



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**

WORLD WAR ONE AND LETTERS TO HOME



Front cover image: *Members of the 2 Australian Infantry Battalion outside their billets in the Cavalry Barracks at Ypre, 1 November 1917.* (Source: Australian War Memorial, E01404).

COMPILED BY:

Neera Sahni, Research Services Leader

&

Cathy McHardy, Research Assistant

Research & Collection Services

Parramatta Heritage Visitor & Information Centre

346A Church Street, Parramatta 2150



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MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR

The City of Parramatta commemorates the Centenary of World War One, also known as 'The Great War,' which endured from 4 August 1914 to 11 November 1918.

Our City honours the thousands of young men and women around Australia who rallied to serve in the war effort, including the 1,962 volunteers from the Parramatta District, who went on to become soldiers, pilots, seamen, munitions workers, transport drivers and nurses, mainly deployed across Europe and the Middle East.

In 2018, the City of Parramatta has compiled hundreds of stories about the involvement of the Parramatta community in World War One, sharing these significant histories in many forms, including a series of publications, which focuses on various aspects of the war.

I hope the experiences of individuals will help to honour their sacrifice and connect you with our community's history. By preserving the contributions and memories of all those brave soldiers, sailors and aviators for future generations we show our respect for those who made such a sacrifice for our nation.

Andrew Wilson
Lord Mayor
City of Parramatta

Photographer: Jason Nichol Photography

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We would like to acknowledge the following resources for the production of this book:

- *Parramatta and District Soldiers in the Great War, 1914-1919*. Parramatta, N.S.W., The Cumberland Argus Limited, 1920.
- *The Australian War Memorial* (AWM)
- *The National Archives of Australia* (NAA)
- *The National Library of Australia* (NLA) *Trove*
- *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (CWGC)

More information and Parramatta Soldier stories can be found on our website www.arc.parracity.nsw.gov.au.

Images in the book come from the *Parramatta and District Soldiers in the Great War, 1914-1919*. Parramatta, N.S.W., The Cumberland Argus Limited, 1920.

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We thank everyone who has helped in any way to bring about this book

INTRODUCTION

Australia's involvement in World War One began on the 4 August 1914. Many who joined up believed that the war would be a great adventure, but none could have imagined the scale of the endeavor on which they were about to embark. Sadly, many of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, medical support staff and nurses didn't make it home. Their courage, sacrifice, hardship and losses brought a new maturity to our nation.

For Australia, the World War One remains the costliest conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, of whom more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner. Another 6000 veterans died by the 1930s due to war related injuries and suicide.

During the First World War, letter writing was the main form of communication between soldiers and their loved ones, this helped ease the pain of long term separation.

Soldiers from Parramatta would write letters to home in their spare time, sometimes from the front line but also in calmer moments away from the front. While there was censorship that meant soldiers couldn't write of everything they experienced or the places they were stationed, the emotions expressed and the information conveyed, revealed strong personal insights into the nature and experience of war.

At times, the narrative paints a graphic and confronting picture of the life in the trenches, however, also included are stories of bravery and resilience often related with humour and optimism.

Receiving letters and packages from family and friends especially around significant dates such as birthdays and Christmas was integral to maintaining mental health and morale. The correspondence kept men and women connected to the lives of family and friends which were so far away. In return, the letters written to soldiers and other service personnel from the home front now form a fascinating source of information about everyday life in wartime Australia.

We hope you enjoy reading about these amazing people and the terrifying and sometimes awe inspiring events against Germany and her allies.

Neera Sahni & Cathy McHardy

World War One Timeline

Neera Sahni

1914

28 June 1914	Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia
5 July 1914	Kaiser William II promised German support for Austria against Serbia
28 July 1914	Austria declared war on Serbia
1 August 1914	Germany declared war on Russia
3 August 1914	Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium. Germany implemented the Schlieffen Plan
4 August 1914	Britain declared war on Germany
23 August 1914	The British Expeditionary Force started its retreat from Mons. Germany invaded France
26 August 1914	Russian army defeated at Tannenberg and Masurian Lakes, East Prussia
9 September 1914	Battle of the Marne, France commenced
18 October 1914	First Battle of Ypres, Belgium
29 October 1914	Turkey entered the war on the side of Germany Trench warfare started to dominate the Western Front

1915

19 January 1915	The first Zeppelin raid on Britain took place
19 February 1915	Britain bombarded Turkish forts in the Dardanelles
25 April 1915	Allied troops landed in Gallipoli, Turkey
7 May 1915	The <i>Lusitania</i> was sunk by a German U-boat
23 May 1915	Italy declared war on Germany and Austria
5 August 1915	The Germans captured Warsaw, Poland from the Russians
25 September 1915	Start of the Battle of Loos, France
19 December 1915	The Allies started the evacuation of Gallipoli

1916

27 January 1916	Conscription introduced in Britain
21 February 1916	Start of the Battle of Verdun, France
29 April 1916	British forces surrendered to Turkish forces at Kut in Mesopotamia (now Iraq)
31 May 1916	Battle of Jutland in the North Sea
4 June 1916	Start of the Brusilov Offensive
1 July 1916	Start of the Battle of the Somme, France
10 August 1916	End of the Brusilov Offensive
15 September 1916	First use en masse of tanks at the Somme
7 December 1916	Lloyd George becomes British Prime Minister

1917

1 February 1917	Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare campaign started
6 April 1917	USA declared war on Germany
16 April 1917	France launched an unsuccessful offensive on the Western Front
31 July 1917	Start of the Third Battle at Ypres, Belgium
24 October 1917	Battle of Caporetto, now in Slovenia – the Italian Army was heavily defeated
6 November 1917	Britain launched a major offensive on the Western Front
20 November 1917	British tanks won a victory at Cambrai, France
5 December 1917	Armistice between Germany and Russia signed
9 December 1917	Britain captured Jerusalem from Turkish forces

1918

3 March 1918	The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed between Russia and Germany.
21 March 1918	Germany broke through on the Somme
29 March 1918	Marshall Foch was appointed Allied Commander on the Western Front
9 April 1918	Germany began an offensive in Flanders, Belgium
15 July 1918	Second Battle of the Marne started. The start of the collapse of the German army
8 August 1918	The advance of the Allies was successful

19 September 1918	Turkish forces collapsed at Megiddo, Palestine
4 October 1918	Germany asked the Allies for an armistice
29 October 1918	Germany's Navy mutinied
30 October 1918	Turkey made peace
3 November 1918	Austria made peace
9 November 1918	Kaiser William II abdicated
11 November 1918	Germany signed an armistice with the Allies – the official date of the end of World War One

Post war: 1919

4 January 1919	Peace conference met in Paris, France
21 June 1919	The surrendered German naval fleet at Scapa Flow was scuttled
28 June 1919	The Treaty of Versailles was signed by Germany

World War One: Financial Cost

Neera Sahni



Bullecourt, From A Sunken Road near Noreuil

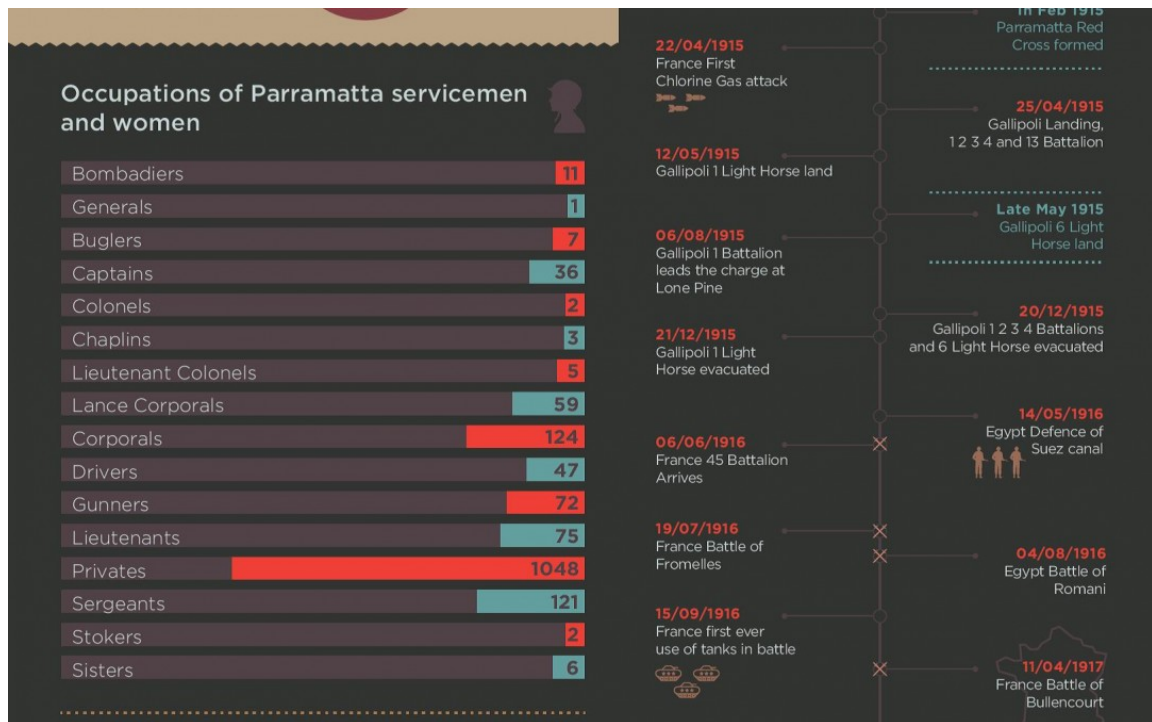
(Source: Charles E.W. Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War, of 1914-1918*, Volume 12 *Photographic record of the War*)

Allied Powers	Cost in US Dollars in 1914-18
Great Britain	35,334,012,000
France	24,265,583,000
United States	22,625,253,000
Russia	22,293,950,000
Italy	12,413,998,000
Canada	1,665,576,000
Romania	1,600,000,000

Allied Powers	Cost in US Dollars in 1914-18
Australia	1,423,208,000
Belgium	1,154,468,000
India	601,279,000
Others	500,000,000
Serbia	399,400,000
New Zealand	378,750,000
South Africa	300,000,000
Greece	270,000,000
British Colonies	125,000,000
Japan	40,000,000
Total of all Costs	125,690,477,000

World War One: Parramatta Key Dates

Geoff Barker



World War One 1914-1918 infographic (Source: Parramatta Heritage Centre)

While the Research and Collections Team at the Parramatta Heritage Centre has been researching World War One servicemen, servicewomen and volunteer organisations, we have uncovered a number of key dates which relate to Parramatta. Some cover broader events of the war, but we also decided to include dates that were very specific to Parramatta at home and abroad, as well as dates which relate to the broader demographic of the current local government area.

Some relate to the actions of army and naval units in which the soldiers or nurses from Parramatta served. Some to the heroic endeavors of individuals while others have been included to mark an individual's contribution. Furthermore, it should continue to provide food for thought as we highlight the contribution of Parramatta and surrounding district's to this major world event.

3 August 1914	Pennant Hills Wireless Station, and all other Australian wireless stations placed under the control of the Naval Board.
11 August 1914	His Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) <i>Parramatta</i> and <i>Warrego</i> enter Simpson Harbour, German New Guinea – Australia's first action of the war
22 August 1914	Richard (Dick) John Cutter became the first Parramatta man to enlist
September 1914	The Home Front – Parramatta Soldiers Wives and Mothers Centre commences
26 September 1914	First Indian troops arrive in France
30 September 1914	Action at Wytschaete, France and First Indian Victoria Cross
1 November 1914	First Australian troops embark from Albany, Western Australia
9 November 1914	Sinking of the His Majesty's Ship <i>Emden</i> (SMS <i>Emden</i>) by His Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) <i>Sydney</i>
15 November 1914	Former Parramatta man, Billyard-Leake, owner of Harefield Park, in Middlesex, England offers his house to the Australian military authorities for use as a hospital
24 November 1914	Sister Edith Faber accepted into 2 Australian General Hospital Nursing Service
1 December 1914	Parramatta woman, Dorothy Cawood, first Sydney nurse to be awarded a Military Medal, selected to work in the 1 and 2 Australian General Army Hospitals
18 December 1914	Parramatta dentist, Arthur James Mills, Commander of the 4 Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) British Imperial Camel Corps, enlists
19 January 1915	First Zeppelin attack at Yarmouth, aerial warfare comes to England
December 1914	1 and 2 Battalions arrive in Egypt
14 March 1915	Gallipoli campaign outlined to Sir Ian Hamilton by Lord Kitchener
22 April 1915	First successful gas attack and Second Battle of Ypres, Belgium

25 April 1915	1, 2, 3 and 4 Battalion – ANZAC landing 2 and 3 waves
25 April 1915	13 Battalion – lands in late afternoon
26 April 1915	Victoria Cross won by Mir Dast, British Indian Army
2 May 1915	Parramatta soldier, James Durrant involved in fighting at the 'Chessboard', Gallipoli, Turkey
12 May 1915	1 Light Horse – ANZAC landing
17 May 1915	Private Cecil George 'Curly' Eather from Parramatta, killed in action at Gallipoli
Late May 1915	6 Light Horse – ANZAC landing with Colonel Cox
3 July 1915	Maori Battalion lands at ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli
6 August 1915	1 Battalion leads charge Lone Pine, Gallipoli
20 August 1915	17 and 18 Battalion landed at ANZAC Cove
21 August 1915	19 Battalion landed at ANZAC Cove
22 August 1915	20 Battalion landed at ANZAC Cove
27 August 1915	Privates Ernest and Alfred Currell of Baulkham Hills enlist
20 December 1915	1, 2, 3 and 4 Battalion and 6 Light Horse – Evacuation at ANZAC Cove
21 December 1915	1 Light Horse – Evacuation at ANZAC Cove
14 May 1916	1 Light Horse defend Suez Canal, Egypt
19 July 1916	Battle of Fromelles, France
4 - 5 August 1916	1 Light Horse, Battle of Romani, Egypt
6 June 1916	45 Battalion arrives France made up of half Gallipoli veterans and new recruits
11 April 1917	13 Battalion – first battle of Bullecourt, France
21 July – 6 November 1917	3 Battle of Ypres, Belgium also known as Battle of Passchendaele
26 September 1917	54 Battalion – Battle of Polygon Wood, part of the Passchendaele, Belgium engagement
31 October 1917	1 and 7 Light Horse Battle of Beersheba, Palestine now Israel
27 - 31 March 1918	ANZAC Mounted Division and Camel Corps – First Battle of Amman, Palestine
30 March – 5 April 1918	54 Battalion – First Battle of Villers-Bretonneux
14 July 1918	Engagement Abu Tulul, Jordan Valley
11 November 1918	Armistice declared

World War One: Letters to Home

Neera Sahni & Cathy McHardy

Herbert Aiken – Service Number: 2102



Herbert Aiken was the nephew of Mrs. Emma Stockholm Lewis of 'Clarenzo', 64 Queen Street, Auburn, New South Wales. At the age of 25 years he enlisted in Liverpool, New South Wales on the 6 July 1915 with the 19 Battalion and embarked aboard HMAT *Argyllshire* in Sydney on the 30 September 1915.

Writing from Egypt just before his departure for France he stated: - *"I have met such a lot of boys who remember the Auburn Women's Patriotic League, and when I told them I came from Auburn, they asked me such a lot of questions about the women there, and when tea-time comes round they often talk of the lovely teas they used to give them at Liverpool Camp, I feel proud to say I come from the little town where the women have done so much for the soldiers, and made themselves so much admired by the boys over here."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 19 August 1916, p. 2.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86081806>

Aiken was wounded in action and died of his injuries on the 29 May 1916 in the Fleurbaix Sector, France. He was buried in the Brewery Orchard Cemetery, Bois-Grenier, France.

Arthur John Andrews – Service Number: 4432



A carpenter by trade, Arthur John Andrews was the son of Mr. Arthur V. Andrews of Station Road, Auburn, New South Wales and was the brother of Mrs. A. Morris of Marsden Street, Parramatta. Aged 27 years, Andrews enlisted on the 6 September 1915 in Sydney, New South Wales.

The last letter received from him remarked that he: - *"...had been in the trenches, but was then having a short spell prior to returning to action."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 4 November 1916, p. 10. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86073240>

Sadly, he was killed in action in France on the 3 September 1916 and was buried in the Railway Dugouts Burial Ground, Belgium.

Cecil Edwin Anschau – Service Number: 2900



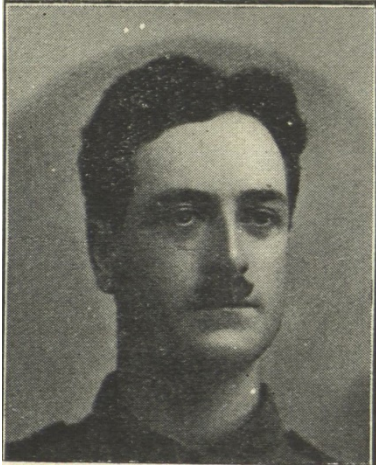
Cecil Edwin Anschau (spelled Anschau in the embarkation list), was the son of Mr. John Anschau who had moved from Dubbo to take up the position of Postmaster at Parramatta. Cecil Anschau was born in Lismore, New South Wales and was 25 years when he joined the forces on the 22 February 1915. He served with the 5 Field Hospital before being transferred to the 3 General Hospital. He was then transferred to Gallipoli, Turkey and was one of nineteen soldiers selected from the 5 Field Ambulance to remain until evacuation was completed.

Eventually stationed on Pope's Post he described the selection process: - *"...The whole world knows now that we have evacuated Gallipoli. The why and the wherefore I am bound by honor not to say, but I am proud to say that I was picked to be one of the last A.M.C. men to be left behind until the very end. The retreat took a whole week to accomplish, and our Brigade (the 5th) was picked to hold the last posts. They are: Russel's Top, Pope 's Post, Quinn 's Post, Courtney 's Post, and Walker's Ridge. Our Brigade was split up amongst them, our section was made fall-in, and the Major told us in a few words what was going to take place, and that the 5 Brigade was to hold on and cover the retreat of the troops.*

That being the case, the A.M.C. had also to stay to look after the boys. He had picked out his men to fill the posts of honor. He then started to read the names of the men, and mine was among them. I was very proud, but I knew only too well the job that had been left to us. However, nineteen there were of us, as we stood to attention, listening to all he had to say how proud he was and the responsibility that was laid on us, etc. I have been sad at times at what I have seen, but I can safely say that that ten minutes of lecture was the saddest of all my career as a soldier".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 11 March 1916, p. 4.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/116818159>

Gilbert Goldie Anschau – Service Number: 244



Gilbert Anschau was a 29-year-old clerk, who signed up in Newcastle even though his father worked as Postmaster at Parramatta. Born in Lismore he enlisted on the 16 September 1914 and embarked with First Division, 3 Infantry Battalion. Gilbert had a very eventful career in the Army before being killed at Bullecourt, France on the 5 May 1917. His name is recorded on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial. Initially he appears to have served with the 1 Field Ambulance, Army Medical Corps (A.M.C.).

In a letter to his sister published in the 'Tamworth Daily Observer' newspaper in August 1915 he says: - *"...This certainly is the life for me and I am perfectly happy in the trenches, helping some poor beggar, with the bullets whizzing and the shrapnel bursting all around."*

Extract: *The Tamworth Daily Observer*, 28 August 1915, p. 10.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/107450367>

Anschau later caught a severe form of dysentery known as 'enteric' at Gallipoli, Turkey and after a stay at Netley Hospital, England he was invalided home in April 1916. After making a full recovery, he sailed again for the front in October of the same year. He was made Corporal in recognition of his services at Hermies, France where he was again wounded, this time in the head.

A report in a Newcastle newspaper said he received the wound while he and some others were defending a trench with a Lewis gun, when a bullet hit the top of his steel helmet, tore of the rim, and split the steel making a huge dent. The hat had saved his life but he received a nasty scalp wound as a result.

Extract: *The Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*, 3 July 1917, p. 5.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/134856706>

Gilbert was soon back in the thick of the fighting and on the 5 May was recorded as missing, however, his death was confirmed a short time later. He was born in Lismore and his name is also associated with the Tamworth and Parramatta areas as he was a brother to Private C. E. Anschau who was also a son of Mr. J. Anschau, Postmaster at Parramatta.

Edgar Richard Atkinson – Service Number: 2369



Edgar Richard Atkinson, also known as Richard Edgar Atkinson, enlisted aged 21 years on the 11 March 1916 in Bathurst, New South Wales as a Private, later being promoted to Corporal.

Atkinson was the son of Mrs. Elvira Atkinson of Rawson Street, Auburn, New South Wales. Prior to enlisting he worked as a storekeeper. On the 24 August 1916 he embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT *Anchises*. His last letter home dated the 28 August 1917 stated that: -
"...he had then been in action and had come through all right and was in the best of health and spirits."

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 17 November 1917, p. 6.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86087931>

Sadly, he was killed in action on the 13 October 1917 near Zonnebeke, Belgium, aged 25 years. He has no known grave and is remembered with honour on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

Sydney Ellis Aubrey – Service Number: 3



Sydney Ellis Aubrey was born in Penrith, New South Wales and was the son of Mrs. D. Aubrey of 'Hillview', Penrith. He was the brother of J. Aubrey who lived in Norfolk Street, Liverpool, New South Wales. He enlisted as a Corporal on the 30 August 1914 in Sydney at the age of 32 years. Aubrey died of wounds on the 28 September, 1915 at Gallipoli, Turkey aged 35 years. He was buried in the Skew Bridge Cemetery, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey.

An account of his death was published in a letter to his brother from Captain F. Thornwaite, Cape Hellas, Gallipoli, Turkey: - *"Whilst in company with the remainder of the staff we were cheering the news of a glorious victory, in France, a bullet struck him in the neck and penetrated the lung. He received every attention it was possible to give, but nothing could save his life, and he died in about a quarter of an hour. He died very peacefully, and free from pain. His last words were, 'I am going to die; say good-bye to mother.' Corporal Aubrey is buried in the brigade cemetery, and his comrades are erecting a stone to mark his grave, which is well fenced in and protected."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 4 December 1915, p. 4.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86103631>

James Ball (Junior) – Service Number: 4599



James Ball (Jnr) was born on the 17 September 1890 in Lancashire, England. He was the eldest son of John James Ball (Snr), and Emily Ball, of 'Dorking Villa', George Street, Liverpool, New South Wales. His younger brother Frederick Ball and cousin Leonard Royd also served.

According to his military service papers, James Ball, junior, had previously served in the British Navy before enlisting to serve with the Royal Australian Navy from the 4 April 1915. He was the leading stoker of the HMAS Yarra from the 20 April 1915 to the 31 March 1916 before being invalided home on the 1 April 1916 suffering from deafness.

He was reported as commenting that he was: - *"Somewhere in the high seas, and as an ex- British Navy man he was downhearted at not being in the 'fun' in the North Sea"*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 8 March 1916, p. 2.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86082068>

On Saturday the 24 June 1916, he married Harriet Parkinson at the Liverpool Baptist Church. On the 13 December 1917 Ball re-enlisted, this time joining the Australian Imperial Force where he was assigned with the rank of Private with the staff cooks department. At his own request, he was later discharged around the 18 January 1918.

On the 3 October 1931, at the age of 41 years, James Ball (Jnr) passed away from a stroke at his residence in Bexley, New South Wales. He was interred at Woronora Memorial Park, New South Wales.

Arthur Beaven – Service Number: 4429



Arthur Beaven was a 21-year-old telephone mechanic when he enlisted on 10 September 1915. He was the son of Arthur John Beaven of Clifford Street, Parramatta and died on 27 July at the No 44 Casualty Clearing Station of wounds received in France on 22 July 1916. He was buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery, France.

In the last letter received by his father in Parramatta Arthur Beaven wrote about warfare at the front relating that: - *"At times during the day and night there is not so much as a rifle shot, and you could almost forget that there is a war on. Other times during the day there is nothing but*

the screech of shells in the air, and by night, when a bombardment is in full swing and the sky is red with the flash of the guns, the noise in deafening."

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 6 September 1916, p. 2.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86080867>

Walter Beaven – Service Number: unknown



Walter Beaven appears to have worked as a naval engineer on the SS *Strathdee* and was the son of Mrs. A. J. Beaven, Clifford Street, Parramatta. After going to school in Parramatta, he studied engineering and was one of the first Australian's to sail through the Panama Canal. He had a close encounter with what was thought to be an enemy raider off the coast of Mexico near Acapulco. While not attacked, they were caught within the gaze of the searchlights. After reading the name of Beaven's vessel, the other ship steamed away. Beaven

was told that the other was probably because she was a British or Japanese warship rather than an enemy one.

Writing to his family in Parramatta from Archangel in Northern Russia, Beaven wrote: - *"The winter up north, in these parts, has never been so severe before, and never in history have so many ships been lost and jammed in the ice in one season...Many poor fellows have lost their lives in the White Sea this winter"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 20 September 1916, p. 3.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86070000>

Horace John Harry Blake – Service Number: 2565



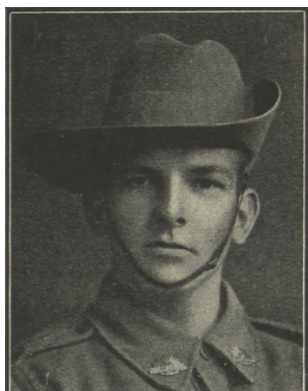
Horace John Harry Blake was born in London, England and enlisted on the 3 August 1915 as a Private at the age of 21 years at Liverpool, New South Wales. He was the son of Mrs. E. E. Stahl of Albion Street, Harris Park, New South Wales. In a letter to home written in January 1916, Blake wrote: - *"...I thought I would try and write a letter to you, so as to let you know how the Parramatta boys are. Well, it is surprising what a lot of Parramatta boys there are out here. Nearly every company has got half-a-dozen Parramatta lads in it..."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 8 March 1916, p. 4.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86082059>

Blake returned safely in 1916 and a welcome home with about 80 guests was organised at the residence of Mr. George Slade of Wigram Street, Harris Park. He

had arrived home aboard SS *Castalia* after three and a half years on active service. The Mayor presided over the festivities and guests also included Aldermen Moss, Smith and Gilbert. Tables were decorated with the young soldier's colours and flags.

Stephen Booth – Service Number: 3011



Stephen Booth was a 23-year-old bookbinder when he enlisted on the 26 June 1915. At that time, he was living with his mother Mrs. H. E. Booth, at Marion Street, Harris Park, New South Wales. He had attained the rank of Corporal when he disembarked at Marseilles, France on the 28 March 1916 being promoted to Lance Sergeant on the 7 August 1916.

He wrote in his last letter to home that: - *"...war was the work of the master of hell" and "it wasn't surprising to see men running around crying like children, suffering from shellshock"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 25 November 1916, p. 12.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86074603>

Booth was wounded in action on the 5 November 1916 and died as a result of his injuries at the 36 Casualty Clearing Station in France.

Howard Bruce Brown – Service Number: 169



Howard Bruce Brown was 21 years old and working as a railway clerk when he enlisted on the 22 September 1914. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Brown, Prospect Street, Rosehill, (later Weston Street, Harris Park, Parramatta) and the brother of Harold Brown. He was wounded in action in Gallipoli and as a result had to have one of his legs amputated and returned to Australia. However, he continued to be active in later life and eventually became secretary of Taronga Zoo, Sydney.

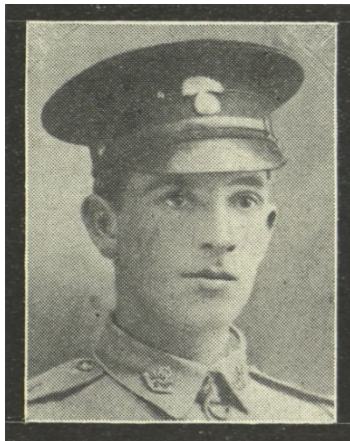
The '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*' published the following account of his accident: - *"... further details have been received concerning Sergt. Bruce Brown, who was wounded so badly at Gallipoli that his leg had to be amputated. At the time of the incident Sergt. Brown was acting as despatch carrier for General Birdwood. He was in a dug-out with a comrade when the trenches were being heavily shelled. He remarked, 'Some fine day a shell will break through this roof,' and sure enough it did. The staff-sergeant, writing to Mr. W. Brown (Bruce's father), of Harris Park,*

said: — *I was the first to enter the dug-out after the explosion. The case of the shell hit poor Bruce on the leg and cut the limb nearly off. I never saw a braver lad. He shook hands with us, and was taken away to the beach. He was wonderfully brave. The contents of the shell hit the other poor lad in the back and killed him instantly. Sgt. Brown is in hospital in Alexandria, from whence he writes cheerily. When he gets his artificial leg he does not wish to be sent home. He desires to get some light occupation with his regiment*".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 19 August 1916, p. 4.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86081898>

George Henry Buffery – Service Number: 168



George Henry Buffery was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. William Buffery, of Harrow Road, Auburn, New South Wales and enlisted on the 5 June 1915. Prior to enlisting he was in the Permanent Artillery at South Head, and lived with his wife at Watson's Bay, New South Wales. The couple had three children, but all died in infancy. He left for the front with the 36 Heavy Siege Brigade in July, 1915, and was killed in action in Belgium on the 4 October 1917. He was buried in the Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium. His last letter to home was written on the 17 September 1917 and in it he commented: - "...they were

badly in need of reinforcements at that time".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 15 December 1917, p. 10.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86092031>

Stanley George Burdus – Service Number: 1139



Stanley George Burdus, a locomotive cleaner, of Marsden Street, Parramatta, enlisted on the 24 March 1915 at the age of 24 years. He rose to the rank of 2 Lieutenant in the 20 Battalion and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for "*conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When sent forward with his company to secure the ground held by another company which had suffered heavy casualties he showed excellent leadership. He reorganised the details of this company and established a good line of posts. Seeing two*

machine-guns which were causing him heavy casualties, he, single-handed, rushed them and shot the crews with his revolver at point-blank range and captured the guns, thus enabling his men to advance".

In 1917, his mother, Mrs. S. Burdus, of Marsden Street, Parramatta, received a card from him, which said: - *"Dear Mum, just a card to let you know that I am now a 2nd Lieutenant, and I feel quite a big man. It was one of my ambitions to win a commission in the field. At last I am an officer. I am quite all right. With best wishes to all"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 5 May 1917, p. 4.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86088166>

Wilfred Ernest Burgess – Service Number: 2779



Wilfred Ernest Burgess, born in Parramatta in 1893, was the son of John Robert and Elizabeth Burgess of Harris Street, Parramatta. He enlisted on the 20 June 1915, in Liverpool, New South Wales and served with 9 Unit of 1 Battalion, embarking for Europe on the 30 September 1915. Burgess returned to Australia on board HMAT *Runic* on 11 April 1916. Writing from Heliopolis Camp, Egypt in December 1915, he commented: - *"The port looked very lovely at night with its electric lights and the warships' search*

lights...In Cairo the theatres don't open until 9 p.m. All the pictures are open-air, and you can go and sit down at tables and order drinks of all kinds and see pictures as well...No. 1 Base Hospital, which is here is one of the largest buildings; it was formerly a prince's palace, and now at present holds 3,000 patients...Nurse Wearne from Parramatta Hospital is also there...We are sleeping on the sand in huts. It is very heavy marching I this sand".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 25 December 1915, p. 10.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86101191>

Cecil Augustus Roy Burke – Service Number: 1363



Cecil Augustus Roy Burke, a Sydney Harbour Trust employee, enlisted in May 1915 serving with the 19 Battalion 5 Brigade in Gallipoli. In September 1915, he was severely wounded by a piece of shrapnel passing through his neck grazing his vertebrae and was admitted to the 19 General Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt before being invalided back to England. As a result of his injuries, he was discharged in 1916 and returned to Australia.

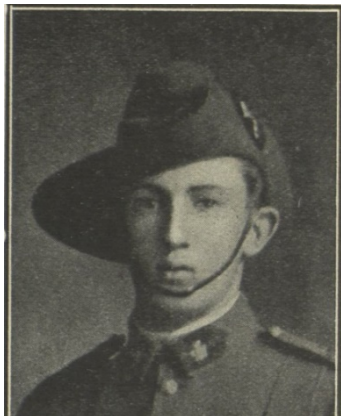
In an interview with the '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*' newspaper in 1916, Burke commented: - *"Tell the people from me not to take any notice of what they hear about the Turks. There is no fairer fighter anywhere. We heard terrible stories about mutilation and that sort of thing, but the only thing we saw were Turkish bandages on our*

men. No, I like Johnny Turk, and know him to be a square fighter. But I am glad to be home, though I will try to get back as soon as possible".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 11 March 1916, p. 4.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86070789>

Charles Vince Carr – Service Number: 367



Charles Carr was a 23-year-old salesman living with his mother Mrs. E. L. Carr at 'Loch Lomond', Smith Street, Parramatta when he enlisted on the 30 September 1914. One of the first to volunteer, Carr standing six-foot tall had brown hair and brown eyes. On the 24 February 1915 and again on the 11 April 1915 he was admitted to hospital with an unspecified illness at Abbassia, Egypt.

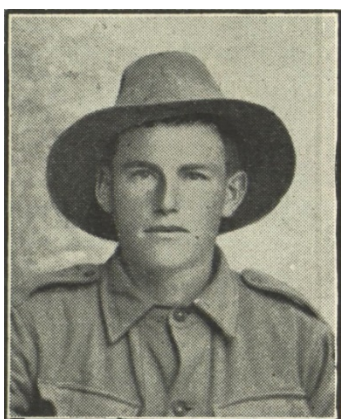
In February 1917 he wrote to his mother about his experiences relating that the battalion had: - *"just left the trenches after some of the hardest fighting in the history of this battalion, and I am sorry to say that we lost two Parramatta boys in the fight"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 21 April 1917, p. 4.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86090288>

On the 1 September 1916 he was promoted to Corporal and later that month arrived in France. On the 8 August 1918, he suffered a gunshot wound to his left eye and arm, sadly, dying four days later as a result of these injuries.

Arthur James Clarke – Service Number: 1721



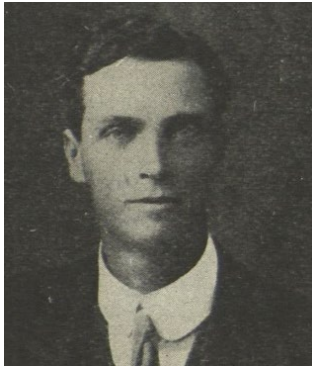
Arthur James Clarke was a labourer who lived in Granville, New South Wales and was 21 years old when he enlisted on the 21 December 1914. He became part of the 3 Battalion, 4 Reinforcement and his embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT *Shropshire* on 17 March 1915. He fought in Gallipoli and was afterward sent to France where he was wounded in action. Clarke returned home on the 12 March 1918.

Commenting about his war service, Clarke said: - *"...it is up to every man to join the army because they are all needed."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 17 March 1917, p. 4.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86083966>

Alfred Edward Conyers – Service Number: 1728



Alfred Edward Conyers was born on the 5 October 1886 in Bombay, India, the son of Walter Richard and Ethel Marrette Conyers of Conder Street, Burwood. Having spent twelve years as a railway volunteer in India, at the age of 28 years he enlisted at Liverpool, New South Wales on the 8 January 1915 joining the 2 Battalion. By March 1915, he had married Evelyn Eleanor Sibson of 'Merton House' Macquarie Street, Parramatta and on the 10 April 1915, it was confirmed that he had been promoted to Corporal and sailed from

Sydney aboard the HMAT *Argyleshire*. By the 26 May 1915 his rank had reverted to Private. Conyers was killed in action on the 25 July 1915 at Gallipoli. He was buried in Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey.

Conyers wrote to his family from Gallipoli shortly before he was killed commenting: - *"Am glad to say that I am keeping very well and fit...I might add I've had just two decent washed since I arrived. This is a rare luxury, as water is scarce and available only for drinking and cooking...If you look at the map of the Dardanelles it will give you an idea of where we are...From here we can hear the big guns of the warships bombarding the Narrows...We hope to be there [home] before long, the sooner the better."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 21 August 1915, p. 4.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86098889>

Jack Cottam – Service Number: 2588



John William Cottam, the son of Mr. William Cottam, 'Werriwa', High Street, Harris Park, New South Wales, enlisted aged 22 years on the 19 July 1915 at Liverpool, New South Wales. He was a fitter by trade and was born in Rotherham, England. Cottam was a footballer and played for the Granville Magpies.

In a letter to home written in January 1916 which was published in the '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*' in March, Parramatta boy, Horace John Harry Blake wrote: - *"Well, it is surprising what a lot of Parramatta boys there are out here. Nearly every company has got half-a-dozen Parramatta lads in it. There is Jack Cottam in our company. He sleeps next to me in the tent. He used to play football for the Granville Magpies. Well, Jack has got up a team, and they are going to play the Egyptian College boys tomorrow. They played before and got beat. The score was two goals to one..."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 8 March 1916, p. 4.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86082059>

William Edward Cox – Service Number: 3735A



William Edward Cox was born in Pitt Town, New South Wales and enlisted aged 21 years at Holsworthy, on the 15 September 1915. A labourer prior to enlistment, Cox was the son of William James Cox and brother of Mrs. Agnes Barter of 90 Church Street, Parramatta. On the 30 December 1915 he embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT *Medic*. He wrote home to Mr. and Mrs. Barter whose place he always considered home on the 4 May 1916. He wrote that he was: - *"very much troubled with rheumatics, and he intended to go and see the doctor on the following day"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 8 July 1916, p. 4. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86080155>

Sadly, Cox was killed in action on the 20 May near Sailly-au-Bois, France and was buried in the Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, France. However, notification of his death did not arrive at Parramatta until the 21 June 1916.

Wallace Cox – Service Number: unknown



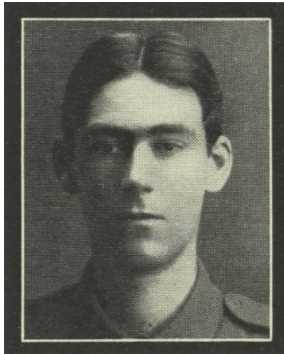
Wallace Cox, brother of Lieutenant Colonel Cox was a 31-year-old fruitgrower when he enlisted on the 27 August 1914. Initially he assigned the rank of Lieutenant in B Squadron of the 7 Light Horse Brigade but he was a courageous soldier and by the time he died of his wounds he had attained the rank of Captain serving with the 1 Light Horse Brigade. Cox wrote to his family about the voyage to Egypt commenting about the rough seas they experienced after they left Sydney. Cox went on to say that: - *"We have been most comfortable. We have a good ship and officers. All getting very fat. There are between 20 and 30*

big transports lying here – a fine sight. We will wait for the N.Z. ships, making 38 in all".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 5 December 1914, p. 12.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85964574>

Cox, who was educated at the King's School, Parramatta, was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Cox, of Parramatta and Carlingford, and brother of the distinguished soldier, Colonel Charles F. Cox, C.B. He was a popular member of the Carlingford District Progress Association. His father Mr. F. C. Cox was Mayor of Parramatta in 1884 and was for many years an alderman of the council. Captain Wallace Cox died from wounds received at Gallipoli, Turkey on the 17 August 1915.

Herbert Creagh – Service Number: 4758



Herbert Creagh was the eldest son of Mr. John B. and Alice Creagh of Dartbrook Road, Auburn, New South Wales. Born in Redfern, New South Wales in 1897 but raised in Auburn, as a child he had attended the North Auburn Public School. At the age of 18 years, he joined the Australian Imperial Force, 2 Infantry Battalion, 15 Reinforcement on the 11 September 1915 in Warwick Farm, New South Wales. A labourer prior to enlisting, Creagh embarked from Sydney aboard the HMAT *Star of England* on the 8 March 1916. He spent a couple of months in Egypt, where on the 20 April 1916, he was taken on strength and transferred to the 54 Battalion, C Company at Ferry Post. He spent the winter on the Somme which led to him contracting trench foot and was admitted to hospital at Colchester, England.

Creagh's last communication received by his father was a photo taken whilst convalescing at Perham Downs, England on the 26 February 1917 on which he wrote on the back: - *"Leaving for France again on 12th March. Good-bye"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 16 June 1917, p. 10.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86091741>

Sadly, he was wounded in action on the 15 May 1917 at Riencourt, France and died of his wounds on the 18 May 1917 at the 29 Casualty Clearing Station, France aged 20 years. He was buried in the Grevillers British Cemetery, France.

Norman Frederick Currey – Service Number: 1725



Norman Fredrick Currey who worked at the Auburn Timber Yard enlisted for service as a Private with the 13 Battalion on the 13 January 1915. At that time, he was a 19-year-old labourer living in Liverpool, New South Wales. He was the third son of Mr. John Joseph and Mrs. Sarah Currey of Sorrell Street, Parramatta and embarked on 17 March 1915 aboard HMAT *Shropshire*.

Currey was wounded in action on two occasions and wrote to his parents from hospital telling of his experiences: - *"I know now what it is like to be under fire and getting wounded. It is terribly exciting but it is like a living hell. I have seen some sights that I will never forget to the last... You dream all the old sights of bursting bombs and dropping soldiers. Every night the same scene over and over again, and your nerves go to pieces..."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 28 August 1915, p. 10.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86100219>

Thomas Daniel – Service Number: 1805



Thomas Daniel was born at Trongate Street, Granville, New South Wales. He was a carpenter prior to enlistment and lived with his father William Daniel. At the age 31 years he joined the Australian Imperial Force 17 Battalion 2 Reinforcements on the 10 February 1915 at Liverpool, New South Wales. He embarked at Sydney aboard HMAT *Suffolk* on the 28 July 1915 with the rank of Private.

He served in Gallipoli, Turkey for several months and he was wounded in action on the 31 December 1916 and admitted to hospital with severe gunshot wounds. On the 25 May 1917, he proceeded overseas to France and re-joined his unit until he became ill and was subsequently transferred to England. He was discharged from the hospital to Number 2 Command Depot on the 10 October 1917. He returned to Australia per *Ypiranga* on the 9 January 1920.

Private Daniel wrote to his brother in Granville expressing his feelings on leaving the war behind: - *"I shall never forget the morning I left France in a large American Hospital Ship called the Cambria to cross the channel to Dover. It was just like a dream from heaven after the dreadful life on the battlefield. A beautiful morning when we arrived in Dover, and the Red Cross train in waiting was a picture to look upon and the attention of the nurses – well it is beyond my power to describe".*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 14 October 1916, p. 4.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86075496>

Harry Fifield Didcote – Service Number: 194



Sergeant Harry Didcote, was a resident of Wetherill Park, New South Wales prior to enlisting with the 17 Infantry Battalion which left for Egypt on the 12 May 1915.

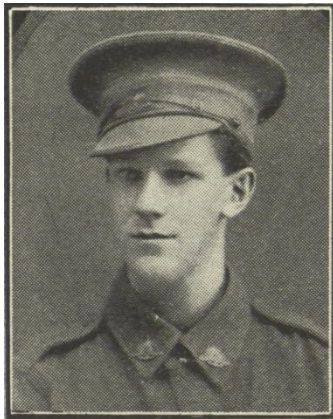
In a letter written by Sergeant Didcote from hospital in Heliopolis, Egypt to Mr A. C. Bell the soldier played down the severity of his wounds saying that he: - *"had a little bit of an accident but it wasn't much, just a bit of a cut on the jaw and a broken lower jaw, so I reckon I got off light. A little bit higher and it would have been good-bye, instead of which, except for the loss of a few nights sleep and the inconvenience of living on milk and beef tea out of feeders. I am getting pretty right. You would laugh to see me now with my face bandaged up, one side all swollen and my lips blue with bruises. I do look funny"*

Didcote also praised the excellent care given to the injured soldiers by the nurses saying that they were *"just angels, toiling, and doing for the like of us as if we were their own children. The people of Australia do not realise what the sisters do for the men. Twelve hours solid going dressing wounds and getting nice dishes for anyone who is too sick to eat the regular fare (which is first-rate), taking temperatures and pulses, they have plenty to do"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 8 December 1915, p. 2.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86107818>

Despite the seriousness of his wounds he re-joined his battalion in January 1916. Sadly, he was killed in action on the 12 January 1918 and was buried at Gunners Farm Military Cemetery, Comines-Warneton, Belgium.



Allan Dunkley – Service Number: 5209

Allan Dunkley was 18 years old when he enlisted with his older brother Harold (Service Number 5210) in the Australian Army on the 3 January 1916. At the time, he was employed as a clerk at Messrs. L. Harper and Company, a timber firm in Parramatta and was well known in football circles around the Granville and Parramatta district. The second son of Ernest Samuel and Elizabeth Dunkley of Harris Street, Granville, the family later moved to 'Drysdale', Smith Street, Parramatta. His brother-in-law Clarence Havelock Atkins (Service Number 4054), husband to his eldest sister Jessie R. G. H. and younger brother Stanley (Service Number 6536) also served. On the 1 April 1916, Private Dunkley embarked in Sydney aboard the SS *Makarini* and proceeded straight to France to join his battalion on the Western Front in France on the 22 August 1916. He was wounded in action, reported as an abrasion or a gunshot injury to right buttock, however, later reported as a gunshot wound left shoulder, in France on the 3 November 1916.

He embarked on the hospital ship *Formosa* for England on the 16 November 1916 and was admitted to the 4 Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland on the 18 November 1916, then discharged on the 23 February 1917. Dunkley married Eva Christina Lambert in Tibenham, Norfolk, England on the 29 October 1917.

A frequent writer of letters to home, his correspondence appeared in the *'The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate'* on the 20 January 1917 entitled *'Seven mates killed'*. After travelling on foot, by train and by motor lorry, Dunkley's battalion arrived at a place known as Devil's Wood: -

"We were there for four days, past our knees in water and mud; it's no ordinary mud either; it's a sticky muck, and if you had both feet down at the same time it would take half-a-dozen men to pull you out. There were dead all over the place". The battalion then moved on to Flers where "a 5.9 shell landed in the dugout, killed my seven mates, left me with a severe wound on the right buttock and the gun was smashed to pieces".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 20 January 1917, p. 10.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86093018>

On several occasions Dunkley was found to be absent without leave. He remained in England until he returned to Australia with his bride aboard the *Orca* on the 9 April 1919.

Cecil George 'Curly' Eather – Service Number: 1544



Private Cecil Eather, known as 'Curly' embarked from Australia in February 1915. He only lived for a few days after his landing at Gallipoli. Private Jago, son of Mayor Jago, was positioned close to where Eather met his fate. In a letter published in *'The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate'* in October 1915, Jago wrote about the last few moments of Eather's life. Jago had just warned Eather — who had landed only a few days before - to rely upon the periscope, to get a look at the enemy, and not to expose himself.

Eather was new to 'the game' (as the soldiers called it) and said: - *"Oh, they'll not get me, I'll chance it!"* Jago went on with his work, watching out for any movement in the enemy's trenches: - *"A little later he heard a dull thud; and his friend lay there wounded in the head. Eather died a little later on a hospital ship. He was called 'Curly' because of his hair. "Had his hair been cropped closer it might have been better for him; he would have had more chance said the doctor."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 23 October 1915, p. 12.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86104591>

Eather's mother also received a letter from Quarter-Master Sergeant Don Fegan who felt it had been a privilege to have served side by side with her son.

"Though young in years he has shown the spirit and heroism of a veteran, and I am proud that he has fought side by side with me. He was smiling when he became unconscious, and was quite free from pain. The bullet went into the side of his head, tho' the wound could hardly be seen."

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 24 July 1915, p. 11.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86107616>

Richard William Fairweather – Service Number: 4198A



Richard William (Dick) Fairweather, known as Dick Fairweather was born on 24 March 1885 at Parramatta, New South Wales, the third son of William Horace and Ethel Annie Fairweather nee Vosper. The Fairweather family was originally from Tavistock, Devonshire, England and settled in Parramatta in 1890. In 1915, Fairweather was a member of the 1915 Granville Magpies first grade soccer team and enlisted on 15 August 1915 with the 13 Reinforcements of the 1 Infantry Battalion in Warwick

Farm. He was a 21-year-old bachelor who worked as a shop assistant at John Hunter & Sons in Redfern, Sydney. The family was residing on Good Street, Mays Hill, New South Wales before later moving to 'Paisley' 164 Trongate Street, Granville. He embarked on 20 December 1915 aboard HMAT *Aeneas* from Sydney for Egypt arriving on 16 February 1916. The 54 Battalion was formed from survivors of the Gallipoli campaign and new recruits from Australia. His unit arrived in France in June 1916 and was engaged in the Battle of Fromelles, Lille, France on 19 July 1916.

Fairweather was reported missing after the battle on 21 July 1916 and his family was informed by the International Red Cross that he had been taken prisoner of war in Germany in August 1916. He spent two years in the German prison camp and was repatriated to England on 19 December 1918 arriving back in Sydney on 24 April 1919. After quarantine in Manly, he returned to civilian life in June 1919 as a plumber and drainer.

Fairweather's last letter to home, written on the 28 June before he was captured was published in the local newspaper. He wrote about the scorching deserts of Egypt where his unit was stationed for training before proceeding by train to "somewhere in the Somme" district in France. Fairweather wrote that he: - *"never saw such a beautiful place...Cherries, cherries everywhere and don't they look lovely. This is much like sunny N.S.W. The more I see of it the more it reminds me of home"*. Speaking of the French hosts he commented: - *"This morning after breakfast I helped the lady of the house to churn the butter, and am getting on quite well with my French friends...Folks here must have brave hearts, as only a few miles away are the enemy"*.

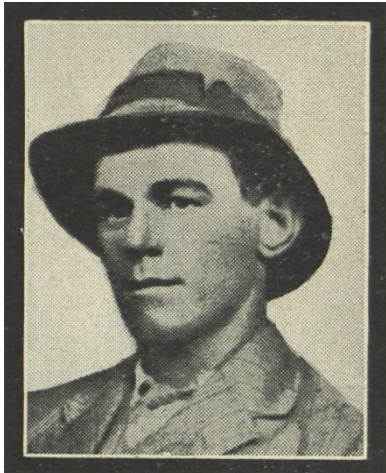
Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 2 September 1916, p. 4.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86069239>

He married Alice Irene Stanton in 1930 and they first settled in Auburn. According to electoral roll records he later became a machinist from 1943-63 and the family resided at 164 Blaxcell Street in Granville, New South Wales. His former employers

include Clyde Engineering and later Rydalmere Mental Hospital during the 1950s to early 1960s. On 1 July 1964 he died after suffering a heart attack at the age of 69 years. His wife and daughter Irene Dawn predeceased him. His only son John was born in 1939.

Herbert Freeman – Service Number: 1897



Herbert Freeman, of Parramatta, New South Wales and brother of Private Percy Freeman, died of wounds on the 14 August 1917, while a prisoner of war at Kriegs Lazarett 7, Gruppe 2, Sous le Bois, Maubeuge, France, aged 28. He is buried in the Maubeuge-Centre Cemetery, France. A labourer prior to enlisting, he embarked from Melbourne aboard the HMAT *Port Lincoln* on the 4 May 1916.

In his final letter to his family, Freeman hoped to allay the fears held by his family for his safety, he assured them that there was *"Nothing to worry about, only when*

the war is going to end. I only hope it will be over soon. It is not too bad over here now — the hot weather has started. It was too cold."

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 23 October 1915, p. 12.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86213303>

Freeman's life and the mystery surrounding his death was reported in the '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*' in October 1915.

"News reached Parramatta the other day of the death (whilst a prisoner of war in Germany) of Private Herbert Freeman, of Parramatta, of the 57th (late 59th) Battalion, A.I.F...Private Freeman, reported died of wounds, was actually knocked on the head with a sentry's rifle. He was the eldest son of a family of five brothers, four of whom have fought, and one offered and was rejected. 'Herb', as he was generally called, was a fine, thick-set lump of manhood, and was of a particularly determined and unfearing disposition... When war broke out he was in Lismore, and afterwards went to Queensland. From there he went to England, where he was rejected when he volunteered to go to the war. He afterwards found his way to Vancouver, and was engaged for some time in the taking of mules to Egypt and England for war purposes. Whilst thus engaged he contracted malaria, and was in hospital for six months, when he was discharged. The fever affected his hearing somewhat. Returning to his home at Parramatta, he was back but a week when he offered to enlist and was accepted. He went into camp on January 17, 1916, at Liverpool, thence to Melbourne and England. Not long afterwards he was sent to the firing-line; and on November 9, 1917, the Rev. Hilhouse Taylor visited his relatives and conveyed the tidings that he had been taken prisoner of war. From the Red Cross Mrs. Weeden got the sad news

that her brother had died from wounds, whilst a prisoner of war, at Limberg, Germany, according to the German official list, 3/5/17".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 23 October 1915, p. 12.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86213303>



William Frick – Service Number: 2375

William Frick, aged 24 years and a labourer by trade, embarked on the 5 October 1915 from Sydney on the HMAT *Themistocles*. He joined the 18 Infantry Battalion, 1 to 13 Reinforcements. His place of residence was listed as being Wilmington, South Australia, though he had formerly lived in Granville, New South Wales. Frick was also the nephew of Alfred Lines of Alfred Street, Granville with whom he had resided for some time, and so was familiar to many Granville residents. Private Frick disembarked at Marseilles, France on the 25 March 1916.

On the 27 June 1916 he was reported wounded in action and missing in France, but within 3 weeks it was confirmed that he had been captured and was now a prisoner of war. He had been involved in a raid at Bois-Grenier, France and had been injured in the neck by bayonet. As a prisoner of war his medical injuries were treated and he was interned in a camp at Stendal, Saxony in Germany.

Frick's uncle, Alfred Lines of Granville was very surprised to receive a letter from his nephew sent from Stendahl and dated the 30 August 1917. The letter was published in the '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*': - *"You will no doubt be a bit surprised to hear from me... We are only allowed to write two letters a month and four postcards, so I cannot write to many people...I am pleased to be able to tell you that I am getting along all right. My wounds are nearly healed up now. They never were very big, but two knife wounds in the back of the head put me out of action for some time. I was paralysed for about five hours, and all that time shells and bombs were bursting about me as I lay in the trench unable to move...It was the German Red Cross who found me and I must say they treated me very well...I am still alive and I sincerely hope that I will see you all again one day."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 6 January 1917, p. 10.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/8965603>

Just after Christmas 1918 William Frick was repatriated due to the cessation of hostilities, and on the 2 March 1919 he returned to Australia. A medical report

completed in 1919 stated that he had been paralysed for 3 months but had no permanent disability.

Percy Hugh Roy Goodwin – Service Number: 255



Percy Hugh Roy Goodwin was born in Newtown, New South Wales in 1884 and was the only son of Emily J. and Gerald F. Goodwin, the local chemist at the Auburn and Lidcombe United Friendly Societies' Dispensary in Queen Street, Auburn, New South Wales. Prior to enlistment, he worked as a draper and at the age of 30 years he joined the Australian Imperial Force, 1 Infantry Battalion at Randwick on the 24 August 1914. He embarked at Sydney aboard HMAT *Afric* on the 18 October 1914 with the rank of Private.

Goodwin often wrote to his family at home and some of his letters were published in the *'Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate'*.

"Private Percy Goodwin, son of the well-known friendly societies' chemist at Auburn, had eluded bullets and shrapnel of the Turks at the Dardanelles up to the 7th July. Later news from him states that he was still in the trenches on 4th August and was well, notwithstanding that out of 13 comrades in his tent, all have been either killed or wounded except himself and another, who is missing. Private Goodwin took part in the storming of the height at Gaba Tepe on 25th April".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 29 September 1915, p. 3.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86072080>

He also took part in the Battle of Lone Pine from the 6 to the 10 August 1915. On the 7 November 1915, he was transferred and admitted to hospital with a corneal ulcer at Mudros, Greece. By the 24 November, he returned to the trenches in Gallipoli and was among the last on the Peninsula to evacuate on the 21 December 1915. Taken on strength, he joined the 45 Battalion on the 31 March 1916. From Alexandria, Egypt, he sailed to Marseilles, France in June 1916.

He was found guilty and was penalised for being absent from his unit on the 15 June 1916. He re-joined the 45 Battalion from the 4 Australian Division Base Depot on the 14 July 1917 and he was detached from the Battalion to 12 Brigade. He disembarked at Folkestone, England and reported for duty at Administration Headquarters in London on 3 September 1918.

Goodwin returned to Australia per HT *Runic* on the 26 November 1918 and was officially discharged from service on the 26 January 1919. In 1919, Percy Goodwin married Florence M. Lance in Marrickville, New South Wales and returned to his

former profession as a draper at Webber's Store. He died on the 24 December 1931 aged 47 years.

Joseph Gomes – Service Number: 3300



Joseph Gomes was a 21-year-old labourer living with his mother, Mrs. Mary Gomes of Bigge Street, Liverpool, New South Wales when he enlisted on the 8 August 1915. He was assigned to the 2 Infantry Battalion, 11 Reinforcement as a Private and embarked with his unit from Sydney aboard the HMAT *Euripides* on the 2 November 1915.

Gomes was taken on strength in Tell-el-Kebir on the 5 August 1916 and was transferred to the 54 Battalion on the 14 August 1916. He was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal on the 3 January 1917 and was wounded in action on the 8 March 1917, suffering a gunshot injury to the right hip. He was sent to England for treatment aboard the HS *Gloucester* on the 16 March 1917 and was treated at the Voluntary Aid Detachment in Exeter. He was granted leave from the 11 to the 26 May 1917.

In April 1917, Gomes wrote to a friend in Liverpool: - *"If you could only see our boys in the snow which is feet deep in the shell holes, and I can tell you it does 'bite some', but all will come right bye and bye...I received your card and looked at it for a long time, thinking of the day when all the boys will march across the bridge into Liverpool Camp"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 28 April 1917, p. 6.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86087867>

He then proceeded to France on the 23 November 1917, and re-joined his unit on the 2 December 1917. He was promoted to the rank of Temporary Corporal on the 6 June 1918. He was evacuated to hospital on the 16 June 1918, and reverted to the rank of Lance Corporal. He then re-joined his unit on the 13 August 1918 and was promoted to the rank of Vice Corporal on the 2 September 1918.

He returned to Australia per the *City of Poona* on the 28 March 1919 and was awarded the Star Medal, British War Medal and Victory Medal for his service.

Edward George Greenshields – Service Number: 2400



Edward Greenshields worked at the Grocery store of Mr Woods in Parramatta and resided with his aunt, Mrs. McPhie at 'Alpha', Weston Street, Harris Park, New South Wales. He enlisted on the 18 July 1915 and was given a send-off at Mr. W. Wood's store at Parramatta. "He was presented with a silver wristlet watch prior to his departure for the front. Mr. W. Wood had stated that he was pleased that one of his staff had volunteered to fight for his country and the Empire. His position would be open for him on his return. Messrs. H. Benser and L. Reed also spoke a few friendly words appropriate to the occasion.

Mr. Greenshields in replying thanked Mr. Wood and his workmates for their kindness, and stated that he felt it his duty to join the many others in Parramatta who had enlisted."

The '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*' published news of Private Greenshields written by Private H. Blake from "Somewhere in France": -

"I am writing a few lines to let you know how all the boys are getting on. We have been very lucky up to now. Edie Greenshields got a slight wound in the head. He was in hospital for four days. He is out again and none the worse for the wound".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 12 August 1916, p. 10.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86075211>

Thomas Gregory – Service Number: 2154



Thomas Gregory, an iron worker employed at the Clyde Engineering Works, lived in Phillip Street, Parramatta when he enlisted on the 10 July 1915. Lance-Corporal Gregory came from England to Australia and had already served in the Boer War where he was wounded several times while on active service. Shortly before leaving for the front, he married to Miss Annie Speers of Phillip Street. On the eve of his departure, he received numerous valuable presents including a watch from the Iron Workers Association (of which he was a delegate). After short training in Liverpool Camp, he left Parramatta in

September 1915 for the Dardanelles.

He was one of the last forty men to be evacuated from Gallipoli. With other ANZACs he was sent to France, and while in action there was seriously wounded,

which led to his death. He was reported killed in action however there was confusion as to the validity of the report.

Mrs. S. Cameron of Harris Park received a letter from her son providing details of the circumstances of the death of Tom Gregory relating that Gregory was: - *"wounded on the arm and over the eye with a bomb. He was taken to the hospital, where he was operated on, and his arm amputated. He came through the operation successfully, but died two days later"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 22 July 1916, p. 6.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86073296>

The Rev. T. B. Holmes received confirmation of the death of Lance Corporal Thomas Gregory of the 20 Battalion and had the sad duty of breaking the news to Mrs. Gregory, wife of the deceased.

Thomas Verran Hammond – Service Number: 406



Thomas Verran Hammond usually known as 'Tommie' was a well-known racing cyclist in the Granville district of New South Wales having 'scooped the pool' at Clyde Sports Day on Easter Monday, 1912 and in the 100-mile test race. Born in Paddington, New South Wales, Hammond was the pride and joy of his parents William C. and Mary E. Hammond of Clyde, New South Wales.

Prior to enlisting on the 22 August 1914 in Randwick, New South Wales, Hammond had worked as a riveter. He embarked with his unit, the 2 Infantry Battalion, D Company from Sydney aboard HMAT *Suffolk* on the 18

October 1914.

In March 1915, Hammond was stationed in Egypt from where he wrote to his parents expressing his disgust at the untruths that were being published about Australian troops in some newspapers and conveying the soldiers courage and determination to succeed against the enemy: - *"...it has touched our hearts to think that after all we have done, and the hard work we have endured, that such things are allowed to be printed about us...All we want is to get right in amongst them...I tell you, no matter who they put us up against, we are going to come out with the flag of victory flying"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 28 April 1915, p. 2.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86101907>

During the Gallipoli campaign in Turkey Hammond was wounded in action on the 11 June 1915 and transferred to hospital in Malta where he died aged 22 years on the 24 July 1915 after his leg was amputated in an attempt to save his life. He was buried in the Pieta Military Cemetery, Malta.

George Thomas Hemsley – Service Number: 6163



George Thomas Hemsley, a farmer who lived in Pennant Street, Parramatta embarked aboard the HMAT *Argyllshire* on 31 October 1916 joining the 23 Battalion. He was killed in action at Passchendaele, Belgium on 9 October 1917, aged 20. He is buried in the Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium.

The following letter that appeared in the '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*' made reference to the death of Private G. T. Hemsley. Rumours were circulating that he was not dead, and his mother was anxious that something should be published to confirm

the first message of his being killed in action: -

"France, 13/3/18. Dear Mrs. Hemsley, — Just a short note in reply to yours of the 23rd December, in order to tell you that Capt. Hinchcliffe read your letter and has answered your enquiries very fully. Briefly, he told you the following particulars: — That your boy was not knocked about much, but that the place was so hot that they were not able to get anything of him, but had to bury him as quickly as possible. His grave is on the Broodseinde Ridge. It was marked by a cross, but there is not much probability of that cross being there now or of the grave being recognisable, owing to the heavy shelling it is always subjected to. I did not tell you of this in my previous letter, as I desired to spare your feelings, but you have asked me for the whole circumstances, saying that you can now bear to hear them. I am very sorry to have to disabuse your mind of the hope that a mistake was made. Unfortunately, his death is too certain for that. I trust that your heart has found comfort ere this, and that you are looking forward to meet your boy above".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 25 May 1918, p. 10.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86213895>

Percy James Hesselwood – Service Number: 6330

Percy James Hesselwood, who worked as an engine driver with Ammonia Works, Clyde, New South Wales, enlisted on the 30 October 1916 and was assigned to the 19 Battalion of South Granville, New South Wales at the age of almost 22 years. At that time, he was married to Florence Beatrice Gregory, care of Mrs. Gregory, 'Westbrook', South Granville. Hesselwood was born in England and had only been



in New South Wales for four years when he enlisted. He was also a boxer of some note having fought and defeated Sid Godfrey at the Sydney Stadium, and on a back trip to England he won an all comers' boxing contest amongst the troops for lightweights, the first prize being £5.

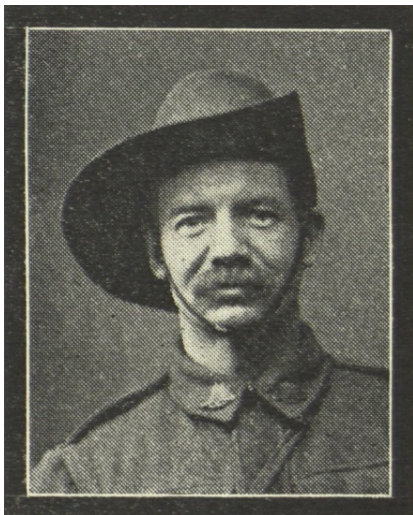
Hesselwood embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT *Suevic* on the 11 November 1916. He was killed in action by sniper fire at Daisy Wood near Passchendaele, Belgium on 9 October 1917.

"In the last letter received so far by his wife, which is dated 27th September, he states that he was then resting for a short while and was in the best of health".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 1 December 1917, p. 4.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86093906>

Hesselwood has no known grave and is remembered with honour on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Hesselwood's wife Florence subsequently remarried Frederick C. Hoskins in 1923.

Alex Hood – Service Number: 3607



Alexander Hood of the 4 Australian Tunnelling Company and later 1 Australian Tunnelling Company enlisted in Bathurst, New South Wales at the age of 42 years. Originally born in West Calder, Scotland, Hood was married to Mrs. Edith Hood of 'Strachur', Rochester Street, Homebush. The couple had a large family of eight children. A contractor prior to enlisting, he embarked from Sydney aboard the HMAT *Warilda* on the 22 May 1916.

Writing about the untimely death of Sergeant Hood, the '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*' commented: *"In his letters home he always wrote in a cheerful strain and remarked on the good treatment received by the soldiers, especially as regards food".*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 15 December 1917, p. 10.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86092031>

Hood was killed in action, aged 43 years when a shell hit the cook house near the Ypres-Menin Road in Belgium on the 31 October 1917. He was buried in the Menin Road South Military Cemetery, Belgium.



Albert Jones – Service Number: 2854

Albert Jones was born at Tuena, New South Wales and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jones Montgomery of Adderley Street, Auburn. He was a farmer prior to enlisting and at the age of 41 years joined the Australian Imperial Force, 4 Infantry Brigade 13 Infantry Battalion 9 Reinforcements on the 18 July 1915 at Liverpool, New South Wales. He embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT *Argyllshire* the 30 September 1915.

Jones' last letter to home was dated 14 July 1916. Jones was then fit and well and although he had not been in the firing line, he was not far away from the action.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 9 September 1916 p. 12.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86076416>

Jones was attached to 13 Infantry Battalion and was then transferred to 45 Infantry Battalion on the 3 March 1916. He was killed in action in the trenches at Pozieres, France, on the 6 August 1916, aged 41 years. He has no known grave and is remembered with honour on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.



Samuel Jude – Service Number: 2866

Born in England, Samuel Jude moved from his home in Cambridgeshire, England, to marry local girl Adeitha Beatrice Hare, the daughter of John George and Martha Alice Hare, nee Tame. They married on the 14 December 1910. Unfortunately, not long after the birth of their first born son Samuel John Jude in 1911 in Granville, New South Wales, Adeitha died, leaving Jude a widower.

On the 19 August 1915, at Holsworthy, New South Wales, Jude enlisted in the 18 Battalion aged 28 years and on the 2 November 1915, he boarded the HMAT *Euripides* in Sydney. At this time Jude was working as a labourer and residing at Rawson Road, Fairfield, New South Wales. His son Samuel, was placed in the care of his parents-in-law of Orchardleigh Street, Old Guildford.

The 'Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate' published a letter from Captain Harris, Commanding Officer of Jude's unit to his son:-

"France, 15/5/ '16.

Your father was wounded yesterday by a bullet in the face, but I have every hope that he will completely recover. He was occupied at the time on a work of a very important and dangerous nature, for which he had volunteered. His mates brought him in at once, and he was treated immediately for the wound, since then I have not been able to get much news of him, but the last that I heard of him was very reassuring. He is a very brave man, and was unfortunate in being one of the very few who were wounded in our spell in the trenches. Don't fret about him, as the best of care is being taken of him, and he has every chance of getting well again. — Yours truly, J R. O. HARRIS Capt. O/c D. Coy. 3rd Bn."

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 12 August 1916, p. 4.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/8963599>

Sadly, on the 20 July 1916, Private Jude died of wounds in Brook War Hospital, England and was buried at Wisbech Cemetery, England.

George Mathew Lukeen – Service Number: 4537



George Mathew Lukeen, a carpenter by trade was born in Newcastle, England, later moving to Woy Woy, New South Wales with his parents. When he was a child, his mother died and he was adopted by his neighbours, Mr. Benjamin George Potter and his wife Rachel of Woy Woy. Lukeen heard that his adopted brother Walter Arthur Potter had enlisted and he decided to follow his example and enlisted in Holsworthy, New South Wales on 16 August 1915 at the age of 32 years. His next of kin was recorded as Mabel Letitia Potter, a friend of 'Benray', Good Street, Granville, New South Wales. Lukeen and his brother embarked from

Sydney on 16 February 1916 aboard HMAT *Ballarat*.

The 'Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate' reported that Private Lukeen was missing in action in France on 19 or 20 July 1916: -

"Mr. and Mrs. Potter, of Good-street, Granville, who received the sad intelligence of the death in action of their son, Private Walter Potter, on Monday night, received a second shock on Tuesday in a telegram from Victoria Barracks, announcing that their adopted son, Private G. M. Lukeen, was reported missing on the same date given them of their son's death, viz., July 19 or 20. When in his early youth Private Lukeen's mother died and left him an orphan at Woy Woy, Mr. and Mrs. Potter took him into their home, as he and their son, Private Potter had throughout their boyhood been great chums. Private Lukeen was a

laborer and fisherman, and was very well and popularly known all over the Hawkesbury. When he received word that his adopted brother was going to the war, he at once came to Sydney and enlisted with him, and they left together, attached to the same regiment, as brothers-in-arms. Private Lukeen was 32 years of age. The captain of the regiment to which they were attached has been reported as killed in France, so it is quite likely that is where Private Potter has been killed and Private Lukeen missing."

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 13 September 1916, p. 3.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86077109>

By 23 January 1917 it was confirmed that Private Lukeen had been captured by the enemy on 20 July 1916 at Laventie, France and was now a prisoner of war in Germany. Following the Armistice in November 1918 he was repatriated to England and by 9 September 1919 was returned to Australia aboard the *Shropshire*.

Cyril Roy McMillan – Service Number: 4861



Cyril Roy McMillan was an apprentice at Clyde Engineering, Granville, New South Wales and was living in Marsden Street, Parramatta when he enlisted in November 1915. In 1917 he was in and out of hospital with a variety of illness, including a bout of trench foot which was caused by prolonged exposure to damp and cold conditions in the trenches. After returning to duty in January 1918 he was reported missing 5 April 1918. In reality he had been taken prisoner and as the allies advanced upon the German lines, he was force-marched all the way to Germany before being

repatriated in December 1918.

In January 1919 a letter describing his ordeal was published in the '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*': -

"France, 30th Nov., 1918. The following letter reached '*The Argus*' on Thursday: —

'Dear Sir, — I am sending you a few lines, and would like you to publish them in the old paper. I left Parramatta three years ago, with the Cooees, and I am sorry to say there are only two or three of us left to tell the tale. I was taken prisoner in that big stunt last March and April. One of my mates that I enlisted with was killed alongside me, just before we started to advance towards the Germans. His name is Webber. Most of the boys will know him.

For the first five days I was captured I had nothing to eat. All they would give us was a drop of water to drink. We were taken further back behind the lines, and there we were counted out into working parties, about 300 in a party, then again sent up behind the

German lines, on munition dumps, and different kinds of work. There we stayed until our people started to make the big advance, and we were gradually moved back to Germany. But never the whole journey did we have a lift in a train or motor lorry. We had to foot it the whole way, right across Belgium, 20 and 30 miles a day, and hardly anything to eat.

In passing through the Belgium towns the Belgians would do their best to help us. They would give us bread and comforts, but the Germans would take all that off us and knock us down with their rifles. But we were never downhearted — we would scramble to our feet again and still have another go at it. It was either that or starvation. We were mostly living on potato peelings, turnip peelings, and cabbage leaves, and it was - An Awful Sight - to see us having our dinner. The poor lads were dying every day, and yet they would not give us any care. When we wanted a smoke we had to pick up the ends of cigarettes and cigars which the Germans had dropped, and not every one of us could get that much. You can't imagine how happy we are to-day, now that we are released. We were released about two weeks ago. They just cast us adrift and told us to find our way back. They never gave us any bread to start with, not even a bite. Only for the Belgians we should have had hundreds of deaths along the road. But the Belgians cared for us in every manner possible. My mate and I were taken in by a Belgian lady, and there we stayed for five days, living on the best. When we were leaving they packed our bags with sandwiches and cakes, also plenty of cigarettes and money. We crossed the British lines on the 17th Nov - and we were heartily greeted by our own lads. Several of us had to go to hospital through sickness. I am in hospital at present, but will be across to England for Christmas, and have to be home in Parramatta shortly afterwards. Think I will close for the present, as it is getting beyond my time for sitting up. — I remain, your soldier friend, No. 4861, Pte C. R. McMillan '45th Batt.' [Private McMillan is a son of Sergt. McMillan, till recently stationed at Parramatta police station.]"

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 18 January 1919, p. 10.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86118958#pstart8963962>

Archibald Joseph McSparron – Service Number: 289



Archibald Joseph McSparron, known as Joe, the son of George and Jane McSparron and was born in Straidarran, Londonderry, Ireland and came to Australia when he was 22 years old. He was a shunter with the New South Wales Government Railways at Parramatta when he joined the 18 Battalion Australian Imperial Force and embarked aboard HMAT *Ceramic* on the 25 June 1915. He died of wounds suffered in Pozieres, France at the 44 Casualty Clearing Station, France on 5 August 1916 and was buried Puchevillers British Cemetery, France.

A collection of papers belonging to McSparron are held by the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Included are extracts from his letters and diary between 1915 and 1916. See <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/1DRL/0463>

Robert George Mills – Service Number: 4104



Robert George Mills was an apprentice boilermaker living in Alfred Street, Granville, New South Wales when he enlisted on the 17 August 1915. His father David Mills lived in Campbell Street, Parramatta. He was wounded in action in France on the 23 July 1916 when he received a gunshot wound to the jaw. He was treated in the hospital at Rouen, France before being transferred to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, England for treatment. He re-joined his unit in the field on 24 September 1916. He died of wounds received in action in France on Christmas Day 1916. His brother Frank

Mills, also in the 3 Infantry battalion, was killed just a few months earlier.

Writing to his family about his experiences Mills related that that enemy fire was not the only problem encountered by soldiers in the trenches: -

"I can tell you we had a rough time of it this time on account of the wet weather. We have been serving in trenches knee deep in a mixture of mud and water, and it was terribly cold. What makes the ground so bad is the fact that it has been ploughed up over and over by shelling".

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 20 January 1917, p. 10.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86092974>

James Douglas Milne – Service Number: 3576



James Douglas Milne was born in Alexandria, New South Wales on the 30 August 1893, the son of John and Susan Joan Wilson. He lived in Fairfield, New South Wales. At the age of 22 years, he enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force on the 18 October 1915. Prior to enlisting he resided in Redfern, New South Wales and was a shipping clerk in the Melbourne Steam Ship Company's Sydney office.

He embarked with the rank of Private with the 18 Infantry Battalion Reinforcements from Sydney aboard the HMAT *Aeneas* on the 20 December 1915. On

the 3 April 1916, he was taken on strength and was transferred to the 54 Battalion which sailed to France in June. During the 54 Battalion's first major battle in the Western Front at Fromelles, Lille, France on the 20 July 1916, Milne was originally reported to have been wounded in action before it was discovered that he had been taken prisoner of war. He was imprisoned for two and a half years in Germany before being repatriated to England on the 14 December 1918.

During his internment, he wrote to his mother about the monotony of life in the camp musing that he was perhaps more fortunate than others: - *"I have been a prisoner-of-war now just on a month. It seems longer than that. Time hangs terribly here. I consider myself luck to be alive after all I have been through. I have lost nearly all my mates. We have any amount of time to fight our battles over again here. It is very monotonous though"*.

Milne also asked his mother to send some tinned fish, fruit, biscuits and cakes in his "Xmas parcels" as well as pudding, soap and tobacco.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 11 November 1916, p 10.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86074894>

He learnt German and was appointed interpreter to the English at the Kriegsgefangenenlager, Munster I, Detachment 62. Private Milne returned to Australia per HT *Shropshire* and was discharged on the 10 July 1919. He passed away on the 6 February 1963 at Shepparton, Victoria.

Cyril Robert Bruce Moxham – Service Number: 29104



Cyril Robert Bruce Moxham was born in 1895 in Parramatta, New South Wales. He was the youngest son of Mr William Dick and Mrs Catherine Moxham, nee Hergess. The family lived at 422 Church Street, Parramatta. At the age of 21 years, Moxham enlisted in Marrickville, New South Wales on 20 June 1916 as a Gunner in the 7 Reinforcements with the 5 Divisional Ammunition Column (DAC). He later became part of the Howitzer Brigade 116 Battery. Prior to enlistment he was working as a station manager on his father's property at Singleton, New South Wales. On 4

September 1916, he was married to Marjorie Beryl Moxham, nee Bowers, of Pennant Street, Parramatta.

By 30 September 1916, he officially embarked for overseas duties from Sydney aboard HMAT *Aeneas*. According to the *'Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrower's*

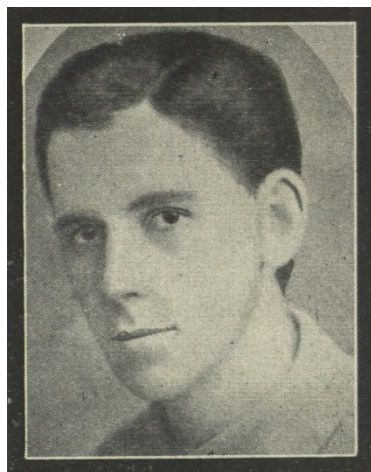
Advocate of 9 March 1918, a fortnight after Moxham's arrival in France on 7 June 1917, he had found his friend Driver Cyril C. Williams.

By 30 September 1916, he officially embarked for overseas duties from Sydney aboard HMAT *Aeneas*. A fortnight after Moxham's arrival in France on 7 June 1917, he had found his friend Driver Cyril C. Williams and sent a photograph from France of himself and his friend Cyril.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 9 March 1918 p. 4.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86209437>

Taken on strength, Moxham became a Driver for the 4 DAC in France, however, on 6 June 1918 he was found guilty of disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officers while on active service on 23 May 1918 and was sentenced to 1 days' Field Punishment (F.P. No.2). Moxham returned to Australia per HMAT *Demosthenes* on 6 March 1919 and was discharged as medically unfit on 3 May 1919.

Arthur John Ormes – Service Number: 3630



Arthur John Ormes was a member of the 20 (later 2) Battalion of Summer Hill, New South Wales. A photo engraver prior to enlisting, he had natural artistic gifts, painting in oils, water colours and pen-and-ink sketching and embarked from Sydney aboard the HMAT *Aeneas* on 20 December 1915.

He died aged 22 years on 12 August 1916 at the St Johns Ambulance Brigade, Etaples, France, from gunshot wounds received in action at Pozieres, France on 23 July 1916. He was buried in the Etaples Military Cemetery,

France.

While on active duty in France Ormes penned a number of verses entitled "Der Strape!" which were published in the '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*' after his death. The last few lines were particularly poignant:

*"But here's todays when strafes are o'er,
And battle-fields are pastures once again.
When we return to home, sweet home, once more.
We shall not want to talk about it then".*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 20 September 1916, p. 3.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86069956>

Charles Winter Paul – Service Number: 323



Charles Winter Paul, usually known as Charlie Paul was born in Parramatta, New South Wales and at the time of his enlistment in August 1914, he was single, twenty years of age and his occupation was recorded as a carrier. He named his father Mr. John Paul of Church Street Parramatta as his next of kin. He embarked for service overseas on the 20 October 1914 to serve with 1 Light Horse Regiment.

The *'Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate'* related news received from Paul in Egypt. Amongst other things, he wrote about not knowing what is happening regarding the campaign, how stressed the horses were after being at sea for a long period, and how he regrets the loss of his Bible on the troop ship going over: - *"all the horses are picking up again and are looking well. We lost 21 on the trip, and have a little foal three days old"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 10 February 1915, p. 1.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86107720>

Paul also wrote that all the Australian troops were each given a tin of chocolates for Christmas by the King: - *"I have eaten the chocolates, but will send the tins home, which will be very valuable in years to come; like the South African war, when the Queen presented chocolates to her men."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 17 February 1915, p. 2.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86100894>

Serving in Egypt and at Gallipoli, Turkey, in December 1916 he was transferred to the Australian Flying Corps Second Squadron (which had been initially formed as 68 Australian Squadron, Royal Flying Corps), as an Air Mechanic and he embarked for France in January 1917. In March 1918, he accidentally sustained a fracture to his right arm, getting it caught in a propeller. He returned to Australia on the 27 November 1918, having served for four years without a break and was discharged for medical reasons on the 9 March 1919. He was awarded the Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. After the War, Charlie Paul found work in the emerging aviation industry as a mechanic.



Horace Platt – Service Number: unknown

Engineer Lieutenant Horace Platt of the battleship HMS *Renown* was the son of Thomas W. and Christina Platt of Granville, New South Wales, and the brother of local businessman Cecil Platt, of Messrs. Herrington and Platt, Church Street, Parramatta, New South Wales. He had been travelling around the world working as a marine engineer on American boats prior to enlisting in the Royal Australian Navy. He often wrote letters to home providing first-hand accounts of his experiences and *"a great deal of really interesting information in relation to matters in the Old Country at war-time"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 4 August 1915, p. 3.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86103207>

Some of these letters were subsequently published in the '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*' newspaper. Platt was also not afraid to relate the horrific atrocities and *"brutal and barbarous treatment"* committed on both sides during the war by both the armed forces and by civilians.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 27 January 1915, p. 4.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/119225276>

In mid-1915, while working at Glasgow, England, *"helping to keep the Australian navy fit and well"*, he described England as being a place where *"you would hardly know the country was at war; except that they have girls collecting train fares and acting as railway conductors and booking clerks."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 4 August 1915, p. 3
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86103207>

He also wrote about the harsh conditions out at sea and the day the German fleet surrendered on the 21 November 1918.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 5 February 1919, p. 2
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86118445>

In February 1919, the newspaper published an interesting photograph sent in by Platt of the HMS *Renown* with the Prince of Wales on board ship passing through the "Great Panama Canal" on route home to Australia.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 31 May 1920, p. 5
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/108986798>

Walter Arthur Potter – Service Number: 4578



Born in 1885, Walter Arthur Potter was the son of Mr. Benjamin George and Mrs. Rachel Potter of 'Benray,' Good Street, Granville and had an adopted brother, George Mathew Lukeen. He was a carpenter by trade and enlisted on the 16 August 1915 in Holsworthy, New South Wales at the age of 31 years. By all accounts Potter was never a robust man and the family expressed surprise that he had passed the medical examination at the time of enlistment. He was described by his acquaintances as having been a most upright man, a very straight goer, and a genial and popular companion. Initially, it was reported that he had

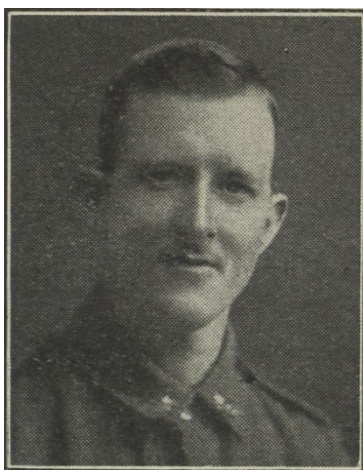
died in action on the 19 or 20 July 1916 but it was later discovered that he and Lukeen had been taken prisoners of war in Germany.

The '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*' newspaper published a photograph of a group of prisoners of war in a camp in Germany which included Potter reporting that he had been taken prisoner on the 20 July 1911 and was eventually repatriated to London, England, where he landed on the 14 April 1918 after which he returned to Australia.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 22 June 1918 p. 10.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86206868>

He died in Sutherland, New South Wales in 1945.

William M. Quigley – Service Number: 2012



William Quigley aged 24 years, enlisted on 18 January 1915 and embarked on 13 April 1915 in Sydney aboard HMAT *Kyarra* with the 4 Infantry Battalion, 5 Reinforcements. Prior to joining he was a labourer living with his mother Mary Ann Quigley in Morrison Road, Gladesville, New South Wales. He was also a brother of Mrs. H. W. Webb, of Rosehill Street, Parramatta. Private Quigley was known to his mates as 'Iron Bill' as "he had the distinction of being the only one in his Battalion who has not been wounded". He returned home to Australia with the rank of Corporal on 20 May 1919.

In a letter written to his sister, Mrs. Webb Quigley wrote that he would have some things to say to the conscientious objectors in The Domain in Sydney when he got

home. He also expressed his keenness for the girls in England saying that: - *"England is a great place, and the girls"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 27 April 1917, p. 10.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86204889>

Aubrey William Rees – Service Number: 1358



Aubrey William Rees was born in Junee, New South Wales and was a 21-year-old engineer when he enlisted on the 28 September 1916. At that time, he was living in the Woolpack Hotel, Parramatta with his father Walter Edward Rees and had served his apprenticeship at Clyde Engineering Works in Granville, New South Wales. He embarked with the 2 Flying Squadron, 4 Reinforcement and was sent to the School of Technical Engineering on the 1 June 1917. He graduated as a flying officer on the 7 November 1917 and arrived in France later that month being promoted to Lieutenant in the 3 Squadron Australian Flying Corps.

While flying on a sortie above Amiens, France in April 1918, he was attacked by enemy fire and had his control bar shot away leaving him with only his rudder bar to steer by, somehow he managed to get the plane away from his pursuers and survive the plane crash. Two days later he woke up in a casualty clearing station being offered a drink by a nurse. He wrote home about his lucky escape with good humour and optimism: - *"the first reports at the squadron were to the effect that we had both 'gone west.' As good luck had it, we fell into the trenches which the 'Aussies' occupied...my face was badly smashed about; my nose flattened; my eye cut...but I think I might be alright..."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 6 July 1918, p. 10.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86207584>

He returned to Australia 15 August 1918.

Arthur Townsend Sherwin – Service Number: 1810

Arthur Townsend Sherwin, aged 26 years, was a bank accountant from the central west town of Cargo, New South Wales. He was one of the six nephews of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Sherwin of Baulkham Hills who volunteered for service. At the time of his enlistment for service on the 28 September 1915 he named his mother Mrs. Katherine Sherwin as next of kin and embarked for service overseas on the 11 January 1916 to serve with 9 Light Horse Regiment as a Corporal.



During his time in Bendigo Military camp in October 1915, Sherwin wrote to his Aunt Florrie that he was finding the conditions at camp hard going: - *"The first week I used to feel very tired of a night & used to be glad to get to bed. The getting up at 6 am of a morning is rather hard, but a fellow has got to get used to it... drill from a quarter to seven until eight o'clock, then breakfast of stew. Drill again from 9.30 until 12.15 then Bully beef: drill again from 1.45 until 4.30 then we are finished for the day: thank goodness.*

I generally lie down afterwards for I generally feel pretty tired: but however I am getting a little more used to it now. I am getting quite burned my hands being very brown but my face is very red & sore, it is also very warm here just now & a few more weeks of it will see me a seasoned soldier."

Writing from Heliopolis, Egypt in April 1916 to his mother in Cargo, New South Wales, Sherwin expressing the hope that his regiment would: - *"be in the firing line in a very short time. We are all jubilant, you may be sure, for we are all looking forward at last to seeing some real fighting".* He put out a call for more Cargo boys to enlist: - *"I hope they do so soon, for we want all we can get. You people have no idea how serious things are; if the young fellows did they would not hesitate to offer their services to their country. I think things will be very lively soon, and it's up to every young fellow who is eligible to step forward".*

Extract: *Molong Express and Western District Advertiser*, 15 April 1916, p. 4.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/101297894>

Arthur Sherwin was invalided home to Australia in July 1916 having attained the rank of Corporal and was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.



THE SALVATION ARMY.

Headquarters: 69 Bourke St., Melbourne.



W. BRAMWELL BOOTH,
General.

JAMES HAY,
Commissioner.

SALVATION ARMY INSTITUTE,

MILITARY CAMP at Bendigo

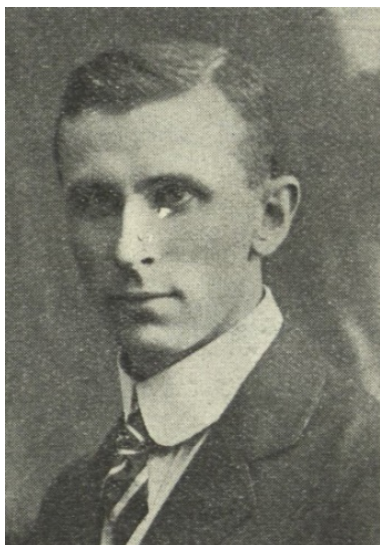
B Coy 10/10/15 191

Dear Auntie Floerrie & Love I expect you
think it about time you had a few
lines from me. but I suppose Doris
has given you the outlines of my
first experiences of camp life.
The first week I used to feel
very tired of a night & used to be
glad to get to bed. the getting up at
6 am of a morning is rather hard
but a fellow has got to get used to
it. We went for a route march
the other day & the following comprises
our kit: 1 Military great coat, 1 hat,
2 pairs of Bluffs 2 pairs of under pants &
shirts, 2 pairs of socks, 2 pairs of heavy boots,
1 ~~card~~ cardigan jacket, 1 downy pair of
grey blankets, 1 single pair of white & a
water proof sheet & a kit bag. I can tell
you it is rather a heavy load to lug
along. I know I found it so.

Extract: Letter from Arthur Sherwin, 10 October 1915. State Library of New South
Wales, Mitchell Library, MLMSS 5767 / Folder 4.

<http://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110367892>

J. H. Smith – Service Number: unknown



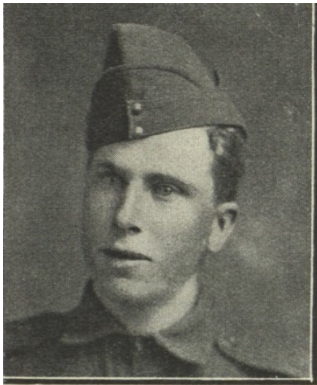
J.H. Smith was born at Church Street, Parramatta, New South Wales and was a brother of Mr. Charles Smith, the well-known Produce Merchant of Parramatta South.

Writing to his brother of his experiences in the trenches in France, Smith spoke sincerely of the plight of refugees and displaced persons: - *"more touching still was a train-load of refugees fleeing from Dunkirk. There were babies in arms up to old men and women of 70. Poor old things. I felt so sorry for them. One wonders what and when will be the end of this war (or scientific murder would be a better name for it). Every day brings its fresh horrors and complications"*. He also wrote of the immense value

and comfort brought by the parcels received from home saying: - *"Aunt Linnie has been very good to me, in sending parcels of things that mean so much to us out here. So have several other people, and these parcels are a great treat, I can assure you"*.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 21 August 1915, p. 4.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86098891>

Edward John Howard Veitch – Service Number: 1781



Fifth son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Veitch, of Barney Street, Parramatta, and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Hughes, of Marsden Street, Parramatta, Edward John Howard Veitch completed about six months fighting in Egypt and was wounded twice in France. In a letter to his mother he wrote of "This Land of Hell" where he was wounded and how he desperately attempted to return back to his trenches, at one point lying in a bomb crater and in despair contemplating giving it all up.

He described this as the worst experience he had ever had: - *"...We were nearly 300 yards further out when nearly every one of us got wounded. I was the first, so as soon as I got hit I started to try to find my way back to our trenches again, but this was the hardest thing I had to try to find in my life. It took me a good hour. I had to keep dodging in and out of shell holes 10ft deep and shells were falling all around me... I gave up in despair and laid in a shell hole to await morning, but was not there long before I said to myself 'come on this is not the heart of a soldier you are showing'. So I hopped out of that hole and wandered all over the ground dodging shells everywhere, and at last I got back to our trenches..."*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 25 October 1916, p. 3.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article86075872>

Corporal Veitch returned to Australia in December 1918 and passed away in January 1969.

World War One: Images

Neera Sahni



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E01404

Members of the 2 Australian Infantry Battalion outside their billets in the Cavalry Barracks at Ypre, 1 November 1917.

(Source: *Australian War Memorial*, E01404)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00134

Redirecting letters at the Australian Base Post Office. Every letter from Australia was alphabetically and numerically sorted and the address compared with the latest record, 57 per cent of such letters being redirected.

(Source: *Australian War Memorial*, D00134)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

009921

Australian Nurses writing letters home in the comfortable quarters of one of the Australian General Hospital Units.

(Source: *Australian War Memorial*, 009921)

Back cover image: *Departure of a draft in 1915*. (Source: *Sydney Mail* in Charles E.W. Beans, *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918: Photographic record of the war*, volume 12, photograph 717 and *Australian War Memorial*, H11569).

