

In Memoriam

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In Memoriam



Kaaden, Franz Leslie

Key Address : 16 Union Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Gunner, 11th Infantry Brigade, Embarked Private 8 LHR [Light Horse Regiment] - 11 to 14 Reinforcements (October 1915 -

Embarked : SS Hawkes Bay
Date of Embarkation : 21 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Kadden)

Service Number : 1518 **Enlisted :** 08/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Clifton Hill **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 21/12/1919 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Chelsea, Victoria

Buried At : Victoria Garden of Remembrance, Springvale War Cemetery

Occupation : Cinematograph Operator

Marital Status : Married **Religion :**

Next Kin/Family : Parents Franz and Frances Emma Kaaden (nee Brown or Browne)
Wife Mrs Mary Anne Kaaden (nee Cowan)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

One of the more bizarre deaths of a World War One serviceman.

Kaaden appears on the AWM rolls as having Died In Service after drowning at Carrum on 21 December, 1919.

Kaaden suffered gun shot wounds to the hand and forehead in April 1918, and was later transferred to hospital in Dartford, England, and again in Australia after returning in July, 1919.

He and his wife were drowned when the boat they were in capsized, a note from the Officer-In-Charge of the 3rd Military District revealing Kaaden had not been discharged from the A.I.F., hence his death was classified as a casualty of the war.

Three other men were rescued and Mary Ann's body was washed ashore at Edithvale the following day, but Kaaden's body was never recovered.

He is commemorated in the Victoria Garden of Remembrance at the, Victoria with others who have no known grave.

Kaaden was single on enlisting and the couple had married in England in February, 1919. The Leader suggested they had returned to Australia via New Zealand and were living at Carrum with Kaaden about to start work as an electrician at Melbourne's Princess Theatre.

Franz was a brother of [Robert Anton Kaaden](#), Killed In Action. The two brothers had four younger siblings - brothers, Ferdinand (1906) and Arthur (1906), and two sisters, Agnes (1902) and Frances (1907).





Kaaden, Robert Anton

Key Address : 16 Union Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 6th Battalion 21st Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 2 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6517 **Enlisted :** 10/07/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 17

Place of Death : Ypres, Belgium

Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Farm Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :**

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Franz and Frances Emma Kaaden (nee Brown or Browne)

Eyewitnesses : "... I saw him in a shell hole wounded at Presbyterian. Some stretcher bearers were with him and bandaging his wounds ..." (Private. N.C. Salisbury, 6th Battalion)

"... I saw Kaaden killed in front of Westhoek Ridge; he was killed outright by a piece of shell which struck him on the head ..." (Corporal F. Maver, 6304)

Notes :

Robert Kaaden was listed as Missing in France 4 October, 1917 and later confirmed killed in action at a Court of Enquiry on 21 July 1918.

His brother, Gunner [Franz Leslie Kaaden](#) was wounded in action and appears on the AWM rolls as having Died In Service after drowning at Chelsea in December, 1919.

Kaaden's Teutonic-sounding surname obviously raised some doubts at the Recruiting Depot at Melbourne Town Hall, with several pieces of correspondence between the 3rd Military District and what they called the "Northcote Confidential Committee".

"Re Robert Anton Kaaden of 16 Union Avenue, Northcote. This man was born in Northcote. His father was born in Austria, and arrived in Australia 40 years ago. He is now 51 and was naturalised 15 years ago. He has never revisited Germany.

Forwarded for the written opinion of the Confidential Committee as to this man's loyalty, also for the signature of each member of the Committee which is absolutely necessary. Will you please obtain this information at your earliest convenience and return memo direct to me" (letter, Lieutenant in Charge, O. C. Recruiting Depot, Town Hall, Melbourne to Sec. Local Recruiting Committee, Northcote)

"This man has been interviewed and I find that he seems very Loyal, also his parents. He has a brother at the front, his father was in the old Volunteers for many years. Photos seen, also Naturalisation Papers. He seems very anxious to get into camp with his mates at your earliest.

(Recruiting Sergeant R. Le Plasterier. Approved by the Recruiting Committee for the City of Northcote, 3rd July 1916 (counter signed by A. B. Mason, Mayor and Chairman, R. J. Whalley, R. W. Bryan, Cr. W. Hayes, Geo. H. Henderson).

Robert Kaaden was not only "loyal", he also seems to have been just sixteen when he managed to enlist.





Kay, James Ronald

Key Address : "The Wattles", 39 Pender Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 9th Battalion Australian Infantry

Embarked : HMAT Omrah
Ship Number : A5
Date of Embarkation : 24 September 1914
Place of Embarkation : Brisbane

Service Number : 523 **Enlisted :** 20/08/1914 **At :** Bundaberg, Queensland

Born At : Richmond **Educated At :** Christian Brothers. Abbotsford

Date of Death : 20/05/1915 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 31 Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, ANZAC, Gallipoli

Occupation : Boot maker

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert and Emma Elizabeth Kay (nee Winkler)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

There is a little confusion over where he enlisted.

AWM records having him enlisting at Abbotsford, but the Leader (confirmed by National Archives) suggested it was at Bundaberg in Queensland. He gave Penders Street as his residential address on embarkation and there is nothing to indicate why he enlisted interstate.

Both the AWM and Archives list him as "James Kay".

He was the second son of the family, his father being given as next-of-kin on Attestation, but his actual Will passed all of his effects to a sister, identified only as in archives as "Miss J. Kay".

She was in fact Jessie, born in 1896, the elder brother, William, born in 1892. The family's first child, Lillian was born in 1889 but died at two years of age.

Kay was Killed In Action at Gaba Tape, Gallipoli after previously being listed as wounded.

Like many that died at Gallipoli, few details remain of Kay's military service, although there does remain a reference to an (unspecified) indiscretion that cost him seven days pay and a similar period of Field Punishment.



Keddell, Martin William

Key Address : 23 Walker Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Corporal. 58th Battalion (Infantry) Embarked Private, 6 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 9 Reinforcements (December 1914 - September 1915) (recorded as Keddill)

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 16 July, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2491 **Enlisted :** 1/10/1917 **At :** Queenscliff

Born At : Queenscliff **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 29/09/1918 **Aged :** 27
Place of Death : Bellicourt, France
Buried At : 375 Bellicourt British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Farmer (or Postal Assistant)
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Wesleyan

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Fanning and Bridget Keddell (nee Conroy)
Wife Emily Keddell (nee Smyth)

Eyewitnesses : "Casualty was in charge of a Lewis gun the other side of Bellicourt and was advancing on a farm near B. He was lying down in a bit of a gutter when he was caught in a machine gun barrage, a machine gun bullet entering his head killed him instantly .. the next morning I got his revolver and Lewis Gun equipment and took his place..." (T. Clough, 4456)

Notes : The Keddell family was something of an institution at Queenscliff, almost all of our local Civil Registrations attributed to the area.

Martin gave his residential address as his father there when he enlisted - he married Emily before he embarked and the couple were residing at 23 Walker Street Northcote.

He was a brother of Private George Michael Keddell, also Killed In Action just six weeks before Martin, but is not included in our archives as he remained in Queenscliff. The pair's father, John Fanning Keddell died within a few months of Martin being killed.

The pair also had a cousin, James Leslie Keddell who died in service, and the AWM also lists a Clifford Keddell with his unit simply "AIF" and noted as buried in Queenscliff Cemetery – no archives exist for him, but a Death Notice reveals he was Eric Clifford, a brother of James and died of meningitis at 20 years of age.

Emily was still at Walker Street when the circular was returned, suggesting her past husband has been a postal worker, rather than a farmer as he declared on enlistment.

Keddell was wounded twice before he met his death.

In July, 1916, he was hospitalised with a mild gunshot wound to the arm and restricted to light duties until November. In February, 1917, he was officially wounded a second time, although as a result of an accident, severely injuring a thumb while on ration fatigue, not returning to his unit until late April, 1918.

Keddell was promoted to Corporal in September, 1918, and was wounded for a third and last time two weeks later.

Several other eyewitnesses agreed with Private Clough's statement and confirmed he was killed instantly when hit in the head during a machine-gun barrage - it appears it was only the few days lost before recovering his body that caused him to be listed as "Missing".



Kellaway, Francis Gerald (Military Cross)

Key Address : The Vicarage, 56 Cunningham Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant, 21st Infantry Battalion
Embarked Acting Corporal 22 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 16 July 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : **Enlisted :** 6/05/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : East Melbourne **Educated At :** Queens College, Wesley College,
Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : ear Zonnebeke, Belgium
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Student at Law
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Rev. Alfred Charles and Annie Carrick Kellaway (nee Roberts)

Eyewitnesses : "... I did not actually see him killed, but a heavy barrage was put down on us while laying out on the J.O.T. and when we left the tape to go over, Lieut. Kellaway was not seen ... a party of men were sent back to try and discover his body but were unsuccessful - a few days later his pay book was returned to B.H.Qrs from 21st Battalion ... it was ascertained his body was buried near Zonnebeke Lake .. " (Letter from Lieutenant A. J. Abercrombie)

Notes : Francis was the second son of Rev. Alfred Kellaway of the All Saint's Church, Northcote

He was studying Law at Melbourne University when he enlisted as a humble Private, but he was rapidly advanced through the ranks - to Corporal in February, 1916, to Sergeant in July and to Lieutenant in December of the same year.

Kellaway was wounded in the left forearm in August, 1916, and after recuperating and undergoing further training at an officer's training school, he did not re-join his unit in France until September, 1917 and was killed less than a month later.



His Military Cross was gazetted in London in August, 1916, and in Australia in December. The official history of Australian involvement in the Great War suggests Kellaway was one of eleven non-commissioned officers appointed before the battle in which he was killed three of whom survived.

There is some confusion over his given name – in the Leader it was shown as Francis, but in all National Archives, Frank is consistently used.

He was the younger brother of Major Charles Halliley Kellaway (later Captain) who according to the Leader graduated from Melbourne University "... with the highest degrees available in medicine and surgery" before enlisting in the Australian Army Medical Corps. He was awarded the Military Cross and after a brief visit to Australia in 1919, he returned to England for a further four years study that launched him on a highly successful career in medical research. (See <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/kellaway-charles-halliley-6910>)

There were also two sisters, Kathleen and Gwen, the latter noted as a missionary in India at the time of her father's death in 1930 after 29 years at All Saint's. Their mother Annie died in 1924.



Kelly, Michael James

Key Address : 6 Herbert Street, Preston
Rank and Unit : Private, 14th Battalion Australian Infantry
Embarked : Unknown (below)
Service Number : 1483 **Enlisted :** 15/10/1914 **At :** Wodonga
Born At : Epping **Educated At :** Wollert State School
Date of Death : 5/05/1915 **Aged :** 21
Place of Death : Gallipoli
Buried At : 8 Quinns Post Cemetery, Gallipoli
Occupation : Farm labourer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :**
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Michael Kelly (late) and Mary Ellen Kelly
(nee Payne, later Mrs William Delzoppo)

Eyewitnesses : "No 6 Herbert Street,
Preston
Dear Sir,
I have received book with names of fallen soldiers and other things of no interest in any way to me as my son's name is not mentioned. No. 1483, Private M. J. Kelly
M. E. Delzoppo 17/2/1927"

Notes : His mother was originally shown as living in Epping where he was born although she was at 6 Herbert Street in Preston by 1927.

A letter from her in response to the normal enquiries regarding next-of-kin prior to the distribution of medals revealed her first husband had died many years previously and her second husband "... deserted one about twelve years ago with three sons unprovided for and although I had an order against him I have not seen or heard of him since ...".

Her other children from her marriage to Michael Kelly were John (1883), William (1885) and Timothy (1887). All of his three brothers served in the A.I.F., the latter pair being repatriated back to Australia wounded in 1916 and 1915 respectively.

Michael Kelly senior's death has not been sighted, but official records showed she later married William Delzoppo in 1897. The "three sons unprovided for" by Delzoppo were Maurice (1898. A.I.F.), Norman (1900) and Leslie (1905).

The reporting of Kelly's fate was a bureaucratic mess of epic proportions.

He was missing from 5 May, 1915, but it appears this was not communicated to authorities in Australia until January of the following year.

Kelly's fate was already known to his mother through William, who was also at Gallipoli, and later confirmed by a condolence letter from a Private Beagley who confirmed Kelly had been killed.

She forwarded both to Victoria Barracks in mid-August, only to receive a reply "no official report that he is missing has been received at this office, and in absence of same, we can only believe he is with his regiment". Bureaucratic red tape finally caught up with Michael nearly twelve months later, when he was finally certified Killed In Action at an enquiry on 28 April, 1916.

For some unknown reason, there is no trace remaining of Michael Kelly's embarkation from Melbourne. National Archives show him in camp until 15 January, 1915, and taken-on-strength in Egypt on 12 April. There are records of some reinforcements for the 14th Battalion leaving Melbourne on HMAT Runic on 19 February, 1915.



Kelly, Thomas Bernard

Key Address : 16 Shaftesbury Parade, Croxton

Rank and Unit : Private, 11th Battalion, 26th Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Borda
Ship Number A30
Date of Embarkation : 29 June 1917
Place of Embarkation : Fremantle

Service Number : 7742 **Enlisted :** 19/3/1917 **At :** Blackboy Hill, W.A

Born At : Abbotsford **Educated At :** Dandenong State School

Date of Death : 10/08/1918 **Aged :** 32

Place of Death : Amiens, France

Buried At : 26 Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France

Occupation : Miner

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R. C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Arthur and Angelina "Lena" Kelly (nee Gill)

Eyewitnesses : "On the 10th August about 10/12 kilos past Hamel during our attack in the early morning he was killed by a machine gun bullet, hit in head. I buried him myself in the field, rough cross erected with his name and number on it ... knew him personally, called him Ginger" (Private. L. Anthony, 11th Battalion)

Notes : Kelly was a miner in Western Australia, giving his address as Laverton in that state, and nominating his mother "Mrs L. Kelly" at 16 Shaftesbury Parade, Croxton as next of kin. Directories of the time show the owner as a Mr. George Hallam.

He spent some three months from May through July, 1918, recovering from an attack of scabies and returned to his unit just a month before he was killed. He was originally posted as Missing, but several eyewitnesses reported he had been killed along with several others in a burst of machine gun fire.

There is no mention of his father in the archives until the standard letter to Mrs Kelly enquiring as to whether there was a closer male relative, invoking the response that her husband had deserted her "when the children were infants" and had not contributed towards their upbringing since.

She was at Cowper Street, Sandringham, not long after Thomas' death, the house name "Borda" commemorating the troop transport on which Kelly sailed. Thomas appears to have just one sibling, Dora, born in 1887.



Kerr, Robert John Leslie

Key Address : Wales Street State School, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant, 29th Infantry Battalion. Embarked Private 57 Infantry Battalion
6 to 9 Reinforcements (October 1916 - June 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 2 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2760 **Enlisted :** 23/08/1916 **At :**
Born At : Slaty Creek **Educated At :** Slaty Creek State School,
Prospect House, Kyneton
Teacher's Training College

Date of Death : 23 April 1918 **Aged :** 33
Place of Death : Villers Bretonneux, France
Buried At : 119 Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Civil Servant (Forestry Department), previously State School Teacher
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next Kin/Family : Parents Robert and Sarah Maria Kerr (nee Hodgson)

Eyewitnesses : "On April 23rd, we were in reserve lines at Villers Bretonneux. There was a Gotha overhead, just as I was walking towards C. H. Q. trench, a bomb fell and 2 L/t Kerr, D. Coy. was hit behind the ear by a fragment and Killed. Three minutes later I saw him lying dead. He was taken away for burial and the grave would be Daours or Augighty"

Notes : Kerr was the eldest son of Robert Kerr (senior), the assistant head teacher at the Prince of Wales State School 3139, Northcote. He attended his father's school at St. Arnaud, and later at Prospect Hill School in Kyneton.

Kerr later gained both First and Second Certificates from the Teacher Training College and was appointed junior teacher at Victoria Park, Collingwood, later becoming assistant at Armadale.

In 1908, he resigned and joined the Forestry Department. After enlisting in August, 1916 and embarking two months later, Kerr was transferred to the Officers' Cadet Battalion at Oxford in April, 1917.

He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on 1 August, 1917, went to France to join his unit on the 19th, was promoted to Lieutenant on the 23rd and was killed on the same day.

According to the circular returned by his father, then of 21 Invermay Grove, Auburn, Kerr was also a qualified pianist and gymnasium teacher, and had spent five years with the 1st Battalion, Victorian Scottish Regiment before enlisting.

A younger brother, Benjamin (1888) embarked as a Lieutenant in 1915, was wounded at Gallipoli and repatriated back to Australia. He re-enlisted in 1917 and returned with rank of Captain.

His initial embarkation shows him and his father in Beach Street, Whittlesea, but both brothers later gave residential addresses of 35 Brougham Street, North Melbourne.

The two brothers had a sister, Euphemia, born in 1886, died 1888, Norman, died at one month in 1898, and brothers Sidney (1891) and Carl (1900).



Kerr, William John (Military Medal)

Key Address : 104 Station Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 24 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 27 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2690 **Enlisted :** 26/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Prahran **Educated At :** Fairfield Park State School; Independent

Date of Death : 10/08/1918 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : (of wounds), Fromerville-Harbonnieres, France

Buried At : 526 Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France

Occupation : Carpenter-Joiner, Brewer's Timber Yard, Clifton Hill

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert and Amy Isabel Kerr (nee Dunger)

Eyewitnesses : "... Private Kerr was hit in the neck by a splinter at about 2300 which rendered his right arm and shoulder useless and also made him slightly deaf, but he still carried on his reconnoitring work as a guide through the barrage to make certain of our position and then succeeded in leading the party into its exact position ... at 0600 he was then at once sent away by the Medical Officer in a very weak condition ..." (Captain. J B Harris, recommending Kerr for the Military Medal)

Notes : Kerr nominated his mother as next-of-kin and enquiries prior to the post-humous presentation of his Military Medal produced a response from a Mr. W. Waddell J.P., of Station Street that revealed that Kerr's father was still alive "but had deserted his wife some 24 years previously leaving her with five young sons to raise".

A search of Victorian Birth Records shows the other four as Andrew (1886), Henry (1888), Robert (1890) and Frederick (1894). Frederick and Henry both served in the A.I.F., Frederick repatriated back to Australia after being wounded at Gallipoli.

By the time of William's death, Mrs Kerr was at 76 Gillies Street, Fairfield, and a Death Notice in The Argus noted he had a fiancée, Florence Egan, living in Heidelberg.

Prior to enlisting, Kerr had been a prominent member of the Collingwood Rifle Club.

He was awarded the Military Medal at Pozieres for outstanding action after being wounded in the neck on night of August 17/18, 1916.

The decoration was awarded while he was in hospital and he was discharged on September 9, but just a fortnight later he went A.W.O.L. for nine days and was sentenced to 21 days Field Punishment and the forfeiture of 29 days pay, the latter penalty remitted by the General Commager in Chief of the A.I.F. in August 1918, probably in recognition of his deeds at Pozieres.

Kerr suffered multiple gunshot wounds on the night of August 9, 1918, and died the following day at No. 2 Australian Field Ambulance.





Kiely, Edward

Key Address : Darebin Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 11 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Keily)

Service Number : 6303 **Enlisted :** 27/03/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Ireland **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 10/05/1917 **Aged :** 43

Place of Death : Bullecourt, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Farm Manager

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Patrick and Mary Kiely (nee Burke)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Kiely's mother was later at 33 McCracken Avenue, Northcote and then at 281 Bell Street, Preston (both 1917) and 73 Beavers Road, Northcote from 1921 when she confirmed her husband Patrick was still alive prior to distribution of medals.

A circular was returned but does not show an address. Darebin Road was not numbered in the eastern-most section, the family living on the southern side, just east of Wales Street.

Born in Dungarvon, County Waterford, Ireland, Kiely came to Australia with his parents at just two years of age and was educated at South Preston State School. No details of his actual death are recorded and given the commemoration of his sacrifice appears on the Villers Bretonneux Memorial, it seems unlikely his remains were ever found.

There is no evidence as to whether Patrick and Mary emigrated with other family, but there were several children born locally : Mary (1882), John (1883), Ella (1888) and Margaret (1891), while two others died at an early age, Thomas, 1881, died 1890) and Lawrence (1883, died 1886).



Kilmister, George Norman

Key Address : Herbert Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 1st Battalion (Infantry)
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Kyarra
Ship Number : A55
Date of Embarkation : 3 June, 1916
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 5725 **Enlisted :** 30/12/1915 **At :** Liverpool, New South Wales

Born At : Preston **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 05/11/1916 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : Harbonnieres, France

Buried At : Grevillers British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Composer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Herbert and Georgina Kilmister (nee Polson)
Wife Mrs Annie Kilmister

Eyewitnesses : "We went over the top at midnight at Flers on the 5th November. Kilmister had only gone a few yards when he was blown to pieces by a shell. His remains were brought by S/Bs along with a man named Stone. I knew Kilmister by sight but not Stone. The stretcher bearers took the discs of both Kilmister and Stone from their bodies" (Private. C. D. Ring, 28 20)

Notes :

George Kilmister was one of the last two or three entries into our Archives after it was discovered that he was born in Northcote – and certainly amongst the same in terms of the tragic effects post-war on his wife.

Kilmister enlisted from Berry on the south coast of New South Wales where he was living with his wife, but he and several of his siblings were born in Northcote after the family moved into the area from Eddington via Dimboola. The family seem to have been in West Melbourne at the time his brother John enlisted

In a typically large family of the time, George's siblings were Robert (1885), George (1884), Thyra (1885), Irene (1888), all born in Eddington, John (1890, Northcote), Thomas, born 1892 and died 1894 in Northcote) and Isabel (1894 Stawell).

Kilmister was posted as Missing on 5 November, 1916. He was officially declared as Killed In Action as at that date at an enquiry held on 4 March, 1917 after his identity disc was discovered on an unburied body the day before.

His wife's address was later shown as "William Street Post Office, Darlinghurst", and therein lies a tragic tale, although one that would never come otherwise to public attention.

After she was offered her late husband's Victory Medal and Memorial Scroll in 1923, Annie wrote to Base Depot in 1923 suggesting "I cannot give you any permanent address. I would much prefer that you do not send anything further to me as I cannot take care of them as I would wish to do, trusting you will not think me ungrateful".

Perhaps somewhat startled by a "rare as" rejection of the awards after having to deal with thousands of hotly contested disputes over who were entitled to medals, the response was that "we regret ... the only course open to me is to place the items amongst the "untraceables"... I am holding the matter open for another twenty-one days, hoping you will reconsider your decision"

Sadly, there is nothing remaining as to the distribution of George Kilmister's medals, or far importantly, the ultimate fate of his widow Annie, apparently cut loose by her immediate family and living on the streets of Darlinghurst.



Kimpton, Austin George

Key Address : Station Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Gunner, 6 Battery, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade

Embarked : HMAT Shropshire
Ship Number A9
Date of Embarkation : 20 October, 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1204 **Enlisted :** 22/08/1914 **At :**

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 9/08/1918 **Aged :** 41

Place of Death : (of wounds), Bayonvilliers, France

Buried At : Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France

Occupation : Driver

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas Robinson and Anne Eleanor Kimpton (nee Anderson)
Wife May Kimpton

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

There are some discrepancies in Kimpton's age - although some years below the maximum age limit, Kimpton claimed he was 32 when he enlisted, and thus would have 36 when he died. His Service Number also varies between 1201 and 1204.

Official records show he was born in Northcote in 1879 and thus probably 39 on demise. Commonwealth Graves confuse the issue further by suggesting he was 41.

He was wounded in the right leg at Gallipoli in November, 1915 and repatriated back to Egypt. Kimpton was again hospitalised in July, 1916 after being gassed and did not return to his unit until December.

He was returned to England with trench fever in July, 1917 and was consistently in trouble during the latter half of the year, three times Absent Without Leave, but these were relatively minor after he faced a Court Martial and was found guilty of breaking into the house of a French citizen and then assaulting him. Kimpton was sentenced to 28 days Field Punishment and to forfeit 331 days pay, 200 of the latter subsequently remitted.

Kimpton was returned to his unit under arrest and was again wounded, this time fatally with a shell wound to the head, dying within a few hours at the 2nd Field Ambulance.

His wife moved several times after his death and addresses in Carlton, Perth, Adelaide, N.S.W. and finally Brisbane are noted. Not surprisingly there are several letters from her complaining that various items had not been returned to her and that Kimpton's Will left everything to his mother.

The Leader carried no mention of his death, but the Kimpton clan were a typically an extended family of the time with many of the siblings being born in Northcote.

The AWM lists his father as William George, but he was actually Thomas Robinson Kimpton, the children Eleanor (1863), Amy (1868), Percival (1869), Ann (1872, the first to be born in Northcote), William (1874), Henry (1875), John (1880), Walter (1882) and Robinson (1887, Lieutenant, A.I.F).

The circular returned by his wife suggested Kimpton had served with the Australian Mounted Rifles during the Boer War, this is not supported by AWM records. Kimpton's attestation suggested that he served for a period of 16 months with the Canadian Rifles.



King, Frank

Key Address : 76 Westgarth Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 23rd Battalion, Australian Infantry May, 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 10 May, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Ring)

Service Number : 1234 **Enlisted :** 08/03/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** State School, Clifton Hill

Date of Death : 15/10/1915 **Aged :** 19

Place of Death : (of wounds), Cairo, Egypt

Buried At : 6 Chatby War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

Occupation : Carpenter

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Unknown

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Arthur William Kerr and Christina King (nee Irvine)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

King suffered gunshot wounds to the head on 29 September, 1915 at Gallipoli and was repatriated to Egypt on the Hospital Ship "Glenart Castle".

He was admitted to the 1st Auxiliary Hospital and transferred on 5 October to the 17th General Hospital in Cairo. At the time he was classified as dangerously ill, but he managed to survive another ten days before passing away.

King is listed in the AWM Nominal Rolls but for some reason does not show in the actual embarkation lists. Most servicemen's archive also include these details as part of their service history but other than the attestation, the first mention of King comes with his wounding at Gallipoli.

He was the second son of the family, following an elder brother, David (1892). There were also three sisters, Mayfield ("May", 1885), Hilda (1887) and Ada (1890).

An In Memoriam notice suggests another younger sibling, Lois, not noted in official registrations.





Kingston, William

Key Address : 18 Gladstone Avenue, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 59th Battalion, Australian Infantry
Embarked Private, 6 Infantry Battalion - 10 to 12 Reinforcements

Embarked : RMS Osterley
Date of Embarkation : 29 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3042 **Enlisted :** 21/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Mt Dandenong **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 22/07/1916 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : (of wounds), 13th General Hospital, Boulogne, France
Buried At : 102 Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

Occupation : Driver / Correspondence Clerk
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Paul and Isabella Kingston (nee Elliot)
Wife Alice Kingston (nee Ryan)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Kingston was another to enlist as a single man and then marrying before embarkation, in his case, to Alice Ryan, although his father Paul was shown as next of kin.

Mrs Kingston producing a marriage certificate just after his death to prove her claims to a widow's pension - Victorian registrations show the couple marrying in 1915

She was at 48 Haines Street, North Melbourne at the time of her husband's death and in 1918 re-married, becoming Mrs Gustav Frederik Melbourne Brunstein.

The later marriage produced one daughter, Lillis in 1919, but may not have lasted long.

Alice later moved to Kensington but appears to have been untraceable from 1922 onwards (she later claimed she had forwarded a change of address to Base Depot), but rather mysteriously, the circular was later returned from 73 Haines Street and signed as Alice Kingston "sister-in-law".

She later moved to Kensington but appears to have been untraceable from 1922 onwards, but rather mysteriously, the circular was returned from 73 Haines Street and signed as Alice Kingston "sister-in-law".

Kingston died in the 13th General Hospital after being admitted with gunshot wounds to the back suffered on July 19, 1916.

The Leader noted Kingston died on his birthday, stood 6'1" and was a leading member in the congregation of the St. George's Road Methodist Church. Perhaps another mistaken identity - Kingston's archives list him as Presbyterian and 5'9" in height!

William had several siblings, Agnes (1892), Paul (1894), William (1895) and Mary (1898), whilst the family's first child, Elizabeth died three months after birth in 1891.

Kingston was a brother-in-law of [Private Herbert Victor Punch](#) of Northcote, Killed In Action, October, 1917.



Kirkwood, James Edington

Key Address : "Kalimna", Russell Street, South Northcote

Rank and Unit : Sergeant 1 Light Horse Regiment
Embarked 13 LHR [Light Horse Regiment] (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Persic
Ship Number : A34
Date of Embarkation : 28 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as James Kirkwood)

Service Number : 39 **Enlisted :** 21/12/1914 **At :** Dandenong

Born At : South Melbourne **Educated At :** Dorcas Street, South Melbourne State School

Date of Death : 18/03/1917 **Aged :** 29

Place of Death : Baupaume, France

Buried At : 307 Bancourt British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Overseer (circular suggests farm hand or driver)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James and Helen Kirkwood (nee McKenzie)

Eyewitnesses :
Notes :

Kirkwood listed his father of next-of-kin but his Will left all his belongings to his sister-in-law, Mrs William (Lillian) Kirkwood at the Russell Street address, then not numbered but directories reveal the home on the eastern side two doors from Bastings Street.

His father later returned the circular from the Russell Street address, but the serviceman himself appears to have been living and working at Dandenong.

A younger brother, John, also served in the A.I.F., the Leader at the time of James' death suggesting they were in the same regiment, but John was actually with the 14th Infantry Battalion.

Kirkwood embarked as a Sergeant despite apparently having no prior training with the volunteer forces and survived some six months fighting at Gallipoli without incident.

Little is known of his demise - there is nothing in the official archives and his father in response to the question simply suggested he had "misaid the notice". The records of another serviceman, Joseph Cosmo of Heidelberg who died around the same time suggests the First Light Horse were in action near, Bapaume, France.

His parents moved to Black Spur, Healesville in 1921. AWM and National Archives have him as James Kirkwood, but Victorian Birth Records suggest he was James Edington Kirkwood, although National Archives list him as James Drysdale Kirkwood with no obvious reason as to why.

As well as John, James had an elder sister, Caterina (1885 and younger brother Charles (1894).





Knox, Leo James

Key Address : 11 Clarke Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Gunner 23 HB [Howitzer Brigade] and 1 to 10 Reinforcements, and Brigade Ammunition Column (May 1916 - February 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Medic
Ship Number : A7
Date of Embarkation : 20 May 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Len James Knox).

Service Number : 22052 **Enlisted :** 13/03/1916 **At :** Carlton

Born At : Carlton **Educated At :** St George's School, Carlton

Date of Death : 30/07/1916 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Messines, Belgium

Buried At : 79 Lindenhoeek Chalet Military Cemetery, Kenmel, Belgium

Occupation : Clerk / Ledger keeper (Beath, Schiess, Felstead, Collingwood)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Patrick James and Katherine Knox (nee Phelan) (both late)
Other Mary Knox (aunt)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Knox was living with his aunt who was nominated as next-of-kin in Northcote at the time of enlisting.

Attestation papers confirm that both parents were deceased (his father died in Carlton in 1911, his mother's demise uncertain), and that another brother was "at the war".

That brother was Patrick Leslie Knox (1894) and the latter's embarkation record suggests that Mary Knox was their appointed godmother. Further letters reveal he was an elder brother and only surviving member of the immediate family, although Victorian Birth Records show another brother, John, born in 1897.

AWM embarkation records have him as Len, but all other records are Leo (not Leonard).

No details are recorded of his death, although the circular returned by his aunt (still at 11 Clarke Street) revealed that he was killed near Messines, Belgium.



Kyle, William John

Key Address : 129 Flinders Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 21 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 18 Reinforcements (July - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 2 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5862 **Enlisted :** 20/05/1916 **At :** Romsey

Born At : Romsey **Educated At :** Romsey State School

Date of Death : 30/11/1916 **Aged :** 34

Place of Death : (of pneumonia), Tidworth Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England

Buried At : 115 Tidsworth Military Cemetery, North Tidsworth,

Occupation : Farmer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert and Rebecca Susan Kyle (nee Forbes)
Wife Mrs Nelly Ellen Kyle (nee Brockway)

Eyewitnesses : "We only had him for a very short time before he died. On admission he was very ill and unconscious most of the time. We did everything we could for him but he gradually got worse. The Sister that looked after him wrote to his relatives in Australia when he died" (The Matron, Tidsworth Hospital)

Notes : Embarkation records showing Kyle living at Monegetta (via Lancefield) in Victoria with the address of his wife changing several times, twice to 127 Flinders Street (and alternatively Penders Grove and Thornbury). There were no children of the marriage.

Kyle contracted pneumonia aboard HMAT Nestor when being shipped to England and was admitted to Devonport Military Hospital on arrival on November 16, the ship's medical log suggesting he had measles.

He was transferred to Tidworth Military Hospital the following day but died on 30 November.

The Leader in reporting his death listed him as "J. Kyle". He had two siblings, Allan (1885) and Rebecca (1887).



Ladd, William Henry

Key Address : St. Bernard's Road, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private 8 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 7 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4925 **Enlisted :** 22/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Alphington **Educated At :** Fairfield State School
Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 20
Place of Death : Fromelles, France
Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Tailor's Cutter, Ball and Welch, Melbourne
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Henry and Henrietta Ladd (nee Madden)

Eyewitnesses : "... he appeared to shot through the head. One of his eyes was damaged and he was spitting blood from his mouth. He lay raised on his hands. As I passed I spoke to him. I had to go on and leave him ... I fear he was done for ..." (Private H. Taylor, 4603)

"Ladd got killed in our attack at Fromelles on July 19/16. He was hit just going over the top. He was buried in a cemetery near to a place called "Rifle Villa". I saw his grave there marked with a cross. He was the only Ladd in A. Coy. and came from Northcote, near Melbourne. He was a short fellow, very thin and with rather fair hair" (J. Fisher, 2618)

Notes : Although only 19 on enlisting and requiring his parent's permission to join up, Ladd was shown at a different address in St. Bernard's Road with his parents being at "Tower House", 20 Lucerne Street, Alphington. Ladd's will suggests he owned a share of the latter property.

His father, William is noted in 1912 as retiring after spending 41 years as the head caretaker with the Heidelberg Shire. "Tower House" is also referenced in that article, not to be confused with another residence of the same name at 25 Alphington Street.

William had one sister, Henrietta - his parents were married in 1882.

Ladd was one of the hundreds posted as Missing after the diversionary attack at Fromelles on 19 July, 1917, and registered as Killed In Action a little over twelve months later.

Most of the eyewitness reports confirm he was shot almost immediately after the "over-the-top", although the accounts vary as to whether he was shot in the head or in the chest.



Lamb, Charles Hargrave

Key Address : 'Ravenscrag', 67 Jenkin Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 39 Infantry Battalion - 7 and 8 Reinforcements (February 1917 - February 1918). Also embarked (1915) Private 7th Infantry Battalion (shown as Charles Hargreaves Lamb)

Embarked :
 HMAT Hororata
 Ship Number : A20
 Date of Embarkation : 17 April 1915
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
 HMAT Ballarat
 Ship Number : A70
 Date of Embarkation : 19 February 1917
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2067, 3092 **Enlisted :** 22/01/1917 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Oakleigh **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : Passchendaele, France

Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Blacksmith

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Joseph Mitchell (late) and Annie Law Lamb (nee Morton)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Lamb was born in Oakleigh and raised in Northcote, but was living in Jarvis Street, East Brunswick with his widowed mother at the time of enlisting.

His father, Joseph, died in Northcote in 1907, but rather surprisingly, there is no record of him in directories. Mrs Annie Lamb is shown as the Jenkin Street address from 1908 until 1914. Lamb had a sister, Georgina (1892), and a brother, James died in 1899 aged four years, both of these siblings shown as born in Richmond

That authorities accepted him is surprising.

His Attestation papers show he had spent 652 days with the A.I.F. dating back well before the war and was discharged as medically unfit at his own request. An unsigned note dated 18 August, 1916 suggests "This man belongs to Mont Park where he should be awaiting his discharge. He is not ill and requires no treatment. No diagnosis and no treatment necessary".

Details of his first stint in the A.I.F. are sketchy, but some details and a letter written by his sole surviving brother in support of his claim for the Gallipoli Medallion issued in 1967 reveal Lamb had been wounded at Gallipoli in August 1915 and repatriated to hospital in England.

Lamb re-enlisted around three months later, the medical report noting scars in the right and left forearm, and right knee and thigh.

Just why Lamb was so keen to re-enlist after being discharged at his own request is a mystery.

After arriving back in England, he managed to run up a series of offences (mostly Absent Without Leave) and with the resultant detentions, and it wasn't until September 27 that he was finally attached to duty in Belgium, just a week before he was posted as missing. He was confirmed Killed In Action a week later.

According to the AWM, he enlisted in Northcote but it is not certain whether this was the first or second time. The date of his original enlistment is not recorded.



Lamb, John Oliver

Key Address : 138 High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 1st New Zealand (Otago) Mounted Rifles, 3rd Reinforcements

Embarked : HMNZT Maunganui
Ship Number : HMNZT 12
Date of Embarkation : 14 February 1915
Place of Embarkation : Wellington

Service Number : 9/840 **Enlisted :** **At :** Wellington, New Zealand

Born At : Romsey **Educated At :** Romsey State School

Date of Death : 09/08/1916 **Aged :** 27

Place of Death : Greytown Military Hospital, New Zealand

Buried At :

Occupation :

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry Oliver and Mary Jane Lamb (nee Walker)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : The relationship of the Lamb family to the district came as late as January, 1919, when a Death Notice in The Argus recorded the death "from war injuries" in New Zealand of Private John Lamb " The Notice also revealed John was a brother of [Private William Henry Lamb](#) and a cousin of [Private William Robert Hancock](#).

All references suggest his mother at 138 High Street – his parents appear to have moved the address just before John died, and were still at the address when she returned the circular for William in the late 1920s. Directories through this period show the property as residential under the name of Henry Lamb.

Virtually nothing is really known of John Oliver Lamb - his mother suggested he served with the 1st New Zealand (Otago) Rifles, but there is no record of his death in the Commemorative Roll of the AWM which records deaths of Australians that died while serving with overseas countries - given his death in January, 1919, he may well have passed away after his "official" time in the New Zealand forces (in Australia, the date of discharge, plus four months).

New Zealand War Memorial records confirm his attachment to the Otago Mounted Rifles and have his pre-enlistment address as the Club Hotel, Martinborough, New Zealand, but reveal nothing of his occupation of military history and he is not listed a casualty of the war. His father Henry was listed as next-of-kin.

The Death Notice placed by his mother in 1919 suggested John was the brother of William (above), Bertie (1893, A.I.F, who served at Gallipoli, returned to Australia wounded and re-enlisted April 1916), Harry (1885, returned, Camperdown), Mrs. Hubber, Mr. Shill and Rena. Victorian records have a daughter, Lizzie born in 1890 (one of the married pair, the other not known), while another son Sydey was born in 1893 and died 1897.

The family patriarch, Henry, was listed as John's next-of-kin when he enlisted early in 1915, but not in the Death Notice, suggesting he too may have died during the intervening four years.



Lamb, William Henry

Key Address : 138 High Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : 21 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 12 Reinforcements (June 1915 - April 1916)
Embarked : HMAT Euripides
 Ship Number : A14
 Date of Embarkation : 4 April 1916
 Place of Embarkation :: Melbourne

Service Number : 4748 **Enlisted :** 31/01/1916 **At :** Romsey
Born At : Romsey **Educated At :** Romsey State School
Date of Death : 03/05/1917 **Aged :** 37
Place of Death : Bullecourt, France
Buried At : 568 H A C Cemetery Ecoust-St Mein, France

Occupation : Butcher
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry Oliver and Mary Jane Lamb (nee Walker)
 Wife Emily Eleanor Lamb

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

William Henry Lamb was a brother of [Private John Oliver Lamb](#), who died in January, 1919 as a result of wounds suffered when serving with the 1st New Zealand (Otago) Rifles. The Death Notice for the latter also reveals the brothers were cousins of [Private William Robert Hancock](#) of Northcote.

John gave his father in Romsey as next of kin, but his parents moved to Northcote shortly afterwards and before either son was killed.

William Lamb was living with his wife in Romsey when he enlisted. Immediately post-war, she moved to Lancefield and from 1923 was at 28 Spencer Street, North Essendon. In later years, she moved to North Essendon.

He was officially posted to the 21st Battalion as part of reinforcements on 11 February, 1917, but appears to have gone on a final celebration, being Absent Without Leave for just on three days, re-appearing on the day he was to embark for France, an exercise that cost him nine days forfeiture of pay.

The Death Notice placed by his mother for John suggested he was the brother of William, Bertie (1893, A.I.F., who served at Gallipoli, returned to Australia wounded and re-enlisted April 1916), Harry (1885, returned, Camperdown), Mrs. Hubber, Mr. Shill and Rena. Victorian records have a daughter, Lizzie born in 1890 (one of the married pair, the other not known), while another son Sydney was born in 1893 and died 1897.

The family patriarch, Henry, was listed as John's next-of-kin when he enlisted early in 1915, but not in the Death Notice, suggesting he too may have died during the intervening four years.



Lamerton, William John

Key Address : 49 High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 11 Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements (December 1914 - September 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1188 **Enlisted :** 9/11/1914 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Fremantle, W.A **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 22/07/1916 **Aged :** 23
Place of Death : France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Father George Arthur and Elizabeth Ellen Lamerton (nee Sampey)
Sister Mrs Florence Ridd

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Lamerton's connection to the district is a mystery - he is shown on local RSL records and in the Leader, but was born in Western Australia with his father noted as next-of-kin also in the West. He also served with a battalion primarily made up of Western Australians.

He enlisted in Melbourne and although his embarkation papers show him residing with his parents, it seems likely that he was with his sister, Mrs Florence Ridd, who the Leader suggested was at 49 High Street, Northcote with her husband, Percy.

This address - just south of Westgarth Street - remains a mystery. Directories of the time show it alternatively as Vacant (1915 and 1917) and occupied by a Thomas W. Mitchell in 1916, but by 1920 occupied by Percy and Florence.

Lamerton was in the first wave of landings at Gallipoli, but was hospitalised twice in Alexandria, firstly with tonsillitis and later with pneumonia.

The latter attack saw him repatriated to England where at one stage he was flagged as fit for Home Service only, but his health improved and he finally re-joined his unit in March 1916, only to miss another two months with a dental problem.

Western Australia registrations reveal William was the eldest of the family, the others George (1888, Lieutenant, A.I.F, awarded the Military Cross), Ethel (1890), Hilda (1890), Florence (1892), Edith (1896), Albert (1899) and Hilda (1900). All were born in Fremantle.



Lander, Roy

Key Address : 5 Gotch Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private , 22 Infantry Battalion - 9 to 12 Reinforcements (February-April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Warilda
Ship Number : A69
Date of Embarkation : 8 February 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3864 **Enlisted :** 12/07/1916 **At :** Castlemaine

Born At : Castlemaine **Educated At :** Castlemaine State School

Date of Death : 12/03/1917 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Fromelles, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : French Polisher, J. S. Caxton, Kensington

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Congregationalist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry E. (late) and Caroline Elizabeth Gertrude Lander
(nee Langier)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Lander's Attestation showed his father as next-of-kin, but he died in August 1917, just a few months after his son was Killed In Action.

The address on embarkation was shown as 5 Gotch Street and later 63 Gotch Street. The circular was returned from this address despite Lander's Victory Medal being returned to Base Depot with advice from the Post-Master at Northcote that Mrs Lander had left Gotch Street and could not be traced.

Even with the relaxation in the minimum physical requirements, Lander only just squeezed in at 5 feet 2 inches and weighing just eight stone.

Lander trained as a Signaller after arrival in England, but the remainder of his service life was uneventful, other than being killed just eleven days after re-joining his unit after spending six weeks in hospital with venereal disease.

His mother's name shows under a couple of variations, but was "Langier" when she married in 1885. The couple had three other children, the eldest shown as "De Winifred" in 1888, then two sons, plain old Harry (1889) and Jim (1890).



Landy, Arthur Robert

Key Address : Darebin Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 39 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 6 Reinforcements (May - December 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Shropshire
Ship Number : A9
Date of Embarkation : 25 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2105 **Enlisted :** 25/02/1916 **At :** South Melbourne

Born At : South Melbourne **Educated At :** State School

Date of Death : 4/08/1917 **Aged :** 45

Place of Death : (of wounds), Messines, France

Buried At : 297 Trios-Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck, France

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George and Jane Landy (nee Ross)
Brother George Gannah Landy

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

The Leader reported Landy's death, but the only connection to the district seems to have been through his brother George who was nominated as next-of-kin

On Attestation, his father was listed as deceased (hardly surprising given Landy was 44 when he enlisted) and his mother was given as "address unknown". His brother, George, was in Cressy Street, Malvern at the time of Landy's death, and there two other brothers, Richard (1868, the eldest) and William (1872).

He gave his address at time of embarkation as Bangerang via Warracknambeal. No Red Cross details remain, but his army records suggest he died following a gunshot wound in the left thigh and buttock at the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on the same day as he was wounded.

The circular returned by George suggested Landy had a nephew (name not given) killed at Pozieres in 1916.



Larson, Axel Eugene

Key Address : 111 Rathmines Road, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 3 Pnr Bn [Pioneer Battalion]
1 to 6 Reinforcements (June - December 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Karroo
Ship Number : A10
Date of Embarkation : 18 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2345 **Enlisted :** 22/07/1916 **At :** Fairfield

Born At : Sweden **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 7/05/1917 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : (of wounds), 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station, Bullecourt, France

Buried At : 297 Trios-Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck, France

Occupation : Engineer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Mother Mrs Augusta Larson (Sweden, father deceased)
Friend Mrs Rose Williams

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Larson is unique in that he is the only non-British born migrant from Europe in our archives of men that died in the service of the A.I.F. Sweden itself remained neutral during the Great War as it later did during the Second World War.

Archives do not reveal when Larson arrived in Australia, but he was a naturalised British Subject at the time of enlisting.

His next-of-kin was originally given as his mother, Mrs Augusta Larson at Yagersta, his place of birth in Sweden, later changed to his co-habitant in Rathmines Road, Mrs Rose Williams. Any relationship between the couple remains unknown.

Larson died at the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on the day he was admitted with gunshot wounds to the chest and shoulder.

Much of the correspondence following his death was via the Consul-General for Sweden.

He did not leave a Will and his mother was ultimately declared next-of-kin over Mrs Williams.

Nothing was ever recorded of the location of Larson's death. No circular was returned, but those for two other servicemen from the 3rd Pioneer Battalion put the place of their death at Bullecourt, France.



Laycock, George Allen

Key Address : 5 Hartington Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 59 Infantry Battalion - 2 to 5 Reinforcements (May-September 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Shropshire
Ship Number : A9
Date of Embarkation : 28 September, 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2429 **Enlisted :** 30/05/1916 **At :**

Born At : Devonport **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 26/04/1918 **Aged :** 29

Place of Death : (of wounds), 61st Casualty Clearing Station, Villers Bretonneux, France

Buried At : Vignacourt British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Draper

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C of E

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Joseph and Annie Laycock (nee Davies)
Wife Mrs Mary Bridget McMahon Laycock (nee Collins)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Laycock's link to the district is another somewhat tenuous, although his death was listed in Casualty Lists under Northcote.

On Attestation, he gave his mother in Perth Street, Prahran as next of kin, adding that his father was deceased. His own address was given as Mansfield.

The reference to his mother is then crossed out and "now stated to be wife" added with a name of Mrs M. B. McM. Laycock shown.

There are several alternate addresses (presumably of his wife), including one at 5 Hartington Street, Northcote which appeared on his Will, although most of the correspondence after his death was via his family in Mansfield.

Laycock was wounded in the right side in May 1917 and admitted to the 3rd Casualty Clearing station wounded right side and re-joined his Company in August, 1917.

In February, 1918, Laycock was tried by Court Martial for overstaying his leave in the United Kingdom by eight days, sentenced to 42 days Field Punishment and the loss of 52 day's pay.

Laycock suffered a gunshot wound to the chest and penetrating the abdomen on 25 April, 1918 and was admitted to the 61st Casualty Clearing Station where he died two days later.

The location of his demise was not recorded, but other fatalities from the 59th Battalion on the same day are recorded as at Villers Bretonneux, France.

Laycock's siblings, all born in Tasmania were Hazel (1891), Mary (1893), Muriel (1897), and two brothers William (1896) and James (1897). Virtually all the entries under the family name are from Devonport and George appears to have at least six cousins that enlisted, all returning to Australia

There were no offspring of the brief marriage of George and Mary. She re-married in 1923, becoming Mrs Harold Ruffle and later residing in Wangaratta.



Le Blanc, Henry

Key Address : 23 Collins Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private, 14th Battalion Australian Infantry
5 to 12 Reinforcements (April - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 27 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2934 **Enlisted :** 14/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : South Yarra **Educated At :** Model School, Melbourne

Date of Death : 8/08/1916 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : Pozieres, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Dyer

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Congregationalist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Antoin and Charlotte C. M. Le Blanc (nee Stofledts)
Wife Mrs Maud Le Blanc (nee Thomson, later Harrison)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

The couple had a daughter, Charlotte (died 1919) and a son, Henry junior and his widow later re-married and by the time of issue of various medals in 1920 was shown as Mrs Harrison living at the same address.

There appears to have been a long-running legal battle (as late as 1948) over the dispersal of his estate – a Will executed on his embarkation leaving land in Cook Street, Brunswick to his mother and the balance of his estate to his wife, while another will found in his Pay Book left everything to his wife.

The latter was undated, but just why it took over 30 years for probate to be settled remains a mystery.

Although Le Blanc was born in South Yarra and there is evidence to suggest that he grew up in the area, the family was of French origin, National Archives containing a letter from the French Consulate enquiring as to his whereabouts as they had "certain military documents" to be delivered (in reality, probably a call-up notice for the French Army).

Le Blanc had a brother, George (1883) and sister Antionette (1885). His mother's family name is alternatively shown as Stopleds and Stofledts, his father in AWM and National Archives as "Anton", but in official records for all three children as "Antoin".

For anyone researching further, it must be noted that the AWM site search engine is hopeless with names like "Le Blanc", "Le Bon" and the two brothers "Le Roy" - if searching, you must use the appropriate Service Number.



Le Bon, Ernest George

Key Address : 35 Gadd Street, Croxton

Rank and Unit : Private 22 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 18 Reinforcements (July-November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 28 July 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5300 **Enlisted :** 21/01/1916 **At :** Cheltenham

Born At : Cheltenham **Educated At :** State School

Date of Death : 3/03/1917 **Aged :** 27

Place of Death : (of wounds) Warlencourt, France

Buried At : 146 St Sever Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Tramways Gripman

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George James and Laura Mary Le Bon (nee Clay)
Wife Elsie May Le Bon (nee Ward)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

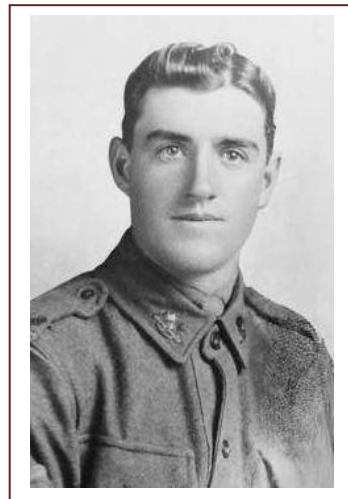
His widow from 1920 was at 4 Rennie Street, Thornbury and was left with two sons, Robert and Walter. Another child, Ernest died before reaching one month of age in 1912, and Le Bon had two brothers, Charles (1891) and Frank (1894) and a sister, Elsie (1896).

Le Bon was born in Australia and there is some confusion over his religious leanings. His embarkation records show him as Church of England but his Attestation shows "agnostic". There is also a variation in where he enlisted – the AWM suggests Cheltenham, but the Attestation is marked as Brunswick.

Le Bon died at 5.30 pm on March 3, 1917, at the 3rd Stationary Hospital from gunshot wounds to the right groin suffered on February 28. A note in his archives suggest he embarked as an Acting Sergeant, reverted to the ranks and became a Lance Corporal just a fortnight before he died – whilst the latter is confirmed, all other records have him as a Private on embarkation.

A Death Notice suggests his mother-in-law was also in Croxton, presumably the Gadd Street address, and he was "Late of the Victorian Rangers, Mentone and Geelong".

The two notices placed append "(Bose)" to the family name, suggesting "Le Bon" may have been an anglicized version. They are also appended "Tasmanian and Western Australian papers please copy", suggesting family connection in those states. The only other serviceman of this family name was from Tasmania.





Lea, William

Key Address : 82 Bridge Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Sapper, 5th Field Company Engineers
Embarked Able Seaman Driver 1 Royal Australian Naval Bridging train

Embarked : HMAT Port Macquarie
Ship Number : A39
Date of Embarkation : 4 June 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 326 **Enlisted :** 05/05/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Beechworth **Educated At :** Gold Street, Clifton Hill State School

Date of Death : 17/04/1917 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : Vaux, France

Buried At : 1484 Vaux Hill Cemetery, France

Occupation : Blacksmith/Coachbuilder

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Congregational

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William George and Margaret Lea (nee Short)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Lea's files are a little unusual in that his Attestation was via the Royal Australian Navy and marked "For Service Abroad In a R.A.N. Bridging Train" (he served with the Engineers in the volunteer forces prior to enlisting).

The Bridging Train was a company of Navy Reservists responsible for construction of bridges and landing sites. It was disbanded early in 1917 and its members either volunteered for duty with other Engineering units or were returned to Australia for discharge. 120 men continued in service, 194 returned to Australia in May, 1917.

He was wounded in the back in July 1916 and did not return to the front in France until January of the following year when he was transferred to the 5th Field Engineers.

He was hospitalised a little later for three weeks with mumps and was Killed In Action just three days after re-joining his comrades for the second time.

Along with his parents, Lea's family included a brother, Thomas (1897), a sister with the rather unusual name of Thomasanna (1889), and two prematurely lost brothers who were both named Joseph - the first dying in 1891 within a month of birth, the second in 1899 at two years of age.

The family are shown in the 1914 Electoral Roll as being at 114 Bridge Street.



Lee, Herbert John

Key Address : 74 Arthur Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Sapper 2 FCE [Field Company Engineers] (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Orvieto
Ship Number : A3
Date of Embarkation : 21 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 202 **Enlisted :** 15/09/1914 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Murtoa **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 9/08/1917 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : (of bronchitis), Melbourne

Buried At : Boroondara Cemetery, Victoria Roman Catholic 19A

Occupation : Cabinet Maker

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Morgan O'Donnell (late) and Jane Josephine Lee (nee Henry)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Lee was admitted to hospital in Alexandria suffering from chronic bronchitis and invalided back to Australia aboard the Ulysses in March 1915.

Little of known of his fate after his return other than a note from his mother advising authorities that he had died of the disease over two years later – authorities attributed his cause of death to his war service and Lee was classified as a casualty of the war. His father, Morgan, died at the family home in 1911, aged 48.

Lee was awarded the 1914-15 Star which was presented to his mother at a ceremony in Fairfield on August 20 1920, the only medal of around 20 issued posthumously.

He had brothers, Morgan junior (1887) and Henry (1895), and three sisters, Eileen (1891), Eliza (1900) and Mary (1903).



Lees, Vere Lionel

Key Address : 4 Preston Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private, 14th Battalion, D Company

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number A38
Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1164 **Enlisted :** 05/10/1914 **At :**

Born At : Derby, Tasmania **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 08/08/1915 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey

Occupation : Boot-maker

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Horace and Ada Alice Lees (nee Stevens)

Eyewitnesses : "He was next to me at Suvla Bay and was killed outright, hit in the stomach. He was my best mate. I should be pleased to hear from his family. He was not buried" (V Callanan, 1346)

Notes : On enlistment, he gave his address as 4 Preston Street, Preston - this is confusing in itself as it is the same as that suggested by [Private James Charles Smith](#), another local fatality who served under the alias Charles Henry Smith.

(The confusion is compounded by the fact that Preston and South Preston were still considered separate localities within Sands and MacDougall directories - and each had a Preston Street! The South Preston version remains - the Preston version which appears to have run just a few metres east from Spring Street to the railway line - whether it still exists and its current name is not known).

Lees gave his father as next of kin with "Swanston Street, Melbourne" as the address, later altered to 111 Raglan Street, South Melbourne, to 457 City Road, South Melbourne, and from 1921, c-o Warburton Post Office.

Other than the one brief eyewitness statement, there is little nothing recorded of Lees' military history, nor is clear whether his mother was still alive. Without his father's consistent notification of his change of address and the standard official response, Lees' archive would probably be the shortest of any in our archives.

Vere was only child of the family born in Tasmania. His siblings in Victoria were James (1890), Ada (1891), Royal (1898), the twins Ivy and Myrtle (1903) and Dorothy (1906).



Lehane, Jeremiah

Key Address : 106 Rathmines Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private, 7th Battalions, 13th Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number A64
Date of Embarkation : 29 December 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4229 **Enlisted :** 06/08/1915 **At :**

Born At : Casterton **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 22/12/1916 **Aged :** 40

Place of Death : Flers, France

Buried At : 26 Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France

Occupation : Farmer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R. C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Jeremiah and Honora Lehane (nee Sullivan or O'Sullivan)

Eyewitnesses : "... a shell blew out the side of the trench while he was with others holding the lines at Flers on Dec 22nd 1916, I being sent out to get his papers and disc. The lower part of his body was completely cut off, only head and trunk remained ... I saw the grave the Pioneers dug for him near the trenches, but I was not at his burial" (A. Allen 4132)

Notes : Lehane's death was not mentioned in the Leader, and his National Archive file appears under "Le Hane". He was living at 106 Rathmines Street, Fairfield, with his uncle Timothy, who appears to have been at the address for three or four years.

His father was nominated as next of kin at Casterton, meaning that Lehane's demise in official Casualty Lists appeared under that location, and given Lehane may not have been in Northcote for no great period of time, perhaps the omission was not surprising.

He was wounded in the right hip and eye in July, 1916, and repatriated back to England. He returned to his unit in November and Killed In Action just over a month later.

Not surprisingly given the rather gruesome description of his death (confirmed by other reports), no grave was later found.

He had two sisters, Honora (1881) and Ellen (shown in official Birth Records as Leehane, 1871).



Lemke, Albert Walter

Key Address : 148 Dundas Street, Fairfield
Rank and Unit : Private, 6th Battalion
Embarked : HMAT Hororata
 Ship Number : A20
 Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 610 **Enlisted :** 19/08/1914 **At :** Fairfield
Born At : Phyra, N.S.W. **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 25/05/1915 **Aged :** 34
Place of Death : Gallipoli (at sea)
Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli
Occupation : Brick Kiln Labourer, Clifton Brickworks, Preston
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Methodist
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Carl and Lucy F Lemke
 Wife Mrs Jessie Barbara Lemke (nee Ferguson)
Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

A casualty of the early landings, Lemke is simply shown described as having died at sea (presumably on board an unnamed hospital ship) of bullet wounds to the chest.

His death and the plight of his family - a wife and five young children (Harold, born in Moama in 1906, and the four younger, Irene, Jessie, Mary and Albert junior in Victoria - was the first to arouse public concern in Northcote over the welfare of the next-of-kin of those killed in action and a special appeal was launched to help complete the house they were building.

The Sands and MacDougall Directory of 1914 shows a house (unnumbered) in Dundas Street in the name of "H. F. Lemke" and in 1916 to Miss Barbara Lemke.

Lemke himself mistakenly gave the address as "Dundas Street, Fairfield", but Electoral Rolls confirm the correct address as being Northcote. Directories have the section from Jones Street east to the Creek under Fairfield until 1957 and then as Thornbury. (there is no Dundas Street in Fairfield).

His widow's address was later shown as 3 McFarlane Street, Northcote

Lemke's parents were shown in The Argus as being orchardists at Mathoura in New South Wales. On his attestation, he claimed he was born at Phyra in New South Wales - his three siblings, Annie (1878), Ernest (1882) and Alice (1885) are all shown as being born in Moama. The Barbara noted in the 1916 directory may also have been born in New South Wales.

The Leader noted on his death that he was a "long-standing" employee of the Glen Iris Brick Company in Northcote - but, although he had served a two-year apprenticeship there, he had been employed for over four years as a brick drawer at Clifton Brickworks in Preston. He was also a member of the Preston I.O.R. Friendly Society.





Le Roy, Alfred

Key Address : 113 Tyler Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private, 60th Infantry Battalion,
Embarked Private, 21st Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 207 **Enlisted :** 18/1/1915 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Whroo **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : The Somme, France

Buried At : VC Corner, Australian Cemetery Memorial, Fromelles, France

Occupation : Blacksmith

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Jane Le Roy (nee Lock)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Le Roy's death was never mentioned by the Leader – he was living with his mother Jane at 58 Highett Street, Richmond at the time of his enlistment. His connection to the Preston area only became known when his name was included on the Honour Board of the South Preston State School in June, 1919 as one of the many connected with school that died during the conflict (he is also on the Tyler Street School roll, this being an adjunct to Sout Preston for many years).

He was born in the small town of Whroo, near Rushworth, his family appearing to have operated a butcher's shop at the latter centre for several years. The National Archives suggest his father was dead, but for some reason (perhaps the unusual family name which often appears as "Leroy" there is no official record of his death.

His mother was first shown in directories as being in Tyler Street in 1909 (and in Richmond from 1912), but given Alfred would have been 16 or 17 by this time (and most children completed their six years of schooling by the age of 13), they must have been residents in the area for some years, possibly staying with relatives.

Alfred had one elder brother, [Corporal Thomas Le Roy](#), also Killed In Action, other siblings noted in a Death Notice as "Mrs Lowe, Mrs Longstaff, Matthew (rejected on medical grounds), Lydia, John, Ernest and Frederick (Alfred had already been killed).

Le Roy suffered severe gunshot wounds to both legs late at Anzac Cove in September, 1915, and was repatriated to hospital, firstly in Egypt and later to London. He was re-assigned to the 60th Battalion in April 1916 and was one of the hundreds listed as Missing after the first day of the Battle of the Somme on July 19, 1916. In what must have been an agonising wait for his mother, he was not officially listed as Killed In Action until August of the following year.

No Red Cross accounts remain of his death and his body was never recovered, suggesting that like many other servicemen, he simply disappeared off the face of the earth.



Le Roy, Thomas

Key Address : 113 Tyler Street, Preston
Rank and Unit : Corporal, 46th Infantry Battalion,
 Embarked Private, 14th Battalion (5 – 12 Reinforcements, Apr – Nov 1915)
Embarked : RMS Persia
 Date of Embarkation : 10 August 1915
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 2412 **Enlisted :** 18/1/1915 **At :** Melbourne
Born At : Whroo **Educated At :** South Preston State School
Date of Death : 05/04/1918 **Aged :** 31
Place of Death : The Somme, France
Buried At : 197 Millencourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France
Occupation : Miner
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C of E
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Jane Le Roy (nee Lock)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Evidence of Thomas Le Roy's death came almost by accident – a letter in the archive of his brother, [Corporal Alfred Le Roy](#) from Base Depot in response to an enquiry from his mother as to the whereabouts of personal effects notes "... your eldest son Thomas's effects were shipped on S.S. Barunga which was lost at sea"

Confusing the issue further is that much of the remaining documentation on Thomas is recorded under "Leroy" – like Alfred, he was born in Whroo, near Rutherglen, but there is no record of him attending at South Preston, although this is not a surprise as he probably would have been in his late teens when the family moved to Preston.

However, he was living with his mother in Highett Street at the time of enlistment and presumably with her and Alfred during the five or six years they may have spent in Preston.

Le Roy had a chequered military career, being promoted to Corporal and then to Acting Sergeant, but almost as rapidly returning to the ranks after spending several months on two separate occasions in hospital recovering from syphilis. In May, 1917, he was listed as Missing, amended a few weeks later to Wounded with gunshot wounds to his legs and shoulder.

He returned to his unit in January 1918 (after one of his stints in a V.D. hospital) and was Killed In Action around three month later.

Both his and Alfred's archives suggest their mother, Jane, having lost both her sons (and her husband many years earlier) moved from address to address around the Richmond and Abbotsford in the post-war years, on more than one occasion Base Depot having to enlist the help of the local constabulary to locate her whereabouts.

Even some 76 years later, the Le Roy family history took another twist – amongst the sundry documentation in Thomas's archives are copies of the envelope of a Registered Letter from the Department of the Army to a "L. M. Le Roy" at an address in Frankston.

Sadly, the contents of the letter, to exactly what enquiry it responded to, or the relationship of "L. M. Le Roy" was to the sad and little-known family of the Great War remains a mystery.



Lewis, Albert Edward

Key Address : 50 St. David Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 22 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 189 **Enlisted :** 8/02/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : North Fitzroy **Educated At :** Miller St., North Fitzroy State School

Date of Death : 5/08/1916 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : Pozieres, France

Buried At : 1890 Serre Road, Cemetery, No 2

Occupation : Boot Machinist

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Louis Alfred and Helen Lewis (nee O'Brien)

Eyewitnesses : "went through Gallipoli - at Pozieres on Aug 5th a big shell buried Lewis and some 10 or 12 others. Informant was partially buried by the same shell. 8 were rescued alive but Lewis and the remainder were never found" (Private. B. H. Noakes, 442, 22nd Battalion)

"... a great consolation to us to know that our dear boy has found a permanent resting place in sacred ground after all the years that have passed ..." (Letter to Base Records from Lewis's father after being informed his son's remains had been discovered in 1931)

Notes : Lewis was originally listed as Missing on 5 August, 1916, and later confirmed Killed In Action by a Court of Enquiry on November 26 of the following year.

By the quoted and another eyewitness report, Lewis was never seen again after the shell exploded and like many, was simply left to rest where he was buried.

Remarkably in his case, his identity disc and remains (along with eight others) were uncovered during exhumation works near Pozieres in 1931 and the disc returned to his family.

His parents were later at 38 Bridge Street, Northcote and then Sims Street in Sandringham.

Albert appears to have had just one sister, Hilda (1898).



Lewis, Edward Jesse

Key Address : St. Elmo Road, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private 23 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1915 -January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Afric
Ship Number : A19
Date of Embarkation : 5 January 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3564 **Enlisted :** 15/08/1915 **At :** Alphington

Born At : Wiltshire, England **Educated At :** National School

Date of Death : 28/07/1916 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Pozieres, France

Buried At : 1890 Serre Road Cemetery No 2 France

Occupation : Milk Dealer/Driver

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Mary Lewis (Wiltshire, England)

Eyewitnesses : "I saw Private Lewis and spoke to him on 15 May last at Casualty Clearing Station called Hedgehill, one of the South Midlands, I again saw him on a Hospital train going to Rouen. He was suffering from trench fever. Lewis was attached to Headquarters. Description : Lives at Preston, Australia. About 5ft 4, sharp appearance, fair hair, very jovial" (L/Cpl G. H. Evans, 4689)

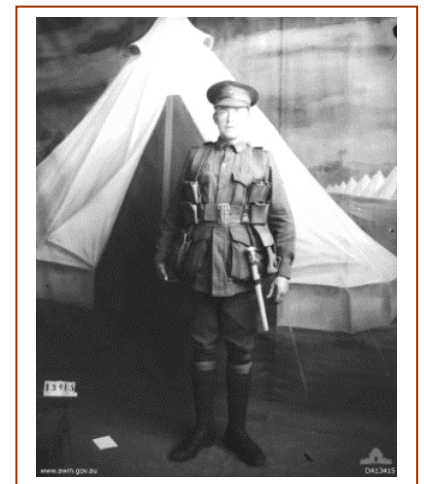
Notes : Edward Jesse Lewis was English-born, arriving in Australia aged 22 while both of his parents remained in the old country.

Lewis arrived on the Themistocles (later transferred to the Australian government as a troop transport) from Wiltshire in January, 1912 in company with Charles Fortune, also Killed In Action.

The pair were partners in a milk supply business, enlisted on the same day, were 26 years of age when they died within six weeks of each other.

His address on embarkation was given as c-o Alphington Post Office but other records have him c-o Mrs David Paisley of Alphington, the same as for Fortune.

He was listed as Missing on 15 August, 1916, and confirmed Killed in Action in December.



The only eyewitness suggested he lived in Preston, and that he had been on a hospital train with Lewis, who was supposedly suffering from trench fever. Lewis did have fair hair, but was 5ft 7, so whether it was him on the train is open to question.



Liddell, Thomas Whalley

Key Address : The Leader offices, High Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Corporal, 23rd Battalion Embarked Private 23 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)
Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 769 **Enlisted :** 4/04/1915 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Euroa **Educated At :** Euroa State School, Melbourne High School
Date of Death : 28/07/1916 **Aged :** 19
Place of Death : Pozieres, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France
Occupation : Assistant Electrical Engineer, Postal Department
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Parents David and Mary Elfleda Liddell (nee Whalley)

Eyewitnesses : "I was told by Private. Frayer, 761 23rd A.I.F that Liddell was blown to pieces by a shell on July 28th 1916 at Pozieres ... rather over average build, fair complexion" (Private S.P. R Dallington, 4379, 23rd A.I.F)
Northcote Leader
Feb 7 1917
"We, the uncles of L. Corp. Tom Liddell (769) D. Comp, 23rd Battalion, 6th Inf. Brigade, who was officially reported "Missing" in July last year would be so thankful if you could now give us any more definite information as to his fate. His sisters, whose health is not good - all their 5 brothers having gone or are going to the front - are particularly anxious for some more definite news.
Yours faithfully,
Whalley Bros".

Notes : As one of the given names suggests, Liddell was a nephew of the Whalley brothers, the proprietors of the Leader newspapers, and although Thomas had little direct connection with the district, readers were kept well-informed of his military career and demise.
On Attestation, his father David, in Euroa was listed as next-of-kin but he died early in 1916, and on embarkation, his eldest brother (also David) at Toora in Gippsland was nominated.
For unknown reasons, Thomas Liddell's birth is not noted in official records and both registrations and A.I.F. records cast doubt over "5 brothers" quoted in the letter.
Victorian registrations show four siblings, three brothers David (1885, A.I.F.), Robert (1893, A.I.F.), John (1898), and a sister, Elsie (1891).
With both parents deceased at the time of his death, and "all" sons in the A.I.F., Robert Whalley conducted most of the affairs following his nephew's death, some of it on Northcote Leader letterhead.
David Liddell junior was 8 Esther Street, Preston from November, 1920, and returned the circular from that address. His calling on embarkation (when he was at Toora) was listed as "newspaper proprietor".
Thomas Liddell was posted as Missing on August 28 1916 and confirmed Killed In Action by an Enquiry in December of the following year. He had reached the rank of Corporal previously, but reverted to the ranks at his own request.
A notice in The Argus suggested Liddell was "a bright student" and had won scholarships to the value of £100 before joining the Postal Department.



Little, Robert Alexander
(D.S.O. and Bar, D.S.C., Croix de Guerre with Star)

Key Address : 160 High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Flight Commander, 203rd Squadron, Royal Air Force

Embarked :

Service Number :

Enlisted :

At :

Born At : Hawthorn

Educated At : Camberwell Grammar / Scotch College

Date of Death : 27/05/1918

Aged : 22

Place of Death : Noeux, France

Buried At : 1525 Wavans British Cemetery, D. 7

Occupation : Travelling Salesman

Marital Status : Married

Religion :

Next of Parents

James and Susan Little (nee Solomon)

Kin/Family : Sister

Dr. Mrs James Webb (nee Sylvia Susan Little)

Wife

Mrs V. Bretell (re-married)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

The Leader reported Little's death noting his sister, "Mrs Dr. Webb" as living in Northcote and referred to him as "one of mightiest of our fighters", his decorations at just 22 years of age including the D.S.O. and Bar, D.S.C. and Bar and the Croix de Guerre with Star, (pictured) the highest award of the French Government.

Little applied for instruction at the new Point Cook flying school, but along with hundreds if others was rejected. He sailed for England and paid for his tuition before joining the Royal Air Force.

He is credited as being Australia's leading air ace of the First World War

Little was officially credited with destroying 47 enemy "machines" (which probably included balloons), at the time a record for the Naval Air Service. He was killed while attacking a Gotha bomber over Noeux, France.

The Leader suggested that before Little completed 20 "kills", authorities "begged him to come home and take control of a great London aerodrome where he could have imparted his knowledge to others".

Little was educated at Camberwell Grammar and Scotch College, his father at the time of death living in Windsor.

He was married in England, an application being received in 1926 from a Mrs V. Bretell nominating herself as his widow and claiming an education allowance for their son, Robert James Alexander Little. Unfortunately little else is known of his brief married life.

Sylvia Susan Little (born 1893) married James Webb in 1916 - the use of "Dr." purely was through her husband's calling as a physician, although Sylvia Webb had an unique calling of her own, the 1916 Electoral Roll noting her as "playwright".

Other siblings were James (1897) and Dorothy (1899).





Lloyd, Alexander

Key Address : 83 Westgarth Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : 59 Infantry Battalion - 6 to 9 Reinforcements (October 1916 - July 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Medic
Ship Number : A7
Date of Embarkation : 16 December 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3184 **Enlisted :** 17/10/1916 **At :** Ballarat

Born At : Ballarat **Educated At :** Urquhart Street, Ballarat State School

Date of Death : 25/04/1918 **Aged :** 29

Place of Death : Villers-Bretonneux, France

Buried At : 424 Crucifix Corner Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Boot maker

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George William and Sophie Williamson Lloyd (nee Bell)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Lloyd was showing as living at Yea on embarkation, with his father in Westgarth Street as next-of-kin (although the Leader suggested he was "a former resident of Croxton").

His brother George William, on active service and who was awarded the Military Medal in 1917 for bravery while acting as a stretcher-bearer, also gave Westgarth Street as his address.

Their father died in August, 1920, and his mother was later in Caulfield, Ballarat East and Albert Park, although at least two of the sons remained in Northcote. "Alec" Lloyd was included on the Honour Roll at All Saint's Church in Northcote.

The circular was returned from Ballarat East by George, and the pair had another brother, John (born 1895), and two sisters, Sophia (1883) and Louise (1887), these appearing in a Death Notice as "Mrs R. J. Williamson and Mrs W. J. Greenaway"



Lloyd, Franklin Samuel

Key Address : 94 High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Wheeler, Unit 4 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
 Ship Number : A18
 Date of Embarkation : 18 November 1915
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6857 **Enlisted :** 2/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : East Melbourne **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 15/08/1916 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : (of wounds), 13th Field Ambulance, Armentieres

Buried At : 44 Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Gas fitter (Metropolitan Gas Coy.).

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Samuel Lloyd (late) and Emily Lloyd
 (nee Franklin, later Bailey)

Eyewitnesses : "He died in our hospital on 15th August from shattered left leg which wound he received on the 14th. He was buried of the 15th August by a C. of Christ Chaplain in the Soldier's Cemetery, Warloy-Baillou, Somme."" (Lt. Col. Vincent Welch, 13th Aust. Field Ambulance)

Notes : Lloyd's father Samuel died in 1890, aged 46. Franklin was the only child from that union, but his mother was re-married to Charles Edwin Bailey in 1896 and there were three daughters Florence (1897), Ether (1898) and Jessie (1902, Northcote)

National Archives note Lloyd was the sole support for his mother which suggests his mother's second husband had also died - in reality, the pair ran a successful ladies drapery store at the High Street address for many years, the business listed under Emily's name.

Lloyd died soon after being admitted to the 13th Field Ambulance the day after being admitted with severe wounds to the left leg.

He suggested Church of England as his religion on embarkation (as confirmed by the All Saint's Honour Roll) despite the eyewitness reference to a Church of Christ Chaplain.

Official records suggest that the wounds that caused his demise were received in action, but later letters from his mother show she believed that they were as the result of an accident.



Locke, James Leonard

Key Address : 23 Mary Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 9 LHR [Light Horse Regiment] (February 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Karroo
Ship Number : A10
Date of Embarkation : 11 February 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 440 **Enlisted :** 9/10/1914 **At :** Fitzroy

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 5/06/1915 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : (of wounds at sea), off Gallipoli

Buried At : At sea. Commemorated at 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James Ellis and Jane Locke (nee Nolan)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : His next of kin on Attestation was given as James Locke of 122 Park Street, North Fitzroy, but the family were later at 18 Percival Street, Preston, and then 23 Mary Street and Locke's name was included on the Preston Cenotaph. A brother Herbert also enlisted, giving yet another address as 86 Tyler Street.

The exact date that the family moved to the area is uncertain – correspondence up until 1916 is to the Fitzroy address, but after mail was returned in 1921, a press advertisement seeking their whereabouts revealed them to be in Percival Street.

Locke received a bullet wound to the head on Walker's Ridge on June 4, 1915 and taken on board H.M.H.S. Sicilia where he died the following day. He was buried at sea "somewhere between Gallipoli and Malta" with a later headstone raised at the Lone Pine Memorial.

He had served three years and eight months in the Volunteer Forces prior to enlisting. His family were fortunate to receive his personal effects after they were sent in error to the parents in Adelaide of Private F. N. Drew, another of the Ninth Light Horse who also died on the Sicilia, albeit some two months later.

He was survived by two brothers, Frederick (1889) and Herbert (1895, A.I.F.), two other siblings Annie (1891) and Lionel (1895) dying before their first birthday.



Lodge, Lorenzo John

Key Address : "Tasma", 53 High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Gunner 8 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] –
1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1916 - February 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Medic
Ship Number : A7
Date of Embarkation : 20 May 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 22978 **Enlisted :** 7/02/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Clifton Hill **Educated At :** Scotch College, two years Ballarat
Agricultural College

Date of Death : 15/06/1918 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : (tuberculosis), Macleod Military Sanatorium at Macleod

Buried At : Melbourne General Cemetery

Occupation : Farmer (Engine driver on embarkation)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Martha Lodge (nee Nelson)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Lodge is noted as serving with Scotch College Cadets from the age of 10, and then with various volunteer forces. He also is noted as having attended the Ballarat Agricultural College for two years.

He was admitted to hospital in England in September, 1917 diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis. Lodge remained in hospital until being repatriated back to Australia, arriving home 10 March, 1918.

On arrival home, he was admitted to the Military Sanatorium at Macleod on May 22 where he died just over three weeks later.

The circular returned by his father suggested the illness was a result of gas poisoning suffered during Lorenzo's time on the Western Front, but medical reports in the archives suggest it was a recurrence of an earlier respiratory problem.

His father (his mother is not noted in Archives) was from 1922 in Lower Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe. Lorenzo Lodge was the only child of the family to survive past their first birthday, two sisters Annie (1892) and Ellen (1893) both dying within a month of birth.

The circular returned by his father suggested Lorenzo was a second cousin of Captain Frederick Miller Johnson of Albert Park, a senior officer in the Medical Corps at Gallipoli. The 52 year-old Johnson was killed on 29 November, 1915

Directories of the time place 53 High Street as at the south western corner of Westgarth Street.



Long, James

Key Address : 94 Bell Street, South Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 4 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Port Sydney
Ship Number : A15
Date of Embarkation : 7 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6303 **Enlisted :** 29/01/1916 **At :** Preston

Born At : Bristol, England **Educated At :** Church of England
Date of Death : 11/04/1917 **Aged :** 43
Place of Death : Bullecourt, France
Buried At : 26 Villers-Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Underground telephone worker, P.M.G
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Mother Mrs Elizabeth Gregory (England)
Wife Mrs Elizabeth Edmonds Long

Eyewitnesses : "... after they came out of the line 11.4.17 I enquired about him but no one saw him after they went over. If I hear anything I will inform you at once. Description: about 5'3", medium build, ginger moustache, slightly bald on top of head. In South African war. His mother lives somewhere outside of London but I don't know the address" P. Mears

"... Green was a pal of Casualty and he told me he saw Casualty killed by H.E. shell at Bullecourt on the 11th April, 1917. He said he was positive about it ..." 6289, E. Jewell

Notes : Long had served nearly twelve years in the British Army before coming to Australia, including two years in South Africa during the Boer War, earning the Queen's Medal and two clasps.

He was listed as Missing from April 11 1917 and his death wasn't confirmed until November, some eight months later. His wife's traumatic wait was worsened when she in the interim received a letter from a private at the front claiming that Long was a prisoner of war in Germany.

Long left a widow and three children (Humphrey, Samuel and Gladys) , although a pension claim for Humphrey was refused as he was over the age of sixteen. The family was later noted in Adeline Street, Preston from early 1921 and his mother was noted as being in London at the time of her son's death.

No circular was returned and there is no record of when the family arrived in Australia, but there are no Victorian Birth Records for the children, suggesting they may have arrived as a family.



Lord, William Henry

Key Address : Seymour Street. Preston

Rank and Unit : Air Mechanic, Australian Flying Corps

Embarked : RMS Morea
Date of Embarkation : 20 April 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 23 **Enlisted :** 29/04/1915 **At :**

Born At : Fitzroy **Educated At :** `South Preston State School

Date of Death : 13/06/1916 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : (of illness as prisoner of war), Adama Hospital, Turkey

Buried At : Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq

Occupation : Iron moulder

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Father William John and Deliah Lord (nee Bree)
Wife Annie Moya Lord (nee Reidy)

Eyewitnesses : "Ä ray of hope shown out for us last February we had a note from the Defence Dept. They had received a card which had been sent to Mrs Adams, mother of Air Mechanic Adams who was taken prisoner with my brother, he was writing from Bagtche, Turkey and he asked his mother to inform the Base Records, Melbourne that Nos. 16, 23 and 48 were with him at that place. My brother's is 23 so the next mail I sent another card and added Bagtche to the address and sent a note to the Secretary at Geneva, but it has been returned" (1917 Letter to London Red Cross from Mrs May Smith. Laverton, Lord's married sister).

Notes : Lord's fate was never mentioned in the Leader, does not appear on the Preston Cenotaph or was it any way linked to our area other than the South Preston State School Honour Roll showing two brothers, H (Hector Fred) and W (William Henry).

They were twin sons of William John Lord, the family living in Seymour Street, Preston at the time the brothers attended South Preston. Both gave the Central Flying School (now Point Cook) at Werribee as their address. William was married, wife Anne shown at 71 Donald Street, Footscray, and Hector gave his mother at the Flying School as next of kin.

William and Hector were twins and enlisted in the Australian Flying Corps and embarked together SS Morea.

While in Egypt, William was one of a group of nine Australian Air Mechanics sent to Kut Al Amara in Mesopotamia and captured by Turkish forces. See [James Munro \(A.I.F\)](#), another of those that died for fuller details.

There were second-hand reports that Lord had died along with others in an American hospital at Adena, Turkey around June, 1916. Queries however from the Red Cross to the Commission des Prisonniers de Guerra in Turkey brought a response that they had no trace of a serviceman named Lord being held in Turkey.

The Red Cross seems to have almost closed the file before the card mentioned my Mrs Smith came to light, but whether he was alive remains problematical.

The official date of death appears to guesswork. He was originally buried in Tarsus Cemetery in a mass grave, when later interred in the official War Graves site in Bagdad showed his date of death as "around 13.7.1916" but his wife on the circular suggested 24 September, 1916; Volume VIII of the official History of the First World War shows 14 April, 1918, the date the A.I.F. officially declared him dead. Francis Adams, mentioned in the eyewitnesses report, is listed as dying between August and November, 1916.

His wife was later at 23 Wordsworth St., St. Kilda; she suggested Hyde Street State School Footscray as his education. Directories show the family in Seymour Street in 1910 went the twins would have been 10 or 11 and midway through their school days.



Loudon, Thomas (Military Medal)

Key Address : 88 Collins Street, Thornbury
Rank and Unit : Private 23 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)
Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 948 **Enlisted :** 5/03/1915 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Scotland **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 20/08/1916 **Aged :** 23
Place of Death : Pozieres, France
Buried At : 102 Bologne Eastern Cemetery, France
Occupation : Grocer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Agnes Seddon Loudon

Eyewitnesses : "... the knee was drained and his condition showed slight improvement, but on the 19th he had a violent second haemorrhage; the vessel was tied and secured but he died the next day from the effects of the haemorrhage ..." (H. C. Siford, Lt. Col)

Notes : Loudon is shown in the Darebin Encyclopaedia amongst those who enlisted at Northcote Town Hall, although the spelling used is London. AWM and National Archives confirm Loudon as the correct spelling.

The circular suggests the family arrived in Melbourne in 1913, Thomas junior then aged 20, but there are no immigration records (notoriously patchy) to confirm this or to identify other family members.

A brother, James is known to have enlisted and there are records of births to Robert and Gertrude Loudon, (married 1908), their children Thomas (1914), Agnes Seddon, (1916, died same year), the same names as the serviceman's parents.

On Attestation, his parents were shown in North Richmond and by embarkation living in Clifton Hill. They were in Collins Street, Northcote when their son was killed.

Loudon was admitted to the 13th Stationary Hospital on August 13 suffering severe gunshot wounds to the right foot and knee suffered on August 4. He died seven days later.

His Military Medal was awarded posthumously in recognition of gallantry during the battle for Pozieres.





Love, Arthur William

Key Address : 9 Bridge Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 4 Infantry Battalion

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 20 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 811 **Enlisted :** 8/09/1914 **At :** Roseberry Park, N.S.W.

Born At : St. Arnaud **Educated At :** Heidelberg State, Working Man's College

Date of Death : 23/07/1915 **Aged :** 24

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 31 Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, ANZAC, Gallipoli

Occupation : Assayer and Metallurgist

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Vallejo and Gertrude Love (nee Morris)

Eyewitnesses : "Private A. W. Love of the Machine Gun Section was killed on the afternoon of 23 July, 1915 in the firing post near Wire Gully by a round shell known to the men as the soccer ball shell, about 12 inches diameter. He with a comrade was killed instantly and he neither spoke or moved after being hit" (Chaplain W. McKenzie, 4th Battalion in a letter to his sister, Elsie, published in the Leader)

Notes : Brother of [Lance Corporal Percival Morris Love](#) also Killed In Action and Robert Alexander Love (1892, expatriated as wounded to Australia). He also had three sisters, Elsie, Beatrice and Chrissie (Christobel).

Arthur Love joined up on the first day that enlistments were taken. The AWM and Darebin Encyclopaedia suggested he enlisted in Northcote although both Attestation papers are marked Rosebery Park Camp in Sydney and he embarked from there.

A query from his father in 1936 regarding outstanding payments brought a response that he enlisted in the 2nd Military District and suggests queries be directed to Victoria Barracks, Paddington, Sydney.

His embarkation shows the Bridge Street address, but the Encyclopaedia has him at 2 Pearl Street, Northcote, an address more or less confirmed by the Leader in 1917 after Percival had been killed. Archives however show a change of address to 71 Gladstone Avenue, Northcote in October 1915 when Percival embarked.

Later addresses in Charles Street and Westbourne Grove are noted, the circular later returned by his father, this time at 54 Gladstone Avenue and by 1936 back at a different address in Westbourne Grove.



Love, Percival Morris

Key Address : 71 Gladstone Avenue, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal, 5 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 11 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3327 **Enlisted :** 11/08/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : St. Arnaud **Educated At :** Gold Street, Clifton Hill State School
Date of Death : 11/04/1917 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : Bullecourt, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Letter Carrier (P.M.G.)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Vallejo and Gertrude Love (nee Morris)

Eyewitnesses : "We had just left the jumping off trench making for the Hindenburg Line on April 11th at about 4.45 a.m. at Bullecourt (Love was in my section and of course I knew him very well) when he fell from M/G bullet. He did not speak and died immediately. We had to go on. Stretcher Bearers were just behind us but I do not know what became of his body: (2nd Lt. W.L.Hann)

Notes : Brother to Private [Arthur William Love](#), Killed In Action, and Robert Alexander Love, severely wounded and returned to Australia where he spent several months in the Elsternwick Military Hospital.

Percival and Robert both worked for the Post-Master General's department and there were also three sisters in the family.

The Leader on reporting his death had his parents in Gladstone Avenue and him living with two sisters in Pearl Street, Northcote, but appear to shifted on a number of occasions.

He was wounded in the right arm in France in August 1916 and re-joined his unit in December, being promoted to Lance Corporal a month later

His National Archive file is held as Percival Harris Love. His three sisters were Elsie (unknown), Beatrice (1891) and Christabel (1896), while another brother, Sydney (1897) died a month after birth. Elsie and "Chrissie" were noted at the Gladstone Avenue address when Percy was killed.



Lowe, Harold (Lowe, Henry Charles)

Key Address : Raglan Street, Preston
Rank and Unit : Private 22 Infantry Battalion 9 to 12 Reinforcements (February - April 1916)
Embarked : HMAT Euripides (see below)
 Ship Number : A14
 Date of Embarkation : 4 April 1916
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 2226/340/4742 **Enlisted :** 7/02/1916 **At :** Collingwood
Born At : Preston **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 3/05/1917 **Aged :** 36
Place of Death : France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France
Occupation : Miner
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas William and Sarah Lowe (nee Dean)
 Wife Mrs Mary Lowe (later Paget)

Notes : To say Lowe (of whatever given names he used) was a bit of a lad would be an understatement!

National Archives have him as Henry Charles Lowe and the AWM simply as Harry, perhaps confirmed in 1922 when a Death Notice (below) for his father also used the latter. Victorian Birth Records show his birth as Harry Charles Lowe and the Leader didn't help, suggesting he was "P. C. Lowe", but they could be excused for being confused. Lowe managed to enlist three times!

He first joined up in September, 1914, using the names Henry Charles and listed a wife in Collingwood, later at 59 Charles Street, Northcote. Lowe lasted just five weeks in the A.I.F. and was discharged on October 31 for refusing to be inoculated.

On December 11, he was back again, this time enlisting under the same name in the 3rd Battalion of the Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, a group outside of the A.I.F. and charged with the defence of New Guinea and the Pacific Islands.

The history becomes somewhat unclear at this point.

A note in his archives suggests he embarked on the "Eastern" from Melbourne on January 25, 1915, but AWM nominal rolls do not show him, nor do the detailed lists for the N & M Force.

Although it is uncertain just how he got there, Lowe was soon in strife and was returned to Australia on May 19 to serve six months with hard labour following a Court Martial in Rabaul on May 12. Although the sentence is recorded, National Archives contain no details of the actual charge and later enquiries to the 3rd Military District suggested they had no record of Lowe.

He re-enlisted in January 1916 – whether it was a subterfuge isn't certain, but by now he used the name Harry and declared himself single. Army records being what they were, it appears authorities had no idea of his previous record. After arriving in England he was twice court-martialled for being Absent With Leave before being posted as Missing on 3 May, 1917 and certified Killed In Action as at that date in November.



Lowe, Harold (Lowe, Henry Charles) continued

Details of his wife came to light in August 1918 when she produced a Marriage Certificate and Statutory Declaration to the effect that while they had been living apart, the couple were not legally separated and she had a Court Order of 15 shillings per week against him from May 1917 to October when she received a War Pension.

If any further proof was needed that Lowe was a "player", it came when pensions were allocated to his wife, daughter Julia and a son, George, and also to Henry Charles Lowe, an "ex-nuptial" child living with his mother, May Kennedy of 62 Perry Street, Collingwood.

The knife took a final twist in February 1922 when official enquiries were made as to Lowe's next-of-kin and a Provost reported back that Lowe's father had died in 1920 and Henry (the ba***rd) in 1919, and that there were three living children, nominating Julia (then Mrs Julia Sullivan in Palmer Street, Collingwood) as the oldest. The name of the third child and whether he or she was from the marriage remains unknown.

National Archives hold three identical copies of his history under the different Service Numbers, chronologically 2226, 340 and 4742.

The Death Notice in the Leader for his father suggests Lowe had four sisters, for which only married names were given, a brother, Tasman, and that the family had resided in South Preston for 48 years.



Lowe, Theodore Ralph

Key Address : Regent Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Corporal, 4 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
 Ship Number : A18
 Date of Embarkation : 18 November, 1915
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6793 **Enlisted :** 17/07/1915 **At :**

Born At : Preston **Educated At :** Geelong College

Date of Death : 18/09/1918 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : Roisel, France

Buried At : Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Rev. James and Louisa Elizabeth Lowe (nee Howell)

Eyewitnesses : "I saw Corporal Lowe, 12th Battery killed by shell (hit nearly all over) at Roisel about 5-6 a.m. He was in charge of the gun next to me, when the shell burst, I ran over and lifted Bombardier Stevenson (who died an hour or two after at the dressing Station) into a sunken road. Lowe said something, but I didn't hear what – when I returned a few minutes after, he was dead, so he died practically instantly". (Sergeant F. H. Taylor, 346)

Notes : Lowe was a late addition to our archives after it was discovered that he was born in Preston when the family were living on the south side of Regent Street, between the railway line and Spring Street. His father at the time was co-Reverend with the Wesleyan Church in Yann Street, South Preston in conjunction with a Rev. W. Harris.

He enlisted when the family where at the Parsonage in Lilydale, and given at least part of his education was at Geelong College and his parents were later noted in Clifton Hill and East Camberwell, they may, like a few other families of the cloth, moved between parishes on a regular basis.

Lowe had earlier been wounded, suffering a gunshot wound to the right hand in November, 1917.

He was severely reprimanded just three months before he was killed; two of the charges being that he neglected to obey A.S.C. Regulation 108 in that he galloped a horse on a paved road, and he was found to be in possession of champagne. There was nothing to indicate whether the two charges were related!

His known siblings were Alfred (1882), Muriel (1885) and Eric (1888, Casterton, A.I.F., wounded).

Birth registrations for another brother, Leslie Howell Lowe show him born in 1880 with no place of birth noted, and another entry under the same name in Horsham in 1898.

AWM records confirm the former version (and at Horsham); he served briefly in the Boer War and again on the Western Front, the circular returned by his father suggesting he remained in Belgium doing special educational work with servicemen after the Armistice.



Lucas, Alfred (Croix de Guerre, Belgium)

Key Address : "Myrtleville", 104 Flinders Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant, 3rd Division 8th FAB (Field Artillery Brigade)
Embarked Corporal Provisional 8 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (May

Embarked : HMAT Medic
Ship Number : A7
Date of Embarkation : 20 May 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 19602 **Enlisted :** 24/01/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Cassilis **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 13/12/1919 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : (of tubercular meningitis), Caulfield Hospital
Buried At : Coburg General Cemetery

Occupation : Clerk
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George Albert (late) and Emma Lucas (nee Sherwood)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Before enlisting at 19, Lucas had four and half years with the Senior Cadets and a volunteer Artillery Corps based in Albert Park. He showed his mother as next-of-kin, his father having died in 1914 aged 54 (show in that year's Electoral Rolls as a farmer).

He was promoted to Sergeant in December 1916, to Battery Sergeant- Major in September, 1917, to 2nd Lieutenant in September, 1918, and to full Lieutenant in December, 1918, after hostilities had ceased.

Lucas had the rare honour of being awarded the Croix de Guerre ("Cross of War") by "His Majesty, the King of the Belgian People" in February 1918, the award being officially gazetted in London on 12 July 1918.

Lucas returned to Australia, arriving on May 29, 1919 before being admitted to the 11th Australian General Hospital at Caulfield in July with pleuro-pneumonia. He died at 6:30 a.m. on December 13, 1919, the hospital report noting that his next-of-kin was present, suggesting his passing was not unexpected. The official cause of death was given as tubercular meningitis.

Not long after his death, his mother moved to 28 Lockhart Street, Caulfield. In 1936, she apparently lost the Mother's Medal given to the nearest female next-of-kin of servicemen, the medal being found by a local resident and returned to her via the Base Depot.

Lucas had three sisters, Olive (1890), Lillian (1892), and Myrtle (1900), and an elder brother, Sydney (1894).



Lucas, James

Key Address : 24 Harper Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private: 60th Battalion
Embarked Private 57 Infantry Battalion - 2 to 5 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Ajana
Ship Number : A31
Date of Embarkation : 8 July 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1961 **Enlisted :** 26/03/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Bundoora **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 5/10/1918 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : (of wounds), 3rd Australian General Hospital, Abbeville, France

Buried At : 52 Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Wicker worker

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James and Lavinia Lucas (nee Snell)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Lucas had stints in hospital with tonsillitis, diarrhoea and V.D. during his time in France.

He suffered multiple gunshot wounds on September 30, 1918 when in action near Abbeville in France and was transferred to the 3rd Australian General Hospital the following day, dying some six days later.

Lucas had a sister, Isabella (1892), a brother, William (1898), whilst another sister, Susie died in childbirth, and a note on file from his mother reveals his father, James, died on September 20, 1922.

The circular returned her notes as a further reference Evelyn Lucas at the Harper Street address, presumably a sister not recorded in registrations.

It goes on to suggest a cousin identified only as "C. Brown" was Killed In Action, but sadly, little more is known of Lucas's private or military career.

The Preston Football Club report on the 1918 season acknowledged the cessation of hostilities suggests one of their players, "J. Lucas" died during the conflict - almost certainly this serviceman. The same report also noted the loss of another player, [J. R. Hopkins](#) who died of influenza shortly after leaving England to return to Australia.



Lugton, Frank Leslie

Key Address : "Hillburn", Prospect Grove, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal, 24th Battalion
Embarked Private, 24th Infantry Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 447 **Enlisted :** 30/03/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Fairfield State School, correspondence school

Date of Death : 29/07/1916 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Pozieres, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Electrical Engineer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles Edward and Jane Anne Lugton (nee May)

Eyewitnesses : Jim Main's "Fallen" a tribute to League footballers who died in service of their country suggests that his Commanding Officer recalled that his cricketing expertise made him a perfect grenade thrower!

Notes :

A brother, [John Archibald Lugton](#), 3191, 57th Battalion was also Killed In Action (included). Another brother, Edward Charles also embarked.

As the leading sportsman in town, the Leader followed Lugton's every move.

He was admitted to hospital in Alexandria with shell shock in December 1915, the report suggesting he was suffering defective vision in the right eye. He spent three months recuperating there before sailing for England. Prior to his admission, Lugton had been promoted to Lance Corporal, but he later returned to the ranks at his own request.

He was Northcote's second interstate/colonial cricketer following Jack Harry in the 1890's and became the first Sheffield Shield cricketer to die in the war when he was killed in France in July 1916.

Lugton's career with Victoria still lay ahead of him as he was only 21 when he enlisted. He had played two matches for Victoria as an all-rounder, averaging 10.75 with the bat and taking six wickets at the rather expensive average of 46.

He also played League football with Melbourne in 1913 and 1914, notching 32 games in total.

Oddly enough, Lugton took over jumper 17 for Melbourne after another player who lived in Northcote, Hedley Tompkins, a star for the Preston and later Melbourne (71 games) clubs, moved to Western Australia. Tompkins won an award for the best player in W.A. based on newspaper votes in 1914 but lost a leg in France in 1917.

The Lugton family (in chronological order) was Edward (1885), Albert (1887), John (1889), William (1892), Frank (1893), Ethel (1896), Charles (1897), Victoria (1899), Reginald (1901) and Vera (1905). Another, Norma, died in 1902 within a month of childbirth. All are listed as born in Northcote.

If there was a family Christmas dinner, it must have been a huge affair! Charles Edward Lugton's brother Alexander lived nearby in Fairfield, he and his Emily producing at least twelve living children!





Lugton, John Archibald

Key Address : "Hillburn", Prospect Grove, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private, 57 Infantry Battalion
 6 to 9 Reinforcements (October 1916 - June 1917)
Embarked : HMAT Medic
 Ship Number : A7
 Date of Embarkation : 16 December 1916
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 3193 **Enlisted :** 16/10/1916 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Fairfield State School
Date of Death : 9/08/1918 **Aged :** 29
Place of Death : (of wounds), 20th Casualty Station, Villiers 24 Jan 1916, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France
Occupation : Farmer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles Edward and Jane Anne Lugton (nee May)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Known as Archie. Brother of [Frank Leslie Lugton](#), 447, 24th Battalion also Killed In Action. A elder brother, Edward Charles enlisted 30 June 1915. The circulars for the two casualties were returned from the Prospect Grove address. The little street did not carry numbers at the time of the brothers enlisting, but directories show the Lugton family of the western side, two doors from Mitchell Street.
 There were ten children in the Lugton family, seven sons and three daughters and Lugton Avenue in Alphington acknowledges the family's contribution to the war effort.
 Archie Lugton suffered a gunshot wound to the leg at Rouen on September 1917 and spent three months recuperating, spending some weeks in the 9th United States of America Hospital. After returning to the front, he suffered a gunshot wound to the chest on August 8 1918 and died at the 20th Casualty Clearing Station the following day.
 The Lugton family suffered a further tragedy on August 5, 1922 when another son, Reginald, died in hospital after being concussed in a football match playing with Old Wesley Collegians against a University team. He suffered a knock to the head in the first quarter but played the match before collapsing and dying in hospital the same night.
 By a terrible coincidence, another Northcote man died on the football field the following Saturday. William Hocking, labourer, aged 24 of 58 Union Street, Northcote died at 3 a.m. Sunday, August 13 as a result of a brain haemorrhage, the result of injuries in a match between Foy and Gibson's and Heidelberg Juniors at Heidelberg
 It is not known when the family moved to the district, but some correspondence from John Lugton's father appears under the letterhead of "A. Lugton and Sons, Engineers, Blacksmiths, Boilermakers, 32 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.
 Again, not a lot of the history of "A. Lugton and Sons" remains, but a snippet in "The Australasian" of July 5, 1884, suggests both that the business was of substantial size and the Lugton family may have already been connected to the area ... "a very interesting match was played last Saturday at Fairfield-Park, Alphington, between the employees of T. Lugton and Sons, Married vs Singles."
 (For the record, the "Benedicts", as married men were then known, won six goals to three after trailing by three goals to nil at half-time – perhaps not surprising as a few similar matches of that type suggested "The Singles" tended to spend rather more time than was good for their on-field performances wining and dining their (perhaps) intended during breaks in play)!



Lynch, Matthew George

Key Address : 11 Melton Street, South Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 7 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4849 **Enlisted :** 24/11/1915 **At :** South Preston

Born At : St. Helen's, England **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 20/08/1916 **Aged :** 19

Place of Death : Somme, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Matthew Joseph and Bridgette Lynch (late, nee Aylward)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Letters from Lynch's father in April, 1917 and 1920 directories place him at 258 High Street, Preston (the northern corner of Preston Street), and there is an obscure reference to him later at Lynch Avenue, Fawkner.

No circular was returned but immigration records suggest Lynch's father arrived in Australia in October, 1905, followed by his mother and a younger sibling (not named) some three months later after Matthew senior had finalised domestic arrangements for the family.

Brigitte Lynch died in Epping in 1911.

Lynch was killed just three weeks after being taken on strength from the reinforcement reserves, but sadly like a few English-born servicemen that had settled in Darebin, there is little else known of his private or military background.

His National Archive at just 29 pages including several blank pre-printed forms is one of the shortest of any serviceman from the district that died in service.



Lyon, Ernest

Key Address : 28 Wilson Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 21 Infantry Battalion
13 to 18 Reinforcements (July-November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Shropshire
Ship Number : A9
Date of Embarkation : 25 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5638 **Enlisted :** 15/05/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Lancashire **Educated At :** Christ Church, Aughton, England

Date of Death : 25/07/1918 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : (of wounds), Villers Bretonneux, France

Buried At : 303 Longeau British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Farmer/Driver

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Edith Lyon (nee Bate)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

The family circumstances are a little obscure. His parents are listed as William and Edith - immigration records show his mother, a 20 year old sister, also Edith, and Ernest arriving in May, 1914, just three months before the outbreak of hostilities but with no record of William between 1910 and 1916. The circular returned by his mother lists a Harold Lyon at her address as a further reference; immigration records have a 46 year-old passenger of this name arriving in 1913.

His parents from December, 1919 were at 150 Gladstone Avenue, Northcote, although for a period they could not be traced, the Defence Department forced to advertise for their whereabouts.

The Leader listed him as Missing in May of 1917, undoubtedly on the basis of official lists, but he was only missing through something of a bureaucratic mix-up.

Lyon was wounded in the left leg by a machine gun bullet in February, some three months before he was "missing", and his wounds combined with stays in hospital with influenza and trench fever meant it wasn't until June of the following year, some 15 months later, that he returned to the front.

He suffered compound fractures of both legs in a shell explosion some six weeks later, (July 25, 1918) and died at the 6th Australian Field Ambulance the same day.

There is an unidentified "L. Lyons" listed on the Preston Cenotaph, but there is nothing to suggest this was Ernest Lyon.



Macaulay, Stephen

Key Address : 29 Charles Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 3 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 20 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 1365 **Enlisted :** 29/08/1914 **At :** Kensington, N.S.W.

Born At : Petersburg, S.A. **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 28/04/1915 **Aged :** 31

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : Lone Pine Memorial, Turkey

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C of E

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert and Lucy Macaulay (nee Double) (both late)
Brother John Macaulay

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Macaulay was born in South Australia and working in country New South Wales when he enlisted, giving his brother John in High Street, Northcote (later at 29 Charles Street) as his next-of-kin.

Both of his parents were deceased and a later letter from John Macaulay suggested all other brothers and sisters were also dead. John's wife, Frances, attempting to claim a pension, but was rejected as "not a member of family as defined in the War Pensions Act".

There is little recorded of his army career or eventual death – the name in many places is shown as "McCaulay"

His death was not reported in the Leader, and he appeared under New South Wales in the 25th Casualty List posted on 29 April, 1915.

The surviving sibling John is something of a mystery - South Australian records show the offspring of Robert and Lucy Macaulay as Stephen (1884), John McDougall Scott (1886), Mary (1887), Bessie (1889) and John Scott (1890).

Whether John McDougall died between 1886 and 1890, or whether the family followed an old Scottish tradition of naming sons with an identical first name and then differentiating between them using the second name remains a mystery.



Macaw, Charles James Campbell

Key Address : 16 Merri Parade, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Acting Bombardier, 22nd Field Artillery Brigade
Embarked Driver Unit 4 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (November

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 18 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6972 **Enlisted :** 28/06/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Ballarat **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 10/06/1916 **Aged :** 31

Place of Death : (of disease), France

Buried At : 40 Etaples Military Cemetery, France

Occupation : Warehouseman (Paterson, Laing and Bruce)

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Parents James Campbell and Rettrena Macaw (nee Chinn)

Eyewitnesses :

Kin/Family : Wife Mrs Margaret Agnes Macaw (nee Murrihy)

Notes :

The Leader noted two brothers C.M.C. (Cyril) and R.C. (enlisted as Raymond, but birth records suggest "Richmond") were noted as serving overseas – in fact, a third brother, Charles (1885) also served in France.

Cyril (before enlisting, a commercial reporter with The Argus) was severely wounded at Gallipoli and returned to Australia. There was another brother, Rupert, who did not enlist.

The Leader noted Macaw had spent five years in the Australian Navy before becoming a farmer in the Western District, but his archives suggest he was a warehouseman

His wife's address on his Attestation is shown in Merri Parade, Northcote and later at 5 Shaftesbury Avenue, Croxton. The couple had no children. By 1920, she was in Jackson Street, St. Kilda and re-married in 1923, becoming Mrs Margaret Coffey. His mother was in Armadale Street, Croxton.

Macaw was first admitted to the 9th Field Ambulance on May 9, 1916, suffering from pleurisy and his condition worsened. He was transferred to the 22nd Field Ambulance and ultimately to the 26th F.A., but he died at 3:15 am on June 10.

The official cause of death was given as a stomach haemorrhage.

The family name is sometimes shown as McCaw – The Argus in fact having to publish a correction after he was listed under the wrong spelling.





Mackay, Hugh Grant

Key Address : 201 Gillies Street, Fairfield Park
Rank and Unit : Private, 21st Australian Infantry
Embarked : RMS Moldava
Date of Embarkation : 5 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (see notes)
Service Number : 2743 **Enlisted :** 17/07/1915 **At :** Fairfield
Born At : Carlton **Educated At :** Fairfield State School
Date of Death : 25/07/1918 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England
Buried At : 82 Harefield (St Mary) Churchyard, Middlesex, England
Occupation : Farm Labourer . Brass Finisher
Marital Status : Single **Religion :**
Next of Kin/Family : Parents David Grant and Mary Jessie Jane Mackay (nee Ryan)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : His father was in Union Street, Richmond at the time of the first Attestation, at Gillies Street at the time of his son's death and from 1919 at Maldon in central Victoria.

For reasons unknown, no record remains in the AWM database of Mackay's embarkation. A contingent of some 303 members of the 21st Battalion left Melbourne on RMS Moldava, but there is no trace of Service Number 2741, 2742 or 2743.

Attestation and associated archives suggest Grant was a major disciplinary problem for authorities with a long strict of charges for being Absent Without Leave. and other offences, one bringing 48 days detention and a subsequent series of misdemeanours earning him another 150 days in custody commencing 20 August, 1917.

That sentence was remitted as part of an amnesty on Christmas Eve, but within three weeks, Grant was again Absent Without Leave. That cost him another 24 days and it seems authorities washed their hands of him and sent him as quickly as possible to the front.

He was admitted to hospital in France on 24 April, 1918 with tubercle peritonitis (an abnormal growth on the lining of the stomach). He was repatriated back to England a fortnight later and died at the No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 25 July.

Hugh appears to have been an only child - he suggested on enlistment he was born in Carlton, but official records suggest Clifton Hill.



MacNee, Kenneth

Key Address : 53 David Street, Preston
Rank and Unit : Signaller, 5 Infantry Battalion
 13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)
Embarked : HMAT Euripides
 Ship Number : A14
 Date of Embarkation : 4 April 1916
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 5726 **Enlisted :** 1/02/1916 **At :** Northcote
Born At : North Fitzroy **Educated At :** Northcote State School
Date of Death : 20/09/1917 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : Menin, Belgium
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium
Occupation : Ironmonger
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Mary Elizabeth MacNee (nee Mitchell)
 Other Mrs G. H. Price (adopting mother)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : "MacNee" was the spelling shown in AWM records and used by the Leader when reporting his death, but many of the entries in Civil Registrations are under "McNee".
 Both parents were deceased at the time of his enlistment and the Leader noted Mrs G. H. Price as his adopting mother, suggesting they may have been dead for some time. His sister (Mary) Isabel in David Street, Preston was listed as next-of-kin. MacNee's death in Casualty Lists however appeared under Whittlesea.
 The Leader noted MacNee was "a nephew of the Mitchell boys" (later research reveal they were Cr. C. Mitchell and Messrs. T and F. H. Mitchell of Northcote), but got themselves somewhat confused, suggest Kenneth had "enlisted from Western Australia where he was engaged with his brother Harry in the pearling industry".
 His eldest brother, Harold McLachlan MacNee (born 1887, "his boyhood and early youth being spent in Northcote") did enlist from Broome, Western Australia. He served with the 10th Light Horse Regiment, reaching the rank of Lieutenant and was awarded the D.C.M. and M.C.
 Another brother Jack (christened John, 1889) also served in Palestine and seems to have been the second brother involved in pearl fishing.
 Official records show his mother dying in Northcote in 1903 - his father was probably a John McNee shown in records as dying in 1896 at age 47.
 MacNee was wounded in the head and right forearm at Etaples in August 1916 and repatriated to England, re-joining his Battalion in February 1917. He was promoted to Lance Corporal just a fortnight before being Killed In Action.
 The three brothers had a younger sister, Mary Isabel (1895).



Magner, Michael

Key Address : 2 Creek Parade, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 6 Infantry Battalion
1 to 9 Reinforcements (December 1914 - September 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 13 April 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Magnar)

Service Number : 1795 **Enlisted :** 1/01/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Launceston **Educated At :** St Bridget's North Fitzroy

Date of Death : 30/11/1916 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Needle Trench, France

Buried At : 307 Bancourt British Cemetery

Occupation : Boot maker

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Michael (V.C) (late) and Margaret Magner (late, nee Carroll)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : His father, Drummer Michael Magner (died 1897) was awarded a Victoria Cross at Magdala, Abyssinia in 1868 when a British expedition was sent to rescue a party of British subjects imprisoned by a local king. He served with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and was said to be the youngest recipient of the honour up to the beginning of the First World War. The medal is on public display in Museum Victoria, Carlton Gardens, Melbourne.

In the tradition of a military family, a brother, Walter, was one of the first from Northcote to enlist, embarking for further training in Egypt on 19 October 1914 and being wounded at Gallipoli. Another brother, Charles enlisted at the same time, but was discharged for reasons unknown just eight weeks later.

Magner was wounded in the left thigh at Gallipoli early in August 1915 and after a week in hospital in Alexandria was invalided to the Bethnal Green Military Hospital in England. After release he spent several months with a Training Battalion and it wasn't until October 1916 that he re-joined the fighting ranks.

Despite the military background, he was found guilty on three or four minor charges, the worst of which earned him 28 days Field Punishment.

His mother Margaret died in September, 1916, just two months before Michael. She was listed as next of kin (as "friend") of another serviceman, Private Francis Gerald Barry who listed 2 Creek Parade as his residential address. Other siblings included Geraldine (1886) and Matthew (1892).



Malkin, Cyril Walter

Key Address : High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 38th Battalion Infantry (June, 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Runic
Ship Number : A54
Date of Embarkation : 20 June, 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 137 **Enlisted :** 20/02/1916 **At :** Mildura

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 27/02/1917 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Bonjean, France

Buried At : 922 Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, France

Occupation : Farmer (also trained in carpentry)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Frederick Henry and Ellen Malkin (nee Roe)

Eyewitnesses : "We were going over the top and were just behind our own barbed wire when a shell exploded on us and up went the whole show. He had hold of my coat which, as we were on a Lewis gun, was out way of keeping together. I saw him lying on the ground wounded in the leg and I heard afterwards he was killed, I was wounded at the same time and was unable to help him ... he was about 5 feet 9" and fair" (A. J. Parfett 1632)

Notes :

A Death Notice placed by his family revealed Malkin was born in Northcote, and although his family had for about four years been farming at Underbool (via Ouyen), the entry described him as "late of Northcote".

The alphabetic section of the 1889 Sands and McDougall directory show his father as "Grocer, High Street", but he is not shown in the street grid - there were two Moran and Cato stores, perhaps managed by the Malkin family.

The family was at a number of addresses until leaving Northcote around 1912 - from High Street, Frederick Malkin is shown for a couple of years as running a store in Clarke Street, a few doors east of St. George's Road, from 1893 at 45 Henry Street, later changed to 61 (this may have been due to re-numbering rather than a house move), in 1898, Helen Street, and from 1905 at 11 Smith Street where remained till 1911.

For reasons unknown, Malkin spent just on nine months at the Bendigo camp (compared to the six or seven weeks for most servicemen) before embarking for the Western Front.

Malkin was posted as Missing on 27 February, 1917, in July of the same year confirmed Killed In Action. There were several eyewitnesses at the inquiry into his death, but none actually saw him killed.

Most suggested that they "had seen his grave", one noting that the initials were incorrect, the cross marked "G. W".

A couple testified that he had been hit in the leg, one suggesting Malkin said "he had a good Blighty one" (a wound that would see him repatriated to England), but it appears he died either from shock or septic poisoning before he reached an aid station.

He had two siblings, Ella and Harry.



Manderson, Wilfred Horace

Key Address : 38 Bridge Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 24 Infantry Battalion
13 to 18 Reinforcements (July-November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Shropshire
Ship Number : A9
Date of Embarkation : 25 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5626 **Enlisted :** 25/03/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Ascot Vale **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 6/05/1917 **Aged :** 21
Place of Death : (of wounds), Bullecourt, France
Buried At : 646 Queant Road Cemetery, Buissy, France

Occupation : Printer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Harriet Elizabeth Manderson (nee Rose)

Eyewitnesses : "His brother at Dartford about 14 days ago told me about three weeks ago he had been making enquiries through Horseferry Rd. and that they had ascertained he was a P/W" (M. J. Coomber, 6563)
"I was at Bullecourt on May 5th. the Germans attacked at midnight but we held our ground. Manderson was wounded alongside of me. I saw him put on a stretcher. Sergeant Considine, now in some hospital in England knows all about it as he put him on the stretcher" Sergeant Claude Wilson Latch

Notes : His elder brother, Horace, 5627, enlisted two days later and embarked as part of the same reinforcements. Other siblings were Ada (1890), Thomas (1892) and Raymond (1897). His parents were later noted different addresses in Carlton and Ascot Vale.
Eyewitness accounts (there is a huge file) are wildly conflicting, one suggesting Horace at different times was informed Manderson was a POW and on another occasion, in hospital in England.
Most agreed he had been wounded, but just happened after he was placed on the stretcher remains unknown.
He was declared Killed In Action on May 6 at an enquiry on August 17, after the Red Cross could find no trace of him in a German camp. Unlike many listed as missing, Manderson's remains were later found and re-interred in the Queant Road Military Cemetery.



Manning, Godfrey George

Key Address : 71 Clyde Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Captain, 4th Pioneer Battalion.
Embarked Sapper, 2 FCE [Field Company Engineers] (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Orvieto
Ship Number A3
Date of Embarkation : 21 October, 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 99 **Enlisted :** 18/08/1914 **At :**

Born At : Traralgon **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 08/08/1918 **Aged :** 28
Place of Death : Morcourt, France
Buried At : Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France

Occupation : Electrician
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R. C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Sophia Manning (nee Johns)

Eyewitnesses : "Capt. Manning was 2nd in command of D Coy.. He had come out from England about six months before to join the Battalion. We had advanced a long way up the Somme and that night he went out with Q.M.S. Sutherland to mark out some strong points where we might dig in. Sgt,. Somerville told me afterwards a whizz-bang got Capt. Manning, blew him up and killed him instantaneously. I did not see it myself, we were waiting just behind ready to go and dig in ..." (Corporal F. O. Chapman, 1632)

Notes : Manning enlisted when the family was living in Scott Street, Dandenong.

They were still there at the time of his death before briefly moving to Ormond Street, Mordialloc, and then in July, 1919 to 71 Clyde Street, Northcote, the address quoted on the AWM Roll of Honour and in an In Memoriam notice placed on the first anniversary of Godfrey's death.

He was promoted to Corporal, October, 1915, and then unusually directly to Second Lieutenant in April, 1916, skipping the various ranks of Sergeant. Manning then became a full Lieutenant in July and Captain in October, 1917.

Manning was out of action soon after the landings at Gallipoli with influenza and served out much of the Dardanelles campaign with Divisional staff in Egypt. He was transferred to the 4th Pioneer Battalion in March, 1916 while still in Egypt

He was wounded twice : once accidentally to the right arm and leg in England in April, 1917 when serving as a Temporary Lieutenant. After recuperation and further training, he joined his unit in France in July, and was again wounded in action by a shell explosion in October, 1917, this time to the right leg and left arm.

Manning was Mentioned In Despatches of General Douglas Haig in April, 1918 for outstanding service between September, 1917 and February, 1918. One section of his archive suggests he was killed just one day after returning to his unit from an Engineering School.

Having enlisted and embarked in 1914, Manning should have been entitled to the six months Special Leave offered to serviceman who had served for more than four years, but there is nothing in his history suggesting this was ever offered.

Manning was the eldest of six children; the other John (1891, died 1905), Leo (1900), Albert (1902), Gerald (1905), Patrick (1908) and Margaret (1911). Although shown as 71 Clyde Street, there appears to have been a re-numbering in the early 1920s and the property is later shown as number 61.



Marr, Frederick Harold

Key Address : 28 Hutton Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 1st Pioneer Battalion. Embarked Private 8 Infantry Battalion - 7 to 9 Reinforcements (July - September 1915)

Embarked SS Makarini
Date of Embarkation : 15 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2931 **Enlisted :** 30/06/1915 **At :** Port Melbourne

Born At : Port Melbourne **Educated At :** Central Richmond State School

Date of Death : 1/01/1917 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : (of wounds) Bernafay, France

Buried At : 400 Bernafay Wood British Cemetery Montauban

Occupation : Baker

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Frederick William and Fanny Marr (nee Legget)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

No immediate record of Marr's death ever appeared in the Leader, but his fate came to light when his name was later included on a list of those commemorated by an Honour Board of the Thornbury Presbyterian Church in May, 1919.

His parents address on embarkation was 39 Nicholson Street, Abbotsford, later adjusted to Hutton Street. Other siblings included William (1891), Elsie (1893) and Albert (1900). The Hutton Street address was shown when Albert enlisted in March, 1918.

Like Albert, Frederick Marr appears to have enlisted on his 18th birthday and was originally assigned to the 2nd Tunnelling Company of the Australian Mining Corps and then to the 1st Pioneer Battalion.

.No Red Cross details remain but archives reveal he died from back wounds at the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance Station on the same day he was admitted, New Year's Day, 1917.

The circular returned by his father suggested he was related to Arthur Marr (Clifton Hill) also Killed in Action , in all likelihood a cousin..



Marsh, Harry Leslie

Key Address : 32 Gooch Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
 1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)
Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
 Ship Number : A32
 Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1914
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 1157 **Enlisted :** 3/10/1914 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Bendigo **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : near Zonnebeke Ridge, Belgium
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium
Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Parents father unknown, mother Annie Marsh
 Foster Mother Mrs Catherine Matheson

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Both parents were listed as deceased on his Attestation and his foster-mother, Mrs Catherine Matheson shown as next-of-kin. He appears to have been born out of wedlock and his father may well have been untraceable rather than dead.

Birth records show him as Harry Leslie Marsh, confirmed by Electoral Rolls, but service records appear under Leslie Harry Marsh – there is also variances in Service Number, 1157 and 1180 both noted.

According to National Archives, Mrs Matheson shifted to 68 St. David Street, Northcote after Marsh's death and could not be contacted in regards to the distribution of medals. Directories of the day however do not list a Mrs Matheson in Northcote, suggesting she was lodging in the area.

An investigating officer later reported that Marsh had been "the illegitimate son of a man and woman now deceased", had no brothers or sisters, and had been cared for by Mrs Matheson since he was two months old. She also had a son of her own, Vivian enlist from the Gooch Street address

Marsh suffered a fractured nose in a shell explosion at Gallipoli in August, 1915, and was invalided back to England where he served with a training unit before returning to active service in June 1916.

The Leader suggested after his death that he had been recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal, but there no evidence of such a recommendation in AWM records.

Just where Marsh was killed is not clearly identified in AWM or National Archive records, but the 5th Infantry lost 105 men on the day that he died - other circulars place the demise of their loved ones at either Zonnebeke or Broodseinde Ridge in Belgium.



Marshall, James Charles

Key Address : 200 Heidelberg Road, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 14 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Anchises
Ship Number : A68
Date of Embarkation : 14 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4862 **Enlisted :** 7/01/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Kew **Educated At :** George Street, Fitzroy State School

Date of Death : 9/07/1917 **Aged :** 19

Place of Death : Messines, Belgium

Buried At : 168 Messines Ridge British Cemetery, Belgium

Occupation : Porter, Victorian Railways

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Charles (late) and Hannah Marshall, later Walker)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

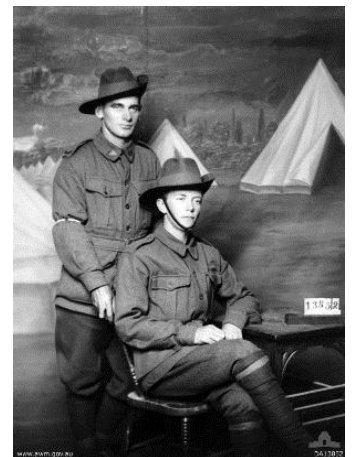
Parts of Marshall's archives suggest his father was a James Marshall living in Southampton, England, but although the files carry the Service Number 4862, they show the man enlisting at Warwick Farm in Sydney and appear to be a case of mistaken identity.

His father died in Kew in 1907, Marshall's mother, by then Mrs Walker was from 1918 at "Rossville", Speight Street, Northcote and later returned the circular from 100 Station Street, Fairfield.

The circular suggested Marshall was two weeks short of his 18th birthday when he was killed – if this is correct, he would have only been 16 and six months when he enlisted - this is more or less confirmed by Birth Records which have him born in Kew in 1899.

He claimed to be 18 years and 6 months at the time of his Attestation - even at this age, he would have required written permission from his parents, but there is no record of their giving their approval in his Archives (although this is not an particularly uncommon omission.

Nothing is recorded of her second husband, but pension applications for Marshall's sisters Cora, Grace and Hannah, and well as two step-children of the second marriage, Alexander and Alice Walker were all rejected as "not dependent" on Marshall.



This AWM image shows a youthful James Marshall seated with an unknown companion



Martin, Samuel Abijah

Key Address : Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 21st Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (June 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Warilda
Ship Number : A69
Date of Embarkation : 8 February 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3865 **Enlisted :** 08/07/1915 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Redding, U.K. **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 01/09/1916 **Aged :** 35
Place of Death : (of wounds), 12th Ambulance Train, France
Buried At : St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France

Occupation : Tailor's Cutter
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Baptist

Next of Kin/Family : Father Samuel Abijah Martin
Wife Jean Isabella Carmichael Martin (nee Porteous)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Another fatality never mentioned at the time but subsequently detected in Victorian Probate Records as residing in Northcote prior to enlisting. An Englishman, Martin arrived in April, 1906 at 30 years of age.

Martin's attestation first showed a sister, Mrs Edith Prior in England as next-of-kin. Victorian registrations suggest he married in 1915, sometime after he enlisted. His departure was delayed for nearly six months by a severely strained ankle while in camp.

His next-of-kin was subsequently altered to his wife, Isabella, a daughter of a well-known Preston family – both the attestation and embarkation records show her in Skipton Street, Ballarat and no Northcote address is listed. She was living in Thomson Street, Essendon when the circular was returned and she nominated Northcote as the area with which he was most closely associated in Australia.

She received a widow's pension, but there are no records of any offspring from the brief marriage.

Martin suffered severe gunshot wounds to both legs on 26 August, 1916 and died five days later when being transported from a field dressing station to a base hospital. No Red Cross report remains, but there is a suggestion that gangrene was a major contributing factor in his death.

The circular returned by his wife suggested he was 29 when he arrived in Australia around 1909 or 1910, but there is no obvious corresponding record of arrival in Victorian immigration archives (many of the entries do not reveal given names).

There is no trace of Martin in Electoral Rolls or street directories before he enlisted and his location within Northcote is unknown – he may not have qualified to vote, and probably board with another family before he enlisted.

The unusual name of Abijah carried by both the serviceman and his father appears to have been carried down from an ancient Hebrew royal family of Old Testament times.



Martin, William Norris

Key Address : 30 Bower Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 6 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 110 **Enlisted :** 19/08/1914 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : England **Educated At :** Church of England

Date of Death : 25/05/1915 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Dardanelles

Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Farm Hand

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Father Norris Martin (Faldingworth, Lincolnshire, England)

Eyewitnesses : ... "As regards those Missing during the action at Lone Pine, the Court thinks that there is little possibility of any of these men being alive yet it considers insufficient time has elapsed for a definite opinion to be recorded especially as private information was received in one instance of one of those missing being a prisoner in Constantinople ... (Court of Enquiry)

Notes : Martin came to light almost by accident when investigating a "W. Martin" mentioned in the Heidelberg Times as from Alphington or Fairfield at a Memorial Service for servicemen from those Ridings of the Heidelberg Shire that had been killed in action.

The circular returned by his father in England suggested an alternate contact as John Andrew of the Bower Street address and reveals his son was just 18 when he came to Australia unaccompanied by his parents.

Martin was posted as Missing after the first landing at Gallipoli and declared Killed In Action at a Court of Enquiry held in April 1916. He died intestate, an administrator later appointed to wind up his affairs, the estate amounting to the princely sum of £37/19/9.



Mason, Edward Francis

Key Address : 107 Clarke Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : 4 Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements (December 1914 - August 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Shropshire
Ship Number : A9
Date of Embarkation : 17 March 1915
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 1785 **Enlisted :** 9/01/1915 **At :** Liverpool, N.S.W.

Born At : Darlinghurst, N.S.W. **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 6/08/1916 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Salesman

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Edward and Blanch Mason

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Mason enlisted at Liverpool in Sydney and he embarked from Sydney with a N.S.W. based regiment.

His embarkation gives his address as 44 Taplin Street, North Fitzroy, with his next-of-kin Frank Mason (relationship not shown on embarkation, but later revealed to be a brother).

Frank's address is later changed to 107 Clarke Street, Northcote and a Statutory Declaration completed by his mother Blanch in 1920 establishes her at the same address.

A number of enquiries made as to whether Mason's father was still alive produced no evidence one way or the other, Frank's responses simply giving his mother as next of kin and no circular was returned.

Mason was listed as missing at Gallipoli between August 6 and 9, 1915 and confirmed Killed In Action at an enquiry in April of the following year.



Mason, George Alfred

Key Address : Edwin Street, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal 5 Infantry Battalion
Embarked Private 5 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Orvieto
Ship Number : A3
Date of Embarkation : 21 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1078 **Enlisted :** 21/09/1914 **At :** Alphington

Born At : Abbotsford **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 14/08/1915 **Aged :** 26
Place of Death : (of wounds), at sea
Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Labourer/shearer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Richard and Flora Mason (nee Vickers)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Mason suffered a bullet wound (described as "slight") on the initial day of landing at Gallipoli but it wasn't until a week later that he was transferred to the 17th General Hospital in Alexandria.

He returned to the front at the end of May and was promoted to Lance Corporal on July 6. Mason died on August 14, 1918 on board the hospital ship "Rewa" of wounds to the chest and thigh received at Gallipoli the day before.

Mason was buried at sea with a later gravestone erected at the 6 Lone Pine Memorial. Like many that died of wounds in the Dardanelles campaign, either in or out of hospital, nothing was ever recorded in Red Cross archives.

He was a brother of [William Henry Mason](#) (below) who was also Killed In Action, just five days before George's death. A younger brother, Albert, also served in the A.I.F. and returned to Australia in 1919.

Other siblings of the two brothers were Letitia (born 1887), Sarah (1885), Richard (1883), Florence (1881) and John (1894).

A Death Notice references William, the family unaware of his death some five days before George's and blissfully unaware of a second looming tragedy.



Mason, William Henry

Key Address : Edwin Street, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Trooper 10 LHR [Light Horse Regiment] (February 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Mashobra
Ship Number : A47
Date of Embarkation : 8 February 1915
Place of Embarkation : Fremantle

Service Number : 307 **Enlisted :** 19/10/1914 **At :** Guildford, Western Australia

Born At : Melbourne **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 9/08/1915 **Aged :** 36

Place of Death : (of wounds), Walker's Ridge, Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Farm Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Richard (late) and Flora Mason (nee Vickers)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Brother of [George Alfred Mason](#), the two brothers dying within a week of each other.

Their records (confirmed by press reports of the time) show their mother as widowed. Edwin Street was not numbered at the time they enlisted but directories show the family residence as the only house between Sparks Avenue and Perry Street.

William enlisted in Western Australia where the Heidelberg Times noted he was working on a farm and embarked with a Western Australian brigade.

At the time of the two brothers deaths, it was noted the youngest son of the family, Albert was in training at the Flemington Camp, and the eldest, the Rev. Richard Mason, was the Methodist Minister at Beverley in Western Australia, perhaps the reason for William enlisting in the West.

He died at the New Zealand Field Ambulance on Walker's Ridge on August 9 1915, two days after being admitting with multiple gunshot wounds.

Other siblings of the two brothers were Letitia (born 1887), Sarah (1885), Richard (1883), Florence (1881) and John (1894)



Matheson, William Leslie

Key Address : 14 Helen Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private, 6 Infantry Battalion
Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as William Mathieson)
Service Number : 220 **Enlisted :** 19/08/1914 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 25/04/1915 **Aged :** 20
Place of Death : Cape Helles, Gallipoli
Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli
Occupation : Furniture Trade
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Emily Matheson (nee Butchardt)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Birth records confirm the surname as Matheson. His archives are held under this spelling, but in some places the "I" has been added, and in others where the latter form was used, the "i" is crossed out! He appears in the AWM Honour Roll as Matheson but in the embarkation details as Mathieson, and this is the form used in the Casualty Lists published in Melbourne newspapers.

Fortunately, receipts for war medals and other personal effects signed by his father clearly show "Matheson", and as "Father Knows Best", we include him under that spelling.

There is equally some question mark over his middle name. The AWM shows Leslie, but this is not included on his archives and a query from the Public Trustee in 1969 regarding William Leslie evoked a response that he was recorded as simply as William.

He died on the first day of landings at Gallipoli, but it took nearly seven weeks for news of his demise to reach Australia, his death noted in Casualty Lists of June 13 and his death was amongst the first recorded in the Leader on June 19. Their report suggested he was an only son (he had a sister, Elizabeth, born 1898) and was a well-known amateur cyclist around the area, having been a member of both the Preston District and Northcote Cycling Clubs.



Mathrick, Cecil Benjamin

Key Address : Garnet Street, South Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 1 to 17 (VIC) Reinforcements (March-November 1918)

Embarked : HMAT Barambah
 Ship Number : A37
 Date of Embarkation : 31 August 1918
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Matrick)

Service Number : 60964 **Enlisted :** 18/05/1918 **At :** Oakleigh

Born At : Preston **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 17/10/1918 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : (of influenza), at sea, HMAT Barambah

Buried At : 40 Hollybrook Memorial, Southhampton, England

Occupation : Typesetter

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry John and Frances Charlotte Mathrick (nee Young)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Perhaps one of the early deaths from the influenza plague that devastated much of Europe in 1919.

Mathrick died at sea just three weeks before the cessation of hostilities while on his way to England. He was admitted to ship's hospital on 11 October 1918, discharged four days later but died at 4 p.m. on the 17th.

He was living with his family in Dandenong Road, Oakleigh at the time of enlisting but the family were previously well known around the district, his father Henry being secretary of the Preston Football Club in 1904 and holding other positions for a number of years.

He is known to have been elected a Life Member of the club in 1903.

Mathrick had three sisters, Vida (1894), Ruby (1896) and Neta (1901), all born in Preston and his name was commemorated on the Honour Roll at the South Preston State School as one of those that paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of the British Empire.



McCall, Thomas

Key Address : 48 Elm Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private, 5/5th Battalion
Embarked : Did not embark
Service Number : **Enlisted :** 7/07/1915 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Glasgow, Scotland **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 21/10/1915 **Aged :** 18
Place of Death : (of cerebro-spinal meningitis) Base Hospital, St. Kilda Road
Buried At : Coburg Cemetery, Presbyterian section 678A
Occupation : Wicker worker, Wilkes & Son, St. George's Road, Northcote
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Parents James and Rebecca McCall

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : McCall died in the 5th Australian Base Hospital from mastoiditis and cerebro-spinal meningitis after becoming ill while attached to the depot at Seymour. He was admitted on October 11 and died just before midnight ten days later.

No circular was returned, but immigration records show the family (three sisters and a brother) arriving as unassisted passengers in September 1912.

No circular was returned, but immigration records show the family (three sisters aged 1, 9 and 15 and a brother aged 13) arriving as unassisted passengers in September 1912. The records however show Thomas as being just 11 years of age at the time and cast some doubt as to his real age on enlisting.

The 1914 Electoral Roll shows James and Rebecca at 16 Elm Street, but none of the children were registered, suggesting they were all under the age of 21. The Darebin Encyclopaedia has the address as Helen Street, perhaps a transcription error from the handwritten records.

Perhaps the great unknown killer of those that enlisted following the ANZAC landings, an epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis took the lives of an unknown but significant number of both servicemen and civilians between July and November of 1915.

The disease was particularly rampant at the three training camps - Seymour, Broadmeadows and the Showgrounds. One week late in August saw 22 deaths, 10 from Seymour, and four each from Broadmeadows, the Showgrounds and the civilian population.



McCarthy, Edgar James

Key Address : 120 Westbourne Grove, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 8 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 – November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 4 April 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5422 **Enlisted :** 5/07/1915 **At :** Rosedale

Born At : Rosedale **Educated At :** Rosedale State School
Date of Death : 23/04/1917 **Aged :** 20
Place of Death : (of wounds), 13 General Hospital, Boulogne, France
Buried At : 102 Bologne Eastern Cemetery, France

Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry and Alice Emily McCarthy (nee Schwaebach)
Grandfather Carl Frederick Schwaebach
Uncle Cr. Carl Augustus Schwaebach

Eyewitnesses : "I regret to inform you that Private. McCarthy died from wounds on 22.4.17 at 8.40 a.m. He was buried at Bologne Eastern Cemetery on 24.4.17. He was suffering from very severe Gunshot Wounds of the head and back, his spine being badly injured" (O.C. No. 13 General Hospital)

Notes : McCarthy wasn't a resident of the area (on enlistment (he was living in Rosedale where he was born) but his death was reported in the Leader as he was the nephew of Cr. C. A. Schwaebach (120 Westbourne Grove) and a grandson of Carl Frederick Schwaebach of High Street, Northcote.

The latter (of Prussian birth) was one of the area's earliest settlers and although the Leader only mentioned his son, Carl Augustus, there were several other aunts and uncles living in Northcote (Alice was the second of nine children).

McCarthy was suffered a fractured back and head wounds after a shell explosion on April 17 1917 and was transferred from a Casualty Clearing Station to the 13th General Hospital at Bologne on the 19th. McCarthy died at the hospital at 8:40 a.m on April 22.

Notes in the National Archives dated 1924 suggest that his mother was in te Kew Hospital for the Insane at the time and infer she had been there for some years



McClare, John (alias O'Grady, Patrick Aloysius)

Key Address : 113 Camberwell Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 8 Infantry Battalion - 10 to 12 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 11 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Adelaide

Service Number : 3423 **Enlisted :** 17/08/1915 **At :** Upper Hawthorn

Born At : Hawthorn **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Armentieres, France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Accountant or farrier

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Annie McClare (nee Pettit)

Eyewitnesses : "... in giving evidence in connection with his application for a pension Mr. McClare stated that he has no knowledge of any reason why his late son enlisted under an incorrect name, as for the six months prior to joining the Australian Imperial Forces, the deceased was employed in Victoria.

For your information, however, I might add that the Curate of Intestate Estates in Victoria has accepted the relationship between the late soldier and the claimant as father and son"

(Charles Taylor, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Repatriation)

Notes : McClare or O'Grady probably never set foot within the district, but his background was deliberately clouded over and we will never know the true details for certain.

He showed his father as Patrick Francis O'Grady living in Newtown, New Zealand as next of kin on attestation. Official mail was consistently returned from that address as undeliverable and efforts to trace his father were virtually abandoned early in 1921 before a Mr William McClare, then at Coogee in Western Australia applied for a pension, claiming he was O'Grady's father.

The original claim for a pension was unsuccessful and there is nothing to show whether a further claim was made, but from the letter above, it appears that McClare was accepted as being next-of-kin insofar as the disposal of O'Grady's assets were concerned.

O'Grady clouded the issue further by claiming in some places to be an accountant and in others a farrier. His embarkation record (presumably taken from what he completed on enlistment) showed an address of 113 Camberwell Road, Northcote – but there is no such street in Northcote or the immediate surrounds!

Given he enlisted in Hawthorn and claimed to have been born there in 1890 (as John McClare), the "Camberwell Road" may have been borrowed from his childhood days. The only entry of that name in 1914 directories was in Canterbury Road, Vermont.

O'Grady won promotion to Lance Corporal but was back in the ranks when found drunk while on duty in an Orderly Room.

He was another reported missing after the attacks at Fromelles on 19 July, 1916, and subsequently certified Killed In Action at an inquiry in August of the following year.

Perhaps to the relief of historians, McClare/O'Grady was the only child of the family.



McClaren, George Henry

Key Address : 138 Charles Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 8 Infantry Battalion
7 to 9 Reinforcements (July-September 1915)

Embarked : SS Makarini
Date of Embarkation : 15 September 1915
Embarked from Melbourne (shown as McLaren)

Service Number : 2884 **Enlisted :** 5/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : East Ballarat **Educated At :** Victoria Park State School

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 34

Place of Death : Fleurbaix, France

Buried At : 82 Ration Farm Military Cemetery, La Chapelle

Occupation : Wood Machinist

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James and Almina Ada McClaren (nee Puckey)
Wife Mrs Annie May McClaren (nee Ridings)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Another with some discrepancies in the spelling of the surname - the Leader and AWM embarkation records on a couple of occasions showed the name as McLaren but the National Archives and circular clearly shows McClaren as used in AWM Honour Roll,

On the first Attestation, his wife was listed as at 69 Dight Street, Collingwood, but on embarkation he suggested his wife was at 138 Charles Street, Northcote, giving his own address simply as Northcote.

There are several later addresses for her, but the circular has her at 100 Charles Street, with his sister, Mrs Meander at 138 Charles Street. The couple had three children, George, (1909), Leslie (1911) and Arthur (1913).

McClaren was officially listed as Missing on July 19, 1916, and confirmed Killed In Action at an enquiry on 4 August, 1917. After the initial onslaught, it appears he was never seen again - there are no eyewitness reports and his Red Cross files simply mark him "Missing, no trace Germany".

Just before embarking for France (he was killed just three weeks after arriving), McClaren copped 48 hours detention on the odd charge of "being absent from swimming parade".

Every death was a tragedy for the families concerned, but for McClaren's father and mother, James and Ada, his death must have been an especially bitter blow - they lost no less than four children soon after birth, Annie (1883, one day), William (1886 at two days), Ada (1894, five months) and James (1898, one day).



McClelland, Eric William

Key Address : c/- Shire Hall, Epping

Rank and Unit : Private 21 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 12 Reinforcements (June 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Anchises
Ship Number : A68
Date of Embarkation : 26 August 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1979 **Enlisted :** 24/06/1915 **At :** Epping

Born At : Epping **Educated At :** Christian Brothers College, East Melbourne

Date of Death : 26/08/1916 **Aged :** 24

Place of Death : Moquet Farm, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Butcher

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George and Johanna McClelland (nee Ahearn)

Eyewitnesses : "All I know is from McClelland's Machine Gun Corporal. He said that on August 26th "Eric" was shot through the spine and killed instantaneously at Mouquet Farm" (Sergeant M.J Brophy, 2580, 23rd A.I.F)

Notes : McClelland's attestation suggests no other address for his parents "both solely supported by me" than c/- Shire Hall, Epping".

He was noted in the Leader as being killed the same day as fellow Epping resident, [Matthew James Brophy](#), the article suggesting they enlisted on the same day and were killed exactly a year after enlisting (although the latter is not supported by official records).

The coincidence becomes even more bizarre with the only eye witness to McClelland's death shown in Red Cross records as "Sergeant M. J. Brophy" – a cross check revealing that this should be Martin Thomas Brophy and not his Epping compatriot (there were just three soldiers with the name "M. Brophy" that enlisted).

The details of his death are a little obscure. He was originally listed as wounded with notification forwarded to his parents, but some 18 days later this was altered to "now Killed In Action". A letter in 1917 seeking details of his next-of-kin suggested McClelland was the batman to Lt. J. E. Stone of the 21st Infantry.

McClelland was noted as "one of the champions of the Bourke-Evelyn Football Association", a competition that spread from Epping north to Whittlesea and encompassed several of the later Diamond Valley Football League clubs. He is known to have played with Northcote at the V.F.A. level with Northcote in 1912.

He had a brother, William, and three sisters, Ethel, May and Kathleen.



McCully, Gilbert Lee William

Key Address : "Ellesmere", 24 Barry Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 6th Infantry Battalion

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 962 **Enlisted :** 14/08/1914 **At :** Corryong

Born At : Yackandandah **Educated At :** Corryong State School

Date of Death : 7/08/1915 **Aged :** 36

Place of Death : (of wounds at sea), H. T. Ermine, Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Plumber

Marital Status : Widower **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Father Alexander James and Elizabeth McCully
(nee Carron) (both late)
Wife Harriet Henderson McCully (nee Birthisel) (late)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : McCully was living with his married sister, Mrs Jane Oldham in Barry Street, Northcote at the time of enlisting.

Letters held in his archives suggest he was a widower and both his parents were both dead (his mother died in 1909, aged 74, but there is no obvious record of the passing of his father).

He had two brothers, Alexander (1871) in Corryong and Samuel (1863) in Kew, both considerably older and McCully had lived with his sister Jane (1872) since his wife had died.

Two other siblings, James (1866) and an earlier Jane (1862) died within a few months of childbirth.

McCully died at sea while being moved from Gallipoli to hospital in Alexandria suffering a bullet wound to the groin. This is some conflict in the archives, one part suggesting it was on board H. T. (Horse Transport) "Ermine", another the hospital ship "Caledonia".

He married Harriet Henderson Birthisel in 1910, she died in Carlton (probably in the Women's Hospital) in 1911. There were no children of the marriage and he is notable as one of just a handful of widowers from the area killed during the war.



McCutchan, Frank Marsh (Military Cross)

Key Address : Roemer Crescent, Alphington

Rank and Unit : 2nd Lieutenant, 212 Field Company, Royal Engineers, British Army

Embarked :

Service Number :

Enlisted :

At :

Born At : Richmond

Educated At :

Date of Death : 13/05/1917

Aged : 28

Place of Death : France

Buried At : 1186 Henin Court Communal Cemetery Extension

Occupation : Electrical Engineer

Marital Status : Single

Religion :

Next of Parents

John Henry and Isabel Jessie McCutchan (nee March)

Kin/Family : Step-mother

Edith Emily McCutchan (nee Biggs)

Eyewitnesses : "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a raid where he rushed a post of three single-handed killing two, while the other was shot trying to escape. He continued to lead his party with fine courage and reached his objectives, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and returning with three prisoners and a machine gun"" (Citation is support of commendation for Military Cross)"

Notes : Frank Marsh McCutchan's military career unfortunately remains largely unknown as he served with the British forces.

His death only became identified through a late check of Victorian Probate records where it is suggested he resided in Alphington and was listed as a Soldier before he died.

McCutchan is not listed on the AWM Roll of Honour, but is included on their Commemorative Roll which gives brief details of Australians who died in major conflicts while serving with other allied forces.

He is shown as being killed in action of 14 May, 1917 while serving as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 212th Field Company of the Royal Engineer Corps of the British Army

What is somewhat baffling is the inclusion of his name in a National Archive file "Official History, 1914-18 War: biographical and other research files". This archive is not available on-line, but the microfiche version details the post-war history of all Australians mentioned in the twelve volumes of the official history.

But alas, neither the microfiche of the indexes of the official history mention McCutchan, nor are details of just why he served in the British Army, his military history and the circumstances of his demise known. There are records revealing he collected a prize while studying Electrical Engineering while studying at Queens College at Melbourne University in 1914, but whether he qualified before enlisting is again unknown.

A British-based website reveals he was awarded the Military Cross, but unfortunately any further details are (unlike ours) only available on payment of a subscription fee and in reality unlikely to throw much more light on his background.

He was born in Richmond in 1891 and was the only child of the marriage of John and Isabel who married the year before.

Isabel died at 28 years of age three years later, and John remarried in 1897, the later union leaving Frank with three surviving step-siblings, Eileen (1897), Alexander (1903) and Eric (1913). Another child, Sylvia was born in Fairfield in 1908 but died at two years of age.





McDonald, Hugh Alexander

Key Address : 5 Flinders Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 27 Infantry Battalion
13 to 18 Reinforcements (June-December 1916)

Embarked : RMS Malwa
Date of Embarkation : 26 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

HMAT Port Melbourne
Ship Number : A16
Date of Embarkation : 30 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Fremantle

Service Number : 4474/5897 **Enlisted :** 04/01/1916 **At :** Northcote
26/05/1916 Perth

Born At : South Morang **Educated At :** South Morang State School
Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 32
Place of Death : Broodseine Ridge, Passchendaele, Belgium
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Driver/Home Missionary
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Kate Boyd McDonald (nee McNeil)
Sister Mattie McDonald

Eyewitnesses : "My brother Private Hugh Alexander McDonald, 4474, 11th Reinforcements, 24th Battalion, sailed by the "Malwa" on the 21st March.

After sailing he discovered his papers had not been sent on, and after consultation with others on board and acting on advice, he left the boat at Fremantle intending to enlist again there.

This he succeeded in doing and has now sailed for the Front. I am enclosing his Allotment Certificate and by this you will see I have not drawn his money for some time. Enclosed you will find cheque for £10/1/- being the amount drawn less 10 days at 6/-, ie from 21st to 31st – this being the date he informed us he landed in Fremantle".

(Letter from Mattie McDonald to A.I.F. Paymaster, September 15, 1916)

Notes : McDonald's early Army career was unusual to say the least as evidenced by his sister's letter.

Two sets of Attestation papers survive – the Leader at the time of his death suggested he working at the Beech Forest Mission in Western Australia at the time of enlisting – the second attestation shows his address as simply "c-o G.P.O., Perth".

After the twin attestations, virtually nothing remains of his military career, with the only entry between arrival in England in December, 1916 and his death ten months later a brief reference to his posting to France at the end of May.

A brief snippet in the Leader early in 1918 notes that "an enlarged photograph" was displayed at the South Preston Methodist Sunday School" in acknowledgment of his sacrifice.

Hugh was the only son of the family; his three sisters Annie (1880), Kate (1888), Martha (a.k.a. Mattie, 1891).

Mattie McDonald returned the circular, which revealed that two cousins died on Active Service.

Private William Olney (Whittlesea) died of cerebo-meningitis while in camp, and Sergeant Donald Curtis McCaul (Elsternwick) was Killed in Action. A third cousin, Sergeant Duncan George McDonald (M.M.), listed as from Mernda, was awarded the Military Medal.



Macdonald, William Maitland

Key Address : 285 St. George's Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Corporal 24 Infantry Battalion. Embarked Private 24 Infantry Battalion - 9 to 12 Reinforcements (February-April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 4 April 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as McDonald)

Service Number : 4738 **Enlisted :** 19/02/1916 **At :** Footscray

Born At : Scotland **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 23/04/1918 **Aged :** 37
Place of Death : Albert, France
Buried At : 44 Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Butcher
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Hugh and Ann Macdonald
Wife Mrs Hilda M. Macdonald

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : A native of Dumbarton, Scotland, he was another with some conflict in the surname – the correct version as he signed was Macdonald. The AWM uses McDonald, National Archives the correct version.

The circular returned by his wife suggested MacDonald was 27 years old when he came to Australia (immigration records suggest 29, she a year younger and with no accompanying children) He was listed on the attestation as living with his wife in West Footscray, but by the time of his death, she was in St. George's Road, Northcote at the corner of Sargood Street. .

Around 1923, mail was returned from that address and she advised that mail to 124 Raleigh Street, Northcote "will always find me", but she returned the circular from the original address in St. George's Road, at the same time suggesting William's father, Hugh was at Drummoyne in Sydney..

He was promoted to Lance Corporal in September 1916 and to Corporal around four weeks later.

According to the Leader at the time of his death, he had another brother serving in France and the youngest brother of the family enlisted "to keep the numbers up" on the day the family was advised of William's death. Sadly, whether these two brothers enlisted locally or from Scotland was not revealed.

Adding to the mystery is the 1914 Electoral Roll which has a Herbert James Macdonald at the St. Georges Road address with his occupation given as "soldier". He does not appear to have enlisted with the A.I.F., but may have served in a regular role with home services.



McDonald, William Michael

Key Address : 12 Regent Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 1st Australian Camel Corps. Embarked 22 Infantry Battalion 1 to 8 Reinforcements (June 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Commonwealth
Ship Number : A73
Date of Embarkation : 26 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3192 **Enlisted :** 16/07/1915 **At :** Preston

Born At : Auburn **Educated At :** Christian Brothers, East Melbourne;
Date of Death : 8/05/1917 **Aged :** 23
Place of Death : (of poisoning), 14 General Hospital, Cairo, Egypt
Buried At : 9 Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

Occupation : Agricultural student / cheese maker
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Stephen and Ellen J McDonald (nee Murphy)

Eyewitnesses : **Songs of the Desert - "Friendship In The Army"**

"Friendship in the Army
is the firmest we can grow,
Friendship in the Army
is the saddest thing I know"

"Friendship in the Army
is the grandest thing I know,
Friendship in the Army
is the sweetest thing to me"

"... in the falling of Private McDonald at the age of 23, a very bright and heroic spirit passed away. (The Leader, in publishing some of his works, February 1919).

Notes :

He was shown in Leader as "W. H." and "W. S.".

McDonald after his death gained some minor fame as the author of a book, "Soldier Songs from Palestine" that was published posthumously (circa 1918, several of the poems appearing in the Leader, March 15 1919) and many unpublished verses, on Australian scenes and national dreams and hopes".

McDonald suffered a minor wound to the left shoulder in August, 1916, re-joining his unit some two months later.

He suffered a gunshot to the knee on April 20 1917 and was transferred firstly to a hospital train and after the wound became infected, to the 14th Australian General Hospital in Cairo where he was admitted "dangerously ill" on April 27. He died eleven days later of a septic haemorrhage of the knee.

The Leader article suggested McDonald had three brothers, noted as "Joe, Leo and Peter", but conveniently ignored two sisters.

The full family (other than William) was Joseph (1890, A.I.F), Mary (1892, noted in the 1915 Electoral Roll at the Regent Street address), Leo (1896, A.I.F), Owen ("Peter", 1899) and Eileen (1901).

Joseph was married and living in Collingwood when he enlisted, the Leader suggested Leo enlisted the day William's death was known "to fill the breach caused by the loss of his brother".



McDonnell, Gerard Joseph William

Key Address : Woolton Avenue, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 22 Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements (June 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 16 July 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1704 **Enlisted :** 15/05/1915 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Carlton **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 26/08/1916 **Aged :** 44
Place of Death : Pozieres, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Cook and baker
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next Kin/Family : Parents James William and Sarah Margaret McDonnell (nee Stowell)
Brothers Richard and Eugene McDonnell

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Given McDonnell was over 42 years of age when he enlisted, it is perhaps not surprising that both his parents were dead (his father died in 1891, aged 54, and mother in 1904, age 62).

On his first attestation, McDonnell listed his youngest brother Richard at 48 Harold Street, Upper Hawthorn as next-of-kin and this as his residential address.

His next-of-kin was later adjusted by Richard to his eldest brother Eugene "... in Smith Street, Fitzroy, near the MacRobertson's chocolate factory, but I don't know the number of the shop". Another brother, James, born in 1865, died before his first birthday

McDonnell's death rated a mention in the Leader as he was a nephew of long-serving Northcote councillor, Angus McDonnell (after whom the park in Victoria Road was later named), then of Wooltan Avenue, Northcote.

The loss of his nephew was perhaps ironic – Angus McDonnell as a self-proclaimed socialist was, along with later Victorian premier, John Cain senior the only voice that spoke out in either the Northcote or Preston councils against compulsory conscription and indeed dared to query Australian's involvement in what a few perceived as England's war.

His complete family was James (1865, died at one year), Florence (1868), John (1870), Mary (1875), Daniel (1878), and Richard (1880). There is no reference to Eugene in local records, he may have been born before the family came to Victoria.



McDonnell, Thomas

Key Address : P. O., Epping

Rank and Unit : Private 23 Infantry Battalion
9 to 12 Reinforcements (February-April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 7 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4147 **Enlisted :** 11/11/1915 **At :** Epping

Born At : Epping **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 9/10/1917 **Aged :** 34

Place of Death : Passchendaele, Belgium

Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Mary Ann McDonnell (nee Dolling)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : McDonnell was invalided back to England in November 1916 with what appear to be relatively minor gunshot wounds to the face, neck and hand, re-joining his battalion in mid-March of the following year.

He was posted as Missing on 19 October, 1917, later confirmed Killed In Action at a Court of Enquiry held on January 11 of the following year. No eyewitness accounts survive and few details were supplied on the circular.

Thomas McDonnell was survived by a number of siblings - a sister Johanna (1877), Patrick (1882), James (1886), William (1878), Francis (1888, A.I.F.) and, John (1888).

No address other than "P.O. Epping" was ever forthcoming and very little is known of his private or military background.



McDowell, Athol Halliday

Key Address : 10 Garnet Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Sergeant 22 Infantry Battalion
Embarked Acting Sergeant 22 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8

Embarked : HMAT Commonwealth
Ship Number : A73
Date of Embarkation : 26 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3194 **Enlisted :** 31/07/1915 **At :** Preston

Born At : Albert Park **Educated At :** Gordon State School,
Alexandra College, Northcote

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Fleurbaix, France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Police Constable

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alexander H and Elizabeth Hare McDowell (nee Halliday)

Eyewitnesses : "I knew a McDowell in B. Co. who was a Sergeant I do not know his initials or regimental number, but it would be somewhere in the 3000's. He used to be a policeman in Melbourne, about 6ft., fair, clean shaven, about 25. The last time I saw him was in No-Man's Land about 150 yds. from our line. He was shot through the side and the bullet evidently lodged in his stomach as he doubled up and fell. We could not hold the ground. We went over with 1100 men and 63 men answered the roll call". (Corporal R. S. Poulter, 2876)

Notes : Brother to [Norman Keith McDowell](#), 8194, also killed in action (included).

Athol McDowell was well known around the Preston area as a local Police Constable and being employed in an essential service required special permission from the Commissioner of Police to enlist. He is known to have been a member of the Preston Rifle Club for a number of years before enlisting.

Remarkable as it may seem, his death was never reported in the Leader. The local showed him as missing on 23 September, but despite a letter from his father suggesting he had been advised of his son's death appearing in The Argus of 30 September and in official Casualty Lists on October 3, there was no mention of Athol's demise until his brother's deaths some two years later.

He was reported missing on 19 July, 1917 and confirmed Killed In Action on 20 August. His death seems to have been ascertained in the field and unlike hundreds of others posted missing on the same day, no enquiry was held. His remains were discovered in May, 2008, as part of a mass grave of around 400 Australian and British soldiers buried by German forces in Pheasant Wood near Fromelles.

The Alexandra College which was mentioned in the circular was a small "secondary" school (reports suggest it was just two rooms) run by a Mr. Robert Farr in High Street between Westgarth Street and the Merri Creek Bridge. It was one of several small privately owned schools in the Northcote, the best known of which was the young-ladies-only Westleigh College which survived for just on fifty years from the late 1890s.

He was survived by three sisters, Elizabeth (1887), Mary (1895) and Mercy (1896), while two other brothers, Alexander (1887) and Robert (1893) died before reaching one year.

A chance discovery late in research reveals the McDowell brothers were cousins of two servicemen named Dosser that died in service, Herbert Frank and John Henry, both from the Benalla area. A Death Notice for the latter suggests he had four other cousins living in Elm Street, Northcote, but with no family surname given.



McDowell, Mervyn Alfred

Key Address : 134 Mansfield Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 21 Infantry Battalion
19 and 20 Reinforcements (May-November 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 21 November 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6930A **Enlisted :** 18/04/1917 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Eaglehawk **Educated At :** Eaglehawk State, South Preston State School
Date of Death : 8/08/1918 **Aged :** 21
Place of Death : Belgium
Buried At : 1170 Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery Fouilloy, France

Occupation : Draper/Window Dresser
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alfred Ernest and Sarah Ann McDowell (nee Cook)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Most of McDowell's records show as Alfred Mervyn McDowell with various notes and devices used to correct the error – even so, he was included on the South Preston State School's as "A. McDowell" (the circular returned by his parents suggested he was educated at Eaglehawk where he was born).

His father is listed in July 1918 at 118 Station Street, Fairfield, but by March of the following year, he appears to have been back in Mansfield Street, the address from which the circular was returned some years later.

McDowell's recreational background is not known, but his Attestation notes he joined the so-called "Sportsman's Unit", a concept devised by recruiting officers to attract 1000 active sportsmen in volunteering – the "unit" existed in name only – McDowell was posted to an existing battalion as soon as he completed training at Broadmeadows.

There does not appear to have been any family relationship to the McDowell brothers Athol and Norman of Preston who were both Killed In Action. The circular returned by Mervyn McDowell's father notes that a cousin, Fred Sheldon who resided in Ballarat was also killed.

Mervyn McDowell's siblings were William (1893), Leslie (1894), Eunice (1896), Alfred (1898) and Lillian (1900).



McDowell, Norman Keith

Key Address : 10 Garnet Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 2 Australian General Hospital - 1 to 16 and Special Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Port Lincoln
Ship Number : A17
Date of Embarkation : 18 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 8194 **Enlisted :** 16/07/1915 **At :** Preston

Born At : Gordon **Educated At :** South Preston State School,
Alexandra College, Northcote

Date of Death : 21/09/1917 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : (of wounds), Passchendaele

Buried At : 11 Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

Occupation : Clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alexander H and Elizabeth Hare McDowell (nee Halliday)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Younger brother to [Athol Halliday McDowell](#), 3194, also Killed in Action (included).

Norman McDowell died at the 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station following gunshot wounds to the head suffered in action the same day.

He was under 18 when he enlisted and needed his parent's consent, subsequently given with the proviso "That he is attached to the Army Medical Corps".

His name was included on the South Preston State School's Honour Board – Athol's circular placed his education at Eaglehawk, suggesting the family moved to Preston in the early 1900s.

Both brothers were also educated after the mandatory state system at Alexandra College, a private school at 28 High Street, then run by Robert E. Farr.

Given Athol's death was one of those withheld until the official enquiries, news of their two sons being killed probably was passed on to the parents with a few days of each other. They gave different religions - Norman as Methodist, Athol as C. of E., but this may reflect a clerical error.

His parents noted at 186 North Road, Brighton by 1920. He was survived by three sisters, Eliza (1887), Mary (1895) and Mercy (1896), while two other brothers, Alexander (1887) and Robert (1893) died before reaching their first birthday.

Athol McDowell's remains were discovered in a mass grave discovered in 2008 in Pheasant Wood, near Fromelles, one of around 400 Australian and British soldiers buried by the German forces. Some research into Athol's background reveals the family moved to Preston around 1903 or 1904.



McEachen, Alan Neil

Key Address : Queen Street, North Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 21 Infantry Battalion
13 to 18 Reinforcements (July-November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 2 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5881 **Enlisted :** 1/03/1916 **At :** Preston

Born At : Wangaratta **Educated At :** State School
Date of Death : 6/07/1918 **Aged :** 29
Place of Death : Hamel, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Assistant Shire Secretary, Preston
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Archibald and Martha Margaret McEachen (nee Willison)
Wife Mrs Lilley Adeline McEachen (nee Bricknell)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : As Assistant Shire Secretary at Preston, McEachen was actively involved in recruitment of volunteers during the first 12 months or so of the war.

His enlistment prompted the Preston Shire to pass a resolution that the Council would make up the difference in wages between what employees would have earned in their peacetime jobs (£156 in his case) and their army pay (there is however no evidence to suggest this attract other recruits).

McEachen came from a British military background - his father served in the New Zealand Maori wars and his uncle in the Crimean War and Indian Mutinies.

His own military career was unspectacular, possibly only notable for four stints in hospital with various illnesses. He was killed four weeks after returning to his unit following a bout of scabies.

His wife, a sister of Cr. Charles Bricknell of the Shire of Preston, was later in Barkly Street, North Fitzroy and by the time of McEachen's death in Kerferd Road, Albert Park (his parents were nearby in Cardigan Place).

The couple had one son, Donald born in 1912 and who served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Navy during the Second World War. The McEachen family also appear to have been related to the [Fyfe family](#), through a sister, Mary.

Alexander McEachen's siblings included Dora (1887), Hazel (1892), David (1895), and Marjorie (1897). David McEachen did not serve during the Great War, but enlisted early in the Second World War when he must have been close to the maximum age for recruits.



McGan, James

Key Address : 602 High Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 46 Infantry Battalion
2 to 5 Reinforcements (April-September 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Port Sydney
Ship Number : A15
Date of Embarkation : 7 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2560 **Enlisted :** 12/07/1916 **At :** Fitzroy

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 11/04/1917 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : Vaux, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Jeweller (H. Schulz, 431 Bourke Street)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James T and Marion McGan (nee Hughes)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

McGan often appears as McGann (including the Preston Cenotaph) and he was included in a list of Preston's dead in the Leader on April 27 1917, just seventeen days after his death.

Although he does not appear to have been living in the area at the time of enlisting, (his mother's address was at 237 George Street, Fitzroy), he was born in Northcote and educated in Preston, later becoming a member of the Northcote City Band (the circular returned by his mother suggested he also acted as drummer in the Battalion Band).

His mother for many years prior to the war was listed as a Teacher of Dancing at 602 High Street, Northcote and this appears to have been the family's residential address. His father is listed as deceased on the attestation, but in previous years was listed as a boot maker at the High Street address.

McGan had three sisters, Christal (1889), Ruby (1891), and Marian (1893), and two brothers, William (1884, who contacted military authorities from West Preston as late as 1944 after it was suggested that some 50,000 Great War medals remained unclaimed) and Edward (1899), all of whom were listed as being born in Northcote.

Little is recorded of James McGan's military service other than that he was Killed in Action on 11 April, 1917 in the Bullecourt-Vaux region, three months after being taken on strength.



McGhee, Donald Malachi

Key Address : 61 Bridge Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 8 Infantry Battalion
10 to 12 Reinforcements (September-November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 11 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Adelaide

Service Number : 3416 **Enlisted :** 24/06/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Heath Hill **Educated At :** State School

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : Armentieres, France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Railway Porter

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Margaret McGhee (nee Johnston)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

McGhee was one of the hundreds originally posted as Missing after the first Australian advance at Fromelles on 19 July, 1916, and in his case, not confirmed as Killed In Action until August of the following year. There are no surviving eye witness reports to cast further information onto his fate.

At just 5'3", McGhee was originally rejected for service, but as the numbers of volunteers started to dwindle, the physical requirements were eased and like many men, McGhee was subsequently accepted.

His parents moved to Plant Street, Northcote in 1921.

Neither the AWM or National Archives record his unusual second name of "Malachi" (which appears in Victorian Birth Records).

His mother's maiden name alternates between Johnston and Johnstone; the former seems correct as it was used for one of the children. He was the second living son of the family, an elder brother Gordon (also A.I.F.) born in 1892. The other surviving siblings were Elizabeth (1876) Kate (1885), William (1887) David Johnston, Gordon (1892, A.I.F.) and Norman (1899).

Two children died at an early age, John (1894) in 1908 at 14 years and Maggie 1896 at 3 years in 1900.



McGown, James

Key Address : 186 Raleigh Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 56th Battalion (Infantry) Embarked Private, 21 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (June 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 18 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3203 **Enlisted :** 06/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Mansfield **Educated At :** Nott Street State School, Port Melbourne

Date of Death : 21/02/1919 **Aged :** 34

Place of Death : (of pneumonia), Monte Video Hospital, Weymouth, England

Buried At : 110 Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Dorset, England

Occupation : Driver/Labourer

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Amelia McGown (nee Patterson)
Wife Mrs Evelyn Jane McGown (nee Brookes)

Eyewitnesses : "Deceased was buried with full honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from No. 2 Australian Command Depot, Weymouth. Six of the deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall and a number of Officers, N.C.O's, and men of the Depot followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony" (Official Burial Report)

Notes : McGown's death was not reported in the Leader, his death not being listed until 10 May, 1919 (the third last list of official casualties to be posted) and some months after the Leader discontinued local casualty lists.

McGown married his wife Evelyn James Brookes, in 1907, their only child Evelyn being born in 1911.

On embarkation, his address was given as 126 Albert Road, Albert Park, his wife later at several addresses in South and Port Melbourne, before moving to 186 Raleigh Street, Thornbury in September, 1918. In 1923, she was at 6 McCracken Avenue, Northcote and later returned the circular from 119 Mansfield Street, Northcote.

McGown suffered wounds to the thigh after a grenade explosion in July 1916, and repatriated back to England where he spent twelve months convalescing. McGown returned to his battalion in July, 1917, but was hospitalised a fortnight later (the cause not shown) and did not return to his unit until December, when he almost immediately hospitalised again.

It wasn't until May, 1918 that McGown rejoined the battle after being transferred to 56th Infantry Battalion. He was repatriated back to England on 15 February, 1919 for return to Australia, but was hospitalised the following day with the pneumonia from which he died five days later.

James McGown was the eldest of the family, his brothers and sisters, Ellen (1888), John (1893), Frederick (1895), George (1898) and Frank (1901).



McIntosh, John Gibson

Key Address : corner Grange Road and Hamilton Street, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private 8 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 29 December 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4265 **Enlisted :** 31/07/1915 **At :** Yan Yean

Born At : Yan Yean **Educated At :** State School

Date of Death : 29/08/1916 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : (of wounds), Moquet Farm, France

Buried At : 40 Etaples Military Cemetery, France

Occupation : Tanner

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Prent John Gibson and Rose Evelyn Elizabeth McIntosh (nee Smith)

Eyewitnesses : "... admitted to No. 26 Gen. Hospital on 21.8.16 with GSW right buttock. He was operated on 14.8.16 ... progresses quite naturally and the wound of extraction was quite clean. At dinner time he said he did not feel hungry. At tea time he said he felt sick. He vomited at 5. p.m. and pulse found to be failing. Wounds examined at 5.30. Gas found. Operation followed and gas gangrene traced. Collapse followed operation and patient died at 7.45 p.m. A notable case of gas bacillus infection" (certified by letter from O.C., British Red Cross Society)

Notes : McIntosh's name appears on the Preston Cenotaph although a direct link to Preston is hazy.

At the time of his enlistment, his father's address was giving as the Railway Station at Yan Yean, but correspondence from his mother seeking replacement of a lost badge in 1941 is from the "M.M.B.W. Works, High Street, Reservoir."

His own residential address was given as Grange Road, Alphington, the other occupants shown as William (dealer) and Ellen (home duties) McIntosh, presumably an uncle and aunt.

A 1916 letter from an elder brother, Frederick enquiring whether "a Private. J. McIntosh is listed as wounded" is from Northernhay Street, Preston and suggests John was "of Yan Yean or Preston".

Directories of the time, John McIntosh in Leicester Street in Preston, but it is not certain whether this was the serviceman's father.

The remainder of the McIntosh family was William (1886, died at three years), Frederick (1888), Lillian Mary (1890, died at five year), Lillian Rose (1895), Myrtle (1900) and Rose (1901).

As the Red Cross report nominates, a classic example of the insidious effects of gas during the conflict.



McKay, Charles

Key Address : 13 Herbert Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 7th Battalion Infantry 1 to 8 Reinforcements
(December 1914 - August 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number A32
Date of Embarkation : 23 December, 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1157 **Enlisted :** 14/09/1914 **At :**

Born At : **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 07/06/1915 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : (of wounds) No. 5 Indian General Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt

Buried At : Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

Occupation :

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Protestant

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles and Mary McKay (nee Hearne)
Sister Beatrice Alice McKay (aka Thomas)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

McKay's inclusion is amongst the more marginal in our archives.

When he enlisted, he nominated a sister, Elizabeth Augusta McKay in Service Street, Coburg as next of kin, with his father Charles in Rankin's Road, Kensington.

Both were unable to be contacted post-war until June, 1921 when a Statutory Declaration from Beatrice Alice McKay at 13 Herbert Street, Northcote claimed to be the only surviving sister, and noting the death of their father Charles on 22 August, 1920, and mother "over twenty years ago".

She confirmed that he had no brothers, but added a touch of mystery when she declared "I assumed the name of Beatrice A. Thomas in February and March of this year for personal reasons".

Another document suggests Elizabeth McKay died on 21 March, 1921

Beatrice McKay/Thomas also appears to have been non-contactable under either name a year later and appears her brother's Memorial Plaque was never claimed

The family saga took another twist in 1946 when Base Depot received a letter from a firm of solicitors in Edinburgh, Scotland who were handling the estate of a Mr. C. D. McKay which included the serviceman's 1914/15 Star. "C. D" was a brother of Charles senior and the letter sought information as to the next of kin to allow the Star to be returned, but the A.I.F. could add nothing as to Beatrice's whereabouts.

There is virtually nothing known of McKay himself.

Archives note the original Attestation as missing; the only document available was compiled from the Nominal Roll which does not show his address on embarkation, his occupation or place of birth.

McKay suffered shrapnel wounds at Gallipoli on 4 May, 1915, and was admitted to No. 5 Indian General Hospital, San Stefano, Alexandria, where he died just over a month later. The report from the hospital puts his date of death as 8 June, but all official records have it as the day before.

Of the three known children, the only apparent birth record is for Beatrice, born in Thorpdale in 1895, the parents listed as above.



McKean, David Joseph

Key Address : 29 Dally Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 7th Battalion (Infantry) –
Embarked Private 14th Battalion 5 to 12 Reinforcements (April-November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 28 July, 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6052 **Enlisted :** 28/02/1916 **At :**

Born At : Yarraville **Educated At :** Yarraville State School

Date of Death : 04/06/1918 **Aged :** 38

Place of Death : (of wounds), Corbie, France

Buried At : Adelaide Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Butter Maker

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** R. C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William (late) and Catherine McKean (nee Mackay)
Wife Mrs Annie McKean (nee Listberger)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

McKean's link to the district is somewhat tenuous.

On embarkation, he gave both his and his wife's address as Merrigum in the Goulburn Valley, but she is later noted at both 29 Dalley Street and 162 Mitchell Street in Northcote. She appears to have left the area towards the end of 1919 and is later shown at addresses in Collingwood and Carlton.

McKean's death was, however, shown in Casualty Lists under Northcote despite his fate not being mentioned in the Leader.

His military career was chequered to say the least.

In December, 1916 he faced a Court Martial on a charge of accidentally wounding himself in the left foot and sentenced to 30 days Field Punishment and the forfeiture of 49 days (although he was actually off duty for 72 days).

McKean was slightly wounded in the jaw on 4 October, 1917, but re-joined his unit around a month later. He died of wounds 4 June, 1918 at a Regimental Aid Post, but there is nothing to indicate the nature of the wounds are as to how long he survived,

The circular had the names of three brothers Frederick (1873) and Bertram (1883), who both enlisted and Andrew (unknown). Other siblings were John (1867), Norman (1887) and sisters, Alice (1878) and Catherine (1865). He gave his place of birth as Footscray, his brothers suggested Yarraville on the circular, but official registrations have it as Portland, the same as for Alice, the nearest in age to David.

McKean claimed he was 30 years old when he enlisted, the circular suggested he was 38 when he died, the age used by the AWM. Official registrations have his year of birth as 1882, hence he would have been 36 or 37 when he passed away.

He married Annie Listberger in Yarraville in 1903; their only child Frances born in 1904.



McKeon, Frederick John

Key Address : 25 Normanby Avenue, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 29 Infantry Battalion
1 to 6 Reinforcements (November 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Anchises
Ship Number : A68
Date of Embarkation : 14 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2372 **Enlisted :** 10/11/1915 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Hamilton, Tasmania **Educated At :** Hobart State School

Date of Death : 16/08/1916 **Aged :** 46

Place of Death : (of wounds), South Midland Casualty Clearing Station, Warloy, France

Buried At : 44 Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery, France

Occupation : Salesman

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James Nicholas and Emma McKeon (nee Young)
Wife Mrs Emily Elizabeth McKeon (nee Horton or Norton)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : McKeon died of a gunshot wound to the abdomen at the (British) 2/1 South Midland Casualty Clearing Station at Warloy, France on the day he was wounded.

The circular returned by his wife suggested McKeon had served as a Military Bandsman for some years before enlisting - his Attestation notes he had previously been rejected for military service, the reason listed simply as "unknown".

Despite being one of the oldest men killed (he was listed as "bald"), his wife later suggested she had only one dependant, an adopted son given on pension records as "Guy Freeman".

Tasmanian records show that Frederick and Emily has a number of natural-born children that were too old to receive a pension - Norman, born in Tasmania in 1888, and Eleanor (1890), Francis (1892), Rita (1893) and Doris (1895) were all born in Victoria, the former three in Prahran and Doris in North Fitzroy.

McKeon had one sister, also Emily, born in 1865. Two siblings, Eleanor and Francis are shown on the 1914 Electoral Rolls at the Normanby Avenue address.



McKimmie, Colin

Key Address : Epping Road, Preston/Thomastown

Rank and Unit : Private 21 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (June 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 27 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2218 **Enlisted :** 14/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Preston **Educated At :** South Preston State School 824

Date of Death : 26/08/1916 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Moquet Farm. France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Farmer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James and Christina McKimmie (nee Thomas)

Eyewitnesses : "... was wounded at Pozieres on August 26th and was sent to hospital. Private. J. Rockcliffe 1 Pl. A Coy who came back from England recently told me he saw him there. I believe he was on leave at the time"

"I believe he was killed on 26th August in the charge on Mouquet Farm. A pocket wallet belonging to a Cpl Woodnoth was sent to our Company officer in Sept. In the wallet was a note signed by McKimmie saying he found the wallet and should anything happen to him, they would know he came by it. It is probable that he was killed in the charge ..." (L/Cpl Francis Moloney)

"Was in A Coy. No 3 Platoon and came from Preston (Melbourne). He was taken prisoner during the hop-over at Mouquet Farm. Some of my mates have had word he is a prisoner in Germany and is doing all right. I saw a post card that he sent ..." (Private. G. Stevens, 55, 21st Battalion)

Notes : McKimmie was previously reported missing on August 26 1916 and certified Killed In Action as on that date by an enquiry on December 6 1917.

Like many, McKimmie's fate was confused - one eyewitness had him in London after being wounded, another was adamant that he had seen a postcard McKimmie sent from a P.O.W. camp. (The [Lance Corporal Francis Moloney](#) referenced as an eyewitness was another from Darebin Killed In Action).

The address on Attestation was given as Thomastown, (his mother seeming to be one of the family that gave the area its name), but later altered to Preston. The latter was used by his father in a letter on 16 December, 1916 suggesting his son had been included on a Casualty List as a Prisoner of War but that he had not heard anything from authorities (some four months after his actual death).

Cousin of Private. [Frederick William Dyer](#), 4799, 5th Battalion, also Killed In Action. Colin McKimmie's name was included on the South Preston State School's Honour Board as one who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The McKimmie family were one of the first to settle north of Melbourne, known to have been resident in what was then Kelbundoora in 1841, their name perpetuated by today's major thoroughfare, McKimmie's Lane. The clan later operated dairies in both Northcote and Preston, probably supplied from the original farm in Bundoora. Colin appears to have had one sister, Vi, born in 1894.



McKinley, Alexander Warwick

Key Address : "The Priory", Ross Street, South Northcote

Rank and Unit : Corporal, 60th Infantry Battalion,
6 to 9 Reinforcements (October 1916 - July 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Medic
Ship Number : A7
Date of Embarkation : 16 December 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3205 **Enlisted :** 05/02/1916 **At :** St. Kilda

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Caulfield Grammar school

Date of Death : 27/09/1917 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Polygon Wood, Belgium

Buried At : Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Veterinary surgeon and Grazier

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents [James](#) (late) and [Janet Mitchel McKinley](#) (nee Smith)
Wife Mrs Lillias McKinley

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Alexander McKinley was nominally living with his wife at 4 Grosvenor Street, Brighton on enlistment, but a Death Notice placed by the family suggested he was "farming in the Rochester district" prior to enlisting.

The McKinley family resided in Ross Street, Northcote from around 1878 (moving from Napier Street) to the mid-1890s when they moved to New Street, Brighton and his death was reported in the Leader, his late father a well-known Melbourne newspaper proprietor.

His wife was later at various addresses in Brighton, Caulfield and St. Kilda, the latter when she entered into extensive correspondence with Base Depot regarding the whereabouts of her husband's remains as she "was about to leave Australia"

After enlisting, McKinley was promoted to Corporal in March 1916 and selected for training at Duntroon Military College from where he emerged with a "good pass" and he was appointed Acting Sergeant "for the duration of the voyage" on embarkation.

On arrival in England, he reverted to Private, later promoted to Lance Corporal in June and Corporal in September of the same year. No details of his actual demise remain - he was buried "in the corner of the racecourse at Polygon Wood", but his remains were never recovered, the original grave assumed "obliterated by shellfire".

He was survived by his wife Lillias and a son and daughter, James and Clementina and was a younger brother of [James Gordon McKinley](#). Two older brothers, Gilbert and Harry were both Lieutenants in the A.I.F. and returned safely to Australia. There was a daughter, Elizabeth, all five children being born in Northcote. James senior died in 1908, his wife Janet surviving long enough to see two of sons home before dying in 1919.



McKinley, James Gordon

Key Address : "The Priory", Ross Street, South Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant, Royal Flying Corps

Embarked : Did not embark

Service Number : **Enlisted :** **At :** London

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Melbourne University, London School of Mines

Date of Death : 03/06/1915 **Aged :** 31

Place of Death : Ypres, Belgium

Buried At : Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery, France

Occupation : Mining Manager

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James (late) and [Janet Mitchel McKinley](#) (nee Smith)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

McKinley was killed serving with Royal Flying Corps in 1915 with his death reported in the Leader. There are suggestions that he was killed while trying to rescue a fellow pilot who had crash-landed behind enemy lines. The crash occurred on 2 June, his death noted as the following day.

A Death Notice in The Argus suggested McKinley was known as "General", and "was the eldest son of late James and Mrs McKinley, New Street, Brighton." He does not appear in AWM records, strangely not even on the Commemorative Roll of Australians killed while serving with Allied forces.

[His father, James senior](#), was well-known as the editor of the satirical Melbourne Punch and the defunct Daily Telegraph, for many decades along with The Age and The Argus one of the Melbourne dailies. He died in 1908, his wife in 1920.

The McKinley family resided in Ross Street, Northcote from around 1878 (moving from Napier Street, Fitzroy) to the mid-1890s when they moved to New Street, Brighton. James senior died in 1908, his wife in 1919.

James Gordon McKinley completed a course at Melbourne University and then went to England to enhance his studies at the South Kensington School of Mines.

After graduating in mine engineering, he took up a post managing a mine in West Africa and was in London on leave when the war broke out. He enlisted and was made an officer in the new Flying Corps.

The Leader report on his death suggested he had two brothers serving in the A.I.F. - these were Gilbert (later Lieutenant, awarded Military Medal and Military Cross) and Harry (also Lieutenant), both listed as wounded at Gallipoli.

Two other brothers later enlisted - one of the pair, [Alexander Henry McKinley](#) (included) was Killed In Action, and William, the eldest of the brothers from Western Australia.

All four brothers and a sister, Elizabeth were born in Northcote.

James McKinley's sacrifice was recorded on the Honour Roll of St. Cuthbert's Presbyterian Church, Brighton.



McKinnon, Peter Vincent

Key Address : 49 Charles Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 24 Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Commonwealth
Ship Number : A73
Date of Embarkation : 26 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3196 **Enlisted :** 26/07/1915 **At :** Orbost

Born At : Newport **Educated At :** State School

Date of Death : 26/07/1916 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Pozieres, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Seed and Produce Merchant

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James Hamilton and Elizabeth Florence McKinnon
(nee Gardner)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Although he was both living in Orbost and showed his father (the local Seed and Produce Merchant) as next of kin, McKinnon was an former resident of several years standing in Northcote-directories show him up until 1908 at 49 Charles Street, but he is not listed from that year onwards.

The Leader reported his death and suggested he was still a member of the local A.N.A. branch (as well as President of the Orbost chapter) and had addressed recruitment meetings of Northcote residents after he enlisted in 1915.

Both the AWM and National Archives both list him simply as Peter McKinnon, but Victorian Birth records reveal he was actually christened Peter Vincent McKinnon.

McKinnon had one brother, Alexander, born in 1886.



McMahon, Thomas Joseph

Key Address : 14 Christmas Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 7 Infantry Battalion
9 to 12 Reinforcements (September-November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ceramic
Ship Number : A40
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3996 **Enlisted :** 28/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Samaritan Convent School

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Fleurbaix, France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Carrier/Dairyman

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Patrick Joseph and Bridget McMahon (nee Maloney)

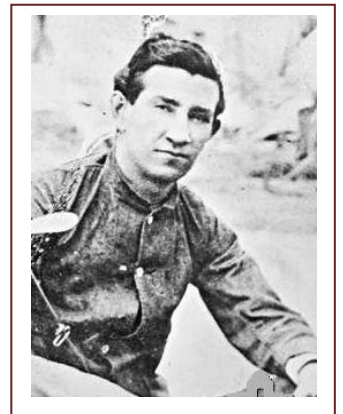
Eyewitnesses : "Witness saw soldier killed at Fleurbaix on July 19th 1916, about 70 yards from the German trenches. During the charge, soldier was carrying a number of bombs when a shell exploded and blew him to bits. Witness was wounded by the same shell. Knew each other well, being in the same company. Description Hgt. 5ft 7, very dark complexion" (L. A. Oakley, 59th Battalion.)

Notes : McMahon was originally reported Missing but confirmed Killed In Action at Fromelles, south of Armentieres, approximately a month later. There is no evidence of an enquiry being held but it is acknowledged that he had no known grave.

His parents from November 1921 were at 5 Kellett Street, Northcote.

McMahon's mother's maiden name alternates between Maloney and Moloney, the latter the more common. There were two identifiable siblings, Margaret (1891) and Michael (1887), who died at five months.

There are also several births in the 1880s around the Collingwood area to a Patrick and Bridget Marroney - unfortunately, the "Joseph" in Patrick's name was not included in any official records to help precisely identify whether this was the same family.



McMahon's photograph is unique in our archives as it is the only one that appears to have been taken "in the field" and not as part of the portrait service offered to troops at the Broadmeadows camp. Just how the photograph came to be is a mystery - servicemen were forbidden to carry cameras.



McMaster, John

Key Address : 8 Pearl Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal, 15th Infantry Battalion.
Embarked Private, 15th Battalion, 1 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 17 April 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2073 **Enlisted :** 28/01/1915 **At :** Hobart

Born At : Williamstown **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 28/09/1917 **Aged :** 36
Place of Death : Polygon Wood, Belgium
Buried At : Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium
Occupation : Baker
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Barr and Eliza McMaster (nee Hooper)

Eyewitnesses : "He was in my platoon and was sniped through the head whilst in a shell hole waiting for the barrage to lift to continue the attack at Polygon Wood ... we carried on and took our objective but none of us ever saw him again ... he came from Tasmania and had only recently come back from England as he had been suffering from trench fever" (S. G. Hyatt, 1869)

Notes : McMaster enlisted in Hobart but sailed from Melbourne, giving his mother, Eliza at 8 Pearl Street, Northcote as next of kin and giving the same as his residential address. His father is noted as deceased in later correspondence, but there is no listing of his death in Victorian records.

Although no date is mentioned, his mother also seems to have passed away inbetween the time John enlisted and his death, the only mention of his fate in the Leader being a reference to the Rev. R. W. Rock passing sad news to "Mr and Miss McMasters". He did not appear in their casualty lists nor was the misspelling of his name corrected.

John McMaster's own birth details remain somewhat clouded.

Given his age at the time of his death, he must have been born in 1880 or 1881; Victorian records reveal the children of Barr and Eliza as Ethel (1873), William (1874) Ada (1876), Lillian (1878), Robert (1879), then an "unknown male", (1880), Nellie (1882) and Amy (1884). There is no further reference to their father, always listed as "Barr" in any records following Amy's birth.

John McMaster was obviously as the "unknown male".

Robert and Ethel figure prominently in his archives and both note that they "have not sighted their eldest brother, William for several years". They shared addresses and from 1918 where at 727 Burwood Road, Auburn.

McMaster arrived at Gallipoli as reinforcement for the 15th Battalion in July, 1915, and two months later was repatriated to Egypt suffering a gunshot wound to the left hand.

He re-joined his unit in February, 1916 and served in France until May, 1917, when he was promoted to Lance Corporal and entered hospital in England with influenza. He again re-joined his Battalion, this time just 12 days before he was Killed In Action.



McMurtrie, Andrew

Key Address : 2 Leonard Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 24 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 18 Reinforcements (July - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6347 **Enlisted :** 27/06/1916, 25/10/1916 **At :**

Born At : Kensington **Educated At :** Brunswick State School

Date of Death : 18/02/1917 **Aged :** 27

Place of Death : (of bronchial pneumonia), Fargo Military Hospital, Salisbury England

Buried At : 3 Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Occupation : Baker

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Margaret McMurtrie (nee Sharp)
Wife Mrs Alice Inglis McMurtrie (nee McLean, later Gardner)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : McMurtrie's first enlistment is dated 27 June, 1916 giving his and his wife's address as 75 Albion Street, Brunswick (his parents residence), but he was discharged as medically unfit just over a week later.

Undeterred, he re-enlisted late in October, suggesting he had spent 74 days in training before being rejected because of his physique. The couple's address by now was listed as 2 Leonard Street, Northcote, also the address shown for [Private William Meehan](#).

Post-war, his wife was later at 121 Noone Street, Clifton Hill with two small children, Andrew (1914) and Alice (1915) and she returned the circular from there. She was the Mrs Gardner, the date of her second marriage not clear, although various receipts in 1921 are still signed McMurtrie.

McMurtrie disembarked in England on 19 January, 1917, but died of bronchial pneumonia in the Fargo Military Hospital, Salisbury four days after being admitted.

Reports suggest he had been suffering from the condition for two or three weeks prior to being hospitalised.

In another large brood, as well as Andrew, the family comprised John (1884), Isabella (1896), Alexander (1888), Annie (1892), David (1894), Margaret (1897) and Alfred (1899).



McPhee, Allan Douglas

Key Address : "Astley", 47 High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 7th Battalion Australian Infantry

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (as Allan McPhee)

Service Number : 130 **Enlisted :** 17/08/1914 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Yan Yean **Educated At :** Gold Street State School, Clifton Hill

Date of Death : 8/05/1915 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : Cape Helles, Gallipoli

Buried At : 4 Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Timber employee/labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Donald William and Elizabeth McPhee (nee McLaughlin)

Eyewitnesses : 18 July 1950

"Dear Sir

Would you be so good as to advise me of the place of enlistment of our 130 Private. Allan McPhee (killed in action, 8/5/15), and any other information which might lead to the determination of living next-of-kin. I am advised that his aged, lonely mother (presumably a widow) died lately and that among her few possessions were his medals which we would like to see delivered into worthy hands.

Thanking you in anticipation

Hon. Secretary,
7th Battalion A.I.F. Association"

Notes : Although not widely remembered today, the McPhee family, in part through the matriarch Elizabeth, was one of the oldest of the Darebin and Epping Districts.

The circular returned by his mother noted that Allen McPhee had three brothers that served for periods of over four years, two in the A.I.F. and the other gaining a commission in the Australian Flying Corps. AWM records show 2nd Lt. Leonard McPhee, Sergeant Angus McPhee and Corporal Reginald McPhee, the former in the Flying Corps.

The other children in the rather extensive family were Annie, born 1877, Yan Yean, Eunice, 1888, Yan Yean; John (below), 1878, Yan Yean; Mary, 1875, Morang; and Winifred, 1880, Yan Yean.

The family moved to Northcote in 1904 with three or four addresses over the next decade or so, but all probably at what officially became 47 High Street, one block north of Cunningham Street - for some reason, numbers were not shown for the east side of High Street between Cunningham and Westgarth Streets until 1917, when directories have Donald McPhee with a dairy at that address.

Donald McPhee died in November, 1924, aged 75 years, Elizabeth in 1929 - just what the basis the 7th Battalion Association made the (eyewitness) inquiry remains a mystery and it would appear that woman mentioned may have been a sister rather than Allan's mother.



McPhee, Allan Douglas continued

An obituary in The Leader following Elizabeth's passing suggested "... Mrs D. McPhee was the last surviving child of Michael McLaughlin of Preston Hall and that her husband established the first bakery in Mernda in the early 1860s" . McPhee's father died in 1919, aged 76.

A later report (March 23, 1934) suggests "... the famous old bluestone house known as Preston House in Mernda is largely the work of Michael McLaughlin, who lived in Melbourne soon after it was established ...he purchased five farms in the district for members of his family. The present estate owned and occupied by Mr. James Whitton is one of them. On it was erected a hotel built also of stone and which was de-licensed years ago. Unfortunately, its actual name is forgotten although some residents believe it was the original Yan Yean Hotel.

Although not mentioned at the time of the Leader reports, the family's eldest son, John Cameron McPhee (later Sir John), born at Yan Yean in 1878, moved to Hobart in 1908 and became involved in politics.

McPhee was elected to the Tasmanian Parliament for the seat of Denison in 1919 and eventually became Premier of the State in June, 1928, remaining as leader until 1934 when he resigned due to ill-health (at the same time awarded the K.C.M.G. and becoming Sir John).

McPhee was later re-elected for the seat of Franklin in 1941, serving until 1946 when he retired to continue business interests and a number of charitable works with which he been involved for many years.



Macpherson, Alexander Walter

Key Address : 96 Helen Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Corporal, Private, 8 Infantry Battalion
Embarked Private, 8 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Benalla
Ship Number : A24
Date of Embarkation : 19 October, 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Alexander Walker McPherson))

Service Number : 848 **Enlisted :** 07/09/1914 **At :** Rutherglen

Born At : Rutherglen **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 8/05/1915 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : Krithea, Gallipoli
Buried At : 4 Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Warehouseman
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Congregationalist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alexander Walter and Mary Ann Macpherson (nee Bass)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : A highly frustrating case to research - the AWM shows the family name as "McPherson", while National Archives are held under the alternative "Macpherson" - but to confuse things further, the serviceman signed everything using the latter version, his mother used the former in a Death Notice!

The Leader from Casualty Lists showed A.W. MacPherson as Killed In Action from July 19, 1916, but there are also discrepancies in his given names - embarkation records show Alexander Walker, the Nominal Roll shows Alick Waller (probably the name he used himself) and Honour Roll and Attestation Papers show Alexander Walter, confirmed by Victorian Birth Records.

His parents from October 1920 were at 12 Dennis Street, Northcote.

MacPherson had spent five years as a Colour Sergeant with the Gold Street Senior Cadets in Clifton Hill, and resigned to become one of the first group from Northcote to enlist, and was prompted to Corporal at Gallipoli on April 28, 1915, three days after the landing and just ten days before he was killed.

No circular was returned. According to a Death Notice in The Argus, his siblings were Louisa (born 1888), Lily (1890), Percy (1895, A.I.F), May (1901) and Ronald (1903).

Civil Registrations reveal "May" was Lavinia May and "Ronald" was Clifton Ronald. They also show Casey (1895) and Hilda (1899), while Ernest (1904), died at two years of age.

There is no sign of a Percy or Percival in Birth Records under either variations of the family name, but given his enlistment in 1917 (as McPherson) has him as 22 years of age, this points to "Casey" being a transcription error of Percy when handwritten records were converted to microfiche.



McPherson, William Henry

Key Address : 135 Separation Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Ayrshire
Ship Number : A33
Date of Embarkation : 3 July 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5402 **Enlisted :** 2/03/1916 **At :** Geelong

Born At : Geelong **Educated At :** Ashby State School, Geelong

Date of Death : 25/09/1917 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : Cambria, France

Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Donald and Hannah McPherson (nee Moore)

Eyewitnesses : "... a man of medium build, 5'6" in height, dark complexion, about 27 years of age. Casualty was at China Wall in front of Kemmel, he was in a dug out resting just prior to the unit moving up to the line when a high explosive shell landed in the dug-out, killing him instantly ... he was buried where he fell ..." (6228, G. Bell)

Notes : McPherson was shown as living at Peterborough in Victoria on embarkation and nominated his father in Separation Street as next-of-kin.

However, a Statutory Declaration from his mother in October, 1922, after she had awarded medals but refused the commemorative plaque suggested her husband :

"... became insane about twenty years ago and has been in various mental asylums. We have not lived together for eight years as it was unsafe for me to do so. I have not heard of his whereabouts for the last five years and do not know if he is still alive".

There is nothing to confirm whether McPherson knew of his father's condition . All personal effects were addressed to his father as next-of-kin but with the receipts signed by Hannah "on behalf D. McPherson".

He spent a short time in hospital with gastro-enteritis and was killed a few weeks after returning to France following leave in England.

Birth records show William's siblings as being Donald (1891), Alexander (1893), Malcolm (1897) and Hannah (1900).

The Leader at the time of his death suggested he had a younger brother in hospital in France after being gassed. Alexander (elder by two years) enlisted from Middle Park, and also gave his father Donald in Separation Street as next of kin, but was never noted as hospitalised.



Mahony, John Austin (Military Cross)

Key Address : Eastment Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Captain, 24th Battalion (Infantry).
Embarked Private, 24 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship number A14
Date of embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1066 **Enlisted :** 08/03/1916 **At :**

Born at : Northcote **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 09/10/1918 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : (of wounds?, France)

Buried At : 446 Tincourt New British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Clerk

Marital Status :: Single **Religion :** R. C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Mary Ann Mahony (nee O'Brien)



Eyewitnesses : "Awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry during operations. When commanding a working party close to the enemy, he heard that another battalion was hung up and required bombs. He at once took up his party with the bombs required and after bombing three enemy dug-outs on the way, he returned to the work he had on hand" (Citation recommending award of Military Cross)



Notes : Mahony is listed in the official history of Australia's World War One involvement as being born in Northcote in 1893.

There were only six families of this name listed in directories - and two of them as John Mahony in Northcote. Given the birthplaces of other children, his father was probably the John listed in Eastment Street in 1892 and 1893. The other John was in Henry Street from around 1890 to 1894.

Mahony gave his next-of-kin as his father at Hansonville via Glenrowan, the district that the family had been connected with for the latter 20 years.

His address was given as 207 Royal Parade, Parkville, where he was boarding with a close friend, later Captain John Harry "Henry" Fletcher of Eaglehawk. An unidentified newspaper clipping in his archive describes how the pair enlisted together and survived Gallipoli, Poziers and Bullecourt - and were killed on the same day, 5 October, 1918. Both the clipping and correspondence in his archives show he was known as Austin rather than John.

The AWM has Mahony as dying of wounds on 9 October, 1918, but this does not correlate with the archives which suggest he was shot through the temple by a German sniper and immediately became unconscious. There is nothing in either the AWM Red Cross archives or in National Archives to suggest he was ever admitted to a medical station.



Mahony, John Austin (Military Cross) continued

Mahony arrived in Gallipoli at the end of August and survived the remainder of the campaign and subsequent evacuation. He was awarded the Military Cross in October, 1916 (above), promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in August, 1916, to Lieutenant just a month later and to Captain in May, 1918.

In the intervening period between the two latter promotions, Mahony spent around eight months in England and on light duties after badly spraining an ankle playing football (code not identified) behind the lines in France - part of the effects returned to his family were "one pair football knickers, one red Guernsey"

He was the odd man out in that he was the only one of a large family to be born in Melbourne, the others William (1890) at Glenrowan, Bridgette (1891), Maurice (1895), Mary (1898), Raymond (1900), all at nearby Greta, then Dorothy (1904), Francisca (1906), Alice (1908) and Monica (1912), all shown as Wangaratta.

Mahony is pictured on right in the image. AWM notes suggest the other servicemen are Captain "Henry" Fletcher, of Eaglehawk as mentioned above, and Lieutenant Joseph Scales, of Mitta Mitta.



Meehan, William Washington

Key Address : 2 Leonard Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 15th Australian Light Horse, Australian Trench Mortar Battery
Embarked 60 Infantry Battalion - 2 to 5 Reinforcements (May-

Embarked : HMAT Port Lincoln
Ship Number : A17
Date of Embarkation : 4 May 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1695 **Enlisted :** 14/02/1916 **At :** Berringa

Born At : Berringa **Educated At :** State School
Date of Death : 2/09/1918 **Aged :** 27
Place of Death : Peronne, France
Buried At : 511 Peronne Communal Cemetery, Extension, France

Occupation : Miner
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert John and Catherine Frances Meehan (nee Hall)
Wife Margaret Meehan (nee McLean)

Eyewitnesses : "I knew casualty. He was a thick set man about 5'9", dark, aged 30 years. Casualty was advancing the opposite side of Peronne with Lieut. Cragie when a H.E. shell landed near casualty, a piece entering his body killing him instantly. We buried him at the top end of Peronne" (W. A. White, 3823A)

Notes : Meehan enlisted at Berringa (via Ballarat) and gave his wife's address as c/- Berringa Post Office.

By the time of embarkation, they were shown at 2 Leonard Street, Northcote. This from around October of the same year was also shown as the address of [Private Andrew McMurtrie](#) and seems to have been occupied by his wife until at least the end of the war.

Following his death, Meehan's widow was at 23 Gordon Street Alphington from where the circular was returned, but the archives contain mail returned as undeliverable to that address in 1922.

No pension details are on file and there are no official records to suggest the couple had children. He had two sisters, Harriet (born 1893) and Catherine (1895), but there appears to have been at least two other branches of the family in Northcote; the 1914 Electoral Roll noting the family name in St. George's Road and Hawthorn Road.

He was Mentioned In Despatches for an action on 4 July, 1918 when "in a position of great danger on a road being heavily shelled, he continued to fire his guns throughout a critical period". The remainder of his military career was relatively unremarkable except for a loss of 82 days pay after contacting V.D. in October, 1917.



Mehegan, Francis Edward

Key Address : Murray Road, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private, 14th Battalion - 5 to 12 Reinforcements (April - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Wandilla
 Ship Number : A62
 Date of Embarkation : 17 June 1915
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2183 **Enlisted :** 26/01/1915 **At :** Preston

Born At : Westbury, Tasmania **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 20/08/1915 **Aged :** 41

Place of Death : Lone Pine Ridge, Gallipoli

Buried At : Lone Pine Ridge, Gallipoli

Occupation : Tanner, Broadhurst's (Murray Road, Preston)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Edward Patrick (late) and Margaret Kate Mehegan (nee Cullen)

Eyewitnesses : "Witness stated that Private Frank E. Mehegan, not T., was killed on the 21st August at Hill 60, Suvla Bay, in the 1st charge. He saw Mehegan shot in the chest by a rifle bullet. Mehegan was about 42 to 43 years of age. Grey-headed and had a slight defect in speech, kind of lisp ... witness knew him personally, trained with him for 4 months at Broadmeadows camp ... saw him carried in on a stretcher and buried in Australia Gully by the Pioneers" (Sgt B. A. Clark, 14th Battalion)

(The Red Cross archives were originally headed Francis T. Mehegan and later altered by hand, presumably after Sergeant Clark's statement. There is a no record of a Francis T. Mehegan having served during the War).

Notes : A brother, John Joseph Mehegan was also in the A.I.F and the pair were cousins of [Thomas William Joseph Megahan](#) (included) with the birthplace for all three shown as Westbury, Tasmania.

Remarkably, Murray Road between High Street and Plenty Road was not numbered at the time of his enlistment, the Mehegan home shown in directories as four doors west of Plenty Road on the south side.

His mother was later at 1 Kemp Street Croxton – one of his sisters, Bridget, (1886), married [Clarence Norman Draeger](#) (included), whose widow was later at 3 Kemp Street, the same address as shown for their mother when she returned the circular.

The only Death Notice for Mehegan was in The West Australian, placed by a sister living in Perth, Mrs R. Hewson; Frank's other siblings were listed as Mrs E. Briggs (Sydney), James, Alice, John and Kitty.

Mehegan was a leading cricketer with the Preston All Saints Church team during the late 1890s and also played with the Preston Football Club between 1897 and 1905.



Mehegan, Thomas William Joseph

Key Address : 126 Raglan Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Acting Corporal, 24 Infantry Battalion Embarked Private 24 Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements(May 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Commonwealth
Ship Number : A73
Date of Embarkation : 26 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3176 **Enlisted :** 10/07/1917 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Westbury, Tasmania **Educated At :** Convent plus Commercial training

Date of Death : 25/10/1917 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Passchendaele, France

Buried At : 125 Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, France

Occupation : Tanner, Braithwaite's, Murray Road, Preston

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Jane Mehegan (nee Stubbs)

Eyewitnesses : "I saw him killed instantly by a shell in a trench on Zonnebeke Sector. He was buried at the back of the line and a cross put up. About 5'4" and dark, came from north of Melbourne, Victoria. A fine fellow. Always attentive to his church duties and had always been the same" (Sergeant B. G. Murphy, 3115)

Notes : He was a cousin of [Francis Edward Mehegan](#). Although his place of birth and address were given as Westbury in Tasmania, the birthplace of Francis, Mehegan's name is shown on the Preston Cenotaph and in a couple of lists of Preston servicemen killed on service. He enlisted in Melbourne and the 1914 Electoral Roll confirms he was at 126 Raglan Street, Preston.

His parents were still in Tasmania following his death. Two brothers, John and Frank also enlisted in the Apple Isle, the latter being awarded the Military Medal.

Thomas Mehegan was wounded twice before being Killed In Action in 1917. He suffered a gunshot wound to the back in August 1916 and spent four months in England convalescing, and was again injured (seemingly slightly) to the right thumb and face in May 1917, although he was only off duty for a month on this occasion.

Mehegan was promoted to Lance Corporal in May 1917 and to Acting Corporal a month before he was killed.

Several of the Red Cross accounts are in response to enquiries from his brother, Frank, who later lived in Melbourne and was a prominent player with the Clifton Hill A.N.A. cricket team in the Victorian Junior Cricket Association



Membrey, Claude

Key Address : Merri Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 6th Battalion- 13 to 18 Reinforcements (December 1915 -

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 28 January 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4665 **Enlisted :** 21/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 18/08/1916 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : Pozieres, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Municipal Clerk, Shire of Heidelberg

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James George and Elizabeth Pearce Membrey (nee Carvosoe)

Eyewitnesses : "When we had gone over and dug in at Windmill, Mouquet Farm, he got sniped through the head. We carried him in and buried him in a shell hole" (D.A Hutton, 3810)

"Informant states he knew Membrey well. He was the son of an M.P. in Melbourne and came from Northcote, near Melbourne. He was killed in the 2nd attack at Pozieres on date mentioned. They were ordered to take cover in shell holes but Membrey stayed outside in the open and was shot through the head" (L/Cpl H. F. Dummet, 4485)

"I saw above named killed by Rifle-bullets, shot through the head and shoulder about 9.50 p.m. About 23, medium height, well built, single, son of a member of Parliament for Northgate" (Walter Parker, 6th A.I.F.)

(Of the four Red Cross files, three are headed Membry and the other Membrey).

Notes :

He was noted as serving in Junior Cadets and Citizen's Forces.

Claude Membrey was the eldest son of James George Membrey, the local M.L.A. and a Government Minister for many years after being appointed to Cabinet in July 1914. James Membrey amongst many other roles was Chairman of the State War Council for the duration of the war and spent much of his later political life championing the campaign for recruitment despite the loss of his eldest son.

Claude was the Municipal Clerk at Northcote Town Hall but resigned to take up a similar position with the Shire of Heidelberg not long before he enlisted, the Leader suggesting he beat 45 other candidates for the job.

Claude's mother, Elizabeth died in September, 1921, the family in Death Notices noted as Caroline ("Carrie", well-known as a singing teacher in Northcote), Albert, Alice, (Mrs E. Kirkton), James (also A.I.F.), Beatrice (later Mrs E. D. Riddle), and Edward.

The Membrey residence in Merri Street was not numbered but shows in directories as being next to number 14 although there is a possibility of vacant blocks between the two.

Claude had a cousin, John Henry Membrey (Frankston) who was Killed In Action, James George being named on latter's circular as "other contact".





Mercer, Henry Boyd

Key Address : 36 Westbourne Grove, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private Army Medical Corps
General Reinforcements (August 1915 - November 1918)

Embarked : Ship MAT Kanowna
Ship Number : A61
Date of Embarkation :
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 13962 **Enlisted :** 24/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Carlton **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 25/09/1917 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : (of wounds), 8th Field Ambulance, Ypres Sector, Belgium

Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Painter and Paperhanger, Hallsinger and Sons, Fitzroy

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Joseph and Grace Mercer (nee Bufford)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Mercer's name was included of a Roll of deceased servicemen published in the Leader on January 12 1918, but no other mention of his death was recorded.

His family background on the maternal side is somewhat confused – he listed his father as William John Mercer at Westbourne Grove and in pension records and other places, his mother is listed as "Grace Mercer".

The family moved to 92 Bastings Street and in October, 1917 to 115 St. George's Road, North Fitzroy, but several receipts for property and medals are signed "Grace Matthewman" and she appears as the beneficiary in Mercer's Will. She presumably was a married sister - Victorian records show Henry's siblings as Grace, born 1893, and Henry (1894).

She was later at 115 St. George's Road, North Fitzroy, but the circular was returned by his father from 139 St. George's Road and includes as an additional contact an Archie Matthewman at the same address.

Mercer was a stretcher bearer with the 8th Field Ambulance and although no detailed Red Cross records remain, the archives suggest he died of wounds at his own Field Ambulance on the day he was admitted. Other sections however suggest he has no known grave.



Meyer, Albert Edward

Key Address : 4 Harker Street, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Driver 8 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (May 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Medic
Ship Number : A7
Date of Embarkation : 20 May 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 19928 **Enlisted :** 16/02/1916 **At :** Alphington

Born At : Newmarket **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 14/10/1917 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : (of wounds), 12th Casualty Clearing Station, Belgium

Buried At : 18 Mendingham British Cemetery, Belgium

Occupation : Sawyer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of Christ

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George Jacob (late) and Clara Meyer (nee Lane)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Meyer suffered wounds to head, shoulder and thigh in a bomb explosion and died the same day at the 12th Casualty Clearing Station.

The remainder of his military history is almost non-existent other than one indiscretion where he was docked a day's pay for being Absent Without Leave for nine hours. Despite dying in the Casualty Station, there is no Red Cross records of Meyer's fate.

His mother was later at "Alberton", Grange Road, Alphington.

Meyer's father died at Fosterville in country Victoria in 1899, other children of the marriage were George (1891), Minnie (1893) and Harold (1896). The 1914 Electoral Roll shows Clara and George junior in Miller Street, Thornbury.

Albert Meyer's sacrifice is commemorated on the Alphington Memorial.

Unfortunately there is nothing remaining to suggest where Meyer died - the only remaining references are to the 12th C.C.S. and Belgium, but there were very few of the 8th Field Artillery killed around the same date and no reference from other circulars of his comrades has been established.



Michell, William John

Key Address : 11 Bridge Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 29th Infantry Battalion (November 1915)
Transferred as a Fitter to 50th Battery, 13th Field Artillery Brigade

Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number : A11
Date of Embarkation : 10 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 872A **Enlisted :** 10/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Clifton Hill State School

Date of Death : 28/10/1917 **Aged :** 27

Place of Death : Passchendaele, Belgium

Buried At : 19 The Huts Cemetery, Dickebusch, Belgium

Occupation : Engineer/Fitter and Turner

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Wesleyan

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Henry (late) and Ada Leah Michell (nee Witburn)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Michell was a fitter and turner by trade and in a rare instance of "horses for courses" for the A.I.F., he alternated between this role and that of a Gunner.

He was Killed In Action just nine days after returning from a fortnight's leave in England.

William is known to have two brothers, Horace (1890) and Clifford (1898). Horace was later the Rev. H. A. Michell of the Methodist Church in Cheltenham at the time of the circular, but was shown in 1914 Electoral Rolls in Bridge Street with his signature appearing as a witness to Mrs Michell's on a number of documents. William senior father died in 1913, aged 49.

A Death notice placed in the Leader reveals Michell was engaged to Miss Sadie Willmott, her address given simply as Northcote.



Miller, Robert Charles

Key Address : 12 Gladstone Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 60th Battalion
Embarked Private 22 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 27 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2736 **Enlisted :** 20/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : Fromelles, France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Boot maker

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry and Rebecca Miller (nee Hillston/Hillsdon)
Wife Mrs Alice May Miller (nee Dunn)

Eyewitnesses : "on the 19th July, 1916, we went over the top at 6.45 p.m to attack Fromelles. I saw W. Miller fall first and his brother ran to speak to him, and he was hit by machine gun fire I think. One of the same platoon, Alexander, who has lost an eye, and who I fancy is now home, told me that in coming back he had seen both brothers dead ..." (Private H. George, 3740, 60th Australians)

"He was my brother-in-law and I received a letter about three months ago from my sister, his wife, who is living at Preston, Melbourne, that she had received notice from the War Office that he was killed upon the 19th July" (Private. L. J. Dunn, 1744)

Notes : Brother of [Private William Henry Miller, 2735](#), 60th Battalion, also Killed In Action.

In a bizarre and ultimately tragic set of coincidences, the brothers were both married by the age of eighteen to women named Alice, were boot makers by trade, enlisted four days apart, embarked together with consecutive Service Numbers, and died within minutes and a few feet of each other, (although Robert was originally listed as Missing on 19 July, 1916 and confirmed Killed In Action by his Commanding Officer around five weeks later).

The circular returned by William's wife notes three brothers were in the A.I.F. service, two of whom were killed. Robert's widow was later living with her sister, Mrs R. Shade at 69 Palmer Street, Collingwood, but no circular was returned for him.

There is no mention in the Archives of the address in Preston that Miller's brother-in-law referred to.

The couple had one son, Robert junior, and Miller's archives extend to 1956 when his widow requesting confirmation of his service record in support of her request for a War Service Home Loan.

Henry and Rebecca Miller had three other children, Eva (1894), Harold (1896, the third brother to enlist) and Henry (1898) and at the time of the two servicemen's births were in Station Avenue, Northcote, this name changed post-war to Claude Street.



Miller, William

Key Address : 60 Clarke Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 12 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (January-December 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Persic
Ship Number : A34
Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 7112 **Enlisted :** 20/08/1916 **At :** Royal Park

Born At : Balaclava **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 9/10/1917 **Aged :** 25
Place of Death : Passchendaele. Belgium
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John (late) and Margaret Miller

Eyewitnesses : "in the event of my meeting with any accident or perhaps death I Private. William Miller wish all my Personal belongings & Money to be given to my Allotter namely Mrs Margaret Miller my mother to look after until I am better if Wounded or Sick but in case of my death she is to receive all my property as hers. This is the only Will I have made and recognise no other will. I am the only son of hers"

(Certified to be a true copy of the Will extracted from Pay Book on No. 7112 Private. Miller, William, 12th Battalion)

Notes : Miller's father was noted on his attestation as deceased with his mother living at 60 Clarke Street, Northcote. She was shown as next-of-kin on embarkation at that address, with his own address shown as c/o Mrs F. Foster, 63 Westgarth Street, Fitzroy, his married sister.

No circular was returned, but his mother is later noted at 44 Clausen Street, Fitzroy from November 1917. A pension claim from his sister, Mrs Eva Foster then of 225 Nicholson Street, Carlton, was rejected as she was unable to prove dependence upon her brother.

Miller is something of a mystery - there is no registration of a William Miller born to John and Margaret (the parents recorded in National Archives), or is there anyone of that name listed as born in Balaclava or a nearby suburb in the years surrounding his supposed birth.

To add a further touch of spice to the mystery, a check on his sister, Eva, again shows no birth record for John and Margaret Miller, but of three children in Victorian records christened Eva, one was a sister of [Robert Charles](#) and [William Henry Miller](#) (included).

Miller was found guilty of being Absent Without Leave while in England, earning him 168 hours detention, but otherwise his military background shows little of note. Despite being officially listed as Killed In Action, it appears Miller's remains were never found and his sacrifice is recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial, one of the names of 56,000 men, including 6,178 Australians, who served in the Ypres campaign and who have no known grave.



Miller, William Henry

Key Address : 79 Moore Street, Fitzroy

Rank and Unit : Private, 60th Battalion

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 27 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as William Miller)

Service Number : 2735 **Enlisted :** 24/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Napier Street State School

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Fromelles, France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Boot maker

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry and Rebecca Miller (nee Hillston/Hillsdon)
Wife Mrs Alice Martin Miller (nee Walsh)

Eyewitnesses : "I knew a man called W. Miller in C. Coy., but I did not know his number. He was about 5 ft 8 or 5 ft 9, very fair, thickset and clean shaven, about 25 years of age. He took part in the attack on Fromelles on the 19th July but did not return. Sometime afterwards his disc was returned to the Orderly Room" (Sergeant W. L. Carkeek, 3047)

"on the 19th July, 1916, we went over the top at 6.45 p.m. to attack Fromelles. I saw W. Miller fall first and his brother ran to speak to him, and he was hit by machine gun fire I think. One of the same platoon, Alexander, who has lost an eye, and who I fancy is now home, told me that in coming back he had seen both brothers dead ..." (Private H. George, 3740, 60th Australians)

Notes : Brother of [Private Robert Charles Miller](#), 2736, 60th Battalion, also Killed In Action.

The brothers, both married by the age of 18 to women named Alice, enlisted four days apart, embarked together with consecutive Service Numbers and were killed within minutes and a few feet of each other. Both were born in Northcote, although William and his wife were in Moore Street, Fitzroy when he enlisted.

Like hundreds of others that dreadful night, the brothers were posted as Missing and later confirmed Killed In Action – Robert on 25 August and William on 5 August.

The circular returned by his wife (then living at North Wagga) notes three brothers were in service, two of whom were killed and a brother-in-law (Private Leo Dunn of Arthur's Creek) was permanently disabled. After being wounded three times She suggested William had spent four years with the 6th Australian Regiment at Eastern Hill, but there was nothing noted on his Attestation to this effect. There were no children of the marriage.

He enlisted and served simply as William Miller and his National Archives appear under this name.

Henry and Rebecca Miller had three other children, Eva (1894), Harold (1896, the third brother to enlist) and Henry (1898) and at the time of the two servicemen's births were in Station Avenue, Northcote, this name changed post-war to Claude Street.



Moffat, Edward

Key Address : Alphington

Rank and Unit : Bombardier, 1 Brigade Australian Field Artillery.
Embarked Gunner 2 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (October 1914)

Embarked : HMA Shropshire
Ship Number : A9
Date of Embarkation : 20 October, 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 930 **Enlisted :** 20/08/1914 **At :** St. Kilda

Born At : Leeds, England **Educated At :** Leeds Modern School

Date of Death : 28/10/1918 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : (of disease), 4th Southern General Hospital, Devonport, England

Buried At : Buckland Cemetery, Plymouth, England

Occupation : Insurance Clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C of E

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Patterson (late) and May Moffat

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Edward Moffat's inclusion is based solely on his name appearing on the Alphington War Memorial, but from his somewhat sketchy history, there is no direct link to the district obvious.

His address on embarkation was given as "Wenford Hill", Studley Road, Ivanhoe, with his mother Mrs May Moffat, 12 Clarendon Place, Leeds, Yorkshire, England as next of kin.

Given he would have been boarding, it is possible he had previously rented accommodation in Alphington, but given he enlisted at 22 years of age and was 21 years and three months old when he arrived in Australia, his time if any in the district could only have a few months.

Moffat was among the first to enlist and had spent six years as a volunteer with the Leeds Rifles before emigrating to Australia.

His demise was cruel even by the standards of the Great War.

Moffat had been granted six months 1914 Special Leave, and, according to his mother, contracted influenza when was on his way back to Australia after spending time with her in England..

His Service Record reveals he had actually embarked in France for return on 13 October, but after arrival in England, he was admitted on 18 October to the 4th Southern General Hospital, Devonport where he died from pneumonia and influenza ten days later.

He served in the landings at Gallipoli, suffering a slight wound to the head, but was repatriated to England in September, 1915 suffering from gastritis and severe jaundice. Records of his time at the Western Front provide little of note.

A Burial Report in Moffat's archives note his mother and two sisters, identified only as "Miss C" and "Miss W" and a fiancée, "Miss Strickland" at the service. Another note reveals a brother, Frank was living in Bundaberg, Queensland before he died in June, 1969.



Mogg, Leslie Valentine

Key Address : "Bona Villa", Rathmines Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private, 18th Battalion

Embarked : HMAT Ceramic
Ship Number A40
Date of Embarkation : 25 June 1915
Place of Embarkation : Sydney (shown as Leslile Valentine Hogg)

Service Number : 363 **Enlisted :** 05/02/1915 **At :** Liverpool. N.S.W

Born At : St. Arnaud **Educated At :** St. Arnaud State, Gippsland College, Sale

Date of Death : 04/09/1915 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : (of wounds at sea), H.M.H.S. Hunt's Green, Dardanelles Peninsular

Buried At : Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William James and Grace Bonna Mogg (nee Mogg) (both late)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Another local serviceman whose death was not mentioned in the Leader.

Mogg gave his residential address on embarkation as "Bona Villa", Rathmines Street, Fairfield, with his brother Herbert Francis Mogg as next of kin (originally shown as "c-o V.R.C. Office, Melbourne", and later at the Fairfield address).

For reasons unknown, he enlisted in Sydney and embarked with a N.S.W. regiment.

He was severely wounded at Gallipoli and taken on board the Hospital Ship Hunt's Green on 30 August, 1915 but died from injuries to an arm, chest, hip and legs five days later. Archives suggest gunshot wounds, but from the multiple injuries, it seems more probable that it was an explosion of some description.

Mogg had served three years with the Victorian Rifles before enlisting, and one off the more bizarre of the few belongings he had with was "wedding cake in tin".

The family background is remarkable is that Mogg's mother's maiden name was also Mogg.

His mother and father appear to be first cousins in a family settling around the Geelong area in the 1880's and tracing back to one Valentine Mogg.

Mogg's siblings were William (1883, died one month), Herbert (1884), William (1886) and Harriet (1887) and Sydney (1894, A.I.F.).

Herbert returned the circular from 115 Dickens Street, St. Kilda and was also noted as next-of-kin on Sydney's enlistment. Herbert also received Leslie's medals, and although there is no firm evidence, it seems both parents were deceased.



Moloney, Francis George

Key Address : 39 Walker Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Corporal, 21st Battalion Australian Infantry
Embarked Private 21st Battalion Australian Infantry (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 231 **Enlisted :** 12/01/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Broadford **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 21/04/1918 **Aged :** 23
Place of Death : (of wounds), 20th Casualty Clearing Station, Lavieville, France
Buried At : 71 Vignacourt British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Confectioner, MacRobertson's, Fitzroy
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Matthew and Catherine Moloney (nee Morfesse) (both late)
Other Mrs Annie Dwyer (aunt)

Eyewitnesses : "... A stray shell struck in our reserve trenches near Albert. I saw it happen. He was conscious and talking. The Stretcher bearers took him away about mid-day. We heard he died of his wounds" (Private. M. Greig, 66446, 21st Battalion)

Notes : According to the brief report in the Leader of his death, Moloney was known as "Darky".
He was living with an aunt, Mrs Annie Dwyer, at 39 Walker Street on enlistment and whom he nominated as next of kin.
No circular was returned, but his attestation papers have his aunt after his embarkation at 19 High Street, 83 Westgarth Street and 36 Beaconsfield Parade (from 1923).
A letter from her in 1920 revealed that Moloney's mother and father were both dead, he had no brothers or sisters (confirmed by Victorian Birth Records), and that she was his eldest aunt on the mother's side "... his father's side, I am ignorant of"
Moloney was promoted to Lance Corporal in September, 1917 and Corporal in April of the following year. He died in the 20th Casualty Clearing Station from wounds to the abdomen and thigh suffered four days before his death.



Moloney, John Robert

Key Address : Mansfield Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 22 Infantry Battalion - 9 to 12 Reinforcements (February - April 1916)

Embarked : RMS Orontes
Date of Embarkation : 29 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4495 **Enlisted :** 15/01/1916 **At :** Camperdown

Born At : Ballarat **Educated At :** State School

Date of Death : 15/12/1916 **Aged :** 36

Place of Death : (of disease), Hursley Hospital, Hampshire, England

Buried At : 167 Hursley Cemetery, Hampshire England

Occupation : Station hand/labourer

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Mary Moloney (nee Hunter)
Wife Mrs Sarah Moloney (nee De La Rue or Delarue)

Eyewitnesses : "He came in from France Dec 3rd. He was very emaciated and weak, only just able to walk ... he was afflicted with consumption of the bowels of a very acute type. He suffered little pain and by careful feeding the diarrhoea was kept within bounds. He died 16th Dec 1916 at 6 p.m. ..." (Capt. Rawlence, R.A.M.C, Hursley Park Camp Hospital)

Notes : Moloney died of what the archives suggest was hydatid disease – modern medical references suggest "hydatid" – effectively a stomach cyst caused by tapeworm – although in other places, abdominal tuberculosis is mentioned.

He was taken ill at Rouen on November 28, 1916 (just two months after he arrived in France) and was invalided back to the Hurley Hospital in England.

His wife (her maiden name is alternatively shown as De La Rue and Delarue, the couple married in 1915) and only daughter Florence were later at 36 Martin Street and from 1920 at 1 Fenwick Street, both in Northcote.

The far eastern section of Mansfield Street was not numbered at the time, but Moloney and his wife were noted in directories on the northern side, about four blocks west of Rathmines Road.

Moloney appears to have been the only son of the family, although the female side was well represented by Margaret (1871), Elizabeth (1881), Ethel (1885), Catherine (1887), Mabel (1888) and Grace (1891).



Moon, William

Key Address : 16 Elm Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private, 22 Infantry Battalion - 9 to 12 Reinforcements (February-April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Warilda
Ship Number : A69
Date of Embarkation : 8 February 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3877 **Enlisted :** 12/07/1915 **At :** Ivanhoe

Born At : Sussex, England **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 05/08/1916 **Aged :** 29

Place of Death : France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Grocer's Assistant

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Sarah Moon (Sussex, England)

Eyewitnesses : "... we have had no news of 3877 Private. William Moon. It is a curious thing - as I know he would be the last young man to wish to avoid his home. The only solution, if he is still alive, is that he is insane. I should much like you to continue enquiries, please. Yours faithfully, Lady Ashton of Hyde".

Notes : Very little is known of Moon's background and his relationship to the district.

His name appeared on a list of Ivanhoe men killed in action published in 1919, and his attestation papers suggest he belonged to the Ivanhoe Rifle Club, but his address on embarkation was given as c/o Kate Elizabeth Whelan in Elm Street, Northcote.

Moon's next-of-kin was given as his father, William senior, in Vinehall Street, Robertsbridge, Sussex, England. The little remaining correspondence in archives is from his father.

His fate remains a mystery – his Red Cross file contains several letters including that quoted from Lady Ashton on behalf of his parents. Two from the Red Cross in London suggest that they had been advised by the A.I.F. that he was invalided back to England, but had never contacted his family (there is nothing in his archived history to confirm this).

Moon was originally posted as Wounded on August 5, 1916 - this was changed to Wounded and Missing after the family's enquiries in February of the following year and then a week later confirmed Killed In Action after he had not been sighted for several months.

The confusion was perhaps understandable and there is no indication in Moon's history to suggest where he died - the 22nd Battalion alone lost 101 men the day Moon was declared killed, circulars returned for other casualties place the battalion at Pozieres.

He is included on memorials for both the Ivanhoe district and the Ivanhoe Anglican Church and the circular returned by his father suggested he was 25 years of age when he arrived unaccompanied in Australia.



Moore, Albert James

Key Address : 28 Armadale Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 16 Infantry Battalion - 18 to 22 Reinforcements (July-November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Seang Bee
Ship Number : A48
Date of Embarkation : 18 July 1916
Place of Embarkation : Fremantle

Service Number : 5753 **Enlisted :** 20/03/1916 **At :** Perth

Born At : Richmond **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 18/04/1917 **Aged :** 34

Place of Death : (as P.O.W), Bavarian War Hospital, Valenciennes, France

Buried At : 1142 Valenciennes Communal Cemetery, France

Occupation : Horse Driver

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Wesleyan

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James Easten and Sarah Anne Moore (nee Rowleston)

Eyewitnesses : "Was taken Prisoner Of War at Bullecourt on the 11th April 1917, was wounded in abdomen. He died in hospital at Valenciennes about 16th April 1917. I was in same hospital and examined his disc to take his number" (Private. R.H. Hindley, 6128)

"I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the above named soldier died of wounds in ward 3 Valenciennes Hospital France on the 16.4.1917. He was in my platoon and my ward. I saw him placed in the coffin"

Unterschrift des offizieren oder des soldaten
(Signature of Officer or soldier) E. J. Ensor, 3770

Notes : Moore enlisted in Western Australia, although he lived most of his life in Northcote.

Of those from the local district, the Moore family is unique – his parents married in 1880 and had nine sons, seven of whom seem to have enlisted!

In chronological order of birth, Albert was the eldest, followed by George (1881), Charles (1886), Arthur (1887), Edward (1888), Jack (1891) and John (1893) - while an eighth, Frederick (1899) tried to enlist but apparently with no success.

All of Albert's fellow A.I.F. brothers returned to Australia safely, but at least five paid a price for their service.

George also enlisted from Western Australia and returned to Australia with gunshot wounds to the right leg in December, 1917; Charles from Clifton Hill was slightly wounded and spent much of 1918 in hospital or on light duties in England suffering from bronchitis and pneumonia; Arthur from N.S.W. was gassed in April, 1918 and spent the rest of the war in hospital in England; Edward was from Maffra and was wounded in the left forearm in August, 1916 and returned to Australia for discharge in November of that year.

The two younger brothers must have caused A.I.F. administrators a headache. National Archives have a single file for John Moore with two Service Numbers annotated - 4592 and 5152 - but much of the evidence is that they were in fact the two brothers, Jack for some reason using his brother's name. 5152 enlisted on 22 January, 1916 and embarked with the 14th Battalion on HMAT Anchises on 14 March, 1916. 4592 enlisted three days later, embarking with the 22nd Battalion on RMS Orontes on 29 March, 1916.



Moore, Albert James continued

Most cases of dual Service Numbers arose because the serviceman had officially embarked, but was later put back on shore for some reason and re-assigned to another unit, but there is no evidence of this here.

Both Attestations listed their calling as "driver" and both were somewhat unique physical specimens for the time, although with apparent differences. 4592 stood 6'2 and 5112 just a fraction shorter.

The former, however, was listed as nearly 13 1/2 stone with a chest measured at 39 inches normal, 42 expanded, 5112 was somewhat leaner at a little over 11 stone with chest at 37 and 39 inches.

Even at this stage, administrators could be forgiven for believing them to be one and the same, but although both had brown hair, 4592 was listed as sallow complexion, hazel eyes and no distinguishing marks, his opposite as fresh complexion, grey eyes and a scar on the right wrist.

Of course, identifying who was who should be simple based on their ages - but whether by subterfuge and simple misunderstanding, 4592 suggested he was 21 years and 10 months, his older brother 22 years and two months, despite the fact that they enlisted just days apart. This gives them birthdates just four months apart, quite an achievement for James and Emily Moore, even after a round dozen children!

It is impossible to out the two histories - one (4592) was repatriated back to Australia in July, 1917 with symptoms of shell shock heart irregularity after suffering from a severe case of rheumatic fever.

The Leader suggested Frederick also enlisted, but there is no trace of him in AWM records - National Archives do however have a file (the contents of which are unfortunately not available on-line) of his application to enlist at 21 years of age. The record does not carry a specific date and his application may have been rejected on medical grounds or perhaps because the war ended before he could take up the colours.

His father was listed as next-of-kin on attestation as at Armadale Street, later altered to 158 Charles Street and then 71 Charles Street in Northcote, the latter two addresses quoted in his brothers applications. Moore's will actually left all his property to Mrs Jack Clapp, the wife of the friend he was living with in Perth, coincidentally in Moore Street, East Perth.

Moore was posted as Missing on April 11, 1917, this later amended to Wounded and his death does not seem to have become known to the Allied authorities until September when his identity disc and a death certificate was returned. By the German Red Cross

His archives are marked at one point "Delete "Died as a Prisoner of War in Germany", and in lieu of "to read "Died while Prisoner of War in German hands". The difference escapes us, but perhaps the fact the camp was described as "just a few miles behind enemy lines" and in France necessitated the change.

He died at the Bavarian Military Hospital, Valenciennes following a virulent infection of his original injury, a machine-gun wound and a fracture of the left foot. Moore was one of just two local servicemen to die in a German prisoner-of-war camp. The eyewitness, Private Edward Ensor was in the same hospital with a gunshot wound to the knee and was repatriated back to England in January, 1918 as part of an exchange of wounded prisoners of war. eye

James (1894) appears to have been the only brother not to enlist, whilst Olive (1893), Myra (1890) and Ruth (1896) kept up the numbers on the female side of the family.

You be the judge - the signature at left is that of John Moore (4592), the right John Moore (5112)



Moore, George Francis Robert

Key Address : 140 Raleigh Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private, 38th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements
Embarked : HMAT Port Lincoln
 Ship Number A17
 Date of Embarkation : 20 October, 1916
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2360 **Enlisted :** 13/09/1916 **At :**
Born At : Evandale, Tasmania **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 07/06/1917 **Aged :** 37
Place of Death : Messines, Belgium
Buried At : The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Carpenter
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George Francis and Mary Ann Moore (nee Jones)
 Wife Amy Bertha Moore

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Moore gave his and his wife Amy's address as 140 Raleigh Street, Northcote, with his parents in Scottsdale, Tasmania. 1915 Directories show a George R. Moore, but at 78 Raleigh Street. This may well have been the same site as Raleigh Street, like several in Northcote was renumbered as the streets extended further to the western end of the newly-proclaimed city.
 140 Raleigh Street is also shown in Moore's Will, but Amy at the time of Moore's death was also in Scottsdale, presumably with his parents.
 Four children are shown in pension records, Carl (shown in Tasmania records as born in 1911, Edna (1915), Arthur, and Olive.
 Olive is listed as being born on Tasmania in May, 1916, just a month before her father was killed, confirming the family moved back to the Apple Isle after George embarked. There is no record in either Victorian or Tasmanian records of the birth of Arthur.
 Other than a brief stay in hospital with bronchitis, there is little record of Moore's time with the army and there is no reference to the circumstances of his death.



Moore, George Fredrick

Key Address : 361 Heidelberg Road, Alphington
Rank and Unit : Gunner, 54 Field Artillery Battery
Embarked Lance Corporal 39 Infantry Battalion (May 1916)
Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number : A11
Date of Embarkation : 27 May 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as George Frederick Moore)
Service Number : 515 **Enlisted :** 25/01/1916 **At :** Diamond Creek
Born At : Sydney **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 23/10/1918 **Aged :** 28
Place of Death : (of wounds), 47th Casualty Clearing Station, near Peronnes, France
Buried At : 725 Vandencourt British Cemetery, Maissemy, France
Occupation : Farmer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist
Next of Kin/Family : Mother Mrs Lillian Moore

Eyewitnesses : "... was admitted to 47th Casualty Clearing Station on the 23rd October suffering from a severe shell wound which perforated the abdomen. He died the same day and I buried him in the British Cemetery at Vandencourt " (A. G. Harris, Chaplain, C of E.)

Notes : Moore's death was listed in the Leader but his connection to the district is vague.

His mother was listed as next-of-kin with an address in Diamond Creek, with himself at Eltham. His mother's address later became 361 Heidelberg Road, Alphington, but according to the change of address records in the archives, this wasn't until early 1921.

His father was noted as deceased on attestation and Moore himself was shown as a boot maker in the 1914 Electoral Rolls at the Heidelberg Road address. The rolls also show Agnes and Edith Moore at the same location, presumably sisters.

Moore was wounded twice before paying the ultimate price – to the left leg in December 1916, after which he trained as a Gunner and transferred to the 54 th Field Artillery. He was more severely wounded in the abdomen in October 1917 and was repatriated back to hospital and England

It wasn't until mid-August of the following year (some five weeks before he was killed) that he returned to his unit in France. Moore died at the 47th Casualty Clearing Station on 23 October, 1918 of wounds (again to the abdomen), received in a shell explosion the previous day.

Moore kept his nose clean for the two and a half years he was in the Army except for an charge which came while he was on light duties following his second stay in hospital; that "he failed to return surplus coal to the coal yard", for which he copped a reprimand!

His National Archive file is held under George Frederick Moore, but his signature (and most of the AWM records) show the second given name as "Fredrick".

His name does not appear on the Alphington War Memorial.



Morfee, William George

Key Address : "Ashford", Murray Road, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 22 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 18 Reinforcements (July - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Shropshire
 Ship Number : A9
 Date of Embarkation : 25 September 1916
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5630 **Enlisted :** 11/04/1916 **At :** Preston

Born At : Hastings, England **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 3/05/1917 **Aged :** 27
Place of Death : Moreuil, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Kitchen hand
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Mother Mrs Fanny Hatch (England)
 Wife Mrs Nancy Morfee (nee Smith)

Eyewitnesses : "I saw him dead at Moreuil - he had been hit by a shell and killed instantly. I believe he was wounded first, and came out to be dressed but was killed before he reached the dressing station ..." (letter from Paton, Private. 23rd Battalion)

Notes : Morfee on attestation and embarkation suggested he was living in Prahran and gave his mother, Mrs Fanny Hatch in Hastings, England as next of kin.

He claimed to be single, but he married Nancy Smith (parents noted as John and Annie Smith) before embarking, her address originally shown as Murray Road, Preston and from 1921 in Albert Street, Windsor.

If Morfee gave his correct age on enlisting, then she would have been 11 or 12 years his senior, Victorian Death Records showing her dying in 1939 at 61 years of age (or around 38 when the couple married).

No circular was returned and there is nothing in immigration records to suggest when he came to Australia. There is no record of Nancy's birth locally, suggesting she too may have been of British origin.

His widow never re-married and was awarded a pension. There were no children of the marriage (perhaps not surprising given the couple probably had less than two or three weeks together before Morfee embarked for overseas).

Morfee appears to have previously been a professional soldier, his Attestation papers revealing he spent seven years with the 5th Royal Sussex Machine Gun Section before coming to Australia.

Despite what appear to have been specialised experience, Morfee was assigned to an infantry battalion and despite notes suggesting he was buried "in the field", his remains were never recovered.



Morison, William

Key Address : 46 Elm Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : 7 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 2 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6536 **Enlisted :** 25/07/1916 **At :** Collingwood

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** Gold Street, Clifton Hill State School,
O'Hara's College, South Melbourne

Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Passchendaele, Belgium

Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Clerk, Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Congregationalist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Andrew and Mary Jane Morison (nee Truman)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : "Morison" is the correct spelling, rather than the much more common "Morrison".

He was posted as Missing on October 4, 1917, and confirmed Killed In Action on that date some sixteen days later. There are no eyewitness accounts of his demise - his Red Cross archives consist only of an official note declaring his death.

Whether Morison's remains were ever found is unclear - his name being recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial suggests not, but his identity disc was amongst the small collection of personal effects returned to his father.

The circular returned by his father reveals Morison won two scholarships at Gold Street State School in Clifton Hill before continuing his education at O'Hara's College in Bridport Street, South Melbourne and his interests include church work, chemistry and first aid.

William Morison had several younger brothers and sisters - Christopher (1894), Alexander (1900), George (1902), Edith (1907) and Florence (1912).



Morrison, Ernest Henry Roderick

Key Address : 30 Bell Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private, 5 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 14 April 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1781 **Enlisted :** 18/09/1914 **At :** Chiltern

Born At : Benalla **Educated At :** Benalla

Date of Death : 09/08/1915 **Aged :** 19

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : Lone Pine Memorial, Turkey

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R. C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Roderick and Louisa Morrison, (nee Limer)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Morrison's contact with the district was fleeting - he was not noted in the Leader, but a "Roll of Honour" entry in The Argus revealed he was a son of Mr. Roderick Morrison "of Preston".

Morrison gave his parents' address as Benalla when he enlisted at Chiltern - although The Argus entry, undoubtedly supplied by his parents, suggested he enlisted in New south Wales.

His parents only remained in Preston for a couple of years, later appearing at addresses in Brighton, the circular being returned from 11 Coronation Street in that suburb.

Morrison's archives contain a request from a Mrs M. M. Morrison (relationship unknown), who gave her address as St. Vincent's Hospital, for the address of Morrison's next-of-kin - in line with Defence Department policy, the request was refused on the basis of "insufficient reason".

Both the AWM and National Archives show Ernest Henry, and Victorian Birth Records add his father's name of Roderick. He had four siblings, Ethel (1888), Ronald (1892), Gemima (1895), and Olga (1898).



Moss, Albert James

Key Address : Creek Parade, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Gunner, 2nd Division Ammunition Column Australian Field Artillery Embarked 13 LHR [Light Horse Regiment] - 1 to 7 Reinforcements (June-November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Malakuta
Ship Number A57
Date of Embarkation : 10 September, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 864 **Enlisted :** 15/06/1915 **At :**

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 22/05/1917 **Aged :** 24

Place of Death : (of disease at sea), HMAT Runic

Buried At : (buried at sea) Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France

Occupation : Galvaniser

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R. C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Timothy Henry and Elizabeth Moss (nee Doyle)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Moss was with his family at Inverloch in South Gippsland when he enlisted.

The family around the time of his birth seem to have alternated between Northcote and Collingwood – as well as Albert, three other children were born in Northcote; Arthur (1884), William (1888, died at nine months) and Francis (1892), these were interspersed with Isaac (1882) and George (1886) in Collingwood, with the youngest of the clan Septimus (Brunswick, 1896).

Despite the fighting continuing in the Dardanelles, Moss was shipped directly to England and was transferred to France in May, 1916 but contracted influenza and was repatriated back to England a fortnight before the bloodbath at Fromelles on 19 July.

He served on light duties in England, but was again hospitalised, this time with bronchitis, and in May, 1917, he embarked upon HMAT Runic for return to Australia and discharge on account of chronic rheumatism.

He was admitted into the ship's hospital on 5 May and his condition deteriorated rapidly in the four days leading up to his death.

The official cause of death was noted as nephritis, but it was noted he was suffering from a heart condition.

The family later proved untraceable and Albert's war medals were never distributed. He was deemed ineligible for the 1914-15 Star as he did not serve in an area of conflict. No circular was returned.



Moulden, Reginald Emberson

Key Address : "Leamington", Spring Street, Preston Reservoir
Rank and Unit : Driver, 2 Field Ambulance (October 1914)
Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
 Ship Number : A18
 Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 171 **Enlisted :** 18/08/1914 **At :**
Born At : St. Kilda **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 20/04/1919 **Aged :** 28
Place of Death : (of influenza/effects of malaria), Exhibition Emergency Hospital, Carlton
Buried At : Coburg Cemetery

Occupation : Butcher (shown in 1915 Electoral Rolls as "cattle dealer")
Marital Status : Single **Religion :**
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Edward T. and Emily Moulden (nee Emberson)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Moulden contracted malaria in Egypt and was hospitalised several times with debilitating headaches made worse by exposure to bright sunlight and was repatriated home to Australia in November, 1917 to carry out nursing duties locally and discharged around a year later. He had spent just on four years with the Senior Cadets before enlisting.

He suffered a relapse on return and was nursed by his family, but was later admitted to the Base Hospital in St. Kilda Road, the Caulfield Military Hospital and finally to what his father termed "the Exhibition slaughterhouse", an Emergency Hospital set up in the Exhibition Buildings during the influenza epidemic of early 1919.

Moulden died there on Easter Sunday, 1919, some ten days after being admitted.

Despite his long history of illness after being sent to Egypt, the A.I.F. refused a request from Moulden's father for the Memorial Scroll and Plaque, claiming his death was attributable to "the influenza epidemic at the time" and not to his War Service. His name as a result does not appear on Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour.

A report in the Leader several months later noted the return from service of his younger brother, Harold Emberson – "younger" perhaps somewhat redundant as they were twins!

Other siblings were Edward (1884, enlisted from Tasmania), Eva (1886, died at seven months), Walter (1885, listed as an artist and rejected from service because of deafness), Harold Stanley (1887, died at three months), Ralph (1894) and Mona (1901).

Another daughter, Evelyn was born in 1889 and was tragically killed in a riding accident at the Whittlesea Show in 1904.

Moulden senior was listed as a cattle dealer and part of his property was used by a revived Preston Rifle Club in 1901 and 1902. The rather extensive estate fronted Spring Street in the odd little section north of Edwards Street before Spring joins High Street (now intersected by Kenilworth and Ralph Streets). For several years, Moulden's neighbour on the corner of Edwards Street was described as a wine café.

At the time of opening, the rifle range was described as being adjacent to Preston-Reservoir railway station, but later reports on the club's activities refer to "the new lake range", suggesting it extended all the way to the land Thomas Dyer Edwards' later donated to the Shire to become part of an expanded lake reserve.

Around 1910, it was suggested the range be purchased by the Federal Government and expanded into a national range similar to that at Williamstown, but after a number of inspections and the inevitable reports, nothing came of the plan and the property was subdivided around 1919 as the Leamington Estate.



Moult, Frederick Joseph

Key Address : 7 Sargood Street, Northcote (later Emmaline Street)
Rank and Unit : Private 38 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 6 Reinforcements (June- December 1916)
Embarked : RMS Orontes
Date of Embarkation : 16 August 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 1880 **Enlisted :** 8/03/1916 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Preston **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 30/05/1919 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : (gas poisoning/tuberculosis), Tumut Hospital, N.S.W.
Buried At : Tumut, N.S.W.
Occupation : Leather dresser
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Frederick and Deborah Moult (nee Cubitt)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Moult was wounded in action (gassed) 27 April 1918, repatriated to Australia on 23 July 1918 and died the following year from tuberculosis caused by the gas. He was also wounded in the shoulder and neck in June 1917.

On return to Australia in October 1918 he was transferred to the Military Sanatorium, MacLeod (later Mont Park Mental Hospital). He was discharged as medically unfit in December and nothing remains to document the reason for his later presence at Tumut (presumably for the mountain air).

Moult was one of the unknown number of ex-servicemen that died as a result of their war service, but never officially recognised a casualty of the conflict, having passed away outside the A.I.F.'s definition of "service" as "War plus four months" The AWM does not include him in their Honour Roll.

Victorian Registrations are somewhat incomplete for the family (perhaps spending time interstate) - they show two sisters, Lavinia and Levada - but a death notice suggests another three, Rita (identified as such), Mrs. W. Howse (Elsie) and Mrs Smith (Charlotte).

Cubitt appears to be their mother's maiden name, but Culpit and Culpitt are also noted.

Moult's documentation shows the family address as Sargood Street; the name was changed to Emmaline Street in October, 1917.



Mundy, Clarence Reginald

Key Address : "Emor Ruo", Seymour Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant, 16th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment), Royal Air Force

Embarked :

Service Number : **Enlisted :** **At :** Canada

Born At : Mooroopna **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 23/11/1918 **Aged :** 32

Place of Death : Killed while flying (crashed)

Buried At : 106 Crail Parish Churchyard, Scotland

Occupation : Engineer/Student

Marital Status : Single **Religion :**

Next Kin/Family : **Parents** George Francis and Esther Mundy (nee Johnson)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Clarence Mundy's background was perhaps one of the glamorous of any serviceman in our archives, although it is fair to say that he may never have set foot within Darebin.

Rather than the usual background of the local volunteers battling their way through the mandatory six years of State School, he was in the United States when war broke out.

Just what he was doing is a little confusing - the local Leader suggested he was studying music, but a note in the Melbourne-based Argus when he received his commission as a Lieutenant had him as "engaged in bridge building projects in Eureka, United States". Given he was 32 when he was killed, the latter seems the more likely scenario for his full-time employment.

Both accounts confirm Mundy had made his own way from the United States to Canada to enlist, serving with the Princess Patricia's Scottish Regiment of the Canadian Infantry Battalion "the only Australian in the Regiment".

After he had an arm shattered by an artillery shell in 1916, he joined up with the Royal Air Force, one of the few from the district that died outside of the infantry and of the few reported after the official announcement of the cessation of hostilities.

Details of his death (two weeks after hostilities ceased) were carried in the Leader and he appears on the AWM Commemorative Roll of Australians killed serving with the forces of another country, although there is nothing to indicate the circumstances of his death.

Seymour Street was not numbered in the 1916 Sands and MacDougall directories. The Mundy residence was on the southern side, two doors east of High Street.

There is nothing in official records noting Clarence's birth around 1880. A Death Notice in Melbourne newspapers notes his siblings as "Leslie, Mrs Long and Sylvia", and of these three, only Sylvia (1892) is recorded, at least confirming the family originated around Mooroopna. There is also a death recorded of another sister, Mary, in 1899 at 21.

George Mundy died in December, 1923.



Mundy, Percival Robert Randolph

Key Address : 46 Broomfield Avenue, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private 8 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 7019 **Enlisted :** 25/09/1915 **At :** Fairfield

Born At : North Fitzroy **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 26
Place of Death : Passchendaele, Belgium
Buried At : 125 Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, Belgium

Occupation : Baker
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Robert and Alice Maud May Mundy (nee Ashmore)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : There is a [Clarence Reginald Mundy](#), killed in an air crash with British forces (included), but there does not appear to have been a blood relationship.

There was a battle between his parents for the Victory Medal issued in 1922, his mother providing a Statutory Declaration to the effect that her husband had deserted her in December 1917, that she had been forced to take out a court order for the payment of maintenance and that he "was not a fit and proper person to hold his son's decorations".

There were also two sisters, Florence and Lilly, and the deceased names in all official archives appears as Percy rather than the Percival used by the AWM.

Despite a fairly lengthy archive running to 63 pages, much of the documentation is purely of an administrative nature following Mundy's death and sadly little is revealed of his military background

Mundy's sacrifice is commemorated on the Alphington War Memorial.



Munro, James (Australian Flying Corps)

Key Address : 65 Pender Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Air Mechanic, Australian Flying Corps, Australian Army. Embarked Australian Flying Corps - 1 Reinforcements. Special Draft

Embarked : RMS Persia
Date of Embarkation : 10 August, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 47 **Enlisted :** 07/07/1915 **At :**

Born At : Darlinghurst **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 13/10/1916 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : (of Illness) Adama Prisoner Of War Camp, Turkey

Buried At : Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq

Occupation : Chaffeur

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George and Sarah Munro
Wife Veronica Mary Munro (nee Mitchell)

Eyewitnesses : "We are in good health including Mechanic Sloss and Hudson. I am sorry to hear of the deaths of Munro, Lord, Rayment, Williams, Adams, Soley and Curran. Lieut. L. W. Heathcote of Australian Flying Corps is now quartered in this town" (extract from letter from Captain Thomas W. White, A.F.C., dated 23.4.17 at Afien Kara Hissar, Turkey)

"Those that died at Adama were I believe in the American Hospital there. Miss Davies, an American lady who assisted at the hospital and who may have returned to Adana may be able to give further information regarding their deaths. I believe they were being well-treated at the time of their deaths ... Practically all deaths of Kut-el-Amara prisoners may be attributed to the hardships of the march to Anatolia and neglect and cruelty on the part of the Turks. Mr. Nicholas Pipereglou, an English speaking Greek cotton-mill proprietor may also be able to give further information if written to" (Report from Captain T. W. White, A.F.C, Escaped Prisoner of War from Turkey, dated 1/1/19)

Notes : Munro listed his wife "Vera"(Veronica) at 270 Punt Road, South Yarra, as next Of kin. The couple married in 1912 and had one child, James, born the same year.

She re-married in 1918 just months after Munro's death (which does not seem to have been confirmed until July, 1918), becoming Mrs Thomas Joseph O'Keefe and living at 65 Pender Street, Thornbury. This was the address shown in most of the post-war correspondence, although she returned the circular from Seymour.

Munro was one of a group of nine Australian Air Mechamics sent to Kut Al Amara in Mesopotamia to support a British Army force protecting the rich oilfields south of Baghdad. The Ottoman Army surrounded the town and after a siege of 147 days, the British on 29 April 1916 surrendered their force on around 13,000 men to be made prisoners. Estimates suggest 70% of the British and 50% of the Indian troops died of disease or at the hands of the Ottoman guards during captivity. Just two of the nine Australian mechanics survived. (See [William Henry Lord](#))

He died in a prisoner-of-war hospital at or near Adana, Turkey, of an abscess in the throat (although one report suggests dysentery).

Munro was listed as believed prisoner of war on 27 July, 1916, later as having died on 13 October, 1916 after the Red Cross received a letter from another prisoner reporting his death from a throat abscess, subsequently confirmed by other prisoners after the war.

The letter (above) from Captain White to the Red Cross Office in London went on to suggest that White and the other prisoners did not wish to receive their army pay "due to the uncertainty of delivery of money and parcels, and as we receive £5 per month from the American Embassy ...".



Munro, James (Australian Imperial Force)

Key Address : 38 Station Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 39th Infantry Battalion (May, 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number A11
Date of Embarkation : 27 May, 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1025 **Enlisted :** 09/02/1916 **At :**

Born At : Richmond **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 04/09/1922 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Heidelberg

Buried At :

Occupation : Tanner

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R. C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James Alexander and Mary Ellen Munro (late, nee Ryan)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : There was no publicity of Munro's death and he was one of the many that died from the effects of wounds or illnesses some years after the Armistice. His fate came to light from Probate records which suggested he was residing in Northcote at the time he made his Will.

Munro enlisted giving his next of kin as his father, James Alexander Munro in Shaw Street, Richmond as next of kin. In fact, James senior (shown as a 42 year-old widower with daughter Mary as next of kin) and James junior enlisted on the same day.

James senior returned to Australia in February, 1919 and appears to have re-married. In April, 1916, the next of kin for James junior changed to Mrs S. (Sarah) J. Munro, his grandmother at 38 Station Street, Fairfield,. This was also then the address for Mary, suggesting she moved in with her grandmother after her brother and father enlisted.

Station Street may have been renumbered afterwards -1919 directories also show a William D. Munro at 30 and Charles W Munro at 32 Station Street, but 38 disappeared, 36 shown as occupied by two doctors.

Munro's problems began when he was gassed near Messines, France in June, 1917. He was repatriated back to England when after recovery, he remained on light duties

He arrived back in Australia in November, 1919, and on examination before being discharged complained of shortage of breath and palpitations. He was diagnosed with bronchitis and a 25% disability, a somewhat ominous addendum suggesting a "slapping sound at the apex of the lungs". He was admitted briefly into hospital and remained under treatment until 1 March, 1920.

His history from that point falls outside of his recorded archives and therefore is a little vague. A letter from the Commonwealth Statistician's Office in September, 1920 sought Munro's address "... being in the position of being able to obtain work for a man whom I know to be in want of it".

Although not dated, the receipt for his Victory Medal was signed by Munro at Macleod, suggesting he was then in the Sanatorium. He is shown as dying at Heidelberg – this could reflect either the Sanatorium or the Repatriation Hospital in Heidelberg itself.

Other than Mary, the other siblings were Donald (1903, died at one month), Albert (1906), William (1904, died 1906). The family's mother Mary Ellen died in 1911.



Munro, Robert John

Key Address : "Lurline", 11 High Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit :
Embarked : Did not embark
Service Number : 24951 (Depot) **Enlisted :** 1/03/1916 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 29/07/1917 **Aged :** 33
Place of Death : Northcote
Buried At :
Occupation : Cigar Stripper
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas (late) and Annie Munro (nee Martin)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Brother to [Roy Munro](#), Killed In Action

Robert Munro was discharged from Seymour training camp as medically unfit with chronic arthritis of the right knee on 28 July, 1916, just a month after enlisting with his death reported briefly in the Leader just over a year later.

Medical reports suggest that he had been suffering with the condition for 12 years (despite being passed as medically fit) and suggested that the condition was caused by chronic pyorrhoea a (gum infection).

Neither the Leader nor National Archives reveal the cause of his death, perhaps the latter condition.

Despite being discharged before embarking, both Munro and his mother were awarded a pension, although he does not appear on the AWM Roll of Honour.

The brothers' father, Thomas, is registered on the 1914 Electoral Roll as a Timber Merchant - Leader advertisements suggest his yard was next to Croxton station from at least 1898 - but he appears to have passed away between the time the roll was compiled and Roy and Robert's enlistment.

The true date of his brother Roy's birth is somewhat clouded - it was suggested when he was killed in 1918 that he was 37, this confirmed in the circular. This would place his birth circa 1881, but in Victorian registrations the only Roy Munro is show as born in 1899 and his parents as Thomas and Annie (nee Martin).

Robert's other siblings were James (1882), Leslie, (1885), Hanna (1887), Edith (1889) - all of these born in Collingwood - Hugh (1891), Ethel (1894) and Lydia (1895).



Munro, Roy

Key Address : "Lurline", 11 High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 3 Pnr Bn [Pioneer Battalion]
1 to 6 Reinforcements (June- December 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Karroo
Ship Number : A10
Date of Embarkation : 18 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2361 **Enlisted :** 29/05/1915 **At :** Collingwood

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** Vere Street, Collingwood State School

Date of Death : 6/09/1918 **Aged :** 37

Place of Death : Tincourt, France

Buried At : 446 Tincourt New British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Driver

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas (late) and Annie Munro (nee Martin)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Perhaps one of the great frauds in our archives.

If he really was Roy Munro, he was the elder brother of Private [Robert John Munro](#), 24931 who died of illness contracted in camp, 29 September, 1917.

Munro is shown in both AWM records and National Archives as being 37 (based on the age he gave) when he was killed. His age is confirmed as that in the circular returned by his mother.

But there is a major problem!

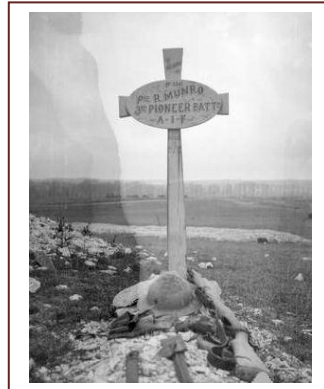
Victorian Registrations (both hand compiled and later computerized) show Roy Munro as being born to Thomas and Annie in Hotham West (probably West Melbourne) in 1899. This is the only Roy Munro to appear in pre-Great War directories.

This means "Roy" would have been only 18 or 19 and certainly underage when he enlisted and it is almost impossible to believe Army authorities would turn a blind eye to someone who was around half his claimed age.

It is also curious he was christened simply as "Roy", despite eight siblings all having second given names, as well as Robert, there was James (1882), Leslie, (1885), Hanna (1887), Edith (1889) - all of these born in Collingwood - Hugh (1891), Ethel (1894) and Lydia (1895).

His mother appears to have temporarily moved from the district to 63 Holden Street, North Fitzroy sometime after her son's death. All correspondence in regard to the return of his personal effects were to the Fitzroy address, but later letters in regard to War Medals, etc. reflect the High Street residence and this is shown on the circular.

The brothers' father, Thomas, is registered on the 1914 Electoral Roll as a Timber Merchant and appears to have passed away between the time the roll was compiled and Roy and Robert's enlistment.





Murphy, Francis William Joseph

Key Address : Dennis Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant 24 Infantry Battalion
Embarked Lance Sergeant 24 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 799 **Enlisted :** 24/03/1915 **At :** Fitzroy

Born At : North Fitzroy **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 28
Place of Death : Zonnebeke, Belgium
Buried At : 88 Aeroplane Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

Occupation : Clerk
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Joseph (late) and Margaret Alice Murphy
(nee Arter, later Walsh)

Eyewitnesses : "For valuable work throughout the operations since 26 March, 1916. This N.C.O. has proved himself energetic in Carrying out his duties in an exemplary manner"
(Recommendation for Military Medal, 15 September, 1916)

Notes : Murphy was promoted to ranks of Second Lieutenant in February 1917 and then to Lieutenant in September 1917. He was recommended for the Military Medal in September, 1916, but it appears the medal was never awarded.

He was killed by enemy shell fire while in a trench near Zonnebeke, Belgium. He died just two weeks after returning to the front line after spending five months with the 6th Training Battalion in England.

He nominated as next-of-kin his mother, then Mrs Walsh in Dennis Street. By November 1919 was residing at 36 Delbridge Street, North Fitzroy and there is also a reference to a sister, Mary Teresa Murphy (1887) being granted a pension. She was his only sibling.

Official Death Records disclose his father died in 1889, confirmed by responses from his mother some twenty years later when questioned as to whether she was officially Murphy's next-of-kin ... "his father died just four weeks before he was born".

He was noted as a member of St. Joseph's Church in Northcote, two other members of the congregation, Privates Thomas Connors and John Thomas Barker were killed in the same week.



Murray, David William

Key Address : Corner Pender and Newcastle Streets, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 7 Infantry Battalion
9 to 12 Reinforcements (September-November 1915)

Embarked : RMS Osterley
Date of Embarkation : 29 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as David Murray)

Service Number : 3078 **Enlisted :** 16/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Melbourne **Educated At :** Christian Brothers Orphanage,
South Melbourne

Date of Death : 18/11/1915 **Aged :** 45

Place of Death : (of pneumonia), Cairo

Buried At : 9 Cairo War Memorial, Egypt

Occupation : Stud Groom

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Patrick (late) and Mary Murray (late, nee Meehan)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Murray's next of kin was given as his sister, Mrs Matilda Pretty in Hawksburn, but by embarkation, both he and his sister were at the Thornbury address.

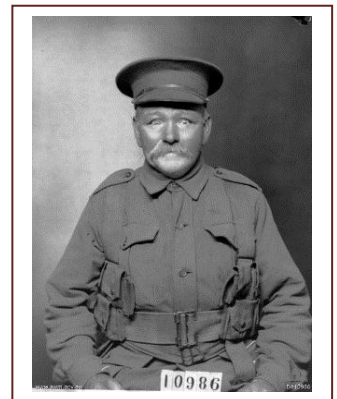
A Statutory Declaration in 1920 reveals Mrs Pretty died on April 8 of that year, and the next in line was then a younger sister, Mrs Margaret Nicholson (born 1866), living in North Melbourne who later provided the circular details. There was also a brother Charles, born 1864, almost certainly deceased as he would have been eligible to receive David's medals ahead of both sisters.

Both parents were noted as deceased and the circular suggested he was educated at the Christian Brothers Orphanage in South Melbourne, but there is nothing to suggest when his parents died.

Based on the information provided when he enlisted, Murray was officially 45 when he died. One glance at his photograph would suggest the recruiting officer was having a bad day; Murray looks considerably older and records reveal he was born in 1862, making him 57 or 58 years of age when he died and the oldest in or records.

Murray was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital in Cairo dangerously ill with pneumonia shortly after arriving in Egypt and died the following day.

He appears in the National Archives and on AWM embarkation records simply as David Murray, but the latter's Honour Roll included the second name of William.





Murray, Stanley Alfred Henry

Key Address : "Waverley", 62 Waterloo Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 37 Infantry Battalion
7 and 8 Reinforcements (February-December 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3339 **Enlisted :** 20/10/1917 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Yea **Educated At :** Yarck State School

Date of Death : 11/08/1918 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : (of wounds) France

Buried At : 119 Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Railway Porter

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Henry and Mary Jane Murray (nee Mills)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Murray suffered gunshot wounds to the lower back and buttocks on August 10, 1918, and died at the 55th Casualty Clearing Station the following day. He had previously been admitted to hospital in June suffering abrasions to the right hip but returned to his unit within a week.

Prior to enlisting, he had served three years with the Senior Cadets in Northcote and three years with the Citizen's Forces in Albert Park.

Victorian registrations have his siblings as Alice (1881), Vere (1882), William (1884, A.I.F.) and Arthur (1886).

William enlisted from the same address and reached the rank of Sergeant with the 2nd Light Horse Infantry.

The circular returned by his father from Waterloo Road suggested Stanley had a cousin, Henry Alfred Murray killed in action. In turn, the circular for the latter reveals that the latter had a brother John Thomas Murray who died in camp - both were listed as from Yarck.

As well as the known family members, the 1914 Electoral Rolls show Henry and Charles Murray at the Waterloo Road address - whether this was the same Henry Murray is unclear.



Myers, John James (Military Medal)

Key Address : Police Station, Northcote

Rank and Unit : CSM 14th Battalion Australian Infantry
Embarked Private 14 Infantry Battalion (December 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 619 **Enlisted :** 10/09/1914 **At :** Bendigo

Born At : Marong **Educated At :** Marist Brothers, Bendigo

Date of Death : 5/05/1918 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : Villers Bretonneux, France

Buried At : 424 Crucifix Corner Cemetery, Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Rebecca Ellen Myers (nee Touhill)

Eyewitnesses : "For leading bombing squads which successfully entered enemy strong points. They both threw bombs untiringly and it was due to their efforts enemy were held back for some time. Stood to their posts under heavy fire with undaunted courage" Lt. Col. Dare (joint recommendation for Military Medal with Edgar John Rule)

Notes :

Myers was wounded four times before being killed and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the Pozieres action in August, 1916, when he was a Corporal.

He and his parents were listed at Daylesford Police Station at the time of embarkation.

There were several younger surviving children, Leonard (1898), Mary (1902), Norma (1906), Herbert (1908), Ernest (1910) and Pauline (1912). Like many families of the era, there were couple of tragedies over the years, perhaps a little more traumatic because two of the lost children, Norman (born 1900, died 1904) and Vincent (1904, died 1909) survived the anticipated dangers of childbirth.

His father was posted to the St. Kilda Road Police Station in March, 1917. The date of his arrival in Northcote is unknown, but his parents were still at the Northcote Station at the time of the circular.

Myers was promoted to Corporal in July, 1916, to Sergeant in September of the same year, and to then to Company Sergeant Major in April, 1917.

He also was made Temporary Regimental Sergeant Major in January 1918, reverting to C.S.M. after about three months.

As well as being awarded the Military Medal, he was also recommended for two Distinguished Service Medals.





Needham, Charles William Hector

Key Address : East Street, Northcote South

Rank and Unit : C.Q.M.S. Embarked Lance Corporal 6 Infantry Battalion

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 884 **Enlisted :** 17/08/1914 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Woodend **Educated At :** State and private

Date of Death : 7/08/1915 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Tailor

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Henry and Julia Henrietta Needham
(nee Forrester)

Eyewitnesses : "Informant states that on August 7th at Anzac Cove he saw Q.M.S. Needham in the trenches ... there were about 20 men lying in front of the trench that night but it was impossible to get to them. Several of the others declared that they saw Q.M.S. Needham lying there ... " (Charles Frederick Hodges, 6th Australians)

Notes : According to one eyewitness report, Needham was nicknamed "Chick".

He was promoted to Company Sergeant Major in May, 1915, and was posted as missing and later certified Killed In Action at an enquiry in April of the following year.

Three or four eye witnesses suggest he was never seen again after a charge on an enemy observation post. In something of an oddity for the Dardanelles campaign, a couple of the witnesses suggested it was a German officer's trench rather than a Turkish post.

His parents shifted several times, the first time in March 1918 to Ringwood and later to Camberwell and Hawthorn. At the time of Needham's enlistment, East Street was not numbered and the family home was the only house of the western side between Westgarth and Cunningham Streets.

William and Julia Needham married in 1888 and had two other children, both daughters, Henrietta (1889) and Estelle (1891).



Newell, Alan Herbert

Key Address : 64 Pender Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 23 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 27 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2200 **Enlisted :** 16/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Riana, Tasmania **Educated At :** Richmond State School

Date of Death : 26/08/1916 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : (of wounds), 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton, England

Buried At : 111 Brighton Borough Cemetery, Sussex, England

Occupation : Knitting Manufacturer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Edwin Percy and May Newell (nee Edmonds)

Eyewitnesses : "He was with us 10 days and gradually got weaker, the end was sudden, heart failure. He told us he had no pain and was most grateful for all that was done for him, and liked by all that knew him. The morning following his death, the Australians in the same block collected money around their comrades to buy a wreath and as so much was collected, they wished what was left over to be sent to his mother ... the wreath they got cost a guinea and was all white & Anzac written across in red ..." (Sister B. Donit, 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton)

Notes : Newell remains one of the more mysterious backgrounds of men from the district.

He gave his next-of-kin as his mother May Newell at 64 Pender Street, Thornbury, with no mention of his father. On attestation, he claimed to have been born at Penguin in Tasmania, but there is nothing in the Apple Isle's registrations to confirm this.

A Death Notice suggested Alan had four siblings - three sisters, Ida, Jessie and Cali, and a brother, Albert, who was secretary of the Pender's Grove Settlers Association. Again there is nothing in Tasmanian records of their birth.

A check of when May Newell died reveals her maiden name was Edmonds - and thus we can identify locally-born offspring - Ida (1902), Jessie (1906), Joseph (1901) and Edna (1909), and through the children's birth records confirm that their father was Edwin Percy Newell, who died in Reservoir in 1971 at the fine old age of 89 years.

Obviously there may have been children other than Alan born in Tasmania for which there is no remaining record, but May Newell on the Circular nominated Northcote as the district to which her deceased son was most closely associated with.

Newell died from wounds to the spinal area after being wounded in the back and shoulder at Etaples, France on 4 August, 1916. He was repatriated to England on the 15th, classified as dangerously ill and partially paralysed, dying in hospital 10 days later. He formerly served with the 55th Volunteer Regiment, Collingwood.

A Leader list in 1917 of Preston's war dead included a Robert Newell, the name also on the South Preston State School roll as a casualty. There was a Robert Henry Newell from Brunswick killed in action, but there is no apparent link either to Alan Newell or the Preston district.



Newell, Robert Henry

Key Address : South Preston State School

Rank and Unit : Private, 6th Australian Brigade Headquarters
Embarked Private, HQ 1 Australian Division (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Orvieto
Ship Number A3
Date of Embarkation : 22 October, 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as SRN 18)

Service Number : 52A **Enlisted :** 17/08/1914 **At :**

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** South Preston State School
Brunswick State school

Date of Death : 07/05/1917 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : (of wounds), 3rd Casualty Clearing Station, Grevillers France

Buried At : Grevillers British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Iron moulder

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Father Andrew and Eliza Newell (nee Dobson)

Eyewitnesses : "I knew Private Robert Newell well - I know his number 52, 6th Infantry Brigade H. Q. batman to General Gellibrand, came away from Australia with the General. I saw his grave in a Military Cemetery at the C.C.S. Grevillers just outside Bapaume, there is a cross on it with his name and number on it ... I am positive that the General wrote to Newell's relations in Australia. I helped to do the grave up"(Driver E. R. Huckson, 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade H.Q)

Notes : Although no link to the Darebin district has ever been discovered, Robert Henry Newell is included on the basis of his inclusion on three Honour Rolls - that of South Preston State School, as "Newell, R"; at a memorial service organised by the Preston Shire in April, 1918 and reported in the Leader as Robert Newell; and on the Preston Cenotaph with just the initial (the standard for the Memorial).

His next of kin was given as a brother S. Newell at 184 Nicholson Street, East Brunswick, his father was also later noted at the same address

Newell's military career was unique in our local history in that he served for just over three and a half years as batman (officer's servant) to Major General John Gellibrand, KCB, DSO, DSM in Egypt, at Gallipoli and then on the Western Front.

He was wounded in a shell burst that killed five others near Bapaume, France on 4 May, 1917. He was taken to the 3rd Casualty Clearing Station where he died three days later from wounds to the face and a compound fracture of the left arm.

Other than missing 68 days in late 1916 with venereal disease, there is little else of note in his background.

Robert Newell's siblings were Samuel (above, born 1894) and Hannah (1891).

Despite the absence of a direct link to the deceased serviceman, there were several connections to families named Newell.

There was an [Allan Herbert Newell](#) of Pender Street, Northcote killed; a brother Albert was secretary of the Pender's Grove Progress Association, but this family appears to have originated in Tasmania.

The Leader also published letters from Sergeant Ernest Newell, whose next-of-kin was given as his father, initials J. E. at 65 Collins Street. Thornbury, and there was a Hugh Newell operating a butcher's shop at 611 High Street, Preston at the time of Robert's death.



Newton, Joseph James

Key Address : 36 High Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private, 21 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 702 **Enlisted :** 18/01/1915 **At :** Bright

Born At : South Melbourne **Educated At :** Bridport Street, Albert Park State School

Date of Death : 26/8/1916 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : Moquet Farm, Pozieres, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux-France

Occupation : Boot Trade Mechanic

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Isaac Albert and Elizabeth Newton (nee Yoxhall)

Eyewitnesses : "On or about 16th of August 1916 at Armentieres I met a man called Syphers of the 22nd Battalion who was a personal friend of Newton and myself. Syphers told me he had seen Newton wounded and taken prisoner. We wrote and informed his family in Australia ..." (G. Ellingham, 190, 1st Anzac Cavalry)

"In August at the Quarries,, Pozieres, a Capt. Smith was standing just in front of Newton. A shell exploded and killed them both. They were both buried in the same grave where they fell ..." (Private J. Basemore, 341, 21st Australians)

Notes : Newton lived in the Ovens Valley but had two contacts with the district.

The Leader noted a sister, noted only as Mrs R. Sharman (since identified as Rebecca) lived with her husband at 36 High Street, Preston.

AWM records show a brother, John enlisted, giving Mrs Sharman as next-of-kin and his residential address simply as Preston. He returned in January, 1918 after being wounded twice)

Their uncle, Herbert Nichols was secretary of the influential Northcote South Ratepayer's Association and lived at 6 Bridge Street, Northcote, and it was in this context that the Leader reported Newton's death. The pair were cousins of [Private. William George Nichols](#), Herbert's brother.

The Newton family lived in Freeburgh in the Ovens Valley with his parents on the circular listed at 9 Fallon Street, Caulfield, Victoria.

Newton served in Egypt, Gallipoli and the Sinai Peninsular before being shipped to France, surviving the torpedoing of the troopship "Southland" along the way, being rescued from the sea by a French destroyer.

Like many killed, the actual circumstances of his death were confusing – one report had him wounded and captured by the Germans some ten days before he was killed, while the reports of his actual death have him bleeding to death in one case and killed outright in another. The AWM simply lists him as killed rather than dying of wounds, suggesting the latter was the correct version.

His other siblings included Isaac (1885, A.I.F), Ethel (1887) and Gordon (1895).





Nichol, James Lyle

Key Address : Woodlands Road, Alphington
Rank and Unit : Private, 6 Infantry Battalion - 24 - 25 Reinforcements (February-August 1917)
Embarked : HMAT Ballarat
 Ship Number : A70
 Date of Embarkation : 19 February, 1917
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 7284 **Enlisted :** 02/12/1916 **At :**

Born At : Portarlington **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 15/10/1920 **Aged :** 49

Place of Death : East Melbourne
Buried At :

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Margaret Nichol (nee Livingstone)
 Wife Frances Elizabeth Nichol (nee Smith)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Nichol died from his war wounds in May, 1920, when he and his wife were living in Alphington.

He is shown as "Nichol" everywhere in AWM records and the National Archives, but his death is recorded as "Nicholls".

On enlisting, the family were in Lower Malvern Road, East Malvern. In November, 1917, she advised Base Depot of a move to Portarlington - the date of the ultimate shift into our district is somewhat obscured in the National Archives, but they are shown in the 1919 directories compiled around September, 1918.

His death is not included on the AWM Memorial Roll, being detected from Probate records after his death which reveals him residing in Alphington.

Nichol suffered multiple shrapnel wounds on 4 October, 1917 and was repatriated back to England around a week later. After spending around three months in the Bethnal Green Military Hospital, he was returned to Australia, arriving back in Australia on 5 April, 1918.

He was still under treatment in December when he was discharged as medically unfit, still unable to extend his left arm and displaying a heart irregularity. The exact details of the cause of death are not known, a Death Notice placed by his wife simply suggested it was a result of his war service.

Nichol or Nicholls is listed as dying in East Melbourne, almost certainly the Melbourne General Hospital and is shown as being 49 years of age (born Bellarine, 1871). On enlisting, he suggested he was 43, suggesting he knocked two or three years off his age.

Birth records confuse the true name even further – under "Nichols", a brother Henry (1873) is shown as born in 1873 and another Henry as dying at four in the same year. Under 'Nichol', further siblings are Robert (1864), Alexander (1866), James (1869), Henry (under both versions, 1873), and (Alexander (1876). The names of both Alexander and James were both used for surviving children, but there is no record of the fate of the pair born in 1866 and 1896) respectively.

James and Frances married in 1902, and despite his relatively late age, she was left with three underage children; Frances (1907, Bendigo), Ella (1908, Bunyip), Molly (1913, South Melbourne). She is shown at the Woodlands Road address until the late 1920s and is listed as dying in Alphington in 1955 at 76 years of age.



Nicholas, Noel

Key Address : "Verona", Como Street, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private, 46th Infantry Battalion
Embarked Private, 14 Infantry Battalion - 5 to 12 Reinforcements
(April-November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ceramic
Ship Number : A40
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3858 **Enlisted :** 3007/1915 **At :** Hastings
Born At : Kyneton **Educated At :** Tylden State, Moreland School,
Workingmen's College

Date of Death : 06/08/1916 **Aged :** 20
Place of Death : Poziers, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux-France

Occupation : Composer (D. W. Patterson, Collins Street, Melbourne)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Nicholas Thomas and Ellen Matilda Nicholas (nee Black)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Nicholas is another whose connection to the area is a little vague.

His name in 1919 appeared on a list of men from Ivanhoe who died during the war and his parents from 1921 were at the Alphington address above.

The attestation papers show both he and his father (a teacher) were living at Hastings, but a note in his archives signed by [Phillip Fargher \(senior\)](#) confirm that he had returned all equipment assigned to him in the Citizen's Forces to the Westgarth Drill Hall in Simpson Street, Northcote.

Further evidence that he lived locally is in a letter from from his father to Base Depot revealing that his son had an account with a bank in North Fitzroy.

Nicholas was posted as missing on 13 October, 1917 and was certified Killed In Action as at that date at a Court of Enquiry in February, 1918.

The circular returned by his father (whose name really was Nicholas Thomas Nicholas) suggested that Nicholas junior was a highly promising printer, a prize-winner at the Workingmen's College and had won the Victorian Typographical Certificate Competition "open to all journeymen and apprentices in the printing trade".

Other children of the Nicholas family were Frederick (1889), Ellen (1891), Phillip (1893, A.I.F.), Joel (1896), Thomas (1897, A.I.F.), Ivan (1900) and Mary (1903, died 1908). Phillip and Thomas both quoted Hastings as their address on enlisting.



Nicholes, George

Key Address : corner Como Street and Heidelberg Road, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 25 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6792 **Enlisted :** 28/08/1914 **At :** Heidelberg

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 13/10/1917 **Aged :** 42

Place of Death : Belgium

Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Motorcycle Mechanic

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George and Eleanor Nicholes (nee Stubbs)
Wife Mrs Florence Mary Nicholes (nee McHenery)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

His wife at the time of his death had relocated to Lowther Street, Alphington. Como Street was not numbered, but directories show Nicholes and his wife on the eastern corner of Heidelberg Road.

A fund was set up in the Alphington district to help his widow and two young daughters (Florence and Eleanor) with housing and his file extends to 1950 when one of his daughters requested a Death Certificate on behalf of her mother who required it for a passport application.

Mrs Nicholes also gave birth to two other sons, George junior and Laurence, both of whom died within a month of childbirth.

Nicholes was posted as missing on October 13, 1917, and was certified Killed In Action as at that date at a Court of Enquiry in February 1918.

His death was missed by the Leader, but his name was included in reports of a memorial service held early in 1918 for those servicemen from the Fairfield and Alphington Ridings of the Shire of Heidelberg that had been killed on service. Despite this, his name is not included on the Alphington War Memorial.

"Nicholes" is an unusual spelling – by a remarkable coincidence, a totally unrelated fatality, Private Noel Nicholas was also from the unnumbered Como Street in Alphington.



Nichols, Ernest Charles Gillet

Key Address : 32 Jessie Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 60th Battalion
Embarked Private, 8 Infantry Battalion - 7 to 9 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 16 July 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2497 **Enlisted :** 11/06/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 4/04/1918 **Aged :** 19
Place of Death : Villers Bretonneux, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Brass Moulder
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Emily Maude Nichols (nee Shea)

Eyewitnesses : "This man was killed by the same shell that killed Corporal MacDonald. They were in the same gun team and were standing-to ready for action when a shell burst over them killing them instantaneously... " (R. O. Walker, 16th LTM Battery)
"At Corbie, he was alongside me when killed, shot in the stomach by a sniper and died about 10 minutes after. It was in the trenches, he got up to give someone a cigarette when he was hit ..." (Private. Kneebone, 2183)
"Casualty was advancing at Villers Bretonneux. I was in the same advance. He was sniped by a rifle bullet, the bullet entering his head and killing him instantly ..." (J.B. Byrne, 3566)

Notes : Nichols appears to have been just 16 when he enlisted, although he claimed to be 18 years and six months old. He served just under three years before he was killed, having survived the landing and evacuation at Gallipoli.
The AWM eyewitness accounts (perhaps because of the spelling of the name) are confusing in the extreme (1914 Electoral Rolls show Nicholls).
His age is placed as 25 and then 30, he is described as "fairly thin", "stout", and "nicknamed Fatty". The reality of the medical examination has him 5'8 and weighting nine stone eight pounds (a.k.a "fairly thin"). Victorian Birth Records confirm other existing documentation with his birth in 1899.
He was alternatively killed by shellfire, shot through the head, and through the stomach, he was advancing on enemy lines, resting in a trench and standing behind an artillery gun. The former account is the only one corroborated by another witness. There was also an E. G. Nicholls Killed In Action, probably the basis of the confusion.
A Death Notice placed in the Leader by the family revealed that Ernest had a twin brother Desmond, another brother Willie, a surviving sister, Myrtle and two other sisters listed as "the late Emily and Elva".



Nichols, William George

Key Address : 6 Bridge Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 24 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 245 **Enlisted :** 13/04/1915 **At :** Richmond

Born At : Bendigo **Educated At :** Burnley State School

Date of Death : 19/05/1918 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : (of wounds), 61st Casualty Clearing Station, Ville Sur Ancre, France

Buried At : 71 Vignacourt British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Tanner, Kennos Brothers

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Edward (late) and Jane Nichols (nee Shipp)

Eyewitnesses : "He was admitted to this C.C.S. on the 19 May suffering from shell wounds, shoulder, leg, back and chest. He was in a collapsed condition at the time of admission and died at 5.10 p.m. the same day. He passed away peacefully without leaving any message and was unconscious of his condition. (O.C., 61 C.C.S., France)

Notes : Although not immediately connected with the district, Nichols was the brother of a well-known local identity, Herbert E. Nichols ("Kempston", 8 Bridge Street, Northcote), for many years the president of the Northcote South Ratepayers Association, a prominent local pressure group in the local politics of the day.

Nichols was with his family at 20 Hunter Street, Richmond when he enlisted.

The Leader also suggested he was a leading member of Richmond Harriers, somewhat surprising as he spent over a year in England on light duties after being invalided from France in November 1916 with rheumatism, a condition that by the medical reports he had suffered from badly before enlisting (and passing a medical examination).

Nichols died in the 61st Casualty Clearing Station from shells wounds to the back and chest. He had previously been slightly wounded to the thigh in August 1916.

William was the youngest son of the family and a cousin of [Private Joseph James Newton](#). Other siblings were Stella (1891), Frederick (1894) and Victor (1901).



Nicholson, Malcolm

Key Address : 41 Charles Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Driver, 12th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
Embarked Sergeant 1 Australian Remount Unit (November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Orsova
Ship Number : A67
Date of Embarkation : 12 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 121 **Enlisted :** 11/02/1915 **At :** Alexandra

Born At : Broken Hill **Educated At :** State School
Date of Death : 22/07/1917 **Aged :** 27
Place of Death : (of wounds), 91st Field Ambulance , Belgium
Buried At : 24 Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium

Occupation : Sawmill hand / Farmer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Malcolm and Annie Nicholson (both late)
Sister Miss Marjorie Nicholson

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Nicholson's father and mother were both late and he was living with his sister "Madge" at the Charles Street address when he enlisted. She was named as next of kin

Enquiries in 1921 revealed he had no brothers and Marjorie or "Madge" was the eldest and only sister, then living at Alexandra.

Despite some 57 pages in his National Archive file, it reveals little of Nicholson's background, other than that he had been previously rejected from service because of poor eyesight.

He embarked with the rank of Sergeant in a horse-mounted unit, but was transferred to the Field Artillery, seemingly with a loss of rank in May, 1916

He died of gunshot wounds to the head at the 91st Field Ambulance the day he was admitted after a relatively quiet Army life, largely highlighted by a reprimand in March, 1916, when he was caught riding in a First Class compartment of an Egyptian train on a Third Class ticket!

No Red Cross records remain.



Nicholson, Thomas George

Key Address : 10 Hopetoun Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 8 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 7028 **Enlisted :** 16/09/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Yackandandah **Educated At :** Yackandandah State School
Date of Death : 3/07/1918 **Aged :** 32
Place of Death : Strazelle, France
Buried At : 19 Le Grand Hasard Military Cemetery, Morbecque,

Occupation : Tanner
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Elizabeth Nicholson (nee Welsh)
Wife Laura Nicholson (nee Colhurst, later Stanley)

Eyewitnesses : "He was a short man, medium build, dark complexion, about 30 years of age. Casualty was asleep in his dugout at Strazelle. An High Explosive .shell exploded on top of the dugout killing him instantly ... he was buried about 500 yards from where he fell ..." (H.A. Manson, 4832)

"... We buried him the next day at the same place with about a dozen others and all have the usual crosses over their graves ... I know the number in the book is correct. I saw his brother who is the Engineers in the Third Division and had to break the news to him, Nicholson was one of the runners for the Co H.Q.) C.E. Reynolds, Q.M.S, 8th Battalion)

Notes : His wife is later noted as Mrs Laura Stanley of 180 Bell Street, Preston, but on the circular returned by her she still used "Nicholson".

She was at 44 Carlisle Street, Preston from November, 1918 before remarrying in 1923.

Thomas and Laura married in 1914 and their only child, Sheila, was born the same year.

Nicholson had two younger brothers, Louis and Raymond (the brother noted with the Third Division Engineers). The latter gave his mother still living in Yackandandah as his next of kin when enlisting.

The return of the modest personal effects of servicemen killed in action was of a high priority and included letters, both and to and from the men at the front and relatives at home.

Much of the correspondence between Base Depot and the families of deceased service-men related to the return of personal possessions - authorities obviously tried to return whatever was possible, but perhaps were a little over-zealous in Nicholson's case.

The receipt for his effects carries a heart-wrenching notation from his wife "... you might have spared me those blood stained letters".



Nunweek, Harry

Key Address : 18 Derby Avenue, Northcote (later Agnes Street)

Rank and Unit : Private 57 Infantry Battalion - 2 to 5 Reinforcements (April-September 1916) Previously Driver, 10th Army Service Corps

Embarked : HMAT Armadale
Ship Number : A26
Date of Embarkation : 20 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (as 2274) (shown as Henry Nunweek)

Embarked : HMAT Shropshire
Ship Number : A9
Date of Embarkation : 25 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2466 **Enlisted :** 8/09/1914 **At :** Footscray

Born At : Hawksburn **Educated At :** Public School
Date of Death : 27/10/1917 **Aged :** 25
Place of Death : Polygon Wood, Belgium
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Labourer (Electrician)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Atheling and Elizabeth Nunweek (nee Jones)

Eyewitnesses : "... he got hit in the trench and ran out of it and was seen to drop into a shell hole where he sat with his hand on the side of the head. It was night time. They thought him only wounded and stretcher bearers went out to bandage him, but found he was quite dead. A piece of shell had lodged in his chest" (Private Styles, 2971)

Notes : Apparently deserted by his father at a young age, Harry Nunweek was living with his married sister, Mrs Margaret Durkin (born 1884) at the Derby Avenue address at the time of embarking Derby Avenue was renamed to Agnes Street in 1917.

She was at several addresses, firstly in Melbourne suburbs and later in N.S.W. and faced a battle to obtain her brother's war medals after an elder sister, Honslow (1882) was discovered in Western Australia.

A letter from Mrs Durkin claiming the medals suggested she and her husband had been mother and father to Harry, and her elder sister's family "... did not trouble about the boy when he was alive or would not even know him if they met him ...". Harry also had a brother, Atheling junior, born in 1887 but who died in 1889.

Nunweek had two or three minor charges against him, but was in more serious strife on 2 May, 1917 when he faced a Court Martial on a charge of "Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline in being in possession and using two pay books in the field, between 17/2/17 and 10/4/17".

Nunweek was sentenced to three months with hard labour, later commuted to 90 days Field Punishment, the longest such sentence noted amongst those from the Darebin area that strayed from the strict military guidelines during the war years.

Although the details are vague, he was one of a small percentage of men that returned to Australia for medical reasons and later re-embarked. He shipped for the Middle East in October, 1914, and returned on HMAT Port Lincoln in July, 1915, for treatment for venereal disease. It is unclear from his service records whether he served at Gallipoli, but he was awarded the 1914-15 Star which suggests the affirmative.

His attestation paper bears a second signature dated 15 September, 1916 and he appears to have served at the Broadmeadows Training Camp in the intervening months. Whether as a result of a clerical mishap or deliberate subterfuge, his initial embarkation in was shown under Henry Nunweek.



O'Bree, Frederick Freeland

Key Address : 53 William Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal, 23rd Battalion Australian Army/ Embarked 23 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Anchise
Ship Number : A68
Date of Embarkation : 26 August 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1951 **Enlisted :** 16/06/1916 **At :** Preston

Born At : Natimuk **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 8/11/1916 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : (of wounds). 15th Field Ambulance, Albert, France
Buried At : 188 Dartmoor Cemetery Becordel-Becourt, France

Occupation : Ironmoulder (John Buncle & Son, North Melbourne)
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Frederick George and Elizabeth O'Bree (nee Freeland)
Wife Mrs Annie Marcella O'Bree (nee Kelly)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : A brother of [Private Stanley Pierpoint O'Bree](#), Frederick was one that almost got away from us!

Frederick O'Bree's death was never mentioned in the Leader, presumably because even at the tender age of 21 he was married and living with his wife (whom he married in 1913) and daughter Edna at 142 Rupert Street in Collingwood, the compilers of the local honour rolls not picking up on the family relationship.

The AWM did not help much with their Honour Roll having him recorded as the hyphen-less "Obree" and a rather out-dated name search algorithm failing to match the two names.

The discovery of his fate only came about through a brief mention in the Leader in 1919 announcing the return of the youngest son of the family, Victor (born 1897), and suggesting "two brothers had fallen".

Frederick and Stanley were both registered apprentices with John Buncle & Son of North Melbourne, requiring a special release from their employer to enlist even although Frederick was just 21, archives show he had been with the firm for eight years. (Victor was a boot maker).

He was wounded in the right ear in July, 1916, but recovered to re-join his unit a month later and was promoted to Lance Corporal late in October. O'Bree was wounded in both thighs near Albert, France, on 8 November, 1916 - no detailed Red Cross records remain, but it is known he died the same day at the 15th Field Ambulance before he could be transferred to a general hospital.

The three serving brothers several siblings, Florence (1890), Mabel (1892), and Ethel, (1901), Ernest (1903), Bessie (1905) and Clifford (1907). Another younger brother, Arthur, died within a month of childbirth in 1899.

Frederick and Victor enlisted on 16 June, 1915 and embarked together with the 23rd Infantry Battalion carrying consecutive service numbers. Victor returned to Australia in January, 1918 after being wounded in France.



O'Bree, Stanley Pierpoint

Key Address : 53 William Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal, 60th Battalion Australian Army
Embarked Private 5 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 23 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 28 July 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6139 **Enlisted :** 25/03/1916 **At :** Preston

Born At : Swan Hill **Educated At :** Abbotsford State School

Date of Death : 4/07/1918 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Ville Sur Ancre, France

Buried At : 207 Mericourt L'Abbe Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Iron moulder (John Buncle & Son, North Melbourne)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Frederick George and Elizabeth O'Bree (nee Freeland)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : O'Bree had two brothers, Frederick and Victor who also served. This pair enlisted on 16 June, 1915, embarked together with the 23rd Infantry Battalion and carried consecutive service numbers. [Lance Corporal Frederick Freeland O'Bree](#) was killed in France, Victor returned to Australia in January, 1918 after being wounded in France.

O'Bree as a registered apprentice required a special release from his employers to enlist.

He was promoted to Lance Corporal in February, 1917, before being gassed in May. O'Bree was repatriated back to England and invalided to a Middlesex Hospital and did not return to the front until November of the same year.

He was again hospitalised in France during April and May of 1918 (the illness unspecified) and returned to his unit just 16 days before he was Killed in Action.

The three serving brothers had several siblings, Florence (1890), Mabel (1892), and Ethel, (1901), Ernest (1903), Bessie (1905) and Clifford (1907). Another younger brother, Arthur, died within a month of childbirth in 1899.

Frederick and Victor both enlisted in 1915 and embarked together with the 23rd Infantry Battalion and carried consecutive service numbers.



O'Brien, William Arthur "Paddy"

Key Address : 26 Seymour Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 6 Infantry Battalion
1 to 9 Reinforcements (December 1914 - September 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2108 **Enlisted :** 21/09/1914 **At :** Preston

Born At : Glenferrie **Educated At :** State School
Date of Death : 11/05/1915 **Aged :** 21
Place of Death : Cape Helles, Gallipoli (died of wounds)
Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Butcher (J. C Hutton's), also Minister in training
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Francis Leonard and Sarah Anne O'Brien (nee Newton)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

The first volunteer to enlist from Preston to be killed, but as in most cases of those listed as "died of wounds" during the Dardanelles campaign, no Red Cross details of his demise were ever recorded.

"Paddy" O'Brien was a popular character around the Preston area and several letters from Preston boys published in The Leader note their delight at catching up with him in Egypt.

For some reason, his Honour Roll listing shows Service Number 2018, but attestation and embarkation details are 1167. The confusion led his mother to write to the Base Depot in the desperate hope that a different William O'Brien was the casualty.

O'Brien's attestation also shows him as a butcher at J. C. Hutton's in Oakover Road, Preston, but his mother listed him as a Methodist Minister - the Leader noted he was training for the ministry before enlisting. His father, then only identified as "F. L", was the superintendent at the South Preston Methodist Church and by 1922, the parents were living at Noble Park.

Despite the obvious Irish connection with the family surname and William's "nickname", a brief "Roll of Honour" entry in The Argus revealed that both of O'Brien's grandfathers and one great-grandfather fought with the British Navy in the Crimean War and that had twelve relations at the front and a younger brother in camp at Broadmeadows.

There is nothing in official birth records to announce "Paddy's" arrival.

O'Brien on attestation gave Glenferrie as his place of birth. This is crossed out in several copies, and a later response to a query of his history from a relation puts his place of birth a "near Melbourne". His mother on the circular had a shilling each-way by suggesting "Glenferrie Road, Melbourne".

Fortunately a younger brother, Francis Leonard, born in 1899 confirms his father's (identical) given names and his mother's maiden name. Francis and another brother Alfred George (also missing from birth records) enlisted, the latter pair returning safely.

There are no other siblings listed, but given William and Arthur are missing, official registrations may not be that reliable a guide to the family background.



O'Connor, Thomas Alfred

Key Address : South Preston

Rank and Unit : Private, 5th Battalion Infantry

Embarked : HMAT Ballarat
Ship Number : A70
Date of Embarkation : 18 February, 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 7301 **Enlisted :** 06/07/1915 **At :** Warrnambool

Born At : South Preston **Educated At :** St. Vincent's Orphanage, South Melbourne

Date of Death : 31/08/1918 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : (of wounds) 9th Australian General Hospital, Rouen, France

Buried At : St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

Occupation : Farm Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R. C.

Next of Kin/Family : Mother Minnie O'Connor (father unknown)
Friend Miss Mary Harris

Eyewitnesses : "In answer to your inquiry regarding relatives of the late No. 7301, Private T. A O'Connor, 5th Battalion. I have to state he had no relatives he knew of whatsoever. Prior to going to the war, he tried hard to find out if he had any, but all attempts proved unsuccessful. Trusting I will be treated as his next of kin in connection with his war medals, etc.

I remain, Yours Sincerely

Mary Harris
"The Sisters", Terang

Notes : One of the sadder family backgrounds in our archives.

It is far too late to put O'Connor's mind to rest as to his family background such as it was – but his mother is shown in Birth Records as Minnie O'Connor, his father listed as unknown and Thomas himself seemingly abandoned or orphaned at a young age given his schooling at St. Vincent's.

He seems to have at least one brother, a Sydney O'Connor noted as born to Minnie O'Connor in Carlton (perhaps the Women's Hospital) in 1889, the father again unknown, as is this child's fate.

There were four families named O'Connor in Preston in 1892, the likely year of Thomas's birth - Michael and George in Gower Street, Charles in Spring Street and Loftus in Carlyle Street, but there is nothing to link a Minnie (Minerva) to any of them.

In another sad example of the inflexibility of the military bureaucracy, Mary Harris's request to receive his war medals was rejected "as you have supplied no good and sufficient response as to why you should be entitled to his war medals; they are being placed on the "untraceables" list which will be advertised throughout Australasia with a view to some of his blood relations lodging a claim".

A later letter from Miss Harris suggested O'Connor had been "with us" for six years – it is not clear whether "The Sisters" was a religious retreat. Several pleas from her fell on deaf ears and from what can be ascertained, O'Connor's medals were never distributed,

O'Connor was wounded in action in January, 1918 (the details not recorded) and did not re-join his unit until June.

He was again wounded on 23 August, 1918 and admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance, then transferred to the 55th Casualty Clearing Station and then to the 9th Australian General Hospital where he died on 31 August from multiple gunshot wounds.



Odgers, Frederick Langford

Key Address : 38 Caroline Street, Clifton Hill

Rank and Unit : Sergeant, 59th Infantry Battalion
Embarked Corporal, 3 Divisional Cyclist Battalion and 1 Reinforcements (May 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 18 May 1916
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 184 **Enlisted :** 1/05/1916 **At :** Ascot Vale

Born At : Charters Towers, Qld **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 18/03/1917 **Aged :** 23
Place of Death : (of wounds), 15th Field Ambulance , Bapaume, France
Buried At : 564 Bapaume Australian Cemetery

Occupation : Tailor
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Richard George (late) and Elizabeth Ellen Odgers (nee McKay)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Although Odgers lived in Clifton Hill, he was well known in Northcote for his work with the Croxton Junior Rechabites where he was assistant superintendent for some years and the Leader noted a framed photograph of Odgers being unveiled at the Rechabite Hall.

The Leader noted that he was rejected six times before being accepted but there is no remaining evidence in his archives to support their claim. He was promoted to Sergeant in October 1916.

Given he was not admitted to hospital, there are no Red Cross records, but his archives suggest Odgers died of chest wounds at the 15th Field Ambulance from chest wounds suffered in a bomb explosion.

The circular returned noted three cousins, Arthur Colliver, Charles Ladner and Frank McArdle were all Killed In Action. The former pair were from Ballarat and McArdle from North Melbourne. The AWM Honour Roll gives the first name as "Fredrick" but the more conventional spelling is used everywhere else.

Odgers had two sisters; Violet (Mrs J. Vagg, Leongatha, born 1888) and Wilhemina (1896) and a brother "Willie", (1907). Mrs Odgers herself had died by 1927.

Odgers' Attestation notes he had been apprenticed to J. Twentyman in Ballarat for five years, but it is not clear whether he was still working for that gentleman when he enlisted. There was a family of that name prominent in Northcote, Edward Twentyman a well-known architect who designed inter alia the original Northcote Library to the south of the Town Hall.



O'Donnell, John Dennis

Key Address : Croxton

Rank and Unit : Corporal 6th Battalion
Embarked Private 6 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 118 **Enlisted :** 17/08/1914 **At :** Collingwood

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 10/08/1918 **Aged :** 26
Place of Death : near Pozieres, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Carrier
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Eliza O'Neill O'Donnell (nee O'Leary)
Brother Patrick O'Donnell?

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : O'Donnell's link to the area is tenuous to say the least although his death was recorded in the Leader.

Both parents were deceased and his eldest brother, Patrick, was listed as next-of-kin on the attestation with an address simply as "Croxton". Letters were later returned and authorities managed to locate his brother at 26 Down Street, Collingwood.

Only the name Patrick is included in the archive, but given the serviceman had a second given name, it would appear likely that Patrick would also carry a middle name.

The sole "Patrick" listed in Northcote was a Patrick Francis O'Donnell at 23 Beavers Road, just east of the railway and with Croxton Station only around 150 metres away, this may have led John O'Donnell to confuse the district name.

But Victorian records show John's brother as Patrick Henry, born in 1893. Other siblings were Joseph, 1897, and Eileen, 1901 - another child, Mary died within 24 hours of birth in 1891.

O'Donnell was living in Melbourne Road, Newport with a Miss Minny Young, eventually named as beneficiary in O'Donnell's Will.

As one of the first draft of volunteers, he had been in service just a week short of four years when killed and had been wounded three times. He was promoted to Corporal just a month before he died.

No circular was returned and there are only scant details remaining of his private and military background. There is no record of where he was killed - circulars of the other 30 odd of the 6th Battalion that died on the same day suggest a variety of places, Pozieres, Amiens and Harbonnieres included. O'Donnell's official commemoration on the Villers Bretonneux Memorial suggests his remains were never found.



O'Dwyer, Michael John

Key Address : 63 Arthurton Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 7 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 860 **Enlisted :** 9/09/1914 **At :** Broadmeadows

Born At : Sydenham **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 25/04/1915 **Aged :** 34

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Painter

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Michael John and Mary Anne O'Dwyer (nee Moore)

Eyewitnesses : "... casualty was a grenadier in Lady Galway's section ... at about 1:30 a.m., a bomb exploded and casualty was pick up with one arm blown off and his side ripped. Casualty died at once and was buried by the pioneers half an hour later ... was well known to informant and informant was surprised to hear he was reported missing ... a small man, about 5' 4", fair, round face, broad of stature, clean shaven, a bright little chap" (L/Cpl E. F Woods, No. 2682, 7th Btn)

"O'Dwyer is a big, stout, clumsily built fellow, dark, and clean shaven, about 23 or 24 years old, 5ft.7 in height ... informant says just after they landed at Anzac about the end of April, the 2nd Brigade went to an open space on Capes Helles called Daisy Patch. One afternoon, about 4 o'clock, they made a charge of about 1000 yards to the Turkish trenches. O'Dwyer got wounded in the leg, informant saw him later at the Dressing Stations at Cape Helles. He, with a crowd of others, went on a hospital ship that night to Alexandria." (C. J. Harlow, 1557)

Notes : The two eyewitness accounts demonstrably indicate the problems that the Courts of Enquiry held into the fate of missing servicemen faced - O'Dwyer was according to one eyewitness "a small man, about 5' 4", fair" - and to the next "5' 7", dark and clean shaven", although perhaps they agreed on "broad of stature" and "big, stout, clumsily built".

O'Dwyer's parents as next-of-kin were listed in the Casualty lists as being in Northcote at the time he was posted as Killed In Action, although their stay appears to have been brief, later addresses being in North Fitzroy.

His file contains a note from his father on 29 June 1915 referring to a Casualty telegram and advising the Base Depot he and his wife were at the Arthurton Road address (unaware of the fact that his son was in fact dead). O'Dwyer senior is known to have died before July 1917 when Mrs O'Dwyer was in North Fitzroy.

O'Dwyer's true situation seems to have been a problem for authorities. He was posted as Missing on 2 May, 1915, amended to Wounded on 25 May, and then in January of the following year Wounded and Missing "in accordance with AAG's instructions" before being certified Killed In Action on the first day of the Gallipoli landings at another enquiry in June, after apparently not having been seen for some fourteen months.

O'Dwyer on his enlistment papers was shown as fair headed, 5' 8 and 170 pounds, conflicting somewhat with both eye witness accounts!



O'Grady, Amy Veda

Key Address : Roman Catholic Presbytery, Clifton Grove, Preston

Rank and Unit : Staff Nurse, Australian Army Nursing Service

Embarked : RMS Morea
Date of Embarkation : 24 August 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : **Enlisted :** 10/08/1915 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Castlemaine **Educated At :** Queen Charlotte Street Hospital, London

Date of Death : 12/08/1916 **Aged :** 39

Place of Death : Bombay

Buried At : Sewree, Bombay, India

Occupation : Nursing Sister

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Daniel and Ellen O'Grady (nee Egan) (both late)
Brother Rev. Father James Henry O'Grady

Eyewitnesses : "Volunteered for India, left Egypt for Bombay with 49 other Nurses. Worked at Freeman Thomas Hosp. Died of Cholera 12.8.16 (1 of 2)" (Certification 17.10.16)

Notes :

Amy O'Grady was the first of only two women connected to the district to die in the service of her country during the War (there were around a dozen that served), and the link appears to have been marginal at best.

Her attestation noted both parents were dead and next-of-kin (as noted by the Leader) was her brother, Father James Henry O'Grady of the Roman Catholic Presbytery in Clifton Grove, Preston. Her own address was listed simply as North Carlton.

Official Victorian records suggest that James was born 1874, other siblings being Ellen (1865), Sarah (1868) and Eliza, who died at 15 days in 1866.

All were born in Castlemaine, but for unknown reasons, there is no record of Amy O'Grady's birth, nor were any of her other siblings mentioned at the time of her death.

Nurse O'Grady's application to join the Nursing Service reveals she had 13 years medical experience, her mandatory three years training at the Melbourne General Hospital with later qualifications from the Queen Charlotte Street Hospital in London.

She died of cholera in the Sisters Isolation Hospital, Calaba, Bombay, but no record remains of the period of confinement. One other Australian nurse, the Irish-born and trained Sister Kathleen Power died the following day from the same disease; two others later after being returned to Australia.

Nurse O'Grady's inclusion on the AWM Honour Roll is perhaps fortuitous.

The Hospital in Bombay and other parts of India were relics of the British military of the 1800s and it was originally planned they be used to treat the wounded from Mesopotamia (Iraq), but instead the Australian nurses (148 in total) were sent after the Indian government requested assistance in dealing with an outbreak of cholera early in 1916.

Given the nursing staff were over a thousand miles from the nearest combat zone and treating the civilian population, there was some debate over whether they were simply engaged on simply extended Home Service before they were granted full Active Service status.

The image shows the embroidered badge issued to Nursing Service members.





O'Leary, John Patrick

Key Address : 73 Charles Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 24 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 18 Reinforcements
(July - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6359 **Enlisted :** 17/10/1916 **At :** Coburg

Born At : Pentridge **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 27/02/1917 **Aged :** 45

Place of Death : (of illness, bronch-pneumonia), Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England

Buried At : 3 Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Annie O'Leary (nee Walsh)
Sister Mrs Maria Clam

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

O'Leary's attestation had a Mrs M. Little in Little Hanover Street, Fitzroy as next-of-kin without identifying what the relationship between the pair - although later events suggest that they were a de facto couple.

O'Leary's belongings were delivered to Mrs Little before his sister, then Mrs Maria Clam at 73 Charles Street, Northcote was identified and a Provost sent to retrieve them, the officer reporting Mrs Little thought it "very unfair" as O'Leary had been living with her for nine years and that "... the soldier was disowned and neglected by his brother and sister".

He died in the Fargo Military Hospital in Wiltshire around two weeks after being admitted with bronchial-pneumonia.

His attestation notes he had served in the South African Mounted Police but there is no evidence of him serving with Australian Forces during the Boer War.

The family suffered far more than a fair share of tragedy, with no less than four other children dying at an early age; Arthur (born 1860, died 1865), Edward (1862, died 1865), Charles (1875, died 1878) and William (1878, died at 7 months).

The surviving brother and sister appear to be John Edward O'Leary (1865) was born in 1872 and Maria (1870). Although not explicitly stated anywhere in his records, it appears both parents were deceased.

O'Leary's attestation gave his place of birth as Coburg, but technically at the time, it was correctly Pentridge. The name changed in 1872 following dissension amongst local residents upset over the original name being more associated with the penitentiary rather than the original settlement dating back to the late 1840s. John's birth record reflects the new name.



Olle, Frank Jubilee

Key Address : South Preston State School

Rank and Unit : Lance Sergeant, 5 Infantry Battalion
Embarked Corporal 5 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Orvieto
Ship Number : A3
Date of Embarkation : 21 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 723 **Enlisted :** 16/08/1914 **At :** Albert Park

Born At : Heywood **Educated At :** Penshurst State School

Date of Death : 31/05/1915 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : (of wounds), Palace Hotel Hospital, Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt

Buried At : 9 Cairo War Memorial, Egypt

Occupation : Schoolteacher

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles (late) and Julia Olle (nee Slater)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Olle was teaching at the Montague Street State School in South Melbourne on enlistment after spending several years at South Preston State School, where he was included on their 1919 Honour Roll.

The Argus at the time of his death noted he was a member of the Albert Park Tennis Club and well known in the Kyabram, Maldon and Lilydale districts. Included in the Death Notices in The Argus was one from the Maldon Methodist Tennis club.

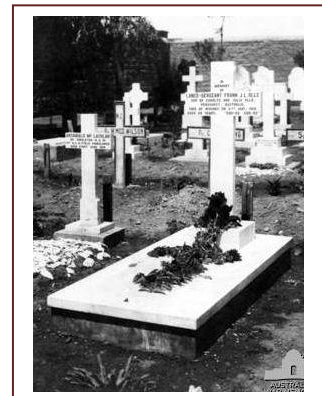
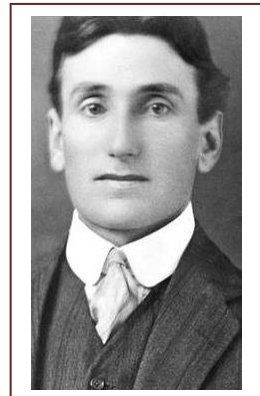
He nominated his father, Frank (senior) as next-of-kin, but in a double blow for Julia Olle, he died around the same time as his son.

Olle was promoted to Corporal while still in training and to Lance-Sergeant in December 1914. After training in Egypt, he proceeded with his unit to Gallipoli and took part in the landing. He was wounded in the right knee on the 30 April, 1915, and sent back to Egypt, but died of infection of the wounds on 31 May.

His name was included in a Leader list of Preston's war dead, but is not included on the Cenotaph.

His unusual second name was taken from the Golden Jubilee celebration of fifty years of rule by Queen Victoria in 1887, the year of Frank's birth (Olle himself may not have been enamoured with the name - he enlisted as Frank J. and "Jubilee" was never included in any of his war records until his mother returned the circular and it was added to his Roll of Honour entry)..

Archives reveal he served from 1907 to 1909 in the Australian Naval Reserve and Victorian registrations record his parents married in 1873, with their other children Frederick (1880), Victoria (1882) and Percy (1885) - another child, Henry died in 1888 at one month.





Olney, Reginald Thomas

Key Address : Mansfield Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Gunner 2 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] Reinforcements
(December 1914 - January 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ballarat
Ship Number : A70
Date of Embarkation : 9 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5084 **Enlisted :** 25/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Colac **Educated At :** Macarthur State School, Buninyong; Ballarat
Date of Death : 13/01/1919 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : (of illness), Sanatorium, Macleod
Buried At : Coburg Cemetery

Occupation : Clerk (Lands Department)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents (Senior Constable) James Summers and
Charlotte "Lottie" Olney (nee Harmer)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Embarkation records show he and his father at the Police Station, Buninyong, later at both Prahran and Box Hill.

The Darebin Encyclopaedia records compiled from enlistment papers discovered at the Northcote Town Hall lists him at Mansfield Street, his residence in the district confirmed by a report in the Leader following his death and perhaps with his employment in the Lands Department.

His parents, James and Charlotte, were married at Thomastown in 1893. Reginald's siblings were Grace, who died within a month of birth in 1898, and a younger sister, Alice, born in Carlton in 1899. One of Reginald's uncles, Frank was co-founder and vice-president of the Preston Rifle Club in 1885.

Olney senior's stay in the district may have been brief due to his involvement with the Police, but other branches of the family seem to have close connections. Of 15 listings under the surname in the 1919 Sands and MacDougall Directory, three are in Preston and two in Northcote. One, [Herbert \(later Sir Herbert\) Olney](#) was co-owner of J. P. Howe Leather in High Street.

Olney was admitted to hospital in France in April, 1918 with pleurisy, later diagnosed as tuberculosis. He was transferred to England on June 1 and a medical report in December, 1917 notes that he had lost four stone in weight in the six months since being afflicted.

He left England for Australia on 23 July, 1918, arriving early in September and admitted to the Macleod Sanatorium a fortnight later

The report in the Leader after his death suggesting he was affected by being gassed at Ypres in August, 1917 - National Archives show that he was wounded in the scalp around this time and was in England until January of the following year, but there is no evidence to support the theory he was gassed.

After Olney enlisted, it was noted he was rejected 15 times before finally being accepted for service, the Leader suggesting that "a Collins Street dentist, hearing of the reason for his rejection having undertaken 'fix him up' gratis". He is known to have had a fiancée, Miss Emma Keller of Preston.

The Death Notice placed by his family confirms most of the known details and a later In Memoriam notice acknowledges the loss of "two of his dearest comrades, [Alfred L. Freeman](#), of A.F.C., who died at Military Hospital, England, on the 6th November, 1918; and [Gunner Harold Boyd](#), who died of wounds in France on the 24th July, 1917".



O'Meara, John James

Key Address : Herbert Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 10th Infantry Battalion

Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number A11
Date of Embarkation : 20 October, 1914
Place of Embarkation : Adelaide

Service Number : 369 **Enlisted :** 19/08/1914 **At :** Morphettville, S. Australia

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Kew State School

Date of Death : 21/09/1919 **Aged :** 31

Place of Death : Ypres, Belgium

Buried At : Catholic Section, West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia

Occupation : Tram Conductor

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R. C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Daniel and Ellen O'Meara (nee Brosman)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

O'Meara is the only serviceman in our archive to have died interstate. At the time of embarking, he was living with his family in the suburb of College Park in Adelaide.

The family were in Herbert Street, Northcote when John was born in 1888. A slightly younger sister, Kathleen was also born in Northcote in 1891, and a brother, Francis is shown as dying at one year in Northcote in 1890, but the birth is registered under O'Mara.

O'Meara served briefly at Gallipoli and already signs of ill-health appeared when he was evacuated back to Egypt in June, 1915 suffering from influenza. He managed to re-join his unit around a month later, but eight weeks later was again diagnosed with the disease and was repatriated to hospital in Malta.

After serving on the Western Front, he was repatriated back to England with trench fever in November, 1916 and was later diagnosed with tuberculosis.

His condition worsened and O'Meara returned to Australia on 17 March 1917. He was admitted into hospital in Adelaide and discharged in November as medically unfit, the examining board suggesting he was 50% incapacitated in terms of employment. He was granted a pension of £3 per fortnight.

While there are extensive records of his medical condition while he was in the A.I.F., there is nothing after his discharge and the circumstances of his death or whether he ever released from hospital are unknown.

O'Meara's death is recorded on the AWM Honour Roll, but no circular was returned.



Osboldstone, John Ray

Key Address : 36 Cunningham Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lance Sergeant, 37th Battalion, Machine Gun Section
Embarked Private, later promoted to Corporal and the to Lance

Embarked : HMAT Persic
Ship Number : A34
Date of Embarkation : 3 June 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 97 **Enlisted :** 6/01/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Rutherglen **Educated At :** Catholic School
Date of Death : 18/08/1918 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : Proyard, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Coach Builder (Clifton Wheel Co.)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Mary Osboldstone
(nee Milthorpe)

Eyewitnesses : "I saw Sergeant Jack Osboldstone killed instantly by anti tank shell at Proyard a few yards from me - hit in the head about 11 p.m ... medium height, about 23 years of age"
(Private. J.W.B.Kerr, 3332)

" 21 June 1918 Corporal Osboldstone led the decoy party north of the Hangar. Though seen by the enemy at 1-30 a.m. he determinedly led his party to their appointed "lying up" position under cover ... at ZERO, he commenced to bomb the Hangar from the north-east corner .. he displayed brave and determined leadership and skill" (Major commanding 10th brigade on recommendation for MM)

Notes : Before enlisting in the A.I.F., Osboldstone had served in the volunteer forces with the 8th Engineers.

He was wounded in the chest and eye in April, 1917, and spent nearly three months in hospital back in England. He was promoted to Corporal just after being released and underwent training at a Bombing School before pending some months as an instructor at other training centres.

Osboldstone returned to France in April, 1918, and was promoted to Lance Sergeant in July. He was recommended for Military Medal per the citation above.

An elder brother, Cyril (born 1894) served in France and arrived back in Australia just a month beforehand after being invalided with chronic bronchitis. He appears to have been Jack's only sibling.

The family is shown at 23 Barry Street, Northcote in 1914 Electoral Rolls.



Osborne, Herbert Hansen

Key Address : 14 Carlyle Street, South Preston

Rank and Unit : Gunner 102 Australian Howitzer Battery, 1 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] - 12 to 16 Reinforcements (November 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Wandilla
Ship Number : A62
Date of Embarkation : 9 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5865 **Enlisted :** 13/07/1915 **At :** Bendigo

Born At : Sedgwick **Educated At :** Sedgewick State School No 935
Date of Death : 9/04/1917 **Aged :** 25
Place of Death : Lagnicourt, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Machinist
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Ernest Halbert and Christina Osborne (nee Hansen)

Eyewitnesses : "... About April 9th at Lagnicourt he was laying a forward telephone wire from Guns to "O-P" He was alongside outpost. He was shot through the head by a sniper and death was instantaneous ... short, sharp featured, "gingery" moustache, nickname "Digger" (Fitter P. Caesar, 3051, 102 Australian Howitzer Battery)

Notes : His next-of-kin was given as his father at Sedgwick, via Bendigo, but the attestation is marked showing his mother at 14 Carlyle Street, Preston, the same address as he used.

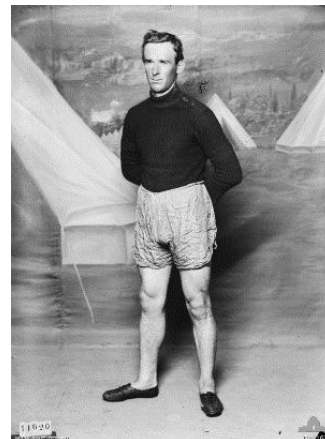
A telegram from the Rev. Jeffreys (of the South Preston Methodist Church) on April 27, 1917, suggested Mrs Osborne had moved back to Sedgwick. He was a brother of [William Lyle Osborne](#), also Killed In Action.

On 26 February, 1916, he was transferred to the 4th Divisional Ammunition Column and killed in action at Lagnicourt when serving with the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade.

The circular returned by his father revealed he was a keen athlete with the Victorian Athletic League. He won the Gold Medal in the half-mile at the A.I.F. sports prior to embarking and official Birth Records suggest he was born Harold rather than Henry.



Gunner Herbert Osborne, standard AWM portrait



Gunner Herbert Osborne, pictured in gymnasium outfit following one of his athletic conquests.



Osborne, Hubert Champion

Key Address : "Fontenay", Ilma Grove, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 29 Infantry Battalion (November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number : A11
Date of Embarkation : 10 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 54 **Enlisted :** 12/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 10/11/1921 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Ivanhoe

Buried At :

Occupation : Machinery/Hardware Salesman

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles and Charlotte Edith Osborne (nee Osborn)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Osborne is not included on the War Memorial Honour List or on local lists, his passing coming some two years after he was discharged. A death notice placed by his family in the Leader in November, 1921 suggested simply that he "died of war wounds".

He suffered gunshot wounds to the head on 23 October, 1916 and was transferred from France to Harefield Hospital in England on 5 December, 1916. Osborne was shipped back to Australia the following February, arriving home on 22 March and declared permanently incapacitated in June.

The death notice in the Leader suggest he died in Ivanhoe, but official death records show the place of death as East Melbourne, the location of the Melbourne Hospital of the time.

Not a lot remains of his military background, but Osborne's career is a little unusual in that he served in the 29th Battalion Headquarters Band, sixteen of whom embarked together. Again, there is nothing to suggest what musical training or other qualification he may have had.

Ilma Grove was not numbered at the time of his enlistment, the Osborne residence was on the northern side, two doors from Prospect Grove. The family were in Toora Street, Ivanhoe at the time of his death.

The similarity between his mother's married and maiden names is verified by official marriage records.

There is no obvious relationship between Hubert and the two brothers with the same family name, [Herbert Hansen Osborne](#) and [William Lyle Osborne](#).

The Death Notice suggests he was an only son and had one sister, Florence ("Flossie"), then Mrs McIntosh Brown.



Osborne, William Lyle

Key Address : 14 Carlyle Street, South Preston

Rank and Unit : Sergeant, 11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery. Embarked Private, 8 LHR [Light Horse Regiment] - 1 to 10 Reinforcements (February-September 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Uganda
Ship Number : A66
Date of Embarkation : 21 June 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5865 **Enlisted :** 14/01/1915 **At :**

Born At : Sedgwick **Educated At :** Sedgwick State School No 935
Date of Death : 28/08/1917 **Aged :** 25
Place of Death : (of illness (diabetes), No. 1 Australian auxiliary Hospital, Harefield
Buried At : 82 Harefield (St Mary) Churchyard, Middlesex, England

Occupation : Stock Rider/Building Labourer/Hospital Warder
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Ernest Halbert and Christina Johanna Osborne
(nee Hansen)

Eyewitnesses : "He was only in bed about a week. He died of exhaustion and did not suffer a great deal. Sister Sampson has written to his father. He was buried with Military Honours on 30 August at 2:30" (D. P. Dickson, Harefield, 18.9.17)

Notes : A brother of [Herbert Hansen Osborne](#), Killed In Action. The other children in the family were Ernest (1890), James (1893) and Bernard (1897).

Osborne spent several months in hospital in Egypt after contracting "acute" gonorrhoea, finally being released to duty in March, 1916. He must have shown some leadership abilities before his hospitalisation, earning promotion to Temporary Corporal and then to sergeant within two months of his return.

He spent short periods of time in hospital within authorities ever detecting his true problem.

Osborne was admitted to hospital again in May, 1917, and (he may have been relocated unknown to the eyewitness) and diagnosed with severe diabetes, losing more than three stone during his stay and dying on 28 September, 1917 after falling into a coma.

An extended stay in hospital obviously attracted many comrades-in-arms, a report in his National Archive suggesting his funeral with full military honours was attended by "a party of some 100 mourners and 150 inmates of Harefield Hospital"

As for Herbert, an alternate contact in the circular was given as Mr. C Hales in Dundas Street, Thornbury, and his mother suggested William had spent some years with the Senior Cadets in Preston. The family appear to have returned to Sedgwick some time after the sons enlisted.

His pre-war occupation remains a mystery - on the Attestation, he nominated "stock rider", records of his admission to hospital suggest "building trade, and his mother on the circular opted for "hospital wardsman".



O'Toole, Leo Eugene (alias O'Toole, Lawrence Joseph)

Key Address : Murray Road, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 14 Infantry Battalion - 5 to 12 Reinforcements (April - November 1915).
Re-embarked Private, 6 Infantry Battalion - 19 to 23 Reinforcements (July-November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Wandilla
Ship Number : A62
Date of Embarkation : 17 June 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number :
Date of Embarkation : 25 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Lawrence Joseph Poole)

Service Number : 2195/6828 **Enlisted :** 4/03/1915 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Dookie **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 10/08/1918 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : Pozieres, France

Buried At : 692 Fouquescourt British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Eugene (late) and Hanna O'Toole (nee Long)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

A confusing individual, not helped by him using an alias, Lawrence Joseph O'Toole, the name of a brother who also enlisted, and that he (Leo) embarked a second time after returning to Australia following the Gallipoli campaign. Archives appear under Lawrence Joseph, the AWM lists him under his correct name.

Both his and his mother's address was first given as 471 Elizabeth Street in Melbourne, but she was resident in Murray Road, Preston by the time of her son's death.

O'Toole originally embarked for the Dardanelles as Service Number 2195. Little is recorded of this section of his history, but he was expatriated back to Australia in December, 1915 suffering from what is listed in one place as an intestinal complaint and others as gonorrhoea.

There is no evidence that he was discharged from the army, but a new attestation was completed on 12 April, 1916 at which point he listed his mother at Devenish in Victoria.

Just a week later, he was declared a deserter, seemingly having absconded from the Broadmeadows Camp and what happened between then and October is somewhat blurred, other than another stay in hospital, this time with syphilis.

His mother was later in Cramer Street in 1918 when she confirmed that he had enlisted under a false name and revealed he had used his brother's given names (just how she knew which son had been killed is a mystery).

To confuse the issue further, the real Lawrence Joseph O'Toole (2148, born 1897 in Ballarat) had also enlisted, living with his wife in Clifton Hill but at one point showing Hannah as next-of-kin.

In 1921 Hannah O'Toole listed her address simply as High Street, Preston when she confirmed that her husband had died about 10 years previously. The two servicemen's siblings included Eileen (1900), Kathleen (1902), John (1904, died two years), Eugene (1906), Gerald (1908), Philomena ("Phyllis", 1911), and James (1909, died one month).



Owen, Albert Victor

Key Address : Mansfield Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 6 Infantry Battalion - 19 to 23 Reinforcements (July - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 7064 **Enlisted :** 27/09/1916 **At :** Thornbury

Born At : Williamstown **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 13/10/1917 **Aged :** 34

Place of Death : Passchendaele, Belgium

Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Griffith (late) and Margaret Owen (late, nee Drury)
Brother John James Oliver Owen

Eyewitnesses : "... It has happened unfortunately in only too many cases of men originally reported missing at Passchendaele that no definite news of them has ever been received. A court of enquiry has now posted them as "Killed" after taking into consideration their non-appearance in hospital or as prisoners of war in Germany and the general circumstances of the attack ..." (Red Cross letter on enquiry as to Owen's fate)

Notes : His attestation noted that both of his parents deceased and that he was residing with a brother, John and sister-in-law Agnes in Mansfield Street at the time of enlisting. The street was not numbered; his brother was on the northern side east of Hamilton Street.

The family name in official registrations bounces like the proverbial red-rubber ball between "Owen" and "Owens".

The brother noted in Archives, John Oliver was shown as Oliver in most records, and was actually John James Oliver Owen. John returned the circular from Eltham Road, Greensborough and archives show his application for a pension was denied (hardly surprising given he would have been around 57 years of age)!

Albert was the youngest of a heap of Owen(s), all of whom were born in Williamstown - along with John, the others were Margaret (1862), Mary (1864), William (1866, died 1908), Emma (1868), John (1869), Griffith (1871), Maude (1874, died 1876) and Albert (1881)

Owen was Owen when reported missing at Passchendaele on 13 October, 1917 and officially classified as Killed in Action by the Commandant, A.I.F. in January of the following year. Owen had been at the front just five weeks when he was killed.



Owins, Thomas George

Key Address : 77 Cunningham Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Corporal, 39th Battalion Australian Infantry
Embarked Private 29 Infantry Battalion - 7 to 12 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Medic
Ship Number : A7
Date of Embarkation : 16 December 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4592 **Enlisted :** 4/09/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Stourbridge, Worcester, England **Educated At :** St. Martin's, Worcester

Date of Death : 23/06/1918 **Aged :** 40

Place of Death : Between Villers Bretonneux and Amiens, France

Buried At : 1170 Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery, France

Occupation : Carpenter and Joiner

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George and Elizabeth Owins
Wife Mrs Ada Emily Owins (nee Weaver)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Owins had spent 21 years in different Voluntary and Territorial Forces in England and arrived in Australia at 34 years of age in 1912. Despite this vast experience, he embarked as a Private, being promoted to Lance Corporal in December, 1917 and to Corporal in April, 1918.

His wife in 1923 was at 2 Wingrove Street and returned the circular from 1 Landridge Street, both in Alphington. His death is commemorated on the local memorial in Riverview Road.

A Death Notice placed in the Leader includes two children known to have been born in Australia, Maisie ("May", 1913), and Ronald (1915).

Migration records show a Rose Owins, aged 22 arriving with the family and presumably his sister. Her occupation is shown in the 1914 Electoral Roll as "packer", the address then 8 Ross Street, Northcote

No pension details remain but immigration records show he and Ada arrived with two children, Thomas junior, then 8, and Doreen aged 1.



Ozanne, Eugene Charles Arthur

Key Address : Tyler Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : CSM, 16th Battalion Australian Infantry
1 to 6 Reinforcements (December 1914 - June 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Itonus
Ship Number : A50
Date of Embarkation : 22 February 1915
Place of Embarkation : Fremantle

Service Number : 1507 **Enlisted :** 15/10/1914 **At :** Collie, Western Australia

Born At : Melbourne **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 19/10/1915 **Aged :** 32

Place of Death : (of accidental injuries), Gallipoli

Buried At : 7th Field Ambulance Cemetery, Gallipoli

Occupation : Miner

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Marcel Charles and Amelia Josephine Ozanne (nee Reinhardt)
Wife Mrs Elizabeth Johnstone Ozanne

Eyewitnesses : "A man of magnificent physique and proficient in all manly sports" (The Leader)

Notes : Ozanne resided with his family in Preston for several years before moving to Western Australia, probably to try his luck on the gold fields given he was listed as a miner. He was serving with a local Garrison Battery when he enlisted.

The family was perhaps one of the more cosmopolitan around the district – his parents were married in Paris before emigrating to Australia and other branches arrived in the 1840s. The family name is noted as early as 1851 when an Albert Thorune Ozanne was listed as a voter in Doutta Galla (Pentridge, late Coburg) at the first election following the declaration of the colony of Victoria after separation from the government of New South Wales.

Known as "Jim", Ozanne had three sisters, Hannah (1880), Zoe (1887) and Ernestine (1888), one of whom ran a dancing school advertised in the Leader for some years.

He also had a brother, Albert (1877), elected Labour member for the Federal seat of Corio in 1910 and who was still serving in Parliament when he enlisted in January, 1916, suggesting at the time that he could not expect others to enlist if he did not do so himself. He was discharged as medically unfit soon after arriving in England. He appears to have been the Ozanne appearing in Preston Football Club records as playing in 1895 and 1896.

Ozanne was promoted to Sergeant on New Year's Day 1915 and later to Company Sergeant-Major after volunteering to descend a mine to extinguish a fire. Although no details remain, there are references to Ozanne being killed in a bomb explosion which was regarded as an accident.

He left a widow and three sons, Eugene, William and Marcel in Western Australia. A Family Notice suggests two of the sons were twins, born in May, 1915. Eugene junior is known to have served in World War 2.

Ozanne's name was commemorated on the Honour Boards of both the Tyler Street and South Preston State Schools, the former then catering for students for years one to four, and South Preston of older students up to the age of 13.

The unusual family name originated from Guernsey in the Channel Islands, perhaps explaining the tendency towards French-sounding given names.



Palling, Aubrey

Key Address : 30 Gadd Street, Croxton

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant, 6th Machine Gun Company
Embarked Private 22 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1028 **Enlisted :** 10/04/1915 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : South Preston **Educated At :** South Preston State School
Date of Death : 3/05/1917 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Clerk
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Samuel (late) and Edith Elizabeth Palling
(later Fox, nee Tolley)

Eyewitnesses : "The above named officer was killed during the attack on Bullecourt (Somme) on 3.5.17, cause of death being shell wounds in the groin and thigh. He was placed by members of the Coy. in a shell hole near the German wire entanglements to the right of the village. As they were subjected to heavy fire and had to eventually withdraw a short distance, the body was not buried, nor is there a record of a burial taking place". (Lt. Col. Commanding Officer, 2nd A.M.G. Battalion)

Notes : Palling must have been an exemplary soldier having being promoted to Sergeant in September, 1915, to Company Sergeant-Major in March, 1916, commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in October and then to Lieutenant in February, 1917.

As his Commanding Officer's report suggested, Palling's body was never found.

His mother, now Mrs Fox, moved to Preston in February 1917 and from December 1918 was at Mt. Toolebong via Healesville. The family in the 1914 Electoral Roll is shown at 28 Barry Street, Northcote.

Later enquiries as to her position as next-of-kin revealed Samuel Palling had died in 1902; he is known to have played with the Preston Football Club in the mid-1890s. Aubrey had four siblings, Ethel (1890), Ruby (1894), Reginald (1897) and Doris (1899).

Reginald also enlisted in July, 1915, using the family name of "Palling-Fox" and gave his address as "Anzac", Murray Road, Preston, even though this was under more than two months after the landings at Gallipoli.

Aubrey's mother also had one child with her second husband, Alfred James Fox; Russell, born in 1913, some 23 years after her first-born, and the death of his grandmother Emily Palling in Preston in 1919 at 83 years is also noted.

Palling's name was later included on the Honour Board at South Preston State School as of one of those connected with the school that paid the ultimate sacrifice during the conflict.



Partridge, Ernest

Key Address :

Rank and Unit : Private 14th Australian Infantry Battalion (December 1914)

Embarked :

HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A28
Date of Embarkation : 22 December, 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 248

Enlisted : 09/09/1914 **At :**

Born At : Launceston

Educated At : Victoria Park State School

Date of Death : 28/04/1915

Aged : 25

Place of Death : (of wounds), Quinn's Post, Gallipoli

Buried At : Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single

Religion : C. of E.

Next of

Parents

James George and Mary Ann Partridge (nee Lawrence)

Kin/Family :**Eyewitnesses :**

"Informant states casualty was a friend of his, and was 5'7" in height, fair medium build, about 9 stone 6, and about 23 years of age. Informant met casualty at No 3 Australian General Hospital, Egypt about 16 May, 1916 ... casualty was a mental case through some injury to the head. In response to a question casualty told the informant that he did not write home, he could not write, and he did not receive letters himself" (Pte A. H. Selbright 1213)

Notes :

Ernest Partridge is included in our archives simply on the basis that his name was included on the Alphington Memorial, but no direct link to either Alphington or the Darebin district in general (other than proximity) is apparent from the surviving documentation.

His address was listed as 62 Noone Street, Clifton Hill when he enlisted, his next of kin his father James at 20 Fergie Street, North Fitzroy. A married brother, James also enlisted with his address as 58 Noone Street and Clifton Hill was the district nominated on the circular as the district Ernest was most associated with.

Partridge was reported as wounded at Gallipoli on 28 April, 1915 and remarkably was not official declared as having been killed in action until 27 February, 1919. the conclusion "reasonable to assume died of wounds, Gallipoli".

His brother James served in the same Battalion but in a different company and this seems to have confused several of the eyewitnesses (although Ernest was two stone heavier).

Also clouding the issue were two letters from his family in September that came back marked "wounded, returned to Australia" while other letters were not returned (James later admitted opening several of the letters to Ernest as he had not seen him for a long time.

His remains were never recovered and his death was commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial, but strangely, his identity disc was returned to his family in August, 1920, the circumstances of its recovery not specified.

Official Tasmanian registrations reveal he was born Albert Ernest Partridge, and had two siblings born there, John (1886) and George (1888), while a sister, Gertrude was born in South Melbourne in 1892.



**Paterson, Ernest Ellerman (Military Cross)
(born Ellerman, Ernest Horatio)**

Key Address : "Rossie", 49 Pender Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant, 22nd Battalion Australian Infantry

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : **Enlisted :** 25/06/1916 **At :** Thornbury

Born At : South Yarra **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 3/10/1918 **Aged :** 37

Place of Death : France

Buried At : 234 Prospect Hill Cemetery, Guoy, France

Occupation : Commercial Traveller

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Horatio and Fanny Louise Ellerman (nee Scott)
Foster Parents James and Mary Ann Paterson
Wife Mrs Charlotte Wood Paterson (nee Burr)

Eyewitnesses : "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Ville-Sur-Ancre, near Albert on 19 May, 1918 ... this Officer took command, re-organised the Company under heavy artillery and machine gun fire, and advanced to take the objective. Without warning he found himself confronted by a machine gun crew bringing their gun into action. He immediately fired upon them, capturing the gun and taking the crew prisoners ..." (Brigadier-General C Rosenthal, Commanding Second Australian Division)

Notes : "Ernest Ellerman Paterson" (born Ernest Horatio Ellerman) presents a somewhat unique problem in the history of our local serviceman as it seems that he may not have been aware of his true identity.

The AWM shows Paterson's parents (taken from the inscription requested for his headstone) as James and Mary Ann Paterson, and all National Archives are filed under Ernest Ellerman Paterson - but there is no official record of a birth or marriage under this name.

For some 44 years, Ellerman's history was hardly of note, but a startling development came in 1962 with the receipt by Australian authorities of a letter from one Everard Ellerman living in Salt Lake City, Utah in the United States who claimed to be his half-brother.

The letter revealed that "Paterson" was actually born Horatio Ellerman, his mother had died in childbirth and that he had been adopted as an infant and raised by the Patersons. It also raised questions as to whether Paterson knew of his true parentage.

The latter scenario seems unlikely - Victorian Civil Registration records confirm he used the family name of Ellerman when he married Charlotte Wood Burr in 1905.

Paterson was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in action on 19 May, 1918. In an odd coincidence, Ellerman died the same day as another Lieutenant in the 22nd Battalion, [William McCarthy Braithwaite](#), both men earning the Military Cross and being buried in the same cemetery.

His wife was at 27 Griffiths Street Richmond from May 1915. No circular was returned, but a Death Notice revealed three children of the marriage of Ernest and Charlotte; James (born 1905), Dulcie (1908) and Ernest (1910). James is noted some five months after his father's death as winning a three-year scholarship to Scotch College.

The [Brigadier-Colonel \(Charles\) Rosenthal](#) commending Paterson/Ellerman for his decoration was a former Preston resident, well-known as the piano player at the All Saint's Church in High Street before he moved to Sydney to further his career as an architect.





Patterson, Charles

Key Address : Regent Street, Preston
Rank and Unit : Captain, 3rd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers , British Army
Embarked :
Service Number : **Enlisted :** 1909 **At :** London
Born At : Daylesford **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 19/01/1915 **Aged :** 39
Place of Death : (as result of accident, Hull, England)
Buried At : 361 Lawnswood Cemetery. W. 571, Yorkshire, England
Occupation : Military
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C of E
Next of Kin/Family : Parents George and Annie Marks Patterson (both late)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Patterson was a former Preston resident and a brother-in-law of prominent local politician and military volunteer organiser, Colonel William Braithwaite, the latter married to Patterson's older sister, Louisa.

He worked for Braithwaite in his tannery in Murray Road for some years and was one of five Preston volunteers in the first embarkation that served in South Africa during the Boer War (his Service Number as a Sergeant in the 1st Victorian Contingent was given as 4). One or two of his letters home were subsequently printed in the Leader.

Patterson moved to London around 1909, joined the British Army and was killed in an accident on the Hull docks when supervising the loading of supplies for his regiment about to embark for France. He was operated on at the Northern Hull Hospital but died four days later.



There remains a short record of Patterson's death in the AWM Commemorative Roll dedicated to Australians who lost their lives serving with the armed forces of Allied countries – his life is mentioned at some length in "Braithwaite of Preston – A Far Famed Name", a history of the Braithwaite family.

Charles Patterson also had a elder brother Thomas, a successful Melbourne estate agent, auctioneer and land speculator, well-known around the district, a long-serving Shire Councillor and a brother-in-law of famous singer, Dame Nellie Melba (born Mitchell, pictured) having married Nellie's sister Isabella. One of his sons, George, was awarded the Military Medal.

Another brother, [William](#), was in partnership with his father and Thomas, but resigned around 1898 to become the Permanent Adjutant of the Victorian Mounted Rifles at the Victoria Barracks. He died from the effects of service at Gallipoli in 1916.

The family's patriarch, George, died in 1899 aged 68, the couple apparently estranged for many years.

Annie Marks Patterson is shown in directories of that year as in Wild Street, Preston, but there is no other entry before she died in Preston in 1904. "A Far Famed Name" suggests she lived at "Mafeking" in Murray Road "not far from Northallerton" (the Braithwaite residence). one of several properties owned by Thomas Patterson in Preston. Directories show a Mrs E. Patterson in Murray Road, but the street was not numbered.

Thomas lived in Regent Street from 1892 to 1897, before moving to Hawthorn. One of his sons, Gerald, born in Preston in 1895 went on to win Wimbledon championships and to captain the Australian Davis Cup team.



Patterson, William George

Key Address : High Street , Preston

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant-Colonel, HQ 1 Australian Division (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Orvieto
Ship number : A3
Date of embarkation : 22 October 1914
Place of embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : **Enlisted :** **At :**

Born At : Daylesford **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 19/05/1916 **Aged :** 53

Place of Death : (as result of wounds) Base Hospital, St. Kilda Road

Buried At : Melbourne General Cemetery

Occupation : Military

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C of E

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George (late) and Annie Marks Patterson (late)
Wife Mrs Harriet Lavinia Patterson

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

It is doubtful that Patterson ever resided in our area, but he had a close association to the area through his brother, [Charles Patterson](#), and brother-in-law, [William McCarthy Braithwaite](#), as well as at one point being a partner in the family's real estate agency in High Street, Preston.

He was known as George, but was always shown as "W. G." in advertisements for the real estate company of "Patterson and Sons", then at 35 Collins Street, later in the Olderfleet Buildings still standing in Collins Street between William and King Streets.

The company operated the agency in High Street for a couple of years after his son, Thomas moved to Preston in 1886. The agency did not last long, and "W.G." disappeared from the enterprise around 1899, when he became the Permanent Adjutant of the Victorian Mounted Rifles, based at the Victoria Barracks in St. Kilda Road, at the same time living in Coventry Street, South Melbourne.

Despite being 52 years of age, Patterson embarked with the first shipment of troops for the Dardanelles and was repatriated after suffering from stress after being severely concussed during shell fire at Gallipoli. One report suggests he was unconscious for ten days after his mental breakdown.

He died in the Base Hospital, St. Kilda Road, on 19 May of the following year after suffering a stroke attributed to his war injuries. Lt-Col. Braithwaite led the funeral procession from Victoria Barracks to the Melbourne General Cemetery.

Patterson appears to have lived in the South Melbourne and Albert Park area for most of his time in Melbourne, although Probate Records list him as residing in Heidelberg. There is no record of how his sister Louisa met William Braithwaite, but there is a suggestion it may have been at one of the social evenings that her brother would have attended during his time in the Voluntary Forces.

George Patterson left a wife, Harriet, whose address was shown as Victoria Barracks.

His siblings, all of whom were born around the Daylesford area were John (1860, died in Preston in 1885), Louisa (1861, later Mrs William Braithwaite), Daylesford (1865), Arthur (1867, died 1887), Annie (1869), Albert Battiste, 1872, died at one day), Albert Murray, (1873, died at 10 months), Charles (1875), Ambrose (1877), Francis (1879) and Gideon (1881, died at two months).





Payn-Lewis, Sir Lionel George William

Key Address : Church of Epiphany, Merri Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Brigadier-General, British Army

Embarked :

Service Number :

Enlisted :

At :

Born At : Armidale, N.S.W. **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 21/12/1919 **Aged :** 48

Place of Death : (of gas poisoning), England

Buried At :

Occupation : Military Officer

Marital Status : **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James Payn and Georgina Lewis (nee Brereton) (both late)

Eyewitnesses : "A private cable has been received of the death in England of the effects of gas of Brigadier-General Sir Lionel Payn-Lewis of The Van, Glamorganshire, Wales, a brother of Captain Reverend James Payn-Lewis of Northcote" (The Leader, December 27, 1919)

Notes : The Leader carried a short acknowledgment of the death of Sir Brigadier-General Lionel William Payn-Lewis, noting he was a brother of "Captain Rev. James Payn-Lewis" of Northcote.

Sir Lionel's background is somewhat obscure - he was serving in the British Forces does not appear in the Commemoration Roll honouring Australians who died while serving with overseas forces. The use of the hyphen in the family name is problematical - the brothers are alternatively shown as "Payn Lewis" and "Payn-Lewis".

The pair were born in New South Wales (James at Maitland) but appear to have been educated in England, despite the Leader describing their father as "one of the earliest pastoralists in Queensland".

James Payn-Lewis was the Reverend of the Northcote Church of Epiphany, then in High Street and later in Merri Street. He had served five years with the Royal Naval College at Geelong before enlisting and embarked for France as a Second Lieutenant with the 5th Battalion

He returned to Australia in February, 1917 and perhaps not surprisingly discharged as "mentally instable" after being wounded three times.

He acted in a number of roles in associations supporting local soldiers after returning from the Western Front and became President of the Northcote branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A., before relinquishing the position in 1922 due to ill health. Later reports place him at Holy Trinity in The Valley, Brisbane. Prior to moving to Northcote, he had won some minor fame as a missionary in Western Australia.

James Payn-Lewis was also involved in a remarkable legal battle around the time of his brother's death when it came to light that the Will of an ex-serviceman, John William Rice left his estate (around £13,000) to the benefit of the Church of England.

The Will had a codicil attached – that if Colonel James Payn-Lewis "was employed by or held office, with the Church of England, all part of the will that related to that Church was to become null and void". Payn-Lewis (who had witnessed the Will while officiating at Broadmeadows Camp) claimed that Rice held a grudge against him after Payn-Lewis demoted him from corporal to private.

The codicil was held to be legally valid and the estate passed to Rice's wife (who previously had been granted an annuity of £300 per year – a spokesman for the Church suggested that under the circumstances, "the Church did not want the gift anyway").



Pearce, Norman Brassey

Key Address : "Iolanthe", 129 Separation Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : 23 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1915 - January 1916)
Embarked : Did not embark
Service Number : **Enlisted :** 24/07/1915 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Ararat **Educated At :**
Date of Death : **Aged :**
Place of Death :
Buried At :
Occupation : Storeman
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist
Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Mark Thomas and Annie Pearce (nee Wilson)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

One of the more bizarre "deaths" in our archives

His family placed an In Memoriam notice in the Leader on July 20, 1918, suggesting Pearce was one of those missing from 19 July, 1917 after the attack at Fromelles and that he was a Gunner with the 59th Battalion.

But was Pearce killed, and in fact, did he ever actually leave Australia?

National Archive records show his Attestation Paper marked as "Deserter" with papers issued at the Seymour camp on November 15, 1915, listing his name along with ten or so others as having deserted and with Warrants Issued For Arrest.

He was 21 years old when he seems to have gone missing and had been assigned to the 7th Reinforcements of 23 Infantry Battalion which embarked from Melbourne on HMAT Ulysses on 27 October, 1915, some three weeks before the warrant was issued for Pearce's arrest.

There are no entries from this point onwards and it seems possible that the Death Notice may have been a cover-up when the family perhaps became aware of their son's apparent desertion.

No record remains of a serviceman of this name in the AWM Honour Roll. There were three men named Norman Pearce that embarked and coincidentally all three were Killed In Action, but none related to the Darebin district.

See [Roy Victor Pearce](#) another slightly suspicious "death". The pair were two of nine children, the family William (who in the 1914 Electoral Roll claimed to be "of independent means") passing away at 80 years of age the same week as Norman's supposed death was reported in the Leader.

Another brother, Rupert, was discharged as medically unfit after contracting enteric fever in Egypt and returned to Australia in December, 1916.



Pearce, Roy Victor

Key Address : "Iolanthe", 129 Separation Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 7 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 28 January 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4564 **Enlisted :** 12/11/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Ararat **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 24

Place of Death : France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Mark Thomas and Annie Pearce (nee Wilson)

Eyewitnesses : "I know a private R. V. Pearce in C. Coy of the 59th A.I.F. very well. He was never wounded, never missing and was with Battalion when I left in December, 1916. He was batman for Mr. Etherton. There was no other R. V. Pearce in C. Coy to my knowledge" (Private. W Costello, 1679)

"Informant gave Pearce's Christian name as "Ray" and states that he was killed by a shell btween Fleurbaix and Fromelles. It was impossible to bury him. Informant knew Pearce well and says he belonged to C. Coy". (Private. Templin, 1867)

Notes : A brother of [Norman Brassey Pearce](#). Another brother, Rupert, was discharged as medically unfit after contracting enteric fever in Egypt and returned to Australia in December, 1916.

Roy Pearce was another of the hundreds posted as missing after the "over the top" at Fromelles on 19 July, 1916, and like most, Pearce's fate was a mystery.

Two informants suggested they saw him working after the attack as an Officer's Servant, one in September and the other in December, while another suggested he was blown to pieces on 19 July and that "it was impossible to bury him".

With (or despite) the conflicting evidence, he was declared Killed In Action at an enquiry in August 1917.



Perrottet, Stephen Holbrook (*)

Key Address : 137 Robert Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 6th Battalion (Infantry) (October, 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 525 **Enlisted :** 17/08/1914 **At :**

Born At : Hamilton **Educated At :** Gold Street State School, Clifton Hill

Date of Death : 04/05/1914 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : Died of wounds, Ràs-él-tin Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt

Buried At : Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

Occupation : Bank Clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Protestant

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Stephen and Alice Margaret Perrottet (nee Shaw)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Although his parents did not move into the district until 1923, Stephen Perrottet was a prominent member of Northcote Rifle Club and his sacrifice was commemorated with the unveiling of a enlarged portrait at the club's annual meeting in July, 1915. (A similar was granted to the club's late President, Cr, A. E. Woodhouse who died a few months earlier.

He suffered a bullet wound described as very severe to the head on 30 April and was repatriated to Alexandria where he died four days later. He was originally listed as dying on 10 May, later changed to the 4th.

The announcement of his death and the unusual surname caused some anguish for a family in Queensland who had a son, "S. H. Perrott" serving at Gallipoli, Base Depot advising them that the published list was correct and not their son.

A brother, Sergeant Louis Perrottet served with the Medium Trench Mortar Battery and was awarded the Military Medal.

The pair's mother returned the circular from the North Fitzroy address with an alternate contact givens as Mrs H. L. Collins, 248 Clarke Street, Northcote. This was the surviving sister, Estelle (1888) after and elder sibling, Ellen died in 1887 at nine months of age

Stephen senior was the clerk of courts at Fitzroy, formerly functioning in the same role in Colac. By a rare stroke of fortune, the family background came to light in 1926 when the serviceman's grandmother, Mrs Charlotte Perrottet celebrated her 100th birthday and attracted a brief history in The Argus.

The article reveals the family were descendants of the famed English architect, Sir Christopher Wren, and that she arrived in Australia from London in 1854, her husband preceding and established as the first headmaster in Emerald Hill (now South Melbourne). It was suggested she had 26 living descendants, her own family including Stephen senior having been on the goldfields at Beechworth before moving to Yackandandah and Colac.





Perry, Rupert

Key Address : 65 Carlisle Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Ayrshire
Ship Number : A33
Date of Embarkation : 3 July 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5424 **Enlisted :** 11/03/1916 **At :** Preston

Born At : Bendigo **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 23/08/1918 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : St. Martin's Wood, France

Buried At : 526 Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France

Occupation : Tanner (Zwar's Parkside Tannery, Preston)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert and Rachel Robena Perry (nee Graham)

Eyewitnesses : "I saw Perry after being hit at St. Martin's Wood on August 23rd. 1918 at about 7.a.m. He was hit I think by a shrapnel bullet on the leg. I do not know if he was hit anywhere else or if he reached a C.C.S. alive ... he was about 5'10" in height, thin, rather dark and about 21 years of age" (Private. J. Smallman, 5761, 5th. Battalion)

Notes : Perry spent almost four months (115 days) in hospital and on restricted duties in 1916 with venereal disease and was found later guilty of charges of disobedience and overstaying leave (both of which attracted relatively minor penalties).

He was wounded in both legs in September, 1917, and it wasn't until April of the following year before he re-joined his battalion. Other eyewitness reports of his death suggest he was hit in the abdomen.

His name was included on an Honour Board at the Thornbury Presbyterian Church, the entry suggesting his middle initial was "C", but this is not recorded in any surviving documentation.

Perry was also included on the Board of South Preston State School and on the Preston Cenotaph.

Rupert was one of six surviving children of the family, the survivors of whom were Francis (1894, served A.I.F), Ruby (1901), Doris (1903), Ivy (1908), and Roy (1911).

Three other youngsters died prematurely, James (1893, died at one day), Robert (1897, at one year), and Claude (1910 at one month).



Pettit, Alfred

Key Address : "Chris", Station Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal 37 Infantry Battalion (June 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Persic
Ship Number : A34
Date of Embarkation : 3 June 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Petit)

Service Number : 518 **Enlisted :** 22/02/1916 **At :** Fairfield

Born At : Helensburgh, Scotland **Educated At :** Bell Street, Fitzroy State School

Date of Death : 26/05/1917 **Aged :** 41

Place of Death : (of wounds), Boulogne, France

Buried At : 102 Bologne Eastern Cemetery, France

Occupation : Storeman (Stores Branch, Post Master General's Department)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Alfred and Christina Pettit
Sister Mrs Elizabeth Fiddymont

Eyewitnesses : "This man was wounded on 15.5.17 and was admitted here with a large septic and very severe wound in the upper third of his left thigh and a compound fracture of the femur. He was operated on the 19.5.17 but on 23.5.17 acute gas infection appeared ... in spite of all efforts he died on 25.5.17 ..." (The O.C, No. 83 Gen. Hospital, Boulogne)

Notes : Pettit arrived in Australia with his parents (and a brother and sister, twins and just a year old) when he was three years old and was educated in Fitzroy.

Both parents were deceased at the time of his enlistment and he nominated his married sister, Mrs Elizabeth Fiddymont with whom he was living as next-of-kin, although an elder brother identified only in archives by the initials "F. S." living in Collingwood ultimately received the War Medals.

Pettit, along with a brother George, had previously served in South Africa during the Boer War, George being wounded and invalided back to Australia in 1900.

Alfred had spent eight years in the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the British Army and was Captain of the Fairfield Rifle Club and a committeeman of the Fairfield Angler's Club when he enlisted.

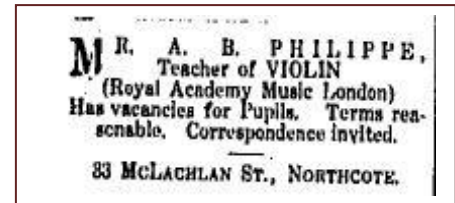
Various Death Notices at the time of his demise reveal that as well as George and Elizabeth, "F. S" was Frank, another brother Thomas lived in Fairfield, and Alfred was "the grandson of Mrs McColl (Fairfield) and nephew of Mrs Hollywood (Northcote)".

Pettit was wounded in the left thigh on May 15, 1917, and transferred from the 9th Field Ambulance to the 23rd Stationery Hospital and then to the 83rd General Hospital at Boulogne where he died eleven days after being wounded.



Phillipe, Alfred Baptiste

Key Address : 29 McLachlan Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private, 21st Australian Infantry Battalion
Embarked : HMAT Hororata
 Ship Number : A20
 Date of Embarkation : 27 September 1915
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne



Service Number : 2240 **Enlisted :** 20/07/1915 **At :**
Born At : London **Educated At :** Margate College, England
Date of Death : 08/01/1919 **Aged :** 38
Place of Death : (of wounds at Villa-sur-Ance, France), 1st London General Hospital, England
Buried At : Family grave, 4 Brompton Cemetery Kensington, London
Occupation : Violin Teacher and Clerk
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Methodist
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Jean Albert Arsene and Elizabeth Philippe
 Wife Mrs Susan Philippe (nee Harvey, ex Mrs William Henry Billing, widowed)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

His connection to the area was brief and his death was one of the last to be uncovered, but Alfred Baptiste Philippe provides one of the most poignant accounts in our archives.

News of his passing in an English hospital came from a modest Death Notice in The Argus late in January, 1919, which suggested he was "the husband of Mrs Susan Philippe of London (late Northcote), and step-father of Leslie A. and Cyril G. Billing".

Whether the couple knew each other in England is unknown, but it seems highly likely.

A widow, Susan Billing is shown in Immigration records as arriving (aged 28) with two children in May, 1912, and Alfred Phillippe in August. Local records reveal they were married in Melbourne later in the same year.

Directories for the same year have Mrs S. Billing as "dressmaker, 29 McLachlan Street, Northcote". In 1914, the entry changes to Mrs S. Philippe, "grocer, Walker Street, Clifton Hill", and he nominated 17 Myrtle Street, Clifton Hill on embarkation.

The circular returned by his wife listed his vocation as "violin teacher", but on enlisting, Philippe suggested "violinist/clerk" suggesting he perhaps could not make ends meet as a professional musician.

Philippe was hospitalized with rheumatism and influenza just a week after arriving in England, and spent over eighteen months on training and other light duties, including several with an anti-aircraft battery, before being shipped to France in March, 1918.

On May 20, he suffered a severe gunshot wound to the left side of the chest which also fractured his spine, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. It appears that on hearing of her husband's injuries, Susan Philippe immediately returned to England to be at her husband's side (a letter from the eldest son, Leslie who resided in Albert Park revealed she was by then living in Earl's Court, London in late June).

In what must have been in the distressing of circumstances, Philippe struggled on for another seven months before finally succumbing to his wounds on January 8, 1919. He was buried in a private family grave in Brompton Cemetery, London with full military honors, Susan at least having the comfort of being able to lay her husband at rest (in fact, the only widow or parent of a serviceman in our archives who died overseas to do so).

Although there is no indication of when, she returned to Australia and late in the 1920s returned the circular for her husband from Highfield Road, Surrey Hills. There is no local record of her death, suggesting she may later have returned to England.



Phillips, Arthur Egbert

Key Address : 'Talana', 7 Hartington Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 59th Battalion Australian Infantry
Embarked Private, 7 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 23 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 7 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4868 **Enlisted :** 18/08/1915 **At :** Wedderburn

Born At : Bendigo **Educated At :** State School

Date of Death : 19/06/1916 **Aged :** 24

Place of Death : Fleurbaix, France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Clerk (Cumming, Smith & Co. Pty Ltd., William Street, Melbourne)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles (late) and Margaret Phillips (nee Dawes)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

A brother, [Lance-Corporal Mervyn Hugh Phillips](#), 5744, was Killed In Action at Messines, France on 10 June, 1917.

The Leader noted Phillips was captain of the Holy Trinity Tennis Club and a member of "The Thornbury Billikens", a popular local amateur theatrical group who clubbed in to insert a Death Notice in The Argus.

Arthur Phillips was a son of the former headmaster at the Northcote State School (1401) in Helen Street, Charles Phillips, who the Leader noted as not fully recovering from a breakdown since relinquishing the post (although he only appears to have been retired for about four weeks after spending 39 years with the Education Department).

Although no exact date is recorded, Phillips senior was dead by the end of 1916.

Arthur Phillips was one of those posted missing on July 19 1917 and was confirmed Killed In Action by A.I.F. Headquarters on the following New Year's Day. Neither his body or any grave was ever located.

Having lost her husband and two sons, it is understandable that Mrs Phillips (post-war at 413 Inkerman Street, East St. Kilda) was in a somewhat traumatic state.

The three free photographs of servicemen's graves (in his case, a memorial cross) went to his eldest brother (ex Staff Sergeant) Vincent Phillips then in Windsor (who also returned the circular for his two brothers) with a note attached to the distribution slip ...

"... Mr. Phillips is deceased's brother and has specially requested that the photographs be forwarded to him as his mother is under the impression that Private. Phillips has a registered grave and it is not not considered advisable to inform her of the exact position".

A Death Notice gave Arthur and Mervyn's brothers and sisters as Mrs W. Langley, (Grace, born 1892), Mrs H. Stephens (Rosie, 1887), Florrie (Flora, 1883), Veda (1899), Osbert (1888) and Vincent above, (1886).



Phillips, Mervyn Hugh

Key Address : "Kalimna", 33 Herbert Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal, 46th Battalion Australian Infantry
Embarked Private 8 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 23 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Ayrshire
Ship Number : A33
Date of Embarkation : 3 July 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5744 **Enlisted :** 5/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Leichhardt **Educated At :** Horsham State School
Date of Death : 11/06/1917 **Aged :** 23
Place of Death : (of wounds)
Buried At : 285 Bailleul Communal Cemetery, France

Occupation : Clerk (Yorkshire Insurance Company)
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles (late) and Margaret Phillips (nee Dawes)
Wife Mrs Laura Phillips (nee Merriman)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Known as "Mick", he was a younger brother of [Private Arthur Egbert Phillips](#), 4868, Killed In Action, 19 July, 1916 and was born in the township of Leichardt via Marong.

Mervyn Phillip's attestation initially has him as single and next-of-kin his father in Hartington Street, with his wife Laura later added. The Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages confirm the couple married before he embarked and no children of the brief union.

He was promoted to Lance Corporal in mid-December 1916 but a few weeks later was hospitalised and then restricted to light duty with enteritis, an intestinal ailment and did not re-join his unit in France until mid-May of the following year.

Phillips suffered a gunshot wound to the head around a month later and died the same day at the 2nd Casualty Clearing Station.

The circular was returned by his wife who was still at the Herbert Street address despite a note in 1918 asking for the settlement of her husband's deferred pay as she was "waiting to leave Victoria".

The circular also shows the mother Margaret as having returned to the district and in Ballantyne Street, Thornbury, after spending some years in East St. Kilda. See Arthur's entry for the full family.



Pistrucci, Benjamin Harold

Key Address : 141 Separation Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : 13 LHR [Light Horse Regiment]
8 to 23 Reinforcements (May 1916 - February 1918)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 4 August 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2402 **Enlisted :** 22/02/1917 **At :**

Born At : Castlemaine **Educated At :** Castlemaine North State School

Date of Death : 29/03/1918 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : (of gas poisoning) 2nd Casualty Clearing Station

Buried At : 193 Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension Bailleul, France

Occupation :

Marital Status : Farmer **Religion :** C of E

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William John and Elizabeth Ann Pistrucci

Eyewitnesses : " The deceased soldier was accorded a military funeral, firing party, bugler and pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and surmounted by many beautiful wreaths. The Last Post was sounded at the graveside. Deceased was interred in a private family grave"

Notes : Pistrucci enlisted from 40 Dalley Street, Clifton Hill.

His death was listed under that suburb, but his family by that stage had moved to 141 Separation Street, Northcote in September, 1918, the address from which the circular was returned some years later.

He was gassed in France (neither National Archives or the circular give an exact location), but the former notes that his father "was naturalised". There are no Red Cross records of his admission, but the archives reveal he died the same day that he was admitted.

Despite the Latin-sounding surname, official Victorian registrations show his family to have been living around the Castlemaine district since at least 1864.

Although a little out of our scope, the family may well trace back to the famed Italian engraver, Benedetto Pistrucci, who became chief engraver at the Royal Mint in London in 1817.

Benjamin had three younger siblings - Vera (1893), Herbert (1897) and Hector (1901).



Plant, Percy George

Key Address : 18 Henry Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private, 6th Infantry Battalion (October 1914)
Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 235 **Enlisted :** 18/08/1914 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 25/04/1915 **Aged :** 27
Place of Death : Gallipoli
Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli
Occupation : Tailor's Presser
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents George William and Elizabeth Plant (nee Griffiths)

Eyewitnesses : "Plant was shot through the body by a bullet on the Monday morning after the landing (April 26). A friend of witness was near Plant at the time and heard him say "They've got me" as he went down ... was very popular with his mates" (Corporal E. J. Anderson, B Coy. 6th Battalion)

"This man was shot in the back on the first Sunday after the landing, and then afterwards, a shell landed in the trench and half-buried him. He was quite dead in the Turkish trench when I saw him. We had to retire and leave his body behind" ([Lance Corporal Anquetil, 284](#))

Notes : Plant was reported Missing on the first day of the Gallipoli landings and pronounced Killed In Action at a Court of Enquiry twelve months later. The enquiry gave April 25 as the date of death despite the first eyewitness account above. His body was never recovered.

A long letter from a Private A. Hopgood to Miss A. Barton in the archives also confirmed the first account.

Plant's platoon had overrun the Turkish trenches they were attacking but in their haste left Turkish snipers hidden in bushes behind, one of whom shot Plant from behind as he lead the charge forward.

Plant's father from October, 1916 was at 7 Hodgkinson Street, Clifton Hill. No circular was returned.

The Plant family were probably the best known in Northcote during the second half of the 19th century, George Herbert Plant and his wife Catherine running the famous Peacock Inn Hotel, and his brother John, who had newsagencies in Preston and Northcote as well as being for some years the Town Clerk for the Shire of Heidelberg.

Percy Plant was one of John's grandsons - his parents George and Elizabeth (nee Griffiths) marrying in 1880 and he appears to have been their only child.



Polglase, Charles Alexander

Key Address : 116 Mansfield Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 59th Battalion Australian Infantry
Embarked 5 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 12 Reinforcements (December)

Embarked : HMAT Star of Victoria
Ship Number : A16
Date of Embarkation : 10 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2884 **Enlisted :** 28/06/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Bridgewater **Educated At :** Castlemaine State School

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death :

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Carpenter, (Brewer's Timber Yard, Clifton Hill)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William John and Margaret Susan Polglase (nee Deslandes)

Eyewitnesses : "At Fleurbaix he was killed by a shell on 19th July. He was out in No-Man's Land. I was not far away from him at the time. I knew him well. He was in the same Machine Gun section as I was attached to; he was very well liked" (Blair, 644)

"... we heard him firing for a little while, then all at once he stopped, but as to whether he got hit or went on further nobody knows. As we never got to the trenches we were after, Charlie may have been taken prisoner as he was getting pretty near the enemy trenches when last seen ..."

(Letter from Private F. L. Haynes to his father in Ballantyne Street, published in the Leader, March 3, 1917)

Notes : Charlie Polglase before enlisting served with the 55th Volunteer Artillery.

He was the only son in the family, survived by one sister, Violet, born in 1899. The 1914-5 Medal issued in 1920 was accepted by his mother at a presentation ceremony at Northcote Town Hall.

He was one of hundreds posted as Missing on 19 July, 1916 and confirmed Killed In Action at an Enquiry on 19 August of the following year.

Private Haynes' letter published in the Leader described how Polglase had gone back to his machine gun in No-Man's Land after his platoon was forced to take cover in a shell hole about half way between the two lines as they attacked the German trenches.

Other eyewitness reports confirm he was killed by artillery fire.





Pollard, Herbert George

Key Address : Mitchell Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : 29 Infantry Battalion (November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number : A11
Date of Embarkation : 10 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 324 **Enlisted :** 07/07/1915 **At :** Dunolly

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Kew State School

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Fromelles, France

Buried At : Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery, France

Occupation : Farmer

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George and Euphemia Beatrice Pollard (late, nee Brown)
Wife Hilda Georgina Pollard (nee Murray)

Eyewitnesses : "I have to advise that an identification disc of the above man whose name appeared on an attached list was received at this store from the German authorities and forwarded to the next of kin On 29th June, 1917. It is regretted that no record is held in this store of the date on which these discs were received. In no instance were and additional effects of a personal nature received at this address", (letter from O.C., A.I.F. Kit Stores)

Notes :

Pollard's link to the district only came to light after a project was initiated to identify up to 400 Australian and British soldiers whose remains were discovered in a mass grave in Pheasant Wood near Fromelles in May 2008. The bodies are believed to have been buried by the German forces.

This revealed Pollard was born in Northcote – further investigation show the family arrived in Northcote just before Herbert's birth in 1892, lived in Mitchell Street for about five years and then for a year at then in High Street and 113 Bridge Street. They were not listed in 1899 directories.

Pollard was single when he enlisted and gave his next-of-kin as his father at 100 Walpole Street, Kew, where he appears to have been raised.

He was one of those that married after enlisting, a letter from the Rev. David Munro at Dunolly confirming the wedding, the short union producing a daughter, Agnes who Pollard would never had seen.

After being posted missing as at 19 July, 1916, he was declared killed in action when his identity disc was received from German authorities in November, 1916, with a note attached confirming Pollard's death.

Despite this, three eye witnesses suggested he had been wounded – one placing him in hospital at Etaples, France, another claimed he had returned after being in England. He was officially declared Killed In Action on 3 April, 1917.

Herbert's siblings were Beatrice (Born Maryborough, 1890), Leslie (1894, A.I.F.) and Clifford (1896) both Northcote), and Ernest, (1899, Brunswick). Another child, Maude was born in North Fitzroy in 1898 but died before reaching the age of one month.

Their mother died in South Melbourne in 1900 at 35 years of age.





Powell, Harold Richard

Key Address : 217 High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 29 Infantry Battalion (November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number : A11
Date of Embarkation : 10 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 906 **Enlisted :** 13/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Ballarat **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 28/11/1916 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : (of wounds), Heilly, France

Buried At : 833 Heilly Station Cemetery, Merricourt-L'Abbe, France

Occupation : Warehouseman / Salesman (Richard Allen & Co, soft goods manufacturers)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry Richard (late) and Emily Catherine Powell
(nee Oliver)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Powell listed his mother as next-of-kin and his father was alive at the time, signing the consent for Harold to enlist as "H. R." - he is listed in official records as dying in Ballarat later in 1915.

There is some later documentation referring briefly to "the Rev. Mr. Powell" and the pension records of mid-1917 refer to Emily Powell as "widowed mother" - the two Death Notices published in The Argus include only "Mrs E. C. Powell", one noting "Mr. And Mrs Bert Cox of Northcote" as his uncle and aunt.

Emily Powell is listed in the 1910 directory as a "ladies draper" and was still operating until at least 1930, a daughter, Ethel (1892) shown as "saleswoman". She was Harold's only sibling.

Powell is also noted in one report as "secretary of the N.B.C", the "B" probably "Baseball" as he was rather young for "Bowling", and "Basketball" was unheard of at the time.

The Leader noted he was a member of the Clifton Hill Methodist Football Club and the Batchelors Singing Club, the latter interest perhaps seeming somewhat strange today, but not so much in the days before radio and television, and when moving pictures were still in their infancy and the average citizen provided themselves with their own personal entertainment.

powell suffered multiple wounds to his right leg on 25 November, 1916, and died three days later at the 36th Casualty Clearing Station. There are no remaining Red Cross archives to confirm the circumstances of his death.



Prentice, John Drury

Key Address : "Gracebourne", Railway Parade, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private, 4th Battalion, 10th Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Warilda
Ship Number A69
Date of Embarkation : 8 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 3099 **Enlisted :** 06/07/1915 **At :** Liverpool, N.S.W.

Born At : North Fitzroy **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 05/08/1916 **Aged :** 48

Place of Death :

Buried At : "Y" Farm Military Cemetery, Bois Grenier, France

Occupation : Plumber

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Edward Powney and Sarah Ann Prentice (nee Roff)
Sister Mrs Emma Gordon Anderson

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

He gave as next of kin his two-year older sister, Emma Gordon Prentice, then Mrs Robert Anderson in Railway Place, Thornbury (at the corner of Hutton Street).

By macabre coincidence, two earlier siblings named Emma and John both died at five months of age, in 1860 and 1867 respectively.

Despite enlisting in and embarking from Sydney, he also gave Railway Parade as his residential address. The exact location of "Gracebourne" is not known, but Thornbury implies that this part of Railway Parade was known as Clapham Street in October 1917 – a short section south of Arthurlton Road became Herbert Street.

His parents were married in 1851 and both were still alive, residing at 1 Kent Street, Clifton Hill.

Prentice claimed to be 35 on enlisting and military authorities seem to have accepted him on this basis. In reality, he was born in 1869 and over the age limit of 45 when he enlisted.

Correspondence with his parents may have uncovered the ruse and his official cemetery plaque shows him as 48 when he died. Official birth records suggest he was born simply John Prentice.

Other than those noted above, Prentice's other siblings were Sarah (1862), Robert (1865), Lucy (1871), Henry (1874) and Rose (1878).



Pretty, Alfred Walter

Key Address : 16 Simpson Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 6th Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 127 **Enlisted :** 19/08/1914 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Daylesford **Educated At :** State School

Date of Death : 19/05/1915 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : (of wounds), Egypt

Buried At : 6 Chalby War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

Occupation : Carpenter

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Wesleyan

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert J. and Mary Anne Pretty (nee Pointon)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : The younger brother of [Frederick Victor Pretty](#), 111, 16th Battalion, also killed at Gallipoli some 17 days before Alfred.

Alfred Pretty's address on the enlistment papers from Northcote Town Hall recorded on the Darebin Historical Encyclopaedia is shown as Westgarth Street, but the embarkation paper suggests 16 Simpson Street, Northcote.

The house would have in fact been directly opposite the Drill Hall that was opened a few weeks before the outbreak of war.

His father was shown as "c/o Segscighini, McDonald Street, Northcote" at the time his two sons were killed.

Residential directories of the day reveal that his father was living with a Mr. Joseph Scascighini, a house painter, the misspelling of the name perhaps understandable given the predominantly Anglo-Saxon family names of the day. He was Robert Pretty's son-in-law, having married Alice Pretty in 1910 when the family was still in South Australia.

Pretty was invalided back to Alexandria via the H.M.T Guilford Castle after being shot in the head at Cape Helles. He died in the 15th General Hospital some six days after being wounded.

There were two other children, Winifred (1894) and Robert (1895).



Pretty, Frederick Victor

Key Address : McDonald Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 16 Infantry Battalion (December 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Ceramic
Ship Number : A40
Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 111 **Enlisted :** 7/09/1914 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Daylesford **Educated At :** Daylesford State School

Date of Death : 2/05/1915 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Sleeper hewer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Wesleyan

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert J. and Mary Ann Pretty (nee Pointon)

Eyewitnesses : "Witness was in charge of a burial party on 3/5/15 at Monash Gully and remembers this man being buried. Pretty was the first man buried under witness' direction. Witness has in his possession a book containing names of several men buried under his directions and this book he produced, Pretty's name appearing in it with his No. and Battalion. Witness says Pretty died from a bullet wound in the head" Ref Pioneer Sergeant Gibbon, 212)

Notes : A brother [Alfred Walter Pretty](#) 127 (included) was also killed at Gallipoli some 17 days later.

Frederick Pretty's early A.I.F. career is something of a mystery - he enlisted in Western Australia where he was living, but embarked from Melbourne despite serving in a W.A. battalion.

His father was shown as next-of-kin in Daylesford, but a change of address in June, 1915 has him rather like Alfred as "c/o Segscighini, McDonald Street, Northcote" (above).

Pretty was originally listed as Missing on May 2, 1915, and was confirmed Killed In Action early the following year. As well as the eyewitness report, Pretty's Pay Book was also listed as returned, suggesting the failure to note his death may have been an administrative oversight.

The circular returned by a Mrs E. M. Franklin, his sister, suggested Pretty had been in Western Australia for several years and prior to enlisting had been Secretary of the state Timber Cutters Association.



Pryor, James Joshua

Key Address :	54 Hawthorn Road, Northcote		
Rank and Unit :	Private, 6 th Battalion (Infantry) Embarked Gunner 2 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (October 1914)		
Embarked :	HMAT Hororata Ship Number : A20 Date of Embarkation : 19 October, 1914 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (as James Pryor)		
Service Number :	239	Enlisted :	At :
Born At :	Eltham	Educated At :	State School
Date of Death :	25/04/1915	Aged :	21
Place of Death :	Gallipoli		
Buried At :	Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey		
Occupation :	Cabinet Maker		
Marital Status :	Single	Religion :	C of E
Next of Kin/Family :	Parents	Joseph and Mary Jane Pryor	
Eyewitnesses :	<p>" ... Pryor was well known to witness, about 40/50 years of age with greyish hair".</p> <p>"Witness went to front in August with a man named Pryor who came from Melbourne, aged about 19, fair, slight, medium height. He had previously twice been to the front – on one occasion wounded, and on second unwell. Witness saw above man about August 20 on sick parade ..." (Private Forn, D Coy. 6th Battalion)</p> <p>"There is a Pryor in B Coy. If this be the man then he was back with the Regiment when I left 20 November (Sgt Fry, A Coy. 6th Battalion)</p> <p>"Witness saw Pryor lying wounded, shot through the stomach in Shrapnel Gully on a day soon after the landing. Witness knew him well, he came from Collingwood, Fair complexion, stout, about 5 ft. 9 in height" (Corporal A. E. O'Neil, 6th Battalion)</p>		
Notes :	<p>The AWM Honour Roll shows Pryor's parents at 54 Hawthorn Road, Northcote, but they appear to have moved into the area from Eltham (where his sacrifice is commemorated on the War Memorial) following their son's death at Gallipoli.</p> <p>On embarkation, he gave his mother's address at 12 Bath Street, Abbotsford, and archives reveal that his father Joseph enlisted early in 1916. A brother Ray also enlisted and was wounded twice before returning in 1919.</p> <p>All records are held under James Pryor, Joshua being added to his headstone after his parents supplied a Statutory Declaration as to his full name.</p> <p>Exactly when the family moved to Northcote is unknown, although they are noted at 44 Barry Street when the distribution of medals commenced in mid-1920 and in Hawthorn Road early in 1921.</p> <p>Pryor's mother was awarded a pension, suggesting she was at least in part dependent upon her son – again archives show her husband returned to Australia in November, 1917, the reason shown as "senility". She appears to have been deceased by the time the circular was returned.</p> <p>Although he was ultimately declared Killed In Action on the first day of the landings, 25 April, 1915, he was not posted as Missing until 16 June.</p> <p>The enormity of the task facing those with the task of uncovering the fates posted Missing cannot be better illustrated than by the widely conflicting eyewitness statements in Pryor's case heard on 24 April, 1916. (In reality, he was 5ft 11, perhaps on the lean side at 12 stone and had dark brown hair).</p> <p>Directories show the serviceman had five siblings, all born in Eltham, William (1890, died at one year), Robert (1892), Roy (1895), Charles (1897) and Ethel (1899), but oddly there is no entry for him to confirm he was James Joshua.</p>		



Punch, Herbert Victor

Key Address : 20 Reid Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 6th Battalion - 19 to 23 Reinforcements (July-November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 2 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6635 **Enlisted :** 21/02/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 20/09/1917 **Aged :** 28
Place of Death : Polygon Wood, Belgium
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Boot maker (Boot Finisher). Myers Boot Factory, Melbourne
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Henry and Mary Jane Punch (nee Roche)
Wife Mrs Agnes May Punch (nee Kingston, later Maynes)

Eyewitnesses : "6637 A. Russell, 11 Platoon, C. Coy. was with Punch when he died in his arms and he laid him in a shell hole. He can tell you all about it." (Stoker, 6853).

"I saw him killed at Ypres on the 20.9.1917 about 7.p.m He was caught by a shrapnel bullet which hit him just over the heart. He only lived a few moments after being hit and was quite conscious until death. I knew him very well. He was a married man with a wife and two children and came from Melbourne He was a boot packer in civil life and worked in Myers Boot Factory in Melbourne. He came away from Melbourne with me by the s.s "Nestor" which left there on 2.10.16 ..." (Private C.R. Sands, 6th Battalion)

"His last words were "I'm done" (J. W. Sheehan, 6th Battalion)

"He was a big thick set man, medium complexion about 23 years of age, known as Victor" (P. J. Skilton, No. 4339)

Notes : "Vic" Punch played with the Preston Football Club from 1910 to 1914, after which he enlisted. Along with brothers Les (who also served in the war and later played with Footscray's first V.F.L. team) and Bill, the trio were mainstays of Preston for several years.

The eyewitness suggestion of a "big thick set man" hardly corresponds with Army Records which Punch as under 5'5 and weighing just over nine stone!

Punch left his wife Agnes and two sons (Herbert and Victor), the couple marrying in 1911.

Agnes had remarried by 1920, becoming Mrs Maynes and lived at the same address. Reid Street was not numbered – the house was on the western side midway between Darebin and Dennis Streets.

The circular was returned by his father who lived in Southernhay Street Preston for many years. "Vic" Punch was a brother-in-law of [Private William Kingston](#).



Quinn, Charles

Key Address : 64 Clarke Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private 15 Infantry Battalion (December 1914)
Embarked : HMAT Ceramic
 Ship Number : A40
 Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1914
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 481 **Enlisted :** 18/09/1914 **At :**
Born At : Adelaide **Educated At :** Christian Brothers, Abbotsford
Date of Death : 08/08/1915 **Aged :** 34
Place of Death : 23
Buried At : Lone Pine Memorial, Turkey
Occupation : Bootmaker (Marshall Shoe Co., Collingwood)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R. C.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Hugh and Elizabeth Quinn (nee Greening)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Quinn's death was not noted by The Leader, but a "Roll of Honour" entry in The Argus revealed he was a son of Hugh Quinn of 64 Clarke Street, Northcote.

Whether he was living with his parents is a little unclear - Quinn appears to have a quirky sense of humour, giving his residential address as 19 Rifle Street, Abbotsford!

This was later adjusted to Raphael Street, but even this appears to have been the address of his great love, the Abbotsford Swimming Club - his sister in returning the circular some years later suggested the secretary of the club "c/o Abbotsford Baths" as an alternative contact.

His father, Hugh senior died in 1912 at 56 years of age. No mention of his mother ever appears, his medals going a sister, Mrs Edith May Cope in Chatsworth Road, East Prahran after she advised in October, 1921 that both parents were deceased, suggesting at the same time that the only other sibling, a brother, was also dead.

Although Hugh and Elizabeth married in Adelaide in 1884, there is no trace of Birth Records for Charles. The other brother appears to be Hugh junior, who died in 1896 at one year, Edith was born in 1889 in Collingwood after the family moved to Melbourne.

For reasons unknown, Quinn enlisted at Bundaberg in Queensland and served with a Queensland regiment despite embarking in Melbourne.

He was one of the original ANZACs and part of the first landings. Quinn was wounded in the arm and back on 18 May, 1915, and spent two months recovering before re-joining his unit.

In what appears to have been a minor incident, he was fined 2/6 for being AWOL and then breaking into camp at Enoggera in Queensland where he underwent his basic training.



Quinn, Michael Martin

Key Address : 31 Arthurton Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 6 Infantry Battalion
10 to 12 Reinforcements (September-November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 11 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3426 **Enlisted :** 7/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Ballarat **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 17/04/1918 **Aged :** 21
Place of Death : France
Buried At : 200 Hazelbrouck Communal Cemetery, France

Occupation : Baker
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Patrick Thomas (late) and Helen Florence Quinn (nee Steel)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Quinn's father was dead and his mother was shown as next-of-kin, initially at 21 Rathmines Road, Northcote with several addresses including Arthurton Road and High Street in Northcote, Beach Road Mordialloc.

He was known as "Mickie", his family placing a number of In Memoriam notices in the Leader.

Quinn was wounded in the shoulder in September 1917 and spent four months in England recuperating.

On his return to France, he faced a Field Court Martial on 15 March, 1918 after being found asleep while on guard duty at 5.00 one morning and failing to challenge a "visiting patrol"; the documentation unfortunately does not reveal whether the patrol was of the enemy or friendly variety.

Nevertheless, the A.I.F. considered this a most serious charge and Quinn was initially sentenced to 18 months imprisonment with hard labour, but in a bizarre chain of events, the sentence was suspended on April 15 and remitted on the 16th by the Commander, 2nd Army Infantry Brigade.

Any celebrations were short lived with Quinn being killed the following day.

A twin brother, Patrick was wounded and repatriated to Australia by the time of "Mickie's" death and there were two other brothers, William (1899) and John (1901), and two sisters, Janet (1903) and Dorothy (1906).



Rainsbury, George

Key Address : Urquhart Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 60th Battalion Infantry
Embarked 8 Infantry Battalion - 7 to 9 Reinforcements (July-September 1915)

Embarked : SS Makarini
Date of Embarkation : 15 September, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as 2736)

Service Number : 2736A **Enlisted :** 03/07/1915 **At :**

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 24

Place of Death : Fleurbaix, France

Buried At : VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial, Fromelles, France

Occupation : Wood Machinist

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Samuel and Jane Rainsbury (nee Wallace)
Wife Mrs May. Rainsbury (nee Appleby, later Miller)

Eyewitnesses : "Casualty was with me on 19th July at Fleurbaix in the attack. I was wounded in the hip and crawled into a shell hole with five other men. Two crawled away leaving three of us. One was Corporal Murton of Bendigo who had his foot blown off. The other was the above named casualty who was badly wounded in the abdomen. He lay there moaning all night, and he died before I was rescued by the stretcher bearers. I lay there from the Wednesday night to the Friday morning and there was no doubt that he died. His body would be unburied". (W. L. Dalton, 3806)

Notes : Rainsbury was living with his wife in Moor Street, Fitzroy when he enlisted.

His own family were living in Urquhart Street, Northcote when George was born and appear to have earlier been in Fairfield where one of his sisters Ellen was born in 1890.

Other siblings were Jane (1873), Samuel (1875), William (1876, died one day), Rose (1878), Alice (1880, died at 5 months), Henry (1883) John (1894, Northcote) and Florence (Carlton, 1898).

Rainsbury was one of the many hundreds listed as missing after the attack at Fromelles on 19 July, 1916 and was confirmed Killed In Action on 25 August. He had earlier been in hospital several times while in training in Egypt, with mumps, general debility, heat stroke, boils and a septic arm

George and May were married 1912 and had one son George, born in Collingwood, 1913, who appears to have served with the regular Army during the 1930s before resigning to re-enlist with A.I.F. during the Second World War. Contemporary records show his mother was then Mrs May Miller.



Ralston, Robert Ramsay Ireland

Key Address : 1 Flett Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private, 6th Battalion - 19 to 23 Reinforcements (July-November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 25 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6889 **Enlisted :** 22/08/1916 **At :** Preston

Born At : South Preston **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 27

Place of Death : Passchendaele Ridge, France

Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Pork Butcher (J. C. Hutton, 11 years)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next Kin/Family : Parents Gavin and Ruth Ireland Ralston (late, nee Waites)

Eyewitnesses : "I am not sure about the number or initials, but I know a man called Ralston in 6th Battalion., B. Coy and either XV or XVI Platoon. He is tall, of medium build, about 24-5 and has brown hair. He was in the show on Oct 4th, I saw him alive and well with the battalion about a fortnight ago" (Private. H. F. Jordan, 7250, dated 10.12.1917)

Notes : Despite the evidence, Ralston was officially listed as Killed In Action on 4 October, 1917 after previously being reported as Missing In Action as at that date. The death was certified by A.I.F. H.Q on 28 December.

His sister and next-of-kin was Nellie Ralston, the wife of Preston Football Club's longest serving player, Sid Hall, who played over 300 games with the club as well as spending three years at Northcote. Ralston was living with the Hall family at 1 Flett Street, Preston when he enlisted.

Ralston himself played for a number of seasons with the Preston Presbyterian football team, later to be known as Preston Districts, and was known as "Bully".

Ralston's body was never found. He was reported as Missing on 4 October, 1917 and certified Killed In Action on November 28.

Ralston was also a cousin of [Private Colin Campbell Ireland](#) and [Private George Alexander Hamilton](#), the three being sons of the children of James Arthur and of Floria Anne Reynolds, nee Hamilton.

His name was later listed amongst those Killed In Action on the Honour Board of the South Preston State School.

Although the family was one of the more prominent in the Preston area, there seems to be a few gaps between the Death Notice placed in The Argus and official Victorian Birth Records.

The notice suggested Robert's brothers and sisters were "Mrs A. Walsh, Jack, Mt. Gambier, Mrs W Slattery, Mrs C Brewster and Mrs Sid. Hall". A combination of Birth and Marriage registrations show these to be Ellen (no birth recorded), Jack (born John, 1876), Alice (1885), Grace (1881), and Nellie (again no birth recorded under that name).

Robert Ralston's birth record is also missing, and there were other siblings not mentioned in the notice - Agnes (1873, died 1893), Clara (1875), Arthur (1879), Frederick (1882, died at six months) Charlotte (1883), and Norman (1890, died at seven days). After producing the round dozen children, their mother Ruth, died at Preston in 1891 at 40 years of age.



Rancie, Valentine

Key Address : 46 Gladstone Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 8 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 29 December 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4305 **Enlisted :** 24/07/1915 **At :** Richmond

Born At : Richmond **Educated At :** Central State School, Richmond
Date of Death : 25/07/1916 **Aged :** 30
Place of Death : Pozieres, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Shearer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Congregationalist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Annie Martha Rancie (nee Bennett)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Rancie's attestation shows his mother as next-of-kin with a cryptic note, "father objected to" and it appears almost certain that his parents were separated.

The papers also indicate his father was born in New Zealand, but with nothing to indicate why this would have been of interest to authorities.

The usual enquiry of his mother as to next-of-kin in 1921 reveals his father as being deceased. but without suggesting when he died - official Victorian Death records reveal he died in Cheltenham in 1920.

His military history reveals little of interest.

Birth Records also show our serviceman was actually christened John Valentine Rancie, perhaps adopting his middle name to differentiate from his father's given name. His parents were married in 1884, and Valentine has two brothers, Claude (1884) and Norman (1887), and two sisters Annie (1890) and Ida (1892).

His mother was later in Hawthorn and South Melbourne. The circular (unsigned) suggested he also had some training as a printer.



Rashleigh, William Christopher

Key Address : 29 Broomfield Avenue, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private, 14th Battalion (Infantry)
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 29 December 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4296 **Enlisted :** 19/07/1915 **At :** Mildura

Born At : Ballarat East **Educated At :** Ballarat East State School

Date of Death : 12/08/1916 **Aged :** 24

Place of Death :

Buried At : 74 Puchevillers British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Guard, Victorian Railways

Marital Status : Single **Religion :**

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Benjamin Francis and Elizabeth Rashleigh (nee Mawby)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

His family's address on enlistment was 27 Nicholson Street, Ballarat East – they moved to Alphington in March, 1917, and were still there when the circular was returned.

Under these circumstances, the Leader understandably did not report Rashleigh's death, but the family regularly placed In Memoriam notices in Melbourne papers commemorating their son's sacrifice, and each occasion a separate entry appeared from his sister, Mrs E. (Ethel or Eunice below) Halls "of Alphington", suggesting she may have been at a separate address in the district.

Rashleigh suffered gunshot wounds to the shoulder, neck and abdomen near Pozieres on 9 August, 1916. He was admitted to the South Midland Casualty Clearing Station, transferred to the 13th Field Ambulance the following day, and then to the 3rd C.C.S. where he died on August 12.

No detailed Red Cross record remains of his death.

The circular returned by his father suggested he had a cousin Killed In Action, Ronald Longmuir, who lived in and embarked from Western Australia.

The immediate family comprised eight children, although three sadly died before reaching their first birthday – Elizabeth (1884, at two months), Jordan at nine months in 1887), and Alfred (1893, one day).

The survivors other than William were Ethel (1885), Eunice (1888), Lillian (1896) and Percy (1899).



Recetti, Joseph (Military Medal) (alias Ritchie, Joseph)

Key Address : 1 Hunter Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 13th Field ambulance Army Medical Corps
Embarked Private 1 Australian General Hospital - 1 to 6 and Special

Embarked : RMS Osterley
Date of Embarkation : 29 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 11264 **Enlisted :** 28/05/1915 **At :** Ararat

Born At : Chiltern **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 18/09/1918 **Aged :** 23
Place of Death : near Tincourt, France
Buried At : 826 Hancourt British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Tanner
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parent Lawrence (Lorenzo) and Matilda Ritchie
(nee Terry, later Marantelli)

Eyewitnesses : "Ritchie was escorting four walking wounded Prisoners and all five of them were killed by a German shell beyond Tincourt on the Somme sector ... 5 ft 6ins, 30-33 years, nickname "Joe". Just back from leave in Paris" (3822, Sergeant A . Jordan)

Notes :

A lot of detective work revealed that two death notices placed in the Leader on 12 October, 1918, under the name of "Recetti, Joseph" actually referred to a man serving under the name of Joseph Ritchie with the AWM not recording the alias.

The Leader did not list him under either name in the regular weekly casualty list, although three weeks earlier they referred to a Military Medal being awarded to "Private J. Resetta, son of Mrs Ritchie, formerly of Rutherglen".

Ritchie nominated his father with whom living in Ararat as next-of-kin and the attestation is marked "also advise mother, Mrs M. Ritchie, 1 Hunter Street, Northcote".

The confusion is perhaps understandable and our research indicates either some gaps in official records or some serious hanky-panky was going on.

"Ritchie" appears to have been a later Anglicization of Recetti, but there is no record of birth of a Joseph under either spelling. Given he was 23 when he died, he was probably born in 1895, but records only show Margaretta (1896, father shown as Lawrence Receitti) and William Lorenzo, 1898 father shown as Lorenzo Recetti. Both births were in Chiltern, their mother's maiden name Matilda Terry, and William enlisted as "Ritchie" from the Hunter Street address.

A Statutory Declaration provided by his mother in 1921 gave her name as Mrs Marantelli and the simple assumption was that she had re-married after the births in Chiltern, but official Victorian records have Matilda Terry marrying Gioachino Marantelli in 1891, four to seven years before producing at least three children to Recetti!

Some pencilled comments note her claim to being Mrs Marantelli, adding "nothing in file about re-marrying" and also suggest Recetti's father deserted her in 1901.

Correspondence between Army departments in October 1918 reveal that his father had subsequently died and all further correspondence was with his mother then in Easey Street and later Smith Streets in Collingwood. Statutory Declarations of January and February 1921 confirm she was using the name Marantelli but show no reason why.

Ritchie/Recetti was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in bringing in several wounded men in a battle to the east of Ypres on 11 October, 1917.

The second Death notice carried in the Leader was placed by "sorrowing friends, Mrs Barry and girls, Beavers Road, Northcote" (the mother of [Private. Maurice Vincent Barry](#)), indicated strongly that Ritchie or Recetti must have lived in the area at some point.



Reyment, Ernest John

Key Address : 112 Beavers Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 22nd Battalion, 19th Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number : A11
Date of Embarkation : 11 May 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Rayment)

Service Number : 6885 **Enlisted :** 10/02/1917 **At :** Northcote

Born At : North Carlton **Educated At :** Princes Hill, Carlton State School

Date of Death : 19/05/1918 **Aged :** 29

Place of Death : Ville-Sur-Ancre, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Driver

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Richard (late) and Jane Caroline Reyment (nee Fagbord)
Wife Mrs Mary Reyment (nee O'Brien)

Eyewitnesses : "A mate of mine, Richards in C.Coy, 22nd Battalion saw Reyment lying dead. A 23rd Battalion man took Reyment's pay book off the body and I know it was sent to his wife, saying she received it and some photos etc. When Richards returned to look for the body, it had gone, and no doubt for this reason Reyment was posted missing" (Private. H. J. Thomas, 6909)

"This soldier's wife has received from Private K. N. Jephcott, No 5472, 21st Battalion. a packet of photos and post-cards which belong to her husband who is reported as Missing 19th May, 1918. Private. Jephcott has not sent any reason why he forwarded these photos, etc., but has simply added a memo conveying sincerest sympathy. we would ask you to see Private. Jephcott and get a statement from him as to whether he knows if the soldier has been killed in action or not ..." (Red Cross Information Bureau)

Notes : Reyment was initially posted as missing on 19 May, 1918, and was not confirmed Killed In Action until 18 February of the following year.

His fate became even more clouded when his wife received a note of sympathy in October, 1918 from a Private K. Jephcott 5472 (above) enclosing photographs and postcards.

Mrs Reyment subsequently forwarded the material to Base Depot asking "Can you give me some idea as to how this chap came to have them in his possession and cannot state why or how" and querying why there was a "Pay Book cover but no Pay Book included" (in fact, the Pay Book was classified as Government property and was not returned to relatives).

She moved to Cook Street, Abbotsford with their two daughters Dorothy and Caroline, not long after his death but returned to the district by September, 1920, when she was at 4 Hayes Street, Northcote and from where she returned the circular.

Reyment was one of a large family : Charles (1885, died 1898), Richard (1886) , George (1891), Jane (1893), Arthur (1897), Fred (1900) and Walter (1903). The family patriarch, Richard, died in Carlton in 1903, aged 45 years.

There appears to have been several branches of the Reyment family in Northcote, the 1914 Electoral Roll showing Clarence at 52 Gladstone Avenue, Elsie and May at 8 McLachlan Street, George Francis at 7 Kerr Street, and Maude at 571 High Street.



Richardson, Edward Henry

Key Address :	"Worthing", 155 Clarke Street, Northcote		
Rank and Unit :	Lieutenant 30 Infantry Battalion Embarked Corporal 30 Infantry Battalion (November 1915)		
Embarked :	HMAT Beltana Ship Number : A72 Date of Embarkation : 9 November 1915 Place of Embarkation : Sydney		
Service Number :	1029	Enlisted : 1/07/1915	At : Northcote
Born At :	Melbourne	Educated At :	State, University High School
Date of Death :	22/06/1918	Aged :	22
Place of Death :	Mericourt, France		
Buried At :	207 Mericourt L'Abbe Communal Cemetery Extension,		
Occupation :	State School Teacher (1401, Helen Street, Northcote)		
Marital Status :	Single	Religion :	C. of E.
Next of Kin/Family :	Parents Frederick George and Gertrude Lily Cecilia Richardson (nee Stone)		
Eyewitnesses :	"It was at Morlincourt to the right of Albert, where Lieut. Richardson was killed. There was a raid on at the time and Richardson was in charge of a party, of whom I was one, taking up rations. A shell burst close by him and he was killed outright, being quite dead when I helped to lift him up." (Brisbane, J.J.R, 1329)		
Notes :	<p>Richardson was the son of Mr. F. G. Richardson, A.C.P.A., Public Accountant, of Norwich Union Chambers, Queen Street, Melbourne.</p> <p>After completing State School, he attended at the University High School. On completing his course, Richardson spent three years in the Australian Navy and was one of the crew of H.M.A.S. Australia when she first came out to this country.</p> <p>He left the service when his time expired in March, 1914, joined the Education Department, and taught as a junior teacher at school 1401, Helen Street, Northcote until he enlisted in June, 1915</p> <p>Richardson was promoted to Sergeant in Egypt where his unit spent several months guarding the Suez Canal. After arriving France just before the major offensives in which Australian troops were involved, and in January, 1917 he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, spending the next eight months in an Officer's Training School before returning to France in October with the rank of Lieutenant.</p> <p>He was returned to England in March, 1918 suffering from influenza and fatigue. With the shortage of officers (his father later claimed Richardson had been marked down to return to Australia for home duties), he was sent back again to France in mid-June. Richardson was killed the following day while in taking a party of men and stores to the front trenches, he was caught by a German shell, a splinter of which pierced his heart, killing him instantly.</p> <p>He is known to be the only son of the family, although a later will bequeathed his estate to his five sisters.</p> <p>His parents post-war were in Surrey Hills from 1920. There was a substantial volume of correspondence between his father and Base Depot over missing personal effects) "... to me it is incredible that he should traverse France without a pair of boots to his feet and without a franc in his pocket ...").</p> <p>A brief acknowledgment of his death in The Argus suggested Richardson had been "an exceptional student" and had won scholarships worth £100 before joining the Education Department.</p>		



Richmond, Horace Gordon (Military Medal)

Key Address : 'Bealiba', 38 Penders Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Sergeant 14 Infantry Battalion (December 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 10 **Enlisted :** 10/09/1914 **At :** Abbotsford

Born At : Clifton Hill **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 16/10/1917 **Aged :** 27

Place of Death : (of wounds), Zonnebeke, Belgium

Buried At : 3 Nine Elms British Cemetery, Poperinghe, Belgium

Occupation : Wood Machinist

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Joseph and Jessie Blythma Richmond (nee Watkinson)
Wife Mrs Jessie Isabella Richmond (nee McDiarmid)

Eyewitnesses : "Richmond was repairing a wire at Zonnebeke in October. I first saw him being carried to the D/S near the Zonnebeke Railway Track. He seemed to be badly wounded. We got word next day that he had D/W there ..." (Corporal C. H. Goddard, 1945)

Notes : Richmond and his wife as next-of-kin were living at 15 Studley Street, Abbotsford but he was raised in Northcote, his parents still residing at the Penders Street address on return of the circular.

There were three other siblings and all younger brothers – Joseph junior (1892, A.I.F.), James (1894) and Clarence (1898).

Richmond's widow Jessie was later at 240 Nicholson Street, Abbotsford and was left with one son, Norman.

He was a Private on enlisting but promoted to Corporal and then Sergeant before embarking.

One of the original ANZACs, Richmond survived the Gallipoli campaign after being invalided for some time in Egypt with a gunshot wound to the thigh. He trained and later instructed at a Signalling School in England, being promoted to Acting Sergeant Major in April 1917 but reverting to Sergeant when he left for France.

His Military Medal was awarded for the action in which he was killed when he went out under heavy fire near Broodseinde to repair a communications wire, carrying a wounded man back to safety before he was hit. The decoration was awarded posthumously.

He died of wounds to the chest and right arm at the 14th C.C.S. the day after being hit. He was also recommended for a D.C.M in August, 1917.





Ridgwell, John Earle

Key Address : "Elton", 186 Bell Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal, 39th Battalion Australian Infantry
Embarked Private 2 Cyclist Battalion - 2 to 10 Reinforcements (June

Embarked : HMAT Commonwealth
Ship Number : A73
Date of Embarkation : 19 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 561 **Enlisted :** 22/01/1916 **At :** Murtoa

Born At : Murtoa **Educated At :** Murtoa State School

Date of Death : 5/05/1918 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : Heilly, France

Buried At : 833 Heilly Station Cemetery, Merricourt-L'Abbe, France

Occupation : Draper

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Edward George and Julia Ann Ridgwell (nee Earle)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

The National Archives classify him under John Carl Ridgwell, but all references within the archives and at the AWM are to the above name. The family name at times also is shown in some places as "RidgeWell".

Ridgwell embarked with the 2nd Cyclist Battalion, but was transferred to the Infantry after earning a First Class Certificate at the Tidworth School of Musketry in March 1917. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in November 1917.

The circular was returned by his parents from the Bell Street address, which at the time would have been near Gilbert Road..

The same address was given by a Private Leslie Sanderson when he enlisted in January, 1915. The Sandersons seem to have moved to Oakover Road by the time another son Richard enlisted February, 1917.

A Death Notice published in the Leader revealed that John was the fourth son of a large family, the rest of the siblings four brothers, Edward (1887), Herbert ("Bert", 1892, A.I.F.), Ernest (1895) and William (1899, A.I.F.) and four sisters, Mabel (1888), Elsie (1889), Julia Maude ("Maude", 1893) and Elizabeth Florence ("Florrie", 1893).

All were born at Stawell except John and William after the family moved to Murtoa.



Robertson, Talbot Preston

Key Address : "Myrtleville", 178 High Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Driver 21 HB [Howitzer Brigade]
2 to 10 Reinforcements (April 1916 - February 1917)

Embarked : RMS Orontes
Date of Embarkation : 23 December 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 31476 **Enlisted :** 3/10/1916 **At :** Preston

Born At : Preston **Educated At :** South Preston State, Scotch College

Date of Death : 7/10/1917 **Aged :** 19

Place of Death : (of wounds), France

Buried At : 40 Etaples Military Cemetery, France

Occupation : Fitter apprentice (Victorian Railways)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alfred George (J.P.) and Lydia Rose Robertson (nee Hurford)

Eyewitnesses : "... was wounded on 29.9.1917 and admitted to No.3 Australian Field Ambulance the same day. The following day he was transferred to No. 17 C.C.S. (British) for an operation and subsequently admitted here a severe G.S. wound of the left thigh from which he died in this hospital on 7.10.1917" (Captain R.A.M.C, 26 General Hospital)

"The banners of England, unfurled across the sea,
Floating out upon the water, were beckoning me",
"Storm-rent and battle-worn, smoke-stained and grey",
"The banners of England - how could I stay"

(quoted in a Death Notice as penned by Robertson before he enlisted)

Notes : Robertson (as perhaps one of his given names suggests), was the son of long serving Preston Shire councillor (and President three times), Alfred George Robertson, J. P.

By coincidence, Robertson senior, also a prominent estate agent, retired from local politics after a career of over twenty years just a few weeks before his son was Killed In Action.

Robertson was at the front at Etaples only a month before suffering a gunshot wound and fracture of the right leg on September 19, 1917. He was subsequently transferred from a Field Ambulance to the 17th Casualty Clearing Station and on October 1 to the 26th General Hospital where he died six days later.

He was one of a few from the district that went on to higher education, perhaps somewhat surprisingly ultimately following a trade rather than a profession. His name was included on the South Preston State School Honour Board and his later enrolment at Scotch College is confirmed in Hartley B. Forster's "Preston – Lands and People".

Robertson had two siblings, Myrtle and Reginald.



Robinson, Albert Henry

Key Address : 466 High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 7 Infantry Battalion
9 to 12 Reinforcements (September-November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Star of Victoria
Ship Number : A16
Date of Embarkation : 10 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2883 **Enlisted :** 1/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Maldon **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 24/07/1916 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Timber stacker (Beecham's Timber Yard)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Albert Australia and Mary Louisa Robinson (nee Stevens)

Eyewitnesses : "At Pozieres on the 24th July about 4.30 on Monday morning in a support trench, he was hit by a shell - left half of leg was blown away. I bandaged him up and carried him away on the stretcher and did everything for him till he died, about half an hour after he was hit. We got him to the dressing station on the road - think he was buried in Sausage Gully". (A. Charles, 2610, 7th Battalion)

Notes : Robinson, usually known as "Harry" arrived at Gallipoli early in December, 1915 and was evacuated back to Egypt for transfer to England just two weeks later.

He was originally listed as being Wounded on July 22, 1917 but this was amended a few days later to Killed In Action as at July 24.

As something of a change from the masses of letters enquiring as the whereabouts of personal effects and subsequent complaints of missing items, Robinson's father Alfred (senior) actually returned several items to the Base Depot which he believed were not his son's.

It was eventually confirmed that they belonged to a Private. A. F. Robertson who had a nearly identical Service Number in the 57th Battalion, and who was killed four days before Robinson.

The Robinsons were one of the large families of the time, but suffered a few tragic losses along the way, perhaps a little unusual in that the names of two of the children lost at an early age were later used again for new arrivals.

Other than "Harry", the others were Harold (1884, died in 1899), John (1885), William (1887, died at four months), William (1890), Alice (1892), Percival (1896 (died at one year), Arthur (1898, died at one year), Norman (1901), Elizabeth (1903), Percival (1905) and Winifred (1908).



Robinson, Thomas Carey

Key Address : "Farnham". Mason Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant 38 Infantry Battalion Embarked 2nd Lieutenant 38 Infantry Battalion - 7 and 8 Reinforcements (February-December 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Ballarat
Ship Number : A70
Date of Embarkation : 19 February 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : **Enlisted :** 17/07/1915 **At :** Preston

Born At : Corryong **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 12/10/1917 **Aged :** 32

Place of Death : Passchendaele, France

Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Shipping clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George Edward (late) and Rachel Alice Robinson (nee Morris)

Eyewitnesses : "Lieut. Robinson was sniped as soon as he got over the parapet to hop over at Ypres, Passchendaele stunt. I saw him after he was dead - shot through the head and must have been killed instantly" (Booth, C. B. 3038, 38th battalion)

Notes : Robinson was usually known by his second name of Carey and was captain of the Preston Cricket Club for the two seasons before he enlisted. He had also previously been active in the field for Northcote and was still a non-playing member of that club.

He was a superintendent at South Preston Methodist Sunday School and the Leader later noted that a framed photograph of Robinson was presented to the Sunday School by the Preston Cricket Club in acknowledgement of their shared loss. His name was included in those Killed In action on the South Preston State School Honour Board.

His attestation listed his father as next-of-kin but this was officially altered in December 1917 to his mother, her husband dying some little time before Carey and noted as "late" in the family Death Notice for their son.

Robinson spent nearly 18 months in Australia at Duntroon College, earning his commission as a Second Lieutenant and survived the torpedoing of HMAT Ballarat in the English Channel before arriving in England. He was promoted to Lieutenant in July 1917.

No circular was returned, but an eyewitness report suggests a brother identified only as "Sergeant Major Robinson" was informed of his death.

This was Richard, who enlisted in Queensland and survived four years of the war. He returned with the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major and in 1904 had been selected from the upper level classes of South Preston school to undergo twelve months tuition offered to the school by the Preston Rifle Club.

A Death Notice place his siblings as Arthur, Herbert, Emily (Mrs J. McPherson, New Zealand), Hilda, Alice (Mrs C. V. Wescott, Preston), Sarah, (Mrs J. B. Merlo, Balwyn), Alfred (New Zealand), Richard (A.I.F, above), and Amanda.

Mason Street was not numbered and directories show the Robinson family in the only house then erected on the western side.



Robson, John Cook

Key Address : 38 Hotham Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 21 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 12 Reinforcements (June 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 7 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4204 **Enlisted :** 10/01/1916 **At :** Preston

Born At : Richmond **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 27/04/1917 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : (of wounds)

Buried At : 518 Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension,

Occupation : Boot Maker, W. Roth, Flinders Street (apprenticed)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Archibald and Janet Ann Robson (nee Cook)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : His father, Archibald was nominated as next-of-kin.

Robson died at the 45th Casualty Clearing Station eleven days after being admitted with severe gunshot wounds to the right thigh.

He also suffered a gunshot wound to the eye in November, 1916, obviously very minor as he was back with his unit just eleven days later and also was admitted to hospital twice with trench feet.

Robson's name was included in June, 1919, on the South Preston State School's Honour Board amongst those of those connected with the school that were Killed In Action.

John was the eldest surviving child of the family, his siblings Janet (1897), Ellen (1899), Mary (1902), Florence (1905), Jessie (1907) and Archibald (1910).

An elder sister, Margaret, born in 1893, died in 1905. Their father, Archibald senior died in Preston in 1919 at 60 years of age.



Rocke, Cecil Harry

Key Address : 15 Knowles Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private 7 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)
Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 261 **Enlisted :** 21/08/1914 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Surrey, England **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 25/04/1915 **Aged :** 20
Place of Death : Gallipoli
Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli
Occupation : Salesman
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Harold Serle and Annie Rocke (both late)

Eyewitnesses : "Informant saw him about two o'clock in the afternoon of 25th April, 1915, the morning of landing. He went straight into action and his pals could never find out any more about him. They are morally convinced he must have been killed" (Laidlaw, 2nd Field Ambulance)

"... I am afraid there is no hope of better news of my brother, and it is all the more sad, perhaps, seeing that he was so young, (under 18) when he was killed .. (letter from his brother to Red Cross, London August 14, 1916)

Notes : Rocke's next of kin was originally given as his father living in Essex, England, but later notes have both parents as deceased (mother in August 1914, father in July 1915) and his elder brother, Harold (also in England) nominated in their place.

Harold's letter to the Red Cross (above) suggests that he may have been some years the elder of the pair - his comment on Rocke being under 18 was, however, incorrect.

No circular was returned, but immigration records show Rocke arriving in Australia unaccompanied in April, 1913, aged just 17 – this more or less corresponding with the 19 years and two months that Rocke gave as his age when enlisting in August, 1914.

Rocke briefly served with the Collingwood Volunteers prior to enlisting.

He was in the first batch of Northcote men to volunteer and one of those killed on the first day of the landings at Gallipoli. He may well have been the first local man to have been killed at Gallipoli, but his death was not confirmed until a Court of Enquiry on 5 June, 1916.

At just 26 pages, his National Archive is probably the shortest of any servicemen in our database



Rogers, Herbert John

Key Address : George Street, Preston Reservoir

Rank and Unit : Corporal 6 Infantry Battalion
Embarked Private 6 Infantry Battalion - 10 to 12 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 11 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3439 **Enlisted :** 6/07/1915 **At :** Preston

Born At : Port Adelaide **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 29/04/1917 **Aged :** 36
Place of Death : Lagnicourt, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Boot Maker
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Malachi West (late) and Elizabeth Prothesia Rogers (nee Wills, later Wyatt)
Wife Mrs Ethel Agnes Rogers (nee Lamont)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : "Reservoir" wasn't generally used as a district name - North Preston being the usual reference and the Leader in a tribute suggested he was "the first man from Reservoir" to be Killed In Action.

Rogers had previously served in the No. 4 Company Volunteer Engineering Corps, Wellington, New Zealand, where he was noted as a marksman and he had won several significant shooting competitions. He had also spent two years with the Collingwood Rifle Club.

Despite his background, the Leader suggested he was rejected from service five times before the ever-increasing shortage of recruits saw him accepted, but there is no evidence of earlier rejection on his attestation.

Rogers was promoted to Corporal in February, 1916.

No circular was returned, but the Leader noted his wife and two children (Violet, born 1902, and Herbert junior) were living in Hampton at the time of his death and at Bluff Road, Moorabbin, when pensions were allocated.

There is no local record of his marriage to Edith, perhaps understandable given the time he appears to have spent in New Zealand.

There is a reference in his archives and in a Death Notice to his mother, Mrs Wyatt living in Brunswick Street, North Fitzroy, and Victorian records show a Mrs Prothesia Rogers marrying William Wyatt in Brunswick in 1913.

South Australian registrations show his siblings as Olive (1875), Herbert (born 1882, died 1886), Ada (1886), Elizabeth (1886), Ella (1889) and Charles (1891). One of the daughters appears in a Death Notice as Mrs R. Bouchier of Culcairn, N.S.W.



Rogerson, Rheuben Stanley

Key Address : Mansfield street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 5th Battalion (Infantry)
1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Star of Victoria
Ship Number A16
Date of Embarkation : 10 September, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Reubin Stanley Rogerson)

Service Number : 2951 **Enlisted :** 29/06/1915 **At :**

Born At : Fairfield **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 28/11/1920 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : North Brunswick

Buried At : Coburg General Cemetery, Melbourne

Occupation : Tailor

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alexander and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Rogerson (nee Monaghan)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : The AWM alternates between Reuben and Reubin – National Archives add Rupert to the list, and the letter from his mother granting permission for her son to enlist uses Rheuben.

The family were in Albion Street, Brunswick when he enlisted. Rogerson was born in Northcote, but their time in the district appears to have been brief – his siblings were Christina (1888, Percival (1891, Brunswick, died at one year), Ivy (1893) born in Brunswick) and Arthur (1900, Carlton)

Rogerson was wounded in the left arm in September, 1916, and from that point onwards spent more time in hospital than out, although through bronchitis and related illnesses rather than wounds.

He was first admitted to hospital in France in December, 1916 and then in England in January.

Rogerson re-embarked for the Western Front in May and was back in hospital almost immediately, not returning to his unit until mid-October. In February, 1918, he was again admitted with bronchitis, this time not returning to the front just three weeks before the Armistice.

His whereabouts over the next ten months are not clear, but it wasn't until October of the following year that he embarked to return to Australia. A medical report after his return indicated that his condition had improved – nothing more appears in his archives except a brief annotation to the final page ""28.11.20 died after disease".



Rooney, Thomas Patrick

Key Address : 54 Barry Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 11 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3395 **Enlisted :** 21/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Clifton Hill **Educated At :** Christian Brothers, Abbotsford

Date of Death : 16/11/1916 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : (of wounds), Kent, England

Buried At : 61 Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Kent, England

Occupation : Mail Driver (Post Master General's Department)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Francis and Annie Rooney (nee Millman)

Eyewitnesses :

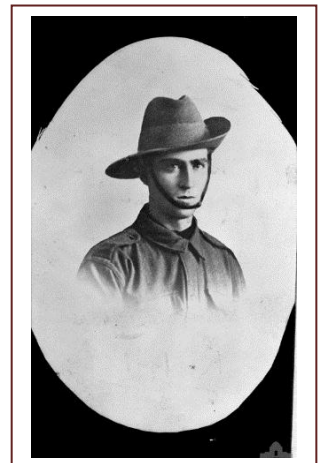
Notes :

Rooney suffered gunshot wounds to the shoulder and leg at Wimereux (near Pozieres) on 20 July, 1916 and was invalided back to England and admitted to the Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham, Kent on 23 July.

It seems somewhat odd that there is no eyewitness report from the hospital given he was there nearly four months, but from archive records, it can be ascertained that he eventually died from septicaemia after part of a leg was amputated.

Thomas was the eldest of a family of seven - the others Francis (1897), John (1899), Mary (1901), Philomena (1904), William (1907) and Lawrence (1910).

Despite (or perhaps because of) the brood of relatively young children, Rooney's mother, Annie is shown in 1914 Electoral Rolls as "asylum attendant".





Rolls, James Leonard

Key Address : 231 High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal, 24th Battalion (Infantry)

Embarked : HMAT Afric
Ship Number : A19
Date of Embarkation : 5 January 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3625 **Enlisted :** 17/07/1915 **At :**

Born At : Prahran **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 03/05/1917 **Aged :** 24

Place of Death : Bullecourt, France

Buried At : 564 Bapaume Australian Cemetery, France

Occupation : Draper

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James Lennox and Laura Rolls (nee Allan)
Wife Emily Cecelia Rolls (nee Brown, later Marks)

Eyewitnesses : "On the morning of May 4, 1917, I was at Bullecourt. On coming from the front to the support line, Private Rolls, J. L. 3625, myself and others were sitting in a sap when a shell came over and exploded close to Private. Rolls who was wounded. He died from the wounds received about 10 minutes later" (Private. J. A. Haigh)

Notes : Rolls was living with his wife Emily and daughter, Laura, (born 1913) at 35 The Avenue, Balaclava, when he enlisted, but a Death Notice in The Argus reveals his parents and family resided at 231 High Street, Northcote. The address shows in 1920 as a drapery but the Rolls family seem to have moved on.

From September, 1916, his wife also had moved into the area, living for around three years at 87 Hawthorn Road, Northcote, before re-marrying to become Mrs Phillip Marks in 1920.

He had served two and a half years with the Balaclava Naval Brigade before enlisting and was promoted to Lance Corporal in February, 1917.

Rolls was posted as Missing on 3 May, 1917, and confirmed Killed In Action in December

Other eyewitness reports confirm Rolls was one of a group sheltering in the entrance to a tunnel when a shell landed near by – some suggest Rolls was never seen again. He had been previously wounded in the thigh and left shoulder, leaving out of action for the second half of 1916.

A Death Notice suggested Rolls was known as "Len" rather than James

He had a number of siblings, most of them younger : Ida (1889), Queenie (1891), Charles (1892), Allen (1898), Alma (1900) and Millicent (1901)



Rose, James Henry

Key Address : 89 Christmas Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 7 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4917 **Enlisted :** 2/10/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** Cambridge Street, Collingwood State School
Date of Death : 20/08/1916 **Aged :** 21
Place of Death : (of wounds), 3rd Casualty Clearing Station
Buried At : 74 Puchevillers British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Boot maker
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Abel Paul and Elizabeth Amelia Rose (nee Hayes)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : His parents by the time pensions were granted had moved from the Christmas Street address and were shown at the corner of St. George's Road and Sladen Street, Croxton, and from October, 1919, at 188 High Street, Preston (a rather substantial house immediately to the south of the Church of Christ) before moving to High Street, Epping.

Rose died of gunshot wounds to the throat in the No 3 Casualty Clearing Station two days after being admitted.

The initial report of his injury suggested it was not serious, but unlike most servicemen that never made to hospital, there were no eyewitness reports from comrades-in-arms or medical personnel to confirm the circumstances of his death.

From what can be traced, Rose seems to have been an only child.



Ross, James Hugh

Key Address : 12 Cunningham Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Corporal, 29th Infantry Battalion (November, 1915)
Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number : A11
Date of Embarkation : 10 November, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 1216 **Enlisted :** 12/07/1915 **At :**
Born At : Stirling, Scotland **Educated At :** Ballahouston Academy, Glasgow
Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 23
Place of Death : Fromelles, France
Buried At : VC Corner, Australian Cemetery Memorial, Fromelles, France
Occupation : Grocer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Parents James Alexander and Alice T. Ross
Eyewitnesses : "Geneva, Switzerland, 15th Nov 1916.

"Dear Madam,

We regret that we have had what appears at first sight to be sad news to convey to you about your nephew Corporal J. H. Ross, 1216, AIF. On the German lists of 4.11.16 we find the following notice - Ross J.H. 1216 29th Aust. Battalion. Disc sent in by M/A/ via V. O. A/ D. K. 6; no further details".

Of course there is the possibility that he may have been killed and the disc was taken from the body by the German burying party, but in the absence of further particulars we do not think this can, by any means, be taken as an absolute certainty, for cases have come to our notice when the Germans have reported - disc sent in - and then the owner has turned up alive ... up until now I was very hopeful of James being a prisoner but somehow this letter seems to practically kill that hope ..." (Letter from unknown correspondent in the U.K. to Ross's mother)

Notes : Ross's death was not reported in the Leader and only came to light via a Death Notice published in The Argus.

He was 20 when the family migrated to Australia, living initially at 48 McLachlan Street, at 99 Arthurton Road (on his enlistment) and from early 1917 at 12 Cunningham Street, all in Northcote.

Like hundreds of others, Ross was posted as missing from the attack around Fromelles on 19 July, 1916, but his fate remained confused for several months. His remains were finally located in May, 2008, when a mass grave of around 400 Australian and British soldiers was found in Pheasant Wood near Fromelles, the grave dug by the German forces

There was some confusion as to whether he died as a prisoner-of-war or on the battlefield.

Nothing was known of his fate until his identity disc was returned by German authorities on 4 November. One eyewitness who was captured noted Ross amongst among five from the battalion that were also taken prisoner, but his name did not appear on any official German records and it is more likely that his disc was collected from his body by the Germans.

Several witnesses actually claimed that they had seen and spoken to Ross in England after the war was over. Much of the confusion seems to have arisen because there were two men by the name of "J. H. Ross" in the Battalion, (one in "B" Company, the other in "D"). Both were wounded in the attack and other accounts suggested "Ross" was hit in the leg, but had walked back to a Dressing Station.



Ross, Robert Bell

Key Address : Fulham Road, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private 37 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 6 Reinforcements (May-December 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Shropshire
Ship Number : A9
Date of Embarkation : 25 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2252 **Enlisted :** 25/05/1916 **At :** Alphington

Born At : Alphington **Educated At :** Fairfield Park State School

Date of Death : 27/02/1917 **Aged :** 19

Place of Death : (as result of accident), Armentieres, France

Buried At : 922 Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery Armentieres France

Occupation : Farming

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Baptist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert Bell (late) and Rose Ross (nee Mahon)

Eyewitnesses : "I knew him. He and a man named Private Kepple were carrying bombs up to our line and one of the bombs exploded and both of these men were killed together. I think Ross is buried in Erquingham Cemetery" (Corporal H. W. Labner, 1640)

Notes : The circular returned by his mother suggested Ross's father had a Long Service Medal after serving over 20 years in the Volunteer Forces and his grandfather "fought with distinction" in the Napoleon Wars.

His mother was later at Rose Cottage, Grange Road, Alphington. Fulham Road was not numbered at the time of his enlistment and directories show his parents on eastern side just to the north of the railway.

Ross stood just 5'2 in height and was rejected on more than one occasion before the need for recruits saw the minimum standards downgraded. The Leader suggested "he was the eldest son of the family", there was in fact only one other sibling, Hector, born in 1899.

He was killed when a bag of bombs he was carrying blew up just as his unit was about to raid German lines. He died just five weeks after being taken on strength in France, one of the eyewitness reports suggesting "it was his first time in the trenches".



Ross, Wallace

Key Address : "Bonnie", Station Avenue, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ceramic
Ship Number : A40
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3940 **Enlisted :** 9/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : South Melbourne **Educated At :** Dorcas Street, South Melbourne State School

Date of Death : 17/11/1916 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : (of wounds), 1st Australian General Hospital, Rouen, France

Buried At : 146 St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

Occupation : Rubber worker (Dunlop)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Andrew (late) and Margaret Ross (late, nee McLellan)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Although embarkation records show him living with his father in South Melbourne, he was actually with his sister, Marguerita (1892), then Mrs McDonald, and her husband Frederick in Northcote since the death of his mother in 1912.

His father was nominated as next-of-kin but died before the end of the war, an elder brother Andrew junior (1884) becoming the receiver of his medals but passing them to Mrs McDonald.

The circular was returned by her and confirmed he lived in Northcote for two and a half years before enlisting - Station Avenue soon after the end of the war became Claude Street.

Ross was slightly wounded to the head on 26 July, 1916, but returned to his unit on 14 August.

On October 31, he suffered another head wound (alternatively either gunshot or shrapnel) and was transferred to the 38th Casualty Clearing Station and then to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen where he died some 12 days after admission.



Russell, Frederick George

Key Address : 58 Collins Street, Northcote

-ank and Unit : Private, 59th Battalion (Infantry) Embarked Private, 6 Infantry Battalion = 10 to 12 Reinforcements (September-November 1915)

Embarked : RMS Osterley
Date of Embarkation : 29 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3129 **Enlisted :** 12/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : South Yarra **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 35

Place of Death : Fromelles, France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Printer's cutter

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Walter Frederick and Catherine Mary Russell (nee Gillon)
Wife Mrs Ethel May Russell (nee Stevens)

Eyewitnesses : "His pal H.Q. Signaller Smith who went out to Australia with him and came here with him went out and saw his body in "No Man's Land". Smith's home is in England (Signaller Callaman, 3022)

Notes : Like hundreds of Australian servicemen, Russell was listed as missing on 19 July, 1916, and not confirmed Killed In Action until an enquiry held in August of the following year.

His brother, shown in archives only as Private. A. A. Russell (known to be Albert, another brother Arthur, 1881, died at one year), made several enquiries of the Red Cross as to his fate, but Signaller Callman's account was the only one received.

Frederick Russell married Ethel May Stevens in 1905, the couple living in Collins Street, Northcote. After Frederick's death, she in August 1917 was briefly at 44 Dalley Street, Clifton Hill and later in Mordialloc. 58 Collins Street was also the address shown for another local servicemen later killed in battle, [Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe](#).

Russell left his widow and two sons (Frederick (1906), and Lawrence (1910). Tragically for Mrs Russell, (who had already lost one son, Walter at one year in 1909), Lawrence also went to an early grave in 1918.



Ryan, Francis William

Key Address : 12 Balgonie Place, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 21 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 18 Reinforcements (July - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 28 July 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5443 **Enlisted :** 1/04/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 25/02/1921 **Aged :** 27

Place of Death : 11 Australian General Hospital, Caulfield

Buried At : Northcote

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Patrick Burnett and Susan Ryan (nee Dinwoodie)
Wife Mrs Florence Ryan

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Ryan left England on 21 April, 1918, to return to Australia after suffering a gunshot wounds to the jaw and neck in France in October 1917. He was hospitalised in England for three months before being invalided home.

He was admitted to the 11th General Hospital in Caulfield on 20 July, 1920 and died some eight months later from pneumonia and complications contracted while on service.

On enlistment his address was Balgonie Place, Northcote, later changed before embarkation to 6 Ingles Street, Port Melbourne. No circular was returned and the National Archives contain little of his personal details.

He nominated his wife Florence as next-of-kin, but for some reason, there is no official record of the marriage in local civil registrations.

Ryan was the only son of the family and had three surviving sisters - Catherine (1896), Gertie (1899) and Mary (1908), all of whom are recorded as being born in Northcote. Another sister, Alice was born 1889, but died at one year of age.



Ryan, James Harold

Key Address : 43 Bridge Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 6 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 148 **Enlisted :** 17/08/1914 **At :** Williamstown

Born At : Newport **Educated At :** Williamstown State School

Date of Death : 7/07/1915 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Photographer/clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James Laurence and Jean Ryan (nee Sheedy)

Eyewitnesses : "On Anzac we went out to attack the German Officers trench at night and Ryan was with us. We were told it was lightly held but we never reached the trench and we were obliged to retire leaving a large number of dead in "no man's land". It was impossible for any prisoners of war to be taken, nor could the wounded or dead be rescued. Ryan never returned and I am convinced he was killed" (Sergeant Dutton, 52, 6th A.I.F.)

Notes : Ryan was living in Williamstown with his father in Bridge Street, Northcote listed as his next-of-kin.

His death was reported in the Leader in July 1916 after a Court of Enquiry on 24 April 1916 declared him Killed In Action on 7 August, 1915. An brief eyewitness report suggested he was killed by a burst of machine gun fire, believed to have been during the attack at Lone Pine.

He was wounded in the shoulder on the first day of the first landings at Gallipoli and spent two months recuperating, returning to the lines on June 21. According to one report, he was offered a permanent role on light garrison duties in Egypt, but rejected the offer to return to the front lines at Gallipoli.

Ryan was described as "a professional photographer" but was working as a clerk with Davies, Darcy & Co., wholesale tailors, at the time he enlisted.

It was suggested by the Leader that he was "the only son of the family", but official civil registrations show James and Jean as being the parents of Gilbert (1891), Ethel (1894), Eric (1896) and Allan (1898). An In Memoriam notice placed by his parents in the Leader in 1918 suggests he may have been known as "Stephen"



Ryan, James Lawrence (Military Medal)

Key Address : 42 Henry Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 57 Infantry Battalion - 6 to 9 Reinforcements
(October 1916 - June 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Suevic
Ship Number : A29
Date of Embarkation : 21 June 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3507 **Enlisted :** 15/06/1917 **At :** South Melbourne

Born At : Cobden **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 12/07/1918 **Aged :** 19

Place of Death :

Buried At : 209 Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Stable hand

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Martin and Annie Ryan (McMahon), both late

Eyewitnesses : "... showed conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in carrying out the duty of stretcher bearer. During the counter-attack and after the position had been consolidated, he dressed and carried wounded through extremely heavy shell and machine gun fire ... saving many lives. Private Ryan continued to carry wounded without ceasing in his work for two days and nights ..."

Notes :

Ryan was the eldest son of [Martin Ryan](#), 549, who died in a Military Hospital after being returned to Australia.

The family tree was convoluted to see the least!

James's archives suggested two different next-of-kin, both aunts, Miss Mabel Ryan 155 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne, and Mrs Sarah Turner at 42 Henry Street, Northcote.

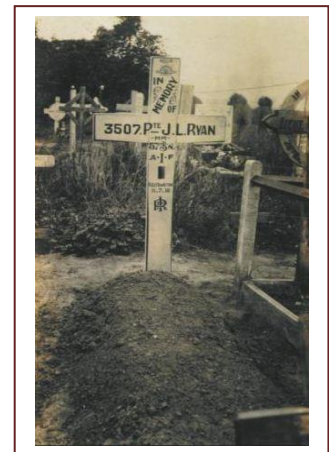
Most of the correspondence regarding James' death initially was with Mrs Turner, but from 1918 records show mail unclaimed and a letter from an uncle James in July, 1919 suggested the younger James had seven brothers, "five of them living with me at 29 Gladstone Avenue Northcote, one, John, is still on active service, the eldest Michael is living in Carlton, and Mrs Turner, who was left next-of-kin is away in the country".

Both John and Michael are known to enlisted both nominating next-of-kin at 42 Henry Street; John (Miss Mabel Ryan, now at Henry Street) and Michael from Colac, (simply J. Ryan, Henry Street, probably uncle James, but possibly elder brother James).

And to help make things clearer, there was also a Thomas Ryan who gave his next-of-kin as "mother, Mrs M. Ryan, c-o Mr. J. Ryan, Northcote"!

Ryan's archives are a fascinating mixture of minor misdemeanours punctuated by him being awarded the Military Medal on 1 June, 1918 for his actions as a stretcher bearer between April 24 and 28 when he worked non-stop for two days treating and returning wounded under "extremely heavy" shell and machine gun fire; his actions were credited with saving many lives.

His National Archive file is unique in that it is the only sighted that contains a photograph of his grave – there are photos of other burial sites, but these are exclusively part of the Australian War Memorial collection and not National Archives.





Ryan, Martin

Key Address : 7 Elm Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private 24 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)
Embarked : HMAT Euripides
 Ship Number : A14
 Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 549 **Enlisted :** 22/03/1915 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Warrnambool **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 14/07/1917 **Aged :** 42
Place of Death : (of heart failure), 4th Australian General Hospital, Melbourne
Buried At : Coburg Cemetery
Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Widower **Religion :** R.C.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Michael and Mary Ryan (nee McCarthy)
 Wife Mrs Annie Ryan (nee McMahon), late
Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Ryan (the father of [James Lawrence Ryan](#), M.M., 3507, above) was a widower and at the time of enlisting in 1915 gave his address as that of his brother, James, also named as next-of-kin at 7 Elm Street, subsequently changed to 42 Henry Street and then to 29 Gladstone Avenue in Northcote.

James Joseph (the brother) also enlisted, giving his wife Ellen as next-of-kin and following Martin's death, the couple housed five of Martin's sons plus an unknown number of daughters in Gladstone Avenue. James and Ellen seem to have had at least four children of their own, including the two aunts nominated by Martin's sons on enlisting.

Ryan copped 10 days detention after failing to re-embark at Colombo after the mandatory stopover. After serving briefly at Gallipoli he was invalided back to Heliopolis and in November to Malta suffering firstly from bronchitis and pneumonia attributed to the harsh climate, but later with hernia and deafness.

He was recommended for discharge in March 1916, eventually returning to Australia and finally being discharged in October.

After his return, Ryan applied for a pension for himself and his eligible sons Martin (1901), Patrick (1903), Stanislaus "Matthew" (1904), Leonard (1905), Bernard, (1907) and William (1909) giving his address as 155 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne and the score stood eight-nil in favour of sons..

Two others, Michael (1897) and John (1898) were too old to be considered dependant on their father. Martin and Annie McMahon married in 1896.

He died at 10.40 p.m. on 14 July, 1917, the primary cause of death being given as heart failure. His official status as to whether he was officially classified as a casualty is uncertain; he is not included in the War Memorial Roll of Honour, but he was accorded a full military funeral when buried at Coburg Cemetery.



Ryan, Thomas Edward

Key Address : Little Sisters of the Poor, St. George's Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Driver, 4 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade]
6 to 13 Reinforcements (May-December 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Borda
Ship Number : A30
Date of Embarkation : 20 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 27494 **Enlisted :** 08/03/1916 **At :** Gisborne

Born At : Gisborne

Educated At :

Date of Death : 08/11/1918 **Aged :** 40

Place of Death : (of disease, influenza), 41^t Australian Stationary Hospital, Rouen, France

Buried At : St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

Occupation : Carrier

Marital Status : Single

Religion : C of E

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John (late) and Elizabeth Ryan (nee Dulenty)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Ryan gave his address as Gisborne on enlisting, with his mother Elizabeth in the Little Sister's of the Poor in St. George's Road (presumably as a resident under care, she died in March, 1922) as next-of-kin, but a later letter from his sister Anne (Cozens) suggested that he was at 16 Bastings Street immediately prior to the war.

As well as Anne, two other sisters were mentioned in his Will – Lucy (Mrs Scott) and Agnes (Mrs Bent), while a brother, James in North Carlton received Ryan's War Medals.

Ryan's death was not noted by the Leader, although he was shown as from Northcote on a Casualty List published on Saturday, 7 December, 1918.

This list was significant in that while it included five or list servicemen Killed In Action, it contained around 60 who died of diseases in early November, mostly from influenza-related ailments in a precursor to the epidemic in 1919.

The list included several from Northcote – George Carroll, Kenneth George Sharpe, Norman Walker and Arthur Wadsworth - who were not reported by the Leader.

Thomas had four siblings : James (1863), Martin (1874), Agnes (1876) and Lucy (1880).



Salton, Alexander

Key Address : "Estaires", Beauchamp Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 6 Infantry Battalion
10 to 12 Reinforcements (September-November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ceramic
Ship Number : A40
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3934 **Enlisted :** 6/08/1915 **At :** Richmond

Born At : Richmond **Educated At :** State School
Date of Death : 10/09/1916 **Aged :** 45
Place of Death : Estaires, France
Buried At : 768 Estaires Communal Cemetery, France

Occupation : Tailor's Presser
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alexander and Jean Jane Salton (nee Lee)
Wife Mrs Emily Elizabeth Salton (nee O'Gorman)

Eyewitnesses : "Private Alexander Salton 60th Battalion, was admitted on the 9.9.16 suffering G.S.W. wounds penetrating the abdomen, after restoratives had been administered he was operated on. The operation was a success but the patient died from shock the next day". (Major Stacy, Adjutant. and Registrar. 1st A.C.C.S)

Notes : No contemporary record of Salton's death appeared in the Leader or on the Preston Cenotaph and his fate only came to light when the Leader reported that his widow Emily was presented with a memorial by the Preston branch of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. at a ceremony in 1921.

After local residents discovered that his widow owned the block of land but could not afford to build a house, an approach was made by the Preston Shire to the War Commission, who offered to advance funds if enough voluntary labour could be found to construct the house. The house was duly completed and the keys handed to Mrs Salton in October, the property bearing the name of the cemetery in which her husband was buried.

Salton suffered a gunshot wound to the abdomen on September 4 and was transferred from the 14th Field Ambulance to the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station where he died the following day.

The couple had a son, Victor and a daughter, Isabel, and their address on attestation and embarkation was 632 Station Street, North Carlton.

Just when Mrs Salton acquired the land in the Preston area is not recorded.

Salton is known to have been in earlier years a footballer of some note, having represented his native Richmond in the senior Victorian Football Association in 1891 to 1892 after appearing with Fitzroy in the previous couple of seasons.

He later appears to have been appointed a boundary umpire during the early twentieth century, "Salton" mentioned in several lists of umpires appointed to Association and later League matches.

Salton had four siblings - three brothers, Arthur, Frederick, Herbert and a sister, Anne.



Sanderson, John Albert

Key Address : 113 Flinders Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 2nd Australian Pioneers
Embarked Private 22 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Berrima
Ship Number : A35
Date of Embarkation : 28 June 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1605 **Enlisted :** 10/02/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Carlton **Educated At :** Gold Street, Clifton Hill State School

Date of Death : 24/01/1918 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Armentieres, France

Buried At : 262 Pont D'Achelles Military Cemetery, Nieppe

Occupation : Plasterer's Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Baptist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Sarah Sanderson (nee Crump)

Eyewitnesses : "He was killed by a shell while coming back from Ploegsteert. I did not see him hit, but saw his grave. He was buried just near Nieppe. I was there when he was buried ,... He came from Northcote. He was very popular with the boys. I knew him personally" (W. Beck, 2831)

Notes : The loss of a loved son or husband was tragic enough, but the Army bureaucracy made it doubly so for Sanderson's parents!

He was reported as Killed In Action in April, 1916, while serving with the 22nd Infantry and his parents duly informed. It wasn't until December, 1917, that it was discovered that the casualty was actually John William Sanderson, at one time a Clifton Hill resident, but no relation.

Some of the documents in Sanderson's file reflect the confusion, including a couple from the T&G Society in 1916 requesting his death certificate!

After learning that their son was in fact still alive, his parents had a little less than three months of peace before they were advised John was for the second, and sadly last time listed as Killed In Action.

Even after it became know Sanderson was still alive, his name was also mistakenly included on a roll of casualties taken up at a memorial service at Northcote Park early in January, 1918. The Leader noted the error "subsequent information showed him to be alive and well" - just twelve days before he was actually killed.

Even after his death, there was more confusion after "Private J. Sanderson of Flinders Street, Thornbury" without checking out the full facts and were forced to publish a clarification the following week specifying it was John, rather than his brother James that had been killed.

There were three brothers, James, Charles and Gilbert (Military Medal) in the A.I.F., Charles in hospital recovering from the effects of gas at the time of his brother's death and a note after the war suggesting all three had been wounded.

John Sanderson is thought to be the first serviceman from the newly formed Pioneer Battalion to be killed in action



Sanford, Thomas Albert

Key Address : "Gordonville", Wales Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 39 Infantry Battalion (May 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number : A11
Date of Embarkation : 27 May 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 221 **Enlisted :** 2/02/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Donnelly's Creek **Educated At :** Yoornbong (?) State School, Gippsland

Date of Death : 3/06/1918 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : (of gas poisoning), Villers Bretonneux, France

Buried At : 13 Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Trepont, France

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry and Emma Jane Sanford
(nee Lambie, previously Davis)

Eyewitnesses : "I saw Tommy Sanford of 10 Coy gassed by mustard gas shell at Villiers Bretonneux about mid day. He was laying the table for dinner at the time at an old estaminet where we used to have our dinner and the shell burst right alongside him --- was a very good man in the line and one of the best of fellows" (Corporal R. J. Condon, 412 M.G. Coy)

Notes : The family name is shown in AWM records as "Sanford" and in National Archives as "Sandford"; the former version is verified from official registrations and 1892 directories show Henry Sanford residing on the western side of Victoria Road, then part of Fairfield.

Official births show Thomas born to Emma Sanford with the father shown as unknown – "unknown" sired many other children with Elizabeth, Ada (1879), Gilbert (1887), Agnes (1893), David (1893), Agnes (1896) and Mark (1899).

Archives also reveal another son, Gordon also enlisted as an 18 year-old, whether the house and his given name were connected is not known.

The family appear in the 1914 Electoral Roll at 90 Beavers Road, and from early 1921 were in Bent Street, Northcote and the circular returned by his mother suggested Sanford had a step-brother, Corporal Morgan J. Davis killed in the Boer War.

The AWM's Commemorative Roll reveals Davis served with 2nd Scottish Horse under the Marquis of Tullibardine and was killed in action on 30 October, 1901.

Victorian registrations reveal Emma had been married previously, birth records show Morgan as being the son of William Henry and Emma Jane Davis, nee Lambie and born in 1872.

Sanford was gassed on 26 May 1918, admitted to the 47th General Hospital the following day and died at 4.20 p.m. on 3 June, 1918, the primary cause of death being given as suffocation.



Sangster, Leslie Fairbairn

Key Address : 20 Railway Place, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 2 Cyclist Battalion - 2 to 10 Reinforcements (June 1916 - May 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Shropshire
Ship Number : A9
Date of Embarkation : 11 May 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 879 **Enlisted** 23/01/1917 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Dookie **Educated At :** King Street State School, University High, Teacher's College

Date of Death : 18/08/1918 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : Harbonnieres, Frances

Buried At : 526 Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France

Occupation : High School Teacher

Marital Status : Single **Religion :**

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Beaton and Margaret Strain Sangster (nee Davidson)

Eyewitnesses : "He was hit in the throat by a piece of shell. He was killed on the spot. Col. Fotheringham told me he saw it happen. He came from South Australia and worked in the Education Department ..." (Driver D. F. Jones, 9034)

Notes : Such an outstanding prospect cut down in his prime.

Leslie Sangster was a star pupil at the King Street, West Melbourne State School, winning two "Percy Walker" scholarships valued at £7 each and being dux of the school at age 13.

He later studied with distinction at Melbourne High School and then Teacher's Training College at just 16 years of. He was awarded a Diploma of Education, specialising in Arts.

He taught Science at Hamilton High School at 19 years of age and after one year was transferred to Stawell High School, but he enlisted prior to taking up the new position.

Sangster was killed by a shell explosion when he was laying telephone lines up to the front line.

The Leader noted his maternal grandfather "A. Davidson" was in the Charge of the Light Brigade during the Crimean War and was awarded the Queen's Medal.

Sangster had a surviving brother Lewis, and two sisters, Margaret ("Maggie"), and Daisy (also a teacher with the Education Department). Another brother William died within a month of being born. Sangster's father William died in June 21, 1921.



Saunders, Charles Frederick

Key Address : "May Villa", May Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 29 Infantry Battalion
1 to 6 Reinforcements (November 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 4 April 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2990 **Enlisted :** 1/02/1916 **At :** North Melbourne
Born At : North Melbourne **Educated At :** Errol Street, North Melbourne State School
Date of Death : 9/09/1918 **Aged :** 30
Place of Death : Harbonnieres, France
Buried At : 526 Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France

Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Harry Alexander and Elizabeth Woolly Saunders
(nee Barron)

Eyewitnesses : "... at Van Villiers in front of there in an advance; killed by a machine gun bullet. I saw him dead. I saw them carting his body over to bury near three trees between Van Villiers and Harbonnieres; there were about 24 of them buried there ..." (4179, Brye)

Notes : Embarkation records show his (and father's address) as Collier Crescent, West Brunswick, his father's address changing to Preston from October 1917.

Saunders was wounded twice before being killed.

In March 1917, he was wounded in the buttocks and leg at Etaples and repatriated to England, not re-embarking for France until late in November. He suffered what appears to have been a minor wound to the thigh in May, 1918, but remained with his unit.

The mother's name on Saunders birth registration is given as "Barrow" and on this basis, he was only child, but a little further research reveals her maiden name was actually "Barron", and that other siblings were George (1885), Charles (1888), Florence (1890), Violet (1893) and Arthur (1895).



Saxon, Francis Charles

Key Address : 13 Spencer St, Croxton
Rank and Unit : Private 22 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements (June 1915 - January 1916)
Embarked : RMS Osterley
Date of Embarkation : 29 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 2384 **Enlisted :** 12/07/1915 **At :** Coburg
Born At : Brunswick **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 27/07/1916 **Aged :** 35
Place of Death : (of wounds) France
Buried At : 515 Becourt Military Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt,
Occupation : Miner
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Joseph and Caroline Saxon (nee Siers (below))

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Saxon died of shell wounds to the abdomen and chest at the 6th Field Ambulance near Albert, France,

Records show that at the time of enlisting, Saxon had for 20 years lived with his sister Mrs Margaret Eastaway at the Croxton address, she later appearing at 110 Beavers Road, Northcote.

Surviving documentation gives no apparent reason as to why he had been living with his sister for such a long period.

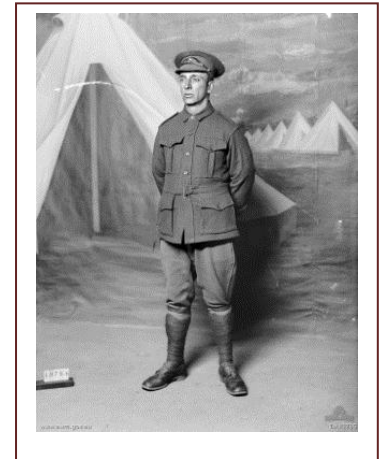
His mother, Caroline, was shown as next-of-kin and was living at in Paul Street, Coburg. Correspondence in National Archives files suggest that from 1920, she at 71 Emmaline Street, Croxton and her husband Joseph is noted as dying in July, 1918.

Other siblings in the large family included four brothers Joseph junior, Nicholas (1887), Robert (1881) and Thomas (1879, died at 18 months, and as well as Margaret (1874), two other sisters, Elizabeth (1869) and Mary (1885).

The Leader also carried two tributes inserted by a family named Giffin from 12 Jenkins Street in Northcote describing him as "loved like a son". Saxons mother's maiden name alternatively appears as "Sire", "Sier" and "Sike", "Siers" is used on the couple's marriage record of 1868.

Unusually for a serviceman that died of wounds, there is no Red Cross record, but it is known Saxon was wounded to the chest and abdomen by an exploding shell on July 27, 1917 and died at the 1st Field Ambulance a few hours later.

He disembarked at Alexandria in December, 1915 just after the evacuation from Gallipoli, and his military history contains little of note, a brief stint in hospital with haemorrhoids before being shipped to France the only non-standard entry on his record.





Scolina, Gordon

Key Address : Unknown
Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)
Embarked : HMAT Hororata
 Ship Number : A20
 Date of Embarkation : 17 April 1915
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 2019 **Enlisted :** 5/01/1915 **At :** Melbourne
Born At : London, England **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 27/07/1916 **Aged :** 23
Place of Death : Preston
Buried At : Springvale Cemetery
Occupation : Factory Clerk
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Mr and Mrs F Scolina (Wandsworth, England)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Given Gordon Scolina had no residential or family ties to the Darebin district, his inclusion may be debatable, like that of his fellow Londoner, [Private Walter William Williams](#). Both emigrated to Australia as young men with no family accompanying them, and both suffered bizarre fates.

He was part of the original Gallipoli landing eventually repatriated back to Australia after spending two months in hospital in England.

Scolina arrived back "home", arriving 27 March, 1916, via HMAT Ascanius suffering with gun shot wounds to both hands and with the first finger of the right hand amputated, the effects of a bomb explosion at Gallipoli on August 8, 1915.

No residential address remains in AWM or National Archive records. His attestation suggests he was of "Mediterranean complexion"

Scolina was discharged as medically unfit on 25 July, 1916 and the Leader on July 29 reported the discovery of his body in a paddock described as "between Gilbert Road and the Reservoir" with a gunshot wound behind the ear.

He was carrying a note indicating his intention to commit suicide, adding that his passbook had been sent to his father in England. Scolina had apparently planned his own death for some little time - a receipt found on the body showed he had purchased the revolver on the 6th of June.

Immigration records suggest Scolina, aged 19, arrived in Australia in October, 1913, on board the S.S. Port Macquarie, one of the commercial liners later transferred to the Australian Government for use as a troop carrier during the war.

One is left to wonder how different Scolina's fate may have been has even a trace of today's trauma counselling had been available or perhaps Army authorities had offered him the option of remaining in England with his family.



Scott, Alexander Charles

Key Address : "Dalkeith", 154 Gillies Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Corporal 5th Battalion
Embarked Private 4 LHR [Light Horse Regiment] (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 188 **Enlisted :** 10/08/1914 **At :** Fairfield

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** George Street State; Workingmen's College
Date of Death : 25/04/1918 **Aged :** 25
Place of Death : Noteren, France
Buried At : 28 Borre British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Carpenter and joiner
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Andrew and Emma Scott (nee Haslam)

Eyewitnesses : "... about 5ft 6ins, medium complexion, about 24 years of age, known as "Charlie" Casualty was with me on a ration party at Baillieu. he had delivered the rations and was coming back when a H.E. shell exploded in front of Casualty killing him instantly and Private Peoples and wounding myself ..." (Private H. J. Dadswell, 7325)

Notes : Scott was known as "Charlie", probably to distinguish him from his father. He promoted to Lance Corporal in September, 1917, and to Corporal three months later.

After serving for several months at Gallipoli, he was hospitalised in Egypt for the latter three months of the campaign before re-joining his unit in March, 1916. Although officially listed under the overall heading of the 5th Infantry Battalion, Scott spent all his time in France with the 1st Australian Cycle Battalion.

An alternate report suggest that rather than being killed instantly, Scott was badly wounded in the legs and feet and died later at a regimental aid post. Ironically, after surviving the Gallipoli campaign, he was killed on Anzac Day, 1918.

The significance of the date was not lost on his parents.

They ordered photographs of his headstone, only to find that his date of death was shown as April 24, and requested either the negative or six more copies "providing the 24 on the negative could be altered to 25 before they are printed again ... It's quite easy to alter the one figure on the negative if the photographer would take the trouble"

Base Records suggested that the negatives were held in London, but undertook to ensure that the date was altered when his permanent headstone was erected and that further photographs would be available at that time.

Alexander Scott had three brothers, Andrew (1888), Robert William (1890) and Albert (1897), after a younger sister Emma, born in 1887 died at three weeks of age.



Scott, Jack Cranstoun

Key Address : Post Office, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Corporal 6 Infantry Battalion
Embarked Private 6 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 18 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 7 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4977 **Enlisted :** 8/10/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Yarrowonga **Educated At :** Middle Park State School

Date of Death : 20/09/1917 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : Menin Road, Passchendaele, Belgium

Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Clerk (Guardian Fire Assurance)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents David John and Mary Jane Scott (nee Williams)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

The Scott family lived in Pakington Street, Kew and later in Longmore Street, St. Kilda West, but his death was reported in the Leader noting that he was the "son of the assistant post-master at Northcote". He appears to have no other connection to the Darebin district.

According to the report, he topped his class at N.C.O. Training with a perfect mark of 100 and was offered admission to the officer's school, but declined so he could be sent to the front immediately.

Scott's Army history held in the National Archives reveals a confusing history of promotions and demotions (some at his own request), to the point where authorities recorded "this soldier's rank and promotions have formed a subject of investigation, and a ruling has been made as follows : appointed Corporal, May, 1916, reverted to Private, May, 1916, to temporary Corporal, May, 1916, and Corporal, January, 1917"

Jack was the only child of the family.



Scott, John Alexander Percy (alias Jamieson, Walter)

Key Address : "Kia Ora", Park View Road, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private 2 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Ceramic
Ship Number : A40
Date of Embarkation : 14 April 1916
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 5388 **Enlisted :** 23/11/1915 **At :** Cootamundra, N.S.W.

Born At : Yendon **Educated At :** Geelong State School

Date of Death : 24/07/1918 **Aged :** 24

Place of Death : France

Buried At : 209 Franvillers Communal Cemetery, France

Occupation : Porter, Victorian Railways

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alexander and Janet Scott (nee Shearer)
Wife Marie Frances Gwendoline Scott (nee White)

Eyewitnesses : "Sir

On the 2nd December, 15 I wrote to you to convince you I was not a deserter from the army. In that letter I said I would write again from Egypt to further convince you, this I neglected until arrival here in England. I may say I was in Egypt three months, so Sir I hope this will clear me from that cowardly thing, desertion.

When this reaches you I will be doing my bit in France ... I stated in previous letter my reasons for leaving Royal Park were private and still are"

Your obedient servant, Private J. A. Scott

(Letter to Camp Commandant, Royal Park Training Camp)

Notes : Scott (or Jamieson's) history is the stuff of Mills and Boon novels.

He originally enlisted on October 5, 1915, under his correct name at a time when he was in dispute with his wife who he showed as next of kin. Scott went into training at Royal Park, but disappeared ten days later and was officially listed as "deserter" at a Court Martial held in his absence on December 10.

His archives then show a letter (above) from Scott serving with the A.I.F. in England at a time when Victorian authorities were presumably still seeking their "deserter".

A Statutory Declaration from his mother in January 1920 revealed Scott had gone to N.S.W. "to get away from his wife" and assumed the name Walter Jamieson, using that name when he enlisted at Cootamundra (23 November, 1915). "Jamieson" embarked with a N.S.W. battalion while the Victorian authorities continued to search for Scott.

His attestation as Walter Jamieson seemingly tried to deliberately confuse the issue by declaring as next-of-kin a "friend" Mrs J. Scott, Railway Station, Bright.

Mrs Scott was in fact his mother, living in Waterloo Street, St. Kilda and early correspondence from authorities offered condolences on the loss of her "friend" (although it had been discovered that the missing Scott and Jamieson were one and the same man.

He claimed he was not married on his second attestation paper but his wife was still living in Alphington, at one point supplying a Statutory Declaration that they were married - there were no children of the marriage.

John Alexander Scott had three siblings, Annie (1889), William (1891) and Margaret (1898).



Sebire, Francis Henry

Key Address : South Preston State School, Hotham Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private, 5 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916). Embarked Acting Sergeant, 60th Battalion (Infantry)

Embarked : HMAT Ayrshire
Ship number A33
Date of embarkation 3 July, 1916
Place of embarkation Melbourne

Service Number : 5441 **Enlisted :** 05/11/1915 **At :**

Born At : Port Melbourne **Educated At :** State, Matriculated, Melbourne High School

Date of Death : 20/11/1917 **Aged :** 34

Place of Death :

Buried At : Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France

Occupation : State School Teacher (Taggerty State School)

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Christina Sebire (nee Robbins)
Wife Flora Margaret Sebire (nee McInnes)

Eyewitnesses : "He was a hard worker. I last saw him at Needle Trench beyond Fleurs on Nov 20th. It was then dark and I spoke to him and asked what he was doing, and he told me he was guiding ration parties to the front line ... the Germans put up a rather heavy barrage that night. I often asked about him afterwards, but could learn nothing definite. Some of the men he was guiding very likely did not know him" (Private Fred Marr, 5404)

Notes : Francis Sebire's connection to the district was primarily of family rather than residence. He was the husband of Flora Margaret Sebire, a teacher at the South Preston State School, and a nephew of James Sebire, who lived in Alphington and who had been the head-master of the Alphington State School for several years.

Sebire matriculated from Melbourne High school in 1910 and taught at the Rathdown Street School in Carlton before becoming "head" (perhaps only) teacher at the tiny hamlets of Binginwarra and Taggerty.

He had held the rank of Lieutenant in the Senior Cadets before enlisting, and after arriving in England was transferred to an officer's training school on Salisbury Plain, but relinquished his temporary commission in order to join his unit at the front.

His was posted as Missing after taking rations to the front line on the evening of 20 November, 1916, later declared Killed In Action. None of the eyewitness reports saw him killed - he was simply never seen again.

Teaching ran strongly in the family and remained so in later years, as a global search via the web on "Sebire University" will reveal

James Sebire around 1918 transferred from Alphington to become head-master at South Preston, where one of first tasks was organising an Honour Roll of over 250 ex-students and teachers that served and unveiled in a ceremony over which he presided in July, 1919. Francis's father, John was head teacher of the Flinders School in Geelong when his son was killed.

Although he would never have seen him, Francis and Flora had a son, Paul. World War 2 records (Paul served as a Flying Officer) show him born on 1 April, 1917 - nine months less two days after his father enlisted!

A note in his Archives (perhaps there was some concern over the Teutonic-sounding surname) reveals his father's family originated from Guernsey on the Isle of Man and were classified as Natural Born British Subjects.



Seymour, Arthur Thomas Hayes

Key Address : Derby Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 14th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number A20
Date of Embarkation : 17 April, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2009 **Enlisted :** 13/09/1916 **At :**

Born At : Cooktown, Queensland **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 08/08/1915 **Aged :** 32

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey

Occupation : Boot-maker

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Emily Jemima Seymour (nee Whittard)
Wife Evelyn Bertha Letitia Seymour (nee Maynard, later Palmer)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Seymour enlisted giving a married sister Beatrice (Mrs William J. Wills) in Derby Street, Northcote South as his next of kin. His embarkation was one of the handful that showed only the suburb name for the residential address of the serviceman, Seymour suggesting Northcote and presumably the same address.

The Attestation goes on to suggest that Seymour's wife had deserted him and was then living in Collingwood with their three children. Only one, Pearly is shown in pension records, but another note on his file suggests another daughter married in 1924.

Seymour was posted as missing on 8 August, 1915 and later declared as Killed in Action at that date at an Enquiry in April of the following year.

Eyewitness accounts varied somewhat – one declared he had seen Seymour killed near Suvla Bay on 21 August, another had seen him badly wounded in the leg on 8 August "and being attended by an Indian Red Cross man".

The circular was returned by wife after several efforts to contact her had previously failed, she was by then Mrs E. B. L. Palmer.

Official Victorian registrations show they had four children, not three as Seymour suggested. "Pearlie" was Vinora Pearl (1906), Lawrence (1908), Rose (1911) and Emily (1911). Pearl was the only one of sufficient age (even at 18) likely to be married in 1924.

Seymour's sister Beatrice was born locally (Richmond), some four years after he was born in Queensland.



Shands, Charles Stanley

Key Address : 112 Roberts Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Driver. 2nd Division Ammunition Column
Embarked Gunner Australian Field Artillery - 116 to 120 Howitzer Batteries
(September-October 1916)

Embarked : HMAE Aeneas
Ship Number : A60
Date of Embarkation : 3 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Shards)

Service Number : 29571 **Enlisted :** 14/03/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Gold Street, Clifton Hill State School

Date of Death : 22/08/1918 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : (of sickness), Daours, France

Buried At : 119 Daours Communal Cemetery, France

Occupation : Tailor's Cutter

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Francis Ellen Shands

Eyewitnesses : "I saw him with his Unit and he was very sick with appendicitis. He was vomiting badly and was taken to C.C.S where he died the next day ... he was buried opposite Warfusee near Villers Bretonneux" (Murrell, Driver 34283)

Notes : Charles Shands died at the 55th Casualty Clearing Station. Other reports suggest he had an abnormal growth in the rectum which may have caused complications with the reported appendicitis.

He was one of a family of ten (two siblings had died) and one brother, Arthur (for who he was working prior to enlistment) who was a tailor/retailer of women's clothing in High Street for many years and a co-builder (along with Bill Perrin) of the Westgarth Theatre and during the war years a fierce local supporter of compulsory conscription.

William Shands married Frances Ellen Williams in Collingwood in 1881, their first child Rose born the same year.

From the, midwife was kept busy attending Arthur (1884), Isabella (1886), William (1885), Isabella (1886) and Herbert (1888) - the first to be born in Northcote, all previous births in Collingwood. Edna also arrived in 1888, Charles (1891), Gertrude (1894), Laurence (1896), Edna (1888) and Percy (1901).

The family were at 119 Bridge Street, Northcote, at the time of the 1914 Electoral Rolls were compiled.

The circular also notes Shands had three cousins, Roy, Raymond and Reginald Bartram (all of whom were from Richmond) that were Killed In Action - another brother from that family, Cyril George was listed as living in Fairfield and was returned to Australia in July 1917 after a series of illnesses. A fourth cousin, Leslie Krause from South Melbourne was also Killed In Action.



Sharpe, Edward William

Key Address : 18 James Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Regimental Sergeant Major, 29th Infantry Battalion.
Embarked 29 Infantry Battalion (November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship number A11
Date of embarkation 10 November, 1915
Place of embarkation Melbourne

Service Number : 347 **Enlisted :** 07/07/1915 **At :**

Born At : Timor **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 28/04/1919 **Aged :** 45

Place of Death : Carlton (Exhibition emergency hospital)

Buried At :

Occupation : Police Constable, later Plain Clothes Branch

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John and Martha Sharp (nee Newman)
Wife Mrs Louisa Sharp (nee Rogers)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Sharpe was one of those that died several months after the Armistice - the AWM does not acknowledge his death in the Roll of Honour, but there is substantial evidence to suggest his service in Egypt and France contributed significantly to his death from bronchitis and pneumonia in late April, 1919.

The Leader briefly noted his death amongst a number of happier reports on the return of long-serving men on May 5, 1919, but gave no details of his war-time experiences.

Enlisting at the age of 42, he embarked with the rank of Sergeant, On arrival in Egypt when the evacuation of Gallipoli was underway and was assigned to the 5th Pioneer Battalion.

He was promoted to Company Sergeant Major in March, 1916 and to Regimental Sergeant Major just a few weeks later and just before being shipped to the Western Front. Promoted again to Warrant Officer, Sharpe was Mentioned In Despatches in September, 1917 in acknowledgment of several months of distinguished service.

Sharpe was hospitalised in October, 1917 with rheumatism and arthritis, repatriated to England, and then repatriated back to Australia as "over-age and incapacitated". He spent time in the Caulfield Military Hospital, where a report after his admission revealed that Sharpe had been suffering for nearly two years before his problems were diagnosed "... patient was injured on 2.1.16 when a steam launch went down in the Suez Canal and he was caught in the steering gear and twisted both knees".

Perhaps more significantly, the report noted Sharpe also suffered "shortage of breath and lungs, emphysema" and rated him as 30% incapacitated. He returned to the Police Force, joining the Plain Clothes branch in Carlton, but with significant breathing problems, it was little surprise he succumbed to the effects of influenza in April of the following year.

"Sharpe" in official records at the time of his birth is "Sharp". An earlier Edward William died in 1867 at one month, and his only other sibling appearing in official records was Louisa, born in 1876 - Bereavement Notices placed after Sharpe's death, however, reveal a sister Tamar died ten days earlier, aged 49 years of age. He suggested Maryborough as his place of birth, official records have it at Timor, a small gold-mining town about 5 kilometres to the north-west.

There was one surviving child, Doris, born in Maryborough in 1905 while another daughter Florence was born in 1897, but died the same year.

Sharpe's place of death is officially shown as Carlton - he died in an emergency hospital set up in the Exhibition Buildings during the height of the influenza epidemic.



Sharpe, Kenneth Gordon

Key Address : 58 Collins Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private, 3rd Pioneer Battalion. 1 to 6 Reinforcements (June-December 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Karroo
 Ship Number : A10
 Date of Embarkation : 18 September 1916
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2440 **Enlisted :** 04/07/1916 **At :**

Born At : Lobethal, S.A. **Educated At :** Lithgow Street State School, Abbotsford

Date of Death : 08/11/1918 **Aged :** 27

Place of Death : (of disease, influenza and broncho-pneumonia). St Fovant Hospital, England

Buried At : 190 Fovant (St George) Churchyard, Wiltshire, England

Occupation : Wool carder's assistant

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C of E

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert and Agnes Sharpe (nee Lockhart)
 Wife Mrs Eunice Catherine Sharpe (nee Henderson, later White)

Eyewitnesses : "Deceased was buried with full military honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the gravesite on a gun-carriage and preceded by a firing party and Band from No. 4 Australian Command Depot. Six of deceased's late comrades supported the Pall.

Notes : Sharpe's wife was living at 72 Barkly Street, North Fitzroy when he enlisted, and at 58 Collins Street, Northcote, at the time of his death. She also seems to have later spent some time in Childs Street, Northcote, and by 1921 had remarried to become Mrs Eunice White, living at Ascot Vale. 58 Collins Street was earlier the address shown for another local servicemen killed in battle, [Private Frederick George Russell](#).

His family were in Greensborough at the time of his death and his sacrifice is recorded on the local War Memorial, but they were residing at 73 Robert Street, Northcote at the time the circular was prepared. His wife is also noted at this address before she re-married and they seem to have moved into the district around 1920. The Leader did not report his death, notice of which was not posted until late December, 1918.

Sharpe died of the effects of influenza and broncho-pneumonia at St. Fovant Military Hospital, Colchester, England just three days before hostilities ceased. In the preceding four months, he had been hospitalised twice from gas poisoning, undoubtedly contributing significantly to his death.

Sharpe had a couple of minor convictions for being Absent Without Leave, and in October, 1917, was sentenced to five days Field Punishment for "without undue necessity quitting the ranks".

His archives note two elder brothers on active service, Privates John Gillespie Sharpe and William David (or Daniel) Sharpe, both of who were noted as being at his funeral and who returned safely to Australia, although William was hospitalised for virtually all of 1917 with a dislocated shoulder (twice) and a broken ankle.

Both were around five or six years older than Kenneth and born in Scotland. South Australian records show another brother Douglas as born in 1885.

Kenneth and Eunice married in 1911 and had two children, Robert (1911) and Eunice (1913).



Shaw, Charles Percival

Key Address : 14 Merri Parade, Northcote

Rank and Unit : (1914) Private, 5th Infantry Battalion,
(1915) Corporal, 7th Infantry Battalion. Embarked Private, 7th Infantry
Battalion, 12th Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Orvieto
Ship Number A3
Date of Embarkation : 21 October, 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

HMAT Ceramic
Ship Number A40
Date of Embarkation : 23 November, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 248/3921 **Enlisted :** 14/08/1914, 03/06/1915 **At :**

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** Alfred Crescent State School, North Fitzroy

Date of Death : 20/10/1917 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death :

Buried At : Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Wire Mattress Maker, apprenticed M. N. Ballard, Bouverie Street, Carlton

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Baptist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Edward Herod and Mary Rebecca Shaw (nee Shalless)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Shaw nominated his mother at 85 Pickles Street, Port Melbourne as his next of kin and note his father in Redfern, New South Wales. The circular returned by his father revealed he had two other sons Frederick James and Walter Harold killed during the war – records for both have the residential address and that for their father as next of kin at 108 Pitt Street, Redfern

Charles Shaw suggested his own address as 14 Merri Parade, Northcote. The latter address in 1916 onwards directories as belonging to Ernest Shaw, who Registrations prove to be an elder brother. Both father and mother were at 83 Rosebery Street, Auburn from mid-1917.

He originally enlisted on 15 August, 1914, the first day of recruitment, but was repatriated back from Egypt in April, 1915, diagnosed with acute rheumatism and declared medically unfit.

Despite the reasons for his discharge included the likelihood of recurring attacks and the need for a prolonged period of rest, Shaw managed to re-enlist and pass a medical just two months later after declaring his previous rejection and the reason. There is little of note in his revived career other than a promotion to Corporal just before he embarked on the second occasion.

As well as Charles and Ernest, there were three other brothers, Frederick (born 1892), Walter (1894) and Albert.



Shepherd, Percy Hubert

Key Address : Westgarth Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 59th Battalion (Infantry) 2 to 5 Reinforcements (May-September 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Orsava
Ship Number A67
Date of Embarkation : 1 August, 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2248 **Enlisted :** 08/05/1916 **At :**

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** North Fitzroy State School, King's College, Clifton Hill, College of Pharmacy

Date of Death : 07/02/1917 **Aged :** 32

Place of Death : France

Buried At : Bancourt British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Chemist

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Baptist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Broadwood and Julia Rose Shepherd (nee Seabrook)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Shepherd was listed as living with parents at 22 Denmark Street, Kew on attestation.

His place of birth on Attestation was given as Fairfield; the family were in fact shown in directories as in Westgarth Street, Northcote, but just how far to the eastern end is unclear.

He was one of three brothers, of whom one other was born in the district; Herbert (1882, Northcote) and Leslie (1886, Fitzroy).

Directories of the early 1890s show John Shepherd as having a piano warehouse in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, in later years as a piano tuner in North Fitzroy and Clifton Hill.

Shepherd was Killed In Action on 7 February, 1917, just three weeks after being taken on strength of the 59th Battalion. There is virtually nothing recorded of his military career

His Archives contain a letter dated 22 June, 1921 to a Mrs E. S. Cherry of High Street, Glen Iris in response to a request for photographs of Shepherd's grave. A postscript to the correspondence suggested the request was made by her husband "the late No. 2144, Corporal J. H. Cherry", also of the 59th Battalion.

Cherry was in fact Killed In Action on 4 July, 1918!



Sherman, John Morris

Key Address : 369 High Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private, AIF Depot
Embarked : Did not embark
Service Number : **Enlisted :** 7/07/1915 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Bena, N.S.W **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 4/08/1915 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : (of meningitis, Base Hospital, Melbourne)
Buried At : Coburg Cemetery, Presbyterian 576A
Occupation : Driver
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Harrington (late) and Annie Sherman,
(nee Cowderoy, later Marney)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Sherman listed his mother as Mrs Annie Marney, and a query from Base Depot to her following Sherman's death brought a simple response that his father was dead.

Civil registrations show she re-married to become Mrs Walter Marney, the pair running a tobacconist shop in High Street, and after Sherman's enlistment, just around the corner at 8 Arthurlton Road.

The family background is a little murky, with just a hint of a possible scandal.

Despite John being born in N.S.W., there were several children born in Victoria to (perhaps) John senior and Annie who married in 1883, and several questions come to light.

The first-born in Victoria was Dorothy in 1890, listed under "Sherman", but with the father listed as "unknown".

A year later, we have Alice, who appears under Annie's maiden name of "Cowderoy", but at least with John as the father (she is shown in the 1914 Electoral Roll at the High Street address).

But the real eye opener comes in 1897, when Annie gave birth to a son, Walter Marney - exactly the same name as that of her second husband of some 18 years later!

While that was going on, two other children were born and managed to carry their parents' names of John and Annie - Josine in 1899, who died at one month, and Annie in 1904.

John Harrington Sherman died aged 56 in Orbost in 1915, Annie wasted little time in becoming Mrs Walter Marney the same year.

Sherman was admitted to the Base Hospital in St. Kilda Road from the Showgrounds camp on July 29, 1915, and died at 5:40 a.m. on August 4, the cause of death given as cerebro-spinal meningitis and bronchitis.

He had previously served four years with the Naval Cadets.



Siddell, John William

Key Address : 65 South Crescent, South Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 22 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements (June 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : Ship MS Osterley
Date of Embarkation : 29 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2391 **Enlisted :** 10/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Durham, England **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 16/03/1917 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Baupaume, France

Buried At : 385 Warlencourt British Cemetery France

Occupation : Driver

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas Richard and Caroline Siddell (England)
Friend Miss Annie Coates

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Siddell's death was not reported in the Leader and his name never appeared on any roll of Northcote's fallen

His fate only came to light when his name was mentioned along with a handful of Northcote men in a Honour Roll of the Loyal Langridge Lodge, a Friendly Society thought to have been based in Richmond, but of which little else is known.

He was an Englishman living in Northcote. The attestation shows next of kin as a brother, Thomas Richard, in England (later more specifically, 15 Gill Bridge Avenue, Sunderland in the County of Durham, almost certainly the family home), but the embarkation and later his Will favoured Annie Coates (listed as a friend) at 65 South Crescent, Northcote.

Despite Ms. Coates being sole beneficiary under Siddell's Will, his war medals under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918 legally went to blood relations and she supplied information in 1920 to Base Records regarding Siddell's brothers in England.

No circular was returned and it is not known when Siddell arrived in Australia.



Simpson, Amy Alice (Mrs Richard George Cordingley)

Key Address : Garnet Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Staff Nurse, Australian Army Nursing Service HMAHS (hospital ship) Kanowna

Embarked : Not shown in Embarkation Rolls

Service Number : **Enlisted :** 15 /08/1915, 21/03/1917 **At :**

Born At : South Preston **Educated At :** South Preston State School, Geelong Hospital

Date of Death : 2/10/1922 **Aged :** 33

Place of Death : Private Hospital, Camperdown, Victoria

Buried At : Eastern Cemetery, Geelong

Occupation : Nurse, Geelong Hospital

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert and Mary Lily Simpson (nee Sutton)
Husband Mr Robert George Cordingley

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Amy Simpson was just the second woman and the last entry into the archive, and for all practical purposes, a fluke discovery when another project to match up names on the South Preston State School Honour Roll with their military history revealed an "A. Simpson" on the Roll, and a search on "Simpson" and "Preston" returned Amy.

There is no mention of her fate in any official files, but a chance glance at the last page (page 66) of her National Archive astonishingly revealed a Memorial Scroll and Plaque being awarded in 1923 (two years after the standard issue) to her husband, Mr. R. G. Cordingley, the pair having married in 1920.

Amy first enlisted 15 August, 1915, giving her address as care of Mrs Walker, Patterson Street, Preston, although she seems to have been based in Geelong for some years.

Her early history is a little clouded. After enlisting in August 1915, she re-enlisted on 21 February, 1917 (there is no clear reason suggested for this, but it may have been necessary for her to serve outside of Australia).

The latter enlistment shows her having previously served at the 5 Australian General Hospital in St. Kilda Road until April, 1916, and then at Caulfield Military Hospital from December, 1916 up to the time of re-enlisting - there is no apparent reason shown for the break.

She embarked HMAHS (hospital ship) Kanowna on 21 March, 1917 and spent most of the next eighteen months serving on ferrying wounded servicemen back to Australia.

On what appears to have been her third trip back home, Simpson was disembarked at Gibraltar with influenza and pneumonia. she was repatriated back to England and discharged After spending six weeks in hospital, she was considered to travel, embarking January, 1919 for her final return to Australia.

She was confined to hospital in Melbourne until 29 June, 1919, her condition "breathless on exertion, easily tired, unlikely to improve".

Now Mrs Robert George Cordingley, Amy died in a private hospital in Camperdown on 22 October, 1922. The exact date of her marriage is not known - her file shows an update on 17 April, 1923 (presumably for a request for Memorial Scroll and Plaque) recording her husband, said to be of Derrinnallum, but living in Geelong.

Despite the Memorial Scroll and Plaque being issued to acknowledge her death, her name does not appear on the Honour Roll - this seems to be in line with a number of other cases where there were deaths attributable to War Service, but after an unknown limit for inclusion.

Amy was a sister of [Lieutenant Colonel James William Simpson](#), and it was noted another brother Edgar also served. The Death Notice placed by her husband suggests she was known as "Pop". Robert Cordingley remarried in 1926.



Simpson, James William Albert (Military Cross)

Key Address : Garnet Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant-Colonel 36th Infantry Battalion
Embarked 2nd Lieutenant 13 Infantry Battalion (December 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

HMAT Marathon
Ship Number : A74
Date of Embarkation : 4 May 1916
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : **Enlisted :** 16/11/1914 **At :** Albury

Born At : Preston **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 21/01/1917 **Aged :** 33

Place of Death : Armentieres, France

Buried At : 922 Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, France

Occupation : Resident Master, Albury Grammar School

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Robert and Mary Lily Simpson (nee Sutton)
Wife Mrs Grace Elizabeth Simpson (nee Handley)

Eyewitnesses : "Lieut. Col. Simpson was in a communication trench near Houplinea Armentieres about the 21st January with another officer, an Irishman, (Lieut. McGrath) and their batman when a wizz-bang came over and killed all four of them. I saw Lieut. Col. Simpson being carried out of the trenches. He died instantaneously, half his head being taken off ..." (Private. O. M. Smith, 175, 36th A.I.F.)

Notes : James Simpson was highest ranking serviceman from the district killed during the war.

On his death, the Leader suggested he had been in Albury for 10 to 12 years and his father, a wheelwright in Plenty Road, had been a well-known temperance worker and church leader in Preston.

The family lived in Garnet Street and seem to have moved from Preston about the same time as James moved to Albury. A sister, Amy Alice, and Brother Edgar also enlisted, Amy dying in October, 1922 from the effects of influenza and pneumonia contracted while serving on a hospital ship.

Before joining the A.I.F. Simpson had twelve years of military training and was serving when he enlisted. He was appointed Second Lieutenant on enlisting, to Captain immediately prior to embarking in December, to Major, 29 April, 1916 and to Lieutenant Colonel on 18 September, 1916.

He was awarded the Military Cross at Gallipoli June 3, 1915, and coincidentally was repatriated to Malta and then England the following day with gastritis. A Medical Board recommended his return to Australia "for 12 months change".

Simpson was invalided to Australia suffering serious bout of neurasthenia, an now obscure term then meaning "psychological disorder characterized by chronic fatigue and weakness, loss of memory ...".

He arrived home in November and despite the recommendation of 12 months rest, he was declared fit for service in February and re-embarked from Sydney in May 1916 as a Major and was taken on strength as Commander of the 36th Battalion in September.

Simpson left his wife, Grace (married 1909) and one child, a son, Halliday.





Skidmore, Clifton

Key Address : Grange Road, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Driver, Australian Army Medical Corps. Embarked Private, 1 to 6 and Special Reinforcements (February 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : RMS Mooltan
Date of Embarkation : 18 May, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 157 **Enlisted :** 15/01/1915 **At :**

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** Fairfield State School (2711)
Date of Death : 24/06/1918 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : (result of accident), Blaringham, France
Buried At : Ebbingham Military Cemetery, France

Occupation : Grocer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry and Mary Skidmore (nee Murgatroyd)

Eyewitnesses : "On 24 June, 1918, I was sent with Driver C. Skidmore to get water at Blaringham. Driver Skidmore was driving a water cart. We had just finished the bottom of a hill when Driver Skidmore got out of the cart to take the brakes off. Whilst doing this, the mules started to trot off and Driver Skidmore ran round to get the reins. The mules then increased their speed and pulled Driver Skidmore off his feet, and his head and shoulders struck the ground. I did not see a wheel pass over him. When I picked Driver Skidmore up, he was unconscious. An army Signal Motor came along and took Skidmore to hospital. It was raining at the time and the road was very greasy" (Driver Arthur Anderson at the inquiry into Skidmore's death)

Notes : The family including [Private Leslie Skidmore](#) were living at 24 Rose Street, Ivanhoe when the war broke out, but in earlier times had resided in Grange Road, Alphington, from where both of the brothers attended Fairfield State School.

One of the additional references mentioned on both circulars was James Sebire, referenced under [Private Henry Francis Sebire](#), and the brothers appear to have been cousins of [Private Harold Francis Skidmore](#), Killed in Action.

Skidmore was accidentally killed while driving a mule-drawn water cart. Medical testimony suggested he had fallen and landed on the point of the jaw, and that bones in the jaw had been driven into his skull, causing it to fracture. The report suggested that Skidmore would have died within a few seconds of the accident.

Archives reveal Skidmore had been Mentioned in Despatches, but there is nothing remaining of the details other than it was gazetted in London on 21 June, 1916, and in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette on 21 September. Given the main Australian involvement in France did not commence until mid-July, the Mention would almost certainly have been earned at Gallipoli.

Clifton nd Leslie had two sisters, Evelyn, Collingwood, 1897) and Dorothy, shown as born in Fairfield in 1901. There was also a brother, Stanley (1899) after an earlier child of that name died at one month in 1889.



Skidmore, Harold Francis

Key Address : 41 Austin Street, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private, 14 Infantry Battalion - 5 to 12 Reinforcements (April-November 1915)

Embarked : SS Makarini
Date of Embarkation : 15 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2643 **Enlisted :** 28/06/1915 **At :**

Born At : South Melbourne **Educated At :** Eastern Road State School, South Melbourne

Date of Death : 18/09/1918 **Aged :** 27

Place of Death : near Courbie, France

Buried At : 375 Bellicourt British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Painter

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C of E

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Joseph Harris and Alice Esther Skidmore (nee Delamere)

Eyewitnesses : "I knew casualty. He was a man of medium build, about 5 ft 7 ins. in height, fair complexion, about 27 years of age. Casualty was in the advance near Corbie and as he was going forward in the attack, the enemy opened heavy machine gun fire, a bullet hitting casualty in the head and killing him instantly. I did not stop to attend but went forward and captured the gun. I saw his body lying there the next day, He was buried where he fell soon after ..." (Private. T. A. Pocock, No. 1806, 14th Btn.)

Notes : Known as "Snow", on embarkation, Skidmore suggested his mother was dead and that his father's whereabouts were unknown, giving his elder brother William (his only sibling) in Alphington as his next of kin and as his own address.

They appear to have moved to Alphington from Chapel Street, East St. Kilda just before Harold enlisted.

Skidmore was off-duty between July and December, 1917, suffering with a dislocated wrist and (perhaps as no surprise) neurosis after being buried up to his neck for over an hour in mud after a German shell exploded nearby

During this period, he managed to lose seven days pay after being convicted on an usual charge (for our archives) of "discussing matters of military importance with civilians".

Harold Skidmore was hospitalised again in February, 1918, from the effects of gas poisoning, and returned to his unit in France just a month before he was Killed In Action. Eyewitness accounts vary from that quoted, others suggesting he was hit twice, one account claiming the same bullet killed both Skidmore and a stretcher-bearer named Smith who attended him.

William (born in 1889), returned the circular from Austin Street, but correspondence in 1923 relating to copies of photographs carry an address of 3 Henderson Street, Northcote South. He was a cousin of the brothers [Private Clifton Skidmore](#) and [Private Leslie Skidmore](#).



Skidmore, Leslie

Key Address : Grange Road, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal, 2nd Pioneer Battalion. Embarked 24 Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Demontheses
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 16 July, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as 1766)

Service Number : 1766A **Enlisted :** 18/05/1915 **At :**

Born At : Clifton Hill **Educated At :** Fairfield State School (2711),
Wesley College

Date of Death : 21/11/1916 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : (of wounds), 3rd Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, England

Buried At : Sheffield (Burngreave) Cemetery, Yorkshire, England

Occupation : Clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry and Mary Skidmore

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Elder brother of [Private Clifton Skidmore](#). The family where living at 24 Rose Street, Ivanhoe when the war broke out, but in earlier times had resided in Grange Road, Alphington, from where both of the brothers attended Fairfield State School.

One of the additional references mentioned on both circulars was James Sebire, referenced under [Private Henry Francis Sebire](#), and the brothers appear to have been cousins of [Private Harold Francis Skidmore](#), also Killed In Action.

Skidmore was wounded in the left arm at Gallipoli and returned to Egypt. On recovery, he transferred to lighter duties with the 2nd Pioneer Battalion and served in France, where he was wounded in the skull and eyes near Pozieres on 1 August, 1916. He was repatriated to England and died of wounds in the 3rd Northern General Hospital, (Royal Infirmary) Sheffield some three months later.

The circular returned by his father suggested Leslie died after being accidentally wounded, but there is nothing in any of his archives to suggest it was accidental.

Strangely, despite him spending just over three months in hospital after being repatriated to England, there is no surviving Red Cross details.

In a somewhat bizarre twist, It appears that the stone erected at Skidmore's grave showed his original unit of the 24th Infantry Battalion.

As late as 1933, Skidmore's father, with the support of the army authorities attempted to have the inscription altered by the Imperial War Graves Commission, The Commission originally agreed, but eventually could do nothing "This man's grave is marked by a private permanent which this Commission is not entitled to alter".

Clifton and Leslie had two sisters, Evelyn, Collingwood, 1897) and Dorothy, shown as born in Fairfield in 1901. There was also a brother, Stanley (1899) after an earlier child of that name died at one month in 1889.



Slade, Frederick William

Key Address : 157 Gillies Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 29 Infantry Battalion (November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number : A11
Date of Embarkation : 10 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 684 **Enlisted :** 13/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Footscray **Educated At :** Albert Park State School

Date of Death : 21/06/1918 **Aged :** 35

Place of Death : (of wounds), Somme, France

Buried At : 29 Crouy British Cemetery Crouy-Sur-somme

Occupation : Cabinet Maker

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Congregationalist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Edward Osborne Green and Martha Slade (nee Clark)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Slade was rejected at least twice through bad teeth and was later accepted as recruiting numbers start to diminish.

He died at the 47th Casualty Clearing Station two days after suffering head wounds and a fractured skull from a shell explosion, the injuries apparently occurring when he was sitting outside his dugout cleaning his kit.

Slade's death was noted in the Leader but archives suggest he was living at 133 Nicholson Street, Carlton at the time he enlisted. His parents shifted to Bulmer Street, Brunswick just two months after Frederick's death.

He had three brothers, Alfred (1881) and "Reginald" (christened "Valetti Reginald") who both enlisted, and Edward (1877), plus a sister, Maggie. All the children and Reginald's wife Bertha were listed in Gillies Street at the time the 1914 Electoral Roll was compiled.



Smiley (Smilie), John Willis

Key Address : Langwells Parade, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 29 Infantry Battalion - 13 and 14 Reinforcements (June- December 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Suevic
Ship Number : A29
Date of Embarkation : 21 June 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4919 **Enlisted :** 3/03/1917 **At :** South Melbourne

Born At : Brunswick **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 30/03/1918 **Aged :** 30
Place of Death : France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Separated **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Ezekiel and Margaret Smiley (nee Willis), both late)
Wife Mrs Annie Jane Guinevere Smilie (nee Thorsen)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : A brother of [Private Ezekiel James Smiley](#), but throughout the National Archives and the AWM he appears as John William Smilie.

The pair were orphaned in the early 1890s when the family lived in Langwells Parade, Northcote. Ezekiel Smiley died in 1892 in Northcote and his wife Margaret a year later at East Melbourne. Given their ages at death (36 and 40 respectively), she was around five years older than her husband.

Ezekiel junior was raised by foster-parents named Wood in Northcote, but it is not clear from John Smilie's files whether he was also adopted out or who by. John would have been about ten years old when his younger brother (by four years) is known to have been adopted.

"Smilie" is used consistently in both AWM and National Archive records, and in his signature, suggesting he may not have been sure of the spelling of his family name.

There is also some inconsistency in his second name, "William" in some places and "Willis" in others. Official birth records confirm it was Willis (his mother's maiden name), but they don't do researchers any favours by registering his birth at Brunswick in 1888 and then an entry of his death at 9 months of age in 1887!

John married Annie Thorsen in 1910, their only child Nellie dying at one month in 1916.

He nominated his residential address as 59 Swan Street, Richmond when he embarked, with an address in South Melbourne given for his wife as next-of-kin, but authorities were unable to locate her and subsequent enquiries revealed she and her husband were separated. Smilie was boarding at the Richmond address with a family named Windley, and his wife was living with her brother George Thorsen (who described her as "a very bad immoral woman") in Richmond.

Authorities declared her as unfit to receive Smilie's medals and they eventually passed to his eldest sister, then Mrs Margaret Jones of Armadale, despite one of the Windley family, "my friend" Emily (Mrs McCartin) being named as beneficiary in Smilie's will.

The circular returned by Walter Wood for Ezekeil Smiley identified John as his brother, indicating that he was well aware of the family background, and the brothers also had a sister, Ellen, born in 1890. The fact that the pair were brothers seems to have only been known to authorities in 1920 when Mrs Wood saw a press advertisement seeking Smilie's missing wife and advised authorities that she "vaguely knew the soldier, but as Smiley".



Smiley, Ezekiel James

Key Address : 85 Beavers Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 8 Infantry Battalion
10 to 12 Reinforcements (September-November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 11 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Adelaide

Service Number : 3451 **Enlisted :** 6/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 30/12/1917 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : (of disease), Sutton Very Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England

Buried At : 167 Sutton Veny (St. John) Churchyard, Wiltshire,

Occupation : Asylum Attendant

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Congregationalist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Ezekiel and Margaret Smiley (nee Willis, both late)
Foster Father Mr. Walter Wood

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Embarkation papers show his next-of-kin as Mr. Walter Wood of 85 Beavers Road, Northcote.

Wood and his (unnamed) wife adopted Smiley as a Ward of the State when he was six years old. In Memoriam notices placed in the Leader in later years suggest he was generally known as "Jim". A Death Notice inserted by his foster parents appeared under the heading of "Wood-Smiley".

Military authorities ultimately recommended that Walter Wood be accorded all the rights of a natural parent in regards to medals, etc.

Smiley was in and out of hospital several times with laryngitis and again admitted with a suspected hernia on Christmas Eve, 1917.

He died six days later, a post-mortem revealing he was afflicted with a malignant carcinoma of the stomach. His foster-father's permission was required before the post-mortem could be performed.

Ezekiel Smiley was the only brother of [Private John William Smilie](#), who was Killed In Action on 30 March, 1918. Both AWM and National Archives have latter as Smilie, and it is not clear whether John used this variation by choice or in ignorance of the correct spelling

The brothers also had two sisters whose immediate fate following their parent's deaths is unknown, but by the time of John's death, they were Mrs Margaret Jones and Mrs Ellen Cooper.

Ellen was born in 1890 - there is no obvious record of Margaret's birth, but is known to have been the elder sister. Both were mentioned in the Death Notice placed by Walter Wood, indicating that at least these three siblings appear to have remained in regular contact.

The family were in Langwells Parade, Northcote, when Smiley's natural parents Ezekiel and Margaret died in 1892 and 1893 respectively.



Smith, Archibald Brunker *

Key Address : 34 Mary Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Sergeant, 58th Battalion (Infantry). Embarked 6 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 9 Reinforcements (December 1914 - September 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Clan McGillivray
Ship Number : A46
Date of Embarkation : 2 February, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (as 1425 Archibald Smith)

Service Number : 1425/2295 **Enlisted :** 21/11/1914 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : South Yarra **Educated At :** Doreen State School
Date of Death : 26/04/1918 **Aged :** 28
Place of Death : Villers Bretonneux, France
Buried At : Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery, France

Occupation : Engine Driver 1st Class
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C of E

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry Vincent and Susan Mary Smith (nee Verso)
Wife Mrs Gertrude May Smith (later Lowe)

Eyewitnesses : "... after leaving the trench amidst a storm of shells bombs and machine gun fire, they heard Lt. Godfrey call for assistance to bring back a wounded man, Sgt McDonald. They returned to the enemy wire although they knew two charges of gun cotton had been laid and were expected to go off any second .." (Commendation for joint award for action 17 September, 1916)

Notes : Smith's death was never mentioned in connection with the district and is another that came to light upon examination of Victorian Probate records, although he had a close connection with Northcote as his mother was a sister of Charles Joseph Verso, a well-known local identity, especially in musical circles and the father of Charles junior, a prominent builder, councillor of over ten years standing and Mayor in 1887-88.

His background is also one of the more confusing in our archives!

His attestation quoted his Service Number as 1425 and nominated his next-of-kin as his mother in Edward Street, Brunswick. His embarkation reflected this, but in fact he married just a week or so before being taken on board. In December, Gertrude May Smith lodged a Statutory Declaration and Marriage Certificate confirming she was Archibald's wife – Victorian registrations have them couple wedded in 1915, probably on his last leave, usually around a week before he left Australia.

Smith was hospitalised for around four months in Egypt with a kidney infection and it seems authorities lost track of him and it wasn't until around two months after he returned to his unit that they discovered his whereabouts.

But from this point forward, his Service Number magically changes to 2295.

His archives containing several inter-branch requests to forward copies of his attestation papers before Base Depot seemed to have realised 1425 Smith and 2295 Smith were one and the same, but there is no explanation for the change – there are other instances where servicemen had two numbers, but invariably these were cases where the men were returned to Australia and then embarked a second time.

Smith was promoted to Sergeant in September 1916, his new rank shown in the seemingly unsuccessful recommendation for a bravery award quoted above.

His wife also led authorities a merry dance. She was in Windsor when she produced the marriage certificate and shortly after moved to 34 Mary street, Northcote, but post-war moved to addresses in William Street and Clifton Grove in Preston without providing a change of address. She was tracked down late in 1922 when it was noted she was drawing her pension from Preston Post Office, some detective work from the local manager revealing she had re-married and was then Mrs Gertrude Lowe.



Smith, Charles Henry

Key Address : Heidelberg Road, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 2 Pnr Bn [Pioneer Battalion]
3 to 9 Reinforcements (June 1916 - May 19)

Embarked : HMAT Port Lincoln
Ship Number : A17
Date of Embarkation : 20 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2931 **Enlisted :** 15/08/1916 **At :** Carlton

Born At : Fairfield **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : (of wounds), Zillebeke, Belgium

Buried At : 165 Bedford House Cemetery Enclosure 2, Zillebeke, Belgium

Occupation : Wool Sorter

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** R.C.

Next Kin/Family : Parents John and Catherine Smith (nee Lewis)
Wife Mrs Mary Smith (nee Clancy)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : On embarkation, Smith was shown as living with his wife at 125 Napier Street, Fitzroy.

The Leader included his death under "Fairfield" where records show he was born and presumably his parents still lived (the commonality of the surname makes detailed searching a little impractical).

Smith died at the 64th West Field Ambulance of multiple shell wounds within hours of being admitted.

His wife (and family, below) moved to 10 Landridge Street in Collingwood before he was killed and several times over the next few years were untraceable, as many as six addresses noted over the next few years.

No pension details are recorded to confirm children of the marriage, but Smith's archive contains a 1959 letter from a Frances Ellen Irving (nee Smith), a daughter, claiming the official Notification of Death originally forwarded to her mother "has been lost to my brother, sister and myself" and asking (to no avail) for a replacement.

Charles Henry Smith's siblings were John (1889, died at one day), James (1890), Catherine (1893), Rosina (1895), Annie (1898, died 1908), Albert (1903) and Ernest (1906, died 1907).



Smith, James Charles (or Smith, Charles Henry)

Key Address : 4 Preston Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 28 Battalion Australian Infantry
Private 37 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 6 Reinforcements (May-

Embarked : RMS Orontes
Date of Embarkation : 16 August 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (as Smith, Charles Henry)

Service Number : 1916 **Enlisted :** 6/03/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Sale **Educated At :** State School

Date of Death : 30/12/1916 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : (of pneumonia), Wiltshire, England

Buried At : 115 Tidworth Military Cemetery, North Tidworth, England

Occupation : Farm Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James Charles (late) and Catherine Smith (nee Perret)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Another serviceman (or men) who had a somewhat confusing background.

His National Archives are held under the name Charles Henry Smith and show attestation papers both under this name and for James Charles Smith. All Army records within the archives refer to the death of Charles Henry Smith and this was the name used in all correspondence with his widowed mother.

The allocation of her pension, however, is under James Charles Smith, and then notes he enlisted as Charles Henry Smith, but was that really the case? he attestation papers show :

	Charles Henry Smith (from Sale)	James Charles Smith
Enlisted :	March 6 1916	June 21 1915
Height	5'8 7/8	5'7
Weight	152 lbs	158 lbs
Chest	35½-37½	34-36
Markings	wart, left side of neck	two scars below right knee
Eyes	blue-gray	grey
Hair	brown (curly)	Light brown
Age	25 yrs 10 m	25 yrs 1 mth

The ages certainly agree, and other comparisons such as hair and eye colouring are somewhat arbitrary, but on each of the more objective factors such as markings (especially) and overall build, they do not appear to be the same man!

Adding to the mystery is the absence in official records of any reason why James Charles enlisted in June, 1915, and then re-enlisted some nine months later.

Perhaps Mother knows best! She inserted a Death Notice for James Charles and returned the circular under this name. The AWM ultimately accepted this name (without noting any alias) and he is shown on the Preston Cenotaph as "Smith, J. C."

Adding to the mystery is that one of the "Charles" attestations is under "Charles Harry" – possibly a mistake as he signed the first paper as "Charles Henray Smith", and he signed a Statutory Declaration to the effect that Charles Henry was his correct name.

Smith died of pneumonia and bronchitis at Tidworth Military Hospital on 30 December, 1916, just a month after arriving in England and eight days after being admitted into the hospital.

Catherine Smith was immediately after the war at 70 Cramer Street, Preston and in 1921 when medals were being distributed, she revealed that her husband had left home seven years previously and she had not seen him in that time. Some of the attestation papers however suggest he was deceased, but with no likely date of death indicated. Death Notices suggest Smith had three sisters, Katie, Eva and Edna.



Smith, James Faulkner

Key Address : 173 Murray Road, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 29 December 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4315 **Enlisted :** 5/08/1915 **At :** Preston

Born At : Warrnambool **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 25/07/1916 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Pozieres, France

Buried At : 1890 Serre Road, Cemetery, No 2, France

Occupation : Farm Hand

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George (late) and Jemima Smith (nee Baker)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Smith gave his address on enlistment as 50 Victoria Street, North Richmond with his mother in Murray Road, Preston as his next of kin, care of Mr. W. Smith, presumably her eldest son, William (below). The commonality of the family name makes further research virtually impossible.

Given Smith enlisted in Preston, he may well have been living with his mother and elder brother at the time, this theory given some weight by a "J. F. Smith" being included on the Preston Cenotaph.

Smith was originally listed as Missing on 28 July, 1916, and was not confirmed Killed In Action at a Court of Enquiry on 26 November 26, 1917. Although a Red Cross archive exists, it contain no eyewitness accounts of Smith's fate, authorities seemingly deciding he was killed on the simple basis that he had not been seen for 15 months.

When the Australian Graves Services began exhuming remote graves for consolidation at permanent sites at the behest of the French and Belgian governments, Smith's remains were removed in 1930. The burial party discovered his identity disc "greatly impaired by long exposure" then forwarded to his elderly mother "it will doubtless be valued on account of its former intimate association with your son".

James (1890) was one of eight children born to George and Jemima in another of the large family somewhat typical of the times : George (1878), William (1880), Daniel (1881), Ada (1884, died one month), Jessie (1884, a twin of Ada), Eva (1886) and Albert (1888).

Smith's attestation is appended "father deceased" but another archive in 1920 refers to an "application for assistance for Jemima, deserted mother of James Faulkner Smith".



Soanes, Henry Donald

Key Address : 41 McKean Street, North Fitzroy

Rank and Unit : Sergeant, 7th Infantry Battalion
Embarked Private 7 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 150 **Enlisted :** 17/08/1914 **At :** North Fitzroy

Born At : Fitzroy **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 13/07/1915 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : (of wounds), at sea off Gallipoli
Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Printer (F. W. Niven and Co., Fitzroy)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry and Catherine Soane (nee Black)
Other W. H. (late) and Rosetta Stevens (foster parents)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : The Leader on noting his death suggested Soanes may also have been known as Stevens, the name of his foster-parents.

His place of birth on his attestation was left blank, suggesting that perhaps Soanes had no knowledge of his origins. Official records show him born at Fitzroy in 1888, making him 27 when died, rather than the 24 years noted in official records .

Correspondence between his foster mother and Base Depot in September, 1920 reveals that his foster father died about two years previously and the couple had adopted Soanes at sixteen months of age.

Although Soanes wasn't a Northcote resident, he was well known in the district as prominent member of the All Saint's Church, and he was secretary of the Northcote Rifle Club in Roberts Street to which many of the area's volunteers belonged

He had a rapid rise through the ranks – he enlisted as a private, he was made a Lance Corporal in April, 1915, and a Sergeant just a fortnight later

Soanes died of wounds on board the hospital ship Gascon off the Dardanelles.

A history of the 7th Infantry suggests he was wounded the previous day while working with a group of volunteers on a bombing raid designed to prevent Turkish reinforcements reaching the battle at Lone Pine.



Solano, William

Key Address : 9 Benjamin Street, Thornbury
Rank and Unit : Private 57 Infantry Battalion
 6 to 9 Reinforcements (October 1916 - June 1917)
Embarked : HMAT Suevic
 Ship Number : A29
 Date of Embarkation : 21 June 1917
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 3478 **Enlisted :** 24/11/1915, 1/02/1917 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Foster **Educated At :** Faraday Street, Carlton State School
Date of Death : 14/04/1918 **Aged :** 29
Place of Death : (of enteritis), 55th C.C.S.
Buried At : 39 Longpre-les-Corps, Saints British Cemetery, France
Occupation : Cook / Cardboard Box Cutter
Marital Status : **Religion :** C. of E.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Francis (late) and Mary Solano (nee Niemann)
 Sister Alice Solano

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

William Solano was another who enlisted twice, although unlike most of the other servicemen, he did not leave Australia during his first stay with the A.I.F.

Solano originally joined up on November 24, 1915 and entered the Showgrounds camp but he was discharged as medically unfit in June of the following year after suffering a broken ankle.

At a Medical Board enquiry before his discharge, Solano claimed the injury occurred on Christmas Eve during what appears to have been a punch-up between off-duty soldiers and "authority" in Melbourne where he "was kicked by a member of the Military Police". The report notes "he admits taking liquor before the disturbance" and there was a suggestion was Solano was absent from camp without leave.

After the incident he was transferred to an Invalid Company in Ascot Vale where he ran up a series of offences, mostly AWL (on one occasion for 40 days) and others where "taking liquor" also played a major factor.

Despite his patchy record and the original discharge suggesting his ankle was both deformed and likely to restrict normal walking, Solano somehow managed to pass a medical when he re-enlisted on February 1, 1917, and was embarked for England and ultimately France.

Solano was reported as "Absentee" on 30 March, then as "Traced" on 12 April. The following day he was posted as "Absentee" again, but this was reversed when he was discovered at the 55th Casualty Clearing Station, admitted with what records only show as "N Y D poisoning".

Solano died of acute enteritis (inflammation of the intestinal tract) the following day - in a masterpiece of uselessness, the A.I.F. later decided that "no disciplinary action would be taken for the periods of absence".

His father died a couple of months after William and his mother in December, 1919 also died, the medals going to a sister, Alice.

There were others with stronger claims based on seniority and gender - Emily (1874, Mrs Tierney of Croxton), John (1881), Alice (1884), Mary (1886), Edward (1890) and Albert (1893), who served with the Australian Flying Corps. Another older brother, Henry was born in 1876 and died in 1914.

Solano's mother's name was originally shown as "Newman", but for most of her children, "Niemann" appears in official Birth Records.



Spargo, William John

Key Address : 33 Johnstone Street, Croxton

Rank and Unit : Rifleman, 3rd Auckland Battalion, New Zealand Forces (11th Reinforcements)

Embarked : HMNZT Opawa
Ship number MMNZT 73
Date of embarkation 2 January, 1917
Place of embarkation Wellington, New Zealand

Service Number : 35225 **Enlisted :** **At :**

Born At : Ballarat East **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 28/12/1917 **Aged :** 33

Place of Death : Polygon Wood

Buried At : 8 The Buttes New British (N.Z) Cemetery, Polygon Wood, Belgium

Occupation : Miner

Marital Status : **Single** **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John (late) and Mrs Mary Anne Spargo (nee Eddy),

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Little is known of Spargo's background or just why he was serving with the New Zealand forces.

New Zealand War Memorial records suggested he sailed from Wellington aboard HMNZT Opawa on 2 January, 1917. They have his death at Ypres, Belgium, but no details of his ultimate gravesite.

His fate came to light when a Death Notice appeared in early January, 1918, announcing he had been killed "somewhere in France" while serving as a Rifleman with the 3rd Auckland Battalion, noting he was the son of the late John Spargo of Ballarat, and Mrs M. Spargo of Croxton.

The father, John, is known to have died in 1903 in Ballarat East.

Directories show that the family moved to 33 Johnstone Street, Croxton around 1916, the house in the name of another son, David. They were originally from Ballarat, but Mrs Spargo appears in earlier directories at Carlton and South Melbourne.

As well as William and David, there were three other surviving children in the Death Notice shown as Mrs C. Edwick, Geelong Edith (1887), Leslie (1892) and "Bessie", Elizabeth, 1896).

The Spargo's first-born child, James was born in 1882, and died in 1890.



Sparrow, Frederick William

Key Address : Plenty Road, South Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 16 Infantry Battalion (December 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Ceramic
Ship Number : A40
Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 29 **Enlisted :** 14/09/1914 **At :** Helena Vale, W.A..

Born At : Cunningham **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 3/05/1915 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Chalby War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

Occupation : Farmer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William George and Antje May Sparrow (late, nee Sayers)
Sister Florence Sparrow

Eyewitnesses : "Witnesses state that Sparrow went out in the charge on Dead Man's Ridge on the night of 2nd and 3rd of May and did not turn up in the morning. ... On that occasion the Battalion went out about 900 strong and only 130 answered the Roll Call next morning" (Hummerston, Lt. H. S. 16th AIF)

Notes : Although not a lot is known of the family in the Preston area, Frederick and his brother [Private Rupert James Sparrow](#) were both listed on the South Preston State School Honour Roll unveiled in June, 1919.

Sparrow was listed as residing at Tambellup in Western Australia at the time of enlisting. Circulars later returned by the family gave the "area chiefly connected with" as Broken Hill for Frederick and Tambellup for Rupert.

Like many of those who enlisted and died early, there is precious little recorded of Sparrow's military career - in fact, a single sheet marked "Missing" on the 17 May, 1915, and "Killed In Action" as the result of an enquiry held on 16 April of the following year.

Although joining up in Western Australia, he embarked with B Company of the 16 Battalion from Melbourne, the Company made up exclusively of "sandgroppers".

Another witness testified that he had seen Sparrow badly wounded in the hip and thigh on the Ridge, but his body was never recovered.

The pair's father William also enlisted in Western Australia in January, 1915 as a Corporal, giving his age as 45 and revealing he was then a widower. He served both at Gallipoli and in France, but was not unsurprisingly repatriated back to Australia in 1917 as unfit for future active service.

William and Antje (nee Sayers) married in 1886 and in addition to Frederick and Rupert, their other children were Amy (1886), Charles (1888) and Florence (1896) appear in Victorian records, but William's archives suggest he had another child under the age of 14 years (thought to be Albert, whose name appears briefly in 1923 correspondence)..



Sparrow, Rupert James

Key Address : Plenty Road, South Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 11 Infantry Battalion (November 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Ascanius
Ship Number : A11
Date of Embarkation : 2 November 1914
Place of Embarkation : Fremantle

Service Number : 103 **Enlisted :** 26/06/1914 **At :** Tambellup. W. A.

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 25/04/1915 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Chalby War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

Occupation : Horse Driver

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next
Kin/Family : Parents William George and Antje May Sparrow (late, nee Sayers)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : A brother of [Private Frederick William Sparrow](#), Killed In Action. Most war-time records have him as Rupert James, but Victorian Birth Records suggest the reverse, James Rupert.

Rupert's embarkation lists his father in Broken Hill as next-of-kin but he was in Western Australia by January, 1915 when he enlisted as a 45 year-old widower with one child under 14 years of age. He nominated a daughter, Mrs Amy Alice Bradshaw in Tambellup as next-of-kin

William Sparrow outlived his two sons, and reached the rank of Sergeant before being invalided back to Australia in July, 1917, classified as "overage and debilitated".

The circular returned for Rupert also nominated Broken Hill as the district he was most chiefly concerned with.

The two brothers died just over three weeks apart after both were posted as Missing at Gallipoli, Rupert on the first day of the landings, 25 April, 1915 and Frederick 17 May, 1915. Both were officially declared Killed In Action on the respective dates at the same hearing held on 16 April of the following year.

Like his brother, Rupert's name appeared on a Honour Roll unveiled in 1919 of South Preston State School acknowledging students and staff killed during the war. This was in fact the only pointer to their fate, the Leader unaware of their earlier connection to the district.

Their mother's name is shown in both AWM and National Archives as Annie, but Victorian Birth Records for the brothers and other siblings, Amy (1886), Charles (1888) and Florence (1896), alternatively show "Antje", "Anje" and "Antji". There is no sign of a child under the age of 14, almost certainly born interstate - a receipt in 1923 authorises Albert Sparrow to collect a Memorial Plaque.



Spencer, Charles

Key Address : Woodlands Avenue, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private 14 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Anchises
Ship Number : A68
Date of Embarkation : 16 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5218 **Enlisted :** 3/10/1915 **At :** Alphington

Born At : Fairfield **Educated At :** Fairfield State School

Date of Death : 31/01/1918 **Aged :** 19

Place of Death : Spoil Bank, Belgium

Buried At : 131 Spoil Bank Cemetery, Zillebeke, Belgium

Occupation : Carpenter and joiner

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Richard and Mary Spencer (nee Bailey)

Eyewitnesses : "... saw him get hit on the head by a gas shell ... he came from a suburb of Melbourne, aged about 23, not married, about 5'7', rather slim ..." (W. Edgar, 2374)

Notes : Spencer's parents were shown in Woodlands Avenue when he embarked, and later in Mercil Road, Alphington. Woodlands Avenue no longer exists but is shown in directories of the time as intersecting St. Elmo Street, perhaps placing it in today's Ivanhoe.

His parents were living in Black Rock at the time of the circular being returned.

Spencer was slightly wounded in July, 1917 but re-joined his battalion within a week.

Several eyewitness reports confirm that Spencer was killed instantly by a gas shell, a couple of witnesses suggesting Spencer's head was blown off.

Most suggested he was around 5'7 or 5'8 but his attestation reveals he was 5'4 and just over eight stone and just met the minimum standard. But even at this modest stature, he was a "big brother" – a twin brother Bailey (a.k.a Hughie) was also accepted at 5'2 ½!

They were the eldest of several children, the others Queenie (1901), William (1905), Henry (1911) and Nathaniel (1911). Another brother, John was born in 1908 and died the following year.



Stait, Cecil Harry *

Key Address : 48 Beavers Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 39 Infantry Battalion
7 and 8 Reinforcements (February 1917 - February 1918)

Embarked : HMAT Ballarat
Ship Number : A70
Date of Embarkation : 19 February 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3148 **Enlisted :** 20/01/1917 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Southampton. England **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 12/10/1917 **Aged :** 26
Place of Death :
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Carpenter
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Father Frederick Stait
Wife Mrs Elise Hutchison Stait (nee Fleming, later Box)

Eyewitnesses : "... in the attack on Passchendaele he was shot through the groin. Nothing could be done for the wounded in advanced positions on the day of the attack and it is probable that he was later killed by a shell or died of exposure. There is no record of him going through any dressing station or hospitals so it is likely that he sank in the mud. No one in the battalion saw him later ..." (Fallshaw, P.C 3061)

Notes : Stait's address was shown as 48 Beavers Road on enlistment and 11 Kemp Street, Croxton by the time he embarked. He arrived in Australia in January, 1913, as a 21 year old with his father, but immigration records do not reference his mother and she is not shown in 1914 Electoral Rolls.

He married Elise Hutchinson Fleming in 1916, a son Cecil Harry junior arriving the same year and obviously just a month or two before he enlisted.

Stait's wife moved a few times, other addresses noted as 2 Darebin Road and 503 High Street in Northcote, and in 1917 at 9 Harold Street, Thornbury. By 1922, she had re-married to become Mrs Elise Box at that address. There was another family named Stait at 11 Johnston Street with two sons in service.

Stait was earlier listed as Wounded and Missing and a letter from his sister suggested a soldier had picked up his pocket book nearby several bodies of dead Australians, some of who were buried by a collapsed wall. He was confirmed Killed In Action by an enquiry on 4 April, 1918.



Stanton, William Horace

Key Address : 110 Bridge Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 24 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 18 Reinforcements (July-November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Miltiades
Ship Number : A28
Date of Embarkation : 1 August 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5428 **Enlisted :** 06/04/1916 **At :**

Born At : Prahran **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 04/05/1917 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Bullecourt, France

Buried At : Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France

Occupation : Varnish Maker, S. Smith and Sons, Kensington

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Arthur Henry and Fanny Florence Stanton (nee Love)
Wife Mrs Althea "Lily" Stanton (nee Oates)

Eyewitnesses : "Stanton was with his Battalion at Bullecourt on May 4th and while it was waiting to come out, a shell through a dugout where he was standing and killed him instantly. Signaller Morris known as "Darkie" of the A. or B. Coy. would be able to give more information about his burial" (P. Nixon, 679 C. Coy.)

Notes :

The only indication of his connection to the area came with the unveiling of the South Preston State School Honour Board in June, 1919. The Board listed "W. Stanton" as having died in service and (A., E., and R. as enlisting), but no serviceman of that initial included on the AWM Honour Roll bears any obvious connection to Darebin.

By cross-checking all embarkations under matching initials, the common denomination for all four became Arthur and Fanny Stanton of 14 Dartford Road, Newmarket.

Stanton's attestation revealed that he had previously been rejected with a hernia complaint and just how he passes the second medical remains a mystery. The day after he joined his unit in France, he was hospitalised for three months with a nasal infection. After returning, he served just two days and was again in hospital, this time with a recurrence of the hernia. Stanton re-joined his unit just seven days before he was Killed In Action.

The attestation also notes he had spent eight years serving with the Royal Naval Reserve, resigning when he married in 1913.

Along with William, the three surviving brothers that enlisted (Alfred (1894), Ernest (1895), and Roy, 1896) shared the house no less than eight other siblings, born over a 22 year period, Claude (1890), Amelia (1898), Jessie (1902), Harry (1903), Margaret (1905), Arthur (1906, died 1914), Nellie, (1909) and Cecilia (1911). Two others, Edward, 1889, and Algernon, 1890, both died within a month of birth.

Harry was shown as born in Northcote, and the family is shown briefly at 110 Bridge Street, Northcote in 1903-04, but there remains no obvious reason for at least four of the children attending south Preston State School.

William and "Lily" were married in 1914 - their first-born Thomas died just after birth in the same year, and Leslie, almost the infant certainly pictured in the portrait, died in 1916, nominally at two years of age. Civil Registrations reveal her actual name as Althea, but William used Lily in all records including his Will, and she signed receipts for his possessions using the same name.





Stapleton, Albert George (Reverend)

Key Address : "Langside", 127 Dundas Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Orvieto
Ship Number : A3
Date of Embarkation : 21 October 1914
Place of Embarkation :

Service Number : 146 **Enlisted :** 25/08/1914 **At :** Shepparton

Born At : Dublin, Ireland **Educated At :** State and Queens College

Date of Death : 25/04/1915 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Student/Methodist Minister

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Francis (late) and Eliza Stapleton
(nee Carney, later Jarvis)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

The Reverend Albert George Stapleton's background and connection to the Darebin area is one of the more mysterious of those within these archives.

He was first and for the only time linked in the general press to the local areas when the Heidelberg News reported "Private A. G. Stapleton, killed in action, was in private life the Rev. A.G. Stapleton residing at Alphington prior to enlisting", then describing him "as having made many friends locally" and "a strong and earnest preacher".

Supporting Stapleton's connection to our district was the only death notice that appeared in Melbourne papers, inserted by six members of the "Wright family, Alphington".

Nowhere in official directories in the four or five years leading up to declaration of war in August, 1914 is there no reference to a Stapleton (or Jarvis, given his step-father's name) resident in the Darebin area.

An obituary in The Argus suggested he was "lately stationed at Foster in the Victorian Alps, that he had applied for a position of Chaplain in the Armed Forces, but was overlooked in favour of more senior clergymen" and later enlisted with the consent of Methodist Church authorities as a combatant.

That well-known publication, the Foster and Toora Times confirmed he was the resident Minister of the Methodist Church at the time of his enlistment after being in charge of the travelling Ministry of the Wodonga District of the Methodist Church.

Albert's mother, Eliza re-married in 1900, becoming Mrs Isaac Jarvis. At the time of his enlistment, she was shown as living in East Caulfield, but from late in 1919, her address in National Archives records is confirmed as Dundas Street, Preston.

Stapleton's circular reveals he was three years old when he came to Australia. There is nothing in local records to suggest when his father died, but his mother married Edward Jarvis in 1900.

He spent five years with the Foster Rifle Club, suggesting the family originally settled in country Victoria.



Stephenson, Freddy

Key Address : 84 Errol Street, Thornbury
Rank and Unit : Private, 6th Battalion, 10th Reinforcements
Embarked : HMAT Hororata
 Ship Number A29
 Date of Embarkation : 23 November, 1916
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 7086 **Enlisted :** 16/10/1916 **At :**
Born At : England **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 23/08/1918 **Aged :** 32
Place of Death :
Buried At : Assevillers New British Cemetery, France
Occupation : Plumber
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.
Next of Kin/Family : Wife Mrs Elizabeth Stephenson (nee Hales, Stockpool, England)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Stephenson is a doubtful case for inclusion.

Several English-born men that feature in our archives remain something of a mystery, but Stephenson caused further confusion by nominating his address as 84 Errol Street, Northcote.

There is one major problem here - there has never been an Errol Street in either Thornbury or Northcote!

This may have been a simple clerical error confused Errol Street with the prominent thoroughfare in North Melbourne. The only street that could correspond in Thornbury is perhaps Harold Street.

He suggested his wife, Mrs E Stephenson, 8 Haddongrove, Reddish, Stockpool, England, as next of kin - just why she remained in England and any family details are unknown. The couple are shown as marrying at Reddish in 1910.

There is a Will dated 7 July, 1917 in her favour, but documentation dated in December, 1920 suggest a brother identified only as "G.E. Stephenson" "is now next of kin" and he received the war medals.

Stephenson is only noted in official records as "Freddy" - his father is identified as "Fred", but is noted as being dead when Freddy enlisted.

There is virtually nothing is revealed of Stephenson's war time experiences. All archives are under "Freddy" and as all correspondence with his family was back to England, no alternative address to Erroll Street was ever noted.



Stewart, William

Key Address : 24 Auburn Avenue, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 59th Battalion
Embarked Private

Embarked : HMAT Runic
Ship Number : A54
Date of Embarkation : 20 June 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as 489)

Service Number : 993 **Enlisted :** 1/02/1916 **At :** Horsham

Born At : Chicago, U.S.A. **Educated At :** State
Date of Death : 14/10/1917 **Aged :** 35
Place of Death : (of wounds), Passchendaele, Belgium
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Orchardist
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents David and Jessie Stewart (nee Ritchie)
Wife Mrs Rosa Sophia Stewart (nee Revolta, born U.S.A)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Stewart was the only local serviceman killed during the Great War noted as being born in the United States (or, in fact, in either North or South America).

Immigration records show the family arriving in Australia in 1882, William then aged three - his Attestation show him as an "Natural Born British Subject". Whether other children arrived is uncertain, but there were four siblings born locally.

Two survived - John (1890) and Jessie (1893), but Robert, born in 1893 (at one year) and an unnamed child in 1896 died prematurely.

The circular supplied by his wife Rosa noted he had eight cousins that served, suggesting it was very much an Australian family. Their marriage in 1912, however, reinforced the American connection, official records showing her as born in the United States. She had a sister, Marguerite who married in Carlton in 1909.

Stewart's widow moved to Horsham in 1922 with a son, Leslie and a daughter Ida.

His embarkation records quotes his number as 489.

National Archives record him as dying of wounds with no details of the actual injuries or where he was treated - it appears from later correspondence that his body was never found, suggesting he may technically have been Killed In Action.



Stone, Stephen Mark

Key Address : 105 Hawthorn Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 6 Infantry Battalion
13 to 18 Reinforcements (December 1915 - July 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 29 December 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4313 **Enlisted :** 24/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : West Melbourne **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 16/08/1916 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Pozieres, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Boot Trade (Yates & Co, Clifton Hill)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Richard and Elizabeth Annie Stone (nee Purser)

Eyewitnesses : "Stone had only just joined the battalion a fortnight earlier. It was his first battle, a severe one too - on the second night, Stone got hit resulting in his instantaneous death. I felt it very much, and it was a great shock to his many pals which whom he was a favourite" (Private Jim Barker, in a letter to his parents later published in the Leader, 4 Nov, 1916)

Notes : According to the Leader, Stone was a playing member of the Northcote City Football Club (then in the Victorian Junior Football Association), and a prominent local cyclist - and he was also mentioned in this latter capacity in Private Barker's letter (there were a dozen or more families of the latter name resident in Northcote alone).

He was the only son of the family, given in a Death Notice as Mrs F. Brook (Florence), Mrs E. Baguley (Frances) and Mrs R. Reid (Mary).

Records of Stone's military history are as brief as any in our database - he arrived at Marseilles in April, was Taken On Strength of the 6th Infantry Battalion on 30 July, 1917 and was killed just sixteen days later.

There is no official record of a change of address, but correspondence following Stone's death indicates that the family had moved to 29 Hawthorn Road, Northcote.



Stooke, Ernest Cecil (D.C.M)

Key Address : "Merribank", Smith Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant, 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps
Embarked Private 8 LHR [Light Horse Regiment] - 15 to 31

Embarked : HMAT Uganda
Ship Number : A66
Date of Embarkation : 2 May 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2324 **Enlisted :** 14/01/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Melbourne **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 19/08/1918 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : Palestine
Buried At : 9 Ramleh War Cemetery, Palestine

Occupation : Station Hand
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Ernest (late) and Georgina Stooke (nee Crichton)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Stooke enlisted as a humble infantryman, but was obviously an exemplary serviceman in the field and had a rapid rise through the ranks.

He was originally with the 8th Light Horse and was promoted to Lance Corporal in July, 1916. In March, 1917, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal when he was a Machine Gunner and was also mentioned in Despatches around the same time.

Stooke was promoted to Sergeant in June, and in October, 1917, he entered the Royal Flying Corps No. 3 School of Military Aeronautics. He graduated as a Pilot in January 1918, automatically becoming a 2nd Lieutenant and in March, he shipped out to Palestine to join the No. 1 Australian Corps.

Little documentation remains of his time there until he was killed in an aircraft crash on August 19. Stooke and a fellow pilot, Lieutenant Paul Krieg took an aircraft on a training flight and just after take-off, the engine started missing. Conventional wisdom was to keep the aircraft on a level flight, but Stooke tried to return to the airfield and after starting to bank into a turn, the engine died completely and both men were killed as the plane crashed into a stationary locomotive.

Both bodies were originally buried in what was described as a cemetery "behind the aerodrome". Stooke's remains were later moved to the Ramleh War Cemetery, then in in Palestine, but now part of modern-day Israel.

Stooke's father died aged 38 in 1899, and his mother was at several addresses over the years : , 64 Clarendon Street, Thornbury, 120 Spring Street, Regent, 56 Waterloo Road, Northcote, "Glencoe", Olive Grove, Reservoir (at the time of the circular), and finally at Murphy Grove, Preston.

In a somewhat bizarre twist, she was told by a returned serviceman in July 17 that her son had been killed "some months before" and it took several letters from Base Depot to ensure her that he was not at that stage on any casualty list.

There were also several letters post-War from Mrs Stooke and her daughter Jean enquiring at to the whereabouts of his D.C.M., it not appearing with any of the parcels of personal effects despite A.I.F. records suggesting it was given to him in Palestine. He also had two brothers, Henry and Leonard.

(Stooke's Distinguished Conduct Medal (D.C.M.) was the highest level honour for bravery awarded to a local serviceman. It was available to "other ranks" of the British Army and other Commonwealth forces and was second only to the Victoria Cross).



Strawbridge, Horace Charles

Key Address : 28 Penders Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Gunner 5 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Persic
 Ship Number : A34
 Date of Embarkation : 18 November 1915
 Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 7248 **Enlisted :** 12/08/1915 **At :** Albury, N.S.W.

Born At : Fitzroy **Educated At :** Fitzroy, South Preston State Schools
Date of Death : 27/12/1917 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : Ploegsteert Wood, France
Buried At : 297 Trios-Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck, France

Occupation : Watchmaker (Ingram Bros., Melbourne)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Albin George and Emily Amelia Strawbridge (nee Williams)
 Wife Frances Mary Strawbridge (nee Brown)

Eyewitnesses : "He enlisted, I think, at Albury, N.S.W. and was a watchmaker. On 27th December we were at Ploegsteert carrying on as usual. About evening a stray shell burst in the battery and badly wounded Strawbridge and he died before he could be taken to D/Station ..." (Driver Hall, 10423)

Notes : One of his cousins, Frank (known as "Red") was a well-known footballer with Preston, Fitzroy and later Prahran.

Strawbridge both enlisted and embarked without declaring he had a wife and suggesting his father was his next-of-kin, but he was married, although perhaps not with the blessing of his family.

He was slightly wounded in 1916 and it appears his wife, then in Carlton, saw the notice in a newspaper and wrote to Base Depot complaining she had no notification but his family in Thornbury were advised "and they never let me know".

She a month or so later produced a Marriage Certificate to support her claim to be his wife, but in September, 1917, again wrote to the Base Depot seeking Strawbridge's address as she had not received anything from him for twelve months.

Strawbridge was again wounded, this time to the left arm and thigh in November 1916 and did not return to France until July of the following year.

His widow and son Frederick (born in 1916) were later at several addresses around the Prahran, South Yarra and Malvern areas with a trail of "dead" letters left in her wake. She ultimately was in Albury by 1925 but returned the circular from Hawksburn.

His father shifted to South Yarra around nine months before his son's death and is shown in AWM records as "Albert", but birth records for Horace's four siblings, William, Albin junior, Ernest and Emily all show the somewhat unusual "Albin" .

The circular listed his schooling as at Fitzroy, but he was also included on the Honour Board at South Preston State School.



Studd, Leslie Walter

Key Address : 9 Morley Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 23 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1050 **Enlisted :** 25/02/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** Alfred Crescent, North Fitzroy State School

Date of Death : 5/09/1916 **Aged :** 24

Place of Death : (of wounds) 13th Gen Hospital, Pozieres, France

Buried At : 102 Bologne Eastern Cemetery, France

Occupation : Salesman

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Baptist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Walter and Sarah Hannah Studd (nee Bold)

Eyewitnesses : "... died in this hospital as you note on Sept. 5th and his death was the result of very severe gunshot wound in legs and arms made still more severe by gas poisoning. He was buried in part of the large French cemetery here ... I know from personal knowledge that he was delirious and raving for at least a couple of days before his death" (J.F.K. Branford, C of E Chaplain, 13th Field Hospital, Boulogne)

Notes : Studd's parents at the time of compiling the 1914 Electoral Rolls were at 107 Beavers Road, Northcote, and were later at 437 High Street, Prahran and by the time of the circular, were back in Northcote at 131 Gladstone Street.

He was on board the troopship Southland when the vessel was torpedoed en-route to the Dardanelles (when 14 were killed in the explosion and 22 were drowned).

Studd survived both the torpedoing and around 15 weeks at Gallipoli before the evacuation.

After arriving in England and then transferred to the Western Front. He was wounded in the left leg and arm on 25 August, 1916 and transferred to the 13th General Hospital at Boulogne where he died just under two weeks later.

Leslie Studd had a younger brother Harry, a younger sister, Vera, and another brother Edward died within a month of childbirth.



Sugden, John

Key Address : "Walhalla", Clarke Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Able Seaman Driver, Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train Reinforcements [1-9] (July 1915 - February 1916), later Private, 22nd Infantry Battalion

Embarked : HMAT Wandilla
Ship Number : A62
Date of Embarkation : 9 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Re-Embarked : HMAT Euripides (later HMS Teutonic)
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 1 May 1918
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 424/51455 **Enlisted :** 24/07/1915, 20/09/1917 **At :**

Born At : Hull, England **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 03/10/1918 **Aged :** 32

Place of Death : (of wounds), Bauevoir, France

Buried At : 375 Bellicourt British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Seaman

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C of E

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Watson and Harriet Sugden

Eyewitnesses : "He had been on Bridging Train Co. in Gallipoli in 1914. He had been home and re-enlisted. At Bauevoir on the Hindenberg line on October 3rd, our Battalion. hopped over the top on night of 2nd and Sugden was hit and killed. He volunteered to take out wounded with three others. I saw a Fritz shell hit the party - fell right amongst them. Some blown to pieces, Sugden had his leg blown off and hit badly in the body. He was carried to a Dressing Station. I did not see anything further of Sugden" (Private. J. H. Inifer, 6833)

Notes : John Sugden was one of a handful of local servicemen that enlisted twice - in his case, volunteering a second time after falling ill with diphtheria and pharyngitis while in Egypt and being repatriated to Australia after the Naval Bridging Team was demobilised in May, 1917.

The Leader did not report his death, and perhaps given his rather entangled personal and military life, perhaps wisely!

Undeterred by his early "retirement" from the ranks, Sugden re-enlisted in September, 1917 (using the name "Jack") and in a unique voyage embarked on HMAT Euripides which sailed for New York, where he was transferred to the HMS Teutonic en route to Liverpool, a journey taking in total nearly nine weeks. He was killed a week after joining his new unit in France.

On his first enlistment, he claimed both of his parents were deceased (National Archives reveal that both were alive in England and in regular correspondence with the A.I.F. Base Depot) and nominated a "friend", Mrs M. Stevens in Newcastle, N.S.W. as next-of-kin.

By the time of his re-joining, the "friend" as next of kin was now Mrs Jessie O'Loughlin, originally at the Clarke Street address, and later at 32 Bower Street.

In an extraordinary letter to Base Depot just before Sugden was repatriated, Mrs O'Loughlin repudiated the nomination of Mrs Stevens as next-of-kin : "... he used to board there when he was in port. Had he known he would have found me, he would have given me as next of kin. When he came to Melbourne after a lot of trouble, he found me, that is how he left me his money to draw and he will stay at my place when he returns to Melbourne".



Sumner, Roy Gordon

Key Address : 255 Clarke Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 21 Company Australian Machine Gun Corps. Embarked 14 Infantry Battalion - 5 to 12 Reinforcements (April-November 1915)

Embarked : SS Makarini
Date of embarkation : 15 September 1915
Place of embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2666 **Enlisted :** 27/04/1915 **At :**

Born At : Sydney **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 26/03/1918 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : (of gas poisoning,), 53rd General Hospital, France

Buried At : 64 Wimereux Communal Cemetery, France

Occupation : Tramway Employee

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Sydney Frederick and Gladys Jean Sumner (nee McIntosh)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Sumner gave his English-born mother Jean in Lygon Street, Brunswick, as his next of kin, but was living with his married brother, Claude, Claude's wife Gertrude, and an elder sister, Gladys at 255 Clarke street, Northcote.

He spent some time in hospital with minor ailments (influenza and suspected mumps) before suffering a scalp wound in April, 1917. Sumner was returned to England and after being released from hospital reverted to back to the rank of Private at his own request after previously acting as a Lance Corporal.

Like many others, he contracted venereal disease while on light duties and forfeited 82 days pay before he returned to duty.

Sumner returned to France in January, 1918, and was caught in a gas attack on 18 March, 1918. He was taken to the 2nd Casualty Clearing Station and then the 53rd General Hospital where he died eight days later. There are no surviving Red Cross records of his time in hospital or his death.

His sister, Gladys Nettska Sumner enlisted as a nurse, aged 28, with the Australian Medical Corps British Indian Service in August, 1916, spending around 10 months in India, before embarking for Salonika, tending British forces sent to support the Greek government against an advance by Bulgarian forces. She returned to Melbourne in May, 1919. Her attestation has her born in London.

Immigration records suggest the family arrived in November, 1890 when Claude was six and Gladys four. Their father was shown as Frederick and 29 years of age, and his father in turn, Joseph as 56.

In response to the usual query from Base Depot as to whether she was "the nearest blood relative" following Roy's demise, Mrs Sumner suggested "his father is many years dead".



Sumpter, Henry

Key Address : "Willrose", Perry Street, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private 6 Infantry Battalion - 24 and 25 Reinforcements (February-August 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 4 August 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 7578 **Enlisted :** 23/02/1916 **At :** Fairfield

Born At : Northhampton, England **Educated At :** State School (England)

Date of Death : 11/07/1918 **Aged :** 34

Place of Death : Meriville, France

Buried At : 28 Borre British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Boot Finisher

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Sarah Sumpter
Wife Mrs Rose Annie Sumpter

Eyewitnesses : "At Meeris, N. of Meriville. A shell killed him and I was wounded at the same time by the same shell. I was walking behind him and though half dazed I saw him fall. He was very much liked though only four months in the Battalion" (Bini, Alfred, 6th Battalion)

Notes : The circular and his attestation suggest Sumpter was aged 29 when he arrived in Australia (without specifying a year) – immigration records put him as 32 when he arrived in 1911.

His wife and two children, William and Rose, appear to have migrated the following year.

Sumpter had served for 186 days in the Boer War when he couldn't have been much older than 17 or 18.

It is not clear whether it was standard for English-born servicemen, but Sumpter's file includes a page carrying the Buckingham Palace insignia "I join with my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War" and signed by King George.

His widow by the time of his death was at 98 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford and by 1923 had remarried (traced via press advertisements), becoming Mrs Stevens and residing in Hawthorn. Perry Street was not numbered when Sumpter enlisted; the house was on the eastern side and at the time the only one between Edwin and Darebin Street. They were at 122 Station Street, Alphington, at the time of compiling the 1914 Electoral Rolls



Sutch, Claude Albert Bromell

Key Address : 1 Gordon Grove, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Corporal, 8th Battalion Australian Infantry
Embarked Private 24 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Commonwealth
Ship Number : A73
Date of Embarkation : 26 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3258 **Enlisted :** 13/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Richmond **Educated At :** Burnley State School, Working Men's College

Date of Death : 1/08/1916 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : (of wounds), No. 9 Australian General Hospital, Rouen, France

Buried At : 145 St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France

Occupation : Foreman of Roadworks (Northcote City Council)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James and Louisa Jane Sutch (nee Bromell)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Sutch's father James was originally listed as next-of-kin and later (1921) shown at 24 McCracken Avenue, Northcote, and by 1930 at 22 Traill Street.

At the time of his son's death, he was president of the influential Northcote South Ratepayer's Association and later became a long-serving Northcote councillor (and Mayor in 1925-26). He also ran a wood and fuel business in St. George's Road.

Sutch served for several months in Egypt as part of a unit protecting the Suez Canal from Turkish attack before being transported to England in May, 1916.

The Leader reported that just a few days before Claude's death, his sister has received from him a small box contained fragments from a shell which had previously slightly wounded him, with a note suggesting "the aluminium could be worked into rings for keepsakes".

Sutch was working with a party of 10 men untangling barbed wire in No Man's Land when he was wounded by a shell explosion - he died a few hours later at No. 9 Australian General Hospital, Rouen.

A death notice in the Leader suggests he had other sisters, but was the only son of the family.

An obituary, however, after the passing of his mother Louisa in February, 1940 at 74 years of age noted her husband pre-deceased her by some years and she was the mother of Harold - (deceased, and according to Victorian records at six years of age), Claude, Norton (deceased at one month), Lillian (deceased at four years), Myrtle (Mrs Hedley Ellis), Ruby (Mrs Whitebread), and Millie (Mrs Whitfield).

The circular returned by his father suggested Sutch had a cousin Albert Young killed in France.





Sutherland, Kenneth Arthur

Key Address : "Dunrobin", 54 Heidelberg Road, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 24 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Anchises
Ship Number : A68
Date of Embarkation : 26 August 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2000 **Enlisted :** 21/06/1915 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Woodford **Educated At :** Fairfield State School

Date of Death : 5/08/1916 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : Mouquet Farm, Pozieres, France

Buried At : 280 Courcellette British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Tanner (R. W. Thomson & Co.)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents David and Agnes London Sutherland (nee Thomson)

Eyewitnesses : "It was too awful and I do not like to tell you about it and I hope his family will always think he is missing. He was a despatch bearer and runner at Pozieres. He and another runner named Corporal Bond were working together, Bond had the papers and they were given a message to take to Headquarters. They lost their bearings as it was dark and Sutherland dropped into a German trench. Cpl Bond saw him surrounded by Germans but could not go to his assistance as he had to deliver the papers ..." (Sergeant J. T. Campbell, 994)

Notes : Other eyewitness reports Sutherland was extremely popular with his fellow soldiers.

The Leader of August 30, 1916 lists "E. A. Sutherland" as Killed In Action with an address of 39 Kelvin Grove, Fairfield - also suggesting he had served at Gallipoli and was the last of his original platoon surviving.

There is no E. A. Sutherland listed as embarking for overseas, but an Honour Roll unveiled at the Northcote Presbyterian Church in 1922 included the name, "K. Sutherland" in its "In Remembrance" section.

National Archives reveal that the were undoubtedly one and the same, the background somewhat clouded by the Leader's use of an incorrect initial and that Sutherland, despite living and being educated in Fairfield attended the Northcote Presbyterian Church on Rucker's Hill. They confirm Kenneth Sutherland did serve briefly at Gallipoli.

One report suggests "Mouquet Farm", the site of a battle that followed the diversionary attack at Fromelles in the second half of July, 1916 was alternatively known to the Australian troops as "Mucky Farm" or "Moo Cow Farm".

Birth records cloud his background even further, suggesting that a Kenneth Woodford Sutherland was born in 1893 (corresponding with our serviceman's age of the time of his death, but "Kenneth" is listed as dying at two months of age early in 1894.

The remainder of the family were Isabella (1890), Constance (1891), Robert (1892), Arthur Kenneth (1895), David (1897) and Eric (1899).



Swift, Leslie Alfred (alias Smith, William Alfred)

Key Address : 101 Mitchell Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 16 Infantry Battalion
1 to 6 Reinforcements (December 1914 - June 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Borda
Ship Number : A30
Date of Embarkation : 23 June 1915
Place of Embarkation : Adelaide

Service Number : 2158 **Enlisted :** 24/03/1915 **At :** Keswick, S.A.

Born At : Sigtour Hill **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 14/08/1916 **Aged :** 16
Place of Death : (of wounds), France
Buried At : 145 St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France

Occupation : Jockey?
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Mary Jane Swift (nee Wilson)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

The original attestation has "Smith" as just under 22 years of age and as a jockey with next-of-kin given as "friend, Miss Smith" (presumably from where he took his assumed name) living at 190 Mitchell Street, North Melbourne,

The AWM suggests he was just 16 when he died the following year and the subterfuge may have been designed to allow him to enlist without his parents permission.

Perhaps officialdom already had doubts – later attestations are annotated "stated to be sister, M. Swift". Not surprisingly, several letters from Base Depot to her were returned as undeliverable. Later reports in the Leader suggest he was the third son in the family and two of his brothers were serving in France.

Confusing the issue further is a letter written by a nurse at the hospital where he died to Mrs Dixon of Stanhope Road, Malvern who apparently was given by Swift as his closest relative just before he died (probably Mabel, below).

Swift suffered gunshot wounds to the chest on August 6 1916 and was admitted to the 10th General Hospital at Rouen the following day where he died at 10:55 am on August 14

Perhaps no surprise that no circular was returned, but he was a brother of Private. [Thomas George Lionel Swift](#), 3942, also Killed In Action. Leslie and Thomas had three other siblings, Mabel (1891), Charles (1896, A.I.F.) and Doris (1901).



Swift, Norton Reginald

Key Address : "Olinda", Prospect Grove, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 8 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 4 April 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5458 **Enlisted :** 24/01/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** King's College, Clifton Hill,
Burnley Horticultural College

Date of Death : 19/04/1917 **Aged :** 27

Place of Death : (of wounds), France

Buried At : 512 Grevillers British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Orchardist and Farmer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William George and Mindora Swift (nee Carnegie)

Eyewitnesses :

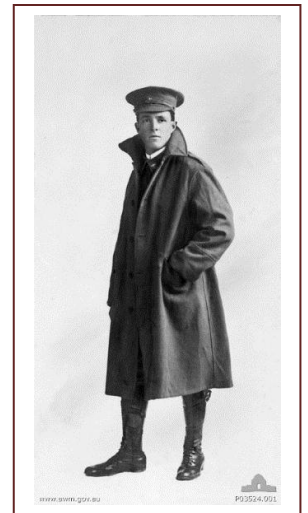
Notes : Reginald Norton Swift was the son of the long-serving Northcote Town Clerk, and later author of the first history of Northcote, William George Swift.

Swift suffered a fractured skull and burns after a shell explosion on April 17, 1917, and was transferred to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station the following day, dying some 24 hours later.

Swift's name was later included on the Honour Board of the All Saint's Church in Northcote as one of the congregation that was lost during the Great War.

Swift had four known siblings : two brothers, Vernon (a twin, 1890) and William Howard, and two sisters, Olive (1888) and Mindora (after her mother). A cousin, [Sergeant Harold Richard Clay](#) of Doncaster was also Killed in Action, his parents placing their own Death Notice.

He was listed as "orchardist and farmer" by his father on the circular, but as "boot trade" in the 1914 Electoral Roll. The former would seem to be correct given his training at Burnley Horticultural College.





Swift, Thomas George Lionel

Key Address : 101 Mitchell Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 22nd Battalion (Infantry)
9 to 12 Reinforcements (February-April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Warilda
Ship Number : A69
Date of Embarkation : 8 February 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3942 **Enlisted :** 12/07/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Carlton **Educated At :** SS

Date of Death : 18/08/1918 **Aged :** 24

Place of Death : Proyzart, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Boot maker (McLean, Hickmott & Parker, Collingwood)

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Mary Jane Swift (nee Swift)
Wife Mrs Violet Winifred Swift (nee Grainger, later Price)

Eyewitnesses : "He was missing at Heleville in the hop-over on August 18th. Nobody saw him after the hop-over, but a photo addressed to "My Dear Tom" from "Your loving wife, Vi" was found near a grave in which were buried (by the Germans who had temporarily occupied the ground) one Sergeant (Sgt Bregenzer, D.C.M of B. Coy) and six unknown Australians ... Tom Swift was a married man, fair, short, nuggetty, slight bandy-legged, had a wound mark on face" (Sgt, W.M. Bunting, 2262, 22 Battalion)

Notes : Brother of Private. [Leslie Alfred Swift](#), 2168, (alias William Thomas Smith), who died of wounds.

The addresses for Thomas Swift's parents are alternatively shown as 101 and 119 Mitchell Street which correspond with those in his brother's rather confusing history.

His attestation by comparison with his younger brother's is almost Gospel truth but he was another that "forgot" a wife, nominating his mother at Mitchell Street as next-of-kin.

Official Victorian record reveal he had married Violet Winifred Grainger in 1913, and a son, Leslie was born in 1917, strongly suggesting the couple still were co-habiting at the time Swift enlisted.

His wife's name first appears official records in December, 1916 when she advised a change of address to 17 William Street, Footscray. There was a brief squabble over who should receive his war medals, Swift's mother unsuccessfully claiming them as his widow had remarried (Mrs Violet Pride) and "did not treat my son right while he was away on the other side".

Swift was slightly wounded in March, 1917, rather more seriously so in May when suffered a gunshot wound to the face that saw him spend several months in the Kitchener Military Hospital before re-embarking for France in November.

He was listed as missing as at August 18 1918, and certified Killed In Action at an enquiry in February of the following year.

Leslie and Thomas had three other siblings, Mabel (1891), Charles (1896) and Doris (1901).



Swinton, Thomas Noble Field

Key Address : "Arcadie", Hammond Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Did not enlist
Embarked :
Service Number : **Enlisted :** **At :**
Born at : Ballarat **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 04/12/1916 **Aged :** 23
Place of Death : Firth, England
Buried At :
Occupation : Munitions worker, Vickers, Sons & Maxim, England
Marital Status : Single **Religion :**
Next of Kin/Family : Parents James and Agnes Swinton (nee Thompson)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Whether Swinton should really be included as a "war death" is problematical.

There is no record of him in either Australian War Memorial - either the Honour Roll or Commemorative Roll which records those serving with non-Australian forces - or in National Archive records.

He did not enlist in any branch of the Australian armed forces, and but he was one of a few Australians working with British munitions companies, in his case with Vickers, Sons & Maxim, a prominent manufacturer of ordnance and ammunition in Firth in northern England.

Details of whether the death was accidental or from illness are not known.

The only references to his death came in personal notices published in The Argus in December, 1916 and again in 1918, both placed by his sister, Jessie, then living at Conargo in country New South Wales. She suggested that Thomas was a munitions worker and the seventh son of the family.

The In Memoriam notice appeared in the "On Active Service" section, but it is highly improbable that newspapers ever bothered to check the credentials of those included, and perhaps significantly, the original notice appeared under "Deaths".

His parents married in 1869, the other children Jessie (1870), John (1871), James (1873), David (1875), William (1877), George (1879), Charles (1881), Agnes (1885) and Robert (1887). All, including Thomas, were born in Ballarat.

Swinton's parents James and Agnes were listed at Hammond Street, from 1913, and then from 1916 at 23 Union Street, both addresses in Northcote.

He appears to have already been in England when he joined Vickers. The defence Department maintained a file of Munitions workers, but Swinton's name is not included.

There are 6,353 dossiers held in the file, but only a small proportion appeared to have gone to England. Those that did were paid £5 to cover their time in transit on the understanding that they report to the British Ministry of Munitions on arrival and work for the duration of the war.



Sykes, Victor Leonard

Key Address : Epping

Rank and Unit : Private, 58th Battalion Infantry. Embarked 23rd Battalion, 6th Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number A38
Date of Embarkation : 27 October, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2803 **Enlisted :** 15/07/1915 **At :**

Born At : Foster **Educated At :** State School, Foster

Date of Death : 27/09/1917 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : Passchendaele, Belgium

Buried At : Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, Belgium

Occupation : Engine Driver

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Elizabeth Sykes (nee Ritchie, later Ferri)

Eyewitnesses : "The Battalion were in the Assembly Trench, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele about noon on September 12/17 waiting to be relieved. Three large shells fell in the trench and killed several men. Sykes was one of the men killed. I was close by and saw him fall, but I could not tell if he was killed by the shock or hit by shell pieces ..." (Private. J. A. Hart, 2362)

Notes : Sykes nominated his mother, then Mrs Elizabeth Ferri simply at Epping as his next of kin, and whether the family lived within the Darebin area is uncertain. She is later noted at 50 Hanmer Street, Williamstown.

His full siblings were Elizabeth (1876), Francis (1880) and Minnie (1885), another, Mary born in 1885 died at 22 months) and the circular suggested he had a step-brother, Corporal B. (Bert) Ferri (3097) who returned to Australia and was awarded the Military Medal.

Sykes' Will left all his estate to be divided equally between his mother and a Hannah Vockensohn of Epping.

Other eyewitnesses confirmed that the bodies of Sykes and others killed were buried by subsequent shell fire and no attempt could be mounted to recover their remains.

In an unusual twist, his archive contains a note from the Imperial War Graves Commission suggesting that they had exhumed the remains of an unknown soldier in the Passchendaele area and had discovered a metal photo case inscribed "from D ? V. S. to V. S" and that they believed Sykes was the only deceased Australian soldier with the initials V. S. whose body had not been located.

Base Depot responded "that it is not possible to recommend the grave in question as that of 2803, Sergeant V. L. Sykes, 58th Battalion, as your return shows an unknown Australian soldier (implying no indication of Sykes' rank of Sergeant).

Base Depot also debated whether there was a serviceman with the initials "V. S" killed in action within the immediate area and "whose grave had not been found". The photo case was subsequently forwarded the case to Sykes' mother, and she confirmed that it belonged to her son, although the donor of the case was not identified.

The references to "Ferri" were actually a shortened version of a rarity of the time - an Italian name that our Anglo-Saxon mentality had some problems with.

Elizabeth Sykes re-married in 1891 after the death of her first husband in 1888 - to Bortoli Calsaferri, the wedding in Maldon. "Bert" Ferri appears to have been born Alberto, the other children of Elizabeth's second marriage being Amelia (1891) and Antonio (1893).



Tapner, Benjamin Stavelly

Key Address : "Arundel", 81 Heidelberg Road, Clifton Hill

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant 22 Infantry Battalion
Embarked Corporal 22 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 697 **Enlisted :** 11/02/1915 **At :** Clifton Hill

Born At : Clifton Hill **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 29/07/1916 **Aged :** 23
Place of Death : (of wounds), 44 Casualty Clearing Station, Puchevilles, France
Buried At : 74 Puchevilles British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Accountant
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Benjamin William and Emily Mary Catherine Tapner
(late, nee Green)

Eyewitnesses : "He was wounded at Pozieres at the end of July during a bombardment. His wound was very bad. He lay in the trench for an hour or two. The bombardment was too heavy for us to move. He was taken to the dressing station and died two hours later ... his wounds were awful, he was too bad to be dressed and was unconscious all the time". (Private G Williamson, 3967)

Notes : Although Tapner lived in Clifton Hill, he was well known in Northcote through his work with the Sunday School of the All Saint's Church where his name was included on the Honour Board.

Tapner did not reveal any record of service with the Citizen's Forces when he enlisted, but he moved rapidly through ranks

Embarking as a Corporal, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in May, 1915 and to Second Lieutenant in March, 1916, just after returning to his unit after spending time in hospital in Alexandria with influenza. He was again promoted in July, 1917 to full Lieutenant.

He died of wounds to the right arm and thigh and left foot just fourteen days later. The only eyewitness report that confirms just which station Tapner died at suggests the 44th Casualty Clearing Station at Puchevilles.

Tapner had a sister, Edith (1891) and a younger brother, George (1898).

Their mother, Emily, died in 1904 at Clifton Hill, aged 43.

Tapner's archives contains correspondence from 1940 reveals Edith supplied a Statutory Declaration) requesting a replacement for her "Nearest Female Relative" badge (pictured) which she had lost, suggesting she was aware of a badge being handed in to authorities about the time she had lost hers, but she was unable to positively identify whether it was hers as she had been in England for three years and had misplaced the original registration number.





Tarrant, Francis Joseph

Key Address : "Malvern House", 35 Westgarth Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Flight Lieutenant 3rd Squadron, Australian Flying Corps
Embarked Sergeant 4 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 18 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shows Tarrant, Joseph Francis)

Service Number : 7014 **Enlisted :** 23/09/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Clifton Hill **Educated At :** St. John's College, Clifton Hill
St. Patrick's College, Eastern Hill

Date of Death : 17/02/1918 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : France

Buried At : 285 Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Tailor's cutter (J & B Synders)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Francis Joseph and Emma Julia Tarrant (nee Oregan)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Frank Tarrant was one of the few in our files that served the country outside of the A.I.F.

After being in France for around ten months and reaching the rank of Brigade Sergeant Major, Tarrant was selected for training as an Observer in the Australian Flying Corps and joined the course at School of Instruction at Reading in April, 1917.

On graduating as an Observer, he was appointed Second Lieutenant in the A.F.C. in June and to full Lieutenant in September.

No circular was returned and few details of his death other than "Killed In Action" are recorded in the National Archives.

However, the official Australian history of the World War suggests that Tarrant was probably killed by "friendly fire".

He was flying over German lines directing a British artillery barrage when this aircraft exploded - there were no enemy planes in the vicinity and no anti-aircraft fire, the history concluding that Tarrant's craft was probably hit by one of the British shells.

The Darebin WW1 Encyclopaedia records his death, but shows an incorrect date of demise.

His mother from 1920 was in Middle Park, a note from her regarding next-of-kin reveals that her husband died about six months after her son.

Frank's siblings were Mary (1891), Cornelius (1897), Ambrose (1899), Rose (1901), Adelaide (1903) and Blanche (1906).



Taylor, John Granville Francis

Key Address : 58 Yarra Street, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private, 8 Infantry Battalion
1 to 6 Reinforcements (December 1914 - June 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 14 April 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1813/1598 **Enlisted :** 6/01/1915 **At :**

Born At : Carlton **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 26/01/1918 **Aged :** 32

Place of Death : Alphington

Buried At :

Occupation : Carpenter

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William John Taylor and Mary Harriett Taylor (nee Granville)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : The Argus reported Taylor's death on Tuesday, 29 January, 1918.

The report reversed his initials (which didn't help our search) and describing him as "a returned soldier" may have been a little flattering - the term usually applied to those repatriated through wounds or illness, but in Taylor's case, he "returned" simply because he was thrown out of the A.I.F.

He was in trouble soon after arriving in Egypt for failing to obey Standing Camp Orders, an offence that earned him 28 days Field Punishment and a similar forfeiture of pay.

Within a month, he was on Court Martial for absent from camp for just over 36 hours. Despite pleading guilty, he was sentenced to nine months imprisonment with hard labour, a remarkably harsh punishment compared with other similar offences, and one that suggests there were other problems in his background that National Archives do not reveal.

He remained in prison at the Serapeum Camp, near the Suez Canal in Egypt, before the A.I.F. washed their hands of him, and returned him to Australia in July, his papers stamped "no longer required".

The "Constable Proudfoot" mentioned as conveying the body to the Morgue was "Bill" Proudfoot, long-standing captain of the Collingwood Football Club.

Both the National Archives and AWM include "Grenville" amongst his given names, but his mother's maiden name for all five children is shown as "Glanville".

Taylor's siblings were William (1875), Florence (1877), Agnes (1879), Janet (1880), Arthur (1887) and Percy (1889). Another daughter, Ellen was born in 1882, but died at three months.

Returned Soldier Drowned.

An element of mystery surrounds the death by drowning of John F. G. Taylor, one of a party of fishermen who camped on the bank of the Yarra at about a mile from Alphington on Saturday night. The party arrived from Alphington at 7 o'clock, and an hour and a half later Taylor said he was going in for a swim. One of his friends, William Hayes, endeavoured to dissuade him, but Taylor left the party and undressed himself about 50 yards away. They heard a splash shortly afterwards, but as no further sounds came from the place where he entered the water, they became anxious for his safety, and searched for him. No trace of Taylor could be found, however, and the Alphington police were notified. Dragging operations were continued for several hours on Saturday night and throughout Sunday, but without result, but yesterday morning the body was found floating in the water near the spot where deceased had taken his fatal plunge. The body was removed to the Morgue by Constable Proudfoot, and the matter was reported to the coroner. Taylor, who was 32 years of age, was a returned soldier, and a carpenter by trade. He resided in Yarra street, Alphington.



Temple, Reginald David

Key Address : Wood Street, Preston
Rank and Unit : Private 21 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)
Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 297 **Enlisted :** 30/03/1915 **At :** Broadford
Born At : Broadford **Educated At :** Broadford
Date of Death : 23/08/1916 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France
Occupation : Japanner (H. P. Zwar Tannery)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alfred and Elizabeth Temple (nee Tonneselly)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Temple's name appears on the Preston Cenotaph although AWM references are to Broadford, and his parents moving to Brunswick in 1916.

Around 18 months before he enlisted, Reginald and his brother Cecil moved from Broadford to Wood Street, Preston. The house was not numbered, but was three doors east of Tennyson Avenue.

Both were leather workers, Cecil later becoming a leading player with the Preston Cricket Club.

The brothers, along with at least three members of the Fothergill clan of some sporting fame moved to the Preston district around 1913-14 to work at H. P. Zwar's "Parkside" tannery after another tannery owned by the Zwar family in Broadford closed down.

His enlistment is something of a mystery - his archives open with an Attestation dated 25 January, 1915 with no Service Number appended - then followed by a second Attestation, this dated 30 March, 1915 and with number 297 noted.

A serviceman enlisting and then being released for medical or personal reasons was not entirely uncommon - and in Temple's case, the time off seems to have done him a power of good - he was 5' 6 in January, and 5' 11 by the time of his second enlistment!

"Complexion : Fresh, Eyes : Blue" equated, but Hair : Dark Brown became Hair : Fair.

Temple arrived in Egypt and later disembarked at Gallipoli at the end of September after surviving the torpedoing of the troopship Southland, one report suggesting he spent an hour in the water after one of the lifeboats put alongside the stricken vessel capsized,

He arrived back in Alexandria in January, 1916 and copped seven days Field Punishment and loss of pay for a similar period for being AWL for 48 hours before embarking for France, arriving at Marseilles later in March. Another couple of days F.P. for being absent from a Roll Call is the final entry on his record before the ultimate Killed In Action some four and a half months later. A Death Notice placed in the local Broadford Courier suggest he serving as the stretcher bearer for the 21st Battalion.

Reg was the youngest of four children, his siblings; Florence (1882), Blanch (1884), Frederick (1886) and Cecil (1890).



Thompson, Cuthbert Charles

Key Address : "Yarrowee", 21 Arthur Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Acting Corporal,
23 Infantry Battalion - 9 to 12 Reinforcements (February-April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 7 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4197 **Enlisted :** 13/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Alphington **Educated At :** Fairfield State School and University HS
Date of Death : 23/08/1916 **Aged :** 28
Place of Death : Pozieres, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Clerk/Accountant
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas Charles and Cecilia Marie Thompson (nee Ferry)

Eyewitnesses : "He was a 12th Reinforcement man late of the 6th Batt. He had been a Sergeant. He was killed going into Fleurs Trench together with Sergeant Tilly, and this was reported to the Batt." (L/Cpl Evans, 4689)

Notes : Thompson was known as 'Bert' and was the founder of the Fairfield Hockey Club in 1907. His father was also president of the club before Cuthbert enlisted.

Despite the eyewitness reference to him previously being a Sergeant, records show he embarked as Private and was appointed Acting Corporal in June 1916, just two months before he was killed. For reasons not evident from Thompson's archives, it was nearly eight months between the time he enlisted and his embarkation (in most cases, eight weeks would be more like the average).

The four of five eyewitness accounts were fairly sketchy, but have him killed near Pozieres on either the 22 or 23 August, 1916 - and suggest he was killed by shell fire.

The Leader on reporting his death suggested he was the only son of the family, but he had a brother Ivan (1895) who also enlisted. There were also two daughters, Lillian (1891) and Dorothea (1893).



Thompson, Frank Woodfield Dixon

Key Address : Lucerne Crescent, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal, 7th Battalion, 12th Reinforcements. Originally embarked Private, 14th Battalion, 6th Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A62
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 696 **Enlisted :** 19/08/1914 **At :** Eastern Hill

Born At : Guildford **Educated At :** Lee Street State School, Carlton
Date of Death : 12/10/1915 **Aged :** 33
Place of Death : Gallipoli
Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Boot-maker
Marital Status : Single Religion : Protestant

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John (late) and Jane Thompson (nee Graham)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Thompson gave his mother Mrs Jane Thompson, "c-o Perth PO, Perth, Western Australia" as his next of kin - she returned to 46 George Street, Fitzroy, but died before medals were distributed. The decorations passed to a brother, Charles, the owner of the Alphington property that Thompson gave as his residential address.

Thompson was born at Guildford in country Victoria, but educated in Carlton.

His Attestation suggested he had served in the Senior Cadets, Victoria, in the Perth Militia and with the Cape Town Highlanders during the South African War - given he was just 33 when he was killed at Gallipoli, he would have been at most 19 or 20 during the earlier conflict.

He enlisted and embarked under the simple name Frank Thompson, authorities uncovering his full name before circulars were issued to relatives.

The circular returned by Charles suggested Frank also had some training as a seaman, farmer and gold-miner. He was the youngest of seven children, the others Adeline (1864), Amy (1867), William (1872), Marion (1875), Arthur (1878) and Helen (1879).



Thompson, George James

Key Address : 7 Birt Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 23 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Afric
Ship Number : A19
Date of Embarkation : 5 January 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Thompson)

Service Number : 3652 **Enlisted :** 16/08/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Clifton Hill **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Armentieres, France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Printer (apprentice, William Detmold Limited)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Father James and Emma Jane Thompson (nee Baker)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

There is considerable confusion over the spelling of his family name.

AWM Embarkation records and the Honour Roll show him as Thompson and this is confirmed by Birth records, however, National Archives have him as Thomson, the version used by the Leader in reporting his death.

His original attestation suggested he was 19 years and three months when he enlisted, and was accompanied by a letter from his employer, William Detmold Limited, (a printing, stationery and packaging company established in the 1860s and surviving today), officially cancelling his indentures of apprenticeship.

A later note from Thompson confirmed a mistake had been made and that he was 21 years old when enlisting.

Thompson served in Egypt until being shipped to London and then France in June, 1916.

On 28 July, 1916, he became one of the hundreds listed as Missing after the attack at Fromelles on 19 July, 1916. He was confirmed as Killed In Action at an enquiry on 29 August, 1917 - no official record of his fate or eyewitness accounts remain, his National Archive records simply marked "body presumed buried in No Man's Land".

George Thompson had four siblings, Leslie (born in 1891), Dora (1894), Gordon (1897) and Roy (1899). Oddly enough, he claimed to have been born in Clifton Hill, but all four each siblings (either side of his assumed birth circa 1894) were listed as arriving in Traralgon.



Thompson, Harold William (Military Cross)

Key Address : 265 High Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Lieutenant, 14th Infantry Battalion
Embarked Sergeant, 14th Infantry Battalion

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 22 December, 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 391 **Enlisted :** 26/08/1914 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 9/08/1918 **Aged :** 28
Place of Death : (of wounds), 61st Casualty Clearing Station, Vigancourt, France
Buried At : Vigancourt British Cemetery, France

Occupation : Photographer
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C of E

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William and Wilhelmina Thompson (nee Leslie)
Wife Jessie Clifton Thompson (nee Hutchinson)

Eyewitnesses : "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a raid where he rushed a post of three single-handed killing two, while the other was shot trying to escape. He continued to lead his party with fine courage and reached his objectives, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and returning with three prisoners and a machine gun" (Citation i support of commendation for Military Cross)

Notes : Harold Thompson was an unusual case. On-line Probate records for World War One servicemen record where they were living prior to enlisting and for Thompson suggested Northcote.

Records within the National Archives confirm this should be North Melbourne, his Attestation showing an address in Chetwynd Street both for himself and his next-of-kin, his wife Jessie.

But bingo!, the same archives show him as having been born in Northcote, so he qualifies for the database anyway!

Thompson embarked as a Sergeant and established a fine military record, being wounded no less than three times before he died of wounds. In July 1917, he was listed as dangerously ill after he suffered a scalp wound and associated loss of memory as well as wounds to the right arm. Thompson returned to his unit at Gallipoli in October, but was again wounded in the right arm soon after arriving in France in June, 1916. He was the scene for around six weeks, and was hospitalised again in February, 1918 suffering from the effects of mustard gas.

In the interim, he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in August, 1916 and then Lieutenant on New Year's Day, 1917.

After such a fine career, it seems rather bizarre that Thompson was charged and found guilty in August, 1917 on a charge of conduct prejudicial to good behaviour in that he improperly requested the battalion paymaster to advance him some six weeks wages. As a result, his rank of Lieutenant between January and the date of the offence was revoked, although he retained the rank until his death.

Thompson died at the 61st Casualty Clearing Station on 9 August from head wounds suffered the previous day, but no Red Cross records remain. He had one sister, Rosie (Northcote, 1893) and married Jessie Clifton Hutchinson in 1913, a son Jack born the same year.

His father William was a grocer, originally in High Street, Northcote. The street was unnumbered at the time of Harold's birth, but the premises later become 265 High Street. He later also had shops in Preston and Clifton Hill and the family resided in Carnarvon Avenue, Northcote.



Thompson, Robert Herbert

Key Address : 13 McDonald Street, South Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 6 Infantry Battalion
1 to 9 Reinforcements (December 1914 - September 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Hororato
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 17 April 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2040 **Enlisted :** 11/01/1915 **At :**
Born At : Kingston, England **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 29/05/1921 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : Melbourne Hospital, East Melbourne
Buried At :

Occupation : Bamboo and wicker-worker
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Baptist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Herbert and Rose Marion Thompson (nee Canvina)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Thompson survived the war, although he lost most of his left leg after being wounded.

He was still serving the military community as the secretary of the Alphington branch of the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League (R.S.S.I.L.A) when he was killed in a road accident in late May, 1921.

Thompson died of a fractured skull after a fall from a horse-drawn gig in the Northcote area, the exact location unfortunately not revealed either in press reports of the time or the coroner's inquiry some ten days later.

That sitting heard that Henry Kimpton, a florist in Station Street, Fairfield, had been driving Thompson to Alphington "to transact repatriation business on behalf of a returned soldier" when his horse stumbled. Both men were thrown from the gig, Thompson striking his head on the roadway. He was taken to Melbourne Hospital, but died soon after admission.

Thompson enlisted on his 18th birthday and suffered a gunshot wound to the left knee on 24 July, 1916 in an action near Pozieres, France. He was taken to the 1st Canadian General Hospital where the leg was amputated above the knee on the 28th.

He was later transferred to the 2nd Western General Hospital in Manchester before returning to Australia via the hospital ship Karoola in July, 1917. He was officially discharged on the 24th of January, 1918.

His attestation simply showed McDonald Street, South Northcote – a letter from his father in 1924 regarding Robert's war medals revealed the number as 13.



Thomson, Charles William

Key Address : corner of Victoria Road and Jenkins Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 60th Infantry Battalion. Embarked 5 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number A20
Date of Embarkation : 17 April, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2033 **Enlisted :** 25/01/1915 **At :**

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 19

Place of Death : Fromelles, France

Buried At : V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, Fromelles, France

Occupation : Plumber

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Archibald Patrick and Constance Thomson (nee Edwards)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Thomson is listed as being born in Northcote, and while his mother is listed on his embarkation as at 79 Johnson street, Fitzroy, she is subsequently shown at 138 Mansfield Street, Thornbury and finally at the corner of Victoria Road and Jenkins Street in Northcote.

Enquiries made as to her address in 1920 revealed that Thomson's father had not lived with her or contributed to her support for nine years, and she was unaware of his whereabouts. There were three other children; Archibald (1893) and Flora (1895), both born in Balwyn, and Walter (1899), like Charles, born in Northcote.

Thomson survived the Dardanelles campaign and remained in Egypt until June, 1916 when he shipped directly to France without the usual period in England.

Thomson was listed as Missing after the attack on the Somme on 19 July, 1916 and was declared Killed In Action as at that date on 25 August. There were no eyewitness accounts; Thomson was one of hundreds never seen again.



Thomson, Sidney Alexander

Key Address : "Penicnick", Northernhay Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : 2nd Lieutenant 6 Infantry Battalion
13 to 18 Reinforcements (December 1915 - July 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 28 January 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : **Enlisted :** 5/04/1915 **At :** Preston

Born At : Preston **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 10/08/1918 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death :

Buried At : 526 Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France

Occupation : Bank Clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alexander Cowan (late) and Emily Pettie Thomson (nee Kyle)

Eyewitnesses : "... I made him as comfortable as possible. I said "I must go on now Tommy. You will be all right in a few moments, the stretcher bearers will pick you and take you back' He replied "Goodbye Jim, and good luck to the boys." I never saw him again and was very surprised to learn he had been killed. I enquired afterwards and found from our Battalion doctor that he was killed by a bullet through his head, the conclusion I came to was that he raised himself up looking for stretcher bearers and received another bullet in so doing ... (Unquoted)

"He was hit in leg, was bandaged up by the advancing company and carried to a shell hole. He evidently tried to get further back for he was shot through the head by a machine gun bullet and killed instantly .. (Captain Cockburn, R.M.C. 6th Battalion)

Notes : Thomson embarked with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and was wounded twice, the first time in October, 1916 (to the right arm) and again in October (right arm and chest) of the following year. He was again evacuated to England in June, 1918 for three weeks simply listed as "debilitated".

He had only been back with his unit for a fortnight when he was eventually killed by machine gun fire in an attack at Rosieres on August 10, 1918

No circular was returned, but archives note that his mother died in 1918 and most of the correspondence was through a sister, Isabel, who was the oldest sibling of the family.

Sidney was the eldest child of the family, his siblings Elsie (1892) and Boyd (1898), while two others died prematurely, Herbert (1889, at one year) and John (1896 at one day).



Thorne, Frederick Arthur

Key Address : Bank Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 14 Infantry Battalion - 5 to 12 Reinforcements (April - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 27 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2878 **Enlisted :** 3/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Benalla **Educated At :** State School

Date of Death : 29/03/1917 **Aged :** 31

Place of Death : Bapaume, France

Buried At : 561 Beugnatre Communal Cemetery, France

Occupation : Labourer (Carlton and United Brewery)

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alfred Henry and Marion Thorne (nee Price)
Wife Mrs Sarah Anne Thorne (nee Gross)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

There is some confusion as to whether the family name was Thorne or Thorn.

On attestation, Thorne showed his wife and two children, Ivy (1909) and Edward (1912) in Bank Street, Northcote, but by the time of his death they were living in Barkly Street, Carlton.

Regardless of spelling, she proved difficult to find, the Defence Department including her "late of Bank Street, Northcote" in regular advertisements seeking the missing next-of-kin of soldiers.

A Death Notice also refers to a brother-in-law, Reginald "of Croxton" - Thorne's siblings included three sisters, Alice (1878), Beatrice (1880 and Ethel (1884), and two brothers William (1881) and Alfred (1883). Birth records also suggest our servicemen may have been Arthur Frederick, rather than Frederick Arthur as given in war-time records.

Another unique notice was placed by Thorne's workmates, the Carlton and United Remembrance Club, their acknowledgment of his sacrifice revealing he was known as "Freddie".

According to the Leader's notes on his death, Thorne was killed along with four others by a mine exploding in a cellar where they were asleep.

This account must have been forwarded by a fellow serviceman, documentation on Thorne's military career is effectively restricted to him being shipped to France in June, 1916 and being Killed In Action nine months later.



Thwaites, Walter James

Key Address : "Athelstone", 58 Rathmines Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ceramic
Ship Number : A40
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3958 **Enlisted :** 10/07/1915 **At :** Fairfield Park

Born At : Neerim. Victoria **Educated At :** State School
Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 20
Place of Death : (of wounds), Belgium
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Felt Hatter (Shelmendine Brothers, Collingwood)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Salvation Army

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George James and Jemima Thwaites (nee Johnson, late)
Guardians Matthew and Alexandrena (Rena) Keyte

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Another local serviceman whose death was not mentioned in the Leader.

Thwaites listed his uncle in Fairfield as next-of-kin. Matthew Keyte was his legal guardian, the attestation paper noting Thwaites' deceased mother had separated from his father and whereabouts of his father were unknown.

The details were confirmed when enquiries were made preparatory to distribution of medals. His aunt's statement revealed that his mother had died when he was 16 months old and she and her husband had adopted him.

According to her statement, they had had no contact with Thwaites' father for nine years, at which point he was living in Northcote, later believed to have moved to Gippsland.

George and Jemima Thwaites had at least four other children, Christina, Clare, Gertrude and Edward - their fates unknown after Jemima's death and the apparent desertion of her husband.

Thwaites was wounded in the chest in July, 1916, just a week after being promoted to Lance Corporal, and spent several months in hospital in England.

Following his discharge early in 1917, he spent several more months on home duties in England and was not taken back onto strength of his Battalion until five days before he was killed.

The circular returned by his uncle from Rathmines Street reveals that Thwaites had two cousins, [Sergeant Herbert Arthur Beale](#) and Trooper David Thomas Johnson (Abbotsford) that were killed in action.



Tidd, George Horace

Key Address : 153 Charles Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 23 Infantry Battalion
13 to 18 Reinforcements (July-November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 2 October, 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5893 **Enlisted :** 20/03/1916 **At :**

Born At : Eddington **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 03/05/1917 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : Reincourt, France

Buried At : Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France

Occupation : Farmer

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Wesleyan

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Joshua Thomas Tidd and Caroline Tidd (nee Oates)
Wife Florence Elizabeth Tidd (nee Anderson)

Eyewitnesses : "I saw him wounded in the shoulder, close to Sunken Road, under Reincourt. We were out in the open ground and had to retire. I did not hear of him getting out and don't think he would because Fritz held the place for three days before we re-took it. We came over in the same boat, the "Nestor", left Melbourne 2.10.16. He won a £100 sweep on the Melbourne Cup that we got up on the boat. He was a farmer, married man, about 26, fair complexion". (Burke, J. T., 5796)

Notes : The rather odd name of Tidd was in fact well known around the Preston and Northcote area. An uncle, Vara Tidd had resided in Preston for many years and was the Inspector of Public Works for the Shire of Preston when war broke out.

Tidd on embarkation gave as his wife, Elizabeth, then at 457 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne, and later at 29 High Street, Northcote where she appears to have been living with an uncle and aunt and was listed in the 1914 as a hairdresser. The occupant for 29 High Street for several years beforehand is shown as Mrs Rachel Tidd. There was another uncle, Alfred in Westgarth Street.

Horace and Florence had one child, Georgina, born in 1917 and this is almost certainly another case where a serviceman never set eyes on one of his children.

His parents at the time were at 63 Olinda Street, Bendigo. He had two brothers that enlisted, William, who was Killed In Action on 6 June, 1915 (with no connection to our district), and Arthur, who returned unscathed to Australia. There were two other brothers, George (1891) and Frank (1898).

George's demise must have proved particularly stressful for his family – he was initially as being Wounded on 3 May, 1917 (although even this wasn't reported until nine days later), his status amended to "Wounded and Missing" at a Court of Enquiry held on June 9, and finally to Killed In Action at a further enquiry on 17 December.

None of the eye-witnesses could testify that they saw him killed – all agreed he had been wounded, but was not sighted again after the withdrawal.

All children were listed as born at Eddington, a hamlet between Maldon and Dunolly in central Victoria.



Tighe, Patrick Joseph

Key Address : 26 Garnet Street, Preston
Rank and Unit : Private, 5th
 Embarked 37 Infantry Battalion (June 1916)
Embarked : HMAT Persic
 Ship Number : A34
 Date of Embarkation : 3 June 1916
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 695B **Enlisted :** 9/02/1916 **At :** South Preston
Born At : Devenish **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 23/08/1918 **Aged :** 26
Place of Death :
Buried At : 526 Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France
Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Mary Tighe (nee Kevin)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : His year older brother John Michael Tighe enlisted on the same day and embarked on the same vessel, the brothers finishing up with consecutive service numbers along for some reason, Patrick's was later appended with a B, perhaps to more clearly distinguish him from his brother.
 Both brothers listed their father at Garnet Street on attestation and in Church Street, Whittlesea by the time they embarked, although gave Garnet Street as their own address.
 Their parents by the time of Patrick's death were living in Council Street, Upper Hawthorn, and there is known to have been a sister, Eileen.
 Tighe was killed instantly by shrapnel after a shell landed nearby while he was drawing water from a pump in the front line. John Tighe returned to Australia in May, 1919.
 The Preston Cenotaph incorrectly has "T. W Tighe" listed - there was a serviceman of these initials Killed In Action, but he was from N.S.W. Patrick Tighe is not shown on the Cenotaph.
 Patrick Tighe's siblings according to official records were Anne (1874), Mary (1875), Catherine (1876), Margaret (1878), Thomas (1881), James (1883), Lavinia (1885) and John (1887).



Tippett, Percy Albert

Key Address : Thornbury Railway Station
Rank and Unit : Private 6 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)
Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 483 **Enlisted :** 17/08/1914 **At :** Richmond
Born At : Wangaratta **Educated At :** Wangaratta South State School
Date of Death : 25/04/1915 **Aged :** 20
Place of Death : (of wounds at sea), Gallipoli
Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli
Occupation : Railway porter
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alfred and Fanny Tippett (nee Kneebone)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

The name of Percy Tippett was included in the first official list of Australian casualties after the initial landings in the Dardanelles, the list issued on April 31 and published the following day. Tippett was one of 18 Australian servicemen listed as Killed In Action, 13 of whom were Victorian.

In official records, virtually all of his family background was linked to Wangaratta but The Leader astutely recorded with some well-established local knowledge that "he was well known to many local residents as the porter at Thornbury Station".

A report in the Argus also suggested at the time of enlisting, he was the porter at Sandringham "previously similarly employed at Northcote" – in reality, if his name had not appeared on the first list, his connection to the district would probably have never been noted as the number of casualties rapidly expanded.

Tippett was wounded within hours of the first landing and died some time afterwards on the hospital transport Seang Choon. His date of death is shown in the AWM Honour Roll (under "Tippet") as 25 April, 1915, but the appended notes suggest it was "somewhere between the 25th and 31st" and National Archives note between the 27th to 29th.

His death on a hospital ship was probably the reason his name appeared on the first list, most that were included were en route back to hospital in Egypt and those actually killed on the beaches not reported for up to a fortnight later.

All official Victorian records show the family name as "Tippet", but twentieth century archives and the AWM have "Tippett". The circular notes he had two cousins Killed In Action and another (returned) won the Military Medal and he had two brothers, William (1889), and Alfred (1892).



Toll, Edward Pearce (alias Pearce, Edward)

Key Address : 7 Gooch Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Sapper 2 FCE [Field Company Engineers]
13 to 16 Reinforcements (December 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Armadale
Ship Number : A26
Date of Embarkation : 20 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Sydney (March) (as Pearce)

Service Number : 6364 **Enlisted :** 16/11/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Prahran **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 2/11/1916 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : Gueudecourt, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Edward Pearce Toll and Fanny Rebecca Toll (nee Miles)

Eyewitnesses : "Documentary evidence produced showing correct name to be Edward Pearce Toll. 30.9.18 ... a shell burst among the party which included Pearce, killed seven, wounded three. Afterwards the whole of the party were accounted for except Pearce. Human fragments were lying in the trench but not sufficient for identification ... (D.A. Mackay, Capt., findings of a Court Enquiry, 27 Nov 1919)

Notes : Toll for reasons known only to himself enlisted and served under the alias "Edward Pearce", his two given names.

Embarkation records show Fanny Toll as his aunt at the same address, later changed to mother after she supplied a Statutory Declaration late in 1917 that "Edward Pearce" was her son and actually Edward Pearce Toll.

The Court of Enquiry in November of the following year heard from several witnesses that a shell had landed in the middle of a working party and no trace was ever found of Toll or his identity disc.

The Leader listed him as Toll and reported him missing on 16 December and later Killed In Action. To compound the family's misery, another son, Albert Lytton Toll was killed the same week in a shooting accident at Beeac after volunteering but being rejected on medical grounds.

There were four surviving siblings, Ambrose (born 1892, served A.I.F., returned), Charlotte (1891) Edward (1894), Albert (1898, died 1916), Horace (1901), Reginald (1904), Marjorie (1906). Most were shown as born in Preston.

A Death Notice suggests a brother "Gus" was also on active service with the ANZAC 58th Battalion - Horace and Reginald were too young, so there may have been another son whose birth was either not recorded or listed under another name.



Trevena, Thomas Stanley

Key Address : Grange Road, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Sergeant, 22nd Battalion
Embarked Private 22 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 701 **Enlisted :** 10/02/1915 **At :** Heidelberg

Born At : Fitzroy **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 5/08/1916 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : Pozieres, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Tailor

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Alice Trevena (nee Walker)

Eyewitnesses : "Amongst a batch of prisoners we took, we discovered one of them carrying his watch and papers. Our chaps are so scattered that I cannot give you a name to refer to ..." (Menar, F.F 3999)

"Informant says that towards the end of Aug. at Pozieres the 5th Bgde. machine gunners spotted a German in No Man's Land and shot him. Afterwards some of them went out and examined the body, on it they found Trevena's watch. There was no mistaking it as it was a presentation watch with his full name on it ..." (Yule, R.O. 2457)

Notes : His father was listed as next of kin, originally in Grange Road, but after the war at "Stanlea", St Bernard's Road, Alphington. He ran a men's wear shop in High Street, Northcote, advertising himself in the Leader as "the hat king".

Trevena was promoted to the unusual rank of Vice Sergeant in April, 1916, and appointed at the same time to a Trench Mortar Battery. He was reported missing on August, 1916 and was not certified Killed In Action until November, 1917.

His fate is a mystery - at least two eyewitnesses claimed they saw him taken captive by the Germans, other reports suggest his watch and papers were later found on a German prisoner (later changed to be a dead soldier), others were convinced they saw him killed by a shell, but the reality was that Trevena was one of those never seen again.

One eyewitness account suggested he was a Prisoner Of War, but appears to have confused him with a Sergeant John Trevena, later confirmed held prisoner at Hanover, Germany.

His family in January, 1917, took the unusual step of advertising in local and Melbourne newspapers for any returned serviceman that may know something of their son's fate to contact them. Both these advertisements and a later Death Notice suggest he was known as "Stan" rather than Thomas.

The Trevena family was another large one typical of the times - along with Thomas, the children were Grace (1889), Richard (1889), Flora (1891), William (1895), Alice (1897), Edwin (1903) and Clarice (1909). Flora was the only one listed at the address in the 1914 Electoral Roll.

Thomas senior was a Councillor of the Shire of Heidelberg and was instrumental in establishing a Roll of Honour Board at the Alphington Methodist Church, where he performed the unveiling ceremony on August 5, 1915 - it was noted he had two sons who had enlisted,

Nominal Rolls confirm William as the other volunteer. He returned to Australia wounded in 1918 after an action where he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.



Trevillian, George Leslie

Key Address : 6 Pearl Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Corporal, 6th Battalion Australian Infantry

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as Trevellian)

Service Number : 155 **Enlisted :** 17/08/1914 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Rutherglen **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 8/05/1915 **Aged :** 20

Place of Death : Cape Helles, Gallipoli

Buried At : 4 Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Printer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : William and Jennett Trevillian (nee Booth)

Eyewitnesses : "This man is entered on the list as D. L. Trevillain, but his name is G.L Trevillain. I knew him well as I lived two doors from him in Northcote. I received a letter dated 1st May 1916 stating that Trevillian's mother received word from a friend that her son had been killed on May 8th in Gallipoli" (Private W. W. Butler, 4376, 24th A.I.F)

"Informant states that casualty was killed in his opinion at Cape Helles on the 8th May. No prisoners were taken that day. Casualty was in the attack in the evening ... Informant is positive casualty was killed" (L/Cpl Thorogood, 6th Battalion).

Notes : Trevillian was originally listed as Missing In Action in the Leader
He was later declared Killed In Action during the second Battle of Krithia on Gallipoli Peninsula at an enquiry on 4 April, 1916.
Other than this very basic information, little remains of his military career or personal life in either the National Archives or AWM records.
He appears to have been known as Leslie rather than George.
His parents are later shown at Youngman Street, Roseberry Avenue and Preston Street, all in Preston, and he had two surviving siblings, Elsie (born 1893) and William (1891) a younger brother, Stanley, having died at one month.
William also enlisted, giving Pearl Street as his own address and his father at 14 Rossmoyne Street in November, 1915.
Trevillian is to the left in the image, the other soldier is unknown





Trigg, Thomas Alexander

Key Address : 1 Benjamin Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal 22 Infantry Battalion
Embarked Private 22 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements

Embarked : RMS Osterley
Date of Embarkation : 29 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2425 **Enlisted :** 12/07/1915 **At :** Thornbury

Born At : South Melbourne **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 3/05/1917 **Aged :** 30
Place of Death :
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Georgina Trigg (nee Harris)
Stepmother Isabella Trigg (nee Knight, later Falcke)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Trigg was promoted to Lance Corporal in February 1917. Other than being hospitalised three times with trench feet, Trigg's time with the A.I.F. was totally uneventful until he was killed.

Trigg had one full brother, William. His mother died in 1897, and his father later married the widow, Mrs Isabella Falcke (nee Knight) in 1903. She died in May, 1925, then described as a widow.

She had several children by her first marriage, leaving Thomas with five step-siblings, the boys Frederick (1877), Ernest (1885), and Albert (1883), and two girls, Gertrude (1880) and Louisa (1887), the daughters by then Mrs Hooker and Mrs Barr or maybe the other way round.

Frederick and Albert Falcke also enlisted, both were married and living at alternative addresses in Thornbury. Frederick returned safely, Albert was repatriated home to Australia in March, 1918 after being seriously wounded in France.

No circular was returned, but at least three Death Notices placed by friends were under the heading "Reynolds - Trigg", noting Thomas Trigg's close friendship with Donald Thomas Reynolds from Carlton, listed as Killed In Action on the same day.



Trudgen, Stephen Henry

Key Address : 3 Urquhart street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 21st Battalion (Infantry)

Embarked : HMAT Warilda
Ship Number : A69
Date of Embarkation : 8 February 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3929 **Enlisted :** 14/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** Gold Street State School, Clifton Hill

Date of Death : 1/09/1918 **Aged :** 38

Place of Death : (of wounds) Mont. St. Quentin, France

Buried At : 833 Heilly Station Cemetery, Merricourt-L'Abbe, France

Occupation : Marble Polisher

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Stephen and Jane Trudgen (nee Hardy)

Eyewitnesses : "I saw Trudgen of D.XIV wounded in stomach about 20 yards from me at Mont. St. Quentin shortly after midday. He fell and was carried out by Stretcher Bearers (don't know names). I don't think he was conscious and he did not appear to have much chance of life. He died at a C.C.S. Trudgen was of medium height, slight build, moustache, about 37 years of age. Don't know where from". (Sergeant H. V. Barker, 24th Battalion).

Notes : Trudgen died at the 20th Casualty Clearing Station from gunshot wounds to the abdomen suffered the same day. His surname is shown in places as Trudgeon.

His death was never reported in the Leader or his name included on Northcote Honour Rolls, perhaps because he gave his address in Urquhart Street as being in Clifton Hill, later amended on archives to Northcote.

The War Department queried Mrs Trudgen's original suggestion that the Star of David be inscribed on her son's headstone, later confessing "I did not know the Star was the Jewish faith".

He appears to have been the only surviving child, an elder brother Thomas dying just five days after being born in 1887.

Embarkation records show the surname as "Trudgeon" and it is known that there was a family of that name living in Preston in the late 19th century, but all references are to "Trudgen".



Tulk, Frederick Raymond

Key Address : 29 Union Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 11 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3508 **Enlisted :** 27/06/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Carlton North **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 25/07/1916 **Aged :** 20
Place of Death : (of wounds)
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Clerk - shorthand writer (Phillips, Ormande, patent agents)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Frederick James and Annie Sarah Tulk (nee Carroll)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : No circular was returned, but a brother Claude Henry James, aged 24, enlisted and embarked at the same time, the pair being allotted consecutive Service Numbers. Claude returned to Australia in May 1915 after being wounded in action three times.

The Leader remarked on Tulk's fine physique "standing 6'1" and that he was killed on his 20th birthday – we cannot dispute the latter claim, but Army records have him at just 5'9 when he enlisted.

He appears to have been known as Ray rather than Frederick or Fred and his father used James in signing various documents. His father is known to have been the honorary secretary of the Northcote Soldier's Intelligence Bureau, a group established to help keep track of servicemen serving overseas.

Tulk enlisted as a Private in the 5th Infantry Battalion, but after arriving in Egypt just after the evacuation from Gallipoli, was trained as a Lewis Machine Gunner before being shipped to France in May, 1916

Claude, born in 1891, was his only sibling. He returned safely and later successfully applied for free passage to Australia for his English-born fiancée, Ena Smith.



Turner, Stanley George

Key Address : 19 Kelvin Grove, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Corporal, 59th Battalion (Infantry) Embarked Private 5 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Clan McGillivray
Ship Number : A46
Date of Embarkation : 2 February 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (shown as number 1429)

Service Number : 1284 **Enlisted :** 29/10/1914 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Northcote State School, Preston State School

Date of Death : 21/07/1916 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : Fleurbaix, France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Labourer, Harbour Trust

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Henry (late) and Emma Phoebe Turner (nee Cogle)

Eyewitnesses : "We were in the same stunt at Armentieres on 19.7.1916. Turner being a bombing Corporal he was the last man to reach the German lines and was killed by a sniper bullet in head. The Germans got his body." (Private. L. Bretherton, 2790)

Notes : Turner was living with his mother in Abbotsford at the time of enlisting, but along with six siblings (two brothers and four sisters, three of whom received pensions) had resided for many years in Kelvin Grove, Northcote and previously at an unknown address in Preston.

His name was listed on the South Preston State School Honour Board early in 1919 amongst those connected with the school that were Killed In Action.

Turner was listed as Missing on 21 July, 1916, later confirmed killed as of that date, his death not noted in the Leader until 24 March, 1917.

The family patriarch, John, died at the age of 44 in 1910 at the Melbourne Hospital in East Melbourne. His wife, Emma, came from a family that arrived in Northcote in the early 1890's, two of her brothers, Lance and Frank, known to have worked at McLean's Tannery - Lance later establishing himself as a leading player with the Northcote Cricket Club later in the decade.

A younger brother, Leslie Frederick Turner, enlisted from the same address in Abbotsford in July 1915 and reached the rank of Lieutenant before returning to Australia

Stanley Turner was wounded in June, 1915, at Gallipoli and evacuated to England, finally re-joining his unit in January, 1916. Like hundreds of others, he was reported as Missing after first day of what became known as the Battle of the Somme on July 19, 1916 in chaotic battle over ground that exchanged hands several times with many men simply never seen again.

Turner was not confirmed killed until March, 1917 and his place of burial (by German forces) was still unclear over two years later.

His siblings were Ethel (1891), Ivy (1896), Lesley (1898), George (1900), Olive (1903), John (1905), Irene (1908), the latter three designated as dependent on their elder brother Stanley.



Tuttleby, Alfred Ernest

Key Address : "Worthing", Heidelberg Road, Alphington

Rank and Unit : Private 21 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 18 Reinforcements (July-November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 28 July 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5423 **Enlisted :** 21/03/1916 **At :** Alphington

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 3/05/1917 **Aged :** 30
Place of Death : Bullecourt, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Brewers Assistant (C.U.B., Carlton)
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Alfred and (late) Sarah Tuttleby (nee Brown)
Step-Mother Mabel Lydia Tuttleby (nee Palmer)
Wife Mrs Sophie Tuttleby (nee Meadows)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Tuttleby's mother Sarah died in 1896, aged 41, probably in childbirth, with one child Jane listing as dying the same year at one day (both in Collingwood).

This was the last in a series of tragedies - no less than SIX of Alfred and Sarah's youngsters died before the candles could be lit for their first birthday cake - Alice (1885, eight months), Charlotte (1886, one day), Edward (1887, four months), Flora and Florence (both 1890 at one day, probably twins) and finally Jane at one day in 1896, possibly at the same time as her mother.

Remarkably, there were five surviving children other than Alfred; Elsie (1883), Francis (1888, A.I.F.), Percy (1889), Cyril (1891) and Mary (1893).

Alfred (senior) quickly re-married, his new wife a widow, Mabel Lydia Palmer, who already had two children, Lillian and Ronald. Alfred and Mabel produced two children of their own, Frank (1899) and Hazel (1900).

The Leader noted a brother, "Frank", was also serving, this appears to be an abbreviation of his natural brother, Francis, rather than his step-brother, Frank, who would have been too young to have served. Alfred Tuttleby was shown at 13 Stanton Street, Abbotsford in January, 1917 when Frank enlisted.

Tuttleby's step-mother later complained to Base Depot that she had received the so-called Mother's Badge (pictured) for only one of her boys and "it would be a slur to my other son to wear it alone".

His military career was unexceptional - after arriving in France in February, 1917, he was briefly hospitalised with trench feet. He was Killed In Action two months later.

Tuttleby left three children, sons Clifford (born 1907) and Eric (1910), and a daughter Valda (c1915).





Twight, Albert Charles Henry *

Key Address : Charles Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Gunner, 1 Divisional Ammunition Colu
12 to 24 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship number A32
Date of embarkation : 28 January, 1916
Place of embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 12020 **Enlisted :** 06/09/1915 **At :**

Born at : Fitzroy **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 1922 **Aged :** 42

Place of Death :

Buried At :

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R. C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles Henry and Ellen Twight (late, nee Cain)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Albert had two brothers, [Private George Leonard Twight](#) and [Private Charles Twight](#) killed during the war.

Albert Twight had a unspectacular career with the military - a couple of indiscretions earning even days Field Punishment and a similar period of Loss of Pay.

No medical problems were reported while he was on overseas services, but after Twight arrived back in Australia, the standard medical examination revealed some problems that the Army preferred to ignore when servicemen were in action.

Twight was diagnosed with shortness of breath and tachycardia (defined as "excessively rapid heart beat, usually over 100 beats per minute in adults") and although there was never any question over his fitness in the field, he was officially classified as medically unfit on discharge,

His disability to pursue his calling as a general labourer was assessed as reduced by one-quarter, although it was suggested a full recovery was likely.

Twight's ultimate demise was a chance discovery when his death was notified to the Department of Repatriation in 1922. He was living 1 Auburn Grove, Northcote, both parents then shown as deceased the mother in 1906 having died in 1906 aged 45, and his father in 1919 - it is not known whether this was before or after Albert's return.

No details of the cause of death remain, but it seems reasonable to place the cause of death as the heart condition he contracted during the latter part of his war service. As such, he would be one of many who died soon after the war without the injuries, illnesses and trauma of service being attributed as the cause of death.

One reliable source ("The Western Front Diaries", Jonathan King, 2008) suggests that around 60,000 servicemen died within ten years of returning to Australia (compared with just under 62,000 officially considered as dying on official service).





Twight, Charles Clarence

Key Address : 43 Charles Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : 60 Infantry Battalion
6 to 9 Reinforcements (October 1916 - July 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Port Melbourne
Ship Number : A16
Date of Embarkation : 16 July 1917
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 3490 **Enlisted :** 19/05/1917 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Fitzroy **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 27/04/1918 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Villers Bretonneux, France

Buried At : 424 Crucifix Corner Cemetery, Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Labourer/Storeman

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles Henry and Ellen Twight (late, nee Cain)

Eyewitnesses : "At Villers Bretonneux about the end of April or the beginning of May we found a body in No Man's Land in which there was a wallet and other things belonging to a man of this name. They have been forwarded to his married sister at Northcote, Australia ..." (Private. R.T Bennett, No, 7443)

Notes : A brother, [Private George Leonard Twight](#), 1516, was Killed In Action, and two others, [Albert Charles](#) and Leslie Norman Twight enlisted and returned to Australia safely, although Albert died in 1922, highly probably as a result of his war service.

Birth and military records have him as Charles, seemingly the odd man out with just the one given name, but the 1916 Electoral Roll lists him as Charles Clarence Twight.

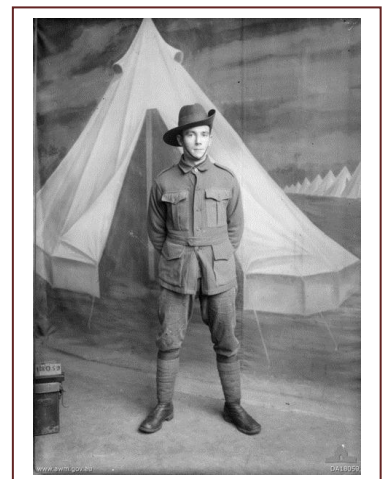
The archives for the deceased two brothers progressively show their father (their mother, Ellen Cain died in 1906) at number 10, 57 and then 43 Charles Street

Their father died in 1919, the medals going to the eldest brother, Albert, then at 1 Auburn Grove, Northcote.

Charles Twight was listed as missing on April, 1918 and pronounced Killed In Action at that date by the Commanding Officer of the 60th Battalion on May 10, 1918.

The four brothers that enlisted had another four surviving siblings, Catherine (1885), Edward (1889), William (1891) and Ellen (1899). Another brother, John (1890) died at one month.

The family in the 1914 Electoral Rolls were shown at 61 Charles Street.





Twight, George Leonard

Key Address : 10 Charles Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 14 Infantry Battalion
1 to 4 Reinforcements (December 1914 - March 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Clan McGillivray
Ship Number : A46
Date of Embarkation : 2 February 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1516 **Enlisted :** 16/10/1914 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Fitzroy **Educated At :** Northcote State School

Date of Death : 8/08/1915 **Aged :** 28

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Farm Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles Henry and Ellen Twight (nee Kane, sometimes Cain)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Three of George's brothers also served - [Private Charles Twight](#) Killed In Action, [Private Albert Charles](#), who died post-war from effects of his service, and Private Leslie Norman Twight who returned to Australia safely.

George was the first of the four to enlist - the family address at this stage was shown as 10 Charles Street, receipts signed by his father in October 1916 are from 57 Charles Street, and the attestation from Charles in May, 1917 shows 43 Charles Street.

Both parents were confirmed as deceased by the time medals were being distributed, their mother Ellen passing in 1906 and Henry in 1919, the war medals for both Charles and George going to Albert, the eldest brother, then at 1 Auburn Road, Northcote.

Twight suffered a bullet wound to the early foot early in May 1915 and was repatriated to Egypt before re-joining the hostilities in July.

He was listed as Missing on August 8, 1915, and confirmed Killed In Action at an enquiry held at Serapeum, France in August of the following year.

Like the majority of those that died in the Dardanelles, nothing was ever recorded of his fate - he simply disappeared off the face of the face of the earth during the attack at Lone Pine in early August.



Tyler, Albert Joseph

Key Address : 43 Flinders Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 23 Infantry Battalion - 9 to 12 Reinforcements (February-April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Warilda
Ship Number : A69
Date of Embarkation : 8 February 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4013 **Enlisted :** 17/07/1915 **At :** Thornbury

Born At : Launceston **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 3/05/1917 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : Horouil, France

Buried At : 646 Queant Road Cemetery, Buissy, France

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** R.C.

Next of Kin/Family : Father Charles Joseph and Keziah Mary Tyler (nee West)

Eyewitnesses : "Private. A. J. Tyler of D. Co, XV. Platoon stretcher bearer was sniped and while he was being carried to the Dressing station at Horouil, he was killed instantly by a shell. He was buried in the Sunken Road. There was no cross on the grave when I left. We held the ground, I could point out the spot" (Private. D. S. Batty, 23rd Australians")

Notes : Tyler's address on attestation was 43 Flinders Street, Northcote but on embarkation his family were at 5 Hotham Street, Preston. They appear to have moved to Clifton Hill around 1921. No circular was returned.

Before he was killed, Tyler was hospitalised and on light duties for three months from August, 1916 with a case of V.D. and returned to the front late in October, only to be wounded in the left knee a week later. The injury seems to have been relatively minor and he remained in France, returning to the front in January.

Tyler's will left a property in Showers Street, Preston and an unspecified amount of money to his younger brother, Charles J Tyler "said money and property not to be touched until he reaches the age of 21 years".

There is no obvious record of Charles' birth in either Victorian or Tasmanian records, but the latter shows two other sisters, Ella (1895) and Mary (1899).



Uglov, Alvah Henry

Key Address : "Ulonga", 42 Jenkins Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Staff Sergeant, 57th Australian Infantry Battalion
Embarked Private 5 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 12 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Star of Victoria
Ship Number : A16
Date of Embarkation : 10 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2918 **Enlisted :** 30/06/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Footscray **Educated At :** Gold Street, Clifton Hill State, Stott's College

Date of Death : 8/09/1918 **Aged :** 27

Place of Death : Villers Bretonneux, France

Buried At : 1170 Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouillooy, France

Occupation : Clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Rev. Amos and Blanche Uglov

Eyewitnesses : "The photos you posted to one on the 20th instant were received by one on Saturday last, and they were in perfect order. The photos are simply perfect and they are admired by all who knew my late dear son. If it were possible that you could send one another half dozen photos, I would be most thankful and I would send the cost to you in postage stamps".

"With Kindest Regards
I remain,
Yours Faithfully
Amos Uglov"

(letter from his father to Base Records after receipt of photographs of his son's grave)

Notes : Uglov confessed to being guilty of a charge of "furious motorcycle riding" on enlisting!

He was promoted to Lance Corporal in January, 1916, and to Orderly Room Sergeant and then Staff Sergeant in June, 1916, before embarking from Egypt to France where he served around six months with the British Expeditionary Forces before re-joining the Anzac forces in December.

Uglov was promoted to Orderly Room Segeant in February, 1916 and to Staff Serfeant in June of the same year.

He was the fifth son of the family, one brother George born 1895, and serving at the time of his brother's death and returned with the rank of Battery Sergeant Major.

The other siblings were Amos junior, Hobart (1879), Horace (1872) and Samuel (1886), three surviving sisters Annie (1877), Florence (1875) and Mary (1874), and a ninth child, Blanche died in 1892, aged eight years.

The family patriarch Amos was a Methodist Minister and died in May, 1924. His parish was not shown in any of the correspondence and his name never appeared in the Leader's many reports on church activities within the district. He may well have been retired as he was 83 years old when he passed away.



Vivian, Ernest Frederick

Key Address : 102 Collins Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 57 Infantry Battalion - 6 to 9 Reinforcements (October 1916 - June 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 2 October 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2743 **Enlisted :** 13/05/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** Gold Street State School, Clifton Hill

Date of Death : 13/10/1917 **Aged :** 39

Place of Death : Passchendaele, Belgium

Buried At : 128 Dochy Farm, New British Cemetery, Belgium

Occupation : Gardener

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Parents Ernest Vivian (late) and Caroline Vivian
(nee Middleton, later Campion)

Kin/Family : Wife Mrs Alice Harriet Vivian (nee Godden)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Vivian was originally posted as missing at Passchendaele in October, 1917 and later confirmed killed by a Court of Enquiry some 12 months later.

Red Cross records simply list him as Killed In Action with no eyewitness corroboration.

His Attestation papers suggest he was 41 (thus probably 42 on death) when he enlisted, but the AWM, perhaps relying on the circular from his mother suggests he was 39 – Victorian birth records confirming this with him born at Collingwood in 1878.

The National Archives show pensions being awarded to his widow, two daughters, Eva and Doris, and sons Edward, Thomas and Basil – Victorian birth records show another son, Ernest junior born in 1899 who would have been too old to be regarded as a dependant.

Ernest Campion was a step brother of [Joseph Richard Campion](#). The fact that two step-brothers by his mother's second marriage indicates that his father must have died at a young age.

Correspondence from the Base Depot in 1920 to his widow questioned whether his ultimate grave should bear a Cross or the Star of David – her response indicated that his father had been Jewish, but both Vivian and his mother "had subsequently embraced the Christian faith".

The family appear in 1914 Electoral Rolls at 10 Clarke Street, Northcote.



Wadsworth, Arthur

Key Address : Corner Gotch Street and Victoria Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Driver, 1 Australian Reserve Park (10 Company ASC
[Army Service Corps]) - Reinforcements (December 1914 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Anchises
Ship Number : A68
Date of Embarkation : 26 August 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 7112 **Enlisted** 21/12/1914 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Wyndham, N.Z. **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 6//11/1918 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Alexandra Park Military Hospital, Manchester, England

Buried At : St. Gabriel's Parish Churchyard, Middleton Junction, Manchester

Occupation :

Marital Status : Farmer **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Father W. W. Wadsworth (Dunedin, New Zealand)
Wife Isabella Mary Wadsworth (nee Burns)

Eyewitnesses : " The deceased soldier was accorded a military funeral, firing party, bugler and pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and surmounted by many beautiful wreaths. The Last Post was sounded at the graveside. Deceased was interred in a private family grave"

Notes : On enlistment, Wadsworth listed his father in Dunedin, New Zealand as next of kin. His wife Isabella, who he married after joining up, was later added, addresses being shown as above and at 32 Dalby Street and 29 Union Street in Northcote. She suggested in a Death Notice that her husband was "late of Ivanhoe and Carnegie".

By November, 1921, she had re-married and was Mrs Arthur Davis at 71 Beaconsfield Parade, Croxton. There were no children of her very brief marriage to Arthur Wadsworth.

National Archives reveal that after Wadsworth's death in Manchester, he was buried in a local family grave, with several aunts, uncles and cousins present at the funeral, suggesting the family had close connections with forebears in the Old Country.

Unfortunately no circular (which may have revealed more details of the family background) was returned.

Wadsworth's military career was unexceptional. He was admitted to the Alexandra Park Military Hospital in Manchester on 30 October, 1918, and died from the effects of influenza and pneumonia a week later.

Victorian Immigration Records do not reveal when he arrived in Australia



Wailes, William

Key Address : Dundas Street, South Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 23 Infantry Battalion - 9 to 12 Reinforcements (February - April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Warilda
Ship Number : A69
Date of Embarkation : 8 February 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3952 **Enlisted :** 1/06/1915 **At :** Preston

Born At : Epping **Educated At :** Epping State School

Date of Death : 20/03/1917 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : Lagnicourt, France

Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Wicker Worker

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Henry and Elizabeth Emily Wailes (nee Chitty)

Eyewitnesses : "... he was badly wounded on 20th March 1917 near Lagnicourt or Ville called Le Barque. He had to be buried where he lay. The head was torn from the body. He was literally in pieces but he was identified. Hit by a shell" (Sergeant Patrick Connolly, 1890, 23rd A.I.F.)

"FIVE SONS ENLIST".

"The five sons of Mr and Mrs J. H. Wailes, of Dundas street, Preston, have enlisted, and four of them - John, Bert, William, and Fred - are in camp. One of these boys was rejected three times at the barracks and once at the Town Hall, but when he made a fifth application the medical officer yielded to his persistency. The fifth son, Horace, who is only 18 years of age, passed the test without being challenged, and is eager to go to the war. He, however, has not received his parents' consent further than the promise that he may go later if the war continues" (The Argus, 31 July, 1915).

Notes : Wailes appears to have been something of a problem soldier with several charges being laid during the 21 months he served.

Before being killed, he suffered a severe leg wound from a shell explosion in August, 1916 (while still on Field Punishment) and did not re-join the fighting until February of the following year. He was wounded in action again in August, 1916.

Despite William's patchy record, the family had five sons in the A.I.F. - John was 28 when he enlisted and reached the rank of Lance Corporal, Albert was 25, Frederick was 19 when he joined up and by the time of William's death and had already returned with a gunshot wound to the arm which saw him was invalided out of the A.I.F. a couple of months later.

Horace finally received his parents' consent and was gassed a couple of months before the war ended - he was amongst the first to return after the cessation of hostilities.

Although The Argus mentioned Dundas Street, William, Albert, Frederick and John all joined in the six weeks before the article was published. William gave Dundas Street as his address, the latter three had their father at Epping Post Office (later Studley Farm, Epping). Horace in July 1917 was back at Dundas Street and it seems the family held both the farm and the Preston residence).

There were also four sisters - Frances (1891), Florence (1901), Gwendoline (1907) and Emily, the latter dying in 1909 at 18 years of age. The two eldest children, John and Albert were born at Yan Yean, the younger seven in Epping, again suggesting they may still have had a farm there.

Bert Wailes was noted advertising in the Leader during the late 1920s as the proprietor of Whittlesea Motors, the authorised Ford dealer for the district.



Walker, Edward James

Key Address : "Bailwin", Ethel Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Company Quartermaster Sergeant, 3rd Australian Pioneers
Embarked Private 3 Pioneer Battalion - 1 to 6

Embarked : HMAT Wandilla
Ship Number : A62
Date of Embarkation : 6 June 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1608 **Enlisted :** 24/01/1916 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Clifton Hill **Educated At :** Northcote State School
Date of Death : 4/03/1917 **Aged :** 27
Place of Death : (of pneumonia) Fargo Military Hospital, England
Buried At : Brisca Urban Communal Cemetery, England (family grave 217)

Occupation : Carpenter/Hardware Salesman
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Mr Edward James and Lily Mary Walker (nee Harvey)
Wife Mrs Dorothea Frances Walker (nee Austin, later Finger)

Eyewitnesses : "He was admitted on Feb 16th. He was very ill from the day of admission but we were in hopes of his recovering. The last 2 or 3 days however he got very much worse and he died of pneumonia on March 4th ..." (E. R. Bowes, (Assist. Matron, Fargo Military Hospital))

Notes : Walker was a former President of the Northcote A.N.A. and a well-known member of the Northcote Cricket Club.

His next-of-kin was originally given as his father in Ethel Street, Northcote, but Walker married after enlisting, he and his wife at "Glendour", Jenkins Street, Northcote. There were no children from their brief time together.

His widow had by 1922 re-married and was living in Bayswater Road, Wantirna.

Walker was promoted to Corporal in July, 1916, and then to Company Quarter Master the following month.

All of his time overseas was spent in England, and an application for his widow in 1923 for issue of a Victory Medal was rejected as he "did not serve on the strength of a unit in a theatre of war".

National Archives note a relative "M. Walker" was present at his interment in a family grave in England, and a local Death Notice refers to siblings Charlie (1899), Minnie (Amelia, 1896) and Bob (Robert, 1900).



Walker, Norman Charles

Key Address : "Bellevue", 25 Mansfield Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Gunner 23 HB [Howitzer Brigade] and 1 to 10 Reinforcements, and Brigade Ammunition Column (May 1916 - February 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Medic
Ship Number : A7
Date of Embarkation : 20 May 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 22162 **Enlisted :** 15/09/1815 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Albert Park **Educated At :** South Preston State, Workingmen's College
Date of Death : 16/11/1918 **Aged :** 25
Place of Death : (of pneumonia), 2nd Aust. General Hospital, Abbeville, France
Buried At : 52 Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Clerk
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Lewis and Margaret Louisa Walker (late, nee Robinson)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Perhaps one of the saddest losses, especially considering Norman Walker died after the cessation of hostilities and the tragic losses the family suffered during 1918.

In February, around seven months before Norman's death in France, his father, Lewis, lost his wife Margaret (the daughter of Cr. Gilbert Robinson of Preston) and two daughters Hilda and Alma.

The two young women died in hospital from typhoid fever contracted when the Walkers visited the Robinson family at a beachside resort on Boxing Day. Alma, 20, died on 24 January, the 22 year old Hilda just under four weeks later on 18 February

A third daughter, Ivy (16), survived, but in attending her sickbed, their mother also contracted the disease and succumbed in early April.

Ironically, Norman Walker had survived two years at the front in France and was safely in training at a Wireless School when he was admitted to hospital suffering from pneumonia on November 8 after hostilities had effectively ended. He died eight days later – archives suggest it was the 3rd Australian General rather than the 2nd as used by the AWM

Walker was the secretary of the South Preston Methodist Sunday School and had a brother, Gordon, in the services and listed in private life as a home missionary.

There were eight siblings in total; Gordon (1892), Norman (1893), Hilda (1896), Alma (1897), Frieda (1898), Ivy (1901), Clifford (1903) and Una (1907), the latter six all born in Preston.

Walker's name was later included amongst those acknowledged on the South Preston State School Honour Board as Killed In Action and the family seems to have moved to Northcote just a few months before the first of the tragedies struck.



Waller, Charles Victor

Key Address : Gilbert Road, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private 14 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Port Sydney
Ship Number : A15
Date of Embarkation : 7 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 6371 **Enlisted :** 29/01/1916 **At :** Preston

Born At : Clifton Hill **Educated At :** Clifton Hill Private School

Date of Death : 17/04/1917 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Somme, France

Buried At : 251 Avely Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Occupation : Labourer/Brick Maker (Northcote Brickworks)

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles and Emily Margaret Waller (nee Seamark)
Wife Mrs Violet Waller (nee Robertson, later Toogood)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Just where Waller entered the world is a little confusing - AWM records give him as "a native of Northcote", the circular returned by his parents suggested Albert Park, and on his Attestation he listed as Clifton Hill, the latter probably correct given he was educated at Clifton Hill.

He was severely wounded in a shell explosion on August 11 and was admitted to the 9th Casually Clearing Station with wounds to both legs, chest and a fractured forearm, dying six days later.

Waller left a wife and two small children, (David and Oliver), several meetings and entertainments being held at the Preston Shire Hall as part of an appeal to help his family erect a house on the land they owned.

His widow, Emily, re-married just two years after his death, becoming Mrs Arthur Toogood, originally living in George Street, Richmond and later at Dalmore in country Victoria

Charles Waller had two known siblings, Agatha (born (1887) and Olive (1898).



Wallis, Richard Ernest

Key Address : 1 Alexander Street, Croxton

Rank and Unit : Private 59 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Star of Victoria
Ship Number : A16
Date of Embarkation : 10 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2926 **Enlisted :** 29/06/1915 **At :** Collingwood

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : Somme, France
Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Boot trade (Standard Shoe Company, Richmond)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Richard and Martha Jane Wallis (nee Trevers)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Wallis was originally listed as Missing in the Leader in August, 1916 but Red Cross records carry no eyewitness account of his potential fate, later confirmed as Killed by a Court of Enquiry in August, 1917.

There were no eyewitness accounts of his death - another serviceman that was never seen again after the A.I.F. attacks around Fromelles which commenced on 19 July, 1916.

His A.I.F. career was uneventful other having a charge of "assaulting a native" dismissed in Cairo in November, 1915 - seemingly during an argument with a local conductor over a tram fare - when he was waiting to embark for England.

Richard (born in 1892) was the oldest of seven children, his siblings being Henry (1893), Phoebe (1895), Elsie (1897), George (1898), Lilian (189) and Albert.



Ward, Leslie Thomas

Key Address : Harper Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private, 12th Field Ambulance Australian Army Medical Corps

Embarked : HMAT Karoola
Ship Number A63
Date of Embarkation : 7 March, 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 13365 **Enlisted :** 28/07/1915 **At :**

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** State School

Date of Death : 12/03/1917 **Aged :** 22

Place of Death : (of wounds), 1st Australian General Hospital, Rouen, France

Buried At : St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

Occupation : Clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Henry and Mary Jane Ward (nee Thomas)

Eyewitnesses : "The lad had a penetrating wound in shoulder and back, severely wounded, but his wounds healed up splendidly and he was going on alright until about four days before his death, when his heart began to fail. His death came as a shock to the Medical Officer and Sister as they hoped to send him home to England. He did not suffer except in some difficulty of breathing and did not know he was going to die and left no messages. He had been writing to his mother by every mail up the one previous to his death ..."

(Miss B Riggell, Australian Red Cross Representative No. 1 Aust. Gen. Hosp., France)

Notes : Leslie Ward's family were at 25 Victoria Street, Coburg when he enlisted. They were in Harper Street, Northcote for several years before his birth in 1896. Their only other child, Percy was born there in 1893.

Ward had spent three years with Senior Cadets and twelve months with the Army Service Corps in South Melbourne.

His military career contains little of note until 23 January, 1917 when he was shot through the back and shoulder near Rouen. He was transferred from the 38th Casualty Clearing Station to 1st Australian General Hospital where he died around seven weeks later as per the eyewitness account.

The family were one of many that opted for the Star of David to be inscribed on their son's headstone, reverting to a cross when Base Depot queried the use of the symbol for a non-Jewish serviceman.

The circular returned by his father noted a brother-in-law Lieutenant Herbert Crowle of South Australia as also being Killed In Action.



Watkins, Frederick Albert

Key Address : 42 Barry Street, Northcote South

Rank and Unit : Private 2 Pnr Bn [Pioneer Battalion]
3 to 9 Reinforcements (June 1916 - May 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 28 July 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2460 **Enlisted :** 17/06/1916 **At :** Northcote South

Born At : Abbotsford **Educated At :** Victoria Park State School

Date of Death : 9/04/1918 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : (of wounds), Warloy, France

Buried At : 197 Millencourt Communal Cemetery, France

Occupation : Joiner

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Edward Henry and Sarah Ann Watkins (nee Brook)

Eyewitnesses : "I saw Watkins hit by a h.e. shell just at dusk about 600 yards to the right of Millencourt. Both legs were shattered and his stomach and head hit ... he lived about 20 minutes to half an hour. He was semi-conscious and didn't seem to be suffering ..." (Lt. J. J. Ward, 2nd Pioneers)

Notes : The Leader report on Watkin's death suggested he had tried to enlist three times before finally being accepted. His Attestation notes he had previously been rejected, the reason given only as "strain".

Watkins in October, 1917 had spent a week in confinement and forfeited 60 days pay after being convicted of "without reasonable excuse allowing to escape a person whom it was his duty to guard" . (It is not clear from the brief report whether the person he was supposed to be guarding was a German or Allied soldier).

He died in the 6th Casualty Clearing Station hours after being admitted following a shell explosion with wounds to the abdomen, wrist and with both legs described as "shattered".

A letter from his mother to Base Depot in 1922 revealed Watkins senior died on August 30, 1916, authorities apparently being unaware of his death before medals were issued.

There were three other siblings - sisters Hilda (1887), Evelyn (1889), and a brother, Albert (1892). All but Albert were shown in 1914 Electoral Rolls at the Barry Street address.



Watson, William Harrington Edward

Key Address : Northcote

Rank and Unit : Sapper, 3 Tunnelling Company 1 Mining Company (February 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A28
Date of Embarkation : 29 September, 1916
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 1198 **Enlisted :** 30/11/1915 **At :** Perth, Western Australia

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 14/12/1920 **Aged :** 53

Place of Death : Perth, Western Australia

Buried At : Fremantle Cemetery, Western Australia

Occupation : Miner

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Mrs Hannah Elizabeth Watson (Tuck)
Wife

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Just why the A.I.F. accepted Watson is a mystery!

He was born in Northcote and lived in South Fremantle, and managed to enlist after declaring himself 49½ years of age – and seemingly suffered three heart attacks before embarking from Sydney!

The only feasible reason he could have been accepted must have been a desperate shortage of men qualified for tunnelling duties, not that this digger got to do much digging!

Watson spent a short time in France, but early in May, 1916 complained of shooting chest pains and numbness in his fingers.

He was repatriated back to England and admitted into hospital in June, 1916 with neuritis, and again a month later with angina. Watson was repatriated back to Australia, and was discharged as unfit, suffering from cardiac enlargement on 16 October, 1916.

Remarkably, a medical report on his admission in July revealed that he appears to have at least three heart attacks before he embarked – one while in Sydney after running to extinguish a bush fire while in camp and others while stationed in Western Australia and Broadmeadows.

Other than a medical examination that confirmed his symptoms after his arrival back in Australia, there is nothing further recorded except a notation that he died on 14 December, 1920.

The heart condition was officially classified as pre-existing his enlistment and aggravated by military service and his name appears on the AWM Honour Roll.

A Death Notice suggests that even at 49, Watson may not have stated his real age (probably 52); he is listed in the notice as having been 57 years of age at death, his children Norman, Clarence (1898). Ethel (1901, Horace, and Sylvia .

There is no record of a birth under his full this name in Victorian registrations. Western Australian records of the births of a couple show the father simply as William.

Assuming his age on enlisting was correct, he would have been born circa 1867 – there was a William Watson born in Northcote that year – father William, mother Margaret McKay. If this was the serviceman, then he was the eldest son of William senior, one of the co-founders of Preston's first factory, Watson and Paterson's ham and bacon curing works on the corner of Raglan and High Streets. The Watson family are known to have lived in Pender's Grove for some years.



Watt, Allan

Key Address : "Longwood", 32 Bastings Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 7 Infantry Battalion
9 to 12 Reinforcements (September-November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 11 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3500 **Enlisted :** 15/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Tyrrell Downs **Educated At :** Northcote State School
Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : Fromelles, France
Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Bookbinder (McCarron, Bird, 7 years)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles Harbord and Mary Sophie Watt (nee Teele)

Eyewitnesses : "Watt went over with the Battalion at Fleurbaix on 19 July, 1916. The Battalion went over in the afternoon and suffered a great many casualties. We did not take the ground and at Roll Call Watt was missing. The ground was not taken at that time. So far as I know, he was left in German territory" (Sergeant H. G. Price)

Notes : The circular returned by his parents noted two cousins Lt. Ronald Watt and Lt. James Watt both were awarded the Military Cross. Both were from Windsor.

His father's address from February, 1917, was shown as simply c/o Tramways Board, 672 Bourke Street, Melbourne, but the circular was returned from "Longwood", Andrew Street, Northcote, suggesting he remained a local resident.

Watt was one of the hundreds listed as missing on 19 July, 1916, he was confirmed Killed In Action in August of the following year. His body was never recovered and the enquiry presumed his remains were buried in No Man's Land.

Watt's mother's maiden name appears to have been Teele, although sometimes Seele or Neal are shown.

He had four siblings, Charles (born 1887), Bessie (1891), John (1895), and Stanley (1900).



Watterston, Birkett William

Key Address : 13 Collins Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 7 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 977 **Enlisted :** 19/08/1914 **At :** Kerang

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** State School, matriculated Wesley College

Date of Death : 8/05/1915 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Gallipoli

Buried At : 4 Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Mechanic (A. Avar, Kerang)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William (late) and Isabella Elizabeth Watterston
(nee Crellin, later Beecroft)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Watterston's name appeared in the early Scroll of Honour published by the Leader, but with the initial shown as "A".

His Attestation paper reveals he was born in Northcote and his mother at the Fairfield address; this has been later altered to 92 Darebin Street, Northcote.

The Attestation notes he had been an apprentice at Kerang (which he gave as his residential address) for five years when he enlisted. No circular was returned, his father William known to have died in Werribee in 1917, and his parents may well have been estranged.

The Heidelberg News suggested Watterston was "well known in Kerang ... the son of William Watterston and Isabella of Northcote, late of Fairfield" - other reports place his maternal grandfather as still living in Kerang and a personal note published in The Argus after Watterston's death suggested "he spent most of his life with his grandfather, Mr. J. B. Crellin of Kerang".

Despite his specialist training, Watterston served in the Infantry and was promoted to Corporal and then Acting Lance Sergeant on 30 April, 1915. Watterston was posted as Missing on 8 May and declared Killed In Action at an enquiry a fortnight later.

The family tree is somewhat complex : two brothers, Charles and William Watterston, wed two sisters, Hannah and Isabella Elizabeth Crellin, the former couple in Preston (although a Charles is shown at the Collins Street address and listed as a confectioner in the 1914 Electoral Roll, and later moving to South Yarra), and William and Isabella remaining in the Northcote area.

Watterston's unusual given name of Birkett pales into insignificance with that given to one of his younger brothers, Percy St. Joseph Vale Watterston - there was also another brother, plain old William. Both of his brothers are listed as being born in 1890, but given the contrast in names, it seems unlikely they were twins!



Wayman, Watson Wilkinson

Key Address : "Rochdale", Clarke Street. Northcote

Rank and Unit :

Embarked : Did not embark

Service Number : **Enlisted : At**

Born At : Stawell **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 20/09/1916 **Aged : 21**

Place of Death : Kerang, Victoria

Buried At : Northcote

Occupation : Military Police

Marital Status : Single **Religion :**

Next Kin/Family : William Watson and Edith Maude Wayman (nee Hodges)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Wayman is not shown in AWM or National Archives records as dying in service during the war.

He was reported in the Leader on 20 August, 1916, as dying of pneumonia after he resigned to enlist from a regular military post at the Langwarrin Training Camp where he had spent 15 months serving with the Military Police (No. 2 Guard Room).

In the interim, he contracted pneumonia, and his parents moved to Kerang in the unavailing hope the climate would assist his condition.

Most men who enlisted were in camp within ten days and the fact that Wilkinson was with his parents (and the absence of any other documentation) casts some doubt as to whether he had actually managed to enlist before dying.

The family's propensity for confusing names based on the initial "W" perhaps came from the grandfather, Wilkinson Wayman and there were a couple of branches of the clan around the Kerang district.

Wayman had two surviving younger brothers, Charles (born 1897) and Roland (1900), a sister, Dorothea (1903), while another sibling, Robert, died within a month of being born in 1900, probably a twin of Roland. William Watson Wayman died in Northcote in September, 1920.



Webster, Joseph

Key Address : 15 Station Avenue, Northcote (later Claude Street)
Rank and Unit : Private, 16 Infantry Battalion
 1 to 6 Reinforcements (December 1914 - June 1915)
Embarked : HMAT Borda
 Ship Number : A30
 Date of Embarkation : 23 June 1915
 Place of Embarkation : Adelaide
Service Number : 2142 **Enlisted :** 06/03/1915 **At :** Keswick, S.A.
Born At : Adelaide **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 08/08/1915 **Aged :** 33
Place of Death : Gallipoli
Buried At : Lone Pine Memorial, Turkey
Occupation : Labourer (Roads and Bridges Department, South Australia)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Joseph and Mary Anne Webster (nee Kittelty)
 Wife Mrs May Maud Webster
Eyewitnesses :

Notes : P Perhaps the only serviceman with a close connection to our local district whose death was announced exclusively in an interstate newspaper (although there maybe others).
 Webster's demise was noted in the "Roll of Honour" in the Adelaide based "The Advertiser" suggesting he was the husband of Maud M. Webster, of 38 North Parade, Torrensville, South Australia, and "the son of Mrs M. Webster of Northcote, Victoria". On embarkation, his wife's address was given as 34 Phillips Street, Southwark, Adelaide.
 The couple married in Victoria in 1907 with two children of the marriage William (1907) and Florence (1910) both born in Preston. There are no births recorded in South Australian registrations.
 The AWM lists him as "Native of Victoria, Australia", but on his Attestation he suggested he was born at Pyrmont, New South Wales, (confirmed by interstate records), but he appears to have spent most of his life in Northcote, his wife on completing the circular in Adelaide nominated this as "the area with which he was most associated".
 The Advertiser also noted he was a prominent member of the Australian Native's Association. South Australian records show Joseph had one sibling, a sister, Ada, born 1881 and Victorian Registrations add another two other children born in Preston, William (1889) and Victor (1891).
 Joseph senior appears to have been deceased – his wife and youngest son Victor are shown in 1914 Electoral Rolls at 15 Station Avenue, Northcote (Station Avenue was renamed to become Claude Street in 1919).



Webster, Thomas

Key Address : Arthur Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private, 2nd Field Ambulance Medical Corps

Embarked : HMAT Wiltshire
Ship Number : A18
Date of Embarkation : 19 October 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 232 **Enlisted :** 27/08/1914 **At :** Clifton Hill

Born At : Stawell **Educated At :** Wesley, Melbourne University

Date of Death : 28/05/1915 **Aged :** 36

Place of Death : Lone Pine, Gallipoli

Buried At : 6 Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Occupation : Dentist

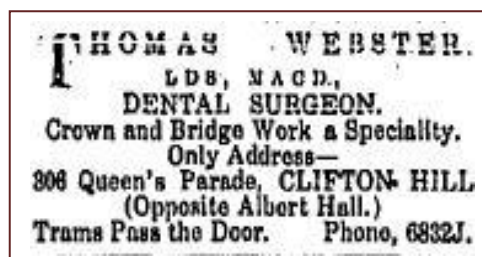
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Martha Webster (nee Burns)
Wife Mrs Waltine Alice Webster (nee Ruck)

Eyewitnesses : "... Tom Webster heard that his brother had been hit, so he took a stretcher up to look for him, but he got killed himself ..." (Private. J. Barker, 6th Battalion, in a letter to his mother quoted in the Leader, 26 June, 1915)

Notes : Thomas Webster ran a successful dentistry practice in North Fitzroy and later Clifton Hill for a number of years before enlisting.

Given his professional qualifications, rank as a humble private in the Medical Corps on the standard rate of just five shillings per day may superficially a waste of extensive and specialised training, but in fact, the A.I.F. during the Dardanelles campaign did not have a Dental Corps (unlike the New Zealanders).



Many of the broken and decayed teeth that needed to be removed had to be done so by ordinary servicemen using whatever suitable equipment that came to hand – sadly there is nothing remaining to suggest what duties actually performed with the 2nd Field Ambulance.

A report in The Argus following his death reveals Webster Matriculated at Wesley College, and then spent four years at Melbourne University, emerging with "the degree of Licentiate of Dental Surgery and as a member of the Australian College of Dental surgery" (the same report placed his surgery in Clifton Hill).

The couple had no children and his wife was as next-of-kin was shown as c/o Mr. N. Ruck (her father) at the Arthur Street address. By 1920, his widow had remarried and become Mrs W. A. Brearley living in Como Street, Alphington.

No circular was returned, but National Archives show a brother, Captain Roy Gordon Webster (born 1892, Military Cross) living in North Fitzroy in 1921, the mother also at that address suggesting Thomas (senior) may have been deceased by that time.

As well as Roy, Victorian registrations show Thomas Webster had two sisters, Liliias (born 1881) and Ivy (1891), and a brother, Ivo (1886).

Thomas married the rather unusually-named Waltine Alice Ruck in 1905, there does appear to have been any children of the marriage.



Weir, Richard Lewis (Military Cross, D.C.M)

Key Address : Bell Street, Preston (later "Ulupna", Bundoora)
Rank and Unit : 2nd Lieutenant, 21st Battalion (Infantry)
 Embarked Private 21 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
 Ship Number : A38
 Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 537 **Enlisted :** 28/09/1914 **At :**

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 26/07/1918 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : Villers Bretonneux, France
Buried At : 1170 Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery Fouilloy

Occupation : Farmer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Adam (late) and Ellen Weir (nee Potter)
 Step-mother Catherine Otto Weir (nee Crosswell, later Starkey)

Eyewitnesses : "I saw Lieut. Dick Weir of A.I. hit in the stomach in front of Villers Bretonneux at night (about 10-10.30 p.m)) whilst leading a fatigue party at the time. He was carried back by two of the men to the R.A.P. and died on the stretcher on arrival there. He was buried at the Australian Military Cemetery and a cross and head stone were erected. The news of his being awarded the "M.C." came through the night he was killed. Lieut Weir was a fine fellow and a good soldier, well-liked by the men" (M. J. W. Irwin, 186, 21 Battalion)

Notes : Weir and his family were farming in Bundoora at the time of his enlistment, but they had long associations with both Darebin and Whittlesea districts.

He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in October 1917, when, as a Sergeant, he took command of his Company when all commissioned officers were incapacitated and led a successful attack on a machine gun post. His Military Cross came in July, 1918, when under heavy fire, he reconnoitred an enemy position and then led a frontal attack on enemy trenches. He was killed when hit by a machine-gun bullet when commanding a party digging a communications trench.



After embarking, he spent two and a half years as a private, both in the Dardanelles and in France, before being promoted to Corporal in February, 1917, to Sergeant in July of the same year, and to 2nd Lieutenant in June, 1918.

Richard Weir is listed in Births, Deaths and Marriages as being born in Northcote in 1894, and the Sands and McDougall Directory of the same year place the family in Bell Street, Preston, where two younger children, James (1896) and Trevor (1899-1962, also A.I.F.) were both born. The family then appear to have been farming in Bundoora from around 1902.

Weir's father William died in March, 1915, six weeks before Richard embarked. Leader reports from Whittlesea Shire meetings during the war years have a "Cr. Weir" prominent in local affairs, presumably an uncle.

Catherine was born at Yan Yean in 1867 and was William's second wife (they married in Yan Yean, 1893), he having previously wed Ellen Potter in 1888. There was one surviving child from that period, Ruby (1890, Whittlesea), another Violet, died just after childbirth. Ellen Weir died in 1892, the place of death listed as Malvern (as for Violet).

The dangers in trying to second guess exactly where some of the servicemen from the northern parts of the district came from is exemplified by Weir; he appears on the Greensborough Memorial.



Wheeler, George Ernest

Key Address : 61 Gooch Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 6 Infantry Battalion
1 to 9 Reinforcements (December 1914 - September 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Star of Victoria
Ship Number : A16
Date of Embarkation : 10 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2894 **Enlisted :** 30/06/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Fitzroy **Educated At :** Darebin State School, Bundoora

Date of Death : 25/04/1918 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : Villiers Bretonneux, France

Buried At : 1170 Villiers Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Foulloy, France

Occupation : Glass beveller / Silversmith's assistant

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George William and Elizabeth Wheeler (nee Gilbert)

Eyewitnesses : "We were on the same machine gun team, and were going over the top at Villiers Bretonneux when "Lofty" Wheeler was hit in the stomach by a M.G. bullet. I saw him on the ground in great agony but conscious. He was taken to the D/S where he died. I saw his grave with the Battalion. Cross on it at Aubigny D/S cemetery" (G. W. Kieley, 3178)

Notes : He enlisted as George William Wheeler and this is the name used throughout the AWM rolls and National Archives, but Official Victorian records suggest he was actually George Henry Wheeler.

Wheeler was incorrectly listed as Missing in the Leader in August, 1916, but he was in and out of hospital several times, twice with relatively minor wounds and on other occasions with influenza, bronchitis, trench feet and myalgia. He was never posted as Missing.

Another eyewitness recalled treating Wheeler's wounds after he was fatally injured in 1918, but being unable to get him back to a Dressing Station.

The report in the Leader on Wheeler's death suggested that in a letter from him received by his parents a week or two beforehand recorded his delight "that 20 Northcote lads in his company left him bright and cheerful".

The eyewitness report suggesting he was called "Lofty" may not resonate with today's readers – he stood 5'10 or around 180cms - but in reality would have been amongst the top 10% height-wise amongst those that served.

He had an elder brother, William born in 1893 who enlisted and returned with the rank of Sergeant. The pair's mother Elizabeth died in November, 1924, noted at the time as being a widow.



Whitaker, Frederick

Key Address : 9 Emmaline Street, Croxton

Rank and Unit : Private, 60th Battalion

Embarked :

Service Number : 325 **Enlisted :** 16/07/1915 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Carlton

Educated At :

Date of Death : 09/02/1917 **Aged :** 30

Place of Death : Died of illness in Invalid Hospital, Macleod

Buried At : Coburg Cemetery

Occupation : Painter

Marital Status : Married

Religion :

Next of Parents

Joseph and Ellen Whitaker (nee Hodson or Hodgson)

Kin/Family : Wife

Mrs Doris Whitaker (nee Gunn)

Eyewitnesses : "... he was in Bendigo Hospital with influenza when a tumour in the neck first noted. Discharged from A.I.F. in Nov 1915, discharge cancelled in February, 1916. At Macleod since February 2 and receiving X-ray treatment"

Notes : Whitaker was diagnosed with a malignant tumour while in hospital with influenza.

He was originally discharged, but this was cancelled during what appears to have been a period of remission.

Whitaker attended Melbourne Hospital in January, 1916 and underwent examination by an army medical board who concluded he would only live three to six months. Despite this diagnosis, his discharge was cancelled the following month, but again there appears to have been a remission and he was finally released from service in November, 1916.

The AWM has no record of him on the Honour Roll – his death was noted in the Leader, but without an exact date. Fortunately a Death Notice in The Argus confirms August 9 as the time of his demise.

Whitaker left a wife, Doris (nee Gunn) whom he married in 1912, and two children, Doris (1912) and James, born in 1917, probably some time after his father's death.

In official Victorian records, both of his own family name and that of his mother are confused; "Whitaker" and "Whittaker", and "Hodson" and "Hodgson" on the maternal side.

There is also considerable conflict between Birth Records and the one Death Notice that was published. Official registrations show his parents as Joseph and Ellen, their other children Bertie (1891), Joseph (1896), Albert (1897) and Robert (1901).

The one Death Notice mentions only Lilly, Dolly and Hilda as sisters, but there is no record of any of these names in local registrations. The Notice also mentioned a daughter Sylvia, but this was Doris junior, christened Doris Sylvia.

The family were shown at 4 Normanby Avenue, Northcote in the 1914 Electoral Rolls



White, Frank Isaac

Key Address : 2 Railway Place, Fairfield Park

Rank and Unit : Fitter, 11th Brigade Australian Field Artillery
Embarked Private 8 LHR [Light Horse Regiment] - 11 to 14 Reinforcements
(October 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Hymettus
Ship Number : A1
Date of Embarkation : 27 January 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne (as 2033)

Service Number : 2033A **Enlisted :** 31/07/1915 **At :** Bendigo

Born At : Northcote **Educated At :** Golden Square State School, Bendigo

Date of Death : 20/09/1917 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Polygon Wood, Belgium

Buried At : 72 Menin Road South Military Cemetery, Belgium

Occupation : Coachbuilder (apprenticed Morrison and Sandman, Bendigo)

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Francis William and Annie Catherine White (nee Scott)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

White's father was shown on the Attestation papers and on embarkation as next-of-kin and living c-o Wakool Hotel, Wakool, N.S.W. (via Swan Hill). Frank White's own address was simply "same as next-of-kin", although he was born in Northcote and raised in Bendigo.

His history may be a rare example of the A.I.F. actually utilising a serviceman's peace time skills. White, a coachbuilder by trade, was assigned to the 8th Light Horse as a Private, but in April, 1917 was re-assigned to the 11th Field Artillery as a Fitter. His Service Number was appended with an A to distinguish him from an existing serviceman carrying 2033.

He was wounded in the left elbow in September 1916, spending about six weeks in hospital and four weeks later was admitted again, this time to the "Isolation Hospital (V.D.)" where he spent 52 days before finally returning to France.

White's Will, completed in July, 1917, has his mother as beneficiary and then living at 2 Railway Place, Fairfield Park and by the time she was allocated a pension in December, at 15 Simpson Street, Northcote.

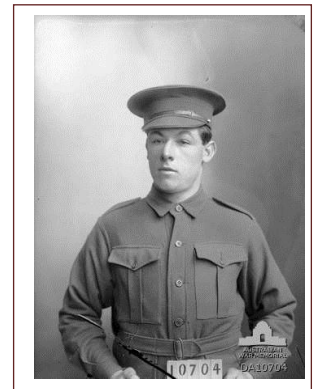
Although the actual date is not shown, his parents eventually settled at 3 Evans Crescent, Northcote, his mother returning the circular from this address.

He had several younger siblings, Ruby (1895), Claude (1898), Pearl (1900), Harold (1903), Hazel (1908) and James (1912).



Whitehill, George Thomas

- Key Address :** Bent Street, Northcote
- Rank and Unit :** Private, 2nd Pioneer Battalion. Embarked Private 23 Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1915 - January 1916)
- Embarked :** RMS Osterley
Date of Embarkation : 29 September, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
- Service Number :** 2474 **Enlisted :** 15/07/1915 **At :**
- Born At :** Northcote **Educated At :** North Melbourne State School
- Date of Death :** 14/11/1916 **Aged :** 24
- Place of Death :** Fleurs, France
- Buried At :** Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Occupation :** Japanner
- Marital Status :** Single **Religion :** Methodist
- Next of Kin/Family :** Parents Sydney Luther Johnson (step-father) and
Ada Elizabeth Whitehill (nee Thomas)
Father Alfred Lewis Cutler (late)
- Eyewitnesses :** "Whitehill belonging to B. Co. Pioneers was killed on 14 Nov. during the attack of German line at Fleurs. I saw him hit in the head by a machine gun bullet soon after he got over the top about midway between the two lines. He body was still out there as we were driven back. It lies on a ridge and anyone trying to get in bodies from there is sniped at by the Germans. His people live at Essendon and were still writing about him when I had to go on leave on 22 Jan. (Private. D. Phillips 215)
- Notes :** Whitehill's background is confusing on face value.
- On the birth records of the children born to Sydney and Ada, her maiden name is shown as Thomas, but the marriage record shows her as Cutler.
- A check on death records to attempt clarification suggests the former is correct, but create another little mystery by showing her father as John William Whitehill Thomas, the coincidence of Whitehill with her husband's name suggesting they may have been related, possibly cousins.
- Whitehill enlisted when the family was in Moonee Ponds, but is shown as having been born in Northcote.
- His age at attestation was 22 years and three months, meaning he was born around April or May, 1893, but here is no record of any birth under the name of Whitehill around this time. Rather more surprising is that his parents are listed as marrying in 1900, some seven years after he was born!.
- The web untangles a little with Ada's response to a query as to whether there was a closer living male relative "... his father is dead, but his step-father is S. L. Whitehill and he wishes me to receive the medals".
- Further cross-checking clarifies the real background – he was born George Thomas Cutler, the son of Alfred Lewis Cutler and Ada Thomas, his father having died in Clifton Hill in 1896.
- Whether his family name was officially changed after his mother's re-marriage is not known. George had a full-sister, Florence (1892, Northcote), and a number of half-siblings, Sydney (1901), Raymond (1903), Alma (1905, North Melbourne, died one month), Lily (1907) and Charles (1908).
- The circular returned by his mother suggested he had three cousins Killed In Action, but the names were not recorded.





Whiteoak, Harry Maitland

Key Address : "Hillview", Crawley Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Corporal 2nd Field Hospital
Embarked Private 1 Australian General Hospital 1 to 6 and Special Reinforcements (February 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number : A71
Date of Embarkation : 11 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 7911 **Enlisted :** 10/06/1915 **At :** Preston

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 5/05/1917 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : Bullecourt, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Joiner (James Moore and Sons, South Melbourne)
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Baptist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George and Agnes Whiteoak (nee Law)

Eyewitnesses : "... we were having a rest at the Regiment Aid Post near Bullecourt. A shell came over and destroyed a part of the post. A piece of shell struck casualty in the head and he died instantly " (R. H. Brentnell, No. 56 2nd Fld. Amb.)

Notes : No circular was returned. Mark-ups on his attestation paper suggests his mother was later (from 1922) at 212 Elizabeth Street, West Preston.

His father George was one of two brothers famous for their junior cricketing exploits around the Collingwood and Fitzroy areas in the 1870s and 1880s.

Whiteoak was Killed In Action just four days after being taken onto the strength of the 2nd Field Ambulance and had only been in France a little over three weeks at the time of his demise.

Whiteoak was a prominent member of the Northcote Baptist Sunday School and after the family shifted to Preston, he was instrumental in establishing what the Leader termed the "flourishing" Sunday School at North Preston.

At the time of Harry's death, the Leader noted a brother, Percy, was also in the A.I.F. and it may have been that the family's strong religious beliefs may have seen authorities assign specifically to non-combatant roles - as a joiner and plasterer respectively, neither had a medical background, but both were allocated to the Medical Corps.

Official registrations suggest the pair's siblings were Agnes (1879, died in 1898 at 18 years), George (1880), William (1882), Percival (1893, A.I.F), Francis (1885), Leslie (1886), Evelyn (1888, Mrs Greenhalgh), Ernest (1890, known as John, died 1910), and Alice (1893, Mrs Westhorpe). George senior died in February, 1922



Williams, Stanley Joseph

Key Address : Park View Road, Alphington
Rank and Unit : Driver, 4th F.A.B. reinforcements
Embarked : Did not embark
Service Number : 6810 **Enlisted :** 16/07/1915 **At :** Alphington
Born At : Korumburra **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 20/11/1915 **Aged :** 20
Place of Death : 5th Australian General Hospital, St. Kilda Road, Melbourne
Buried At : Heidelberg
Occupation : Tinsmith
Marital Status : Single **Religion :**
Next Kin/Family : Parents Henry and Louisa Mary Williams (nee Sutton)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Williams died in the 5th Australian General Hospital in St. Kilda Road after contracting peritonitis and appendicitis whilst in training at the Albert Park camp. He was admitted to hospital on 18 November, 1915 and died two days later.
 No circular was returned and his attestation shows next-of-kin only as "father" although he is not mentioned anywhere in the archives and the house appears in directories under the name of his mother, Mrs Louisa Williams.
 He appears in National Archives simply as Stanley Williams.
 His siblings were Florence (1891), Albert (1893, A.I.F.), Ernest (1899) and Lynda (1906).



Williams, Walter William

Key Address :

Rank and Unit : Private 14th Australian Infantry Battalion (December 1914)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A28
Date of Embarkation : 22 December, 1914
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1195 **Enlisted :** 15/09/1914 **At :** Casterton

Born At : London

Educated At :

Date of Death : 26/06/1920

Aged : 26

Place of Death : Melbourne General Hospital (post injury in Preston)

Buried At :

Occupation : Farm-hand/Coach Builder

Marital Status : Single

Religion : C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Father Charles Henry Williams (England)

Eyewitnesses :**Notes :**

Williams' inclusion is a little outside the norm as he had no residential or family ties to the district, although his eventual death came as a result of an incident on an unknown football ground in Preston.

But the tale of his military career and eventual fate was so bizarre that it begs to be told!

British-born and seemingly with no family in Australia, Williams enlisted at the age of 20 at Casterton, giving his occupation as "farm-hand". He was reported as Missing at Gallipoli on 5 August, 1915, and not sighted for several months, authorities thinking he was among the hundreds of dead yet to be accounted for.

But in February, 1916, a message to the Red Cross from its Muslim counterpart, the Ottoman Red Crescent Society, revealed that Williams was a prisoner-of-war interred at the Bazari Camp "at the terminus of the Anatolian railway, near the Taurus Mountains".

Later interchanges had Williams imprisoned at Afion Kara-Hussar with several other British and Australian servicemen, some of the very few prisoners-of-war taken by either side in the Dardanelles campaign.

A message to the Red Cross in London in June, 1917 suggested Williams had died in the camp, and his file was marked accordingly, but a month later, another communication from a Lt. L. H. Luscombe suggested Williams was alive and sharing the same "room".

Williams was eventually released on 8 December, 1918, as part of the general exchange of prisoners following the Armistice - he embarked for England the following day and eventually left for Australia early in March, 1919.

After his return, he took up residence in North Carlton and trained as a coach-builder, seemingly complaining to friends that he suffered headaches and occasional giddiness as a result of a blow to the head from the rifle butt of a Turkish guard.

On June 9, 1920, Williams was playing football at an unspecified ground in Preston against a team called Northumberlands, about which absolutely nothing is known. One of the Northumberlands players kicked the ball, which was wet and heavy, and Williams, running towards him was hit full in the face and collapsed. He was taken unconscious to the Melbourne Hospital where he died 17 days later.

Dr. Cole, who performed the autopsy, testified to the Coroner "I think that the injury that this man stated was inflicted on him during his captivity by the Turks was a great factor in causing his death. The blow from the football may have caused, temporary injury and it certainly accelerated his death, but in my opinion, it was the blow from the rifle butt that had most to do with it".



Williams, William George Vincent

Key Address : 36 Beavers Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Able Seaman, No. 4 Company Naval Reserves,
1st Naval and Military Expeditionary Force

Service Number : 294 **Enlisted :** 9/08/1914 **At :**

Born At : Richmond **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 11/09/1914 **Aged :** 29

Place of Death : Bita Paka Road, Rabaul, New Britain

Buried At : Rabaul (Bita Paka) War Cemetery, New Britain (see note overleaf)

Occupation : Engine Room Attendant, Melbourne Electricity Supply Company

Marital Status : Single **Religion :**

Next of Kin/Family : Parent George (late) and Victoria Williams (nee Boundy, later Robinson)

Sister Mrs Martha Anthonsen (nee Williams)

Notes : Williams was the first Australian Serviceman to be killed in the Great War and is shown in AWM records as "W. G. V. Williams", with no given names.

He had served five years in the Naval Reserve and had just a week left to serve when war was declared and he was commanded into full service.

Williams was as part of a raiding party from H.M.A.S. Una that disembarked near Rabaul, New Britain (an island to the north-east of New Guinea), to destroy a German radio station operating some five miles inland.

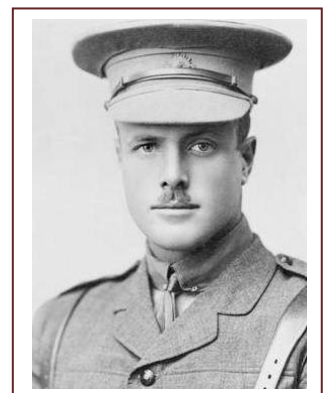
The advance section came across a group of natives in a coconut plantation on the Bita Paka Road. Williams covered another sailor, Stoker Kember, who returned with the information that they were just gathering coconuts, but after the pair advanced about ten yards, Williams was shot in the stomach by German soldiers hiding in the plantation huts.

The group's medical officer, Captain Brian Pockley (pictured right, the son of a highly qualified surgeon in Macquarie Street in Sydney and himself a highly regarded Rugby Union player and all-round athlete) after hearing Williams had been wounded went to his aid, and after applying what first-aid that the conditions allowed, gave his Red Cross armband to Kember to carry Williams to the rear.

No longer under the nominal protection that the Red Cross gave, Pockley was shot shortly after. Williams and Pockley were later picked up by a party with an ambulance cart and taken back to H.M.A.S. Berrima, one of the ships that had carried the Australian force to Rabaul and they both died on board that afternoon, Williams about an hour before Pockley.

Six Australians were killed and four wounded in the battle of Bita Paka, and Pockley became the first Australian commissioned officer to die in the First World War.

With Williams serving in the Navy, no embarkation record was required and there is no attestation paper. His transfer to full service was so sudden that according to The Argus, his mother and sister had no direct contact with him before he was killed – the only indication of his whereabouts being a letter to a friend in Northcote in which Williams apologised for not keeping an appointment, adding "he would be glad to get ashore and have a jolly good feed".





Darebin's Great War – In Memoriam

His parents were married in Brighton, England in 1884 and migrated to Australia almost immediately. Williams senior later died (date unknown) and his mother re-married, to Joseph Victor Robinson at Castlemaine in 1906.

Both The Age and The Argus gave Williams address as 36 Beavers Road and therein lies a mystery – the property was for several years in directories (unnumbered in many cases) listed under the name of Joseph V. Boundy, seemingly a combination of Mrs Robinson's original maiden name and her second husband's given names.

Williams was noted as being well known around the area, and a prominent member of the Loyal Orange Lodge and Richmond Rifle Club.

Just before the action, The Argus published a list of around 100 men heading into action with the Navy's New Guinea Expeditionary Force and for a town some little way inland, the Northcote district remarkably provided five of the group.

As well as Williams, the other four were : Midshipman (later Lieutenant) Charles William Hicks (11 Mitchell Street, Northcote), Ordinary Seaman William Nathaneal Gothard (c/- Mr. Jenkins, Fairfield), Able Bodied Seaman Rupert Leslie Burne, ("Roseville", Speight Street, Northcote) and A.B.S. William Robert Hartwell (c-o Parsons, Brooke Street, Westgarth).



The graves of Able Seaman W G V Williams (left) and Captain Brian Colden Antill Pockley, Australian Army Medical Corps. In the back row, right, is the grave of AB Henry William Street, killed in action on 11 September 1914 (buried on the road where he was killed). The iron railing fence around the grave of Captain Pockley was provided by a family member. The original burial place of Pockley, Williams and Street was at Herbertshohe, reinterred in another cemetery at Herberthohe around c 1915-1916 and in 1919 they were reinterred in the Rabaul military cemetery. Note: Postwar c 1950 these three graves were transferred to Bitia Paka War Cemetery.

Williamson, Arthur Harold

Eyewitnesses : .

Notes : Williamson was living with his wife, Minnie at Upper Ferntree Gully when enlisting, but gave Preston as his place of birth. Directories show the family living in Combie Street off South Street. Two elder brothers Percy (1885) and Bertie (1887) were born in Kew and Hawthorn respectively

His wife was later noted in Surrey Hills, Collingwood and North Fitzroy, but by 1922 had proved untraceable and it appears Williamson's medals were never distributed despite advertisements seeking her whereabouts being placed in the Melbourne press.

The couple married in 1911 and had two daughters, Ethel (1912) and Annie (1916), and a son, Harold (1914).

Williamson's embarkation was held over due to problems with rheumatism which saw him briefly hospitalised and he appears to have been re-examined as to his fitness to serve overseas

He was wounded in the back and abdomen on 22 September, 1917 and died the same day at the 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. His earlier military career was little of note other than a forfeiture of 16 days' pay after being found guilty of being Absent Without Leave.



Williamson, John Edward

Key Address : 39 Henry Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Sapper 5 FCE [Field Company Engineers]
2 to 5 Reinforcements (December 1915 - March 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Star of Victoria
Ship Number : A16
Date of Embarkation : 31 March 1916
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 7254 **Enlisted :** 20/12/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Dunolly **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 1/09/1918 **Aged :** 21

Place of Death : Perrone, France

Buried At : 624 Hem Farm Military Cemetery, France

Occupation : Engineer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Wesleyan

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Frederick and Janet Williamson (nee Liddell)

Eyewitnesses : "... about 5 a.m. a shell landed in the middle of us, killing four and wounding four, Williamson was practically killed outright. Known him two years - in the same section and came over from Aussie with him in the "S.S. Star of Victoria" ... young, dark, a fitter by trade ..." (G/ T. Henry, 7363, Field Engineers)

Notes : The attestation has Frederick Williamson listed as next-of-kin with "father" appended and the parent's consent carries the signatures of Frederick and Janet Williamson, but the former when returning the circular from 65 Hawthorn Road, Northcote, showed "Uncle".

Victorian Birth Records show his siblings as Gladys (1896), Myrtle (1900), Janet (1904) and Muriel (1907)

The circular also simply suggested he was educated at "Northcote", but his name was later included amongst those acknowledged as Killed In Action on the South Preston State School Honour Board. Given he was an engineer, he probably also had further education which was not disclosed.

Unfortunately, the archives carry no will or pension details and nothing regarding war medals that may have revealed the true relationship. Regardless of who he was, Frederick Williamson appears in all correspondence and shortly after his son's death is noted at 65 Hawthorn Road, Northcote, the address the circular carries.

Williamson was a cousin of Captain Robert A. Morgan and Frederick R. Morgan, Military Medal (both of Footscray), but the latter had a few problems with authorities, at one stage earning a 14 day detention in England after seemingly starting a fight over a tram fare and shortly after being hospitalised for several months with syphilis.



Williamson, John Harold

Key Address : 69 Arthurton Road, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 5 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (December 1914 - November 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Runic
Ship Number : A54
Date of Embarkation : 19 February 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 1626 **Enlisted :** 7/12/1914 **At :** Collingwood

Born At : Brunswick **Educated At :** Cambridge Street, Collingwood State School

Date of Death : 14/06/1915 **Aged :** 30

Place of Death : (of wounds), Hampshire, England

Buried At : 64 Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Married **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Peter (late) and Mary Williamson (nee Dowling)
Wife Grace Mabel Williamson (nee George, later Williams)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Williamson's wife was originally listed as in Collingwood, then Arthurton Road and then back to a couple of addresses in Abbotsford and Collingwood - sometime after Williamson's death, she re-married and became Mrs Williams, on one occasion accidentally signing a receipt with her original married name and crossing off the last three letters!

He suffered a severe gunshot wound to the head during fighting in the Dardanelles on 11 May, 1915, and was admitted to the 17th General Hospital in Alexandria five days later classified as "dangerously ill".

On June 1, Williamson sailed for England via the Hospital Ship Delta, but died in the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley on June 14 (probably within two or three days of landing in England).

National Archives are held under "John Williamson".

His family background remains something of a mystery.

National Archives are held under John Williamson as per his attestation, the AWN expands this to John Harold Williamson (apparently after his widow returned the circular showing the middle name) and includes his parents as above.

However, there is no entry in Victorian registrations of a John or John Harold around 1885.

John and Mabel married in 1907, their first child John dying as an infant the following year. A daughter, Jean, was born in 1913.



Willis, Eric Norman

Key Address : Tyler Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Private, 7th Field Ambulance Australian Army Medical Corps
General Reinforcements (August 1915 - November 1918)

Embarked : HMAT Nestor
Ship Number A71
Date of Embarkation : 2 October, 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 14845 **Enlisted :** 14/09/1915 **At :**

Born At : Preston **Educated At :** Fairfield State School
Date of Death : 03/05/1917 **Aged :** 20
Place of Death : Bullecourt, France
Buried At : Vaulx Australian Field Ambulance Cemetery (Row C, Grave No. 14), France

Occupation : Ironmonger
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Frederick Henry and Ada Elizabeth Willis (nee Armitage)

Eyewitnesses : "The boys who were with him told me he was hit in the side by a shell and they took him to the Dressing Station where he only lived a few moments. He was conscious and kept out calling "Mother, Mother". The Pioneers buried him just behind the railway embankment near Bullecourt. I was there at the time." (Private W. E. Johnson, 7th Field Ambulance).

Notes : His parents married in 1887, and Eric's siblings were Mabel (1888, Carlton), Evelyn (1890, Carlton), and a twin sister, Gladys.

The twins were born in Preston in 1897 and the family in the early years of the twentieth century were in Como Street, Alphington, hence Eric's schooling at Fairfield State.

On enlistment, he nominated his father at 16 Tooronga Road, Auburn as next of kin. The family moved around the eastern suburbs with other addresses in Canterbury and Surrey Hills later noted.

He had served four years with the Senior Cadets when he enlisted, and it was noted he had previously been rejected due to insufficient chest measurement.

The circular returned by his father from the Auburn address suggested a cousin, [Lieutenant Elvas Elliott Jenkins](#), who also attended Fairfield State School and whose circular places the area that he was most associated with as Ivanhoe.

Other eyewitness reports reveal he was acting as a stretcher bearer when he was mortally wounded and most suggest he was "very young looking" or "fresh-faced".



Wilson, Gilbert Walter

Key Address : 57 Gillies Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 21 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (June 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Warilda
Ship Number : A69
Date of Embarkation : 8 February 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3949 **Enlisted :** 16/07/1915 **At :** Fairfield

Born At : Elsternwick **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 13/09/1916 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death : London, England
Buried At : 2 Nunhead (All Souls) Cemetery, London

Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents William Alexander and Margaretta Loisa Wilson (late, nee Bullock)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

No circular was returned, but archives show Wilson's father's address at the time of his son's death as 325 Wellington Street, Collingwood.

Little information on the family was revealed, although his youngest sister, Margaretta (junior) is noted after enquiries by the Public Trustee on her death in 1969.

For reasons not clear from remaining records, Wilson spent seven months in camp before finally embarking. He was wounded in France on August 24 while carrying ammunition to the front lines and evacuated to England on September 1.

He was admitted to King George Hospital, London after an operation for gunshot wounds to the spine which had left him paralysed from the waist down, but his spinal cord was too damaged for surgeons to continue and he died a couple of days later.

Gilbert Wilson had no less than eight siblings - William (1879), Clarence (1881), Myrtle (1883), Cecilia (1884), Lillian (1888), George (1891), Olive (1893) and Margaretta (1896). Gilbert's file contains a 1969 letter from the Public Trustees Office asking of his fate following Margaretta's (then Mrs Maacaulay) death.



Wilson, Henry Malcolm

Key Address : 118 Gladstone Avenue, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 38 Infantry Battalion
1 to 6 Reinforcements (June-December 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Shropshire
Ship Number : A9
Date of Embarkation : 25 September 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2159 **Enlisted :** 6/05/1916 **At :** Mildura

Born At : North Fitzroy **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 7/07/1917 **Aged :** 27
Place of Death : Belgium
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Henry Allan and Maria Elizabeth Wilson (nee Hayes)

Eyewitnesses : "He was in C. Coy, and was single. I saw his dead body lying with three others at Bethlehem Farm, Messines, He had been killed by a shell and being badly knocked around. He was buried in a cemetery on the side of Messines the following day" (Private P. W. Crake, 38th Australians)

Notes : Wilson appears to have working as a gardener in Mildura at the time he enlisted.

His father by the time of his death was at 3 St. George's Grove, Northcote, but had moved by 1921 without leaving a forwarding address and despite press advertisements, his son's medals remained unclaimed and no circular was returned.

He is shown in several places in the Archives simply as "H. A. Wilson", but the servicemen in his Will bequeathed his belongings to George Allan Wilson at the Gladstone Avenue address, Henry junior's eldest brother.

There is little of note in his military history other than a brief stay in hospital for reasons unknown and the loss of four days pay from being AWOL for 24 hours.

Henry Wilson was one of another of the large families of the early twentieth century.

His siblings were Walter (1876, died at 12 years), George (1882), Thomas (1884) Ethel (1895), Walter (1887, died 1900), Henry (1889), Allan (1893, died at 2 years), Minnie (1891), Eileen (1893), Albert (1897) and Donald (1899, died at one month).



Wilson, Leonard Jack

Key Address : 15 Johnstone Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Private 14th Field Artillery Brigade
Embarked 24 Infantry Battalion - 1 to 8 Reinforcements (May 1915)

Embarked : HMAT Afric
Ship Number : A19
Date of Embarkation : 5 January 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 3649 **Enlisted :** 9/09/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : North Fitzroy **Educated At :** Northcote State School
Date of Death : 10/10/1917 **Aged :** 20
Place of Death : Belgium
Buried At : The Huts Cemetery, Dickebusch, Belgium

Occupation : Salesman
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Christopher (late) and Elizabeth Ann Wilson (nee Robertson)

Eyewitnesses : "... I was beside him when he fell mortally wounded and saw him and 6 others safely to the dressing station ... died of wounds shortly after admission to the dressing station ... of slight build, fair height, about 5'7", age about 20 and was very boyish in his ways, face freckled. I had two photos but unfortunately have sent them home ..." (Sergeant F.H. Hale, 10th Australin Infantry)

Notes : He is shown in a couple of places in the Leader as Leslie Jack Wilson.

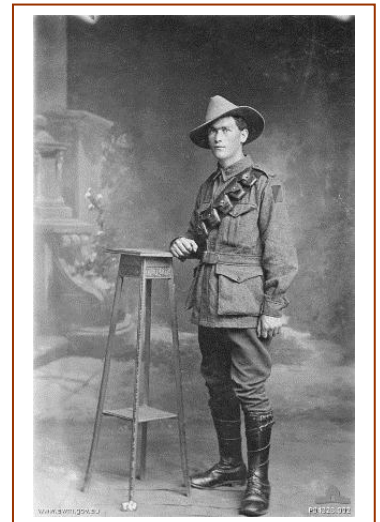
His mother by 1921 was living at 3 Knowles Street, Northcote, with mail being returned in the interim period between his death and her application for medals.

The AWM entry for his unit is incorrect. For a month prior to his death, Wilson was at the 5th Army Trench Mortar School and was assigned to the 14th Field Artillery Brigade on October 10 and died of wounds received in action the very same day.

His family background remains a little cloudy.

His mother, (who signed the permission for him to enlist), was awarded a pension, but a claim for a sister, Veta (shown as born to the couple in 1903 and only around 14 years of age) was rejected on the grounds of "unproven dependency".

An older sister, Sybil, was born in 1899, followed by Violet (1907) and Ronald (1908). There is no Death Record in Victorian records of a Christopher Wilson until 1935.





Wilson, Norman Claude

Key Address : "Glenvale", 102 Rossmoyne Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Trooper, 8th Australian Light Horse Regiment (February, 1915) (Desert Mounted Corps)

Embarked : HMAT Star of Victoria
Ship Number : A16
Date of Embarkation : 25 February, 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 114 **Enlisted :** 6/11/1914 **At :**

Born At : Mernda **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 18/09/1918 **Aged :** 33

Place of Death : French Hospital, Damascus

Buried At : 2 Damascus British War Cemetery, Syria

Occupation : Surveyor's Assistant

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Catherine Jamieson Wilson (nee King)

Eyewitnesses : "... I regret that we have been unable to obtain particulars of illness. The hospital was only temporarily occupied by British troops, and has since then been returned to the French. The Desert Mounted Corps who were then in Damascus have since moved to Aleppo, but I have written to the Medical authorities there to enquire if they can supply particulars ..." (Letter from Major W. E. Marshall, Army Liaison Officer)

Notes : The family were well known around the Yan Yean and Mernda area, but Wilson was living with his parents at 102 Rossmoyne Street, Northcote when he enlisted.

He was wounded in the right shoulder late in the Dardanelles campaign and repatriated to England.

The 8th Light Horse remained in Palestine, Wilson returning his unit in September, 1918, but he spent most of the next two years in hospital with a variety of illnesses - diarrhoea, dysentery, conjunctivitis, eczema and blepharitis (severe inflammation of the eyelids).

Wilson's final admission was to the French Hospital in Damascus on 13 October, 1918 (despite the name, the hospital was briefly under Australian administration when Wilson was admitted). He died five days later, the rather unusual cause given as "malignant malaria".

The Wilson family were unusual in that one of their three daughters enlisted, Sister Ruby Wilson (1898) serving at the Harefield Military Hospital in England after first working on hospital ships during the Dardanelles campaign. There were two other daughters, Sylvia and Kate living with the family in 1914 when Electoral Rolls were compiled.

There was an elder sister, Florence, born in 1882. Wilson's father, Thomas, died in Yea just two months following the loss of his son. The Leader noted him as 86 years of age, and "a colonist of 67 years standing".



Winnett, Walter Lambert

Key Address : Gower Street, Preston

Rank and Unit : Acting Corporal 21 Infantry Battalion
1 to 12 Reinforcements (June 1915 - April 1916)

Embarked : RMS Osterley
Date of Embarkation : 29 September 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2440 **Enlisted :** 9/07/1915 **At :** Preston

Born At : Preston **Educated At :** South Preston State School

Date of Death : 21/09/1917 **Aged :** 23

Place of Death : Garter's Point, Zillebeke, Belgium

Buried At : 115 Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Zillebeke, Belgium

Occupation : Salesman/Clerk

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents George Chambers (late) and Sarah Jane Winnett (nee Endey)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Winnett was promoted to Lance Corporal in March 1916 and was slightly wounded in the neck at Pozieres in August, 1916.

After spending time in England recovering, he was reduced to rank of Private in 1917 after being convicted of being AWOL on two occasions, including most of March of that year.

He was sentenced to 28 days detention and forfeited 36 days pay, but the custodial time was remitted. Perhaps it was no coincidence that he spent most of April and May in a V.D. Isolation Hospital!

He returned to Belgium in August and was Killed In Action around two months later.

One brother, George, also enlisted in the same unit, the alphabetic numbering got a little out of whack with George allocated Service Number 2443, and Walter's other siblings were Henry (1887), Elizabeth (1890) and Sydney (1900). Their mother's maiden name alternates between "Eudey" and "Endey", she died in May, 195.



Wood, Arthur Beaumont

Key Address : 9 Harold Street, Thornbury

Rank and Unit : Private 22 Infantry Battalion
1 to 8 Reinforcements (June 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 27 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 2833 **Enlisted :** 20/07/1915 **At :** Richmond

Born At : Abbotsford **Educated At :** Lithgow Street, Abbotsford State School

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 25

Place of Death : Fleurbaix, France

Buried At : 7 V C Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, France

Occupation : Labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents James and Jane Wood (nee Beaumont)

Eyewitnesses : "I hear from a friend about your valuable "Information Bureau". I have a son who is missing since the 19th July 1916 and I have not had any word since. I would be very much obliged if you could find out if he is a 'prisoner of war' or where he is. His last address was No. 2833, Private A. B. Wood, "D" Company, 15th Platoon, 60th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces (abroad)" (letter from Woods' mother to London office of the Red Cross)

Notes : One of the many posted missing after the "over the top" around Fromelles on 19 July, 1916 and certified Killed In Action on 22 August 1917. There were no eyewitness reports and it appears like many others on that dreadful night, Wood was simply never seen again.

Wood's mother wrote several letters to the Red Cross via the YMCA, but simply nothing was known of his fate.

Her problems extended beyond worrying about Arthur's fate - his attestation shows his father as in the Receiving Home (Mental Hospital) in Royal Park and later correspondence (1921) reveals he had been in the Asylum since 1913.

The other children in the Wood family were Thomas (1893), Martha (1895) and Joseph (1901). They were later at 9 Harold Street, Thornbury, temporarily in Scotchmer Street, North Fitzroy and from 1922 at 76 Normanby Road, Thornbury, returning the circular from that address.



Wood, Arthur Gordon

Key Address : 118 Gillies Street, Fairfield

Rank and Unit : Private 8 Infantry Battalion
13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Hororata
Ship Number : A20
Date of Embarkation : 23 November 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 7063 **Enlisted :** 25/09/1916 **At :** Collingwood

Born At : Collingwood **Educated At :** State School
Date of Death : 11/08/1918 **Aged :** 24
Place of Death : Ligons, France
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France

Occupation : Tailor
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Arthur and Marion Wood (nee Miller)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Wood's A.I.F. history was unremarkable.

After spending three months in France in 1917, he was evacuated to St. Michael's Australian Hospital at Birchington in August suffering from trench fever.

After release, he attended a Signalling School at Sutton Very before he returned to France in May, 1918 and was Killed In Action three months later.

Arthur was the only son of the family, with several sisters - Rachel (1879), Susan (1881, died at 21 months), Elsie (1883), Hilda (1888), Beatrice (1889), Ruby (1895) and Gertrude (1897).



Wood, Henry Herman

Key Address : "Thornhill", Pender Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private 22 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)
Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 712 **Enlisted :** 19/02/1915 **At :** Northcote
Born At : Dorking, Surrey **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 12/04/1917 **Aged :** 22
Place of Death :
Buried At : 26 Villers Bretonneux, France
Occupation : Tea blender
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Presbyterian
Next of Kin/Family : Father Alfred Wood (England)
Wife Mrs Mabel Gwendolyne Wood (nee Brett)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

Wood's original attestation gave his father Alfred in Dorking, Surrey as next-of-kin and showed him as single.

Before embarking, he married Mabel Brett, and his next of kin on his attestation was amended to her, initially c/o Mrs Sheldon, in Pender Street, Thornbury (the address on his embarkation record), but later in Greville Street, Prahran. The Marriage record shows his second name as Herman but this does not show in the archives.

The background of the couple is not clear, but in 1919, Mrs Wood applied for and was granted free passage to England and enquiries in 1922 regarding her pension reveal she was living at 5 Mount Street, Dorking, Surrey, the address originally given for Wood's father.

At least one brother identified by the initials "A. J" remained in Melbourne in Hampton and later Auburn.

The Darebin WW1 Encyclopaedia has a Harry Wood with an address in Mansfield Street, Northcote, and date of death as 18 April, 1917, but with the same Service Number and undoubtedly the same man.



Woodnutt, Frank Bernard Martin

Key Address : Epping

Rank and Unit : Private, 4th Field Ambulance Australian Army Medical Corps. Embarked Private 3 Light Horse Field Ambulance - 1 to 14 Reinforcements (February 1915 - January 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Runic
Ship Number : A54
Date of Embarkation : 20 January 1916
Place of Embarkation : Sydney

Service Number : 8873 **Enlisted :** 24/08/1915 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Portsmouth, England **Educated At :** Cattersfield School, Fareham, England

Date of Death : 06/02/1918 **Aged :** 29

Place of Death : (of wounds), Passchendaele Ridge, France

Buried At : Trois Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck, France

Occupation : Farm labourer

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Walter William and Sarah A Woodnutt (Portsmouth, England)

Eyewitnesses : "I remember him being killed. My Field Ambulance was next to his in the Messines sector near Ravelsburg. He had come out of the pillbox on the field and a shell came and did him in. I did not see it being two or three hundred yards away but knowing we were intimate his mates sent over to tell me. There was an Australian cemetery near at Kandahar Farm and I believe he was buried there. He was English, a dark young man about 24-25" (Private E. P. Marks, 5633)

Notes : Frank Woodnutt's fate was only uncovered after a check of Probate records revealed he was residing at Epping prior to enlisting. He was an Englishman who arrived in Australia when 21 years of age. A circular returned by his sister in England also showed as the district he was most connected with.

There is no indication as to where he lived in Epping; his residential address on embarkation given as the trustees of his account with the State Savings Bank in Flinders Street, Melbourne.

The executor of his Will was given as Frederick Arthur Young of Epping (listed in directories as a farmer and almost certainly Woodnutt's employer), his estate including a gift of £25 to the Methodist Church, Yan Yean, the balance to a sister, Winifred in England.

Woodnutt died at the 2nd Casualty Clearing Station near Passchendaele Ridge a few hours after being admitted with abdominal wounds and his right arm shattered below the elbow. Reports suggest he usually served as an ambulance driver but was acting as a stretcher-bearer when he wounded.

Other than 70 days loss of pay after being hospitalised for with V. D., his military career included little out of the ordinary other than the fact that he served for some months in England at a training camp in Fareham near Portsmouth where he was raised and his parents still resided.



Woodyard, Andrew Gordon

Key Address : 48 McLachlan Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Company Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class 2 29 Infantry Battalion - 13 and 14 Reinforcements (June-December 1917)

Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 22 December 1917
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 5129 **Enlisted :** 26/11/1917 **At :** Melbourne

Born At : Camberwell **Educated At :** Bendigo North State School
Date of Death : 7/08/1918 **Aged :** 26
Place of Death : (of wounds) near Villers Bretonneux, France
Buried At : 29 Crouy British Cemetery, Croup-Sur-Somme, France

Occupation :
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Presbyterian

Next of Kin/Family : Parents John Thomas and Christina Annie Woodyard (nee McKinnon)
Wife Mrs Irene Irene Winifred Anna Hunt Woodyard
(nee Paten, later Trewin)

Eyewitnesses : "I knew him well; he came from Northcourt, Australia and we came over together in the S.S. "Ulysses" ... we were just outside Villers Bretonneux behind the line waiting to go over in the push on the 8th. ... a shell came over and burst in front of his dug-out and a piece of shell hit him through the heart. The S/Bearers got him out and carried him away on a stretcher. He was taken to our own M.O. but soon died ..." (Private H.W.Court, 4998)

Notes : Woodyard was somewhat unique amongst those from the district in that he was a soldier by profession, having served with the Royal Australian Garrison Artillery for three years, then four years in an Instructional Training Unit where he reached the rank of Staff Sergeant Major.

As such, he did not undergo the normal basic training (although he did need written permission to enlist in the new Australian Imperial Force) and embarked for England as a Company Sergeant Major just over three weeks after enlisting.

He suffered a gunshot wound to the left shoulder on August 6, 1918 and died the following day in the 5th Casualty Clearing Station.

His widow was in Brisbane at the time of her husband's death with their only child, Elizabeth, born in 1916, and moved to Queensland permanently in December, 1918 where she married Lieutenant L. G. Trewin (another permanent Army officer) in Brisbane in April, 1921. She is noted living at various Queensland addresses over the next few years.

Andrew Woodyard had three elder siblings, Margaret (1880), John (1881) and Mary (1884).



Worle, Thomas Henry

Key Address : 13 Jessie Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Sergeant 8 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (May 1916)
 Embarked Gunner 8 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (May 1916)
Embarked : HMAT Medic
 Ship Number : A7
 Date of Embarkation : 20 May 1916
 Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 20034 **Enlisted :** 5/02/1916 **At :** Abbotsford
Born At : Abbotsford **Educated At :** Victoria Park State School
Date of Death : 31/07/1917 **Aged :** 31
Place of Death : Armentieres, France
Buried At : 262 Pont D'Achelles Military Cemetery, Nieppe
Occupation : Clerk, Victorian Railways
Marital Status : **Religion :** C. of E.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Thomas and Eliza Worle
 Wife Mrs Elsie Maude Worle (nee Courtis)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : His address on embarkation was shown as 22 Langridge Street, Alphington. Worle was a brother-in-law of [Private Harry Courtis](#), Killed In Action.
 Worle was a footballer of some note. He played three V.F.L. games with Collingwood in 1907, but could not retain his place, spending the next few seasons with (and captaining) Collingwood Districts, effectively "Collingwood Seconds" before moving to V.F.A. club Brunswick in 1912.
 Before enlisting, Worle had spent 1903 to 1912 with 2nd Battery Volunteers (Albert Park), resigning with rank of Sergeant. He enlisted as a Gunner but given his extensive background in the volunteer forces it was no surprise that he was promoted to Sergeant before leaving Australia.
 His military history, other than a couple of days in hospital in England with an unspecified illness contains absolutely nothing of significance.
 No children are mentioned in pension records. Thomas had two brothers, Leonard (1889) and Harry (1894), and two sisters, Amy (1887) and Mabel (1892).



Wright, Harold Ernest

Key Address : 139 Gooch Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private, 22 Infantry Battalion (May 1915)
Embarked : HMAT Ulysses
Ship Number : A38
Date of Embarkation : 10 May 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne
Service Number : 63 **Enlisted :** 15/05/1915 **At :** Warrnambool
Born At : Warrnambool **Educated At :** Warrnambool State School
Date of Death : 22/09/1917 **Aged :** 26
Place of Death : Zillebeke Ridge, Belgium
Buried At : 453 Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Zillebeke, France
Occupation : Iron Moulder, Webb Bros, Warrnambool
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents Ernest Henry Clifton (late) and Mary Miller Wright
(nee Donnelly)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes : Wright's attestation listed his mother in Myrtle Street, South Yarra as next-of-kin and gave the same address on embarkation. She later moved to North Carlton and in May 1917 to an address alternatively given as the corner of Charles Street and St. George's Road or 139 Gooch Street, Northcote.

He was wounded during the Battle of the Somme in July 1916 and was due to re-join his unit on November 17, but Wright went absent without leave on November 8 and wasn't captured until a fortnight later. A Field Court Martial in December sentenced him to 2 years imprisonment and he was reduced from Lance Corporal to Private.

Wright served three months of the sentence in a military prison, but in April he was released with the remainder of the sentence suspended. The sentence was fully remitted on September 14 but Wright's new freedom lasted just eight days before he was killed.

The circular was returned by his youngest brother Clifton from 172 Gladstone Avenue, Northcote.

The pair's siblings were Sarah (1890, died at four months), Harold (1891), Leslie (1893) and Lucretia (1894).



Wright, Reuben

Key Address : Preston

Rank and Unit : Lance Corporal, 60th Battalion Infantry. Embarked Private, 7 Infantry Battalion 13 to 23 Reinforcements (December 1915 - November 1916)

Embarked : HMAT Themistocles
Ship Number : A32
Date of Embarkation : 26 January, 1916
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4635 **Enlisted :** 13/07/1915 **At :**

Born At : Preston **Educated At :**

Date of Death : 19/07/1916 **Aged :** 26

Place of Death : Fleur Baix, France

Buried At : VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial, Fromelles, France

Occupation : Orchardist

Marital Status : Single **Religion :** Methodist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Charles John (late) and Edith Wright (nee Clark)
Wife Ada Leigh Wright (nee Jackson)

Eyewitnesses : "A young man nicknamed "Tich" of 60th Battalion, now with the Transport told me after the attack, the next morning, he saw Wright on an ambulance and went over and spoke to him. He had been hit and appeared very bad" (Corporal G, Graham, 1958)

Notes : Wright was listed as being born in Preston and he and his wife Ada were living in Serpells Road, Templestowe when he enlisted, Templestowe and Doncaster then very much fruit growing areas.

The couple married in 1915 and she was included as his next of kin of Attestation, and is later shown at addresses in Collingwood. There were no offspring of the brief marriage.

He was one of hundreds reported Missing after the initial attack at Fromelles on the night of 19 July, 1916, and subsequently declared Killed In Action as at that date on 25 August.

The second-hand account of "Tich" is the only surviving record of Wright's fate. There is no evidence he was ever admitted to a casualty station.

Reuben had three siblings and the family seems to have travelled considerably over the years - Charles (1892) and George (1897) both at Bullumwaal near Bairnsdale), Myrtle (1901, Allanford, near Warrnambool) and Alfred (1907, Yackandandah).

His father died at Dunolly in 1907. There is no trace in directories of a "C. Wright" in Preston around the time of Reuben's birth and just where the family resided hence unknown.





Young, David

Key Address : "Palm Cottage", Norman Street, Northcote
Rank and Unit : Private, 3 Infantry Battalion
Embarked : HMAT Euripides
Ship Number : A14
Date of Embarkation : 20 October 1915
Place of Embarkation : Sydney
Service Number : 1196 **Enlisted : At :** Preston
Born At : South Preston **Educated At :** South Preston State School
Date of Death : 6/06/1915 **Aged :** 21
Place of Death : Gallipoli
Buried At : 31 Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, ANZAC, Gallipoli
Occupation : Labourer
Marital Status : Single **Religion :** C. of E.
Next of Kin/Family : Parents David and Elizabeth Mary Young (nee Bryant)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

His sister, Violet was given as next of kin with her address listed simply as Preston.

Young gave his address as "GPO Melbourne" and he embarked in Sydney.

The Young family were well-established in Preston, all eight children shown as born in the area; William (1889), James (1901), Anne (1893), Alfred (1895), Violet (1897), Fred (1901) and Susannah (1902)

The first sighting of his parent's address in Northcote came just after his death and his sister is noted signing one of the receipts for personal effects, suggesting the family may have moved from Preston to Northcote sometime in the interim.

Like many killed in the early days of the Dardanelles campaign, little is known of Young's fate. The AWM officially has him being killed on June 6, but National Archives suggest between June 13 and 15, the latter dates also quoted by his father when he returned the circular from the Norman Street address.



Young, Frederick William

Key Address : 280 Clarke Street, Northcote

Rank and Unit : Sergeant, 6th Battalion
Embarked Private 6 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 18 Reinforcements

Embarked : HMAT Demosthenes
Ship Number : A64
Date of Embarkation : 29 December 1915
Place of Embarkation : Melbourne

Service Number : 4336 **Enlisted :** 12/07/1915 **At :** Northcote

Born At : Ascot Vale **Educated At :**
Date of Death : 4/10/1917 **Aged :** 30
Place of Death : Menin Road, Belgium
Buried At : 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

Occupation : Storeman
Marital Status : Married **Religion :** Baptist

Next of Kin/Family : Parents Frederick John and Mary Anne Young (nee Poultnier)
Wife Mrs Eleanour Young (later Stephen)

Eyewitnesses :

Notes :

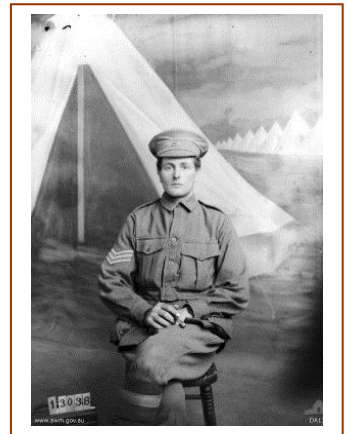
Young's widow was later at St. Andrews, c/o P. O. Queenstown. In some places, Queenstown is shown as South Australia, but official correspondence has it in Victoria.

By 1922, she had re-married, becoming Mrs Stephens and at Pickell Street, Footscray. The couple had two sons, Frederick junior and William.

On 31 July 1916 he was promoted to Lance Corporal and one month later promoted to Corporal. On 26 June 1916 he joined the 1st Anzac Entrenching Battalion as an Acting Sergeant. He was permanently promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 18 July 1917.

Frederick Young was Killed In Action at Menin Road near Ypres, Belgium on 4 October, 1917.

The Menin Gate Memorial, erected by the Belgian government and opened in 1927 commemorates some 54,896 allied servicemen that died in the battles around the city, including 6,176 Australians





Lest We Forget