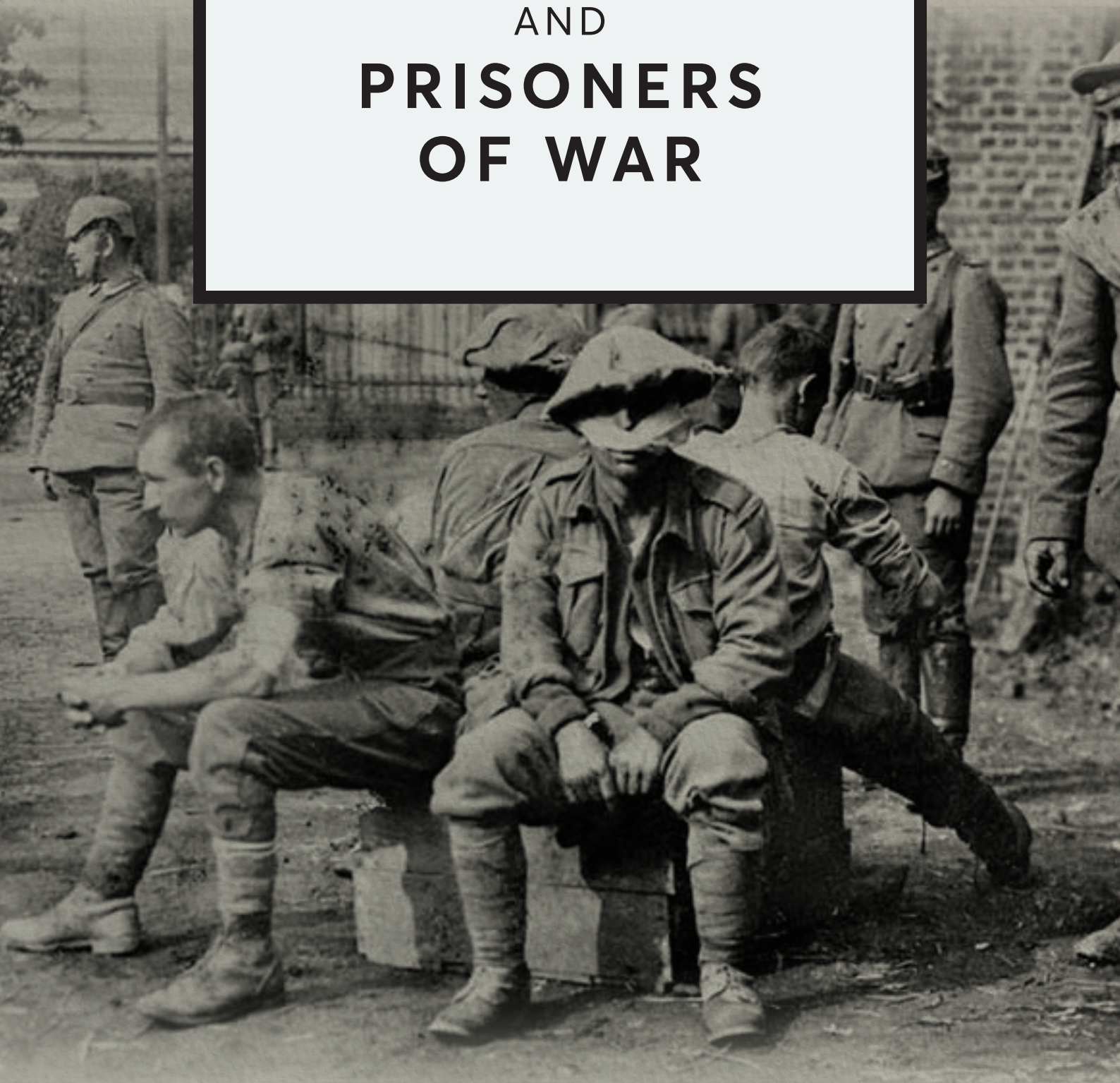# CITY OF PARRAMATTA

WORLD WAR ONE

AND

PRISONERS OF WAR

Front cover image: *A German collecting station on the morning of the 20th July after the battle of Fromelles (Fleurbaix) with wounded Australian prisoners of war.* (Source: *Australian War Memorial, A01551*).

COMPILED BY:

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Research & Collection Services

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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 lasted 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 became 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 Photograph

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 endeavour 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.

Over 4000 Australians were captured by the Germans on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918. Nine per cent of these prisoners died in captivity. A total of 395 Australians died during captivity in the First World War.

The impact of World War One on Australia's economy was significant. At that time, the majority of exports from Australia were wool, wheat and minerals. Exporters were deprived of shipping services and they found it difficult to receive payments for their goods.

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.

The team in Research Services have prepared and posted hundreds of biographical stories and accounts of events which relate to the actions of Parramatta servicemen and women during World War One.

We hope you enjoy reading about these amazing people and the terrifying and sometimes awe inspiring events which carried them across the globe to fight against Germany and her allies.

Neera Sahni

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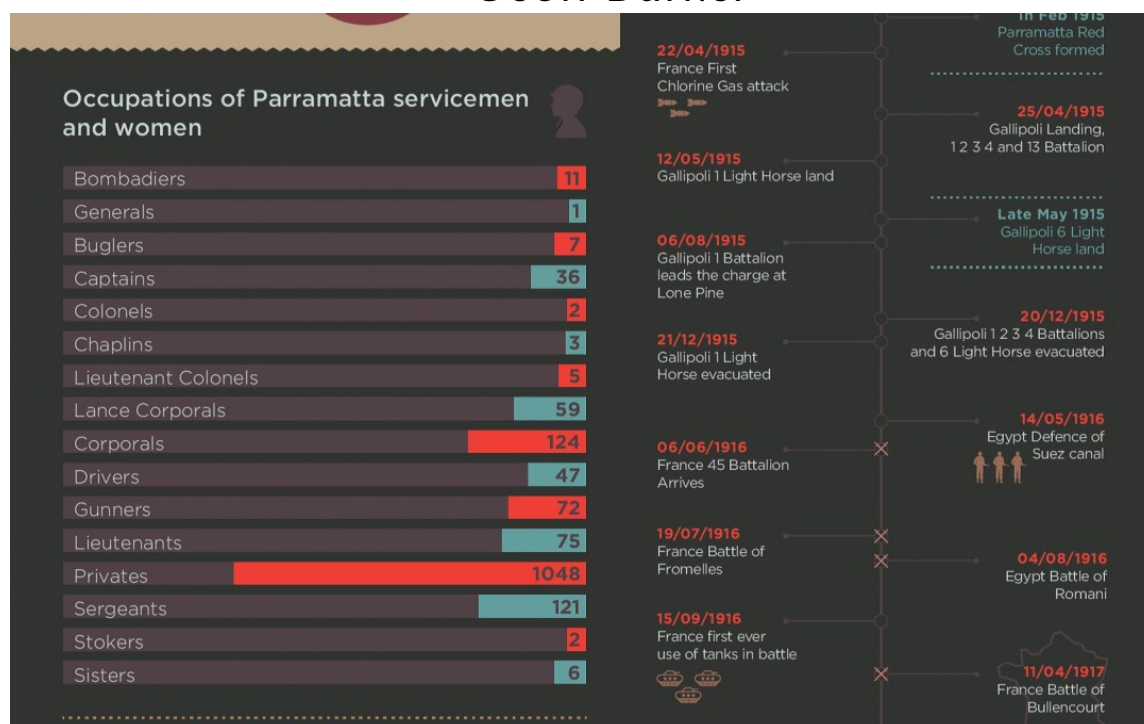
World War One 1914-1918 infographic (Source: Parramatta Heritage Centre)

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) Parramatta and Warrego 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 Emden (SMS Emden) by His Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) Sydney
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

World War One and Prisoners of War
Neera Sahni

Victor James McColl Arthur - Service Numbers: 691 and 5646

Victor James McColl Arthur was a 22-year-old carpenter who lived with his parents Robert and Margaret Arthur of Victoria Street, Lidcombe, New South Wales. He enlisted on the 11 August 1914 and was assigned to the Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, Tropical Unit, 1 Battalion. He embarked with his unit aboard HMAT *Berrima* from Sydney on 19 August 1914. His period of engagement was terminated and he was discharged on the 4 March 1915.

Arthur re-enlisted as a 24-year-old joiner on the 31 January 1916 and was assigned to the 13 Infantry Battalion. He embarked with his unit aboard the HMAT *Clan McGillivray* from Sydney on the 3 May 1916. He was promoted to Acting Sergeant from the 7 March to the 23 September 1916. After relinquishing his role of Acting Sergeant, he re-joined the 4 Australian Divisional Bass Depot. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 4 November 1916. Arthur was wounded in action, suffering an injury to his left thigh on the 31 January 1917, re-joining his unit on the 6 March 1917.

On the 1 April 1917 he was found to be missing in action and was later determined to be a prisoner of war. He had been captured in Riencourt, France and interned in Limburg, Belgium. Following the declaration of the Armistice on the 11 November 1918 he was repatriated and arrived in England on the 2 January 1919. At this time, he was brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for valuable services rendered whilst prisoner of war.

In 1919, Arthur was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal. He featured in the 'London Gazette' on the 3 June 1919 and in the' Commonwealth of Australia

Gazette' on the 6 October 1919. In 1920 he was again mentioned in the 'London Gazette' on the 30 January and the 'Commonwealth of Australia Gazette' on the 29 April. Arthur returned to Australia on the 22 January and was discharged on the 12 March 1920.

Walter Norman Brown – Service Number: 4145

Walter Norman Brown was a 20-year-old carpenter when he enlisted on the 29 August 1915. His father Walter Brown (Senior) lived in Wigram Street, Harris Park, New South Wales. Brown was transferred to the 54 Battalion in France on the 16 July 1916 and was reported missing in action on the 19 or 20 July 1916. However, it appears Brown had in fact been made a prisoner of war and after 2 years in Dulmen, Germany was liberated and returned to Australia on the 2 March 1919.

Arthur Hedley Bushell – Service Number: 1173
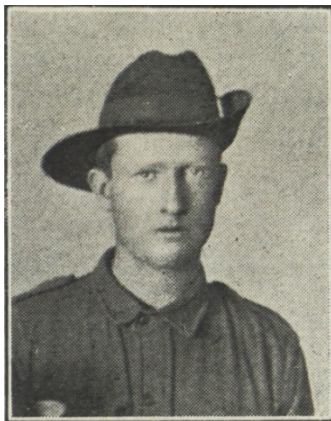
Arthur Hedley Bushell was born in Barraba, a town in the New England region of New South Wales and was the son of Alfred and Isabella Jane Bushell. He lived in Hornsby, New South Wales and worked as a telegraphist when he enlisted at the age of 20 years on the 31 October 1914 in Liverpool, New South Wales. He embarked from Melbourne aboard HMAT *Berrima* on the 22 December that year.

Bushell's tour of duty extended from April 1915 to February 1919. He served at Gallipoli, Turkey three times during 1915. In late August of that year, Private Bushell suffered a bullet wound in his back at Gallipoli, Turkey and was hospitalised in Egypt. From February to August of 1916, he trained in Egypt, England and France. In March 1917 in France, Bushell was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field and was promoted to Lance Corporal.

In April that year, Lance Corporal Bushell was captured in Riencourt, France and became a prisoner of war in Limburg, Germany. In December 1918 he was

repatriated to England. Bushell departed England on the 9 February 1919 and arrived in Australia the 4 April. He was discharged from service on the 3 June 1919. He was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, and was later awarded the Anzac Medallion.

Allan Colquhoun – Service Number: 4749
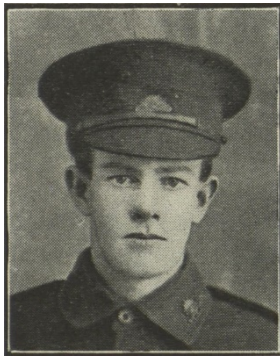
Allan Colquhoun was the son of George Colquhoun of Guildford, New South Wales and a nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Colquhoun of Belmont Street, Loftus Park, New South Wales. Born in Glebe, New South Wales, he was a saddler by trade and was 18 years and 4 months when he joined the forces on the 11 November 1915.

Colquhoun served with the 13 Infantry Battalion, 15 Reinforcement in France and Belgium between the 24 September 1916 and the 11 April 1917 when he was reported missing in action. It was later found that he had been captured in Riencourt, France on the 11 April 1917 and was interned as a prisoner of war in Germany. On the 2 June 1917 the *'Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate'* reported that

> *"Private Allan Colquhoun aged 20 years…is reported missing in France. He was in the cadets and was afterwards transferred to the citizen forces, shortly after which about two years ago he joined the Coo-ees as they passed through Parramatta. He was in camp at Liverpool and went thence to Egypt and England and has been in the firing-line about six months".*

Following the signing of the Armistice in November 1918 he was repatriated to England arriving in December, before returning to Australia on the 5 March 1919.

Thomas Harrison Dobson – Service Number: 3288

Thomas Harrison Dobson was born on the 1 November 1893 in Consett, Newcastle, England, the son of Mr. Harrison Watson and Mrs. Elizabeth Dobson. The family later migrated to Australia residing at 52 Susan Street, Auburn, New South Wales. Prior to enlisting, Dobson was employed as a piano repairer and tuner with Messrs. Murray Brothers, Parramatta, New South Wales. At the age of 21 years and 8

months, he enlisted as a Private on the 18 July 1915 at the Liverpool Camp with the 1 Australian Infantry Battalion, 11 Reinforcement.
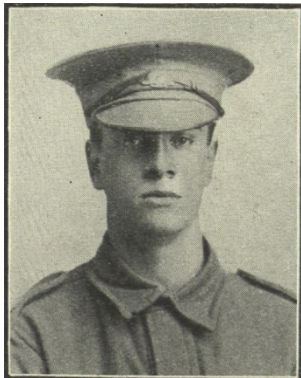
On the 5 October 1915, he embarked with his unit from Sydney aboard the HMAT *Themistocles* and on the 13 February 1916, was transferred to the 53 Battalion at Tell-el-Kebir, Egypt. On the 20 July 1916, while serving on the frontline in France, he was officially reported a prisoner of war in Germany. After two and a half years in the camp, on the 29 November 1918, he was repatriated to England and then returned to Australia per HT *Nevasa* due to a gunshot wound to his right hand which had occurred on the 5 March 1919 in London, England. He disembarked in Sydney on the 23 April 1919.

After the war, in 1926, he married Charlotte A. Noble in Mosman and they settled in Warriewood, New South Wales. On the 12 January 1942, he enlisted in the Australian Army to serve in World War Two in Paddington, New South Wales as a Private. He was posted to the 2 Garrison Battalion and was discharged from service on the 5 February 1944. On the 7 April 1977, Dobson passed away at the age of 83 years at the Concord Repatriation General Hospital, Concord, New South Wales.

Richard William Fairweather - Service Number: 4198A

Richard William Fairweather, usually known as Dick, was born on the 24 March 1885 at Parramatta, New South Wales, the third son of William Horace and Ethel Annie, nee Vosper. The Fairweather family were 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 the 15 August 1915 with the 13 Reinforcement 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, New South Wales. The family was residing on Good Street, Mays Hill before later moving to 'Paisley', 164 Trongate Street, Granville.

He embarked on the 20 December 1915 aboard HMAT *Aeneas* from Sydney, bound for Egypt arriving on the 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, France on the 19 July 1916.

Fairweather was reported missing after the battle on the 21 July 1916 and his family sought the assistance of the International Red Cross discovering in August 1916 that he was a prisoner of war in Germany. After spending two years in the German prison camp he was repatriated to England on the 19 December 1918. Departing from England he arrived in Sydney on the 24 April 1919 and after a period of quarantine in Manly, he returned to civilian life in June 1919.

In 1930 he married Alice Irene Stanton and together they first settled in Auburn. According to electoral roll records, he was listed as a plumber and driver in 1930, a drainer from 1931 in Ashfield to 1937 in Castle Hill, and was a machinist from 1943-63 where the family home was 164 Blaxcell Street in Granville. His former employers include Clyde Engineering and later Rydalmere Mental Hospital during the 1950s to early 1960s. On 1 July 1964 he passed away 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.

Victor Flarey – Service Number: 2179

Victor Flarey, aged 29 years was living in Galston, New South Wales when he enlisted on the 21 February 1916. He joined the 45 Battalion, 4 Reinforcement as a Private and his unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT *Wiltshire* on the 22 August 1916. On the 11 April 1917, Flarey was captured at Riencourt, France and was reported as missing. He was held in Hassen, Germany as a prisoner of war and was not repatriated to England until the 18 December 1918. He returned to Australia on the 31 March 1919.

George Darcy Folkard – Service Number: 2455

Educated at The King's School, Parramatta, New South Wales, George Folkard was a 22-year-old bank officer in the Bank of New South Wales, Walcha, New South Wales when he enlisted on the 1 December, 1915.

He spent two years as a Sergeant in the Senior Cadets from 1909 to 1910 and was a Gunner in the 40 Infantry Militia, Burwood, New South Wales. On the 17 April 1916 he was appointed 2 Lieutenant of the 4 Battalion, 17 Reinforcement. Then while serving with the 55 Battalion in France he received a gunshot wound to his left hand and on the 19 September 1916 he was in action at Fleurbaix, France and was knocked out by a grenade at the same time as another soldier Mendelsson, who was killed outright. Folkard was then taken prisoner and held at Schneidemuhl Prison in Germany, as recorded by Official War Historian Charles Bean. He returned to Australia in 1919. During 1919 his address and that of his wife Maria Katrina Folkard was changed to Melrose Street, Homebush, New South Wales.

Herbert Freeman – Service Number: 1897
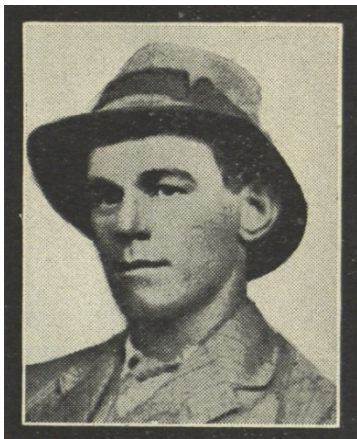
Herbert Freeman, of Parramatta, New South Wales and brother of Private Percy Freeman, died of wounds on the 14 August 1917, while a prisoner of war at Kriegs Lazarett 7, Gruppe 2, Sous le Bois, Maubeuge, France, aged 28. He was buried in the Maubeuge-Centre Cemetery, France. A labourer prior to enlisting, he embarked from Melbourne aboard the HMAT *Port Lincoln* on the 4 May 1916.

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

"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. The deceased was brother of Mrs. W. Weeden, George Street,

Parramatta; and lived formerly with his family in Albert Street, Parramatta North, He has two brothers who are soldiers also another one, Private Percy Freeman, was killed some time ago. Private Ernest Edward Freeman and Trooper William Frederick Freeman are still fighting. Another, the only remaining brother, enlisted also; but was discharged medically unfit."

"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".

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 Reinforcement. 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 he was officially reported as being 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. 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.

Frank Edgar Fuller – Service Number: 1086

Private Frank Edgar Fuller was a 19-year-old ironworker from Wentworth Street, Parramatta who lived with his parents Mr. Frederick Fuller and Mrs. E. Fuller. He enlisted on the 3 November 1914 and embarked with his unit aboard the HMAT *Ulysses* from Melbourne on the 22 December 1914. On the 3 May 1915 he suffered a gunshot wound to several fingers on his right hand at Gallipoli. He embarked for Alexandria, Egypt, aboard the RMS *Franconia* on the 2 August 1916. On the 7 September 1916 he was admitted to hospital with an ingrown toenail. He re-joined his battalion from hospital on the 19 December 1916, then on the 17 February 1917 he was admitted to hospital with scabies. He again re-joined his unit on the 24 February 1917. On the 11 April 1917 he was reported missing in France. He was declared a prisoner of war and was interred at Limburg, Germany. After the Armistice he was repatriated to England on the 18 December 1918. While in London he undertook a three-month work placement at French's Garage and Motor Works Ltd, to gain experience working in a General Motor Engineering Company from the 2 April 1919 to the 2 July 1919. He was returned to Australia aboard the HMAT *Anchises* on the 22 August 1919, and was later discharged.

Robert Alexander Hill – Service Number: 5106

Robert Alexander Hill was born in Newtown, New South Wales and as a child had attended Merrylands Public School. At the time of his enlistment on the 13 December 1915 he was an 18-year-old labourer and living with his mother Martha and father Herbert Arthur Hill at Robinson Street, Guildford, New South Wales.

On the 31 March 1916, he embarked from Sydney as a Private with the 13 Infantry Battalion, 16 Reinforcement aboard the HMAT *Star of Victoria*. He was taken prisoner of war on the 11 April 1917 at Reserve Lazarett, Verden, Germany and died of wounds whilst interned on the 25 April 1917 at the age of 19 years. He was buried at Hamburg Cemetery, Ohlsdorf, Germany.

Joseph Harold Kemp – Service Number: 23

Joseph Harold Kemp of Rawson Park, Ingleburn, New South Wales was a fitter by trade and later worked as a fireman. He initially enlisted for service on the 6 August 1914 at the age of 21 years. He had a fair complexion, blue eyes, and fair hair and named his mother as his next of kin. He embarked for service overseas with the rank of Private on the 20 October 1914 to serve with 4 Infantry Battalion.

Kemp was wounded while serving at Gallipoli, Turkey and returned home in January 1916. Once he had recovered from his injuries, he embarked for service overseas again on the 8 November 1916. In April 1917 he was reported missing in the field in France and was believed to have been taken prisoner. In July 1917 it was verified that he was being interned in Limburg, Germany. He returned to Australia in June 1919 and was awarded the Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

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 the 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 the 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.*

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*.

Francis Bede McFadden – Service Number: 6559
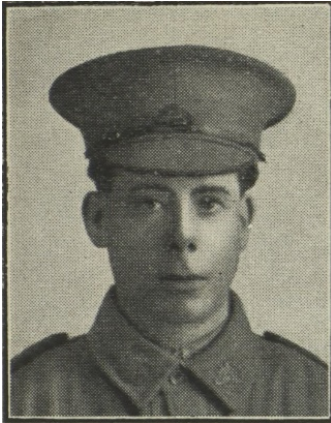
Private Francis Bede McFadden was a 26-year-old labourer from Parramatta, New South Wales. He was the son of Mr. D. F. McFadden and Mrs. M. A. McFadden of Boundary Street, Parramatta. He had a brother, Private Robert McFadden, who left for war after Francis and joined the railway unit. McFadden enlisted on the 8 May 1916 and embarked with his battalion aboard the HMAT *Ceramic* from Sydney on the 7 October 1916. He proceeded to Salisbury Plains, England and then proceeded to France on the 21 December 1916. He was captured in Bullecourt, France and officially reported missing on the 11 April 1917. It was later confirmed that he had been captured in Germany and was being held in Limburg. He was held as a prisoner of war for 20 months before being repatriated to England on the 14 December 1918. He returned to Australia aboard the *Nevasa* on the 5 March 1919 and was discharged from service on the 3 June 1919.

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 illnesses, 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 on the 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.

## James Douglas Milne – Service Number: 3576

Douglas Milne was born in Alexandria, New South Wales on the 30 August 1893, the son of John and Susan Joan Wilson, formerly Milne nee Douglas. 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 conditions in the camp musing that "*time hangs terribly here*". In a letter published in the '*Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*' he stated that he was lucky to be alive, having lost nearly all his mates. 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.

Robert Montgomery – Service Number: 4854
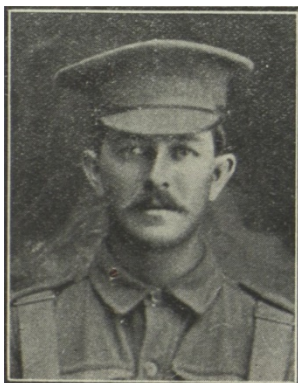
Robert Montgomery was born at Murrurundi, New South Wales and was a blacksmith prior to enlistment. He lived with his wife Mrs. Emily Montgomery at Harrow Road, Auburn. At the age of 34 years he joined Australian Imperial Force, 3 Infantry Battalion 15 Reinforcement at Holsworthy, New South Wales and embarked from Sydney aboard HMAT *Star of England* on the 8 March 1916.

Montgomery was transferred to the 55 Battalion on the 20 April 1916. He was reported missing in action in France and it was later confirmed that he was a prisoner of war in Germany. After the Armistice was declared on the 11 November 1918 he was sent to the 2 Command Depot at his own request on the 20 December 1918 and returned to Australia on the 4 March 1919.

Edwin Walter Phelps – Service Number: 2468

Edwin Walter Phelps, born in 1898 in Sydney, New South Wales was the son of George Phelps. He had previously served as a cadet for four years, and in a local Militia for three months, and prior to his enlistment as a Private on the 5 May 1916 at the age of 18 years, he was a clerk, living in Ryde, New South Wales.

Phelps left with his unit, the 45 Battalion, 5 Reinforcement from Sydney on board HMAT *Anchises* on the 24 August 1916, and was later transferred to the 13 Battalion. He was reported missing on the 8 May 1917, and was confirmed to be a prisoner of war on the 1 June 1917. He eventually returned to Australia on the 1 May 1919 and was medically discharged from service. He passed away on the 8 June 1969 at the age of 71 years.

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.

On the 22 June 1918, 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 1916. He was eventually repatriated to London, England, where he landed on the 14 April 1919 after which he returned to Australia. He died in Sutherland, New South Wales in 1945.

Norman Douglas Sherwin – Service Number: 319
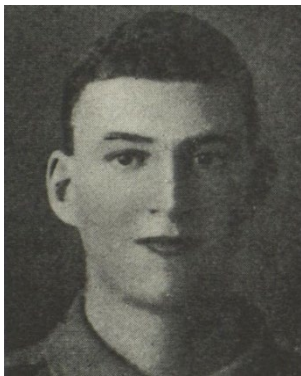
Norman Douglas Sherwin, aged 23 years was a labourer from the central west town of Cargo, New South Wales and was one of the six nephews of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Sherwin of Baulkham Hills who served in the war. He enlisted for service on the 14 September 1914 and embarked for service on the 21 December 1914 from Sydney aboard the HMAT *Suevic* to serve with the 6 Light Horse Regiment.

Sherwin was wounded during the attack of Amman, in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign and was taken prisoner. He died the next day from his injuries on the 29 March 1918. Trooper Norman Douglas Sherwin is commemorated at Basra Memorial Cemetery, Iraq. He was awarded the Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal which, together with a Memorial Scroll and Memorial Plaque were given to his father. His service is also commemorated on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

William Stanley Smith – Service Number: 950

William Stanley Smith was the son Alice Smith, Lansdowne Street, Parramatta, New South Wales. Prior to enlistment, he was a labourer by trade at Guyra, New South Wales and was living at 'Lake View', North Guyra. At the age of 18 years he joined the Australian Imperial Forces, 33 Battalion 1 Reinforcement on the 28 February 1916 at Rutherford, New South Wales. He embarked for overseas service at Sydney, New South Wales aboard HMAT *Marathon* on the 4 May 1916.

He proceeded to France and was reported as missing from the 7 June to 12 June 1917. There was some confusion about his whereabouts as it was thought that he was absent due to illness. This report was also found to be incorrect as a letter received from London, England on the 20 March 1918 stated that an enquiry had discovered that Smith had died as a prisoner of war in France on the 11 June 1917.

George Henry James Stringfellow – Service Number: 3436
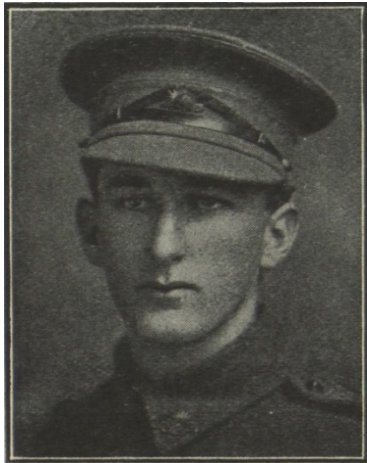
George Henry James Stringfellow was a 20-year-old Clerk from Harris Park, New South Wales when he enlisted on the 7 September 1915. He joined the 55 Battalion in March 1916 and was promoted to the rank of Corporal in June 1916. Stringfellow was taken prisoner of war in September of that year, and was interned for the duration of the war. He was eventually sent to England in September 1918 and returned to Australia on the 18 January 1919. Stringfellow was discharged from service in late May 1919.

He was mentioned in Charles Bean's official history of the war for his role in the Battle of Fromelles, France under Lieutenant Matthews.

Leonard Thomas Eaton Taplin – Service Number: 6994

Leonard Thomas Eaton Taplin was born in Adelaide, South Australia and was a 20-year-old electrical engineer living in Wentworth Street, Parramatta, New South Wales when he enlisted on the 5 December 1915. He transferred to the Australian Flying Corps as a pilot on the 30 April 1917, was appointed Second Lieutenant on the 29 September and was then promoted to Lieutenant on the 29 December. Taplin was awarded Distinguished Flying Cross Medal in 1918.

Instrumental in destroying German observation balloons, Taplin was wounded while on a flying mission and landed the damaged plane behind enemy lines. He was taken prisoner in Germany on the 5 February 1918 and was repatriated to

England on the 28 December 1918 following the Armistice. He returned to Australia aboard the SS *Kanowna* on the 28 August 1919, disembarking on the 29 October. He received an honourable discharge on the 12 December 1919 in Adelaide, South Australia.

## William Edward Watson – Service Number: 6898

Son of Arthur Watson of Guildford, New South Wales, William Edward Watson was 24 years old and working as a tinsmith when he enlisted on the 4 May 1917. He embarked on the 16 September 1917 aboard the HMAT *Port Melbourne* as part of the 19 Battalion, 20 Reinforcement bound for France. Fighting on the front line in France, on the 5 April 1918, he was initially reported missing, but it later was confirmed that he had been taken prisoner of war. On the 5 December 1918, Watson was repatriated to England and arrived back in Australia on the 23 April 1919. He died in 1949.

World War One: Peace

Neera Sahni

World War One was declared over on the 4 August 1914, the Armistice was signed on the 11 November 1918 and peace was declared on the 28 June 1919.
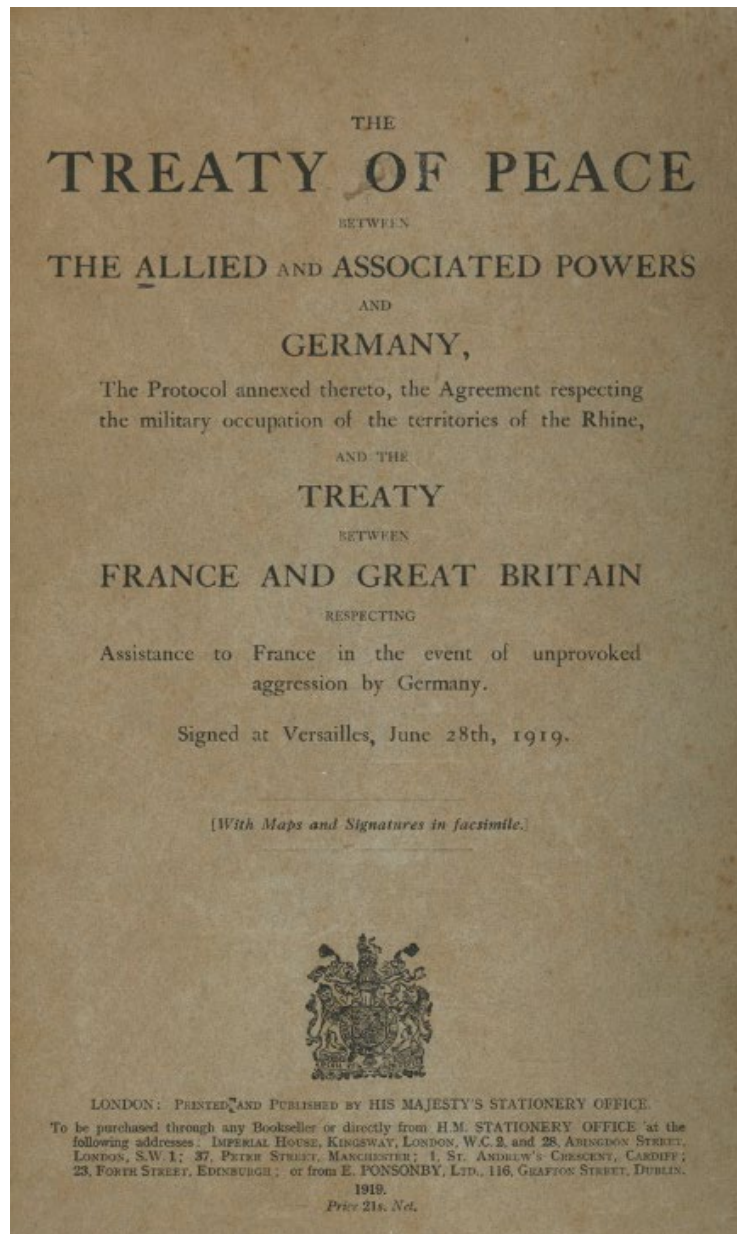
Treaty of Peace
(Source: Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War, 1914-1919)

The Treaty of Versailles was the most important of the peace treaties that brought World War One to an end. The Treaty ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Nations (including Britain, France, Italy, Russia and USA). It was signed on the 28 June 1919 in Versailles, a city 10 miles outside Paris in France.

VAD's in the "Peace Day" celebrations in Sydney.
The Second Section is the Parramatta Detachment
(Source: Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War, 1914-1919)

World War One: Images of Soldiers During War

Neera Sahni

Outdoor portrait of four Australian prisoners of war in Turkey
(Source: Australian War Memorial, PO 3236.066)

A German collecting station on the morning of the 20 July after the battle of Fromelles (Fleurbaix) with wounded Australian prisoners of war
*(Source: Australian War Memorial, A01551)*

Australian Prisoners of War at the German collecting station during the Battle of Fleurbaix which took place on 19 July 1916 and 20 July 1916
*(Source: Australian War Memorial, A01547)*

Australian and British prisoners captured during the Battle of Fleurbaix during 19 July 1916 and 20 July 1916 being escorted through the city streets.
(Source: Australian War Memorial, A02239)

Prisoners unloading Red Cross parcels from a horse-drawn cart at the Schneidemuhl Prisoners of War camp, north of Posen in eastern Germany.
(Source: Australian War Memorial, P01981.009)
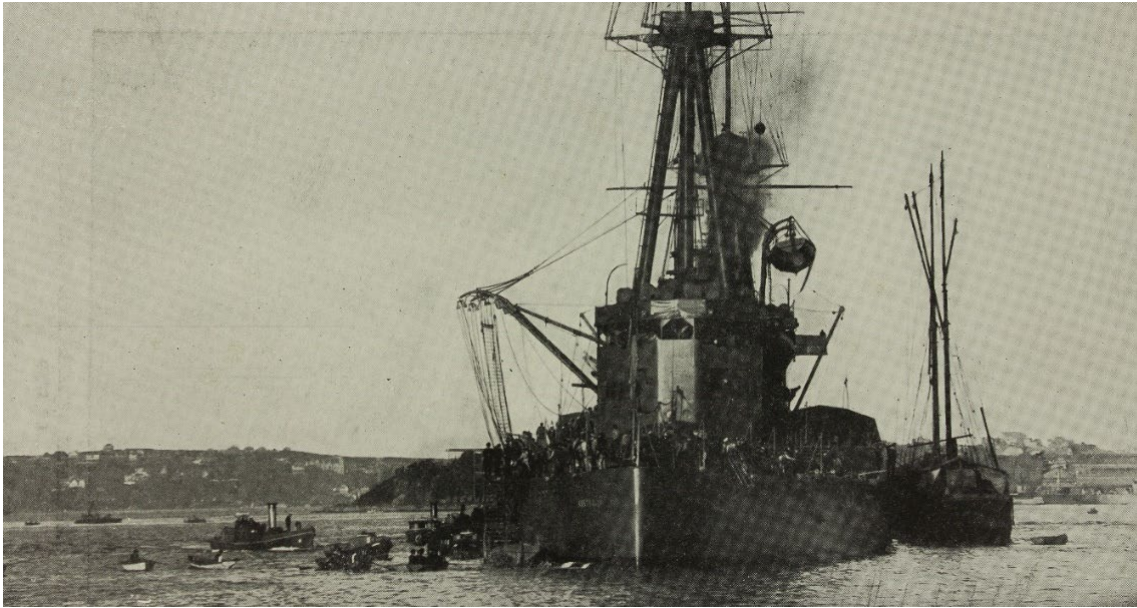
The Battle – Cruiser Australian hurriedly coaling in Port Jackson on 4 August 1914
(Source: Charles E.W. Bean, Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918, Volume 12: Photographic record of the War)
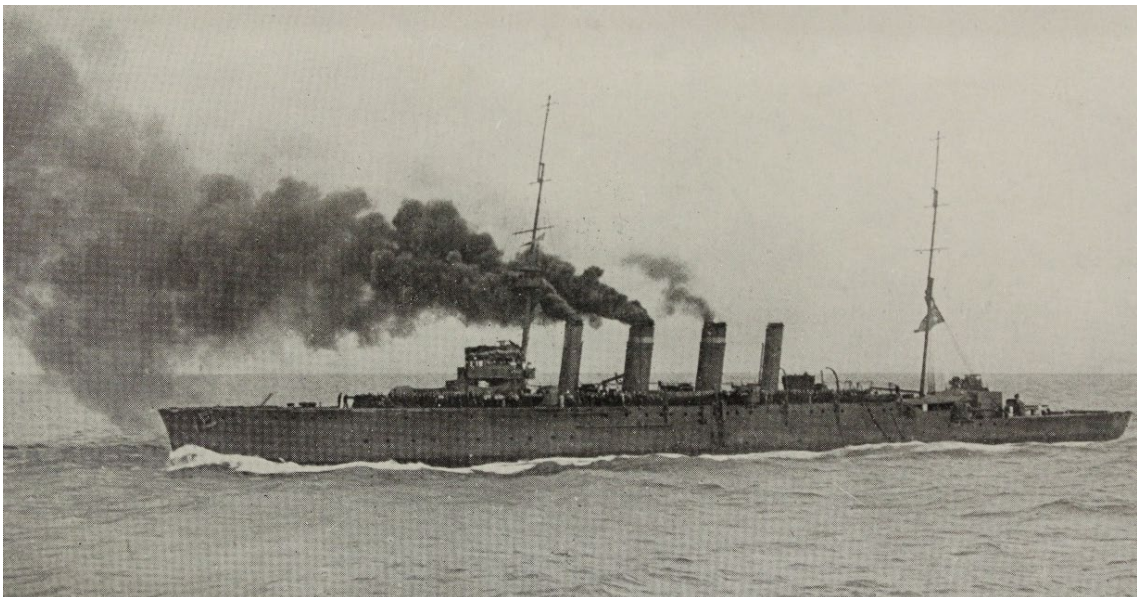
H.M.A.S. Sydney on her first operation
(Source: Charles E.W. Bean, Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918, Volume 12: Photographic record of the War)

Back cover image: *A German collecting station on the morning of the 20th July after the battle of Fromelles (Fleurbaix) with wounded Australian prisoners of war. (Source: Australian War Memorial, A01551).*