dawn Service at cenotaph, Cowabbie Street.
- 10.45am Assemble outside RSL Memorial Museum, Loughnan Street, and march to cenotaph.
- 11am Main service.

COOTAMUNDRA

- 6am Dawn Service at cenotaph in Albert Park.
- 10.15am Assemble for march in front of Cootamundra Ex-Servicemen's and Citizens' Memorial Club.
- 10.30am Ceremonial march beginning at the front of the Cootamundra Ex-Servicemen's and Citizens' Memorial Club.
- 10.45am Commemoration service at the cenotaph, Albert Park.

COWRA

- 5.50am Dawn Service at cenotaph, Brisbane Street.
- 9.30am Ceremony at Cowra War Cemetery.
- 10.20am March form up prior to community wreath-laying service on Brisbane Street.
- 11am Community service at River Park.
- 12.30pm Service at the Cowra Locomotive Depot.

CROWTHER

- 10.15am Wreath-laying ceremony at Crowther Memorial, Olympic Highway.

DARBYS FALLS

- 9.45am Assemble at Memorial, Rural Fire Service Shed.
- 10am Memorial service.

EUGOWRA

- 5.45am Dawn Service at Memorial Park cenotaph.
- 10.45am March from the corner of Broad and North streets to the cenotaph, Memorial Park.
- 11am Main service at cenotaph, Memorial Park.

FORBES (includes Bedgerabong, Corinella)

- 5.15am Assemble at Forbes Services Memorial Club, Templar Street, and march to cenotaph, Harold Street, followed by Dawn Service.
- 10.15am Assemble on Cross Street.

2024 ANZAC DAY RIVERINA AND CENTRAL WEST SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

10.30am March to cenotaph, Harold Street, followed by main service.

FOREST HILL

5.45am Ceremony begins at front gate RAAF Base Wagga, Sturt Highway. Please be in position by 5.45am.

GALONG

6am Dawn Service, Galong Memorial Hall, McMahon Street. Breakfast to follow.

GANMAIN (includes Matong)

6am Dawn Service, Memorial Gate in front of Bowling Club, Waterview Street.

9.30am Assemble for march on corner of Ford and Waterview streets.

10am March proceeds to Memorial Gate.

10.30am Main service.

5.30pm Retreat service at the flag pole inside the Memorial Gate.

GOOLOONG

6am Dawn Service at the Memorial Clubrooms. Gunfire breakfast to follow.

9.45am Assemble for march at Memorial Clubrooms.

10am Commence march, followed by ANZAC service at cenotaph in Recreation Memorial Park.

GREENETHORPE

7.30am Main Service at War Memorial Hall including dedication of local serviceman to Wall of Honour. Followed by refreshments.

GRENFELL

5am Gunfire Breakfast, Criterion Hotel, Main Street.

5.45am Dawn Service at cenotaph, corner of Burrangong Street and Mid-Western Highway. Cadet catafalque party. Student presentations from Grenfell schools. Music by Grenfell Town and District Band. *The ANZAC* to be performed by Belinda Day. Australian National Anthem performed live. Coffee, tea and ANZAC biscuits provided.

7am Wet Breakfast, Criterion Hotel, Main Street.

8am Pilgrimage from Criterion Hotel to cemetery.

10.30am Assemble for march, western end of Main Street.

10.45am March commences and proceeds to cenotaph, Memorial Park.

11am Commemorative service at cenotaph, Memorial Park, corner of Burrangong Street and Mid Western Highway. Cadet catafalque party. Student presentations from Grenfell schools. *Spirit of the ANZACs* to be performed by Belinda Day. Grenfell Town and District Band.

4 May Dining in night at the Grenfell Country Club, Gooloogong Road.

GUNDAGAI (includes Coolac, Mount Horeb)

6am Dawn Service at ANZAC Grove. Federation Guard in attendance.

10.15am Assemble outside Lotts Family Hotel, Sheridan Street.

10.30am March will be led by the 7th Light Horse Gundagai Troop followed by the Vintage Car Club vehicles carrying RSL members. Proceed east along Sheridan Street to cenotaph.

11am Wreath-laying ceremony. Federation Guard in attendance. On completion, the parade will return west along Sheridan Street, dismissing adjacent to Lotts Family Hotel.

HARDEN-MURRUMBURRAH

6am Dawn Service at cenotaph, Newson Park, corner Station and Albury streets, Harden.

10.30am Assemble in front of Mechanics' Institute Hall, Neill Street, Harden.

10.40am March to cenotaph.

11am Main service. If inclement weather, service to be held in Mechanics' Institute Hall.

HUMULA

10.15am Assemble for march at Humula Citizens' Sports Club.

10.30am March to Humula Community Hall. Service to follow outside hall, followed by morning tea.

JUGIONG

3pm Assemble for march adjacent to police station and march to Memorial Gates, Riverside Drive, where the memorial service will be conducted. 7th Light Horse Gundagai Troop in attendance.

JUNEE (includes Illabo, Wantabadgery)

5.45am Dawn Service on Broadway.

10.35am March from Memorial Park, Peel Street, to Railway Square for two-minute ceremony. March finishes at cenotaph on Broadway and will be followed by the memorial service.

JUNEE REEFS

3pm Service and wreath-laying at Junee Reefs-Ivor Hall, Junee Reefs Road, conducted by Junee RSL Sub-Branch. Afternoon tea afterwards.

KOORAWATHA

6am Form up for Dawn Service at War Memorial Park Memorial Gates.

10.45am Assemble at the top end (highway end) of Boorowa Street. March to Regional Rooms for memorial service.

LOCKHART

9am Commemoration service at Lockhart Lawn Cemetery.

10.15am Form up at Commercial Hotel, Green Street.

10.30am March to cenotaph on Hebdon Street.

10.45am Wreath-laying ceremony. Return to the Lockhart Ex-Servicemen's Club afterwards.

continued ...

2024 ANZAC DAY RIVERINA AND CENTRAL WEST SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

MANDURAMA

10am March from Memorial Hall, Gold Street, to World War II gates where service will be held.

MIRROOL

9am Service at cenotaph on Ariaah Street, followed by morning tea.

MONTEAGLE

2pm Wreath-laying ceremony at Monteagle Memorial Hall.

MURRINGO

8.30am Assemble on Murringo Gap Road adjacent to Murringo Public School. March to Murringo Memorial Hall for service in hall grounds.

NANGUS

10 May 10.30am - Community service at Public School, Tenandra Street.

PARKES

5.30am Dawn Service at Memorial Hill followed by breakfast at Parkes Services Club, Short Street. Special Guest - Talesha Quinn (RAAF).

8.15am Assemble for march in front of Parkes Services Club.

8.35am March commences.

9am ANZAC civic service at cenotaph, Cooke Park. Special Guest - Talesha Quinn (RAAF).

10.45am Pilgrimage and wreath-laying ceremony at war graves at Parkes Cemetery.

Noon Luncheon at Parkes Services Club.

5pm Retreat at cenotaph, Cooke Park.

PEAK HILL

6am Dawn Service at AIF School of Arts Memorial Gates.

10am Assemble for march on Bogan Street, march along Caswell Street. Veterans join the march at Dugga Street. Proceed to the AIF School of Arts.

10.30am Main Service.

PLEASANT HILLS

9am Service at Memorial Hall, Ryan Street, followed by morning tea.

QUANDIALLA

10.30am Assemble at Blamey Park, Second Street.

10.45am March to Memorial Hall.

11am Commemorative service at Memorial Hall, Second Street. Followed by refreshment and lunch at the Bland Hotel.

RAND

5.30am Dawn Service followed by breakfast at the RSL Club.

10.45am Assemble and march to the cenotaph.

11am Service.

SPRINGDALE

9am Prayer and laying of wreaths at Springdale Memorial cenotaph on Burley Griffin Way. Introduction by Colonel Pat Thorne AM (Ret.).

9.15am Fly-over by Warbirds.

9.20am Springdale ANZAC Memorial Scholarship Oration: Tribute to a Springdale local. Temora Band plays the Recessional including the Last Post. Service to follow. Refreshments in the Springdale Hall afterwards.

STOCKINBINGAL

3pm Commemoration service at Memorial Site, King George V Park, Britannia Street.

TALLIMBA

3pm March followed by commemorative service in the Tallimba Park. Afternoon tea will be available after the service.

TARCUTTA

10.30am Assemble for march from Tarcutta Rural Supplies to Memorial Hall.

11am Service at Memorial Hall, Sydney Street.

TEMORA (includes Reefton)

6am Dawn Service at cenotaph, Callaghan Park, Loftus Street.

10.30am Assemble at the police station, De Boos Street.

10.45am March to the cenotaph, Callaghan Park.

11am Service at cenotaph, Callaghan Park.

THE ROCK

6am Dawn Service at Soldier Memorial, Urana Street.

10.30am Service at cenotaph, Urana Street.

TRUNDLE

9.50am Form up at Trundle Central School, Forbes Street.

10.10am Commemorative march, Forbes Street.

10.30am Commemorative service at Trundle Memorial Hall. Guest speaker - Captain Mark Tuddenham, Royal Australian Navy.

TULLAMORE

6am Dawn Service at Tullamore Memorial Park.

10.45am Commemorative service at Tullamore Memorial Park.

TUMBLONG

9am Service at memorial, Saint James's Anglican Church, Adelong Road. 7th Light Horse Gundagai Troop in attendance.

UNGARIE

6am Dawn Service, RSL Park, Ungarie Street.

9am Service at Ungarie Cemetery.

11am ANZAC Day march and service at Memorial Park. If inclement weather, march to Memorial Hall. Light lunch to follow.

6pm Retreat at cenotaph.

URANQUINTY

9am Service at Wirraway Park rest area, Morgan Street.

WAGGA WAGGA

5:30am Dawn Service at the cenotaph, Victory Memorial Gardens, Corner Baylis and

2024 ANZAC DAY RIVERINA AND CENTRAL WEST SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

Morrow streets (conducted by Legacy).

- 6:30am War Cemetery Service, Kooringal Road.
- 7am ANZAC Gunfire Breakfast, Wagga RSL Club, downstairs function room.
- 9.30am Participants assemble for ANZAC Day Parade. Corner Baylis and Morgan streets.
- 10am March commences.
- 10.30am Commemorative service in the Victory Memorial Gardens. Keynote Speaker: Group Captain Kerry Hollings – Officer Commanding Ground Academy RAAF Forest Hill.
- 12.30pm ANZAC Day lunch at the RSL Club. Ticket sales cease Monday, 15 April.
- 5.30pm Sunset service at the Wagga RSL Club Memorial at the entrance of the club, Dobbs Street.

WALLEND BEEN

- 8.30am Assemble at Wallendbeen Public School and walk to cenotaph.
- 9am Main service followed by morning tea at Wallendbeen Memorial Hall.

WEST WYALONG (includes North Yalgogrin, Wamboyne, Weethalle)

- 6am Dawn Service at Services and Citizens Club cenotaph.
- 10.15am Assemble for march on corner of Church and Main streets.
- 10.30am March to cenotaph at Services and Citizens Club.
- 11am Main service with a wreath-laying ceremony.

WIRRIMAH

- 8.15am Memorial service at Wirrimah Memorial Park, Smiths Road.

WOMBAT

- 6am Dawn Service followed by breakfast at the Wombat Hotel. Harden-Murrumburrah Light Horse in attendance, as well as the Young Cadet Unit.

WOODSTOCK

- 2.15pm Assemble for march across from Woodstock Public School, corner of Parkes and Carrington streets.
- 2.30pm March to Sister Jenny Kerr Memorial Park to lay wreath and then to Arnold H Bennett Memorial Gate to lay wreath, then into Soldiers Memorial Hall for ANZAC service. Refreshments after service.

WYALONG

- 8.45am March and wreath-laying ceremony at cenotaph at Soldiers Memorial Hall, Neeld Street.

WYANGALA DAM

- 5.45am Dawn Service at Memorial outside of the Wyangala Country Club.

YERONG CREEK

- 11am Service at cenotaph in Stanley Galvin Memorial Park.

YOUNG

- 5.45am Dawn Service at Memorial Town Hall followed by visits to the old cemetery and then the lawn cemetery. Breakfast at the Services Club to follow.
- 10.40am Assemble and march from Town Hall.
- 11am Main service at Anderson Park.

CAPITAL CITY SERVICES: CANBERRA

- 5.30am Dawn Service in the Captain Reg Saunders Courtyard and Sculpture Garden.
- 7.30am Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ceremony, For Our Country Memorial, Sculpture Gardens, Australian War Memorial Grounds.
- 9.30am Veterans' March through the western grounds of the Australian War Memorial, followed by the ANZAC Day address delivered by Afghanistan Veteran Damien Thomlinson.
- 4.30pm ANZAC Day Last Post Ceremony, Commemorative Area.

MELBOURNE

- 5.30am Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance Forecourt.
- 8.30am ANZAC Day March starting at intersection of Flinders and Swanston streets and concluding at the Shrine of Remembrance. A Commemorative Service to be held at conclusion of march.

SYDNEY

- 4.20am Dawn Service at the cenotaph in Martin Place.
- 9am ANZAC Day march starting at intersection of Elizabeth Street and Martin Place, walking past the ANZAC Memorial at Hyde Park.
- 12.30pm ANZAC Day Commemoration Service at the ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park, adjacent to the Pool of Remembrance.
- 5pm ANZAC Day Sunset Service at the cenotaph in Martin Place.

PLEASE NOTE:

All times and venues have been supplied in good faith by various RSL Sub-Branch officials and were correct at the time of publication. Every care has been taken to ensure as many services as possible have been included. For verification of other services please contact your local RSL Sub-Branch.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Australian War Memorial, ancestry.com.au, Wagga Wagga local historian Geoff Burch, Preston Cemetery Client Services Consultant Francesca Gangi, Lieutenant Gerard Pratt Royal Australian Navy, Paul and Brittany Flynn of Monteagle, author Deborah Wheeler of Belorah Print, Warwick, Queensland, Megan Spencer, Ben Danswan and Shane Logan of Junee, Elaine Donaldson of the Beachport Museum, Rodger Baker and Nerida Feeney of Grenfell, and Find A Grave (Sue McC).

WE REMEMBER YOU TODAY

WINNER: Hiya Changela, 10, Year 5, St Laurence's Parish School, Forbes

BRAVE men we salute you
And remember you today
Fighting on the battlefields
In lands so far away

Australians and New Zealanders
Who fought so gallantly side by side together
For all of us to see

Many died and some came home
Their lives were not the same
The ANZACS were heroic
In body and in name
Lest We Forget



RIVERINA & CENTRAL WEST WRITING AWARDS

THE ANZAC spirit is well and truly alive in the Riverina and Central West with more than 1,000 students entering the 14th annual writing competition from Primary and Secondary schools right across the electorate.

This year's theme was "Keeping the ANZAC Spirit Alive in the Riverina and Central West" and it was a difficult task for the judges to decide on the 16 prize-winning entries.

The authors of the winning writing pieces, published in the following pages of this publication, will each receive one of 16 well-deserved book prizes, pictured above, for their winning and highly commended efforts. Some books are from the Australian War Memorial and some are from the authors themselves.

Every student who submitted an entry will receive a signed commemorative certificate featuring a watermark image of the front page of this year's booklet. Entries were categorised into Primary and Secondary schools, with the Riverina electorate divided into North, South, East and West divisions.

Thank you to every student for entering and to the wonderful teachers of the region who have supported the competition this year by giving the students the opportunity to participate.



NORTH

FROM A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

*HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Olivia Cowie, 11, Year 5, Parkes Christian School*

THE last thing I heard from my father's mouth was: "I will always love you." It has been eight years since then and still it is the last thing I heard from his mouth. Today is another day. However, it's not just any day but a special day. It's ANZAC Day. This is a day not to eat ANZAC biscuits and treats, but for us to remember all the things the soldiers did for us and all the things the soldiers went through. My father was an ANZAC soldier and fought for our country. He died, sadly, but I always think about him every day and remember what he did for our country.

Today we bake ANZAC biscuits and all say a word in remembrance of the soldiers. Imagine seeing your friends

go, imagine not knowing if you were ever going to see tomorrow's daylight again! Imagine not knowing if you were ever going to see your family again! I know I will never see my Dad again, but I am proud of what he did for our country.

On ANZAC Day we always go up to Memorial Hill and think about all the soldiers and what they did for us. They fought for our country! So this is a day in remembrance of them. We will always remember what they did for us and how they sacrificed their lives for our country. So this is their day, ANZAC Day.



THEIR SACRIFICE ECHOES THROUGH THE YEARS

*WINNER: Joselyne Folau, 15, Year 10,
Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes*

IN THE land Down Under where the eucalyptus sway,
Brave hearts stood tall ready to face each day,
ANZAC spirit, a bond that will never break,
Through trials and hardship, for freedom's sake.

From Gallipoli's shores to the Western Front,
They fought with bravery, their courage upfront,
In the face of danger they stood as one,
United, until the battle was won.

Their sacrifice echoes through the years,
Their memory is cherished, shedding grateful tears,
ANZAC Day, a time to reflect,
To honour their bravery not to neglect.

So let's remember those who served with pride,
Their legacy lives on, forever in our minds.
Lest We Forget their stories we'll share,
With gratitude and respect, showing we care.



A PROUD ANZAC IS ME

*HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Ebony Sullivan, 15, Year 10,
Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes*

THE wind is cold and bitter,
We stand in trenches knowing we're
no quitter,
Guns echo,
Men bellow,
The noise never stops.

At home we wish to be,
I find comfort in knowing my family
prays for me,
A proud ANZAC I am,
A proud ANZAC is me,
Even if I fall in the sand,
I will continue to take my stand.

Our memory forever etched,
On everyone's mind, never to forget,
So proud of us they are,
Knowing our lives will leave a scar,
Sacrifices were made for you to be
here today.

At home we wish to be,
I find comfort in knowing my family
prays for me,
A proud ANZAC I am,
A proud ANZAC is me,
Even if I fall in the sand,
I will continue to take my stand.
A proud ANZAC I am,
A proud ANZAC is me,
Even if I fall in the sand,
I will continue to take my stand.



DEFINING THE ANZAC SPIRIT

WORDS are a powerful way
to express thought – always
have been.

Before mobile phones,
internet and social
media, written letters
and telegrams were the
only practical means by
which our ANZACs could
communicate with their
loved ones.

How different it would have
been back then, writing a
letter which would take
weeks or months to be
received. How much would
have changed in that time
– would the writer even still
have been alive?

This is in stark contrast to
the experiences of many
of today's students, who
experience a world filled with
immediate updates, pictures
and video calls as well as
the instant gratification of
posting on social media.

To put oneself in the mind
of an ANZAC, thousands
of kilometres away from
home, weeks and months
away from hearing from
their loved ones, is a
challenging task.

However, the competition
entries this year display
no doubt students across
the Riverina and Central
West empathise with and
understand the challenges,
distress and sacrifice
experienced by
our ANZACs.

That is the power of writing.

By putting pen to paper, as
their forebears would have,
their stories have helped
memorialise the ANZAC
spirit forevermore.

A PAINFUL MEMORY

*HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Rylan Morris, 10, Year 5,
Forest Hill Public School*

SPLASH!!

“Watch me dive, Daddy,”
squealed Elmer as she dived into
the crystal clear water.

Her father’s smile left his face
when his socks got wet.

It’s the smallest things that
bring back horrible memories of
gunfire, explosions and people
yelling and crying in pain
withering to their death on
that beach.



LIVES WHISKED AWAY

WINNER: Seth Willis, 11, Year 6, Yerong Creek Public School

I WILL never forget that dreadful day
Where all my friends’ lives were whisked away
I will never forget those horrible nights
No more sleeping, full of frights
I will never forget that heinous morning
Where people were killed, far from boring
I will never forget, not now, not ever
These memories will live in my head, forever

Running around the beach of Gallipoli
All I want to do is go home
I miss my Mum
This isn’t fun
Oh God, I dropped my gun
As I see my brothers fall, I cry silent tears
But my courage keeps me going
Where people died, poppies will grow
No man’s land, is where you dare not show
I thought this was going to be fun
Oh boy, how I was wrong
At the end of the day you hear the bugle
singing its sweet goodnight song

But when I got home, it was never the same
I would never sleep a peaceful night again
I will always remember the friends that I met
Now and forever, Lest We Forget



MY GRANDPA

*HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Sydney Whyte, 15, Year 10,
Wagga Wagga High School*

AS WE gather here today to say our
goodbyes, I stand before you as the
grandson of a man who was not only
a hero in the eyes of the world but a
legend in the hearts of his family. My
grandfather, affectionately known as
“Jump”, was a Lieutenant Colonel
in the 39th Battalion, a leader at
Kokoda, and a storyteller who
brought the past alive with tales of
bravery, mischief, and the unbreakable
bonds of mateship.

Grandpa Jump’s life was one of
courage and dedication. He shared
stories that made us laugh, like the
time a mate dared to eat a tarantula
for a mere pound and a pack of
smokes. But he also shared stories

on the cost of freedom and the
price of peace. His recounting of
laying a wreath at the Canberra War
Memorial on Remembrance Day,
meeting Prime Ministers, and leading
the ANZAC parade, were not just
tales or memories but reminders
of the responsibility we carry to
remember and honour those who
came before us.

Today, as we say our farewells, let us
remember Grandpa Jump not just
for the battles he fought but for the
lessons he taught us.

Grandpa, your stories will continue
to inspire us, your bravery will forever
guide us, and your love will always
surround us. As you join your mates,
know that your legacy
will live on, in the
stories we share, in the
values we uphold, and
in the poppies that
bloom every Spring.
Lest We Forget.



MY BROTHERS ARE CARVED IN STONE

*WINNER: John Curtis, 18, Year 12,
St Mary MacKillop Colleges,
Wagga Wagga*

THE bluffs of Gallipoli,
Rise up for us to see,
Where many soldiers would face,
A cold final resting place.

Now mournful cries fill the air,
Their screams are so much to bear,
As their life waters the ground,
Until there is no more sound.

I cannot remain here,
With my brothers so near,
When in their desolation,
I can bring consolation.

Amidst the fire and smoke,
On which I threaten to choke,
I hear a desperate cry,
From a soldier nearby.

As I approach cautiously,
A man looks up fearfully,
But I have come to console,
His sorrowful and pained soul.

My trembling arms
cradle him,
A poor, innocent
victim,
Who fades into
eternal light,
Under the early
Spring night.

I cry mournfully
for him,
A victim of mankind's sin,
Who though not of my mother,
Is one of my dear brothers.

Tears water my eyes,
As heartless moonrise,
Reveals bodies all around,
Covering the battleground.

Though no longer on this Earth,
My brothers will have new birth,
Where sorrow is no more,
And happiness is forever more.

My brothers are carved in stone,
Where they are never alone,
But guarded in the heart,
Of all who share a part.

I honour their sacrifice,
Which is of the greatest price,
And set the world free,
To rejoice in liberty.

Lest We Forget.



I MISS MY PAR

*HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Lane Johnson, 9, Year 3,
St Patrick's Primary School
Gundagai*

I CRY and cry because I
miss my Par who went in the
war. He successfully made it
through both wars.

Before he died, he planted
pine trees in his hometown
Gundagai. Every time I look
at the trees, I think about all
the people in the wars and
every year I try to keep the
ANZAC spirit alive.

On ANZAC Day we listen
to the gunshots and the
Last Post. We march down
Sheridan Street. We wear
beautiful red poppies, and we
eat ANZAC biscuits.



EAST

MY POEM TO ANTHONY

*WINNER: Junmahbi Sein, 11, Year 6,
Bribbaree Public School*

FIGHTER pilot, flying up high
Among the clouds, all floating by,
Way above the battlefields below ...
A flash of sparks, I burn and glow.
Spinning, spinning ... into a nosedive,
I crash into the battlefields below.

Anthony Steel Caldwell (31 January 1892-4 May 1917) lived in Young, NSW.

Anthony enlisted on 1 September 1916 and became a Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps. He died in a flying accident over Doncaster in England on 4 May 1917.

His engine failed, the plane spun out of control and into a nosedive.

He was 25 years old and is buried at Hyde Park Cemetery.



ANZAC DAY

IN THE RIVERINA & CENTRAL WEST

FOREVER HONOUR THEIR SACRIFICE

WINNER: Laura Price, 17, Year 11, St Raphael's Catholic School, Corowa

AS THE Sun rises over the Central West,
It brings with it a day that we hold dear.
The early morning glow from the east shimmers,
As I dwell on the emotions, thoughts roam free.
The Dawn Service proceeds to start the beginning of ANZAC Day,
To commemorate those who fought, and for whom we still pray.
They fought for our freedom, peace, and love of country,
Their sacrifices profound, a legacy that will last for eternity.
The haunting sound of a lone bugler sounding the "Last Post",
Echoes traditions sacred, honouring heroes the most.
Through a minute of silence and "The Ode" of remembrance,
ANZAC Day's importance, we vow to always remember.
I stand and watch retired soldiers marching down our country streets,
Their war medals gleaming proudly, their courage never retreats.
My red poppy and sprig of rosemary on display,
As I wave, clap, and cheer, honouring in every way.
No matter your life's path, treasure it and count yourself blessed,
Recognise this moment, let gratitude be your guest.
Speak the three words that embody the essence of ANZAC Day,
"Lest We Forget", let their meaning forever convey.



EAST

HE WAS BORN TO DIE

*HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Hailie Onley, 16, Year 11,
Cootamundra High School*

A KIND young man of 19,
Was in a rush towards his dreams.
But the Government called to explain his new future.
That he'd be fighting for the better.

They gave him a uniform and a task,
And told him that any and all emotions stay under a mask.
He was given orders that he must follow,
Or he'd be dead by tomorrow.
He watched his friends and brothers die,
Right in front of his eyes.
The guns, the violence, the gore, and the blood
That was now his best bud.

The broken and weary young man returned to his home of land in Cootamundra.
He opened the door to arms of his mother,

Who was proud like no other.
When asked: "What did you do?"
He gave a short response that was violent and crude.

The young soldier grew angry and distressed.
His family acted like this was all for the best.
He sat outside alone, waiting for the sounds of war.
So, he decided to embrace it all.

He vanished one day, no-one knew where he went.
Months passed, and his family was stressed.
Until they saw the red vehicle come up their driveway.
Two men stepped out, giving us the flag of the country.
They gave my mother a dog tag and courtesy.
The soldiers looked at her wordlessly,
She turned looking like a broken lullaby.
Even though she already knew,
My oldest brother was born to die.



WEST

A DAY IN THE LIFE

WINNER: Max Reid, 11, Year 6, Temora Public School

I WAKE in the morning in my cozy bed,
ANZACs woke up in cold, muddy trenches.
I eat my delicious breakfast,
ANZACs ate leftover hard ANZAC biscuits,
or nothing.
I get ready for school,
ANZACs got ready for a terrible battle.
I hang out with my friends,
ANZACs lost their great friends.
I write assessments at school,
ANZACs wrote letters to their family members back home.
I travel home,
The ANZACs travelled on a dangerous journey.
I go to sleep in my cozy bed,
ANZACs slept in the cold, muddy trenches.



A NATION'S BURDEN

WINNER: Harvey Drumore, 12, Year 7, St Anne's Catholic College, Temora

ON THE First of January, 1901, a beautiful baby was born, A bundle of fun, potential and growth, but as Britain's daughter she's scorned, Sons of crime, daughters of thieves, what good would this land do? In 1914, war broke out, the world she would prove herself to. With the idea in their heads of glorious medals, being greatly adorned, And so without another word, the ANZACs moved on. With a heave and a ho the boats went down, crashing out of the harbour, Boys and men said goodbye to their wives, mothers and fathers. The plan was released to the men while they were at sea officially, Which is partly why the men were slaughtered at the landing of Gallipoli. Blood and tears, courage and fear, And so the ANZACs had to move on. Make a friend, he was dead in

the morning,
Back in Australia, it was a time of mourning,
But nothing could prepare them for the sadness.
Lost friends and foes, it was madness.
The finish would be around the bend,
Even this war must end,
And so the ANZACs tried to move on.
They lost. They lost.
Not just the battle but so many lives.
Thousands dead, not returning to wives,
The war did some things to these people,
They were never the same after they faced that evil,
The wrong hands to these people were dealt,
Don't make history repeat itself.
The ANZACs couldn't move on.



AN ANZAC ENCOUNTER

HIGHLY COMMENDED: William Butcher, 13, Year 8, West Wyalong High School

IT WAS ANZAC Day in West Wyalong, the Sun was rising in the distance. The National Anthem was blaring out of the speakers. The elderly veterans were being driven past in cars with all their medals on their chests. As I stood there watching them drive past, an older man stopped near me. "Hey kid, are those your great-grandfather's medals?" His name was glaring off his badge, "John Price - Vietnam Veteran." "Yes, they are," I said. "Well, that's good you're wearing them for him," he replied. "I'm very proud of his achievements," I said. A honking noise startled me. Price said, "I better get going,

they are waiting for me." I responded back, "Thank you for your service." He said very quietly, "Thank you." As I walked up the street to the ANZAC service another man stopped near me. He had medals on but he seemed too young to be in the war. "Are those your medals?" I ask. "No of course not," he chuckled. "They are my grandfather's. I'm wearing them for him. He's my idol. One day I'm going to join the army!" He said excitedly, "Always chase your dreams." I said, "Well, I better go now my family are waiting for me." As the morning went on the ANZAC service finished and the crowd slowly died down. I walked home. I could smell something astonishing coming from my house. It was ANZAC biscuits, they smelled so good!



THE ANZAC SPIRIT

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Henry Tonacia, 11, Year 5, St Brendan's Primary School, Ganmain

WHEN I was 19 I signed up for war. The Great War wasn't so great. I was excited, not scared. Soldiers would call me Ollie but my real name is Oliver Rebel. I was in the 17th Battalion.

Us young boys were ordered to run through the water. Some fell down, couldn't get back up but others kept pushing and helping one another. Many boys lost their lives, including my friend Jacob, Jacob Walker. Jacob was a great and humorous man; he always looked out for others and that's what killed him. While Jacob was helping a man up, he was shot down. Us boys looked out for each other just to die side by side.

Now we must continue to look out for each other in the modern days. There still are wars that people participate in and that same ANZAC spirit is still displayed by the Australians that participate. The humorous men sharing a laugh and always looking out for each other on the battlefield. In small towns when there's a fire or someone is really sick, people are there for them. That's the ANZAC mateship. I talk to Jacob's grandchildren a lot and tell them all about their grandfather. They see him as a hero like everyone should. Jacob was supposed to grow old but he died young because of war. But we took one thing home with us ... the ANZAC spirit. Now everyone is ready to help me and I'm considered a hero where I live.



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