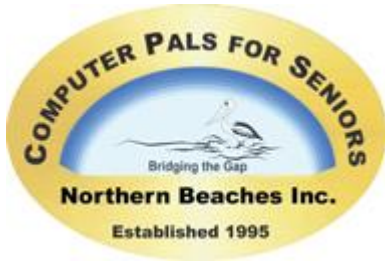


ARMISTICE: Before and After



Nan Bosler



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Title - Armistice: Before and After

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Was your Family involved in World War One?

Many of us are unsure if any of our family members had enlisted in the Armed Forces for WWI. This book contains information to help you discover your ancestors and stories written by members and friends of Computer Pals for Seniors Northern Beaches and a student from Mona Vale Public School. It is hoped that their stories will encourage you and the information provided will help you to discover the real story of your ancestor/s. Where did they serve? What of the families left at home? What happened after the war ended? Are you going to take up the challenge to research, respect and celebrate the actions of those who sought to provide a better future for their descendants? Let's begin the search.



Who will you be researching? Was that person born before 1900? The official age for enlistment was 18, so consider those born before 1896. Teenagers younger than that did get in as they were only required to state their age, not their birthdate on the enlistment papers. There were those, determined to serve, who gave a false age. Write down all that you know about the person you plan to research; add a record of all of your searches, both unsuccessful and successful. To give your story credibility you must record all references so that in the future you, or someone else interested in the same person, can verify your findings and use them as a lead to further information.

This book contains stories obtained by the author from some of the ANZACS who are featured in this book while they were still able to tell their own tales. Excitedly it also contains stories written by new authors who learned how to research the wonderful resources available after participating in this project. There is welcome inclusion of a story by a student from Mona Vale Public School. The stories all reflect great family pride and respect for their ANZACS.

Enthusiasm and encouragement has kept the project alive and exciting. Thanks go to Radio Northern Beaches for allowing the presentation of monthly sessions about World War I, hosted by Judy Elias. The assistance provided by Sharelle Ravenscroft of Library Services Mona Vale in helping locate photographs thought lost was greatly appreciated as was the help provided by many. The project would not have been undertaken without the funding made available by an Armistice Centenary Grant.

World War 1 was over on 11th November 1918. Armistice Day is marked by a nationwide short silence at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month each year. It is a time for us all to reflect on the true meaning of ANZAC. In 2018 at that precise time it will be one hundred years since the war to end all wars came to an end. Our project is called *Armistice: Before and After*.

Nan Bosler OAM

11 November 2018



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General William Bridges

“War is too important to be left to Generals” was Georges Clemenceau’s famous statement made at the end of the Boer War. Britain was all too aware of the validity of this statement and a committee for Imperial Defence was formed. At this same time the ‘defence forces’ of the Australian states were being re-organised into the Army of the Commonwealth of Australia by Major General Sir Edward Hutton. In 1903 a graduate from the Royal Canadian Military College, Kingston, William Bridges, was appointed to his staff as Assistant Quartermaster-General.



In 1906 William Bridges was sent to London to learn more about mobilisation and citizen armies. When he returned to Australia he began working on a plan of defence for the Commonwealth. In 1909 Bridges was back in London representing Australia on the Imperial General Staff. It was an elated Brigadier General Bridges who returned to Australia as Commandant of the Royal Australian Military College. The dream of so many was at last to be reality and after careful consideration Duntroon, on the outskirts of Canberra, was chosen. He was commandant for three years and established a military college of the highest standard.

Three months after Colonel Bridges left Duntroon, Britain declared war on Germany and he was made commander of the 1st Australian Imperial Force, the AIF. The years of preparation were obvious when in 47 days 20,000 men were ready to leave Australia. The A.I.F. was made up from all spheres of life – they were physically fit and eager for adventure. The 1st Division and the 1st Light Horse Brigade were the widest possible representation of Australia’s finest manhood.

The ships carrying the Australian forces were joined in King George Sound at Albany, W.A. by the ships carrying the New Zealand Brigade. A convoy of 36 transports and 2 cruisers steamed out of the Sound on 1 November. As they sailed through the Indian Ocean one of the escorts, the cruiser Sydney, detached from the convoy to defeat the *Emden*. It was Australia’s first naval battle.



General William Bridges



Christmas 1914 for the 1st Division was spent in the shadow of the Egyptian Pyramids while the Light Horse was stationed on the other side of Cairo at Mena. The Australian New Zealand Army Corps was under the command of General Sir William Birdwood. It was he who first referred to the Corps by their initials ANZAC!

While the Australians and New Zealanders trained on in Egypt the war on the Western Front had reached a stalemate. The First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Winston Churchill, envisaged an attack on the 'soft underbelly of Europe' which, if successful, would relieve the German pressure on the Russians and change the course of the war. The plan was defeated by a mine field about 10 miles up the Dardanelles.

Turkey was now alerted to the weak spot in its defences and history was about to record an unforgettable story of frustrating blunders, heroic failures and unforgiveable lack of support.

Warships and transports numbering some 200 set sail from Lemnos Harbour on the evening of 24 April 1915. The Anzacs were to land on a beach about a mile north of Gaba Tepe Promontory (later to be named Anzac Cove.)

At 4.29am on the morning of the 25 April the Australians reached the shore but high above the beach Turkish rifles and machine guns welcomed them with a hail of bullets. The Anzacs had been landed at a beach considered only days before as impossible for a successful landing by General Birdwood. The first tragic blunder - they were a mile north of their designated beach-head. The bravery and stamina of Australia's manhood had begun to write, with blood, a page of history!

The terrain was vicious but again and again the Australians forced forward. There was confusion regarding the true position and the soldiers had been divided into comparatively small groups.

As the darkness of night began to smother Gallipoli it was suggested to General Birdwood that the troops should be withdrawn to attack somewhere else. Admiral Thursby, in command of the ships and landing crafts, thought it impossible without great loss of life. So, they remained and followed the instructions of their Commander in Chief, General Hamilton to 'dig, dig, dig.'

The Australians gained the admiration of those they fought beside for their bravery, cheerfulness and resourcefulness. On the morning of 15 May while touring Colonel Chauvel's section, General Bridges was fatally wounded. Before his death three days later he was to be appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath – the first such award to the Australian Services.



His body was brought back to Australia and laid to rest overlooking his beloved Duntroon Royal Australian Military College.



What did my Ancestors do in World War One and afterwards?

by Bridgid McLean

To me they are not figures of distant history, but people I knew. My Anzacs.

The information comes from personal recollections, military records from the National Archives of Australia and military Unit Diaries.



My father, Charles Ian McLean (WW1 number 958) on the right, was born in Ireland in 1891. He left home and came to Australia after a family disagreement in 1911. By 1914 he was working in Cunnamulla, QLD., as a mounted policeman.

The locals there thought they would test the new chum by giving him a horse that was regarded as wild and dangerous. Their hopes for some entertainment were dashed when he managed to calm and tame the animal. He was a good horseman.

On the outbreak of war, he took leave of absence from the police and joined the Second Light Horse on the 27th December 1914. That difficult horse went with him. They embarked on the 22nd May 1915 at Newcastle on the *Malakuta* to sail for Egypt. He was then amongst troops from the Light Horse sent to Gallipoli in Oct. 1915 as reinforcements. Their horses waited for them in Egypt.



Unit Dairies for the 2nd Light Horse Brigade on Gallipoli place them at Lone Pine. One dramatic night is described. The troops were issued with parachute rockets to be fired at 2.30 A.M. to light up the Turkish trenches. Rifles and machine guns to be brought into action on any targets presenting themselves. An Officer was to be on a ship out to sea to direct where shells should be fired as well.

Surviving Gallipoli, he served in campaigns in the Sinai and Palestine, taking part in the last cavalry charge in history at Beersheba. He didn't talk much about his wartime experiences but did mention the amazed looks on the faces of the Turks in their trenches as the Australian horseman jumped over them.



Light Horse Headquarters,
Romani, Egypt

He served for 4 years 114 days and was fortunate to have only suffered a gunshot wound to his forearm and some illness. He ended the war as a Warrant Officer.

The war over, he made a visit home to Ireland to see his family, but it was cut short when fighting for Irish independence broke out and all Australian Army personnel were ordered to leave the country in case they became involved. He never got back to Ireland again.

His post-war life continued to be eventful. He returned to the QLD. Police and was shot in the abdomen while attempting to make an arrest. He was awarded the King's Medal for Gallantry. He was lucky to survive.

Recovering and seeking a change, he went to Papua as a European Constable-Patrol Officer. During his employment in that capacity he was also Inspector of Liquor for Port Moresby, Registering Officer of Dogs, Registrar of Motor Vehicles, Receiver of Public Monies and Bailiff of the Central Court. He survived diphtheria while out alone on patrol by dosing himself with brandy and forcing himself to get out of bed every day.

His return to Australia in 1929 coincided with the Great Depression. He found a position as settlement manager at the new Hammondville Pioneer Homes for evicted families, that later became the suburb of Hammondville.

He tried to enlist again for WW2 but was told he was too old. Instead he worked in the Northern Territory, managing parts of wartime construction around Alice Springs.



Post WW2, marriage, age and the arrival of a child set his life on a more settled path- working for the Dept of Main Roads in Sydney.

The last years of his life were bitter as his adopted country showed its gratitude for his efforts in war and peace by denying him any sort of pension when he became too old and ill to work because his wife earned a small amount of money too much as a teacher. He was told by Veterans Affairs that if he left his family, he would get a pension. He declined their offer.

Then there was Howard Both (WW1 number 11) from South Australia – whom I came to know as Uncle Howard.

He enlisted for World War One in August 1914 as an Electrical Engineer, aged almost 20 and was in Egypt by December 1914. He joined the Second Div. Signal Coy. A.I.F. Mediterranean Expeditionary Force as the troops destined for Gallipoli were called.

A letter written by him in 1967 says he embarked for Anzac on the 4th April 1915 and landed on the 25th – making him one of the original Anzacs. He survived the time on Gallipoli and was one of those who set up the mechanisms that fired the guns in the trenches to cover the evacuation of the Australian and New Zealand troops from the battleground.

He left the peninsula on the night of 19/20 December 1915, on the last Lighter C3 party – making him one of the last Australian soldiers to leave. He always said he was the last man off, but a more senior officer took the credit.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Error handling not required.)				Army Form G. 2118
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Anzac C3	25/4	1.30 am	Communications closed down. Submarine cables were cut at Water's edge, all traces of cable being removed & destroyed, and two trays of lines at cable head were rendered useless. Lines to NZ and HQ's with four spare alternative routes respectively were handed over to VB. Portion of staff took charge of telephone exchange previously installed at HQ's office for the purpose of conducting the Beach operations, and remained there until all the troops were embarked. Lt Lieut Ord was instructed to embark remainder of staff as soon as lighters were available. The rest of the staff were embarked at 2.45 am. All the instruments, excepting one telephone, were saved.	23

205 W. Wiggles 100000 4/5 J.R.C.R.A. A.D.S.S./Form G. 2118

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

8CDIG1010503

The last page of the evacuation of Gallipoli.



After Gallipoli the, by then, Lieutenant Both was sent to fight in France. A family letter says he was buried twice by shell explosions and his nose was badly broken resulting in long lasting health effects. Worse was to come. In 1917 he contracted spinal meningitis which kept him dangerously ill in hospitals in France and England for 14 months. He was returned home to Australia as an invalid and suffered from poor health for the rest of his life.

He did meet his wife in a military hospital in France where she was nursing. My Aunt Olive. She bought her trousseau in Paris and travelled to South Australia where they married in 1920. They lived on a farm. Olive found the Australian bush very different to her previous life and by 1929 was so homesick, that Howard sent her home to Ireland for a year – not expecting her to come back but after a year she did. They didn't have any children.

During WW2 Howard did army work concerned with the Woomera Rocket Range- secret so we never heard any details. Olive was a top organiser in the Red Cross and worked at Adelaide University making binoculars fit for military use in the tropics.

Howard was an inveterate tinkerer. He had a wonderful shed/work shop.

Here is Howard with his Irish bride Olive Maclean. Paris to the bush! He looks as though a puff of wind would blow him away, but he must have been as tough as nails to survive until 1978.



War Horses

Moore Park, Sydney, was the venue for foot drill and riding drill. After being passed as medically fit the accepted recruits marched to the Royal Agricultural Showground where they took up residence in the dog pavilion.



As soon as a full quota of horses had been received they were embarked aboard the SS *Pera* with a few drivers to take charge of them. The major section of the Brigade embarked on the 17th October on the SS *Argyllshire*, a fine ship of 12,000 tons with ample room for movement and exercise for the 700 horses on board. On the 1st November 1914 SS *Argyllshire* took her place in line and sailed out of Albany, Western Australia, a part of that great first fleet.

The horses were exercised daily for an hour and their legs massaged for a further hour. As soon as the ship docked in Alexandria the horses were taken off the ship and placed in a rest camp near the wharves. When it was time to move on to Cairo the horses were loaded, eight to a horse van, their heads tied to avoid fighting. Each Brigade had a train to themselves.

The horses had been confined to narrow spaces for eight weeks and they were now very frisky and hard to handle.

Mena Camp was ten miles from Cairo. The camp was situated on the edge of a mighty desert, at the foot of a range of low hills on which stood, in bold outlines, the three great pyramids, whilst a number of smaller pyramids could be seen a little further on. Water troughs had been erected for the horses, a pumping plant operated at a nearby well to keep the troughs full. The troughs took a long time to fill and this created problems and a set time-table had to be observed at the watering parades to ensure that the horses were properly watered.

The Australia chaff was soon exhausted and the horses were fed tibbin which seemed to be oat stubble, oats, cracked barley and a little bran. As time passed they got used to the poor fare and emptied their bags. They also got green hay and a handful of green lucerne each day.

For the first fortnight at Mena the horses were allowed to spell and were only exercised once a day. They were groomed three times a day and their legs massaged. During the third week they were exercised in harness but not ridden until they got used to being harnessed. Most of the horses were unbroken.

When the time did come to mount them, it was cause of a good deal of merriment among the members of the column. This sorted out the skilled drivers. The best drivers were put in the lead or in the wheel, and the less skilled men placed in the centre or made spare drivers.



Drivers got an extra shilling (10 cents) a day pay. The heat and deep sand made heavy going for the horses. On 5 April 1915 orders were given to strike camp. On 9 April they boarded the SS *Indian*.

The accommodation for the horses was excellent but no provision had been made for the men! Food was iron rations – bully beef and biscuits three times a day. On 12 April they arrived off Lemnos Island and on the 24th they were off shore at Gallipoli. They were there for two days before eventually putting to sea. For nearly three weeks they steamed up and down the fighting zone unable to be landed.

They were becoming weak. They returned to Alexandria where men and horses were greatly relieved to be off the SS *Indian*. The horses were carefully brought back to full fighting strength before they faithfully carried their riders into the fray.



The Tamworth Waler Memorial was established as a memorial tribute to the role of Walers in support of the Australian military and also to honour all horses who died in war. Of all these horses only one returned, a gelding, Sandy, belonging to Major General Sir William Bridges.



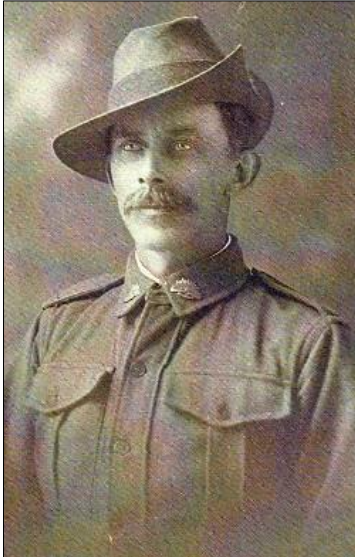
The Horse Catcher

By K.D. Martin OAM

The Guy Fawkes National Park in the New England area was home to many of the War Horses. The mountain horses, known as Walers, had developed powerful chests and hindquarters as they evolved and adapted to the wild; only the strongest survived. The Waler is a renowned Australian breed of riding horses that developed from the horses that were brought to the Australian colonies in the 19th Century. The name comes from their early breeding origins in New South Wales; they were originally known as 'New South Walers.' Between 1861 and 1931 approximately 500,000 horses were exported from

Australia for service with the Indian Army as well as in the Boer War and later in Egypt with the Australian Light Horse, notably the famous cavalry charge at Beersheba in 1917.

During 1917 Edward G. Martin was catching these wild horses in Guy Fawkes National Park to break them in and sell them to the



Australian Army mounted light horse units. The Army was requesting so many that he couldn't keep up with the demand, so he decided it would be quicker, and more profitable, to starve them and not break them in and then pass them on to the Army as suitable. After his deception was discovered he decided it would be better to join the Army.



He was 43 years of age when he enlisted at Walcha. He was now Private E.G. Martin, #95466 General Service Reinforcements. He named his wife Edith as his next of kin. They had two sons, Arthur, aged six and Douglas who was just three. He was discharged at Victoria Barracks, NSW, on 31 December 1918. His Certificate of Discharge showed that he had served 173 days.



George Bunn - 1889 to 1915 - Farmer and Soldier

By John Peachey

Thomas Bunn answered a knock on his front door at Camberwell Road, Lambeth, London to find the Postman standing there with a parcel to deliver. This is 1916 and the parcel, olive green cardboard, contained the effects of his youngest son, George, which were being returned in accordance with AIF regulation. When Thomas opened the parcel he found a razor, tooth brush and shaving brush. Tears welled up in his eyes and he started to sob quietly. George had been killed in 1915 at Gallipoli.

Jessie and Thomas Bunn, a house painter by trade, had four children a girl, Florence (my paternal Grandmother), and three boys, Thomas John, Henry and George. Florence married Leonard Peachey and did very well for herself. Thomas John became an artist while little is known of Henry other than in 1901 he was a butcher's assistant. George was born in 1889, 12 years after his sister.

The family stayed together living in the Borough of Lambeth, but moved houses within the district. In 1901 they had settled in 3 Sudbury Street. George was a scholar and managed to stay at one private school despite the family house moves.



1900 was the year when George's eldest brother, Thomas John married and moved away from the family home.

In 1906 George's mother, Jessie, passed away. The family had always been tight knit but Thomas John leaving to be married and Jessie's death loosened the bindings. Three men together in the house was a complete change and not the best.

The London Volunteer Rifles were seeking recruits to bolster their numbers after the Boer War and, following his father's footsteps George joined in about 1907 when he was 17 years old. Little is known of his experience with the Volunteers but the history of the Corps is as follows:



London Rifle Brigade.

The 1st London Volunteer Rifle Corps (City of London Rifle Volunteer Brigade) was founded 23 July 1859, at a meeting convened by the Lord Mayor. At that time Great Britain felt itself threatened by France, then ruled by Napoleon III and the Secretary of State for War wrote to all the Lords Lieutenant of the counties and shires authorising them to raise Volunteer Rifle Corps for the defense of the country. In this endeavour the City of London was at first overlooked but enthusiasm soon made up for lost time.

Recruiting in the City of London went well and the 1st London Rifle Volunteer Brigade were told that they could retain the word "Brigade" in their title provided they raised sufficient men for two battalions. By recruiting men from the City business houses this was achieved within a week of the start of recruiting; the numbers exceeded 1,800 men. The corps were subsequently known as the "L.R.B."

In 1866 the L.R.B. provided a company for a composite battalion going to Brussels for a shooting competition, the enthusiastic and welcoming manner in which these British troops were received, the first seen there since Waterloo, suggests that perhaps Britain was not the only country to feel threatened as Prussia had just defeated Austria and were supposed in some quarters to be turning their thoughts to Belgium.

Despite modelling themselves on the Rifle Brigade since 1859, in 1881 the L.R.B. were allocated to the Kings Royal Rifle Corps as a Volunteer battalion.

The Rifle Volunteer Corps were not permitted to serve overseas but some 140 men of the L.R.B. fought in the Boer War having temporarily transferred to the City Imperial Volunteers, the Service Company of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London) Regiment, the Imperial Yeomanry, the R.A.M.C. or the Army Service Corps. In common with many other Rifle Volunteer Corps throughout the country the L.R.B. were awarded the battle honour "South Africa 1900 – 02".

In 1908 the Rifle Volunteer Corps throughout the country were disbanded but invited to continue as battalions of the new Territorial Force. The L.R.B. became the "5th (City of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) The London Regiment". The London Rifle Brigade served in the First World War in their own name, with L/Sgt Douglas Belcher gaining the Victoria Cross on the 13th May 1915 for his gallantry in defending a flank position with nine men.



About the time of disbanding of the Corps, Australia had been very actively seeking people - especially farmers - to migrate to Australia. Subsidised passages for singles, couples or families were offered and taken up by all sorts of people. The benefits are outlined in the article from the Daily Telegraph (Sydney) below.

IMMIGRANT FIGURES.

Since the beginning of the year, according to the figures of the Immigration and Tourist Bureau, 8915 Immigrants have been brought to this State up to the end of August, under the scheme of immigration of the New South Wales Government. These consisted mostly of farm hands in the case of the men, and the majority of the women were domestics. Of this number 2363 were selected by the Government Agency in London, and 5982 were nominated by friends. As many as 2000 have arrived during the course of one week, and a few days ago 2381 came by the R.M.S. Orontes, the P. and O. branch liner Beltana, and the Waimana.

Selected immigrants pay £6, in addition to a deposit, ranging from £2 to £16. Although a deposit is not demanded, it is asked for — and generally forthcoming— for the purpose of providing the immigrants with something to go on with upon arrival. The fares for nominated immigrants varies from £3 to £8. All the nominated and selected immigrants have to undergo a medical examination, as good health is one of the essential features of the scheme.

As showing the progress of the work, it may be mentioned that in 1909, approximately 4000 immigrants were brought out; 5500 came in 1910, 10,000 in 1911, and by the time the present year has expired it is expected the total for 1912 will reach 17,000. So that for the four years ending 1912 the new arrivals will total, approximately, 30,500.' 'Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Wednesday 4 September 1912, page 8

George must have been interested in the scheme as, on the 30th April 1909, he embarked on the RMS *Ortona* as a Third Class passenger - trade listed as farmer - for the 43 day voyage to Sydney. He was one of 375 passengers on this voyage.



Sydney on 11 June 1909 farmers arriving were met by staff from the "Intelligence Department" who would meet the new arrivals and put them in touch with their landowners.

No record can be found as to where George was sent or how long he worked as a farmer.

Newspapers reported that immigrants have other skills beside farming. It is these skills immigrants would turn to if farming did not suit.

12:41 pm Fri 31 Aug trove.nla.gov.au

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Newspapers: / Browse / The Peak Hill Express (NSW : 1902 - 1952) / Fri 11 Jan 1907 / Page 8 / IMMIGRANT FARMERS.

Why are there text errors?

IMMIGRANT FARMERS.

A large number of capable farm hand* from England are now reaching Sydney weekly as a result of the Government assisted immigration operations. Some hundreds of these men have already been placed in, our rural districts, and reports received show that in the large majority of cases they have given general satisfaction to the farmers. The immigrants on arrival are received by the Intelligence Department, the officials of which bring them into touch with landowners in various parts of the country.

flames enveloped his right hand, burning it black. The dray also caught fire, but no great damage was done to it.

IMMIGRANT FARMERS.

A LARGE number of capable farm hands from England are now reaching Sydney weekly as a result of the Government assisted immigration operations. Some hundreds of these men have already been placed in our rural districts, and reports received show that in the large majority of cases they have given general satisfaction to the farmers. The immigrants on arrival are received by the Intelligence Department, the officials of which bring them into touch with landowners in various parts of the country.

CLIMBING RABBITS.

MANY people ridicule the idea of rabbits climbing wire netting. Here is an extract from a report by "D'Artagnan" in the PASTORALISTS' REVIEW of what occurred on Brough-

George was just 20 when he arrived in Australia and, apart from the spell with the Volunteer Rifle Corp had not worked in a job that would provide him any skills to seek alternative employment. However, in December 1913 he commenced work with NSW Railways at Murrurundi as a casual cleaner in the Loco Branch. Later in February 1914 he was given a permanent position at 8/6d per day. This job lasted until August when George enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force.

Given the number 216, he was enlisted in the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade on 17th August 1914 in Sydney. He was 5' 7" tall, weighed 9 stone and 12 lbs, had a fair complexion, Hazel coloured eyes and brown hair. The Commanding Officer reviewed George's Attestation and assigned him to "H" Company.

As no pictures of him exist in our family collection nor anywhere else this description will have to suffice. The Battalion commenced training until 5th April 1915 when OC Troops embarked on SS *Lake Michigan*, in Alexandria, to join M.E.F. He was promoted to Corporal on 16th May 1915 and landed with his fellow troops on 23rd May at Gallipoli.



They spent the next couple of months in trenches or off line for R&R. Numbers reduced as men were killed or wounded. Replacements were sent in to hold the numbers of troops as steady as possible.

George was reprimanded for neglect of duty at Gallipoli on 1st August however the next entry records him as missing believed killed between 6 and 9th August 1915.

The 4th Battalion War Diaries give a vivid picture of what was going on at the time.

In early May after they arrived in Alexandria entries to the diary were one or two per day but as the August came closer the number of entries increased until the 6th when they became very frequent.

This is a sample page taken from the War Diaries covering the time George was "missing". The diaries make horrific reading when the numbers of casualties that occurred during this time is considered.

Time	Event
	8 Purport.
2024.	Inform Div. of the loss of a portion of trench on the right, in 2 nd Bn. lines.
2142.	Inform Div. that seven machine gun were captured and many thousands rounds of ammunition.
	— 8 . 8 . 1915 —
0550	Received news that the N.Z and A. Div. have occupied CHUNUK BAIR, Square 161 - 80 - K.
0855	Inform Div. that the constant bombing by the Turks can only be met by bombing. A good supply required. Connaught Rangers only to be used in case of attack and not to relieve other troops.
0905.	General Walker congratulates Colonel Macnaughten on his promptitude and courage in regaining trench which had been lost.
1300	7 th Bn. start relieving 2 nd Bn.
1430	3 rd Bn. report that 7 th Bn. are taking over most of their lines
1640	2 nd Bn. relieved by 7 th Bn - also the whole of 1 st Bn, except 1 co. attached to 4 th Bn. on left of position. Brigade established at LONE PINE near end of B5.



George died at the age of 26. He had come halfway around the world to start a new life and probably found that farming was not for him after all. He found work in the railways but enlisted at the start of the First World War and served the AIF going back to Europe to die in Gallipoli. A short life by modern standards but one that contained a lot of experiences. May he rest in peace.

Foot Notes;

- 1) George's father Thomas Bunn died in January 1917. He had lost the love of his life and his youngest son. His eldest son had moved away and so he spent his last days with Henry his second son.
- 2) The War Diaries were not without humour even if it were macabre. Another August 1915 4th Battalion War Diary repeatedly refers to "Lone Pine" as LONESOME PINE



Letters from home

I sat down with Reg White at Belrose in 1986 and listened as he told me of some of his war experiences.

Reg White was born on 21 May 1895 in Quorn, South Australia. The home he was born in was built in 1880 and he saw that it was still in good condition and being occupied as a private residence when he returned to Quorn for the town's centenary in 1980. Reg White was a guest of honour as the person with the oldest connection with that picturesque town.

He was a colour sergeant in the Commonwealth Citizens forces when World War I broke out. The unit was immediately called upon to do guard duty. He mounted the first guard at Keswick Barracks, in Adelaide. When the permanent staff clerks enlisted he asked them to put his name down at the same time. So while he was still in charge of the guard at the main gate to Keswick Barracks he became an enlisted soldier with the regimental number of 3.



He embarked from Melbourne on board the *Orvieto*, the Headquarters ship of the fleet. When the convoy finally left Albany, WA the *Orvieto* was at the head of the centre 3 lines of ships. Those on board the *Orvieto* got 'an inkling' of something when the Sydney suddenly left the convoy, her place as convoy guard was taken by the Japanese cruiser, *Ibuki*.

The *Sydney* was on her way to create Australian Naval History – the defeat of the German *Emden*. Captain Von Muller and part of the crew of the *Emden* were brought aboard the *Orvieto*. They were placed at the stern of the ship and the Australian troops had little contact with them. The convoy eventually made for Egypt. Reg White, who was now of the 3rd Brigade Headquarters staff was among those who left the convoy at Port Said to travel by train to Cairo. Most of the troops disembarked at Alexandria bound also for Cairo. The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps were camped at Mena at the base of the pyramids.



The next move was to the island of Lemnos. The main town was described by the troops as 'a town of Biblical days'; each family and their livestock all lived in the one house.

On the morning of the 25 April the soldiers, carrying 95lbs of equipment, waited tensely on board their ships for the order to land. Each man had to get from the ship to a gun boat and then into a lifeboat. The lifeboats were strung together in formations of six and attached to a pinnace which was driven by a young naval officer. The soldiers thought that the lifeboats would take them right up to the beach. It was not to be.

The Turkish army had been alerted to the coming landing because the British had attacked the nearby Dardanelles. There was no prior knowledge of the tides in the area or that the waters lapping the beach hid treacherous, slime-covered rocks.

The confusion of that historic day had begun – soldiers, weighted down with 95 lbs of gear had to jump into the water onto those slippery rocks under a hail of Turkish bullets – many did not reach the beach. The 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Battalions were to have been landed in order but they had to scrambled to the beach as best they could.

As Reg White recalls "most of us spent the first day soaking wet, dodging enemy fire and trying to link up with our group."

Because he was on Headquarters Staff he had been able to pack a small ¼ plate camera and a simple developing tank. The negatives of many of the photographs were still in quite good condition after 70 years. The bore water used in the developing tank however, caused the loss of some negatives.

It was felt important to get mail to the troops as soon as possible after the landing. Reg was sent with a barge to a cargo ship that was moored about a mile beyond the range of Turkish guns to get the first delivery of mail for Gallipoli. Bags and bags of mail were landed on the beach – he then went back to the barge to photograph the historic scene.



Each bag of mail had been sorted into units and sealed. The Military Post Office was working with the Australian Post Office, which was known then as the Postmaster General's Department. The 1st Division's mail was so well sorted that there were no mix-ups. Each Battalion had its own 'postman'. Mail from home was a tremendous boost to the morale of the ANZACs at Gallipoli.

This photo was taken by Reg White and it shows the first mail delivered to Gallipoli. Pictured are mail bags, not sand bags!



At times enemy trenches were only 20 to 25 feet apart, close enough for voices to be clearly heard, particularly at night. Eventually a brief armistice was declared to enable soldiers from both sides to help the wounded in that 20 to 25 foot wide no man's land and to bury their dead. The stench and flies were unbelievable. Reg White recalls that the British Navy had a balloon anchored to one of their ships. It was hauled up and down at will. It was the only aerial surveillance and enabled them to keep an eye on the Turks.

Reg White was on Gallipoli for 5 months. He then became ill and literally crawled to the medical officer unsure of what was wrong with him. The next thing he knew was that he was on a stretcher and on his way to the beach. The stretcher bearers took him to a field station where they 'tagged' him - High temperature, 104.6. They then continued on to the beach, dodging gunfire all the way. They reached the beach at dawn; about 20 hours had passed since he reported sick. He was to lay on the beach until about 1.00pm before a barge could take him out to a ship for evacuation. Loops were attached to each end of the stretcher and he was swung up onto the American Ship *Minniwaska*. He still remembered

the terrible sensation of swinging in space. The ordeal was to be matched when the ship reached Alexandria. The ambulance rumbled over 17 miles of cobbled roads on solid tyres! He was 5 months in hospital before being sent to Adelaide to recuperate in a convalescent camp.



When he had recovered he volunteered for troopship duty and eventually re-joined his unit and served in France until the end of the war. There were delays in getting the troops home because so many ships had been lost during the war. He arrived back in Adelaide on the 1st July 1919 and was met by his fiancé. A few weeks later the couple went to a newsreel and there on the screen was a report of the Anzac victory march in London. Queen Mary took the march past as King George V was not well and there, 4th from the front, was Regimental Sergeant-Major Reg White.

Bosler, Nan *ANZAC – Something to be proud of*, Local History Resource Unit, Narrabeen 1986 pp30-33



A family at War – The Tarrant Brothers

The Tarrant family had 6 sons and 3 daughters. Louisa Tarrant moved to Wyong from Mudgee with her children and it was there that the youngest son, Edward died in 1913, aged just 6 years old.

When Britain declared war on Germany the years of preparation that had been made in Australia were obvious when in 47 days 20,000 men were ready to leave Australia. The 1st Australian Imperial Force left Sydney on 21 September 1914 and joined with the ships carrying the Australian forces in King George Sound at Albany WA.

It must have been very hard for William Tarrant, he heard the call and desperately wanted to answer it but as the eldest son, and man of a family, he was ordered to stay at home and work the family's diary and orchard.

Richard Thomas Tarrant was 21 when he enlisted on 3 September 1914. He embarked from Sydney on 18 October 1914 on the HMAT A23 *Suffolk* with the original 2nd Infantry Battalion as 2nd Lieutenant. He had joined the Australian Rifle Regiment a month before turning 16 years of age and it is likely that this experience had been recognised. The HMAT (His Majesty's Australian Transport) A23 *Suffolk* was owned by Potter, Trinder and Gwyn, London, and leased by the Commonwealth until 14 June 1917 and the vessel took its place in the grand procession of shipping that left Albany in convey on 1 November 1914.

It had been planned to take the seven-mile-long convoy to England but Sir George Reid, Australian High Commissioner in London at that time sought permission for the A.I.F. and New Zealanders to train in Egypt. The proposed training camp in England was a cold bleak location on Salisbury Plain and he felt that the climate in Egypt was far more suitable.



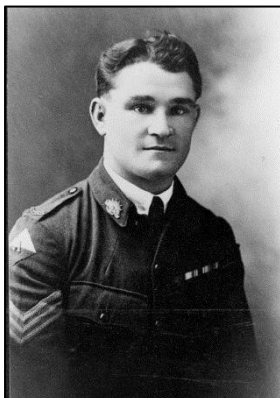
Richard Tarrant landed at what is now known as Anzac Cove from the *Derflinger* on the morning of 25 April. After two days of fierce fighting he was wounded and transported by hospital ship to Alexandria and then on to England. In a letter home he described how *shrapnel fell around us as we were being rowed back to the ships. I was taken aboard the Ionian and we sailed at 4pm for Alexandria. The ship was not fitted up as a Hospital. ship so men were placed anywhere. I was on the promenade deck with about fifty men.* When recovered he was transferred to the 45th Battalion in Egypt and received his Captaincy.

He returned to the front and was severely wounded at the Battle of Pozieres in France on 7 August 1916. He was transferred to a Military Hospital in England where he met a British Army volunteer nurse, Esther Mary Field. They were married on Christmas Eve, 1918. After serving some time with a training Battalion in England he was sent with a *secret* military expeditionary party to Archangel in Russia. Richard Thomas Tarrant returned to Australia in 1920 and continued in military service until after World War II rising through the ranks to become Lieutenant Colonel Tarrant.

Harry Harrison Tarrant enlisted on 2 October 1914. He was a Private in the 2 Infantry Battalion (Reinforcements) and embarked on the HMAT A32 *Themistocles* in Melbourne on 22 December 1914. The *Themistocles* became part of the Second Detachment of the Australian and New Zealand Imperial Expeditionary Forces assembled at King George's Sound, Albany, Western Australia and departed with the majority of the fleet on 31 December 1914.

Harry served in Egypt, Gallipoli and France. He was first wounded on 8 May 1915 at Anzac and again in the Menin Road sector on 22 September 1917. He was gassed on 25 August 1918 and at the end of 1918 Corporal Harry Harrison Tarrant came home on Anzac leave.

John George Tarrant, known as Jack, had never been military minded as a lad but when war broke out and two of his brothers Dick and Harry enlisted immediately Jack was determined to also "*do his duty*". He enlisted on 15th



March 1915, embarked from Sydney on the 25 June 1915 aboard HMAT A35 *Berrima* as part of the newly formed 20th Battalion and arrived at Gallipoli on 22nd August. He may not have been among the first to arrive but he was to become one of the last to leave Gallipoli.

Jack was a bomber. One of the first things he had seen when he arrived at Gallipoli was "the factory" which produced the bombs. These bombs were made mainly with jam and milk tins – a circle was cut out of the top and the tin filled with bits of metal, stones, whatever could be found; explosives were added and a string wick, the top was soldered closed.

There were a lot of casualties among the bomb throwers and it was soon apparent that the most vulnerable were the right handed bombers. To throw right handed they had to fully expose themselves to raise up and throw, when the fuse was lit the Turks could see the sparks; a left handed bomber was a little more protected. Jack was a right hander but he practised to improve his ability with his left hand with good results.

When asked what he remembered about the eventual decision to evacuate Gallipoli. Jack recalled:

"My mate Martin and I were the last two out of Walker's Ridge on the night of the evacuation. We were checked four times between Walker's Ridge and the barge taking us from the beach.

We were forbidden to talk about the evacuation in case our voices carried and the Turks heard it. It wasn't until after the evacuation that the incredible planning and brilliance of the strategy really sunk in. We lost thousands getting onto Gallipoli and coming off we didn't lose one."



Jack Tarrant served in France until the end of the war; he was made a sergeant in 1917 and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for valour at Mont St Quentin in France on 31 August 1918. He was wounded several times, on one occasion he was badly hit in the leg and the bone would not set properly and had to be overlapped and the knee wired. After a spell he was back in the thick of it. He arrived back in Australia in November 1919.

The youngest brother was Eric Garwood Eames Tarrant. Even though he tried he could not enlist because he was underage. He was so desperate to join his three brothers in France that he enlisted on 30 January 1918 under the alias of Robert James Stewart, giving his age as 18 years and 9 months! He left Australia on 19 June 1918 on SS *Field Marshal*.



Jack Tarrant with his brother Dick in 1971

Eric and his three brothers all returned safely at the end of the war. Eric struck trouble when he lodged a claim for Repatriation Benefits under his assumed name in 1920 which could only be satisfactorily resolved when he swore a Statutory Declaration which declared as follows:

...That when I enlisted in the A.I.F. in January 1918 I did so under the assumed name of "Robert James Stewart", and my regimental No was 51190, General Reinforcements. I returned to Australia 12/1/20 per transport Aeneas. The reason I assumed the name of "Stewart" was because I was under age when I enlisted, and to convince the Military Authorities that I was eligible I impersonated a friend who was over the military age. I ask that the Records be amended, and that I be discharged in my correct name. His records were amended.

Jack's story will continue later in this book.

My Family at War

By Judith Joyce

Albert Charles Leane

Lucy Leane was an Aboriginal woman belonging to the Cabrogal (Liverpool) clan of the Darug Nation. Lucy's son Albert (my great uncle) was born on 15 May 1877 in Holsworthy NSW and enlisted



in 1915 at 37 years of age. He embarked from Sydney in September 1915 for France via Egypt. In Egypt, Albert joined the 55th Battalion.

In a battle that took place near Fromelles in July 1916, Albert sustained leg wounds and was captured. He was detained in the Stendal Prisoner of War camp in Germany and was later transferred to Wittenberg Prisoner of War camp.

In several letters that Albert sent to his family while a POW – one on his WWI service file and one on the Red Cross file - says that he was doing well 'under the circumstances'. Albert arrived in England in December 1918 before returning to Australia in March 1919.

Albert married Lyla Elsie Stephenson in 1925 in Manly. He died 27 November 1937 and is buried in the Church of England section of Manly Cemetery.

William Arthur Leane

The eldest son of Edmund William, (My Grandfather) William Arthur Leane was born 12 November 1895 in Holsworthy NSW. He enlisted in WWI on 22 September 1915 at 19 years of age. William embarked on 27 April 1915 on the HMAT *Suffolk* from Sydney. He served with the 5th Australian Field Bakery, Army Service Corps in Egypt and the Western Front.

On 15 April 1916 he was appointed Lance-Corporal and the following year on 4 August 1917 he was promoted to Corporal. Entitlement to campaign and service medals is typically recorded on the individual's service record, as is the case on William's record. William was awarded three campaign medals:

The 1914-15 Star was awarded for service in specified theatres of war between August 1914 and 31 December 1915.





British War Medal and the Victory medal were both awarded for service in a theatre of war between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918.

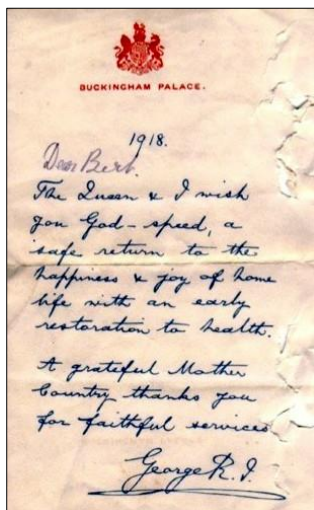
William returned to Australia aboard the *Sardinia*, leaving England on 19 April 1919. During the war William (Bill) was Gassed and it is believed that this contributed to his early death, he died on 12 October 1952, aged 42, in Rozelle NSW and was buried in Northern Suburbs Cemetery, Ryde NSW.



Albert Edmund Leane (Bert or Darkie to his Army Mates)

Albert Edmund Leane, known as Bert, was born on 10 March 1898 in Holsworthy, NSW. Albert applied to enlist in 1916 having the writing consent of his father (he was under 21 years of age). The application was filled out in the name Albert Edward Leane.

Albert commenced his training with the 'B Coy' Depot Battalion before being allotted to the No. 4 Tunnelling Company. He embarked for England in May 1916. His ship was to collect troops in Melbourne before heading on to Plymouth. However, for reasons which have been lost to time, Albert failed to re-board in Melbourne. Whatever the reason, Albert re-enlisted for service abroad in Victoria using the name Albert Edmund Leane.



Albert left Melbourne for England in October 1916 where he arrived in January 1917 before proceeding to France where he fought in many different towns including Nieppe, Romarin, Somme, and Villers-Bretonneux.

Albert's service continued until 4 July 1918 when he was wounded in action at Villers-Bretonneux receiving shell wounds to his thigh and chest. Carried out by four Americans. Arrived at Casualty Clearing Stations. He was transferred to England 16 days later to recover in hospital. Peace was declared shortly after his stay in hospital.

In 1918, Bert Leane received a letter from Buckingham Palace thanking him for his service and wishing him a quick recovery & a safe voyage home.

Albert Left England on 4 December 1918, arriving in Sydney 16 January 1919. He was discharged from the army on 28 June 1919.

Amongst his possessions, now held by family members is a boomerang given to him in connection with his war service. It is inscribed 5 Platoon 149 GST Company AIF. Also inscribed on the boomerang are approximately twenty signatures but these are proving hard to decipher. Albert married Barbara E Connor on 12 November 1928 in Lower Coldstream NSW.



He had a heart attack and died on 17 February 1967 in Camp Hill, Brisbane, Qld at age 68.

Marion Leane Smith

Marion Smith was the daughter of Lucy Leane's eldest child Elizabeth and her English husband George Smith. Albert Charles Leane was her Uncle. Cousin of William, Albert Edmund, Leslie and Sidney Leane. Marion's grandmother, Lucy Leane was an Aboriginal woman belonging to the Cabrogal (Liverpool) clan of the Darug Nation.

Marion was born in Liverpool NSW in May 1891 and the family moved to England shortly thereafter. In 1906, the family immigrated to Canada. Marion is, to date, the only known Australian Aboriginal Women to have served in WWI. However, unlike her uncles and cousins, Marion served not for Australia but for Canada.

Marion was a nurse, she did her nursing training at New England Hospital in Rosebury, Massachusetts and graduated in 1913. Following her graduation, she joined the Victorian Order of Nurses in Montreal. She volunteered for service in WWI in 1917 and became a staff nurse with the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. She embarked for France, from England in March 1917. She was assigned to the No. 41 Ambulance Train and remained in France until September 1918 at which time she went to Italy with the Italian Expeditionary Force.

Her service record shows that during her war service she became known as Marion Leane Smith. Although her contract expired on 7 September 1918 she sought an extension and moved to the University War Hospital Southampton on 5 October 1918. She remained there until 4 May 1919 when she returned to Canada. Here she resumed life with her family at Home Farm, New Brunswick

Marion obviously gained confidence and skills during her war service and used these in later life.



Marion married Reverend Victor Benjamin Walls in New Brunswick in 1924. Marion and Victor became missionaries in the Caribbean. They spent nearly 30 years at Naparima College in Trinidad. Rev Walls was the longest serving Principal of the college.



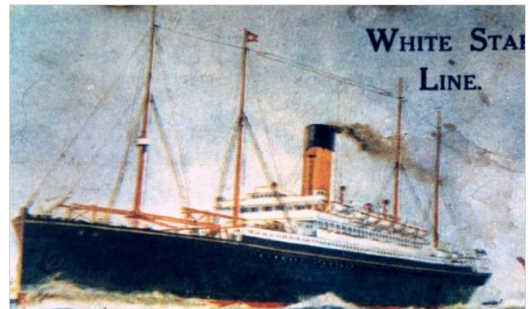
Marion' achievements during that time included the introduction of the Red Cross to Trinidad and writing the Naparima College hymn. She was Trinidad's Red Cross commandant during the Second World War and was awarded the Distinguished War Service Medal for this role. Marion was also responsible for the establishment of the Nurses' Council and the Junior Red Cross in the region.

Marion and Victor Walls returned to Canada in 1953 and Marion passed away four years later.

No. 225 on Active Service

This is the story of a very worthy and interesting veteran from the First World War. It is a very special war casualty – our veteran is a Strad piano. The Piano was presented by Marcus Clark & Co Ltd to the Liverpool (near Sydney, Australia) Army camp. It was given into the care of Captain Chaplain George Trulford Walden, for his use in services and concerts for the A.I.F.

The piano gave good service at Liverpool for three months and when the 18th Battalion embarked on 25 June 1915 on the troopship *Ceramic* for Egypt the piano went too! There were 3,000 soldiers and 100 signal boys on the *Ceramic*. One of those signal boys was a 15 year old youth, George French.



The piano played sedately for church services and really got into the swing of it when it was carried between decks for daily concerts. Strad Piano No. 225 dutifully performed in Egypt for a year and when the troops moved to Tell-el-Kebir the piano went too.

According to the yellowed history, found inside the piano, which is scripted in the finest copperplate writing "...sometimes on Saturday nights receiving its baptism of whisky, beer and candle grease, but on Sunday it was ready to lead the hymns for the church parades out in the desert."

In 1916 our unique veteran swapped the desert sand for the mud of France, travelling across the Mediterranean amid the danger of enemy submarines.

Shortly before the end of the war Padre Walden moved up with his troops (he was now Padre with 13 Infantry Brigade) and had to leave the treasured piano in the town of Abbeville. Fortunately he had met someone who would undertake to care for the piano, a cashier in the Bank of France who was also a brilliant pianist.

When Padre Walden returned to Australia in 1920 Mr Reg (later Sir Marcus) Clark paid the \$10 to have the piano returned to Australia. For many years the Strad stood proudly in the showroom of Marcus Clark's store on Broadway (Sydney) until eventually it was given to the War Veterans' Home at Narrabeen.

Unfortunately, its 'war wounds' had taken a heavy toll and eventually the piano sat neglected and unusable, forgotten. The RSL ANZAC Village (as the War Vets is now known) was seeking a piano for a Christmas Concert in 1982 and the old piano and its history was re-discovered. The piano was lovingly restored and it resumed service, proudly playing for the Anzac services held at the Village. Another of the residents at Narrabeen was that young signal boy, George French and he was photographed with No. 225 as an active 85 year old!



George French and No.225.



He was a stretcher bearer

Charles Edward Arnold Bingham, eldest son of patriotic parents, volunteered for active service in World War I; he showed courage and commitment but was not always accepting of orders. He shared little of his experiences with his family but never forgot that he was an ANZAC.

Charles Bingham was 21 years 4 months old and a customs clerk when he enlisted. He lived in Balmain; his family home was in Goulburn where his father was postmaster. By 17 December he was a member of the Australian Imperial Force, serial number 793. His imminent departure as a member of the Army Medical Corps was announced in the Goulburn Evening Penny Post on 26 January 1915; he embarked on HMAT Runic on 19 February 1915 for active service abroad. His farewell was held at the family home "Glenlarra", Goulburn. His mother was to be hostess at "Glenlarra" for many more farewell socials for other young Goulburn men leaving for service.



Bingham reports via the Goulburn media in June 1915 that he is at the 2nd General Hospital at Cairo and was "...quite well and happy, and send[s] best wishes ...". Like his colleagues serving overseas, Bingham was keen to reassure worrying families at home. In a later issue of that paper it was reported that Bingham was the "...night orderly at Ghezriek Hospital and has 120 beds in his care." The 2nd General Hospital had been established at Mena House, Cairo, in January 1915 but it had been necessary to establish a second hospital because of the increased number of casualties. On 28 April 1915, the Ghezireh Palace Hospital began its task of providing an additional 800 beds. The first wounded arrived from the Dardenelles on 30th April and Bingham wrote in his diary. "Oh, I wish my eyes had let me be in the firing line."

Bingham was desperate to become a stretcher bearer in the Field Ambulance. Finally, he wrote in his diary, "I am chosen to go to the Dardenelles." and on 19 September 1915, Bingham proceeded to Gallipoli. He was attached temporarily to 1st Casualty Clearing Hospital on 15 October.

In his diary Bingham spoke of Gallipoli as being chaotic, dangerous, frightening.

"...At about 11.20am the Turks started shelling the hospital & we had to get the stretcher cases out ... under fire the whole time ... one patient had his leg blown nearly off by a shell...and I had a mate wounded while we were with a patient...if only I could see dear old home again I would die quite content, but it's a chance only... I pray to God that he will spare me to get away from it without being a coward."

Every day brought danger: "...bullets just rained around us ...not hurt ...it's luck, that's all."

In an interview given to Philip Castle for the Canberra Times in 1983 Bingham described his time at Gallipoli. He knew of John Simpson, but he hadn't used a donkey to carry the wounded. "I did carry some of the lighter blokes down on my back, particularly the Ghurkhas." He explained that in colder months some of the Ghurkhas got frostbite because many did not have boots or socks.



"It was terrible to see the dead and wounded. Seeing mates that I had known ..."

Describing his most vivid memory of Gallipoli he declared that the "...most startling memory was of the evacuation. The way it was done was an epic. It was brilliant."

Evacuation began on 9th December, on 17th Bingham was still waiting for his turn and wrote "This suspense is awful. I am going to try to be brave but it's hard to be left." Then the 19th, "Tonight's the night, I feel quite calm and confident now...It is an honour to be last here."

The Goulburn press reported that Charles Bingham was one of the last of the medical unit to leave. He disembarked at Alexandria.

In his Statement of Service an entry dated 28 February 1916 reads, "OFFENCE: When on active service disobeying a lawful command given by a superior officer." Followed on 2 March 1916 by "AWARD: 21 days F P No. 2". Field Punishment No. 2 meant being restrained in handcuffs or fetters but not attached to a post or wheel as for FP No. 1. In his interview with Castle in 1983 he commented with a grin that he had risen to the rank of sergeant on occasions but was reduced in rank "because once I lost a prisoner and another time I jobbed an officer, a Pommie Officer."



Bingham disembarked at Marseilles from Alexandria on 3 April 1916. He served with the 14th Field Ambulance attached to the 55th Battalion. He was wounded in the first battle of the Somme but remained as part of this unit, carrying his stretcher along the trenches and across the battle-fields of France, until Armistice Day in 1918. He was admitted to 1st Casualty Clearing Station with conjunctivitis on 3 July 1916. Bingham was discharged to duty on 16 July and the unit's war diary that day records 34 new admissions and 4 discharged to duty.

Through October 1918 Allied troops advanced quickly through a sequence of successful offensives and threatened the last German line of retreat. Worn out, the defeated Germans asked for an armistice. World War I was over on 11 November 1918. At 11am that day the Armistice, signed by Germany earlier that morning, came into effect. Bingham embarked for England from France on 7 December and sailed for Australia per H.T. *Burmah* on 14 December 1918. He was discharged from the A.I.F. at Sydney on 31 March 1919 – his record marked TPE, "Termination of Period of Enlistment." He was entitled to three medals, 1914-15 Star, The British War Medal, 1914-1918 and the Allied Victory Medal. Known as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred!

In 1965 he requested a replacement for his lost "star". He received a new medal after completing a statutory declaration and paying 8/3 (eight shillings and three pence) for the replacement.

Bingham's father died on 5 January 1924 at Chatswood and the Goulburn paper acknowledged that he and his wife had been "...foremost in assisting the cause of the returned soldier." Following the outbreak of the Pacific War, the Government expanded the Volunteer Defence Corps in February 1942 to include those aged between 18 and 60. Bingham was 48, a traveller living with his wife, Dorothy, in Neutral Bay when he enlisted in 1942. As N173019 Bingham served until 1945.

You will read more of Charles' story later in this book.



Two Brave Men

By Mary Alcock

George Herbert Long was born in Singleton on 21 September 1884. He was one of eight children born to William and Elizabeth Long. Like his father, he joined the Railways as an Engine Driver. He was my Uncle.



George Long was 30 when he enlisted at Hamilton and was Warrant Officer 1 with the 5th Field Ambulance. His regimental number was 2862.

The Battle of Hill 60 was the last major assault of the Gallipoli Campaign. In 1924, Charles Bean, Gallipoli veteran and Australia's official war historian, would describe the battle fought on Kaiajik Aghala (Hill 60) in August 1915 "as one of the most difficult in which Australian troops were ever engaged". Like many of the actions fought on Gallipoli, the battle was confused and inconclusive.

After midnight on 21 August, the 18th Battalion disembarked at Gallipoli. One soldier described landing in the inky darkness; then the rising sun at their backs revealing a 4 ft. hedge covering their positions. Beyond the hedge their objective Hill 60, covered in scrub with its summit 400 yards away.

On that tragic morning of 22 August nothing could prepare them for what would happen next. These soldiers had never seen a hand grenade, nor had their officers. Turkish machine-gun pellets rained down. Men fell in gullies and pockets. There were groans and thuds everywhere; men writhing and dying where they fell.

George Long's bravery and compassion as he helped to save as many as possible of those men who lay desperately hoping for rescue led to him being awarded the Military Medal for Bravery for rescuing wounded under fire over 48 hours straight when he himself was wounded and had to be saved. Let me quote the recommendation from Army Form W.3121:

On the morning of August 22nd 1915 at Gallipoli after the attack on Hill 60 trenches by the 18th Battalion and their retirement from some of the captured trenches a number of wounded were left in the open. At dusk Captain Savage of the 5th Field Ambulance acted at once and called for volunteers and organized the parties under Sergeant Long and with these bearers went into the open to search and bring in wounded under continuous rifle and shrapnel fire the whole time during the night, they continued in bright moonlight to go out and search for wounded. The search continued the following night and they brought in over 30 of our wounded men. On one occasion Sergeant Long, Corporal Smith and Private Bryant went almost to the enemy trenches, the New Zealanders holding their fire and brought in a wounded man. ... Names are in order of merit as far as possible.

George H. Long's name was on top of that list. He was awarded the Military Medal for Bravery.

After the evacuation from Gallipoli the unit reformed on Lemnos Island and went to serve in Belgium, France and Flanders through the terrible battles of the *War to end all wars* until the very end when the Armistice was declared. He had been transferred to the 12th Field Ambulance and was awarded the Meritorious Medal and was promoted to the Rank of Honourary Lieutenant.

An extract from Supplement, No. 31132, to the "London Gazette" dated 17 January 1919 relating to the conspicuous services rendered by the undermentioned member of the Australian Imperial Force:



"Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Meritorious Service Medal to the undermentioned in recognition of valuable services rendered with the Armies in France and Flanders: --

No. 2862, Warrant Officer, Class 1., G. H. Long, M.M."

After his return home after the war he married Isabel MacFayden. They had a son called Keith. And, yes, he returned to his job as an engine driver.



Vivian Hulbert was born in December 1898 and was the only son of Alfred and Priscilla Hulbert of Narrabri. He was my first cousin. He was a carpenter by trade and educated at Newington College. He left Sydney on 31 October 1917 aboard the *Euripides*.

He was assigned to the No 1 Overflow Camp at Beaumaris, North Wales. He left for France on 1 May 1918 with the 5th Training Battalion then finally assigned to the 17th Battalion near Pozieres on 16 April 1918. He would be dead within 27 days!

There is no known grave for Vivian Hulbert. The family remembers a returned soldier coming to the family home after the war and he said that he had been with Vivian when he died. He said the Germans overran their trench and Vivian shot a German, another German shot Vivian and he said he then shot that German. Vivian died instantly.

His parents, Alfred and Priscilla donated an oval shaped brass plaque to the Narrabri District School (now called Narrabri Public School) in memory of their young son lost in the Great War. This plaque is still visible to-day.



Years beyond Armistice

We now jump sixty-nine years from the stories about Jack Tarrant and Charles Bingham to find out what they did beyond Armistice.



Following the outbreak of the Pacific War, the Government expanded the Volunteer Defence Corps in February 1942 to include those aged between 18 and 60. Bingham was 48, a traveller living with his wife, Dorothy, in Neutral Bay when he enlisted in 1942. As N173019 Bingham served until 1945.

By the 1980s there were probably less than 200 members of the Gallipoli Legion of ANZACS of NSW, Jack Tarrant and his mate Charles Bingham were two of that number. George H. Long was also a member. Jack was President and Charles was Secretary when they suggested to the Prime Minister of the time, Bob Hawke that the name of Gallipoli should be changed to Anzac Cove!

On Anzac Day 1984 Jack and Charles went to the Anzac Day March in Sydney and then were driven to Canberra by Dot Bingham to meet with the Turkish Consul General. The Consul General was very much in favour of the name change and also suggested that his Government would be happy to make it a very special occasion. The Turkish Government was happy to co-operate. It was the 70th anniversary of the landing.

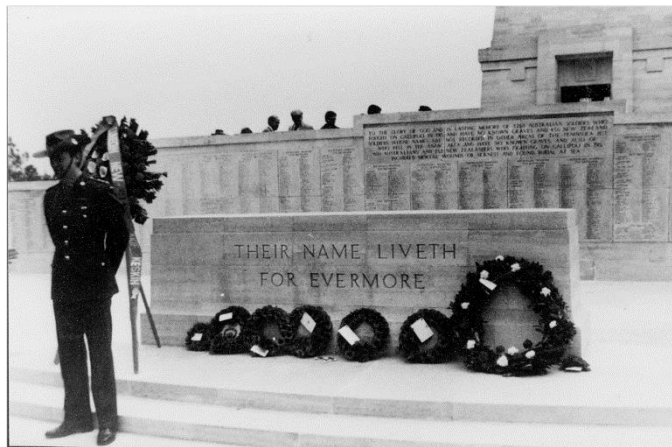
In April 1985 they left Australia as members of the official Australian party that travelled to Turkey to take part in the ceremonial renaming of Gallipoli to Anzac Cove.



l-r: Charles Bingham, Turkish ex-serviceman, Jack Tarrant and Turkish ex-serviceman

Bingham is quoted in the Canberra Times, just prior to the historic trip, as saying, "It looks like our reception this time is going to be a bit different from what it was 70 years ago."

When asked about his return visit Jack said he hadn't recognised very much of Gallipoli as he had arrived and left in the dark and had lived underground in the trenches. He then said:



"Instead of going here to kill we went to extend the hand of friendship. It made me very happy."

Charles Bingham, aged 92, died on 5 December 1985. Like many veterans Bingham spoke little of his wartime experiences. His son acknowledges that he came to know his father as a young man through his war diaries. Charles Edward Arnold Bingham never forgot that he was an ANZAC! He enlisted as a volunteer and served as a member of the Army Medical Corp in World War I with courage and compassion. He joined the CMF during World War II and finally played a role in the perpetuating of the name Anzac Cove.

Jack Tarrant spent his later years at the RSL Veterans Retirement Village, Narrabeen and became very involved in the local community. He died on 19 July 1990.



TED MATTHEWS – THE LAST ANZAC IN NSW

ANZAC is a word that more than any other stirs our memories of courage, of sacrifice, of compassion and comradeship, of a quality that in the whole history of human conflict has rarely been equalled. Anzac is more than a name – it is a legend. The Anzac spirit is the Australian spirit; the spirit that founded a nation, opened it up by daring exploration, developed it and protected it. (Sir William Keys, 1986).

Let me tell you the story of an ordinary man; a great man who I am proud to have known.



Albert Edward Matthews, known as Ted, was the last ANZAC from New South Wales. He was born at Leichhardt on 11 November 1896.

He was only 17 when he enlisted in the first World War. He served at Gallipoli as a signaller with the 1st Division Signals for the entire 9 months of the campaign and later in France with the

4th Division Signals.

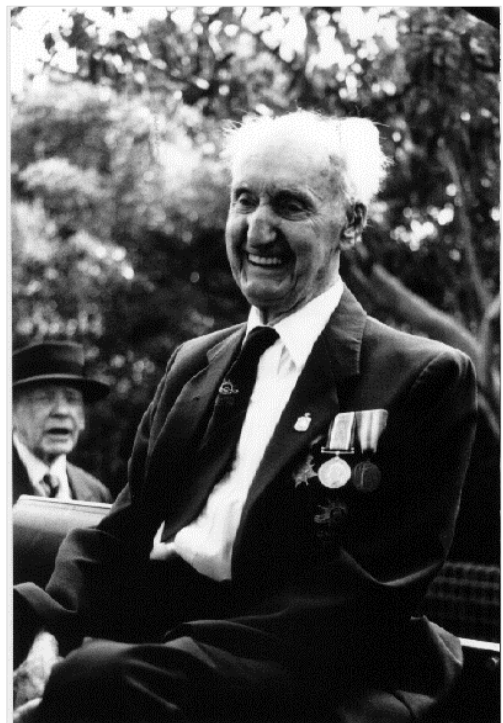
Just after the landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 Ted Matthews was hit in the chest by a pellet of shrapnel but survived thanks to a notebook that he had in his pocket; the thick book had been a present from his mother. He went on after Gallipoli to the Western Front, participating in the remarkable feat of arms achieved by Australian forces at Villers-Bretonneux.



After the war he worked in the building trade as a carpenter and married Stella Broderick. They had two daughters who were both to marry American GIs during World War II and go to the USA to live.

When Ted tried to enlist in World War II he was rejected because he was 'too old'. He was 43. Tragically his wife Stella died of pneumonia. He later married Freda Corlette and they made frequent trips to the US to visit his daughters and their families.

After Freda died Ted moved to the US and lived with his daughter, Irene, for 17 years. He then decided he wanted to return to Australia and moved into the 'War Vets.'



This photo of Ted Matthews was taken by Nan Bosler at the Australia Remembers Victory March held at Collaroy Plateau on 10 May 1995.

He was selected to join the pilgrimage group to Gallipoli for the 75th Anniversary of the landing at Anzac Cove.

Ted Matthews died in his sleep on 9 December 1997 at the RSL Veterans' Retirement Village, Narrabeen. He was 101 years old. A State Funeral Service with full military honours was held in St Stephen's Uniting Church, Sydney, on 16 December 1997.



His nephew, Kevin Matthews when delivering the Eulogy described Ted as *"...the second of six children and brought up in a strict Methodist home; those principles stayed throughout his life. He was an exceptional man. He was an ordinary man."*

He was a very unassuming, straightforward and honest person who was never afraid to speak his mind ... He was fiercely Australian and deplored the actions of those who erode those freedoms. We are indebted to him and thousands of others like him..."

Ted was always prepared to say what he thought and often spoke of the futility of wars. He considered Anzac Day *"...not for old diggers to remember, it's for survivors to warn the young about the dangers of romanticising war."*

ARMISTICE 1918



This year as we acknowledge **the Centenary of the First World War Armistice**, let us consider its evolution into what we now know as Remembrance Day.



The Battle of Amiens in August 1918 used tanks and new tactics, tested by General Monash during the previous month. The Germans were forced to retreat to the Hindenburg Line. The Australian Corps combined with two American Divisions, broke the Hindenburg Line in early October. Worn out, the defeated Germans asked for an armistice.

Early on the morning of 11 November 1918, two delegations boarded a railway carriage in the forest at Compiègne in France to sign the Armistice of World War One, the Armistice that was meant to end the 'War to End All Wars'

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. It became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. More than 330,000 Australians served overseas during the Great War. More than 60,000 of them had died.

The tradition of stopping at 11am started on the very first anniversary of Armistice Day in 1919.

In October 1919 Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, a South African, suggested a period of silence on Armistice Day (now commonly known as Remembrance Day) in all the countries of the Empire.

On 6 November 1919, the King sent a special message to the people of the Commonwealth: *I believe that my people in every part of the Empire fervently wish to perpetuate the memory of that Great Deliverance, and of those who laid down their lives to achieve it. The King requested that a complete suspension of all our normal activities be observed for two minutes at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month so that in perfect stillness the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the Glorious Dead.*

The tradition continues today.

The Flanders poppy has long been a part of Remembrance Day. During the First World War, red poppies were among the first plants to spring up in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium. In soldiers' folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades soaking the ground. The sight of poppies on the battlefield at Ypres in 1915 moved Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to write the poem *In Flanders fields*.

Lest we forget!



Resources to help you research the story of your WW1 Ancestors

The following resources are the main ones used to research the stories you have just read. Always remember that just names, dates and places only tell half of the story. To make your research stand out don't forget to seek background information that will put ancestor in a moment of time and importantly seek out family letters and diaries for that personal touch that will allow you to know and understand you ancestor who had heard the call of King and Country and served to keep the world safe.

The Australian War Memorial (AWM) – <http://www.awm.gov.au>

- Search for your person in the Australian Imperial Force by choosing 'people' from the tabs along the top of the website.
- Enter the person's name in the search box, then click the 'search' button.
- Places where that name is recorded will appear, these include:
 - ◆ Roll of Honour (for service personnel who died),
 - ◆ Commemorative Roll (for non-servicemen who died),
 - ◆ Nominal Rolls – First World War Embarkation Rolls and First World War Nominal Rolls,
 - ◆ Honours and Awards,
 - ◆ Honours and Awards Recommendations,
 - ◆ Red Cross Wounded and Missing,
 - ◆ Prisoner of War Records.

Why not try Embarkation Rolls? Select it and click on it. A new window will open. Click on it and a new tab will open and show all results for the name you entered earlier. Service number, rank and date, place and ship of embarkation. Identify the person you want and click on the name. A new tab will open and show a jpg, use the zoom to make it easier to read. Go down the list of service numbers and names to find your person. At the top of the page you will find where he had been assigned in the AIF. In this document you will find the details he gave when enlisting. The age he gave; employment at enlistment; marital status, address; next-of-kin; religion and even the rate of pay he was to receive. Use the next-of-kin details to confirm this is a family member. If the age given was 18 and it didn't match your records, you have now discovered that he lied about his age! Go back to the other options to see what additional information you can find.

National Archives of Australia – The National Archives of Australia hold treasures for all researchers with a powerful search facility that can be successfully used, even if you have the very vaguest idea of the subject you seek. The military records are extremely helpful, with most of the first war papers being available as an immediate digital image that can easily be saved on your computer for future reference. If you know the full name and service number for the person you are researching you can go to <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/index.aspx>

- ◆ Down the bottom of the search for a person page, click on NAA – personal service records,
- ◆ Then army – World War 1
- ◆ Then First AIF personal dossiers. (Series B2455)
- ◆ This will open to a "record search" page

-
- Choose the name search tab
 - Enter the name you are researching and your choice of records to look at, beginning with the ADF WW1 records, click on search (There are 105 records)
 - Click on refine search
 - You will have the choice of entering a first name or service record. It can be worth doing both, separately, to make sure you find what there is
 - If there are not too many, click on 'display'
 - On the right hand side is a notelet icon, click on it.
 - This opens the service records. It has a heap of information, some handwritten, some of it typed from the handwritten records, so that you may read some things twice.
 - You can read this page by page on the web and print page by page or request a copy.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission – for the war dead go direct to <https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead/>

◆ If you know the surname and initial of a serviceman, you can search on the main page and if you get 0 matches it means he didn't die in the war.

◆ To do a surname search go to the *Find war dead* tab and enter a least a surname, and war fought in.

◆ It will bring up a table of those known to have died in a stated

country from a stated country's forces. The table has name, rank, service number, date of death, age, regiment, country, burial place and a site number.

◆ The name is linked, click on it and a new tab will come up which adds the parents and home location and a cemetery photo.

◆ The cemetery name is linked, click on it. It adds the cemetery history, location, site plan, visiting information and even a google view.



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was established in 1917 (then the Imperial War Graves Commission) to insure the identification of the graves and burial sites of all Commonwealth War Dead and the identification of the missing from two world wars. To-day the Commission cares for memorials and cemeteries scattered throughout 150 countries, with 23,000 locations. These include the graves of more than 935,000 identified casualties and almost 212,000 unidentified individuals. The names of almost 760,000 people can be found on memorials to the missing.

The largest War Graves Commission cemetery in the world is Tyne Cot in Belgium. It holds almost 123,000 graves of which more than 8,300 are unknowns. However, even the tiniest groups of War Graves in a local churchyard

or a single grave belonging to a war casualty are given the same perpetual care and appear on this website. <http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/index.html>

Discovering ANZACs – this is a website where people share stories of servicemen of WW1. Go to <http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/> if you want the stories already told. You can also go to Discovering ANZACs by link from the NAA website.

- ◆ On the right hand side of the heading click on 'search'.
- ◆ The search options give name and place, add the name of the person you are researching.
- ◆ Click the button and wait; there may be a lot of similar names.
- ◆ Go down the alphabetical list to see if the person you want is on it.
- ◆ If so, click on that name
- ◆ It will go to a new page which has service number, place of birth and enlistment, next of kin and a link to the full service history (also found on the NAA main site.)
- ◆ You will have the choice of navigate or print
- ◆ If you choose to print the full service history will load, they can be very large files.
- ◆ Read the pages and select the ones to print.
- ◆ Armed with all the detail about the person, you can research the landscapes they were in, their units, the actions etc.
- ◆ The aim of this website is that once you finish your research you will add the story to this collection at Discovering Anzacs.



WW1 Nominal Roll - <https://www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-and-war-graves/nominal-rolls> Scroll down and click on "WW1 Nominal Roll". This Australian War Memorial database contains the service details of about 324,000 personnel who served with the AIF during WW1. Add name and other details if you have them, then click. A list of possible responses will appear, scroll down and select the one you think is correct and click on it. The next page will show his name within a list of other service personnel and underneath it will be his service number, rank, unit and conflict/operation that he served in.

Official Diaries - In addition to personal letters and diaries, the Australian War Memorial has digitised the diaries of the different units that served in World War one and you can find information about where your soldier might have served. Go to <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/awm4/> and click on *People*.

While on active service, Army headquarters formations and units were required to keep unit war diaries recording their daily activities. These diaries were arranged by unit and covered the period of one month at a time. The content of the war diaries generally consists of war diary or intelligence summary sheets located at the beginning of each diary which records the date of each entry, the unit's location, a summary of events and any remarks or references to appendices. The diaries of individual soldiers were written at the time when they were experiencing the horrors of war on the frontline and depict the harsh reality of life. They tell not only what the men did, but how they felt about their predicament and how they felt when they saw mates being killed and wounded.

The Trove Newspaper Collection - has been set up by the National Library of Australia. <http://www.trove.nla.gov.au/> This website is invaluable to family historians. Trove is more than a search engine. Trove brings together content from libraries, museums, archives and other search organisations and gives you tools to explore and build. It can be time consuming because it searches for every word separately. If you search for "the letters of Sgt Joseph Lightbody" every word will be searched so keep your search concise, just "joseph Lightbody" will be much quicker. You can improve the results by indicating the newspaper that he may have written to. If his family lived in Goulburn try the Goulburn newspaper. The results will pleasantly surprise you. You could find an item about a farewell party held before he left for war, letters that Joseph has written to the newspaper saying he was well and not to worry and thanking everyone for their letters to him. It could be a report from someone else that mentions what Joseph was doing and best of all notice that he had arrived home safely.

Northern Beaches Soldiers' Database is monitored by the Diggers RSL Sub-Branch, Freshwater. This database has been designed to assist students of all ages on their local World War 1 service men and women who either died overseas or returned to Australia. [Other wars to be included in time.] www.harbordrslsubbranch.org.au/nb-soldiers-database/

Google will be a valuable resource to help you find information to build the framework around your ancestor/s and allow you to expand your word picture with details about their life and surroundings. While we have already listed some of the most important websites Google will reveal additional websites and information to build your story as you explore new opportunities to help you to understand more about the life and times of your ancestors.

©This information has been prepared by Nan Bosler for Computer Pals for Seniors Northern Beaches Inc. for the project *Armistice: Before and After*.

The Commonwealth has not participated in the research production or exercised editorial control over the Activity or its contents. The views expressed and conclusions reached herein do not necessarily represent those of the Commonwealth, which expressly disclaims any responsibility for the content or accuracy of the Activity.

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