

# NO LESS WORTHY

ACKNOWLEDGING WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
ABORIGINAL MEN IN WORLD WAR I



SECOND EDITION

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ABORIGINAL FAMILIES OF THE BUNBURY AREA — LATE 1890s  
Joseph Nettup, World War I enlistee, in the arms of his father (baby, back row).  
*Western Mail*, 21 January 1898, State Library of Western Australia.

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ABORIGINAL HISTORY WA  
AND THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM



NO COMPLAINTS IN CAMP AT BLACKBOY HILL,  
9th REINFORCEMENTS TO THE 10th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT, 1915  
William Ring (front row, first from left) and John Mason (back row, second from left).

State Library of Western Australia (B1959631/3).

# NO LESS WORTHY

Drawn to the cause as brothers, they eagerly joined the throng. Arm in arm with their sporting mates another game was on;

Distance was no barrier, a yearning for a fight, the chance of opportunity to demonstrate one's might.

A name, address and next-of-kin, complete the application, satisfy the man in charge and represent the nation;

The less able deemed unfit and homeward would be sent. So too the aspirants not of substantial European descent.

The successful left in spirits high with future tests in mind, the ousted ones to ponder why the rules were so unkind;

A keepsake on departure from those endeared the most, a round of hearty handshakes at a communal send-off toast.

Rallied to the station to await the whistling of the train, kit-bag over shoulder and gusto oh so plain;

The journey to the camp was a calamitous affair, with numbers ever multiplying to assemble there.

Subjected to additional trials to sort out those less sturdy, section 61(h) of the *Defence Act* rejected those **no less worthy**.

— MARK CHAMBERS

The most precious thing to Aboriginal people is our connection to family and country. Armed wars and conflicts have taken us away from both our family and country but our ties and connections will always remain strong.

The thought of going off to war was never part of our traditional makeup. From the beginning of time we have prided ourselves as a peaceful people intimately connected to one another and the country we trod through — a well-defined system of laws and customs handed down from one generation to the next through the millennia.

With the advent of the colonisation of our country the principles that we live by were, over time, broken down though our connectedness remained etched into our spirits never to be broken.

The bond that united us not only with one another and with our land was not weakened by venturing far from home, as our valiant forebearers did, but rather was intensified in the face of terrible adversity to leave a legacy that still guides us today.

— DR RICHARD WALLEY OAM  
Noongar Elder



DR RICHARD WALLEY,  
WELCOME TO COUNTRY

*They Served With Honour*  
book launch, 2015.



*Western Mail*, 4 September 1914, State Library of Western Australia.

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**COVER: RECRUITS EN ROUTE TO BELLEVUE  
RAILWAY STATION FROM BLACKBOY HILL**

State Library of Western Australia (B2225893/14) [ed].

## Cultural Protocol

The Western Australian Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this state. We pay our respect to Elders past and present and the volunteers who are featured in this publication.

The DLGSC also recognises the significance of Aboriginal history and culture in contributing to our national identity and is committed to working with Aboriginal Western Australians to promote, educate and share this value.

## Disclaimer

Aboriginal people please be aware that this publication contains the names and images of deceased people. All readers are advised that the inclusion of words, terms or descriptions from historical records reflects the social attitudes of the period in which they were written. The DLGSC apologises for any distress that may occur.

While all reasonable care has been taken in compiling this publication, the DLGSC disclaims any liability for any errors or omissions in the publication. Details of a volunteer's ancestry have been taken from publicly available records including those found within state and national archives, newspaper articles, online resources including genealogical materials and family memorabilia. Discrepancies may exist in certain dates and ages due to the inaccurate manner in which the information was documented. Readers are advised to carefully evaluate the accuracy, completeness and relevance of the publication for their purposes.

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## MEMBERS OF THE HEROIC 10th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT

*Western Mail*, 25 December 1915,  
National Library of Australia.



# FOREWORD



Kaya Wanjoo — 11 November 2018 marked the centenary of the signing of the armistice for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front leading to the end of World War I. Over a four-year period more than 21 million lives were lost world-wide and an equivalent number were wounded.

Though far removed from the scenes of conflict, Australia was no less affected with the loss of 62,000 personnel and an additional 155,133 who were wounded. This number includes Aboriginal men with links to Western Australia.

The reasons for enlisting and venturing far from home may never be fully understood or appreciated. The opportunity to serve gave Aboriginal volunteers the means to achieve a degree of equality never experienced before. Some may have been driven by a strong desire to improve the social and economic opportunities for themselves and their families, as well as a sense of patriotism. The idea of a regular income must have been a magnetic drawcard compared to an irregular and humble existence camped on the outskirts

of town or moving from one location to another in search of work.

Many who sought to serve were not always accepted. The reasons for this are diverse and follow no consistent pattern. Prior to enlisting, Aboriginal volunteers excelled in many forms of sport and demonstrated survival and tracking skills that were admired by their fellow servicemen. The idea of being rejected had never entered their minds and when this occurred they must have been left gutted with a feeling of worthlessness. The journey home was a dispiriting one and the reunification with family and friends a joyous yet humiliating experience.

The servicemen who embarked for overseas left our shores with all the bravado of boys on an adventure, and for those that came

home they returned as broken men.

Their shared sufferings of war were indelibly etched within them. For those who survived the horror of the battlefield, the equality they experienced while fighting shoulder to shoulder with their non-Aboriginal mates was not always accorded to them on their return home.

Denied equal rights, their transition to civilian life was doubly traumatic, for military service had done little to enhance their ability to obtain full-time work and access the privileges available to wider society. Many Aboriginal servicemen also experienced significant war related health issues that remained with them throughout their lives.

The Aboriginal History WA unit has undertaken extensive genealogical and

archival research in bringing together this unique publication. This work complements the 2014 publication *They Served With Honour* and would not have been possible without the valued contribution and support of the many families whose ancestors grace these pages.

In addition to providing an insight into the lives of the Aboriginal men who volunteered, *No Less Worthy* stands as a significant educational and historical resource adding to our understanding of an important chapter in our States history.

As a proud Aboriginal Western Australian who graduated from the Royal Military College in Duntroon as a commissioned officer, it is an honour to pay tribute to each of the Aboriginal men in this book who contributed to World War I and to those who have served since.

Lest We Forget.



HON BEN WYATT MLA  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs



WAITING TO ENLIST OUTSIDE THE PERTH RECRUITING OFFICE  
ON FRANCIS STREET OPPOSITE THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

*Western Mail*, 25 December 1915, State Library of Western Australia.

# LIST OF VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER	PAGE	VOLUNTEER	PAGE	VOLUNTEER	PAGE	VOLUNTEER	PAGE
Anderson, Leslie	87	Fitzgerald, John	112	Maher, John	49	Purvis, John	142
Armstrong, Francis	88	Fitzgerald, Harold	143	Marsh, George	136	Ralph, George	107
Baird, Charles	43	Ford, Thomas*	102	Mason, Arthur	39	Ralph, Edward	136
Blurton, John	139	Forrest, Alexander	147	Mason, Henry*	29	Rawson, Alfred Charles	144
Bolton, Alfred	115	Gale, Charles	141	Mason, John	50	Rawson, Alfred Ernest	96
Boota, Alexander	143	Gascoyne, John	144	Mason, Randell	28	Rawson, Edward*	91
Brockman, Charles	58	Gascoyne, Thomas	138	Mason, William	27	Rigney, Gordon	90
Burns, Charles	54	Gaunt, Arthur	47	Massey, Thomas	93	Ring, Mark	143
Burrige, Charles	97	Gaunt, Bertie	144	McBride, George	141	Ring, William	52
Burton, Lewis	100	Griffin, James	86	McBride, John	21	Ring, George	134
Cameron, Haines	142	Harder, William	138	McBride, Richard	141	Roberts, Noonie Bob	131
Carter, Jack	117	Harris, David	142	McBride, Thomas	22	Robertson, Larry	143
Clatworthy, Joseph*	114	Hedlam, Frank	136	McCallum, Arthur	23	Ronan, George	143
Clatworthy, Robert	40	Hedley, Stanley*	77	McCallum, George	53	Sayers, Albert*	105
Coleman, Michael	141	Holland, Frederick	110	McKenzie, John	136	Sayers, Charles	138
Collard, Harold	98	Holland, John Maitland*	94	McMurray, Horace	81	Sayers, Frederick	30
Collard, Lewis	99	Holland, William*	111	McPhee, Roy	136	Sayers, Laurence	20
Connor, Michael*	63	Holland, Charles	119	McPherson, Sandy	147	Searle, Michael	95
Cooper, Thomas	134	Hong, Thomas	135	Mead, Frederick	147	Searle, John	141
Corbett, Frank	139	Hutchins, Charles	32	Melbourne, James	37	Searle, Henry	142
Cox, Henry	57	Isaacs, Henry	138	Michael, Patrick	85	Shaw, Claude	42
Cox, Robert	80	Isaacs, James	135	Morrison, Samuel	138	Shaw, Roland	79
Crowley, Joseph	92	Isaacs, Herbert	143	Morrison, Phillip	139	Shaw, William	108
Curley, Horace	142	Jackson, William*	48	Murray, Clem	138	Simpson, Charles	46
Davis, Barney	106	Jackson, Sandy	139	Naley, Gordon	24	Simpson, George	141
Davis, William	136	James, Stephen	139	Nettup, Joseph	135	Smith, Frank	64
Dickerson, Harry	61	Jennings, Frederick	82	Ninyett, John	142	Smith, William Harold	134
Dickerson, James*	25	Latwood, Charles*	84	Ogilvie, John	109	Thompson, George	135
Eggleston, Frank	131	Lawrence, Frank	60	Owen, Edwin	59	Thompson, Arthur	134
Farmer, Augustus*	78	Lawrence, Hubert	113	Owen, Francis	41	Urquhart, Edward	62
Farmer, Kenneth	76	Lawrence, Aubrey	104	Owen, Henry	103	Urquhart, Phillip	56
Farmer, Larry*	36	Lockyer, Frederick	44	Parfitt, John	144	Walker, Arthur*	38
Farmer, Lewis	26	Lowe, Percy	65	Powell, John	34	Websdale, Leopold	116
Feehan, Matthias	118	Maher, Francis	83	Purvis, Harold	89		

Prior to the signing of the Armistice of Compiègne on 11 November 1918, 135 men of Aboriginal descent with links to Western Australia are known to have volunteered to serve in World War I. Acknowledged are those who ventured overseas, as well as those who were rejected on the grounds of being ‘not of substantially European descent’ or for medical or disciplinary reasons. The list is far from definitive, and given the loss of historical records, coupled with the difficulty of confirming Aboriginal descent, the exact number may never be known.



‘BAYONET EXERCISES’

*Western Mail*, 11 May 1917, State Library of Western Australia.

## CALL TO ARMS.

### THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

#### MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

Melbourne, Aug. 12.

The Minister for Defence (Senator Milen) stated this morning that the expeditionary force now being enlisted would be called the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force. Some Scotch companies will be attached to the battalions, but kilts will not be worn.

Victoria will according to present arrangements provide the largest proportion of the expeditionary force, and at least one brigade of the infantry in addition to the light horse field artillery and departmental troops will be drawn from this State. Colonel J. W. McKay, formerly deputy-chief commissioner, will be in command of the dismounted men. In pursuance of the Minister's wish, the recruiting will be as scattered as is conveniently possible, the idea being that every portion of each State should have its special interest in the expedition. There is a proposal that the units raised should be considered as second battalions of the existing regiments so that the war honours might later on be associated with them, thus men volunteering in Ballarat would be sworn in as members of the second battalions of either of the 70th (Ballarat) Infantry and so on throughout the Commonwealth.

The State quotas in round numbers will be as follow:—

Queensland .. . . .	2,380
New South Wales .. . . .	6,420
Victoria .. . . .	7,439
South Australia.. . . .	1,770
Western Australia .. . . .	840
Tasmania .. . . .	1,070

The unit will be self-contained in every particular, so that there will be no necessity to add to the equipment when abroad. Tents are not to be taken, however.



PERTH RECRUITING STAFF

*Western Mail*, 11 May 1914, State Library of Western Australia.

#### RECRUITS SIGNING THE ATTESTATION PAPERS

*Western Mail*,  
18 February 1916,  
State Library of  
Western Australia.





RECRUITS BEING SWORN IN AT THE DRILL HALL  
ON THE CORNER OF FRANCIS AND BEAUFORT STREETS

*Western Mail*, 18 February 1916, State Library of Western Australia.

# INTRODUCTION

Over the past five years, the interest in World War I has increased dramatically. The search for information by the descendants of those who volunteered, and researchers alike, has uncovered a wealth of additional material adding to that previously available through official sources. This has led to a more comprehensive understanding of the contribution that Aboriginal Australians made to the war effort. The work undertaken by Aboriginal History WA has led to a doubling of the known number of Aboriginal volunteers with links to Western Australia. This publication provides a snapshot of volunteers who were prepared to sacrifice their lives for their country.

At the outbreak of war in August 1914, thousands of men from across the nation flocked to recruiting centres to sign up to serve in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). This figure includes approximately 1,200 Aboriginal people. The lives of these men as civilians were often fraught with difficulty due to the attitudes and policies of the time.

This inequality continued on entry to the recruiting office where the personnel could use Section 61(h) of the *1909 Amendment to the Defence Act 1903* (Cth) (*Defence Act*), that gave medical officers the power to reject any persons who were not ‘substantially of European origin or descent’. It appears, however, that across the nation the provision was not always rigidly enforced. This was also the case in Western Australia.

The motivations for volunteering were varied. We can assume that many who signed up saw it as an opportunity not to be missed, rallied

on by the press that portrayed war service as fulfilling a sense of duty and patriotism. Some were caught up in the excitement of the moment, or attracted by the thought of a regular wage, while others simply followed their mates — light-hearted, confident and curious. There were also those who may have seen it as a chance to unshackle the inequalities experienced in their lives.

Aboriginal peoples’ lives have been dramatically affected since the beginning of British settlement. Scourged by epidemics and plagued by premature death, a much depleted population was governed by draconian legislation which denied basic human rights. This was no more pronounced than with the implementation of the *Western Australian Aborigines Act 1905* (*1905 Act*) that further restricted and compounded the lives of Aboriginal people. Despite legislative barriers to exclude people not of ‘substantial European

descent’ from serving, 135 Aboriginal men with ties to Western Australia are known to have volunteered in World War I, including 83 who actively served, 50 who were rejected and three who contributed in an unofficial capacity — one of whom had previously been rejected.

The reasons behind their acceptance into the AIF were diverse and varied. Some were given special exemptions, while others successfully enlisted by claiming an alternative heritage. In some instances, recruiting officers turned a blind eye to the heritage of the volunteers in order to meet their allocated quotas.

Of the 50 men who were rejected, 25 were rejected on the grounds of origin or descent, 22 for medical reasons, and three were dismissed for disciplinary reasons. Those who are known to have contributed in an unofficial capacity did so by breaking-in and training horses at the Light Horse Depot in Guildford.



RECRUITS ON THEIR WAY TO THE RAILWAY STATION  
TO COMMENCE TRAINING AT BLACKBOY HILL

Situated on the Darling scarp in the locality of Greenmount, Blackboy Hill was to become the main training ground for Western Australia's contribution to the Australian Imperial Force. During the years 1914–18, more than 32,000 men passed through the camp before boarding a train to Fremantle to embark for the battlefields of World War I. The initial recruits became the soldiers of the 11th Battalion, Western Australia's first AIF battalion.

*Western Mail*, 1 January 1915, State Library of Western Australia.

# THOSE WHO SERVED

‘YOU MUST NOT THINK THAT THE LADS HERE FROM AUSTRALIA ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR FIGHT AND WILL BE SORRY WHEN THIS WAR IS OVER. IF THE WAR ENDED TO-MORROW EVERY SOLDIER WOULD SHOUT FOR JOY, AND THE FIRST THING THEY WOULD THINK OF WOULD BE AUSTRALIA.’

(Fred Lockyer, *The Ballarat Courier*, 9 February 1916.)

Despite legislative attempts to exclude them, 83 Aboriginal men with links to Western Australia served in World War I. The reasons behind their acceptance into the AIF are both diverse and varied. Some were given special exceptions by recruiting officers due to the individual's social standing in the community, or even their sporting prowess. Others successfully enlisted by claiming an alternate heritage such as Indian, Italian or Maori. There are also instances where the Aboriginality of volunteers was altogether ignored by recruiting officers, who were sometimes more concerned with meeting their quota than upholding recruitment policies. These enlistees were often described as having a 'dark complexion' without any reference to their heritage.

Of the 83 volunteers, eight (Charles Baird, Haines Cameron, the two Owen brothers, Clem Murray, Gordon Rigney and Arthur Walker) were born interstate yet lived most of their lives in Western Australia. Others such as Thomas Ford and Barney Davis were born in Western Australia and volunteered in Queensland and South Australia.

Those who served overseas were involved in action at locations such as the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Middle East and on the Western Front. Most would have little, or no knowledge of the lands they would visit, or the conditions they were to endure. The majority experienced unimaginable horror and were to suffer health problems such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, malaria, measles, mumps, bronchitis and 'trench foot'. Many of those who survived and returned home suffered physical, emotional and mental debilities, scarring them for the rest of their lives, similarly affecting their families.

All of those who served were awarded the 1914–15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. Stanley Hedley, Alfred Rawson and Augustus Farmer received the Military Medal for acts of gallantry and bravery in the field.

Thirteen of the 83 servicemen tragically died while serving overseas and were laid to rest in a foreign country or buried at sea. Another two passed away at Woodman Point having succumbed to pneumonic influenza on the journey home.

## ■ STOKER LAURENCE ALLEN SAYERS



---

<b>RANK</b>	Stoker 2238
<b>BORN</b>	18 August 1894, Busselton, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 27 September 1912 Discharged 15 June 1919
<b>DIED</b>	9 January 1971, Fremantle, Western Australia

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**LAURENCE 'LARRY' SAYERS** was born on 18 August 1894 in Busselton. He was the third eldest of seven children born to Carinia 'Carlo' Sayers, a timber mill worker, and Flora Hasseldon Thompson who were married in 1891. Carlo's mother Jenny was an Aboriginal woman from the Vasse region in the South-West and his father an expirree from England.

Laurence was educated at in Busselton at the local state school where he received meritorious awards for attendance in both 1904 and 1905. After leaving he worked with his father who was engaged in farm management within the district.

On 27 September 1912, Larry joined the Royal Australian Navy as a stoker and was officially engaged for active war time service within ten weeks of the outbreak of war. He was initially assigned to HMAS *Cerberus*, a coastal defence turret ship, that was confined to the waters around Port Philip Bay in Victoria. Larry was transferred to HMAS *Fantome* and then HMAS *Yarra* where he was involved in exercises throughout South-East Asia.

In June 1916, Larry returned to Australia to spend time with his parents in Busselton prior to rejoining the vessel for a further ten months service.

On 1 July 1917, Larry was assigned to HMAS *Encounter* participating in salvage operations and escort duties across the Pacific through to the end of hostilities. He continued to serve for a further eight months before being discharged on 15 June 1919, having been awarded the 1915–18 blue chevrons.

Within six months of returning to Australia, Larry was residing in Fremantle where he married Emma Hanham. Together the couple had two children. By 1922 he was employed as a warder at the Fremantle Prison, remaining in the role for the next 30 years.

In the early 1950s, Larry was engaged in the tannery section at the Fremantle Wool Stores — a position he held through to retirement. By the end of the decade he and his wife had moved in with their daughter who lived nearby.

Laurance Sayers passed away peacefully on 9 January 1971, aged 76. He is buried in the Fremantle cemetery.

He is acknowledged on the Sussex Soldiers Memorial in his home town of Busselton, along with two of his brothers, Albert and Frederick. His brother Charles was deemed ineligible to serve on account of being a 'half-caste'.

## ■ LEADING SIGNALMAN JOHN HENRY McBRIDE




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<b>RANK</b>	Leading Signalman 3955/65807
<b>BORN</b>	5 June 1898, Albany, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 3 November 1916 Discharged 13 May 1919; Enlisted 16 March 1942 Discharged 22 July 1943
<b>DIED</b>	12 October 1973, Albany, Western Australia

---

**JOHN 'JACK' McBRIDE** was born on 5 June 1898 in Albany. He was the eldest of five children born to Richard McBride and Bessie Shaw. Richard McBride was the son of William McBride, a whaler from the USA who acquired land earning a living as a lime burner after settling in Albany in 1869, and Lucy Bradley. Lucy was the daughter of George Bradley, an expiree, and Jane Tierney, an Aboriginal woman. John's younger brother Thomas and his cousin Frederick Jennings also served. His father and his uncle, George McBride, were both rejected for medical reasons.

Jack and his siblings were raised and educated in Albany where their father worked as a wharfinger. By the age of 16, Jack was a member of the local sub-division of the Navel Cadets, attaining a reputation as 'an excellent shot'.

In November 1916, Jack was assigned to the forts on Mount Clarence where he served for a period of 19 months. He then joined the crew of HMAS *Cerberus* as a signaller responsible for the management of vessels within the harbour. Six months later, with the war drawing to a close, Jack was drafted to SS *Wiltshire* and proceeded to the Port of Suez to collect troops who were returning from active service.

Jack continued to serve on board the vessel until May 1919, when he was demobilised. The following year he married Dora Kitson and together they had four children. In the mid-1920s he was granted a twenty-five-acre allotment within the Albany townsite which he held through until 1934. During this period, Jack worked as a lime burner and then as a waterside worker.

At the age of 43 he reenlisted for service. He was initially appointed to the 23rd Garrison Battalion at Fremantle and then moved to the 29th Garrison Battalion, where he was involved in general depot duties in Albany, Geraldton and Northam. In June 1943, Jack was evacuated to the 110th Australian General Hospital at the Swanbourne Barracks with chronic bronchitis, remaining there for five weeks before being deemed 'medically unfit' and discharged from service.

On returning to Albany, Jack spent 25 years earning a living in the fishing industry. A keen yachtsman and talented tenor, he passed away on 12 August 1973 at the Albany Regional Hospital, aged 75. One of his sons and his daughter also served in the Second World War. Jack is buried in the Allambie Park Cemetery in Albany.

## ■ PRIVATE THOMAS McBRIDE



---

<b>RANK</b>	Private W4486
<b>BORN</b>	17 July 1900, Albany, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 1917 Discharged 1919; Enlisted 29 December 1941 Discharged 30 January 1946
<b>DIED</b>	2 August 1962, Albany, Western Australia

---

**THOMAS McBRIDE** was born in Albany on 17 July 1900. He was the third of five sons born to Richard McBride, who was of Aboriginal descent, and Bessie Shaw. He was the younger brother of John and cousin of Frederick Jennings who also served. Two of his siblings and four relatives served in World War II. His father Richard and uncle, George McBride, were both rejected for medical reasons.

Thomas was raised in Albany where he attended the local state school. By the age of 17 he was enrolled in the Senior Cadets and, within 18 months, he had joined the Examination Services of the Royal Australian Naval Brigade. These units were located at major ports throughout Australia where they were responsible for the safe piloting of vessels entering and for assigning anchorages.

In July 1919, Thomas attended the tea and social dance organised by the Naval Welcome Committee at the town hall. The Australian Naval Reserve, Transport Signalmen, the Examination Service and the Royal Australian Naval Brigade personnel were in attendance, including his brother John. Thomas served with the Naval Cadets for a period of four years and five months.

Thomas reenlisted to serve in World War II on 29 December 1941, giving his occupation as a 'grocer's assistant'.

Two months later he was admitted to Bunbury Hospital, diagnosed with a hernia. In September 1942 he was transferred through to 29th Garrison in Claremont and then on to Davilak, where he was placed with the 26th Australian Works Company at the Ardath and Nungarran military installations in the Northam area.

In September 1944, Thomas was readmitted to hospital with bronchitis, returning to duty eight days later. In January 1945 he was transferred to the 10th Australian Base Store at Karrakatta and was discharged from service on 30 January 1946.

Thomas McBride is believed to have died of natural causes on 2 August 1962 at his residence in Big Grove, Albany, aged 62. His body was found by his younger brother Patrick. Thomas was unmarried and was laid to rest in the Albany Memorial Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE ARTHUR EDWARD McCALLUM




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 165
<b>BORN</b>	26 March 1887, Albany, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 4 September 1914 Discharged 17 February 1919
<b>DIED</b>	1 April 1930, Morowa, Western Australia

---

**ARTHUR McCALLUM** was born in Albany on 26 March 1887. He was the eldest son of Arthur Edward McCallum, a council worker, and Mary-Ann Colefax — the daughter of an Aboriginal woman named Phoebe Youngetshan and an expirée named John Colefax. Phoebe was educated at the Annesfield School for Aboriginal children in Albany.

Prior to enlisting in Perth in September 1914, Arthur was working at the Public Works Department in Goomalling. He was assigned to the 16th Battalion in October and travelled with the battalion to the Broadmeadows camp in Victoria. On 22 December he sailed for Gallipoli on HMAT *Ceramic* (A40), arriving six weeks later in Alexandria, where he underwent further training. On 11 April, Arthur boarded the transport ship *Haida Pascha* bound for Lemnos where the 16th Battalion spent ten days practicing landing procedures.

On 25 April, Arthur survived the initial landing at Gallipoli only to be evacuated to the No. 2 Stationary Hospital at Mudros on 16 June with bronchitis and ulcerations to his mouth. Once recovered, he returned to his unit. On 19 October, Arthur was again admitted to hospital in Mudros with jaundice, and in December, he was evacuated to the 1st Auxiliary Hospital in Alexandria suffering from influenza. In early January 1916 he was transferred to Cairo where he was readmitted to hospital. On 26 April 1916, Arthur was transferred to the 48th Battalion and travelled to France where he fought in several

battles, including at Pozières and Mouquet Farm. In August he was admitted to hospital with nasal haemorrhaging and deafness. He rejoined his unit and remained in the field for another fourteen months where he participated in action at Passchendaele and Bullecce. Following a period of leave in England, he returned to France in January 1918.

On 28 March 1918, during the Battle of Albert, he received gunshot wounds to his head, left thigh and left hand. He was admitted to the 18th General Hospital in Camiers before being transferred to the Kitchener Military Hospital in Brighton, England, where he remained for six weeks. On 12 September he returned to France, joining the 4th Machine Gun Battalion before heading back to England a few weeks later on HMS *Prince George*.

Arthur embarked for Fremantle aboard SS *Port Lyttelton*, arriving home on 12 December. He was placed under quarantine at Woodman Point due to an outbreak of pneumonic influenza on the voyage. Once cleared, he received special leave reserved for those who had served at Gallipoli.

Arthur was discharged from service in February 1919. For the next few years he received sustenance support prior to gaining a position as a road worker. In 1929 he moved to Morawa and was employed as a yardman at the local hotel. On 1 April 1930, Arthur McCallum died in his sleep, aged 41. He is buried in the old Morowa Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE GORDON CHARLES NALEY




---

<b>RANK</b>	Private 1310
<b>BORN</b>	1884, Eucla area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 17 September 1914 Discharged 21 September 1919
<b>DIED</b>	28 August 1928, Myrtle Bank, South Australia

---

**GORDON NALEY** was born in 1884 on Mandra Balae Station (now Mundrabilla Station) in the Eucla area of Western Australia, 30 kilometres inland from the Great Australian Bight. He was the son of a station manager and an Aboriginal woman.

Gordon was raised on the property and educated by the wife of one of the owners, Ellen McGill, who became his 'adoptive mother'. By late 1909 he was living at Taylorville on the Murray River where he was employed as a farm labourer and drover. A keen all-round sportsman, he was also active in community events.

On 17 September 1914, Gordon enlisted in Morphettville before entraining to Broadmeadows in Victoria where he was appointed to the 16th Battalion. On 22 December, he embarked for Egypt aboard HMAT *Ceramic* (A40) from Melbourne, joining another 15 vessels and a submarine at Albany. The convoy was transporting 13,000 Australian and 2,000 New Zealander troops to the front.

On disembarking at Alexandria on 1 February 1915, Gordon continued training with the battalion at Heliopolis and, nine weeks later, boarded the transport ship *Haida Pascha* for Gallipoli, arriving on the afternoon of 25 April. In May he was involved in defence of Quinns Post before contracting enteric fever and being evacuated to the hospital ship HMHS *Soudan*. He was transferred through to the Military Hospital in Malta and then on to Fulham in

London where he remained until July. On being discharged he proceeded to the 4th Australian Division Base at Etaples in France, rejoining his battalion during mid-August 1916. Over the following months his unit was involved in action on the Western Front.

During an assault on the Hindenburg Line at Bapaume on 12 April 1917, Gordon was wounded and captured. Of the 717 men from the battalion who fought in the battle, only 90 survived. Gordon was imprisoned at Limburg and Zerbst in Germany for almost two years.

He returned to England in January 1919 following the armistice and, two weeks later, married Cecilia Karsh, who he had met whilst convalescing. In early June the couple departed aboard SS *Bremen*, arriving in Adelaide on 23 July. Within a year of landing he had taken up a Soldier Settlement block at Winkie in the Berri district of South Australia where he established an orchard and broke-in and sold horses. Gordon was discharged from service on 21 September. The couple remained on the property for around six years, during which time their six children were born. Throughout the period, Gordon maintained an interest in sport and was a member of the local cricket team.

By late 1927 the family had moved to Brooklyn Park due to Gordon's failing health. Gordon Naley passed away on 28 August 1928 at the Veterans' Hospital in Myrtle Bank, aged 43. He is buried in the West Terrace Cemetery in Adelaide.

## ■ TROOPER JAMES DICKERSON




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<b>RANK</b>	Trooper 392
<b>BORN</b>	10 November 1883, Gingin, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 19 October 1914 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	30 August 1915, aboard HMAT <i>Devanha</i>

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**JAMES DICKERSON** was born in Gingin on 10 November 1883. He was the son of Mary Elizabeth Benyup and a labourer named George Dickerson. Prior to her marriage to George, Mary had been a domestic servant employed by John Parker, her first husband and father of three of her children. Mary was the daughter of a shepherd named Charles Brazley and Caroline whose Aboriginal name was Banyap. James' younger brother Harry also served along with his step-nephews Frank, Aubrey and Hubert Lawrence.

Shortly after James was born, his father passed away in the Government Hospital in Perth, leaving Mary widowed for the second time in three years. Following the death, James and his three older half-siblings were admitted to the Perth Orphanage. Within nine years he had returned to his mother who fell on bad times and an attempt was made to admit him to the New Norcia Mission, along with his four younger siblings. By the age of 16, James had started work and was employed by William Craig — the one-time licensee of the Castle Hotel in York and a prominent race horse owner who had employed Jimmy Melbourne, another Aboriginal serviceman, as a jockey earlier in the decade. He remained in the area, competing in the Trade Gala Sports in Northam that was attended by His Excellency the Governor-General in 1905.

On 19 October 1914, James enlisted in York stating his occupation as a 'labourer' and

proceeded to Blackboy Hill where he was assigned to the 10th Australian Light Horse Regiment. Following four months training James embarked from Fremantle aboard HMAT *Surada* (A52) on 17 February 1915, arriving at the Port of Suez on 21 March along with 1,400 other troops from Australia. The contingent continued on to Mena where they underwent further training and tended to their horses in preparation for the battle. On 16 May he boarded SS *Huntsend* at Alexandria together with 2,350 other servicemen, landing at Gallipoli six days later.

Over the next four weeks he was involved in front line action where 'plenty of bullets and shells were flying about'. A friend described James as 'a hard case and the life of our troop, liked by officers and men'. On 29 August, during the major assault at Hill 60, James sustained life-threatening gunshot wounds and was evacuated on HMAT *Devanha*. The following day he passed away and was buried at sea with military honours, his resting place being 80 kilometres west of Cape Matapan in Greece. Coincidentally, this was the same day his younger brother Harry enlisted at Blackboy Hill.

James Dickerson is memorialised at Lone Pine at Gallipoli, the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, the Western Australian State War Memorial and the York War Memorial. He was the only known Western Australian Aboriginal serviceman to have died during the Gallipoli campaign.

## ■ PRIVATE LEWIS FARMER




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 421
<b>BORN</b>	5 November 1898, Katanning, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 28 December 1914 Discharged 10 June 1919
<b>DIED</b>	23 August 1946, Katanning, Western Australia

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**LEWIS FARMER** was born on 5 November 1898 in Katanning. He was the fourth son of William Pegg Farmer, a land guide, and Emily Coyne, who were both of Aboriginal descent. His brothers Augustus, Kenneth and Larry also served. His brother Richard and nephew Ronald served in World War II.

Lewis was raised and educated in the area where he was a member of the junior football club in 1911.

Lewis enlisted in Katanning on 28 December 1914, the first of four brothers to do so. In March 1915, a month after arriving at Blackboy Hill, Lewis was appointed to the 28th Battalion training with the 11th Company Australian Garrison Artillery at Arthur's Head in Fremantle. On 9 June 1915, he embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) for Egypt, along with his older brother Larry, Randell and Henry Mason, Charles Hutchins and John Powell.

Lewis arrived at Gallipoli in September 1915, where he remained until he was evacuated with the Allied exodus of the peninsula to the island of Lemnos in December and prior to embarking for the Western Front in March, he was hospitalised with a serious arm infection. In August 1916, during the battle of Pozières, he received a gunshot wound to the leg and was evacuated to London. Tragically, his brother Larry was killed in the same offensive.

On 18 December, Lewis returned to France and was readmitted to hospital with 'trench foot' in January. He was evacuated to hospital in Reading, where he remained for almost three months. From 3 April to 18 September he was stationed with the 70th Battalion at Wareham in England serving along with other Western Australians. In October, Lewis returned to the 28th Battalion in France where he was engaged in further action at Bullecourt and Menin Road. On 6 April 1918 he was hospitalised with influenza and, after a period of convalescence, he returned to serve on the front line in Villers-Bretonneux, Amiens and Estrées. In mid-October he took leave in England.

A month later, Lewis arrived back in France, where he remained prior to returning to England for demobilisation. He embarked for Australia on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 28 February 1919. On arrival in Albany on 7 April he spent three days in quarantine before returning to Katanning.

Lewis was discharged from service on 10 June 1919. For the next 15 years, he was employed in a variety of jobs including a linesman for the Telegraph Postal Department and as an assistant at the local butcher. During this time, he continued to play football as a member of the Katanning Wanderers team.

Lewis Farmer passed away on 23 August 1946 at the Katanning Hospital, aged 50. He was buried with full military honours in the Katanning Cemetery.

## ■ TROOPER WILLIAM MASON




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<b>RANK</b>	Trooper 810
<b>BORN</b>	22 December 1880, Mortigallup, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 2 January 1915 Discharged 10 October 1918
<b>DIED</b>	30 November 1956, Albany, Western Australia

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**WILLIAM 'BILL' MASON** was born on 22 December 1880 in Mortigallup. He was the fifth of eight children born to Fanny Harris, an Aboriginal woman whose mother was from the Portland Bay area in Victoria, and William Bonworth Mason, a Cambridge educated settler. Bill and his siblings were raised on a farm, which their father leased from the well-known Hassell family.

In 1903 he was awarded a tender to clear land and construct roads with the local Roads Board. In 1908, Bill acquired a Homestead Farm lease of 160 acres, which he improved in compliance with the statutory requirements of the Department of Lands. He used the land to break-in wild brumbies in his spare time.

Bill enlisted in Albany on 2 January 1915 and, the following month, he was appointed to the 3rd Reinforcements of the 10th Australian Light Horse Regiment at Guildford. He received training in exercises such as horse mastership, reconnaissance tactics and field firing. Bill was also an experienced blacksmith having served his apprenticeship in the wheatbelt town of Cunderdin.

On 22 February 1915, Bill boarded HMAT *Itonus* (A50) at Fremantle, disembarking at the Port of Suez on 17 March. Following further training in Abbassia, he travelled on to Alexandria before embarking for the Gallipoli Peninsula

on 1 August. Within three weeks of landing he contracted influenza and was evacuated to the No. 2 General Hospital at the Ghezirah Palace in Cairo. Over the next two and a half years he was admitted to hospital a number of times with debility, 'Nile fever', a septic leg, myalgia and other ailments. During periods of recuperation he was stationed at the Australian Depot store in Cairo where he was involved in light duties.

On 29 August 1918, Bill was transferred to Port Said and invalided back to Australia on HMAT *Wiltshire* (A18) the following day.

He arrived on 16 September and was discharged from service three weeks later. In 1919, Bill married Elsie Mary Robeson who gave birth to their only child the following year. Around this time, he was granted a Soldier Settlement lease of 1,675 acres, situated seven miles west of Kendenup. This lease was repossessed by the Agricultural Bank in 1923.

Following the death of his wife in 1929, Bill remained in the area for a further 15 years, involved in agricultural pursuits as well as working with horses. With his health deteriorating he moved to Perth in the mid 1940s to live with relatives, passing away on 30 November 1956, aged 76.

Bill was buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery in the same grave as his brother Randell who also served in World War I.

## ■ PRIVATE RANDELL MASON




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 897
<b>BORN</b>	18 September 1876, Mortigallup, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 4 January 1915 Discharged 8 March 1917
<b>DIED</b>	27 July 1954, Perth, Western Australia

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**RANDELL MASON** was born in Mortigallup on 18 September 1876 to Fanny Harris and William Mason. He was the third oldest of eight children.

Randell had a similar upbringing to his siblings, assisting their parents in maintaining and developing their property. Around the turn of the century, the four brothers were earning a living from shooting kangaroos for their skins. Of the brothers, he was the most athletic, participating in the Sheffield Handicap event at Mount Barker in 1912.

Along with his brother Harry, Randell enlisted in Katanning on 4 January 1915. They were both assigned to the 28th Battalion at Blackboy Hill and following training, embarked for Egypt on 9 June aboard HMAT *Ascanius* (A11). In September, Randell embarked at Alexandria for Gallipoli. On 7 November he was admitted to the ANZAC Hospital and was transferred to Mudros for treatment six days later. In March 1916, he was sent back to the mainland and was readmitted to hospital with influenza. He embarked for the Western Front at Alexandria on HMT *Tunisian* in May, arriving at Marseille a week later.

In late July, the 28th Battalion was engaged in battle on the Somme in France, where Randell's brother Harry was killed in action. In early August, the battalion became involved in a series of attacks on German trenches north of the

village of Pozières. A week later, Randell was admitted to the 26th General Hospital at Etaples, before being transferred to England suffering with tachycardia. On 5 September he was admitted to the Command Depot No. 2 in Weymouth, which accommodated men not expected to be fit for duty within six months.

In October, Randell embarked on HMAT *Ajana* (A31) at Portland, arriving in Fremantle on 8 December. Three months later he was discharged from service deemed 'medically unfit', suffering from neurasthenia. He returned to the Tenterden area in 1919 and married local woman Stella Herbert in 1920. They had two children before separating. Stella gained some prominence as a ranger and pound keeper in the Plantagenet area. She later became the first female to hold a motorcycle license in Western Australia.

Randell remained in the Tenterden area employed in farming activities. An accomplished musician, he performed on many occasions in the district, including in support of Australia's effort in World War II. Around 1950 he moved to Perth to live with his sister and her family.

On 14 July 1954 Randell was struck by a motor vehicle in Mount Hawthorn. He passed away 13 days later at Royal Perth Hospital, aged 77. An inquiry established that his death was due to bronchial pneumonia. Randell was buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery in the same grave as his brother William.

## ■ PRIVATE HENRY MASON



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<b>RANK</b>	Private 895
<b>BORN</b>	1879, Mortigallup, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 4 January 1915 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	24 June 1916, Ploegsteert, Belgium

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**HENRY ‘HARRY’ MASON** was born in Mortigallup to Fanny Harris and William Mason in 1879. He was the fourth of eight children, the younger brother of Randell, and older brother to William who also served.

Harry’s early life was similar to his siblings — assisting with the upkeep of the family property and earning a living by trading kangaroo skins. He also worked as a boundary rider for the well-known Hassell family at Kendenup.

On 4 January 1915, Harry enlisted with his brother Randell in Katanning, stating his occupation as a ‘labourer’. In March, the two brothers joined the 13th Depot Company at Blackboy Hill. One month later, the two were assigned to the 1st Reinforcements of the 28th Battalion and underwent routine infantry training.

On 9 June, the two brothers embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) bound for Egypt. Harry was hospitalised with influenza during the journey. After spending time training in Abassia, he embarked for Gallipoli on 4 September aboard SS *Ivernia*. Harry failed to reach the peninsula, being hospitalised on the island of Lemnos and, following a period of recuperation, he returned to Cairo in late November and was admitted to the No. 2 General Hospital in Ghezirah with bronchitis.

The following month, Harry was transferred to the Helouan Convalescent Depot where he remained until the end of the year. In January 1916, Harry returned to duty in Tel-El-Kebir, but was readmitted to hospital in Ghezirah. In March he rejoined his battalion in Moascar. Two weeks later he sailed from Alexandria, disembarking at Marseille on 21 March and travelling to Belgium, where the battalion received further training in bayonet fighting and gas warfare. In early April he entered the front line around Armentières.

On 24 June 1916, while engaged in action at Ploegsteert, Henry Mason was killed. He was buried at La Plus Douve Farm Military Cemetery in Belgium, south-west of Messines, the same day. He was 39 years old.

In February the following year, his father William was granted a pension of 28 shillings fortnightly for the loss of his son. On 28 March 1918 he received a package containing his son’s possessions which consisted of a disc, nine postcards, two metal rings, a pipe, a button and a handkerchief. In September 1921 his father received his Memorial Scroll and, in July the following year, his Memorial Plaque. On 3 January 1923, William received his son’s Victory medal.

## ■ SERGEANT FREDERICK LESLIE SAYERS




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<b>RANK</b>	Sergeant 1042
<b>BORN</b>	13 December 1896, Busselton, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 10 February 1915 Discharged 5 October 1919; Enlisted 11 November 1940 Discharged 18 October 1945
<b>DIED</b>	1 November 1974, West Perth, Western Australia

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**FREDERICK ‘LES’ SAYERS** was born in Busselton on 13 December 1896. He was the younger brother of Lawrence and Albert who also served in World War I, and Charles who was rejected on the grounds of descent.

Les was raised in the Busselton area and attended the local state school where he participated in concerts and cantatas and demonstrated his sporting capabilities. By the age of 16 he was playing football at a senior level and represented the Busselton league team.

On 10 February 1915, Les enlisted in Busselton where he was working as a ‘bread-carter’. A week later he arrived at Blackboy Hill where he was placed with the 10th Light Horse Regiment. Following four months of training he embarked from Fremantle aboard HMAT *Karoola* (A63). After berthing at the Port of Suez on 17 July, the troops boarded a train to Cairo, arriving the next day.

Following further training over the next two months, Les departed from Alexandria for Gallipoli where he remained until the allied evacuation of the peninsula in mid-December. Being unable to walk, he was carried across the beach by his mates to the *Sicilian Prince*. Reflecting on the event, Les later wrote: ‘A day I shall never forget, it being my nineteenth birthday’.

A week later, Les arrived at Alexandria, spending Christmas and New Year at Heliopolis before completing additional training. On 1 August he was transferred to the 3rd Light Horse Machine Gun Squadron at Moascar. Over the next 12 months, the squadron was involved in a number of major battles across the Sinai Peninsula, including the capture of El-Arish in late December. On 3 May he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal and, over the next four months, he spent time in Moascar, Jerusalem, Gaza and Kantara. From September to June 1919 the battalion rested in camp at Port Said awaiting their journey home.

Les embarked aboard HMHS *Oxfordshire* on 10 July, arriving at Fremantle on 4 August. During his time aboard he won a number of sporting events including boxing and athletics. Most notably he was the best all-round athlete of the *Oxfordshire*. While on active duty Les lost his older brother Albert, who passed away at Woodman Point from pneumonic influenza.

Les married Alberta Bickford at Fremantle in 1920 and the couple had four children. He reenlisted in Claremont on 11 November 1940 to serve in World War II. During this time he was appointed to the rank of Sergeant. He was discharged from service on 18 October 1945.

Frederick Sayers passed away on 1 November 1974 in West Perth, aged 77. He is buried in the Karakatta Cemetery.



FREDERICK LESLIE SAYERS TRAINING  
WITH THE 10th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT  
AT GUILDFORD, 1915

Courtesy Sayers family.

EXCERPT FROM  
THE DIARY OF  
FREDERICK SAYERS

Courtesy Sayers family.

DIARY (DAD)

F.L. SAYERS

17.2.15 I joined at Black Boy and after training about 4½ months we sailed on June 25 on T42 S.S. Karoola, the first night being very rough I spent the night in the Bathroom being unable to proceed between Decks, the rest of the voyage being splendid. We sighted Aden on 13th July and after stopping for 5 hours proceeded to Suez, we disembarked on 18th and boarded the train for Heliopolis arriving there at 10.30 p.m.

The next morning I walked round the camp where I found my Schoolmate A. Locki the same day I visited Cairo by motor. I found the Egyptian money rather puzzling at first but soon got into the ways and works of Egypt, on the 25th we visited the Pyramids and left for Cairo in the evening we decided to line our stomachs with a light meal but the foodstuffs not being to our liking, we decided to leave well alone and made our way to the Tram Terminus but not being used to the small ill-smelling streets we soon found ourselves looking silly but having a few piastres in hand we very soon found a guide. During the rest of our stay in Egypt we went through a fair amount of Bayonet fighting etc., but the weather being very hot we had a good deal of time to ourselves, in which we made good use of in the way of visiting the Obdisk, the Holy Well etc. On the 25th September we left Alexandria for Lemnos and after 4½ days sailing we reached our destination on the Trooper. Lemnos is a fine harbour with a large quantity of ships of all descriptions. On the 31st we boarded a Minesweeper at about 4.30 p.m. and reached the Bay of Anzac at nine, the first sight of war was a Light Cruiser bombarding Cape Helles. We could see the trenches quite plain as the searchlights played on them constantly while the guns played havoc among them. We landed at Anzac Cove about 1.00 p.m. while pulling in to the landing, bullets fell amongst us like so many stones but only a few got wounded. We arrived at the trenches our Regiment was holding and I can assure you the firing did not affect our sleeping. We started work the following afternoon at sapping and I can tell you we stuck at it a week only having 12 hours sleep.

We experienced a lot of narrow escapes, mostly shrapnel. Cob and myself, while digging a dugout for ourselves, got a shock. Cob receiving a slight wound in the shoulder while I myself had the Old Banjo handle split while holding it. Our tunics often received shrapnel holes. Fred Veale stopped a smack just above the eye but he was in luck's way as the pellet only went skin deep. The sight I enjoyed was to watch the little Destroyer which we afterwards named the snake, come in and pepper old jack's trenches, then turn and fly out of range before the Turks guns could take effect. We evacuated the Peninsula on the 13th December, a day I shall never forget it being my 19th birthday.

I was not too well that day and had a struggle to reach the beach but succeeded with the help of a mate or two. We boarded the Barge very silently and arrived on board the Sicilian Prince and sailed for the Harbour of Lemnos. A week or two before we left Anzac we witnessed a snow storm which I might say was very unpleasant but a most beautiful sight to see. The tops of the hills were white for a week while the parapets of both our trenches and the enemys showed out very distinctly which made things very difficult for us all as we could not move a hand above without being seen.

## ■ PRIVATE CHARLES HUTCHINS




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 307
<b>BORN</b>	c.1892, Busselton, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 5 March 1915 Discharged 9 March 1921
<b>DIED</b>	16 August 1952, Kogarah, New South Wales

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**CHARLES HUTCHINS** was born in the Busselton area around 1892 to Annie Harris and Charles Hutchins (Snr.), a bush worker. Annie was the daughter of Timothy Harris, a highly respected stock-hunter and farm hand, and Caroline Mulaney, both of whom were of Aboriginal descent.

By the age of three, Charles was placed in the Vasse Native and Half-Caste Mission, and from 1902, in the care of Eleanor Guerin, who received payment for his upkeep. He attended the state school in Busselton along with the Sayers brothers who also served. While at school he received awards for athleticism and was active in community events. In 1909 he was hospitalised with a hip injury following a cart accident.

Prior to enlisting in Bunbury on 5 March 1915, Charles was a member of the Busselton Cadets while working in the timber industry. On entering Blackboy Hill he was appointed to the No. 10 Depot Company and then the 28th Battalion.

On 9 June, Charles embarked for Egypt on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) from Fremantle, disembarking at the Port of Suez. After undergoing further training at Abbassia he boarded SS *Ivenia* on 4 September for Gallipoli. Seven weeks after landing, Charles was treated for debility and admitted to the Anzac Cove hospital. His condition developed into typhoid

and he was evacuated to the Netley hospital in England, where he remained for the next 12 months. In December 1916, Charles rejoined his battalion in Bois Grenier and was involved in action around Pozières before being hospitalised with ‘trench fever’ in May 1917. Following his discharge, he returned to the front line in Belgium. On 20 September he sustained near fatal gunshot wounds to his thigh, leg and arm in the Polygon Wood area. Charles was transferred to hospital in Boulogne where he received holy communion prior to being evacuated to No. 2 General Hospital in England.

During his time convalescing, Charles met Rose Elsley, a hospital volunteer who he married on 19 March 1919 — four days after he was scheduled return to Australia. As a result he was penalised 48 days pay. On 19 April 1919 he departed on board HMAT *Marathon* (A74), arriving in Fremantle on 30 May. His wife followed him six months later on SS *Mahana*.

Charles was discharged from service on 9 March 1921. He and his wife remained in Perth until 1945 when they moved to New South Wales to live nearer to their only daughter, Marjorie, who resided there with her husband. For the rest of his life, Charles’ health suffered from the effects of the war.

Charles Hutchins passed away on 16 August 1952, aged 59. At his request, his ashes were returned back to country in Western Australia (his country) and are scattered along with those of his wife in the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River).



NETLEY HOSPITAL IN ENGLAND, c.1916

Charles Hutchins (third from right).

Courtesy Hutchins family.

## ■ LANCE CORPORAL JOHN POWELL




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 497
<b>BORN</b>	1898, Upper Swan, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 5 March 1915 Discharged 15 February 1916; Enlisted 14 May 1917 Discharged 17 August 1918
<b>DIED</b>	20 April 1924, Wooroloo, Western Australia

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**JOHN POWELL** was born in 1898 in Upper Swan. He was the second of three children born to John William Powell, a blacksmith, and Louisa Thompson, a woman of Aboriginal descent. Louisa received her education at the Half-Caste Mission in Perth and later at Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission before working as a maid for the well-known Lefroy family of Herne Hill.

John was educated at the state school in Upper Swan and was employed as a labourer when he enlisted in Perth on 5 March 1915. Although just 17, he stated his age as '18 years and 7 months' on his attestation papers. He proceeded to Blackboy Hill and was placed in the 11th Depot Company, training with the YMCA boys, and on 16 April, he was appointed into the 28th Battalion. A month prior to embarking, the Upper Swan State School students, parents and teachers arranged a send-off for John who was described as one of the early pupils of the school.

On 9 June 1915, John left aboard HMAT *Ascanius* (A11), arriving at the Port of Suez on 2 July, before proceeding to the base camp at Abbassia.

On 18 August he was admitted to No. 1 Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis with an inflamed, deformed foot. He was repatriated to Australia on HT *Ulysses* on 3 September, disembarking at Fremantle in late September. On arrival, John was admitted to the No. 8 Australian General Hospital at Fremantle where he remained until 15 February 1916 when he was discharged from service as being 'permanently unfit'.

John reenlisted for service on 14 May 1917 stating his occupation as an 'acting fireman' and was appointed to the 22nd Depot Company. Six months later he contracted mumps and was admitted to the Victoria Hospital in Subiaco. On recovery, he returned to Blackboy Hill, where he remained until he was discharged on 17 August 1918 when 'his services were no longer required'.

John married Hannah Burdon in 1921 and together they had two children.

On 5 February 1924 he was admitted to Wooroloo Sanatorium and 10 weeks later, on Easter Sunday, John Powell passed away from pulmonary tuberculosis, aged 25. He was buried in the Middle Swan Cemetery the same day. Two weeks after his passing, his son was born.

Co. 4 platoon  
11<sup>th</sup> Depot  
Military Texts  
Blackboy Hill  
Tues March 9<sup>th</sup>

Dear Dad

Just a few lines to tell you that I am now training with the Y. M. C. A. boys. We had a terrible lot of men up yesterday, just over 70, and we were all inoculated Tuesday and another 8 days after that we will be inoculated again and a fortnight after that we will vaccinated against fever. Tomorrow is washing day and there will be no dull in the afternoon. We don't get much to eat here as we are on War Rations, just a bit of bread and jam and sometimes stew. 1 loaf of bread does a tent that is 12 men so you can see we don't get much. Monday Night I came into camp after an hours leave and there was not a thing left so I had to go and buy a few.

They are training us very quickly now as they want us to be away by the end of next month. They wont tell us where we are going they say they dont know themselves. It is very easy work in camp: start 6 o'clock have breakfast at 8 o'clock then start 9 and have dinner at one. We then start  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 and knock off 4 or 5. I see Sam up at the camp today, I couldn't get to talk to him @ large as Major Howell was calling out the roll at 4.30, Old Elliot who was working at Linnards is next camp to me.

I might be up tomorrow Wednesday and may not till Sunday, as a certain amount has to be in camp. We are getting the clothes next week and I will wear them up when I can get leave. There are about 17 how sand and some odd fellows in camp.

@ Blackboy Hill now  
Well I will come to  
a close.

I remain

yours etc  
J. Powell  
Y.M.C.A.

JOHN POWELL, LETTER TO HIS FATHER

Courtesy Powell Family.

## ■ PRIVATE LARRY FARMER




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 621
<b>BORN</b>	May 1891, Katanning, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 10 March 1915 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	Between 4 and 6 August 1916, Western Front, France

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**LARRY FARMER**, also known as ‘Pincher’, was born at Katanning in May 1891. He was the third of eight sons born to William Pegg Farmer and Emily Coyne, who were both of Aboriginal descent. His brothers Augustus, Kenneth and Lewis also served. His brother Richard and nephew Ronald served in World War II.

Larry was raised and educated in Katanning where he was described as one of the best footballers in the district. As a teenager he served an apprenticeship of three-and-a-half years with the Katanning coachbuilders Mouritz Brothers before moving to Bridgetown, where he continued playing football whilst working in the timber industry.

Larry enlisted on 10 March 1915 in Bridgetown describing his occupation as a ‘labourer’. Following a period of training at Blackboy Hill, he joined the ‘D’ Company of the 28th Battalion on 16 April. He left Fremantle on 9 June aboard HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) bound for the Port of Suez and journeyed on to Cairo by train where he commenced two months of training at Abbassia.

On 4 September, Larry embarked for Gallipoli on SS *Ivernia* from Alexandria, arriving four days later. He stayed with his unit through to the Allied evacuation of Gallipoli and proceeded to the Greek island of Mudros, where he remained until 10 January 1916, when he was transported back to Alexandria on HT *Ausonia*.

Following two months of additional training, Larry sailed for Marseille with the 28th Battalion, arriving on 16 March. While engaged in the Battle of Pozières, Larry was killed in action at an unknown point between 4 and 6 August. His brother Lewis was wounded in the same location and was evacuated to the Wandsworth Military Hospital in London. Prior to his untimely death, Larry had not experienced any illness or hospital admissions, remaining fit throughout his military career.

In September, the Katanning *Great Southern Herald* newspaper reported that his parents had ‘received the sad intelligence’ that their son, whom the paper described as a ‘prominent member of Katanning South Football Club’, had been killed in action. On 23 October, Larry’s mother Emily received a military pension of 40 shillings per fortnight for the loss of her son.

In January 1919, Emily received a package containing her son’s personal effects, namely a tin containing cigarette cards, a pipe, a belt, a collapsible cup and a piece of a comb. She received his Memorial Scroll and Message from the King in September 1921 and his Victory Medal 15 months later.

Larry Farmer is memorialised at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France, the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, the Western Australian State War Memorial, and the Katanning State School Honour Board.

## ■ PRIVATE JAMES MELBOURNE




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 2515
<b>BORN</b>	1876, York area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 21 March 1915 Discharged 9 September 1916
<b>DIED</b>	12 December 1937, South Melbourne, Victoria

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**JAMES 'JIMMY' MELBOURNE** was born in the York area in 1876, the son of an Aboriginal woman named Sarah and Charles Melbourne, a labourer.

In the early 1880s, Jimmy was placed in the Native and Half-Caste Mission, located at the western end of St. Georges Terrace in Perth, where he was educated. From the mid-1890s he gained prominence in a number of sports including horse racing, football, athletics, boxing and cricket. He was the first Aboriginal person to play Australian rules football at a state level, representing West Perth as a member of their premiership side in 1901 and later playing for South Fremantle and Subiaco. By the mid-1900s he was residing in the South-West, continuing to play various sports prior to returning to Perth where he married Florence Jones.

Around 1913, the couple moved to Melbourne where Jimmy was employed as a coachman. He enlisted on 21 March 1915 and travelled by train to the Seymour Camp where he was appointed to the Australian Light Horse Regiment at Broadmeadows. On 13 July he was transferred to the 7th Reinforcements of the 5th Battalion and embarked on HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) from Melbourne soon after, arriving at the Port of Suez in mid-August.

Jimmy remained in Egypt for 12 days before travelling on to Alexandria to board SS *Ionian* for Gallipoli. On August 26, within a few hours of landing, Jimmy was 'blown up by a shell',

suffering injuries to his head and left knee, and was evacuated to Lemnos in an unconscious state. He remained in hospital for a month, during which time he suffered from dysentery, and was then transferred to the No. 2 Australian General Hospital in Cairo before being discharged to the Australian Overseas Base.

On 1 March 1916, Jimmy returned to his unit, only to reenter the No. 3 Australian General Hospital due to his disabilities and sickness. Following a period of convalescence, he was returned to Australia aboard HMAT *Armada* (A26), arriving in Melbourne on 26 July. He was discharged from service on 9 September deemed 'medically unfit' and was granted a pension of 20 shillings per fortnight.

In October 1924, Jimmy lost his wife to cancer. Twelve years later he married Mary McDonald. While employed on the wharves and working for sustenance, he was described as a quiet, well-spoken man. On 12 December 1937, Jimmy was murdered at his home, aged 61. His landlord was convicted for manslaughter. James Melbourne is buried at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery in Melbourne.

In 2007, the Western Australian Football League paid tribute to Jimmy's contribution to the football history of the state by creating the Jimmy Melbourne Cup — awarded to the winner of the annual South Fremantle and Claremont game played each year during NAIDOC Week.

## ■ PRIVATE ARTHUR WALKER




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 2466
<b>BORN</b>	1883, Wallaroo, South Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 27 March 1915 Discharged 16 August 1916
<b>DIED</b>	16 August 1916, Monquet Farm, France

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**ARTHUR WALKER** was born in 1883 in Wallaroo, 160 kilometres north-west of Adelaide. He was one of four children to Reuben Walker of Goolwa, and Charlotte Owen, who as a young girl, had been removed with her brother Frank and raised in the Annesfield School in Albany. In the early 1870s, Charlotte and Frank were placed in the Poonindie Native Institution in South Australia. Arthur was the cousin of Eddie, Frank (Jnr.) and Henry Owen who all served.

Arthur was raised and educated in the Point Pearce Mission area where he later gained work as a labourer. Around 1914 he met Mabel Pantoni, an Aboriginal girl 'from Adelaide who had travelled round the world as a lady's maid', and together they had one son, Anzac, who was born on 25 April 1915. One month prior to the birth of his child, Arthur enlisted in Keswick, Adelaide, where he went on to train and was appointed to the 7th Reinforcements of the 10th Infantry Battalion.

A fortnight before embarking on HMT *Kanowna* (A61), Arthur returned to Goolwa where, on June 15, he was farewelled by a large number of the townspeople at the Institute Hall and presented with two silver-mounted pipes. His journey of five weeks to the Port of Suez was far from pleasant with a good deal of sickness on board. On disembarking, along with 1,100 other volunteers, he entrained to Cairo before proceeding to Alexandria where he

boarded HMT *Kingstonian* on 11 September for Gallipoli.

While on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Arthur was admitted to hospital suffering from abdominal pains and, in mid-December, he was evacuated to Mudros with colic. One week later he rejoined his unit before boarding HMT *Seang Bee* (A48) for Alexandria, disembarking at the end of the month.

In February 1916, Arthur was transferred to the 50th Battalion and on to the 4th Divisional Pioneer Battalion prior to embarking on SS *Scotian*, arriving at Marseille in June. Five weeks later he rejoined his former battalion at their billets, pending a move to the front line.

On 15 August, during a sustained bombardment at Mouquet Farm, Arthur Walker was reported missing and later was found to have been among the 110 soldiers from his battalion killed that day. Thirteen days prior to his death, Arthur had written to his mother from the village of Vadencourt informing her that he was 'going into the firing line'.

Eleven months later his personal effects were forwarded to his mother, consisting of two pipes, letters, a tin box, a prayer book, fishing line, a comb, a knife, a mirror, a handkerchief and a waterproof letter case. In September 1921, his father acknowledged the receipt of his Memorial Scroll and Plaque. Arthur Walker is memorialised at the Villers-Bretonneux and the Australian War Memorial.

## ■ PRIVATE ARTHUR MASON



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<b>RANK</b>	Private 3869
<b>BORN</b>	16 July 1874, Mortigallup, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 31 March 1915 Discharged 14 February 1918
<b>DIED</b>	15 March 1956, East Fremantle, Western Australia

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**ARTHUR MASON** was born on 16 July 1874 in Mortigallup. He was the second oldest of eight children born to Fanny Harris and William Mason, and was the brother of Randell, Harry and William who all served.

Arthur and his younger siblings were raised on a farm which their father leased from the well-known Hassell family. In his youth Arthur assisted his parents with the development of their property. In 1903, Arthur and his brother William were granted a contract by the Plantagenet Roads Board to clear land for the construction of roads.

Arthur enlisted at Blackboy Hill on 31 March 1915 at the age of 39 years and was assigned to the 11th Battalion. In November he embarked from Fremantle for Egypt on RMS *Mongolia*. Three months after arriving he was engaged in defence action on the Suez Canal.

On 2 March 1916, Arthur proceeded to Marseille on SS *Corsican* before entraining on to Flêtre. In May he was admitted to the Australian Hospital at Wimereux with tuberculosis and then evacuated to England in June, to be treated for bronchitis and pneumonia. Following a period at the Australian Convalescent Hospital in July, he was transferred to the ANZAC Hotel in London.

In December 1916, Arthur married Alice White at St George's Church in London. He spent most of his war service recovering from his injuries and sickness in military hospitals in Perham Downs, Weymouth and Bulford.

In August 1917 he sought a discharge from the AIF to enter munitions work in London, listing his trade as a mechanic. On 31 October, Arthur returned to Australia on HMAS *Berrima*, suffering from chronic bronchitis, pleurisy and an injury to the left shoulder. He disembarked in Fremantle on 22 December and was discharged from service on 14 February 1918. The following day he was granted a pension of 40 shillings per fortnight, his wife also receiving half the amount.

Three months after he arrived home his wife followed on board SS *Ionic*. In 1923, the couple were living in Lowden near Donnybrook before they moved to North Greenbushes, where Arthur became the licensee of the Railway Hotel.

In the late 1940s, the couple relocated to East Fremantle and resided there until 15 March 1956, when Arthur Mason passed away, aged 82. Alice had passed away five months earlier. The couple are buried side-by-side in the Albany Cemetery.

## ■ GUNNER ROBERT CLATWORTHY




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<b>RANK</b>	Gunner 1669A
<b>BORN</b>	May 1893, Esperance, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 15 April 1915 Discharged 1 April 1920
<b>DIED</b>	Unknown

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**ROBERT CLATWORTHY** was born in Esperance in May 1893 to Robert Clatworthy (Snr.), a shepherd, and Margaret (also known as Maggie), a woman of Aboriginal descent.

He was raised in the area with his older half-brother James Griffin who, along with his younger siblings Joseph and Lily, was sent to the Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission in 1904 following the death of their mother. Robert, being the eldest, remained in the area and was later engaged as a farm hand in nearby Dalyup.

In April 1915, Robert enlisted in Boulder, stating that he was a 'station hand' by profession. He then journeyed to Blackboy Hill where he was placed in the 11th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse Regiment. In October, Robert and his fellow recruits departed from Fremantle on board HMAS *Themistocles* (A32) and arrived in Egypt a little under a month later. Prior to leaving for the Western Front with the British Expeditionary Forces in July 1916, Robert trained to be a driver. During this time, he was sentenced to 14 days detention for leaving a parade without firstly obtaining permission.

In late December he was transferred to the field battery as a gunner. Nine months later he was again engaged as a driver. On 25 October 1917, having been in the field since the beginning of the year, Robert was wounded and admitted to the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance in Belgium. Seventeen days later he rejoined his unit where

he remained until February 1918 when he was granted a period of leave in England. Prior to departing, Robert was found guilty of being absent from duty and forfeited two days pay.

On 23 February 1918 he returned to his unit in France serving six months before forfeiting another seven days pay. Six months later, Robert was reported absent without leave and declared an illegal absentee by a Court of Enquiry. He was located in Paris, four weeks later, rejoining his unit on 20 December.

Tried before a Field General Court Martial in Belgium during January 1919, Robert was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment at the No. 10 Military Prison in Dunkirk. Having served less than six months, Robert absconded and was declared an illegal absentee. Eleven months later he was discharged from service, forfeiting his entire pay for the period.

During this time, Robert made his way across the Channel to England and then on to Scotland where, on 5 June, he boarded SS *Sidlaw Range* at Dundee. On the ship's manifest his destination was listed as Australia, however American port records indicate he disembarked at New York.

Little is known of Robert Clatworthy's life from this point onwards. In 1936 he was residing in Vancouver, Canada, when he wrote to the military headquarters in Canberra seeking a replacement Discharge Certificate and three years back pay. His request was denied. It is unclear if he ever returned to Australia.

■ DRIVER FRANCIS OWEN




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<b>RANK</b>	Driver 4193
<b>BORN</b>	1879, Wallaroo, South Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 22 April 1915 Discharged 13 April 1919
<b>DIED</b>	2 July 1938, Robe, South Australia

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**FRANCIS 'FRANK' OWEN** was born in Wallaroo in 1879 to Nelly Williams and Frank Owen (Snr.), who as a boy, was removed and raised at the Annesfield School in Albany and later, the Poonindie Native Institution in South Australia. Frank was one of 12 siblings. Two of his brothers, Edwin and Henry also served, as did his cousin Arthur Walker.

Frank was raised in the Robe area prior to moving to Queensland where he enlisted on 22 April 1915 in Gympie, stating his occupation as a 'labourer'. Following a period of training he was placed in the 4th Australian Field Company Engineers.

Frank departed from Brisbane on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 23 May, berthing at Fremantle, where additional troops boarded, prior to departing on 9 June for Egypt. After a period of training at Abbassia he stowed away to join his unit at Gallipoli, remaining there until the evacuation of the peninsula in December. It was reported in *The South-Eastern Times* on 14 November 1915, that during his time at Gallipoli, Frank was mistaken for a Turkish spy by British soldiers.

Frank disembarked at Alexandria on 4 January 1916, and while in camp in Cairo, suffered recurring bouts of bronchitis and was admitted to hospital. On 28 May he boarded SS *Britain* from Alexandria, travelling to Christchurch in England for further training.

Three months later, while in the Somme area, Frank sprained his ankle and, following treatment in the field, was evacuated to England on 23 January 1917 with synovitis in his right knee. On being discharged in late February, he remained in England until 17 November, when he proceeded to Rouelles in France, and was appointed to the 17th Field Company Engineers.

In March 1918, Frank was attached to the 4th Mobile Veterinary Section, spending the next seven months caring for and evacuating horses. In August he was readmitted to hospital at Le Troport with recurrent synovitis, rejoining the 17th Field Company on 13 October.

Following the armistice he returned to England, embarking for Australia on 2 January 1919 aboard SS *Karmal*, arriving in Fremantle in early February. In April he was discharged from service.

Frank returned to Robe where, in 1924, he married Joanna Kropinyeri. The couple had four children. Three months prior to Joanna's death in October 1934, the children were placed in care.

On 2 July 1938, aged 57, Frank Owen was struck by a motor vehicle and was killed. The local branch of the RSL arranged a military funeral for him at the Robe Cemetery.

## ■ LANCE SERGEANT CLAUDE SHAW




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<b>RANK</b>	Lance Sergeant 2413
<b>BORN</b>	27 February 1895, Gingin, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 29 April 1915 Discharged 3 June 1919; Enlisted 24 September 1940 Discharged 8 October 1945
<b>DIED</b>	17 February 1970, Nedlands, Western Australia

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**CLAUDE SHAW** was born on 27 February 1895 in Gingin to William Shaw and Mary Ann Hill. William was the son of Mary Ann Ballapon, an Aboriginal woman from Upper Swan, and George Shaw, a grazier and landowner. He was the fourth son of 12 children and brother to William and Roland, who both served in World War I.

As a teenager, Claude was a keen sportsman, winning a number of local events and participating in community activities in the Gingin area.

On 29 April 1915, Claude enlisted in Moora stating his occupation as a ‘farmer’ and, following a period of training at Blackboy Hill, joined the 7th Reinforcements of the 12th Battalion on 14 June. Five days later he departed from Fremantle on board HMAT *Chilka* (A51), arriving at Port Said on 21 July. Claude entrained to Cairo and then on to Alexandria. In early August his unit landed at Gallipoli and was engaged in the Battle of Lone Pine.

Three weeks later he was evacuated to hospital in Mudros and then Malta with conjunctivitis. Following his discharge from hospital he returned to Alexandria where he was transferred to the transport section. In mid-November he returned to Gallipoli.

Following the withdrawal of Allied troops in December, he spent time on Lemnos before heading to the Australian Overseas Base in Cairo. He remained in Egypt and was transferred to the 52nd Battalion at Tel-El-Kebir.

Claude proceeded to the Western Front in mid-June 1916 and was involved in fighting at Mouquet Farm. Two months later he received gunshot wounds to the right arm during the Battle of Messines. In April 1917 he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. Claude was transferred to England in February 1918 where he was attached to the 13th Training Battalion and was later moved to serve at the Australian Infantry Base Depot at Le Havre.

Following the armistice he remained in France, and, in January 1919, was transferred to England to return to Australia. He boarded HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 28 February in Devonport and arrived in Albany on 7 April. Claude was discharged from service on 3 June.

Twenty-one years later, on 24 September 1940, Claude reenlisted. At the time, he and his partner, Evelyn Rollins, were residing in Dwellingup where Claude was working as a repairer with Western Australian Government Railways.

Initially appointed to the Western Command Training School at the rank of Corporal, he was transferred to the 3rd Training Battalion in Northam during January 1941 and, in May, transferred to the Regional Training Depot at the Leeuwin Barracks. Claude was promoted to the rank of Lance Sergeant in July 1941 and returned to Northam prior to discharge on 8 October 1945.

Claude Shaw passed away at Hollywood Repatriation Hospital on 17 February 1970, aged 74. He was cremated at the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## ■ TROOPER CHARLES BAIRD




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<b>RANK</b>	Trooper 1234A
<b>BORN</b>	8 April 1890, China Camp near Bloomfield River, Queensland
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 29 April, 1915 Discharged 18 April 1919
<b>DIED</b>	16 March 1966, Wooroloo, Western Australia

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**CHARLES BAIRD** was born on 8 April 1890 at China Camp near the Bloomfield River in northern Queensland to Robert Baird, a tin miner, and Dinah Dalkeith, a woman of Aboriginal descent. His older brother Norman also served.

The two brothers were raised in the region, where they were engaged in work in the mineral industry. Their early life is featured in a book written by Ion L. Idriess, a well known author.

On 29 April 1915, Charles enlisted in Cooktown stating his occupation as a ‘miner’. He was appointed to the 9th Reinforcements for the 4th Light Horse Regiment and embarked for Egypt aboard HMAT *Hymettus* (A1) on 17 September from Brisbane. During the journey he contracted measles and, within days of arriving, dysentery. In November he was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis with enteric fever and was discharged to a convalescent camp a month later. Charles then proceeded on to the Port of Suez to return to Australia for ‘three months change’. In July, Charles boarded RMS *Malwa* in Sydney to return to Egypt, having been reappointed to the 11th Reinforcements of the 11th Light Horse Regiment.

Over the next two years he was involved in action at Es Salt and ‘the Great Ride’ in the Jordan Valley. Two days after the signing of the armistice he was hospitalised in Tripoli with pyrexia, and whilst a patient there contracted pneumonia, bronchitis and malaria.

Later that month, Charles was transferred to the 21st General Hospital in Alexandria and then the 14th Australian General Hospital in Abbassia. Deemed ‘medically unfit’, he then returned to Australia in January 1919 on board HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64). On the homeward journey he was admitted to the ship’s hospital with a reoccurrence of malaria and, on arrival in Albany, was continued on to the No. 8 Australian General Hospital in Fremantle where he was admitted for three weeks.

Following his discharge from service on 18 April 1919, he proceeded to the Yalgoo area where, for the next two years, he was engaged in prospecting activities and station work. In 1922 he was granted an Exemption Certificate and, 10 years later, sought assistance from the Repatriation Department to establish a wood yard in North Perth.

By the end of the decade, Charles was living in the Kalgoorlie area where he applied for a Service Pension. At the time, he was incapacitated by chest pains and shortage of breath. His life beyond this point remains unknown until the early 1950s when he was admitted to the Wooroloo Sanitarium under the name William Roberts.

Charles Baird passed away at the Wooroloo Sanitarium on 16 March 1966, aged 75. He is buried in the Northam Cemetery under the name William Roberts.

## ■ GUNNER FREDERICK LOCKYER




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<b>RANK</b>	Gunner 1123
<b>BORN</b>	28 March 1897, Perth, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 4 May 1915 Discharged 10 March 1920
<b>DIED</b>	8 May 1958, Concord, New South Wales

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**FREDERICK ‘FRED’ LOCKYER** was born in Perth on 28 March 1897 to Winifred ‘Winnie’ Lockyer, who was of Aboriginal descent, and an unknown father. Winnie was the daughter of George Joseph Lockyer, a partner in a number of north-west stations, and Ina Maddahan, an Aboriginal woman from the Roebourne area.

At the age of two, Fred was placed in the Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission by his mother who was working as a domestic servant on St Georges Terrace in Perth. He remained at the mission through to mid-1913 when he was taken on as an apprentice, working in the Cuballing area.

On 4 May 1915, Fred enlisted in Perth, stating he was a ‘labourer’ by profession and listing his next-of-kin as J.W. Armstrong — the manager of both the Swan Mission and the nearby Redhill Industrial School where he had spent time. Following seven weeks of routine training at Blackboy Hill, he was appointed to the 7th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse Regiment. Fred embarked from Fremantle in July on HMAT *Kanowna* (A51) for the journey through to Gallipoli. Upon his arrival, Fred’s unit was involved in defensive activities along the Rhododendron Spur until mid-December when they were evacuated with the rest of the Allied troops.

For the next six months, Fred served with the 3rd Light Horse Reserve Regiment at Heliopolis, undergoing further training and constructing trenches on the eastern side of the Suez Canal,

before proceeding to France. In June 1916 he was transferred to the 4th Australian Division Trench Mortar Battery and participated in several major encounters including Pozières, Mouquet Farm and Flers.

On the morning of 3 May 1917, while preparing for action at Ecourt-Saint-Quentin, Fred suffered wounds and ‘shell shock’ when he was buried by the explosion of an ammunition supply that was hit by an enemy shell. He was one of 47 casualties and was evacuated to the 8th Stationary Hospital at Wimereux. Upon recovering he was transferred to the ANZAC Salvage Corps Company and, on being evacuated to England in July, was reassigned to the Ordnance Corps at various depots including Millwall, Harefield and Weymouth. In February 1918, Fred was admitted to the 1st Auxiliary Hospital and, in June, to the Mile End Military Hospital with influenza. He continued to serve until July 1919 when he was granted leave and, on 30 August, he married Lily Harris in London. Fred was discharged from service on 10 March 1920.

On 21 November 1924 he returned to Australia, and, for the next five years, he worked in Canberra — firstly at Duntroon as an orderly and then as a road worker, prior to settling in Wellington, north-east of Sydney.

Frederick Lockyer passed away on 8 May 1958 at the Repatriation Hospital at Concord in Sydney, aged 62. He is buried in the Macquarie Park Cemetery in Ryde.



#### TROOPS ENCAMPED AT HELIOPOLIS RECEIVING BILLIES FROM VICTORIA

'I received your very welcome Christmas billy today (Christmas Day), and it made me the happiest soldier in Egypt when I read your kind letter and had a look at the photo ... I have just returned from the Front with my regiment. I was over there for three months, and got safely back to Egypt. All of the soldiers think it marvellous the way you good people have managed to get these gifts over here so quickly and so safely, and I can assure you that it has put new life into all of us to think that we have not been sent on a fool's errand and that someone is thinking of us as we go on with the great work that is set out for us to do. And I can safely say that we all intend to stay here till that work is done. You must not think that the lads here from Australia are always looking for fight and will be sorry when this war is over. If the war ended to-morrow every soldier would shout for joy, and the first thing they would think of would be Australia.'

Photograph and letter of thanks from Fred Lockyer at the Heliopolis camp acknowledging the receipt of a billy.

*The Ballarat Courier*, 9 February 1916, Ballarat Mechanics' Institute.

## ■ PRIVATE CHARLES SIMPSON



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<b>RANK</b>	Private 1778/8969
<b>BORN</b>	24 May 1897, Bridgetown, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 15 June 1915 Discharged 11 April 1919
<b>DIED</b>	21 October 1976, Katanning, Western Australia

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**CHARLES SIMPSON** was born on 24 May 1897 in the Bridgetown area. His parents were Charles Simpson (Snr.), a farmhand and labourer of Aboriginal descent, and Emily Reeve. He was the sixth of nine children. His older half-brother George was rejecting from serving for medical reasons.

Charles was educated at the local state school, and was a member of the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Senior Cadets for two years. He enlisted on 15 June 1915 in Bridgetown stating his trade as an 'orchardist'. He proceeded to Blackboy Hill later that month, where he trained and was appointed to the 2nd Reinforcements of the 28th Battalion. On 23 July he embarked for England aboard HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) from Fremantle.

In September, Charles was transferred to the 20th Divisional Army Service Corp (Horse Transport) in England where he served as a driver until he was sent to Cairo to join the 5th Divisional Base Depot. He spent time in hospitals in Ghezirah, Tel-El-Kebir and Abbassia during the first half of 1916. On 7 June he departed Alexandria on SS *Ionian* for the Western Front, disembarking at Marseille on 15 June.

On arriving at Etaples in December, he was transferred to the 1st Anzac Entrenching Battalion and then on to the 20th Company Australian Service Corp. Over the next eight months he was involved in action on the Somme, including at Pozières.

On 18 August he was evacuated to hospital in England with a fracture to his left ankle. A month later he was discharged to the 2nd Company Depot at Weymouth and then, in February 1918, he was assigned to the No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny.

In late May, Charles was admitted to the military hospital seriously ill with appendicitis. In August he returned to Weymouth and was ordered home for discharge deemed 'medically unfit'. On 19 October he boarded SS *Sardinia* for Australia. Shortly after departing, an influenza epidemic broke out and precautions were taken to contain the spread. On disembarking in Albany on 17 December, 145 Western Australian troops including Charles were temporarily confined to the Albany Quarantine Station.

Charles returned to Bridgetown in March 1919 and was discharged from service with a partial pension the following month. He received his British War Medal and the 1914–15 Star at a function held by the RSL in the Wagin Town Hall.

Charles married Ella Mader from Wagin in 1924 and the couple had six children. For the next 30 years he worked in a range of positions, including as a truck driver, hospital orderly, school bus driver and a gardener. During this period he was invited to attend corroborees by Beaufort Dinah who was locally regarded as the 'king' of the district.

Charles Simpson died on 21 October 1976, aged 79. He is buried in the Katanning Cemetery.

## ■ DRIVER ARTHUR GAUNT



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<b>RANK</b>	Driver 7008
<b>BORN</b>	25 November 1891, Lime Lake near Wagin, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 16 June 1915 Discharged 20 October 1919
<b>DIED</b>	24 November 1931, South Perth, Western Australia

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**ARTHUR GAUNT** was born on 25 November 1891 at Lime Lake, near Wagin, to Arthur Elijah Quartermaine and Matilda Cowan, the daughter of well-respected York identity John Walkinshaw Cowan and an Aboriginal woman.

Arthur was raised in the Narrogin area where he attended the local state school along with his six half-siblings — including his younger brother Bertie who was rejected from service for being ‘medically unfit’. A talented brass instrumentalist, Arthur was appointed bugler for the town’s scouts and was a member of local cricket and football teams.

On 16 June 1915, Arthur enlisted at Blackboy Hill, stating he was a ‘bricklayer’ by trade. A fortnight later he was appointed to the 2nd Reinforcements of the 16th Australian Army Service Corps Company and began training in Victoria. On 23 September he embarked for Southampton on HMAT *Malakata* (A57) before transferring to Egypt, where he joined the company in March the following year.

Arthur was admitted to hospital a number of times over the next three months, firstly with a deformed foot, then with scabies and finally with mumps. In March 1917 he rejoined his unit in France as a driver. In August the same year he was charged with overstaying his leave while in England and forfeited two days pay. He returned

to front line activities and was charged with the same offence in August 1918 and May 1919, forfeiting a further nine days and five days pay respectively.

On 28 June 1919, Arthur boarded SS *Orita* in England and returned to Australia on 20 October 1919. Upon returning home, Arthur and his older half-brother Bertie formed the construction company Messrs Gaunt Brothers, in part using a war gratitude bond of £100. In July 1920 they were awarded a contract to build the Maylands Town Hall that ran at a substantial loss due to unforeseen increases in materials. It was officially opened in May 1921. A plaque honouring Western Australian Aboriginal servicemen was affixed to the Maylands War Memorial located near the building in 2015.

In 1923, at the age of 31, Arthur married Rosina Colquhoun and together they had four children.

In September 1930, two months prior to his death, a fundraiser concert was held by the South Perth sub-branch of the RSL in aid of the family. On 24 November, Arthur passed away at his home, aged 39. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE WILLIAM JACKSON




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 1952
<b>BORN</b>	23 March 1884, Bunbury area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 24 June 1915 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	Between 16 and 18 November 1916, Western Front, France

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**WILLIAM 'BILL' JACKSON** was born on 23 March 1884 in the Bunbury area. He was the oldest of three children to Matthew Jackson, a farmer, and Louisa White, who was of Aboriginal descent.

At the age of seven, Bill was admitted to the Subiaco Boys Orphanage, along with his younger brother. Four years later he was transferred to New Norcia Mission where he remained for approximately two years before being reunited with his mother. In February 1899 he was charged with living at the 'Aboriginals' camp in Bayswater and released to a Mr Caporn, who had offered to find him a job as a gardener. At the time of his arrest he had been working as a labourer. In January 1906 he returned to New Norcia where he married Matilda Newman. Together they had four children.

Bill enlisted in Perth on 24 June 1915 and proceeded to Blackboy Hill where he was attached to the 3rd Reinforcements of the 28th Battalion. Following a short period of training, Bill departed Fremantle on 2 September aboard HMAT *Anchises* (A68), disembarking at the Port of Suez four weeks later.

Following further training at Abbassia, Bill continued to Alexandria where, on 12 October, he boarded a troop ship bound for Gallipoli, arriving five days later. Snow fell for the first time in late November, which proved to be a new experience for many of the Western

Australian servicemen. He remained on the Gallipoli Peninsula until mid-December when the Allied troops were evacuated. Bill returned to Egypt with his battalion, boarding SS *Ausonia* at Alexandria on 16 March 1916, and arrived in Marseille five days later. Upon disembarking, Bill entrained to northern France where the troops were involved in action at Armentières in early April. In July they captured Pozières and received heavy casualties from machine gun fire. On 7 November, Bill was admitted to the 7th Field Ambulance Hospital near Mametz, suffering from 'trench foot'. Reflecting on the experience he wrote:

*It is bad here — the conditions are dreadful,  
I think we will be lucky to see tomorrow.*

Eight days later, Bill returned to the front at Montauban, south of Pozières, and, during a heavy bombardment, Bill was badly wounded and died sometime between 16 and 18 November 1916. He was 32 years old.

One year later his wife provided a personal inscription for his headstone at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial that read: 'Loved in life, honoured in death, cherished in memory.' On 21 October 1921 she received his Memorial Scroll and in February 1923 his service medals.

William Jackson is also memorialised at the Australian War Memorial and the Western Australian State War Memorial.

## ■ PRIVATE JOHN MAHER




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 3089
<b>BORN</b>	28 March 1894, Gillingarra, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 25 June 1915 Discharged 9 July 1918
<b>DIED</b>	April 1970, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia

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**JOHN MAHER** was born on 28 March 1894 in Gillingarra, near New Norcia, to John Maher (Snr.) and Emily Maggs. He was the sixth of 11 children. John's younger brother Frank also served. He was raised in the Moora area where he attended the local school and was active in athletics.

John enlisted on 25 June 1915 in Geraldton, stating that he was a 'farm labourer'. Five days later he entered Blackboy Hill, where he was assigned to the 10th Reinforcements of the 11th Infantry Battalion. John embarked from Fremantle aboard HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 13 October, arriving at the Port of Suez in early November. A month later he was admitted to the 4th Auxiliary Hospital in Abbassia with mumps.

On being discharged, John was transferred to the 51st Battalion at Serapeum for further training. On 5 June 1916 he proceeded to Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force and then moved on to Marseille. He proceeded to Fleurbaix and, while engaged in action at Mouquet Farm between 14 and 16 August, John suffered gunshot wounds to his right leg. He was hospitalised and returned to his unit in Belgium two months later. Over the winter period he was involved in front line duties and, in April 1917, the battalion participated in the attack on Noreuil near the Hindenburg Line.

In June, John was admitted to hospital with pleurisy, rejoining his unit on 15 August and fighting in the battle of Polygon Wood in late September. On 12 October he suffered severe gunshot wounds to the head and was evacuated to Exeter in England. He was discharged to the No. 2 Convalescent Hospital in Weymouth and, on 1 February 1918, boarded SS *Balmoral Castle* for Australia. On arrival in Fremantle on 18 March, he was admitted to the No. 8 General Hospital.

Three months later, John left hospital voluntarily. He was discharged from service on 9 July with an invalid pension of 30 shillings per week. For the next 18 months he submitted applications to the Repatriation Department seeking employment and sustenance. In 1922 he travelled to Victoria where he was employed as a rigger, coal miner, farm labourer and prospector before entering hospital in 1937 suffering from war related injuries.

In the 1950s, John returned to Western Australia. He was admitted to the Royal Perth Hospital on Christmas Eve 1957 with respiratory problems. John passed away in Kalgoorlie during April 1970, aged 75. He was unmarried and is buried in the Kalgoorlie Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE JOHN MASON




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 1254
<b>BORN</b>	31 October 1877, Albany, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 28 June 1915 Discharged 5 January 1920
<b>DIED</b>	15 July 1941, Perth, Western Australia

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**JOHN MASON** was born on 31 October 1877 in Albany, the eldest of three siblings to John Mason (Snr.), a stockman, and Fanny Winnery whose Aboriginal name was Binian. His nephew Michael Coleman was rejected from serving for medical reasons. John was raised and educated in the Great Southern region where he was granted a Miner's Homestead Lease in 1902. On 28 June 1915, John enlisted in Katanning, stating his occupation as a 'labourer'. Two weeks later he proceeded to Blackboy Hill and was assigned to the 9th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse Regiment. On 4 October he embarked aboard HMAT *Hororata* (A20) from Fremantle, disembarking at the Port of Suez three weeks later. In February 1916, during the Sinai Campaign, he was hospitalised with influenza. On 19 April 1917, John suffered gunshot wounds to the left thigh and was admitted to the 14th Australian General Hospital at Abbassia, where he remained until early July. On being discharged he joined the 3rd Light Horse Regiment at Moascar and returned back to his regiment in September, participating in a number of battles in Palestine, including in Beersheba. On 3 May 1918, John was shot again in the same leg and hospitalised. Following a month recuperation and subsequent discharge, John was readmitted to hospital in Moascar for 14 days with pyrexia. On 23 July he returned to his unit in Palestine and. Later that year he was

also involved in action in Syria. In February 1919, John was hospitalised in Palestine for two months with jaundice before being evacuated as an 'invalid' to Australia. On 13 April, John boarded HMS *Warwickshire* at Port Said, disembarking at Fremantle on 5 May. He was admitted to the 8th Australian General Hospital on arrival, where he was treated for illnesses including malaria. John was discharged from service on 5 January 1920 and granted a war pension.

By 1933, John was residing in Greenmount, located immediately behind his place of enlistment. On 1 October 1936, a poem written by John titled 'The Great Beersheba Ride' was published in the *Western Mail* depicting the events of this historic battle.

In May 1938, a question arose from the Anzac Club in Perth regarding John's ethnicity and whether he could join the club as he was not exempt from the *1905 Act*. In correspondence, the Commissioner of Police stated that '... as he fought for his country ... he is deserving of every consideration that can be extended to him ... to join the ANZAC Club'.

By 1940 there was no indication that John was ever granted membership. John Mason died from pulmonary tuberculosis in the Perth Hospital on 15 July 1941, aged 60. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery. He was unmarried.

### The Great Beersheba Ride.

You've heard we won Jerusalem and  
all the country wide,  
But the part that settled Abdul was  
the Great Beersheba ride.  
We were camped by Tel-el-Fara, the  
wadi in the sand,  
And we rode away through Gamti  
to win the promised land.

At dark we crossed the wadi and rode  
throughout the night,  
We came to Birel Sani. By the morn-  
ing's hazy light.  
Then we heard a welcome whinney,  
the horses sniffed the air,  
We knew that there was water for  
man and beast to spare.

We moved ahead at gloaming, with  
horses fresh and strong,  
An easy rein by moonlight; the track  
we rode was long,  
We drew the rein at Khalasa where  
Christian tombs lay still,  
And thought of old time comrades  
who kept that lonely hill.

It was long, hard, dry and dusty, and  
Jacko's chief ally,  
Was the lack of drinking water to  
the troops who had to try.  
The last halt was at Astuz by the  
minaret and well,  
We had to take Beersheba e'er we  
had another spell.

The night time found us moving,  
small halts to ease the pace,  
The Taubes had seen us coming, and  
all hung on the race,  
The Bed'uins in their humpies, who  
rise before the sun,  
Were sleeping, calm and peaceful,  
when we made the final run.

Full sixty miles by break of day  
around the Turkish flank.  
Our guns blew their reveille on the  
south Beersheba bank.  
A gallant charge by men on foot, a  
reckless race on horse  
And "The Anzacs have Beersheba"  
went ticking o'er the morse.

And now we're on the ocean beach,  
no colonel rides the bay,  
For he rode him to Tripoli on the  
lone Damascus way.  
But on ahead in fleeting dust and  
bought by touch of spurs  
The boys who formed his escort are  
gone, but God knows where.

MASON (10th Light), Greenmount.



### AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED INFANTRY ON THE SINAI PENINSULA

John Mason going out to engage with  
the enemy in the desert.

*Western Mail*, 31 August 1917, State Library of Western Australia.

### JOHN MASON, 'THE GREAT BEERSHEBA RIDE'

*Western Mail*, 1 October 1936,  
State Library of Western Australia.

## ■ TROOPER WILLIAM RING



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<b>RANK</b>	Trooper 1217
<b>BORN</b>	20 May 1890, Katanning, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 28 June 1915 Discharged 5 January 1920
<b>DIED</b>	21 May 1963, Perth, Western Australia

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**WILLIAM RING** was born in the Katanning area on 20 May 1890 to William Michael Ring, a farmer and blacksmith, and Caroline, whose Aboriginal name was Karinan. William was the fifth of their six children. His older brother Mark also enlisted but was discharged as ‘medically unfit’. His cousin George attempted to enlist was discharged on grounds of descent.

William was raised by his father and then by his older siblings — his mother having passed away in 1892 and his father in 1901. The children supported one another earning a living from any odd work they could obtain, including washing. William was also a keen athlete participating in events throughout the South-West and Great Southern regions.

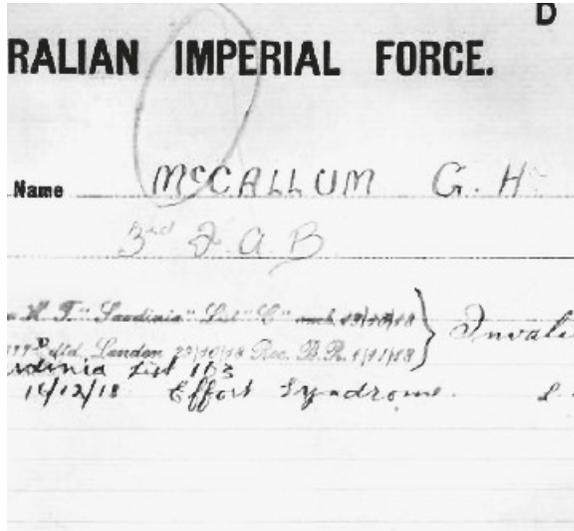
On 28 June 1915, William enlisted at Blackboy Hill stating his occupation as a ‘farm hand’. Two months later he was placed in the 9th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse Regiment. William embarked from Fremantle on 4 October aboard HMAT *Hororata* (A20), arriving in Cairo in November. The following month he was admitted to the 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis suffering influenza. On 3 January 1916 he was returned to Australia as an ‘invalid’ on HT *Ulysses*, arriving in Fremantle at the end of the month.

William reembarked on HMAT *Surada* (A52) in mid-March 1916 and, on arriving in Egypt, was transferred to the 3rd Light Horse Regiment. In late August, William was admitted to hospital suffering from a hernia. He was discharged on 4 October and was readmitted the same day with mumps. At the end of the month, William was again discharged and readmitted the same day with myalgia. In early November he was transferred to the 14th Australian General Hospital at Abbassia. He remained there until 21 January 1917, when he returned to Australia on SS *Euripides* with rheumatism and a ventral hernia.

Ten weeks after arriving home, William was discharged from service deemed ‘medically unfit’. The following year he married Hilda Walker and together they had three children. The couple were residents in the Leederville area in the early 1920s where William was a member of the local RSL Club. In April 1933 he was allotted a residential block in Wembley by the Land Board where their family home was built and he resided for the rest of his life.

William Ring passed away at home on 21 May 1963, aged 73. He is memorialised at Karrakatta Cemetery in the Garden of Remembrance.

## ■ DRIVER GEORGE HENRY McCALLUM




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<b>RANK</b>	Driver 5707
<b>BORN</b>	9 June 1894, Albany, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 17 July 1915 Discharged 22 February 1919
<b>DIED</b>	22 June 1956, Albany, Western Australia

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**GEORGE McCALLUM** was born in Albany on 9 June 1894. He was the fourth of five children born to Arthur Edward McCallum and Mary-Ann Colefax, and the younger brother of Arthur, who also served.

George enlisted on 17 July 1915 in Albany stating his occupation as a 'labourer'. George completed artillery training at Blackboy Hill and later at Broadmeadows in Victoria, where he was placed in the 11th Reinforcements of the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade. He embarked for Egypt aboard HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 11 October, arriving at the Port of Suez in mid-November.

Over the next four months, George was stationed at Tel-El-Kebir for further training before proceeding to Alexandria and Marseille, where he arrived on 1 April 1916. For the next two years he was involved in the battles of Passchendaele, Fromelles, Pozières and subsequent operations.

In March 1918, George was admitted to hospital with laryngitis and tonsillitis, where he remained for three weeks. On recovery he was transferred to the Australian General Base Depot only to enter hospital again early in May, where he remained for 55 days. He returned to his unit on 14 July, only to be admitted to hospital within a week. George returned to the Base Depot on 15 August and nine days later he was transferred to England.

Two months later, George was ordered home with 'effort syndrome', an ailment associated with prolonged mental strain and insufficient sleep. He returned to Australia aboard SS *Sardinia* on 19 October. Shortly after departing, an influenza epidemic broke out and measures were taken to contain the spread. As a further precaution, the 145 Western Australian troops on board were confined to the Albany Quarantine Station upon disembarking on 17 December.

George was discharged from service on 22 February 1919. In early December he was one of many returned soldiers from the area who were acknowledged in a welcome home event by the Albany Young Men's Social Club. In March 1923 he was present at a foundation meeting of the Albany Trotting Club. He went on to successfully train a number of place winners in horse racing events from 1928 to 1933, competing in Albany, Broomhill, Katanning, York, Beverley and Kalgoorlie.

On 4 February 1942, George reenlisted for World War II service in Claremont stating his trade as a 'labourer'. He returned to Albany to serve with the Volunteer Defence Corp and was discharged from service after 37 days when it was found he was 'medically unfit'.

George McCallum passed away and was buried at the Old Cemetery in Albany on 22 June 1956, aged 62.

## ■ PRIVATE CHARLES BURNS




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 1547
<b>BORN</b>	1896, Kimberley region, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 6 August 1915 Discharged 21 September 1919; Enlisted 28 August 1940 Discharged 17 April 1945
<b>DIED</b>	18 September 1990, Manjimup, Western Australia

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**CHARLES ‘CHARLIE’ BURNS** was born in 1896 in the Kimberley region to an Aboriginal woman from the Northern Territory. From the age of six he was raised by surveyor and explorer Frederick Drake-Brockman and his wife Grace in Guildford.

Charlie attended the local Catholic school and later, from 1905 to 1909, was educated at Guildford Grammar, where he was the first Aboriginal student. By mid-1913 he had moved to Bridgetown with the Drake-Brockman family where he was employed with a blacksmith and was playing football for the local team. On 29 January 1915, Charlie received a Certificate of Exemption to the *1905 Act* with the recommendation of the town constable.

In August he enlisted in Bridgetown giving his occupation as a ‘blacksmith striker’ and entered Blackboy Hill two weeks later. He was assigned to the 12th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse Regiment. On 22 November he embarked from Fremantle aboard SS *Mongolia*, arriving at Port Said in mid-December. In January 1916, Charlie was appointed driver with the 12th Australian Army Service Corps Company at Salhia and, in late March, he was transferred to the Signal Squadron Anzac Mounted Division at Romani.

Over the next 18 months, Charlie participated in the Mesopotamian Campaign, providing communications to British forces. On 11 September 1917 he saved a fellow serviceman

from drowning and was later commended for his gallant conduct. In October he spent time recuperating at the rest camp at Port Said before returning to serve with his unit, participating in the Dunsterforce and Kurdistan offensives in 1919. On 3 July, Charlie departed for Australia from Kantara aboard HMS *Malta*, arriving in Fremantle at the end of the month. He returned to Bridgetown and was discharged from service on 21 September.

Over the next two decades, Charlie was a key player in the Warren Football Association and was sought after by league teams because of his outstanding skills. He was also a good boxer and organised many public bouts. On 28 August 1940 he reenlisted for World War II service in Claremont, giving his occupation as a ‘slaughter man’ and was placed with the 3rd Railway Construction Company.

In September, Charlie embarked for Kantara on HMAT *S3*, arriving four weeks later. Over the next 27 months he served in various capacities throughout the Middle East. He returned home on 31 January 1943 aboard RMS *Aquitania*. In April 1944 he was transferred to the Royal Parks Barracks in Victoria before returning to the Campbell Barracks in Western Australia five months later. Charlie was discharged from service on 17 April 1945.

On 18 September 1990 Charles Burns passed away at the Warren District Hospital, aged 94. He is buried in the Manjimup Cemetery. He never married.



GUILDFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, 1905

Charles Burns (second row, second from left).

Courtesy Guildford Grammar School.

## ■ PRIVATE PHILLIP URQUHART




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 2834
<b>BORN</b>	June 1894, Bunbury, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 14 August 1915 Discharged 1 September 1919
<b>DIED</b>	15 January 1971, Perth, Western Australia

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**PHILLIP URQUHART** was born in Bunbury in June 1894 to an unknown Aboriginal woman and a non-Aboriginal man who both passed away when he was young. At the age of 4 he was admitted to Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission to be united with his older brother Edward, who also served. His younger sister Janet later joined them at the mission, where all three were raised.

In January 1907, Phillip was sent out to work for Hubert William Robbins, a farmer from Brookton. Six years later he revisited the mission to request the outstanding wages that were owed to him by his employer. Phillip was a keen cricketer and footballer and was the top scorer in a cricket match between the Goomalling A and B sides in March 1914.

On 14 August 1915, Phillip enlisted in Northam and was assigned to the 6th Reinforcements of the 28th Battalion at Blackboy Hill. On 2 November he embarked from Fremantle aboard HMAT *Ulysses* (A38), arriving at the Port of Suez on 25 November. Later that month he continued to Cairo and was assigned to the 51st Battalion in March 1916. In June he sailed to Marseille from Alexandria aboard SS *Ivernia*. Four months later, Phillip was temporarily assigned to the 4th Divisional Signal Company in France.

In January 1917, Phillip was given leave from France, returning to the 5th Battalion two weeks later. During the next fourteen months he was involved in action at Flanders, Ancre, the Hindenburg line, and other offences. In April he was admitted to hospital and sent on to a convalescent camp at Le Havre, where he remained for two weeks. He was discharged to the Australian Infantry Brigade Depot where he was stationed for the remainder of the war.

In January 1919, Phillip spent two weeks leave in England, returning to France the following month. On 2 March he returned to England where, on 28 March, he was admitted to hospital in Bulford, remaining there for 67 days.

On 12 July, Phillip embarked for Australia aboard SS *City of Exeter* and arrived at Fremantle on 16 August. He was discharged from service on 1 September 1919.

After his return, Phillip worked as a farmhand in the Dowerin area where he a member of the Dowerin Cricket Association. In 1929 he was selected to play for the Country RSL cricket team. In 1938 he played for the Country Diggers against the town team. The following year he was awarded the 'best all-rounder' trophy in the Country RSL tournament. In 1943, Phillip married Alice Tuohey and became step-father to her three children.

On 15 January 1971, Phillip passed away in Perth, aged 76. He was cremated at the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## ■ DRIVER HENRY COX




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<b>RANK</b>	Driver 3875
<b>BORN</b>	6 January 1891, Cranbrook area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 15 August 1915 Discharged 24 July 1919
<b>DIED</b>	Unknown

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**HENRY ‘HARRY’ COX** was born in Pynup, near Cranbrook, on 6 January 1891. He was one of eight children born to Henry Cox (Snr.), an Irish born settler, and Mary-Ann, from the Frankland River area whose Aboriginal name was Boonderan. His younger brother Robert also served.

Harry was raised in the Cranbrook area where he attended the local state school. By 1907 he had ventured as far as Tom South Pool in the Katanning area in search of work. Within seven years he was working in the Mornington Mills where he was a member of the local branch of the Timber Workers Union.

On 15 August 1915, Harry enlisted in Kalgoorlie stating that he was a ‘timber worker’. One week later he arrived at Blackboy Hill where he commenced training and, on 16 October, was appointed to the 12th Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion.

Harry embarked from Fremantle for Egypt on 22 December aboard HMAS *Ajana* (A31), arriving at Port Said the following month. He underwent further training in Cairo before being transferred to the 4th Division Artillery of the 24th Howitzer Brigade on 16 March 1916 as a gunner. A month later he was transferred to the 4th Divisional Ammunition Column and was appointed as a temporary driver at Serapun in May.

Following the armistice, Harry was granted two weeks leave in England, returning to France in December, where he sought an early return

Australia to be married. The request was denied and Harry married in France where he was court-martialed for disobeying a lawful command and forfeited 33 days pay. A month later he left for England.

Harry travelled to Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force, arriving at Marseille on 13 June. He then entrained to northern France where he participated in the Battle of the Somme. In December 1917 he was transferred to the 10th Battery where he continued to serve until the war ended. Harry embarked for Australia aboard HMHS *China* on 1 May 1919, arriving in Fremantle one month later.

On 4 June he was admitted to the Australian General Hospital in Fremantle where it was noted that he had developed chronic chest pains attributed to his military service. At the end of the month he completed an application for employment form with the Department of Repatriation and was assisted in obtaining a bush clearing contract in the Bruce Rock area. Harry was discharged from service in Perth on 24 July 1919.

By March the following year he had returned to the Cranbrook area where he obtained tools and sustenance from the local Repatriation Committee. In June 1924 he was residing at Yarloop when he submitted an application for medical assistance.

Nothing more is known about Henry Cox other than an acknowledgement that he was alive in December 1937.

## ■ DRIVER CHARLES BROCKMAN



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<b>RANK</b>	Driver 3859
<b>BORN</b>	1881, Carnarvon area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 16 August 1915 Discharged 14 July 1919; Enlisted 13 October 1940 Discharged 15 December 1943
<b>DIED</b>	30 May 1957, Bunbury, Western Australia

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### **CHARLES ‘CHARLIE’ BROCKMAN**

was born in the Carnarvon area in 1881 to a station owner and Julia, a local Aboriginal woman. He was brought down to Bunbury as a lad where he worked as a horse boy for Dr Ernest Williams.

In his youth, Charlie competed in sporting events including athletics, football and cricket. In 1906 he was a member of an all-Aboriginal cricket team in Bunbury and played for the South Bunbury Football club. During this period he met Evelyn Nettup and together they had eight children.

Charlie enlisted on 16 August 1915 in Bunbury stating his occupation as a ‘labourer’. He entered Blackboy Hill two months later, where he was assigned to the 12th Reinforcements of 16th Battalion. Charlie embarked from Fremantle on 22 December on board HMAT *Ajana* (A31), arriving at the Port of Suez four weeks later.

After undergoing further training he joined the 16th Battalion as a gunner and was involved in action at Armentières and Pozières on the Western Front. For the next two years, Charlie he was deployed as a gunner and a driver in the 12th, 24th and 112th Field Artillery Howitzer Batteries and as a driver until the end of the war.

On 1 June 1919, Charlie embarked for Australia on SS *Somali*, arriving at Fremantle on 8 July. He was quarantined for seven days with 1,300 other Western Australians as a precaution against infectious diseases before being discharged from service and returning to Bunbury where he worked on the wharf.

In 1922, Charlie was granted exemption from the *1905 Act* while living at Picton Junction. Throughout the late 1920s and the 1930s he was employed as a farm labourer in the area.

Charlie reenlisted to serve in World War II on 6 October 1940 in Bunbury and was attached to the 29th and 19th Garrison Battalions. While stationed in Geraldton he received the sad news that his son Cyril had died from Cholera as a prisoner of war in Thailand.

On 21 November 1943, Charlie was transferred to the 29th Garrison Battalion and was discharged the following month. In his later years, Charlie worked for the Bunbury Municipal Council and was a gatekeeper at local football matches. He had been in poor health for a long period prior to his death and passed away at Bunbury District Hospital on 30 May 1957, aged 70.

Charles Brockman is buried in the Bunbury Cemetery where a Commonwealth Military headstone acknowledges the contribution of both father and son who served.

## ■ PRIVATE EDWIN OWEN



Private Edwin Owen (unidentified) among the troops of the 18th Reinforcements of the 22nd Battalion prior to boarding HMAT *Hororata* at Melbourne on 23 November 1916.

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<b>RANK</b>	Private 6418
<b>BORN</b>	22 May 1890, Robe, South Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 17 August 1915 Discharged 31 October 1915; Enlisted 17 October 1916 Discharged 28 May 1918
<b>DIED</b>	18 October 1950, Kensington, South Australia

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**EDWIN ‘EDDIE’ OWEN** was born on 22 May 1890 in Robe to Nelly ‘Ellen’ Williams and Owen (Snr.), who as a boy, was removed and raised at the Annesfield School in Albany and later, the Poonindie Native Institution in South Australia. Eddie was one of 12 siblings. Two of his five brothers, Frank (Jnr.) and Henry, also served, as did his cousin Arthur Walker. His older brother John is reported to have trained in Adelaide and sailed for the Western Front in 1917.

On 17 August 1915, Eddie enlisted in Adelaide stating his occupation as a ‘labourer’. He was initially attached to the ‘A’ Company of the No. 2 Depot and then transferred to the No. 4 Depot Battalion on 1 September at Gawler before being discharged in late October. A year later he reenlisted in Ballarat and was appointed to the 18th Reinforcements of the 22nd Battalion.

On 23 November 1916, Eddie embarked from Port Melbourne aboard HMAT *Hororata* (A20), arriving at Plymouth where he was attached to the 6th Training Battalion. He then moved to Larkhill where he returned to his initial unit.

On 16 September 1917, Eddie proceeded to the Western Front and suffered serious gunshot wounds to the chest, arms and face while engaged in action at Westhoek Ridge, Belgium, during the Third Battle of Ypres. He was admitted to hospital in Etaples on 19 September, where his right eye was removed, before being evacuated to the Northamptonshire War Hospital

in England aboard HMS *Newhaven*. On 5 December he was discharged to the No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth for rest and recuperation and was designated ‘on command’ for the Engineering Works in Winchester on 14 January 1918.

Eddie boarded HMAT *Euripides* (A14) departing from Portland and returned to Australia, disembarking in Adelaide on 21 March. On 28 May he was discharged from service as ‘permanently unfit’.

Eddie returned to Robe where, in 1921, he married Amy Edwards and together they had six children. In 1936 he began to experience problems with his remaining eye and was prescribed glasses and an artificial eye.

Five years later he was ‘exempted on probation’ from the provisions of the *1905 Act*, being one of nine during the financial year, and was granted ‘unconditional rights’ three years later. In 1949 he was admitted to the Repatriation General Hospital at Springbark as he was experiencing pain when walking and underwent an operation to rectify his sight.

In May 1950, Eddie reentered hospital for further treatment. Four months after being discharged, Edwin Owen passed away in Kensington on 18 October 1950. He was interned at the Centennial Park Cemetery with members of the Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers Association in attendance. He was 60 years old.

## ■ GUNNER FRANK LAWRENCE

1st. H.D.      Regimental Number.....5

**Casualty Form—Active Service.**

Regiment or Corps.....11th. Artillery Brigade.

Surname.....LAWRENCE      Christian Name.....FRANK

Age on Enlistment..... years

Terms of Service (a)..... Service reckons from (a)..... 5/3/15

present rank.....      Date of appointment to lance rank.....

Re-engaged.....      Qualification (b).....

or Corps Trade and Rate.....

Signature of.....

Date received	Record of previous engagements, medals, decorations, etc. (including active service) not recorded on Army Form 2 (A) Army Order & Co. or in other official documents. Transactions to be added in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Reference to Army Form 2 (A) Army Order & Co. or other official documents.
	Embarked.....	Australia	11/10/15.	
	Disembarked.....		19/11/15.	
	Joined M.E.F.			
	D.O.C. 3rd. Bn. 11th. Reinf.	Pellepoite	19/11/15	DOM
	Off. in Art. Acty. Div.	Tel-el-Kebir	27/2/16	DOM
	T.O.C. 3rd. Bn. 11th. Bty	"	28/3/16	DOM 1

<b>RANK</b>	Gunner 5703
<b>BORN</b>	June 1894, York, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 30 August 1915 Discharged 4 September 1918
<b>DIED</b>	26 December 1947, Cannington, Western Australia

**FRANK LAWRENCE** was born in June 1894 in York to Aubrey Malcolm Lawrence, a farm labourer, and Martha Elizabeth Parker. Martha was the daughter of John Parker and an Aboriginal woman named Mary from the Moore River area (who was also known as Banyup or Bunyap). Frank was the eldest of six children. His younger brothers Aubrey and Hubert also served, as did two of his step-uncles, James and Harry Dickerson.

Prior to enlisting, Frank was a member of the Senior Cadets unit at Victoria Park. On 30 August 1915 he applied to enlist in Perth stating his trade as a ‘woodcutter and supplier’. On examination he was found to have bronchitis and was rejected. A week later he reapplied and was accepted.

Frank completed artillery training at Blackboy Hill and later at Broadmeadows in Melbourne, where he was placed in the 3rd Reinforcements of the 11th Battalion. He embarked for Egypt aboard HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 11 October, arriving at the Port of Suez in mid-November.

For the next four months, Frank was stationed at Tel-El-Kebir for further training and, on 26 February 1916, he was transferred to the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade in Cairo with the 4th Artillery Division. In March he was transferred to the 112th Battery prior to proceeding to Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force. In July he was appointed as driver with the

24th Field Artillery Battalion. In January 1917 he was transferred to the 12th Field Artillery Battalion and continued on to the Somme, where he was involved in action at Pozières, Bullecourt, Ypres and Amiens.

On 14 October, Frank was admitted to hospital in Belgium suffering from severe heart strain and was transferred to England to recuperate. He was discharged from hospital on 17 December and was readmitted with influenza on 9 February 1918. On being released he was attached to Command Depots before being returned to Australia aboard HMAT *Malekuta* (A57), departing on 17 June. He was discharged from service suffering with debility on 4 September.

Frank married Agnes Cox in Perth during 1918 and together they later fostered a daughter. By the end of the year, the couple were living at the Wellington Mills where Frank worked as a hook man and then as a sleeper cutter, but had to resign as he found it ‘too heavy’. In 1921 he took up a Soldier Settlement Block in the same area, on which he established a small dairy herd and grew potatoes. Two years later he relinquished the property due to poor health. During the later part of the decade he worked as a canvasser and lived off a military pension from the 1930s.

Frank Lawrence passed away at home in Cannington on 26 December 1947, aged 52. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## ■ TROOPER HARRY DICKERSON




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<b>RANK</b>	Trooper 1561
<b>BORN</b>	March 1895, York, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 30 August 1915 Discharged 28 November 1919
<b>DIED</b>	9 June 1969, Como, Western Australia

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**HARRY DICKERSON** was born in March 1895 in York. He was the son of an Aboriginal woman named Mary Elizabeth Benyup and a labourer, George Dickerson. Harry's older half-brother James also served as did his step-nephews Frank, Aubrey and Hubert Lawrence.

Harry was raised in York and Northam, living in impoverished conditions, and was in receipt of rations. In his youth, Harry served as a cadet with the Home Defence Militia while living in the Victoria Park area.

On 30 August 1915, Harry enlisted in Perth stating his occupation as a 'woodcutter'. Coincidentally, this was the same day that his half-brother James died as a result from wounds sustained at Gallipoli. Following five weeks training at Blackboy Hill, Harry was appointed to the 12th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse and, 11 days later, embarked from Fremantle on SS *Mongolia*, arriving at Cairo in February 1916.

Harry served with a depot squadron in Egypt throughout most of 1916. In November he became ill and was hospitalised. He was placed in an isolation camp at Moascar until February the following year. On recovery he was sent on the Hotchkiss machine gun course, passed as a first-class machine gunner, and was assigned to the 3rd Light Horse Machine Gun Machine

Squadron in April, serving with this unit throughout the Palestine campaign.

In October 1918, Harry was detached from his unit to work in the provision of supplies at Damascus. He suffered some brief periods of illness, including malaria, and required hospital treatment. In March 1919, as the war had ended, the services of a machine gunner were no longer required and he reverted to his former rank as a trooper.

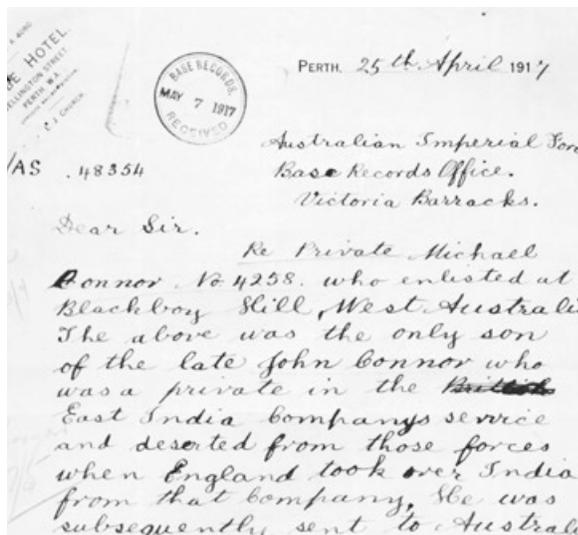
Harry departed from Kantara on the Suez Canal aboard HMHS *Oxfordshire* on 10 July, arriving in Fremantle 25 days later. He was discharged from service on 28 November.

In 1920, Harry married Sarah Coubrough in Perth and commenced working as a porter with the Western Australian Government Railways. Together they had nine children. Over the next decade he was engaged as a shunter in Perth and Northam. In 1938 he was awarded compensation for injuries received in the workplace but remained with the Railway until 1959 as a carriage cleaner.

Harry Dickerson passed away on 9 June 1969 at Mount Henry Hospital, aged 73. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.



## ■ PRIVATE MICHAEL CONNOR




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 4258
<b>BORN</b>	1894, Albany, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 10 September 1915 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	18 June 1916, Paris, France

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**MICHAEL CONNOR** was born in 1894 in Albany to an Aboriginal woman named Monjel from the Oldfield River area near Esperance (who was also known as Polly), and John Connor, an Irishman who is said to have been a deserter from the British East India Company during the annexation of India. He had five half-siblings.

Michael was raised by Albert Young Hassell, a well respected pastoralist and politician, on his property in Jerramungup, where he received a basic education. Later he worked as a labourer and horse breaker while residing at the property.

Michael enlisted in Katanning on 10 September 1915 stating his occupation as a ‘labourer’, arriving at Blackboy Hill the following day. He was assigned to the 30th Depot where he commenced training. On 13 November he was appointed to the 13th Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion. Prior to embarking he was held in custody for two weeks in Perth for disorderly conduct.

Michael departed for Alexandria aboard HMAT *Runic* (A54) on 29 January 1916 from Fremantle, arriving a month later. Following five weeks of training, Michael joined the 48th Battalion in mid-April and sailed to Marseille on board SS *Caledonia*, disembarking on 9 June.

He continued on to Paris by train, during which time his health deteriorated and he was admitted to the British Detention Hospital on arrival. The following day he was transferred to the Hertford British Hospital where he was diagnosed with a sub-phrenic abscess. His condition was described as dangerously ill.

Five days later, on 18 June, Michael Connor passed away. He was buried in the L’evallois-Perret Cemetery near Paris.

In February 1917, the military authorities wrote to A.J. Hassell, his nominated next-of-kin, seeking to establish whether any relatives existed. The enquiry was passed on to Mrs E. Moir in Salt River near Albany who confirmed there were no living relatives.

Michael was posthumously awarded the 1914–15 Star, British War and Victory medals. These, along with his Memorial Plaque, Memorial Scroll and his personal affects that consisted of two coins, a writing tablet, photos, a card and unpaid wages, remained unclaimed at the army headquarters in Melbourne until December 1927, when they were consigned to the Army Salvage Store.

## ■ PRIVATE FRANK SMITH




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 4294
<b>BORN</b>	1876, Arthur River area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 17 September 1915 Discharged 27 July 1919
<b>DIED</b>	2 November 1933, Darkan, Western Australia

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**FRANK SMITH** was born in 1876 in the Arthur River area, the son of an Aboriginal woman and a farmer named Smith.

Frank was raised and educated by the Gibbs family and, in December 1905, he was granted a homestead farm lease of 160 acres, 4 kilometres north of Darkan. Prior to being granted the lease he worked as a labourer.

Frank enlisted on 17 September 1915 at Blackboy Hill stating his occupation as a 'farmer'. On 14 December he was assigned to the 13th Reinforcements of the 11th Battalion. He embarked from Fremantle aboard HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 17 January 1916, arriving at the Port of Suez on 9 February. Following five weeks training he proceeded to Alexandria and then on to Marseille aboard SS *Corsican*. The battalion moved up to the front line around Petillon where he experienced combat for the first time.

In mid-May, Frank was involved in action during the Battle of Bullecourt and, two months later, around Pozières on the Somme, where the battalion was subjected to heavy artillery bombing and gas warfare. In mid-August he took part in the attack around Mouquet Farm and at Ypres in September.

Following a rest period, his unit returned to the front around Messines in late December.

Between March and July 1918, the battalion was involved in action at Amiens and Mont de Merris and, on 23 August, Frank suffered a gunshot wound at Proyart. He was admitted to the 5th Casualty Clearing Station and then moved on to the 2nd Convalescent Hospital at Rouen. He rejoined his unit on 18 September and was granted leave in England on 6 October. A week later, Frank was admitted to hospital in Southall suffering from influenza and returned to the field shortly before the armistice. His unit was moved to Chaelet in Belgium where they prepared to demobilise over the next few months.

Frank departed for Australia aboard HMAT *Karoola* (A63) on 1 May 1919, along with 34 other West Australian servicemen who disembarked at Fremantle on 4 June. He was discharged from service on 27 July.

Frank returned to the Darkan area where, in 1920, he was granted an additional six lots of land totalling 1,388 acres adjoining his existing lease. Three years later he was exempted from the *1905 Act*, having been described as a 'splendid soldier' by the local constable. He was a highly successful farmer with wool from his property fetching better than average prices at the wool exchange in Perth from 1926 through to 1933. He was assisted under the Soldier Settlement Scheme.

Frank Smith, known locally as 'Captain Smith', passed away on 2 November 1933, aged 57. He is buried in the Darkan Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE PERCY LOWE




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 2045
<b>BORN</b>	16 March 1897, Busselton, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 27 September 1915 Discharged to 25 January 1918; Enlisted 26 November 1942 Discharged 11 April 1944
<b>DIED</b>	12 September 1952, Perth, Western Australia

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**PERCY LOWE** was born Peter William Stewart Innes on 16 March 1897 in Busselton to Peter Innes (Snr.), a slaughterman and labourer, and Lucy Mona Isaacs, who was of Aboriginal descent. He was the youngest of their three children. Two of Percy's uncles, Herbert and Henry Isaacs were both rejected, the former for medical reasons and the latter on grounds of descent — as was his cousin James Isaacs.

Following the death of Percy's mother during childbirth in March 1899, Percy was raised by his maternal half-uncle, Elias 'Eli' Lowe, and his wife, Sara Turner, in the Donnybrook area.

On 27 September 1915, Percy enlisted in Bunbury stating his occupation as a 'farm labourer'. Eight days later he entered Blackboy Hill and was appointed to the 14th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse Regiment in January 1916. The following month he embarked on HMAT *Warilda* (A69), arriving at the Port of Suez on 13 March. Three weeks later he was transferred to the 4th Divisional Artillery Column as a gunner and, in mid-April, he commenced work as a saddler.

On 6 June, Percy departed from Alexandria on SS *Oriana* and arrived at Marseille six days later. The following day he entrained to Le Havre where he spent three weeks in a rest camp. In August the regiment moved to the front where he was engaged in action at Fleurbaix before crossing into Belgium. During the winter months,

Percy was transferred to the 10th Field Artillery Brigade of the 38th Battery as a gunner and, on 21 June 1917, he was reassigned to the 4th Heavy and Medium Trench Mortar Battery. In August he proceeded to England on leave and was admitted to the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital in Harfield where he was diagnosed with a heart condition.

On being discharged from hospital, Percy was sent on to the Weymouth Depot in Dorset. He remained there until October 31, when he embarked on HMAT *Berrima* (A35), returning to Australia 'for change'. Percy arrived in Fremantle on 22 December and was discharged from service on 25 January 1918, being granted a pension of 30 shillings per fortnight.

In 1921, Percy married Frances Manning in Perth and together they had two children. Throughout the 1920s and early 1930s, Percy found work as a horsebreaker. On 26 November 1942 he again enlisted for service and was stationed at the Leeuwin Barracks in Fremantle. Following his discharge from service, he was employed as a timber feller until August 1947, when he was knocked down by a vehicle in West Perth and was unable to continue this work.

On 2 September 1952, Percy was knocked down once again, this time by a cyclist, and was admitted to Royal Perth Hospital where he passed away ten days later, aged 61. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.



**VOLUNTEERS ENTERING BLACKBOY HILL**

*Western Mail*, 4 September 1914, State Library of Western Australia.

A SAFEGUARD AGAINST DISEASE

Vaccination of recruits at Blackboy Hill.

*Western Mail*, 30 June 1916, State Library of Western Australia.



VOLUNTEERS  
RECEIVING  
CLOTHING AT  
BLACKBOY HILL

*Western Mail*, 28 August 1914,  
State Library of Western  
Australia.





MACHINE GUNNERS IN  
TRAINING AT BLACKBOY HILL

*Western Mail*, 18 September 1914,  
State Library of Western Australia.

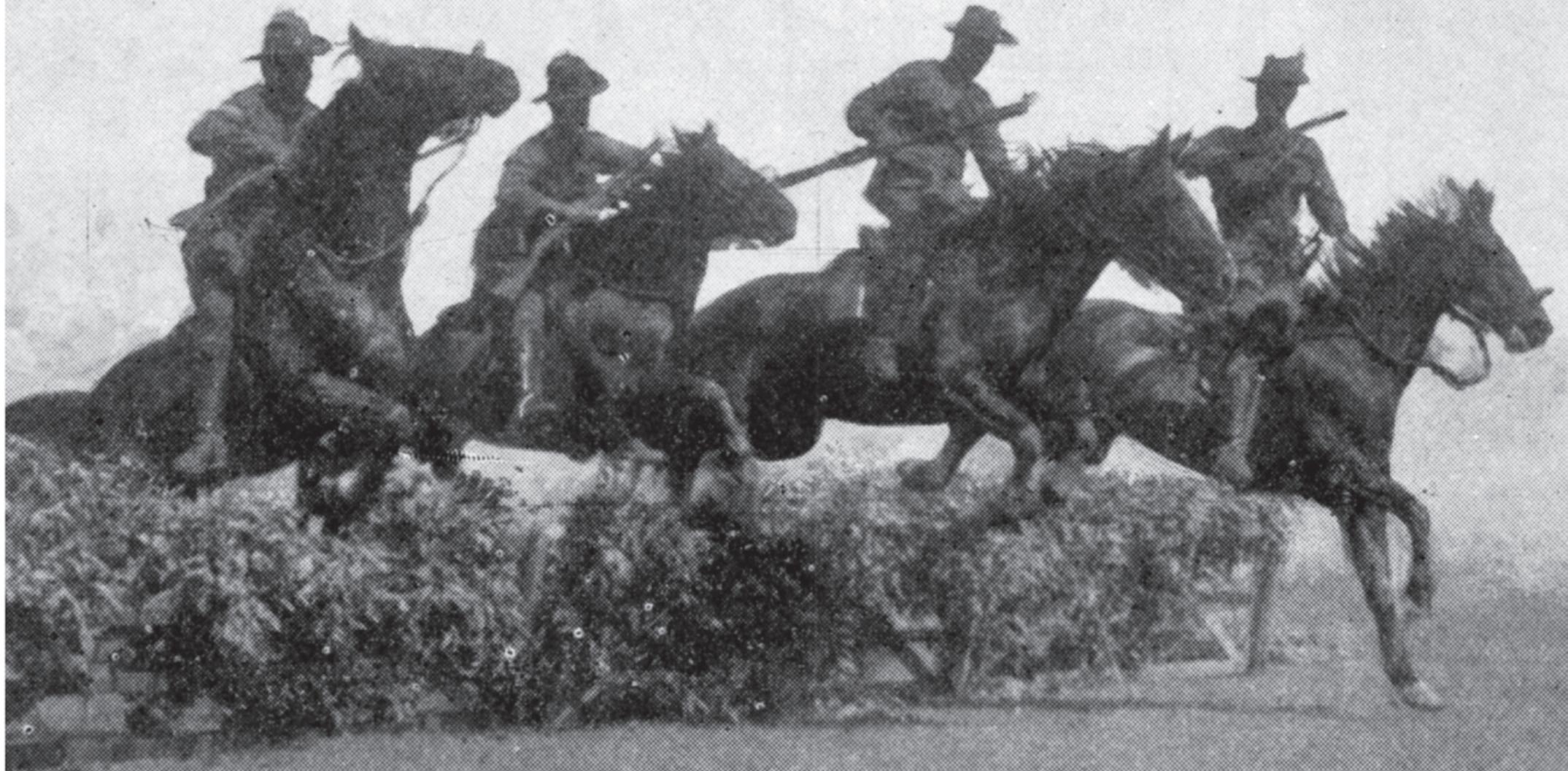


THE LIGHT HORSE CAMP AT GUILDFORD

*Western Mail*, 4 December 1914, State Library of Western Australia.

LIGHT HORSEMEN IN TRAINING

*Western Mail*, 25 December 1914, State Library of Western Australia.



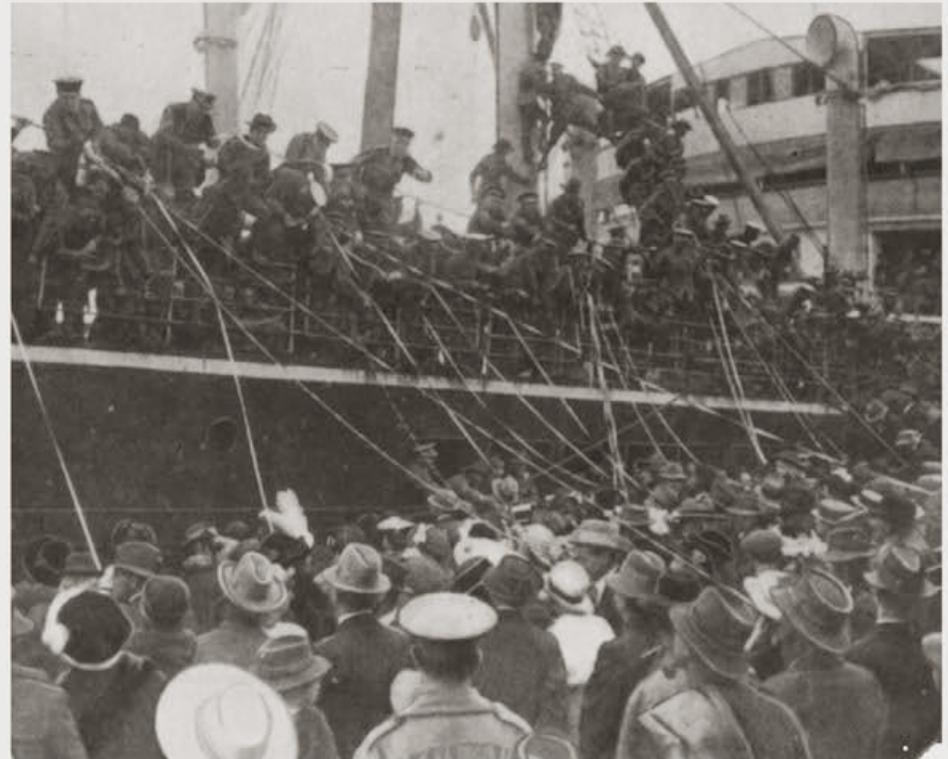
REINFORCEMENTS TO THE 8th BATTERY  
FIELD ARTILLERY LEAVING GUILDFORD DEPOT

*Western Mail*, 11 February 1916, State Library of Western Australia.



TROOPS PARADING  
ALONG BEAUFORT  
STREET, PERTH

*Western Mail*, 24 June 1915,  
State Library of Western Australia.



FAREWELL AT FREMANTLE HARBOUR  
AS TROOPS DEPART FOR THE DARDANELLES  
*Western Mail*, 21 July 1914, State Library of Western Australia.



‘GOOD-BYE TO WA THE FIRST LIGHT HORSE CONTINGENT LEAVING FOR EGYPT’

HMAT *Mashobra* (A47) departing Fremantle.

*Sunday Times*, 18 April 1915, State Library of Western Australia.



'AUSTRALIANS RESTING IN THE SUPPORT LINES'

*Western Mail*, 25 May 1917, State Library of Western Australia.

## ■ PRIVATE KENNETH FARMER




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 4604/3373
<b>BORN</b>	1899, Katanning, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 9 November 1915 Discharged 26 August 1916; Enlisted 7 December 1916 Discharged 15 March 1919
<b>DIED</b>	8 November 1950, Katanning, Western Australia

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**KENNETH FARMER** was born in Katanning in 1899. He was the fifth of eight sons to William Pegg Farmer and Emily Coyne, who were both of Aboriginal descent. Kenneth's older brothers Augustus, Lewis and Larry also served. His brother Richard and nephew Ronald served in the World War II.

On 9 November 1915, Kenneth enlisted in Katanning stating his occupation as a 'labourer'. Four days later he entered Blackboy Hill for training and, in December, he was appointed to the 14th Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion. Kenneth embarked from Fremantle on 16 February 1916 aboard SS *Miltiades*, arriving at the Port of Suez on 11 March where he was immediately admitted to hospital, dangerously ill with cerebrospinal meningitis. He was discharged to a convalescent hospital in Cairo where he remained for two months.

Kenneth returned to Australia for a 'six months change' on board HMAT *Clan McGillivray* (A46), disembarking at Fremantle on 14 August. Following further examination, he was discharged deemed 'medically unfit' on 26 August 1916.

Fourteen weeks later, Kenneth reenlisted at Blackboy Hill and was placed with the 8th Reinforcement of the 5th Pioneer Battalion. Two days before Christmas he boarded the HMAS *Berrima* (A35) in Fremantle, disembarking in Devonport on 16 February 1917. He then proceeded on to the Lark Hill Training Camp near Salisbury.

In March he was admitted to Park House Hospital and, in April, Kenneth was discharged to the Fovant Training Camp where he transferred to the 28th Battalion. In late December he was hospitalised in France with 'trench foot', where he remained for seven days before being evacuated to Ipswich, England.

On 27 May 1918, Kenneth returned to France, receiving a gunshot wound to the face around Péronne on 2 September. Five days later he was evacuated from the Western Front and was admitted to hospital in Edgbaston where he was released to return home as an 'invalid'. He was discharged and granted leave on 10 December. He embarked for Australia on board HMHS *Takada* on Christmas Day, arriving at Fremantle on 1 February 1919. He was discharged from service on 15 March.

Following his return, Kenneth was granted a military pension and, in 1922, a Soldier Settlement block of 100 acres in the Kojonup district. Nine years later he married Hazel Williams at the Gnowangerup Mission where they lived and together and raised their seven children. During the late 1930s and 1940s, Kenneth obtained casual employment as a truck driver and wool buyer to supplement his pension.

Kenneth Farmer passed away at the family residence in Katanning on 8 November 1950 and was buried in the town cemetery. He was 51 years old.

## ■ CORPORAL STANLEY HEDLEY MM




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<b>RANK</b>	Corporal 4812
<b>BORN</b>	1891, Wyndham, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 1 December 1915 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	24 April 1918, Villers-Bretonneux, France

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**STANLEY HEDLEY** was born in 1891 in Wyndham to Nancy Lee, a woman of Aboriginal descent, and a man named Hedley. Stanley was the step-brother of George Marsh, who was rejected on grounds of descent.

Following the death of his mother, Stanley was placed in the Beagle Bay Mission where he was raised and educated. George was taken to Singapore by his father and cared for by his aunt before returning to Western Australia when he was old enough to work.

By the age of 20, Stanley had left the Kimberley for the south of the state where he was engaged by a Samuel Williamson of Fremantle in a well sinking contract at Mt Jackson, 110 kilometres north of Southern Cross. In late 1910 he located a gold bearing reef in the area that he worked as a member of a small syndicate.

By mid-1915, Stanley was working for the Wilkie family at Williams and was a member of the local rifle club. He enlisted on 1 December 1915 in Narrogin. Three weeks later he proceeded to Blackboy Hill and underwent training with the 49th Depot prior to being appointed to the 15th Reinforcements of the 11th Battalion.

Stanley departed from Fremantle aboard HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) on 1 April 1916, disembarking at Alexandria on Anzac Day. He was reassigned to the 4th Division of the 51st Battalion in July and promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal the following month. During the battle of Mouquet Farm on 3 September, he displayed great courage during an encounter with enemy snipers, for which he was awarded a Military Medal on 21 October.

For the remainder of the year the battalion alternated between front line duty, training and labouring behind the front line. In early 1917, Stanley participated in the advance to the Hindenburg Line and the attack on Noreuil in April. The battalion suffered 239 casualties. During the later part of the year he was involved in action at Messines and at Polygon Wood. On 24 September he was promoted to Corporal.

On 24 April 1918, while involved in action at Villers-Bretonneux, Stanley lost his life and was buried near Villers-Bretonneux. He was 27 years old.

Stanley Hedly was the first of three Aboriginal Western Australian servicemen to be awarded a Military Medal during World War I. He is memorialised at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France, the Australian War Memorial and the Western Australian State War Memorial.

## ■ LANCE CORPORAL AUGUSTUS PEGG FARMER MM



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<b>RANK</b>	Lance Corporal 4808
<b>BORN</b>	October 1886, Katanning, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 2 December 1915 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	8 August 1918, Méricourt, France

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**AUGUSTUS ‘GUS’ PEGG FARMER** was born in Katanning in October 1886. He was the first of eight sons born to William Pegg Farmer and Emily Coyne, who were both of Aboriginal descent. Gus’ younger brothers Kenneth, Lewis and Larry also served. His brother Richard and nephew Ronald served in World War II.

Gus was raised in Katanning and was educated at the local state school. An all-round sportsman, he was a member of the local football team and competed in athletic events throughout the district in the early part of the century.

By June 1913, Gus was residing in the Bridgetown area and enlisted on 2 December 1915, stating his trade as a ‘timber worker’. He arrived at Blackboy Hill eight days later and, on 1 March 1916, he was appointed to the 15th Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion. Four weeks later, Gus embarked on HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) from Fremantle, arriving at the Port of Suez on 23 April and trained with the 4th Division Cyclist Company the following month.

By 7 September, Gus was stationed in England where he rejoined the 16th Battalion and, later that month, proceeded overseas to Etaples in France, returning to the field on 4 October. Over the next six months he was involved in action on the Somme and at Bullecourt, where he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

On 15 May he was admitted to the 13th Australian Field Hospital with abrasions to his foot and returned to duty a week later at Bailleul. In late November, following the Battle of Ypres, he was admitted to the 39th General Hospital in Le Havre where he remained for 26 days. Four days after Christmas he rejoined his battalion and, for the next three months, participated in the Spring Offensive before being readmitted to hospital with a hernia in April 1918.

On 12 May, while recuperating at Harfleur, Gus was awarded a Military Medal for ‘conspicuous bravery on the field and devotion to duty whilst serving’. He returned to his battalion at Querrien on 25 July. While involved in heavy fighting, Gus was killed in action at Méricourt on 8 August — three months prior to the armistice. He was 32 years old.

In April 1919 his mother applied for his estate that had been bequeathed to her. She received her son’s Military Medal three months later, and his Memorial Scroll and Victory Medal in late 1921. A package containing his personal effects was received the following year.

Augustus Pegg Farmer was buried at the Hamel, France and is memorialised at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France, the Australian War Memorial and the Western Australian State War Memorial.

## ■ PRIVATE ROLAND HUGH SHAW




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 5196
<b>BORN</b>	10 September 1892, Gingin, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 24 December 1915 Discharged 5 June 1919
<b>DIED</b>	27 September 1968, Geraldton, Western Australia

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**ROLAND SHAW** was born in Gingin on 10 September 1892. He was the fourth of 12 children and second son born to William Shaw (Snr.), who was of Aboriginal descent, and Mary Ann Hill. He was the brother of William and Claude who both served.

He was raised in the Gingin area where he attended the local state school and, in 1901, received a certificate for having passed in every subject by the Government Inspector. On Christmas Eve 1915, Roland enlisted in Perth stating his occupation as a 'labourer' and was placed in the 42nd Depot Company at Blackboy Hill before being transferred to the 16th Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion. Eight days later he embarked from Fremantle on HMT *Shropshire* (A9) with fellow Aboriginal serviceman Robert Cox, disembarking at the Port of Suez on 14 April.

After further training in Egypt, Roland boarded SS *Ionian* at Alexandria on 7 June, arriving in Marseille a week later. He was hospitalised with 'German measles' while in Etaples in July. He rejoined the 16th Battalion on 19 August and participated in action around Pozières. He was readmitted to hospital on 13 November with influenza, returning to his unit 10 days later at Ancre.

For the next five months he saw action on the Somme, including at Bullecourt, and was reported missing at Reincourt in April. Four months later his family exchanged letters

with the military authorities requesting further information about their son. In early August the family received information from the British Red Cross society stating that he had been captured and interned by the enemy in Limburg, Germany, as a prisoner of war.

Following the armistice, Roland was released and repatriated to England on 9 December 1918. After a period of convalescence, he departed from England on 5 March 1919 aboard HMT *Nevasa*. He was one of the 182 Western Australians who, on arrival in Albany on 13 April, were quarantined as a precaution during the pneumonic influenza epidemic.

A week later, Roland was released and travelled to Fremantle by train, continuing on to Gingin, where he was welcomed at the station by many of his friends. His homecoming was acknowledged in the local newspaper, where it was reported that 'although having suffered many hardships he did not look much the worse for his experience'. He was discharged from service on 5 June 1919.

In January 1925, Roland married Theresa Backshell of Greenough. The couple had two children and took up residence in Walkaway, where Roland earned a living in the late 1930s as a kangaroo shooter. Roland Shaw passed away on 27 September 1968, aged 77. He is buried in the Utakarra Cemetery.

## ■ TROOPER ROBERT COX




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<b>RANK</b>	Trooper 5077
<b>BORN</b>	6 January 1880, Cranbrook area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 5 January 1916 Discharged 9 October 1919
<b>DIED</b>	31 May 1964, Mount Barker, Western Australia

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**ROBERT COX** was born in Pynup, near Cranbrook, on 6 January 1880. He was one of eight children born to Henry Cox (Snr.), an Irish born settler, and Mary-Ann, whose Aboriginal name was Boonderan. His older brother Harry also served.

Robert was raised in the Cranbrook area where he attended the local state school and participated in sporting activities, including playing for the Cranbrook Cricket Club.

On 5 January 1916, Robert enlisted in Albany stating his occupation as a 'labourer'. He proceeded to Blackboy Hill for training and was assigned to the 16th Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion. On 31 March he embarked from Fremantle aboard HMAT *Shropshire* (A9), disembarking at the Port of Suez on 14 April.

On 5 May, Robert was transferred to the No.2 Imperial Camel Corp at Tel-El-Kebir and, six weeks later, was admitted to the No.3 Australian General Hospital in Abassia with influenza. He rejoined his unit only to be readmitted to hospital on 16 June and, one week later, transferred to the 1st ANZAC Battalion in Sollum, near the Lybian border.

For the next five months his unit was involved in long patrols in the Western Desert. In late 1916 he was transferred to the 1st ANZAC Battalion where he fought alongside Australian light horse units at Romani, Magdhaba and Rafa.

On 19 April 1917, during the Second Battle of Gaza, Robert suffered a gunshot wound to his thigh. He was admitted to hospital in Abbassia before being transferred to Montazah.

One month following his discharge in June 1917, he rejoined the Imperial Camel Corp at El Kubri, where he served until late January 1918. Over the next 3 months, Robert was hospitalised for various ailments, including appendicitis. He returned to his unit on 30 April and, on 1 July, was transferred to the 14th Light Horse Brigade. At the end of August, he was reassigned to the 5th Light Horse Brigade and taken on strength to the Australian Provost Corp. He rejoined his unit on 23 October, 19 days prior to the end of the war.

In early January 1919, Robert travelled on to Cairo and, in March, forfeited 14 days pay for a misdemeanor committed whilst on duty. On 24 July, Robert embarked from Kantara aboard HMT *Dongola* for Australia, arriving in Fremantle on 17 August. He was discharged from service on 9 October.

Following his return to Australia, Robert continued to work as a labourer. In September 1936, he applied for a war pension claiming that he had defective vision directly related to his service. His claim was rejected.

Robert Cox passed away on 31 May 1964 at the Mount Barker hospital, aged 83. He is buried in the Cranbrook Cemetery. He was unmarried.

## ■ LANCE CORPORAL HORACE McMURRAY




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<b>RANK</b>	Lance Corporal 2232
<b>BORN</b>	1897, Northampton area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 6 January 1916 Discharged 30 August 1919
<b>DIED</b>	8 July 1949, Victoria Park, Western Australia

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**HORACE McMURRAY** was born in 1897 in the Northampton area to Alice McMurray, a woman of Aboriginal descent (who was also known as Ngamba), and an unknown father.

Horace enlisted on 6 January 1916 at Blackboy Hill stating his occupation as a ‘station hand and teamster’ and was appointed to the 15th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse Regiment on 29 February. He departed Fremantle on 1 April aboard HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) and arrived at Alexandria on 25 April, where he was attached to the 3rd Training Regiment at Tel-El-Kebir.

Within a week of landing, Horace was admitted to the No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital with measles. On 2 November he was transferred to the 4th Australian Camel Regiment at Abbassia and then to the 18th Company Imperial Camel Corps in February 1917.

Over the next two months he was involved in battles at Gaza before being hospitalised in Cairo with influenza. On 6 June he returned to his unit and, over the next 16 months, was involved in front line action at Rafa, Romani, Gaza and Beersheba.

On 31 July 1918, Horace was transferred to the 4th Light Horse Regiment and, three months later, was appointed to the rank of Lance Corporal. Following the armistice, the regiment settled down to routine work, preparing for

the homeward journey and the disposal of their beloved horses. Horace returned to Australia aboard HMS *Essex* on 15 June 1919, disembarking in Fremantle in mid-July. He was discharged from service on 30 August.

During the 1920s, Horace continued to work as a station hand and, in 1927, he contracted dengue fever and was admitted to the hospital in Carnarvon. Twelve months later he was employed at Mia Mia Station. Throughout the 1930s and early 1940s he was engaged in prospecting activities in the Meekatharra area, where he held a number of leases, including one that produced 89.35 ounces of gold from 14.25 tons in 1939.

Although Horace’s health began to deteriorate in 1941, he continued in the industry and, two years later, applied for a gold mining lease known as ‘The Last Chance’.

In April he was admitted to the Wooroloo Sanatorium with pulmonary tuberculosis attributed to mining at Tuckanarra. While there, the Repatriation Commission granted him a part pension of nine shillings and three pence per week, with the remainder going towards his keep. He remained at the sanatorium for 10 months and left against medical advice.

Horace McMurray passed away on 8 July 1949 at the Edward Millen Home in Victoria Park, aged 51. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery. He was unmarried.

## ■ SAPPER FREDERICK WILLIAM JENNINGS




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<b>RANK</b>	Sapper 127
<b>BORN</b>	1897, Albany, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 19 January 1916 Discharged 22 August 1919
<b>DIED</b>	13 February 1979, Applecross, Western Australia

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**FREDERICK ‘FRED’ JENNINGS** was born in 1897 in Albany. He was the eldest of six children born to Frederick Patrick Jennings, a waterfront worker, and Mary Jane McBride — the daughter of William McBride and Lucy Bradley, who was a woman of Aboriginal descent. Fred’s cousins John and Thomas McBride served, and two of his uncles, George and Richard, were rejected for medical reasons.

Fred was raised and educated in Albany where, by the age of 16, he was employed by the Post and Telegraph Department as a telegraph messenger, having passed the examination.

By May 1913, Fred was a member of the Naval Cadets and was still serving when he enlisted in Albany during January 1916. Within two days of his arrival at Blackboy Hill, Fred was appointed to the Signals School as he was already skilled in this profession. In March he was reassigned to the 44th Battalion of the 11th Brigade for additional training at the Claremont camp.

Fred embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) in June and arrived in Plymouth the following month. In August he was admitted to hospital at Larkville with bronchitis and, after recuperating, rejoined his unit before proceeding to France.

On 9 December, Fred was readmitted to hospital with mumps, returning to his battalion in early January 1917 at Armentières in Belgium, where he was exposed to gas warfare for the first time. In April he was transferred to the 3rd Divisional Signallers Company as a power buzzer operator, using Morse code technology to relay messages to the front line. He remained with the unit through until the end of the war, participating in battles at Messines, Amiens and in the advance on the Hindenburg Line.

Following the armistice, Fred assisted in decommissioning activities and, on 7 April 1919, returned to England for repatriation. In June he boarded SS *Somali* for Fremantle and was examined for signs of influenza on arrival. He then returned to Albany where he was again employed by the Postal Department. He was discharged from service on 22 August.

Two years later he married Zoe Carty and together they had three sons. The family remained in Albany for almost a decade before moving to Howick Street in Victoria Park, where they lived for the next 40 years. He continued to work as a postal officer until retirement.

Frederick Jennings passed away on 13 February 1979, aged 81. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

■ SAPPER FRANCIS MAHER

Sheet *A*      Regimental Number... *5*

**Casualty Form - Active Service.**

Regiment or Corps... *2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Tunnelling Coy*

Surname... *MAHER*      Christian Name... *Frank*      MAIL

R... *C*      Age on Enlistment... *19* years... *11*

1... Terms of Service (a) *10 years 11 months*      Service reckons from (a)... *7*

present rank...      Date of appointment to lance rank...

Re-engaged ( )      Qualification (b) or Corps Trade and rate.

Signature of ( )

received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, rescriptions, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form 1234. Army Form 1234 or its latest official substitute. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Item Taken from R. 714 Army Form
<i>3.10.</i>	<i>Sp. Marched out to Unit</i>	<i>Rouelles</i>	<i>9.3.18</i>	<i>AK 2</i>
	Disembarked			
<i>1.11.</i>	<i>Rejoined Unit From England</i>	<i>England</i>	<i>11.3.18</i>	<i>62/70</i>
	To Hospital Sick	<i>do</i>	<i>18.3.18</i>	<i>62/71</i>
	Rejoined Unit From	<i>do</i>	<i>20.3.18</i>	<i>62/71</i>
	Wounded in Action (How)	<i>do</i>	<i>2/6/18</i>	<i>62/80</i>

**RANK**      Sapper 5369

**BORN**      18 July 1897,  
Dandaragan, Western Australia

**SERVICE**      Enlisted 22 January 1916  
Discharged 12 November 1919

**DIED**      3 September 1967,  
Nedlands, Western Australia

**FRANCIS 'FRANK' MAHER** was born on 18 July 1897 in Dandaragan to John Maher (Snr.), who was of Aboriginal descent, and Emily Maggs. He was the seventh of 11 children. His older brother John also served.

Frank was raised and educated in the Moora district before gaining employment as a farmhand.

On 22 January 1916 he enlisted at Geraldton, having nominated for service at a recruitment meeting at nearby Walkaway a week earlier. He proceeded to Blackboy Hill and, on 29 March, was appointed as a sapper with the 6th Tunnelling Company. In July he travelled to the Seymour Training Camp in Victoria and embarked from Melbourne aboard HMAT *Suffolk* (A23) in September, disembarking in Plymouth on 2 December.

On New Year's Day 1917, Frank proceeded to France where he joined the 2nd Australian Tunnelling Company Reinforcements and was involved in battles at Messines and Ypres. In September he was admitted to hospital with 'trench fever', rejoining his unit early the following month. While on leave in England in November, he was admitted to hospital for four weeks before being discharged to Command Depots. He returned to his unit at Rouelles in France on 11 March 1918.

Four weeks later, Frank's unit was involved in the second Battle of the Somme. He was gassed in September, while in action in the Rouelles area, and admitted to hospital.

On being discharged, Frank returned to his unit and remained in France until May the following year, when he returned to England. He embarked for Fremantle on 23 July aboard SS *Main*, arriving on 27 September. He was discharged from service on 12 November 1919.

Within five years he was working at the New Norcia Mission, carrying on a long family tradition, his father having worked there before him. Frank married Mavis Gill in the Perth Registry Office on 19 June 1937. The couple did not have any children.

Frank worked for the Public Works Department as a builder's labourer from October 1951 until he retired in 1964. He applied for an aged pension but his claim was rejected as he was unable to prove his date of birth.

On 3 September 1967, Frank Maher died at the Hollywood Repatriation Hospital, aged 69. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE CHARLES LATWOOD




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 5424
<b>BORN</b>	1896, Kookynie area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 2 February 1916 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	10 August 1918, Lihons, France

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**CHARLES LATWOOD** was born in the Kookynie area in 1896, the son of an Aboriginal woman named Tilly and an unknown father. He was the half-brother of Larry Robertson, who was rejected for medical reasons.

Following the death of his mother during 1903 in the nearby town of Malcolm, Charles was raised by Walter Newland, a neighbouring station owner, while Larry remained with his father on Yarrie Station.

On 2 February 1916, Charles enlisted in Kalgoorlie. He entered the Blackboy Hill camp where he completed his training prior to being appointed to the 17th Reinforcements of the 11th Battalion.

On 22 March he boarded HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) at Fremantle, disembarking at the Port of Suez in mid-May, where he was admitted to the Government Hospital with measles. Following recovery, Charles spent further time in Egypt before proceeding to the 3rd Training Battalion at Perham Downs in England. On 9 August he travelled on to the 1st Australian Division Base Depot at Etaples in France prior to joining his battalion in Belgium. During the next two months he was engaged in action on the Somme.

By the end of November, Charles was involved in advanced training as well as front line activities. In early April 1917, within a fortnight of participating in the Battle of Lagnicourt near the Hindenburg Line, he was admitted to the 8th Field Ambulance with an injury to his foot. On being discharged he returned to his battalion, taking part in the assault at Glencorse Wood during the Battle of Menin Road in September. Following the event he returned to England for 10 days leave before joining his battalion again in mid-October.

Over the next 10 months, Charles was engaged in action in Belgium at Polygon Wood, Zonnebeke and Messines, and participated in the capture of Mont de Merris and Gerbedoen Farm.

On 10 August 1918, during the attack of Lihons, Charles Latwood was one of 58 servicemen who lost their lives. He was 22 years old. Charles was buried in the field, in an isolated grave near where he died. Ten months later his body was exhumed and was buried in the Heath Cemetery in Harbonnières, France.

On 5 September 1923, his cousin Norman Forrest acknowledged the receipt of his personal estate, including his service medals, his Memorial Plaque and his Memorial Scroll.

## ■ PRIVATE PATRICK MICHAEL




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 331
<b>BORN</b>	1889, Cunderdin area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 11 February 1916 Discharged 20 November 1917; Enlisted 28 August 1941 Discharged 17 November 1941
<b>DIED</b>	25 May 1951, Perth, Western Australia

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**PATRICK MICHAEL** was born in 1889 in the Cunderdin area. He was one of six children born to Annie Martain, and Harry Michael, who was of Aboriginal descent.

Patrick was raised in the Avon Valley district where, by the age of 13, he was employed by Joseph Marwick, a well-known farmer in the York area.

On 11 February 1916, Patrick enlisted in Perth, stating his occupation as a 'horse driver' and claiming to have been born in Gympie, Queensland. He proceeded to Blackboy Hill where he commenced basic training and six weeks later was appointed to the 44th Battalion.

Patrick departed from Fremantle aboard HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 6 June, disembarking at Plymouth on 21 July with 1,023 other servicemen. During August and September, while stationed in England, he was absent without leave on two occasions and forfeited three days pay. On 14 October he departed for France on board SS *Victoria*, arriving in Etaples two days later and continuing on to join the 28th Battalion stationed at a base camp in Dernancourt.

Several days later, while engaged in action in the Montauban area, Patrick sustained a gunshot wound to his left wrist and was admitted to the No. 5 Field Ambulance before being evacuated to the No. 3 London General Hospital

on November 11. Two weeks later he was discharged to the No. 2 Command Depot in Weymouth.

On 1 December, Patrick was readmitted to hospital with an undiagnosed illness. He was discharged on 7 March 1917 to the Command Depot at Wareham and then on to Hurdcott, where he was deemed to be unfit for further service. He returned to Australia on 21 July on board HMAT *Euripides* (A14) with an 'united fracture of the jaw' and was discharged from service on 20 November.

Within a year, Patrick was residing in the Northam area, where he was seen proudly displaying his Returned Soldier Badge. By the early 1930s, Patrick was working at Yorkrakine and, by the end of the decade, at Tammin.

In August 1941, Patrick reenlisted to serve in World War II and was appointed to the 5th Garrison Battalion at Swanbourne. Eight weeks later he was discharged as his 'services were no longer required'. Following this decision he returned to the wheatbelt, spending time in the Beverley area and then at Wubin.

Patrick Michael passed away in Perth on 25 May 1951, aged 66. He was buried in a plot that was granted to Walter Larkham, the Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation, in the Karrakatta Cemetery. His resting place remains unmarked. He was unmarried.

## ■ TROOPER JAMES GRIFFIN




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<b>RANK</b>	Trooper 2352
<b>BORN</b>	18 July 1884, Esperance area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 11 February 1916 Discharged 18 September 1919; Enlisted 5 August 1943 Discharged 15 October 1945
<b>DIED</b>	29 November 1959, Esperance, Western Australia

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**JAMES GRIFFIN** was born on 18 July 1884 in Fanny Cove, near Esperance, to Michael Griffin, a shepherd, and Margaret (also known as Maggie), a woman of Aboriginal descent. His younger half-brothers Joseph and Robert Clatworthy also served.

James was raised and educated in the Esperance area. On 19 February 1912 he was granted permission from the Chief Protector of Aborigines to marry an Aboriginal woman, Mary, and did so later that year. The couple had three children.

Prior to enlisting in Albany on 11 February 1916, James placed his three children at the Carrolup Native Settlement, following the death of his wife the previous year. At the time James was employed as a station hand. After being accepted at Blackboy Hill in late February, he made arrangements with the Aborigines Department for the care of the children while he was serving.

James was appointed to the 16th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse Regiment in April 1916. He embarked from Fremantle aboard *HMAT Surada (A53)* on 16 May and disembarked at the Port of Suez in June. On 12 August he was transferred to 10th Reinforcement of the 2nd Light Horse in Moascar and took part in battles at Magdhaba in December and Rafa in January 1917. For the next 12 months the brigade was involved in action at Gaza, Beersheba, Jerusalem, Jaffa, Jericho and Amman.

In May 1918, during action at El Salt, James sustained received an injury to his left elbow and was admitted to the 14th Australian General Hospital at Port Said. He remained there until he was discharged to a rest camp in June. In late July he was reassigned to duty at the camp, where he remained until July 1919 when he embarked for Australia on *HMHS Oxfordshire* from Port Said, arriving at Fremantle on 4 August. He was discharged from service on 18 September.

During his time overseas, his son James (Jnr.) passed away at the Carrolup Native Settlement. In 1923, James was employed in the construction of the Esperance Salmon Gums railway line, marrying Sarah Evans the same year. Together they had six children. In 1926, his application for a lease of 1,895 acres of land near Salmon Gums was approved but was cancelled the following year due to non-compliance.

On 5 August 1943, James reenlisted in Esperance to serve in World War II, rejoining the 8th Goldfields Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps, where he remained until he was discharged from service on 15 October 1945.

James Griffin passed away at Esperance Hospital on 29 November 1959, aged 73. He is buried in the Esperance Cemetery. His resting place remains unmarked.

## ■ SERGEANT LESLIE ANDERSON




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<b>RANK</b>	Sergeant 5309
<b>BORN</b>	August 1893, Fremantle, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 25 February 1916 Discharged 13 October 1919; Enlisted 11 August 1941 Discharged 4 September 1945
<b>DIED</b>	4 August 1960, Nedlands, Western Australia

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**LESLIE ANDERSON** was born in Fremantle in August 1893. He was the second of three children born to Charles Anderson, a labourer, and Louisa ‘Lucy’ Bobbinett, a woman of Aboriginal descent from the Katanning area. Leslie’s brother-in-law William Jackson also served.

On Christmas Eve 1897, Leslie and his two sisters were taken from their mother, who was ill with fever, and placed in the Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission, their parents having seperated. Leslie remained in the Mission for 10 years where he was educated and met his future wife. In July 1907 he was sent out to work for John McCarley at Walkaway, near Geraldton. By 1913 he had moved back to Perth where he found work as a farrier with a blacksmith in Victoria Park and served with the 89th Battalion of the local cadets.

Leslie enlisted in Perth on 25 February 1916, four months after marrying Susie Jackson. Following three months basic training at Blackboy Hill, he was appointed to the 14th Reinforcement of the 28th Battalion in Claremont.

On 9 August he boarded HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) from Fremantle, disembarking at Devonport on 25 September. Leslie was reassigned to the 7th Training Battalion at Rolleston and, over the next two years, served at Parkhouse and Perham Downs with the Australian Army Service Corps

as a shoeing smith. On 15 September 1918 he proceeded to France where he was attached to the 1st Division Train, providing logistical support to the troops at the front. In January 1919 he was promoted to the rank of Temporary Corporal, returning to the rank of shoe smith the following month.

Leslie remained in France for a further four months, returning to England on 16 May where he proceeded to Parkhouse to serve with the Service Corps once again. On 18 July he boarded HMHS *Takada* for Australia, arriving in Fremantle in late August. He was discharged from service on 13 October.

Upon returning home, Leslie continued to work as a farrier and blacksmith while living in Rivervale, where he and his wife had five children.

Leslie reenlisted in Perth on 11 August 1941 and was appointed to the Western Command Ordnance Workshop at Midland Junction. Ten months later he was transferred through to the Bushmead Depot. In June 1944 he was diagnosed with constitutional rheumatism and, a year later, had also developed severe shoulder issues. In August he was found to be unfit for heavy work and was discharged from service the following month.

Leslie Anderson died at the Hollywood Repatriation Hospital on 4 August 1960, aged 67. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## ■ LANCE CORPORAL FRANCIS EDWARD ARMSTRONG




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<b>RANK</b>	Lance Corporal 3380
<b>BORN</b>	February 1898, Katanning, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 10 April 1916 Discharged 8 August 1919
<b>DIED</b>	13 October 1942, North Perth, Western Australia

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**FRANCIS 'FRANK' ARMSTRONG** was born in February 1898 near Katanning to Charles Edward Armstrong and Emma Jane Searle. Emma was the daughter of William Searle and Nancy Gamble, a woman of Aboriginal descent. Frank's cousins, Michael Searle and Charles Burridge, also served. His uncles, John Thomas and Henry Searle, were rejected for medical reasons.

Frank was raised in the Great Southern region where his father owned several properties and was he educated at the local state school. At the age of 16 he began an apprenticeship with the town dentist.

On 10 April 1916, Frank enlisted in Katanning, entering Blackboy Hill two weeks later. On completion of training he was appointed to the 20th Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion. In June, Frank was transferred to the Dental Corp and, in March the following year, to the 8th Reinforcements of the 44th Battalion. On 29 June 1917, Frank left Fremantle on HMAT *Borda* (A30), disembarking in Plymouth in late August. On arrival he continued to the Larkhill Depot for further training.

Four months later, Frank proceeded to Belgium with his unit. Over the next two months, he was involved in routine activities behind the front line. In March 1918 he was involved in action near Amiens prior to being admitted to hospital with pyrexia and influenza.

He rejoined his battalion three weeks later and was involved in action around the Hamel area. Throughout August and September, his unit continued to advance towards the Hindenburg line, where the battalion's last major action of the war was fought between 29 September and 3 October around the St Quentin Canal.

On the day of the armistice, Frank was appointed to the rank of Lance Corporal and, for the next five months, was involved in demobilisation activities prior to returning to Codford, England, in late April 1919. He left for Australia aboard RMS *Somali* on 1 June, arriving in Fremantle five weeks later. He was discharged from service on 8 August.

Within a year of disembarking, Frank had secured a position as a dental mechanic in Perth but left the profession in March 1921. Over the next 11 years, Frank was engaged in contract fencing, well sinking and clearing work. During this period he also took up a lease of 2,500 acres in the Upper Irwin area through the Soldier Settlement Scheme, only to relinquish it within two years.

From 1934 through to mid-1939 Frank was engaged in prospecting in the Paynes Find area. In October 1939 he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and was admitted to the Edward Millen Home in Victoria Park the following month. He remained there until March 1941.

Francis Armstrong passed away at the family home in North Perth on 13 October 1942, aged 42. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery. He was unmarried.

## ■ PRIVATE HAROLD PURVIS

**APPLICATION TO ENLIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE**

To the Recruiting Officer  
at Barrakatta

I, I. Harold Purvis  
hereby offer myself for Enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service Abroad, and undertake to enlist in the manner prescribed, if I am accepted by Military Authorities, within one month from date hereof.

Home Address: Quindalup W.A. Signature: H. Purvis  
Occupation: Farm Hand Date: 14-4-16

(The Identification portion of the above form should be filled in personally by the Applicant.)

**CONSENT OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.** (For Persons under 21 years of age)  
I HEREBY CERTIFY that I approve of the above application, and consent to the enlistment of my (ward) for Active Service Abroad.

Statement regarding Death or Aliance of either or both Parents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
Guardian's Signature: William Purvis

**PERSONAL PARTICULARS.**

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<b>RANK</b>	Private 2278
<b>BORN</b>	1896, Canning Mills, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 14 April 1916 Discharged 5 July 1919
<b>DIED</b>	2 August 1923, Victoria Park, Western Australia

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**HAROLD PURVIS** was born in Canning Mills, near Kalamunda, in 1896. He was the eldest of five children born to Barbara Purvis. Barbara was the daughter of John Purvis (Snr.), an expirée who worked in the Quindalup area as a blacksmith, and Mattie, a woman of Aboriginal descent. Harold's uncle, John Purvis, enlisted but was rejected for medical reasons.

Harold was raised and educated in the South-West. He enlisted in Bunbury on 14 April 1916, stating his occupation as a 'farm hand'. At the time he was living in the Quindalup area. Five weeks later he proceeded to Belmont where he was appointed to the 22nd Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion. In September he was reassigned to 6th Reinforcements of the 48th Battalion and, on 30 October, he embarked from Fremantle aboard HMT *Port Melbourne* (A16), bound for Devonport. Twenty days prior to disembarking, Harold was admitted to the ship's hospital and, eight days after arrival, to hospital in Sutton Veny.

Harold was discharged to the No. 12 Training Battalion at Codford in March 1917 and, on 22 May, proceeded overseas to France. In July he was wounded in action at Messines with severe gunshot wounds to the right thigh and left heel. He was evacuated to Brighton Hospital in England.

In early December, Harold was transferred to the 3rd Auxiliary Hospital in Dartford. Once recovered he was discharged and returned to France on 4 February 1918, rejoining his unit.

On 5 May, while fighting at Villers-Bretonneux, Harold was hit in the left knee by a blast of machine gun fire and reported missing in action. A week later he was taken prisoner and admitted to a hospital in Le Quesnoy where doctors administered anesthetic and amputated his leg above the knee. He spent the next five months as a prisoner of war and, on 27 September, was moved to the Frontier Exchange Station in Holland for repatriation. On arrival in England in mid-October, he was transferred to the 1st London General Hospital at Camberwell.

Harold boarded HMT *Czar* in Liverpool for Alexandria on 23 March 1919, transferring to HMHS *Dongola* and disembarking at Fremantle on 10 April. On arrival he was admitted to the No. 8 General Hospital where he remained for two weeks. Harold was discharged from service on 5 July 1919 and received a weekly pension.

A little over three years later his health deteriorated. On 2 August 1923, Harold Purvis died of tuberculosis at the Edward Millen Home in Victoria Park, aged 27. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery. He was unmarried.

## ■ PRIVATE GORDON RIGNEY




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 2665
<b>BORN</b>	8 January 1890, Point McLeay, South Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 26 April 1916 Discharged 22 August 1919
<b>DIED</b>	3 July 1953, Point McLeay, South Australia

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**GORDON RIGNEY** was born on 8 January 1890 at the Point McLeay Mission. He was the fourth of six children born to Phillip Henry Rigney, who was born in Albany around 1850 and was removed to the Point McLeay Mission in 1872, and Isabella Summer of Coorang, who was also of Aboriginal descent. Two of Gordon's half-nephews on his mother's side, Cyril and Rufus Rigney, died in service.

Gordon was raised and educated on the mission where he became a valued member of the local football team. On 26 March 1910 he married Tracey Sumner, who was also of Aboriginal descent. By the end of the year he had travelled as far as the Lamaroo area in search of work.

On the 26 April 1916, Gordon enlisted in Adelaide stating his occupation as a 'horse breaker'. Three weeks later he was placed with the 'A' Company of the 2nd Depot Battalion and later moved to 'B' Company at Mitcham Army Camp for training. In mid-August he was transferred to the 5th Reinforcements of the 5th Pioneers Battalion.

Gordon departed from Adelaide on 21 September aboard HMAT *Commonwealth* (A73), disembarking at Plymouth on 14 November. He moved to the Perham Downs camp where he completed further training. In mid-February 1917 he was hospitalised for three weeks, rejoining his battalion in the field at Fricourt in late April. On 5 June he was again hospitalised with a lumbar injury and following treatment, returned

to his unit east of Amiens on 1 August. Gordon remained on the Somme where he was involved in action at Ypres, Zillebeke and Polygon Wood for the next seven months. In March 1918 he was granted leave to England and returned to France the following month. For the next 12 months the battalion was subjected to gas attacks around Villers-Bretonneux and took part in battles at Morlancourt, Amiens and Péronne. His final actions of the war were around Bellicourt in October 1918. Following the armistice he remained on the continent and was involved in decommissioning activities.

In April 1919, Gordon proceeded to Weymouth in England to prepare for the journey home. He left Devonport on 2 June aboard HMAT *Beltana* (A72), disembarking in Adelaide on 15 July. Within days of arriving home at Point McLeay, he and a fellow serviceman were presented with gold medals, as 'were all the other braves who had returned' to the mission. On 22 August he was discharged from service.

In May 1925, Gordon married Joyce Rankine, whose family were also residents at the mission. In 1926 he donned his football boots to play in the veterans football team. As a tribute to his fallen comrades, Gordon travelled to Adelaide every year to lay a wreath, made of swan and pelican feathers by the women of Point McLeay, at the South Australian National War Memorial on Anzac Day.

Gordon Rigney passed away at Point McLeay, on 3 July 1953, aged 63. He was buried at the local cemetery and was the father of 12 children from his two marriages.

## ■ DRIVER EDWARD RAWSON




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<b>RANK</b>	Driver 29999
<b>BORN</b>	1896, Albany, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 10 May 1916 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	2 October 1917, Ypres, France

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**EDWARD ‘TED’ RAWSON** was born in Albany in 1896, the third of four children born to Edward Rawson (Snr.) and Annie Mason, both of whom were of Aboriginal descent. Edward’s cousin Alfred Rawson (Jnr.), and his uncles Arthur, Henry, Randell and William Mason also served. His his older brother Alfred was discharged for medical reasons.

At the age of two, Ted was taken from the family home at Katanning along with two of his siblings and placed at Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission. At the time their mother was too ill to care for them. He remained at the mission for 12 years, during which time he was educated and participated in sporting events. Around 1915 he moved to Adelaide where he boarded with Mary Platt.

Prior to enlisting on 10 May 1916, Ted was a member of the Senior Cadets in Hindmarsh while working as a farm labourer. Initially appointed to ‘B’ Company at the Exhibition Camp, he was reassigned to the field artillery reinforcements before proceeding to Maribyrnong in Victoria for basic training with the 120th Howitzer Battery.

On 2 October 1916, Ted embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60), arriving at Plymouth in mid-November. He remained in England for the following four months, stationed at the Larkhill and Boyton Command Depots.

On 26 March 1917, Ted proceeded to France as a driver with the 14th Field Artillery Brigade of the 114th Howitzer Battery as his former unit had been disbanded. Over the next six months, the battery was involved attacks on the Hindenburg line and Ypres, where, on the night of 2 October, Ted was killed by a high explosive enemy shell. At the time he was transporting ammunition to a forward gun position by pack horse.

Edward Rawson was buried near ‘a place called Hell Fire Corner’, close to where he was killed. A cross bearing his name and service number was erected over his resting place. The following month the *Western Mail* published a photograph of Ted in their illustrated section featuring servicemen who had been killed in action. A tribute from two of his former mission friends was inserted a fortnight later.

In February 1921, three photographs and a description of the grave site were forwarded to Ted’s mother who was living at Mortigallup. In October 1922 she received his war medals and, the following year, his Memorial Scroll and Memorial Plaque. His war gratuity was shared by his mother and sister who were said to be ‘partially dependent on the deceased’, and his will was divided equally between his sister and Mary Platt.

Edward Rawson’s remains were exhumed and interred by the War Graves Commission at the Birr Cross Roads Military Cemetery in Belgium.

## ■ PRIVATE JOSEPH CROWLEY



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<b>RANK</b>	Private 6626
<b>BORN</b>	1896, Kalgoorlie area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 30 May 1916 Discharged 4 October 1920
<b>DIED</b>	19 January 1950, Heidelberg, Victoria

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**JOSEPH 'JOE' CROWLEY** was born in the Kalgoorlie area in 1896 to an Aboriginal woman and a non-Aboriginal man. He was raised and educated by a Victorian born mining engineer named Cornelius Crowley and his wife, Bridget Agnes.

In his youth, Joe had achieved a reputation in the area as an outstanding sportsman, excelling in cricket and football. His sporting prowess continued when he moved to the Riverina district in Victoria in 1913.

On 30 May 1916, Joe enlisted at the Echuca Town Hall stating his occupation as a 'farmer'. He proceeded to the Bendigo Recruiting Depot and was appointed to the 20th Depot Battalion at Castlemaine. In July he transferred to the 21st Reinforcements of the 7th Battalion at the Seymour Camp.

On 2 October, Joe embarked on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) from Melbourne, arriving at Plymouth on 14 November. Within a month he was admitted to the Fovant Hospital with mumps. He then returned to his unit, continuing to France aboard SS *Victoria* on 15 February 1917. After three days he was hospitalised with pneumonia and evacuated to England in a serious condition.

Five months later, Joe returned to his unit in France and, on 4 October, sustained a gunshot wound to the left hand while involved in action

at Westhoek Ridge around Ypres. He was hospitalised at Le Havre. In November he joined the 7th Battalion as a driver. For the next seven months he served with his battalion and, in March and April 1918, participated in the German Syncing Offensive. He was readmitted to hospital in late June, remaining there until September, when he rejoined his battalion in the field, continuing operations until the armistice.

Joe returned to England in April 1919 and married Annie Jackson on 28 July at a Registry Office in London. The couple remained in England for another eight months, during which time their only child was born. In May 1920 they sailed for Australia on SS *Kigoma*, arriving in Melbourne in July.

Joe was discharged from service in October 1920 and returned to the Echuca area with his family. In June 1924 they moved to Melbourne so he could play for the Northcote Football Club. During the 1940s the couple lived in Collingwood where Joe was employed as a gas worker and factory hand. In 1948 he was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis.

On 19 January 1950, Joseph Crowley passed away at the Repatriation Hospital in Heidelberg, aged 54. He is buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE THOMAS MASSEY




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 6919
<b>BORN</b>	c.1900, Parkeston, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 21 July 1916 Discharged 26 April 1918
<b>DIED</b>	22 July 1994, Beckenham, Western Australia

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**THOMAS 'TOM' MASSEY** was born in Parkeston, near Kalgoorlie, around the turn of the twentieth century to Thomas Massey, reportedly from New Zealand, and Mary Taylor, a woman of Aboriginal descent. Following the death of his parents early in his life, Tom was raised by his mother's family in the Eastern Goldfields before adopting the life of a street-wise youth in the town.

On 21 July 1916, Tom enlisted in Northam stating his occupation as a 'miner'. Four days later he entered Blackboy Hill where he commenced his training. In late August he was appointed to the 22nd Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion and then the 18th Reinforcements of the 28th Battalion before being admitted to the Rockingham Military Camp Hospital, where he remained for six months. Once discharged he returned to duty and was reappointed to the 20th Reinforcements in May 1917.

Following a further seven weeks training, Tom boarded HMAT *Borda* (A30) at Fremantle, arriving at Plymouth in late August. During the voyage he committed a number of offences resulting in him being placed in detention and a loss of pay.

On landing, Tom was admitted to the 1st Australian Divisional Hospital at Bulford and, two months later, was transferred to the Convalescent Depot at Hurdcott. On being discharged he was transferred to the 6th Infantry Training Battalion at Fovant where, in mid-December, he was absent without leave and forfeited further pay.

In mid-January 1918, Tom proceeded to the No. 2 Convalescent Depot to return to Australia as 'medically unfit'. He departed from Devonport on HMAT *Argyllshire* (A8) for Durban in South Africa, where he transferred on to RMS *Osterley*, arriving in Fremantle on 6 April. On disembarking he was admitted to the No. 8 Australian General Hospital for observation and was discharged from service on 26 April.

In November, Tom received assistance from the Repatriation Department to travel to his employment in Katanning and then on to Manjimup where he obtained a short-term clearing contract. During the early 1920s he was working in the Wheatbelt, firstly with a railway ballasting gang and then as a farm labourer in the Quairading area, where he was unsuccessful in obtaining an exemption to the *1905 Act*. In 1927 he was employed at an inner-city flour mill prior to marrying Alice Boyce two years later. The couple adopted one child.

Tom continued to work as a mill hand for the next 15 years while living in Cottesloe and then Claremont, including at the Dingo Flour mill in North Fremantle. Around 1950, the family moved to East Cannington where Tom secured employment as a foundry worker until he retired, aged 65.

Thomas Massey passed away at home on 22 July 1994, aged 94. He was cremated and is memorialised in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE JOHN MAITLAND HOLLAND




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 2927A
<b>BORN</b>	25 June 1897, York, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 27 July 1916 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	23 September 1917, Western Front, Belgium

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**JOHN MAITLAND HOLLAND** was born on 25 June 1897 at the family home in the York area. He was one of 12 children of Charles Holland (Snr.) and Jane Lomas, who was of Aboriginal descent. His older brothers William and Frederick also served, and his brother Charles is believed to have served under another name.

Maitland was raised in the Quairading area where he attended the state school in Danging. In 1913 he captained the local schoolboys cricket team and, later that year, won the Sheffield and Maiden Race. On leaving school he worked with his older brothers on clearing contracts in the area, contributing to the upkeep of the family.

On 27 July 1916, Maitland enlisted for service in York stating his occupation as a ‘farm hand’ — the application being witnessed by Edmond Neville, the Mayor of York and brother of Auber Octavius Neville, the Chief Protector of Aborigines. Eleven days later he was appointed to the 80th Depot at Blackboy Hill and the following week he was assigned to the 51st Battalion.

While in camp, Maitland was admitted to the Clearing Hospital with catarrhand and remained there for 10 days. He embarked from Fremantle aboard HMAT *Argyllshire* (A8) on 9 November, arriving at Devonport on 10 January 1917. On disembarking he was placed in the 4th Australian

Divisional Base Depot at Folkestone, where he continued training. On 20 March he proceeded with his fellow troops to France, joining the main battalion at Etaples. For the next five months the battalion was involved in action on the Somme including conflict at Bullecourt, Pozières, Mouquet Farm and Messines.

On 23 September, while preparing a casualty clearing station along the Menin Road near Passchendaele, his unit was shelled resulting in his death. He was 20 years old. John Maitland Holland was buried at the Birr Cross Roads British Cemetery at Zillebeke in Belgium.

Following his death, Maitland’s personal belongings were sent to his father Charles. These included a purse, a Testament, a comb, a pencil, a photo, letters, a cigarette holder and religious medallions. On 2 November 1922, his sister Maud received his Memorial Plaque.

Two of his brothers, William and Charles, never returned home.

## ■ PRIVATE MICHAEL SEARLE




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 2619
<b>BORN</b>	6 June 1895, Albany, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 30 July 1916 Discharged 16 August 1919
<b>DIED</b>	17 March 1970, Perth, Western Australia

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**MICHAEL ‘HARRY’ SEARLE** was born on 6 June 1895 in Albany, the third of eight children born to William Searle (Jnr.), a farmer, and Mary Margaret Maher. William’s grandmother, Eliza Nowen, was an Aboriginal woman from the Port Phillip Bay area in Victoria. His uncle, Robert Searle, was the only known Western Australian Aboriginal man to have served in the Boer War. Harry’s cousins Charles Burridge and Francis Armstrong also served in World War I.

In August 1915, Harry was granted a Homestead Farm lease of 160 acres and a grazing lease of 500 acres in the Plantagenet district.

In March 1916, Harry attempted to enlist in Albany but was deemed ‘medically unfit’ for service. On 30 July he reapplied and was accepted, proceeding to Blackboy Hill where, on 28 August, he was attached to the No. 80 Depot. On 14 September he was appointed to the 5th Reinforcements of the 43rd Battalion. He embarked from Fremantle in November on HMAT *Argyllshire* (A8), disembarking at Devonport on 10 January 1917.

On 5 February, Harry was placed in the 11th Training Battalion and was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital the next day, where he was later diagnosed with influenza. On 7 April he returned to his unit and, in July, was appointed to the No. 2 Western General Hospital in Manchester with a double hernia. He was released to his unit on 17 October and, 19 days later, was transferred to the

10th Training Battalion at Sutton Mandeville. He proceeded to France on 30 January 1918 and was placed in the 43rd Battalion at Rouelles one week later. On 20 April he was admitted to the 11th Field Ambulance suffering from influenza before being transferred to hospital in Etaples. He returned to the Base Depot eight days later and rejoined his battalion on 31 May.

For the next four months, the battalion was involved in action at Hamel, Amiens and Albert. While participating in the advance on the Hindenburg Line, Harry suffered gunshot wounds to the shoulder and thigh. He was evacuated to England where he spent the next six weeks in hospital, rejoining his unit in France on 7 October. Following the armistice, Harry was involved in decommission activities. On 1 June 1919, he embarked from England aboard RMS *Somali*, arriving at Fremantle the following month. He was discharged from service on 16 August.

In 1921, Harry was granted two leases near Brookton of 1,028 acres under the Soldier Settlement Scheme, which he forfeited the following year. He continued to make a living from odd jobs before being granted a Service Pension in 1939, suffering from neurasthenia. He married late in life to Agnes Marsh, a widow with three children.

Michael Searle passed away in Perth on 17 March 1970, aged 74. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

■ PRIVATE ALFRED ERNEST RAWSON MM




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 3339
<b>BORN</b>	15 April 1893, Wagin, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 30 September 1916 Discharged 22 February 1920
<b>DIED</b>	31 July 1964, Mount Lawley, Western Australia

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**ALFRED ERNEST ‘HARRY’ RAWSON**

was born in Wagin on 15 April 1893. He was the second of three children born to Alfred Rawson (Snr.), who was of Aboriginal descent, and Clara Welsh. His maternal grandmother was an Aboriginal woman from the Albany area. His cousins Edward Rawson and Alfred Charles also enlisted but Alfred was rejected for medical reasons.

Harry was raised in the Great Southern region where he was employed as a horse breaker prior to enlisting in Northam on 30 September 1916. On entering Blackboy Hill in mid-October, he was appointed to the 88th Depot and then to the 24th Reinforcements of the 11th Battalion.

On the day Harry was due to embark for overseas service, he married Laura Briggs and failed to board the ship. Consequently, he was fined five pounds and required to forfeit 28 days pay.

Harry remained in camp for a further five months, during which time he was reassigned to the 44th Battalion and served a period of confinement for disobeying the command of a senior officer. On 29 June 1917 he boarded HMAT *Borda* (A30), disembarking in Plymouth six weeks later. Upon arrival he proceeded to the Larkhill Command Depot, undertaking four months training, before moving on to France in late December.

Over the next five months, Harry’s battalion was involved in action on the Somme. On 28 May, near Villers-Bretonneux, he was injured by the explosion of a shell containing mustard gas. He was hospitalised for two weeks before rejoining his battalion in the field. For the next four months he took part in action on the Hindenburg Line where, on 29 September, he displayed outstanding bravery in the field and was awarded a Military Medal.

Following the armistice, Harry was transferred to the 25th Company Australian Army Service Corp of the 3rd Australian Divisional Train where he was appointed as a driver. On 12 May 1919 he returned to England where he remained until July, when he departed for Australia on SS *Main*, disembarking in Fremantle on 28 September. A fortnight later he was admitted to hospital, where he remained for 38 days. On 22 February 1920, Harry was discharged from service for medical reasons and was granted a pension.

In 1923, through the Soldier Settlement Scheme, Harry was took up 836 acres at Gnarming, where he competed in local equestrian events. Over the next three years he developed the property, but on failing to meet the terms of the loan, the property was sold and the family moved to Bassendean. Six years later Harry and his wife divorced.

On 31 July 1964, Alfred Rawson passed away in Mount Lawley, aged 70. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE CHARLES BURRIDGE



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<b>RANK</b>	Private 6964
<b>BORN</b>	23 February 1894, Springdale, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 4 October 1916 Discharged 21 May 1919
<b>DIED</b>	1 July 1984, Como, Western Australia

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**CHARLES BURRIDGE** was born in Springdale, near Broomehill, on 23 February 1894. He was one of 12 children born to Mary Searle and Richard Burridge. Mary's grandmother, Eliza Gamble, was an Aboriginal woman from the Port Phillip Bay area and Richard was born in Nova Scotia, Canada. Charles' cousins, Francis Armstrong and Michael Searle, also served. Two of his uncles, John Thomas and Henry John, were rejected for medical reasons.

Charles was raised on the family farm at Benjinup and educated in the area. He was a keen sportsman and a member of the Albany Senior Cadets.

On 4 October 1916, Charles enlisted in Perth stating his occupation as a 'farmer'. He proceeded to Blackboy Hill where he underwent training and was placed with the 23rd Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion in November.

Charles embarked aboard HMAT *Berrima* (A35) two days prior to Christmas, arriving at Devonport on 16 February. During the voyage he spent 18 days in the ship's hospital. On arrival he was placed with the 4th Training Battalion at Codford and proceeded to Etaples in France on 22 May, being admitted to hospital two weeks later. On discharge he returned to his battalion and, for the next seven months, participated in major engagements at Amiens and battles in the Ypres Salient.

In early March 1918, Charles was evacuated to England with synovitis in his knee and admitted to the No. 1 Southern General Hospital in Burmington. Following his discharge in May, he spent the next nine months serving at various Command Depots in England.

Charles returned to Australia on board HMAT *Euripides* (A14), arriving at Fremantle on 3 March 1919. He returned to Broomehill where, on 13 May, he and his fellow servicemen were 'welcomed home' at a celebratory function at the local hall with around 400 people in attendance. One week later Charles was discharged from service.

He remained in the South-West for the greater part of the next 30 years, working as a government mail contractor in the mid-1920s and as a labourer in the Denmark area during the early 1930s. In 1936, Charles married Eileen Barrett in Perth. The couple had one child before divorcing two years later.

During the early 1950s, having relocated to the city, Charles began to experience health problems and was in receipt of a service pension by 1957.

In 1959, Charles Burridge was admitted to the War Veterans' Home in Mount Lawley and later to the Como Nursing Home, where he passed away on 1 July 1984, aged 90. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE HAROLD COLLARD




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 3019
<b>BORN</b>	7 September 1893, Mount Kokeby, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 12 October 1916 Discharged 19 May 1919
<b>DIED</b>	1 July 1970, Perth, Western Australia

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**HAROLD 'BOOMER' COLLARD** was born in Mount Kokeby, near Brookton, on 7 September 1893. He was one of 11 children born to James Joseph Collard, a brick-maker, and Jane Smith (who was also known as Jane Winmar and Jane Ayre), an Aboriginal woman. His younger brother Lewis also served.

Harold was raised on his parents' block, situated south of Brookton, and was educated at the local state school where he participated in local athletic events.

On 12 October 1916, Harold enlisted in Brookton stating his occupation as a 'farm hand'. He had tried to enlist previously but was rejected on the grounds of being a 'half-caste'. On 25 October he entered Blackboy Hill, where he was appointed to the 6th Reinforcements of the 3rd Pioneers Battalion.

Harold embarked from Fremantle aboard HMAT *Persic* (A34) on 29 December 1916, along with his brother Lewis. On arriving at Devonport in March 1917 he proceeded to the Lark Hill Depot. A month later he was admitted to the Park Hill hospital with mumps. His brother was also admitted 10 days later. On discharge, Harold underwent further training.

On 10 September, Harold continued on to Rouelles in France. Over the next eight months he was involved in major offensives at Ypres, Broodseinde, Heilly and Ribemont. During

this time he was awarded two blue chevrons for continuous service. On 26 May he was gassed during a bombardment around Villers-Bretonneux and was evacuated hospital.

Three months after rejoining the battalion, Harold was admitted to hospital with tachycardia. On 21 August he was discharged to the Command Depot and, in November, was readmitted to hospital with appendicitis, where he remained for treatment until January 1919. He then returned to the Command Depot until embarking for Australia in March. Harold arrived at Fremantle on 10 April 1919 on HMAT *Euripides* (A14). He was discharged from service on 19 May and awarded an Army pension.

He returned to the Pingelly area and continued to work as a farm labourer and participate in sporting and community events.

On 28 August 1928, Harold married Ivy Bennell and together they had 11 children. Over the next 40 years the family lived in Brookton, Pingelly and Woodanilling where he made a living from trapping rabbits to earn enough money to forego rations.

Harold Collard passed away in Perth on 1 July 1970, aged 76. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE LEWIS COLLARD



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<b>RANK</b>	Private 3011
<b>BORN</b>	March 1895, Mount Kokeby, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 12 October 1916 Discharged 5 November 1919
<b>DIED</b>	25 March 1972, Riverton, Western Australia

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**LEWIS 'BEAKY' COLLARD** was born in Mount Kokeby, near Brookton, in March 1895. He was one of 11 children born to James Joseph Collard, a brick-maker, and Jane Smith (who was also known as Jane Winmar and Jane Ayre), an Aboriginal woman. He was the younger brother of Harold who also served.

Lewis was raised and educated in Brookton where he participated in local athletics events.

On 12 October 1916, Lewis completed his medical examination in Brookton and 12 days later enlisted in Bunbury, stating his occupation as a 'farm hand'. He proceeded to Blackboy Hill where he was appointed to the 6th Reinforcements of the 3rd Pioneers Battalion in December.

Lewis embarked from Fremantle aboard HMAT *Persic (A34)* on 29 December, along with his brother Harold, arriving at Devonport on 3 March 1917. He continued on to the Lark Hill Depot and was admitted to the Park House Hospital with mumps six weeks later. Following his discharge he was attached to the 9th Training Battalion at Durrington.

On 10 September Lewis proceeded to Rouelles in France and joined his original unit on 12 October. The battalion was assigned to digging communication trenches and maintenance, wintering around Messines and providing reinforcements to the Australian

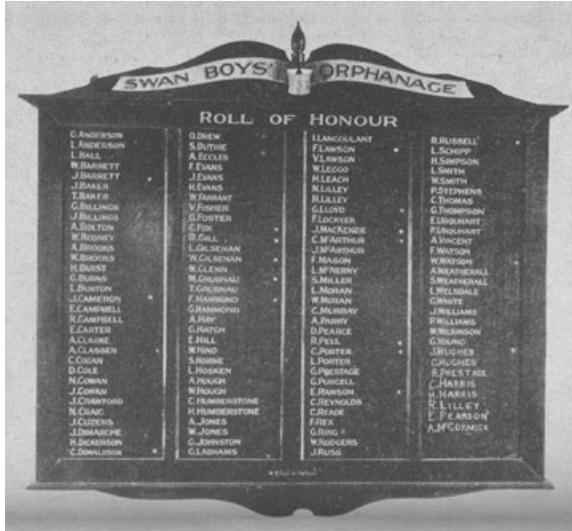
Engineer Tunnelling Company. Over the next 11 months the battalion was involved in major offensives in Ypres, Belle, Heilly, Ribemont, Villers-Bretonneux, Hamel and Amiens.

Lewis was awarded two blue chevrons for continuous service on the same day as his brother. On 23 September he took leave in England, returning to his unit three weeks later. He continued to serve in France until May 1911 when he returned to England as part of the withdrawal of Australian forces. Lewis embarked for Australia on SS *Main*, arriving in Fremantle on 27 September. He was discharged from service on 5 November 1919.

On 27 January 1921 in Katanning, Lewis married Maud Lockett who had been raised at the Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission. Together they had five children. In 1922 his application for 1,015 acres in the Dwarda area under the Soldiers Settlement Scheme was approved, but was cancelled the following year. A further application was approved on 7 January 1925 for 2,077 acres in the Yealering district. The property was forfeited for non-compliance with conditions. In 1932, Lewis was working as a clearing contractor in the Brookton area and in the mid-1940s as a trapper residing in Wagin.

On 25 March 1972, Lewis Collard passed away in Riverton, aged 78. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE LEWIS BURTON



### THE SWAN BOYS ORPHANAGE HONOUR BOARD

The board which is proudly on display at the Swan Valley Adventure Centre, situated some 7 kilometres north-west of the former Blackboy Hill Camp site, acknowledges Lewis Burton as one of eight of the 'old boys' who volunteered to serve. A total of fifteen featured in this publication were placed within the Orphanage or the adjacent Swan Native and Half-Caste Home.

<b>RANK</b>	Private 3009
<b>BORN</b>	9 November 1892, Toodyay, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 14 October 1916 Discharged 5 November 1919
<b>DIED</b>	13 February 1986, Nedlands, Western Australia

**LEWIS BURTON** was born on 9 November 1892 in Toodyay to Jessie Burton, a woman of Aboriginal descent from the Albany area who had been raised at the Annesfield Native Institution.

At the age of two-and-a-half, Lewis was admitted to the Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission where he was raised and educated.

In April 1908 he was sent out to work on a farm in the Pingelly area.

Prior to enlisting in Balingup on 14 October 1916, Lewis had experienced overseas service as a sailor on a British Navy transport vessel. On meeting the enlistment requirements, he proceeded to Blackboy Hill, where he was appointed to the 6th Reinforcements of the 3rd Pioneer Battalion three weeks later.

On 29 December, Lewis boarded HMAT *Persic* (A34), disembarking in Devonport in March. For the next five months he remained in England, engaged in further training prior to joining the battalion at Lumbres in northern France. His unit was assigned to general engineering duties, including road and rail construction, trench maintenance and supplying water.

In early 1918 the battalion was involved in action at Belle, Heilly and Ribemont. Lewis was admitted to hospital in March with scabies, rejoining his unit at Belle five weeks later.

In May the battalion was dispatched to the Somme area around Villers-Bretonneux, where they were subjected to a mustard gas shelling that resulted in 127 casualties from a single attack. Two months later they were engaged in an infantry role for the first time, taking part in action at Hamel prior to providing support during the Hundred Day Offensive in August. In early September, Lewis was admitted to the 8th General Hospital with septic dermatitis, rejoining the Battalion six weeks later.

After the conclusion of hostilities, the troops were repatriated to England for demobilisation. Lewis left aboard SS *Main* on 23 July 1919, disembarking at Fremantle in late September. He was discharged from service on 5 November.

In 1922 he was working in the Northam area and, eleven years later, in the Mid-West. In the mid-1930s, Lewis returned to Northam where he worked as a casual labourer and, in April 1937, he pleaded guilty to living with a 'native woman' in contravention of the *1905 Act*. The couple had one child. In later life, Lewis was in receipt of a repatriation pension. He lived in Wyalkatchem prior to being admitted to the War Veterans' Home in Mount Lawley in 1984.

Lewis Burton, who was described as 'quite spry for his 93 years', passed away at Hollywood Repatriation Hospital on 13 February 1986 from bronchopneumonia. He is buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.



THE SWAN NATIVE AND HALF-CASTE HOME, c.1904

Lewis Burton (unidentified) among his peers Edward and Phillip Urquhart, Leslie Anderson, Edward Rawson, Fred Lockyer and Joseph Clatworthy who also served (also unidentified).

Courtesy of Anglican Diocese of Perth.

## ■ PRIVATE THOMAS FORD




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 4655
<b>BORN</b>	12 September 1894, Katanning, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 18 October 1916 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	26 or 27 September 1917, Polygon Wood, Belgium

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**THOMAS FORD** was born on 12 September 1894 in Katanning. He was the oldest of two sons born to Thomas Henry Ford (Snr.), a labourer, and Mary Maher, whose Aboriginal name was Jeelukan.

Thomas was raised and educated in the Katanning area, where he competed in various sporting events. Prior to the outbreak of World War I, Thomas was living in the Turallin area, 220 kilometres west of Brisbane, where, in 1915, he married local girl Elizabeth Hagan and the couple had one son.

On 18 October 1916, Thomas enlisted at Toowoomba stating his occupation as a ‘farmer’. Two months after infantry training at the Rifle Range Camp in Brisbane, he was placed with the 12th Reinforcements for the 31st Battalion.

In December his unit entrained to Sydney and embarked five days later aboard HMAT *Demosthenes* (A164), berthing in Fremantle on New Year’s Day where additional supplies were loaded. A month after leaving Fremantle, the ship’s hospital was described as being unusually ‘full with patients spread all along the boat’. After disembarking at Plymouth in March, Thomas was attached to the 8th Training Battalion at the No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

Within three weeks, Thomas was admitted to the Park House Hospital in Tidworth, where he remained until 7 April, when he was discharged

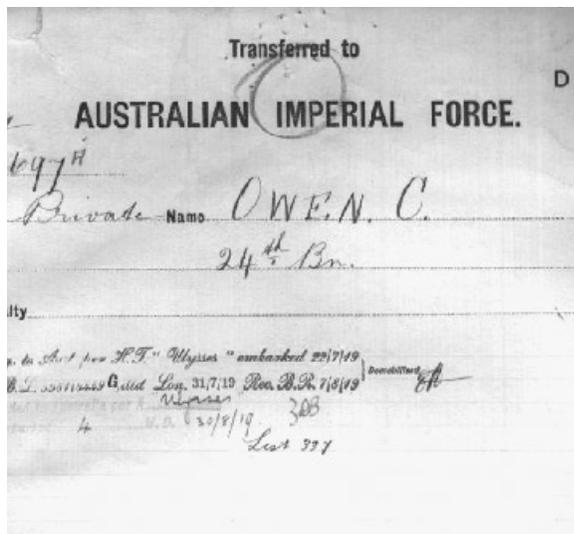
back to his unit. On 10 July he proceeded to Le Havre from Southampton and was placed with the 5th Australian Infantry Divisional Base Depot. Three weeks later he rejoined the 31st Battalion at Racquinghem where he underwent further training.

Late in September, the battalion moved into the Ypres sector in Belgium where Thomas was involved in heavy fighting at Polygon Wood between 26 and 27 September. Thomas was killed by the explosion of an enemy shell and was buried where he fell, a temporary cross marking his resting place.

News of his untimely death was not conveyed to his widow ‘who had been in suspense for over twelve months’ since being officially notified that Thomas was reported missing. His mother was advised of her son’s passing in February 1919, seventeen months after his death. In announcing his supreme sacrifice, the *Darling Downs Gazette* in Queensland described Thomas as having ‘a particularly pleasant disposition and was a favourite with all who knew him’.

On 7 December 1922, his widow Elizabeth acknowledged receipt of a Memorial Plaque and, in May the following year, his Victory Medal. She also received a Widows’ Pension backdated to 24 February 1918. Thomas Ford was 23 years old. He is memorialised at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres and the Australian War Memorial.

## ■ PRIVATE HENRY CHARLES OWEN




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 697A
<b>BORN</b>	27 November 1895, Robe, South Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 19 February 1917 Discharged 24 September 1919
<b>DIED</b>	11 September 1973, Adelaide, South Australia

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**HENRY ‘MICK’ OWEN** was born on 27 November 1895 in Robe, South Australia, to Nelly Williams and Frank Owen, who were both of Aboriginal descent. Frank had been removed from his home in Guildford as a young boy and raised at the Annesfield School in Albany and the Poonindie Native Institution in South Australia. Mick was one of 12 siblings. Two of his five brothers, Edwin and Frank, also served, as did his cousin Arthur Walker. His older brother John is reported to have trained in Adelaide and sailed for the Western Front in 1917.

Following the outbreak of war, Mick endeavored to enlist twice in South Australia but was rejected, as he was below the regulation height. Far from being discouraged, he travelled to Victoria where, in February 1917, he was accepted at the Seymour Camp stating his occupation as a ‘labourer’.

Mick commenced his training at Royal Park in Victoria and was appointed to the 12th Reinforcements of the 6th Machine Gun Company four months later. On 21 June he embarked from Melbourne aboard HMAT *Suevic* (A29), disembarking in Liverpool in July where he was transferred to the 21st Battalion Reinforcements for further training.

On 27 December, Mick proceeded to France. He was admitted to hospital in Etaples with an abscess on the jaw and neck four weeks later. On being discharged from the No. 5 Convalescent

Depot, he continued to serve with his unit in the Ypres area until early May when he was transferred to the 24th Battalion. On 3 July he took unauthorised leave and remained at large until he was apprehended by the Military Police on 5 October. Four days later he was admitted to the 41st Stationary Hospital with influenza, rejoining his battalion at the end of the month.

Following a Court Inquiry in November, Mick was ‘marched out’ to the No. 11 Military Facility to serve a six-month sentence. In mid-April 1919 he was released from detention ahead of the expiration of his sentence to ‘return to Australia’. One month later he proceeded to the No. 2 Depot at Sutton Veny, where he remained for two months before boarding HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) at Liverpool, arriving in Adelaide in late August. He was discharged from service on 24 September 1919.

Over the next 25 years, Mick spent time at Semaphore, Port Pirie, Kepunda and Fifth Creek. In 1945, while working as a shearer, Mick married Hazel Bishop and became the step-father of her daughter. Five years later his wife passed away.

Henry Owen continued to reside at the family home until after January 1953, by which time he was 57 years old. He passed away in Adelaide on 11 September 1973, aged 78. He is buried in the Centennial Park Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE AUBREY MALCOLM LAWRENCE




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 6848
<b>BORN</b>	1897, Fremantle, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 27 February 1917 Discharged 4 March 1918
<b>DIED</b>	17 February 1930, Northam, Western Australia

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**AUBREY LAWRENCE** was born in Fremantle in 1897 to Aubrey Malcolm Lawrence (Snr.) and Martha Elizabeth Parker, who was of Aboriginal descent. Aubrey was the second oldest of six children. His older brother Frank and younger brother Hubert also served, as did two of his step-uncles, James and Harry Dickerson.

Aubrey was raised and educated in the Northam area and completed his application to enlist in Kellerberrin on 4 September 1916, stating his occupation as a 'labourer'. After undergoing his preliminary medical examination, he was diagnosed with asthma and rejected by the recruiting officer. Undeterred, he reapplied on 27 February 1917 in Northam and was accepted. He proceeded to Blackboy Hill on 13 March and, three weeks later, was appointed to the 20th Reinforcements of the 28th Battalion.

Aubrey departed from Fremantle for England on 29 June aboard HMAT *Borda* (A30), disembarking at Plymouth on 26 August. Six days later he was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital with asthma and arthritis and was further diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis. On 18 September he was transferred to the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Force stationed at Dartford, where he remained for 11 days.

On 28 September, Aubrey proceeded to the No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth to return to Australia. He departed on 5 November aboard HMAT *Themistocles* (A32), arriving in Fremantle on 23 December, where he was admitted to the No. 8 Australian General Hospital prior to being transferred to Woorloo Sanitarium for treatment. He was treated for pulmonary tuberculosis in early January. A week later he returned home.

Aubrey was discharged from service on 4 March 1918. He was granted a pension of 60 shillings a fortnight as he was 'permanently incapacitated'. In October he was granted £25 from the Department of Repatriation to purchase furniture for a dwelling in Northam that he intended to live in with his mother and siblings. In the same year he married Victoria Coubrough and together they had seven children.

Aubrey's health continued to decline due to the debilitating effects of his war service. In November 1919 he was granted a permanent living allowance having been diagnosed as 'totally and permanently incapacitated with tuberculosis'.

On 17 February 1930, thirteen months after his wife passed away, Aubrey Lawrence died from health complications relating to tuberculosis, aged 33. He is buried in the Northam Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE ALBERT SAYERS




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 3215
<b>BORN</b>	1 August 1891, Perth, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 12 March 1917 Died in service.
<b>DIED</b>	15 December 1918, Woodman Point, Western Australia

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**ALBERT SAYERS** was born on 1 August 1891 in Perth to Carinia Sayers, who was of Aboriginal descent, and Flora Hasseldon Thompson. Albert was the eldest of four sons and brother to three sisters. The children were raised in the Busselton region where Albert attended the local state school. His brothers Laurence and Frederick also served. His brother Charles attempted to enlist but was rejected on grounds of origin or descent.

In 1902, Albert received a class prize for achieving the second highest results in the third grade. Two years later he was awarded a quarterly certificate for attendance and, the following year, received a silver medal.

In 1909, Albert was granted a Homestead Lease of 160 acres in the Nelson area near Bridgetown, which was forfeited six years later due to non-compliance with government leasing requirements. During this time, he was employed by the Western Australian Government Railways, firstly as a cleaner in Bunbury and Busselton, and then as a fireman at Midland Junction, Narrogin and Brookton.

Albert enlisted in Perth on 12 March 1917. He visited his family and spent time with his parents in Busselton before being transferred to the 5th Railway Corp at the Broadmeadows

camp in Victoria later that month. On arrival, Albert was transferred through to Langwarrin, where he remained until 14 May the following year. He returned to Broadmeadows and, for the next three months, was involved in military duties before heading back to Perth in July to farewell his family before his departure to Europe.

On 22 October 1918, Albert embarked for England aboard HMAT *Boonah* (A36) from Adelaide, reaching Durban in South Africa two days after the armistice was signed. While returning to Australia he contracted pneumonic influenza, along with 327 other passengers. He was removed from the ship on 12 December, unconscious on arrival in Fremantle.

Three days later, Albert Sayers passed away at the Quarantine Station at Woodman Point. News of his death was received with much sorrow with him being described as a 'fine type of young fellow, of splendid character and manly qualities'. He was laid to rest in the East Rockingham Cemetery.

In January 1919, Albert's mother was paid 21 days accrued leave from the Western Australian Government Railways.

Although Albert did not see active service, his father was the recipient of his son's British War Medal and Memorial Scroll in 1921, and his Memorial Plaque two years later.

## ■ PRIVATE BARNEY DAVIS



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<b>RANK</b>	Private 3051
<b>BORN</b>	24 May 1887, Halls Creek area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 12 March 1917 Discharged 17 September 1919
<b>DIED</b>	8 November 1956, Adelaide, South Australia

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**BARNEY DAVIS** was born in the Halls Creek area on 24 May 1887 to unknown parents.

Barney's life, up until the time he enlisted on 12 March 1917 in Burra, mid-way between Adelaide and Port Augusta, is unclear. He was respected and well known in the district.

A week after Barney had been appointed to the 7th Reinforcements of the 43rd Infantry Battalion at the Mitcham Training camp, he returned to his adopted town where he was given a farewell by 'practically the whole population' and presented with a wristlet watch and body belt.

Following further training, Barney boarded HMAT *Borda* (A30) in Adelaide on 23 June, arriving nine weeks later at Portsmouth.

On disembarking he was admitted to hospital in Devonport with measles. He spent the next four months at a number of Depots throughout the south of England, preparing to move to the Western Front.

In January 1918, Barney proceeded to Loere in Belgium to join his unit and was engaged in routine exercises. A month later he was admitted to hospital suffering 'trench fever' and influenza, rejoining his unit in April. He remained in Europe for thirteen months, during which time he was involved in action at Hamel, Ancre and Mont Saint-Quentin on the Somme and, following the signing of the armistice, in demobilisation activities.

On 8 May 1919, Barney returned to England and was based at the Codford Depot until early July when he boarded HMAT *Wiltshire* (A18) for Australia. After disembarking in Adelaide on 16 August, he returned to the Burra district. A month later he received a parcel of comforts and an inscribed gold medal in a welcome home function at the local Mount Bryan Hall — the event coinciding with his discharge from service.

Barney remained in the area for four years and contributed to the laying of the Soldiers' Memorial Hall Foundation Stone in 1921. He was named in an all soldiers football team for an Anzac Day event two years later.

On 12 January 1935, Barney married Vera Osmond at the St Laurence Church in North Adelaide. Together they had three children. In 1951 they lost their second child when she was accidentally struck down by a vehicle in their neighbourhood and died en route to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Five years later, Barney entered the same hospital with bronchopneumonia, passing away on 8 November 1956, aged 69. Barney Davis was laid to rest in the West Terrace Cemetery in Adelaide where a military headstone marks his grave. It is unclear whether he ever returned to his home country.

## ■ TROOPER GEORGE RALPH



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<b>RANK</b>	Trooper 3373
<b>BORN</b>	17 May 1896, Albany, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 21 April 1917 Discharged 25 April 1919
<b>DIED</b>	10 July 1969, Nedlands, Western Australia

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**GEORGE RALPH** was born at Albany on 17 May 1896 to William Henry Ralph, a labourer, and Susan Wright, a woman of Aboriginal descent. George was the third youngest of thirteen children.

George was raised and educated in Albany, attending the local state school. By the age of 16 he was enrolled in the Naval Cadets, where he served for five years. He was also a talented footballer, representing Albany in 1912 and the West Albany Club in 1915.

George enlisted on 21 April 1917 in Albany stating his occupation as a ‘gas fitter’. He proceeded to Blackboy Hill where he was initially admitted to the 9th Reinforcements of the 44th Battalion before being transferred to the 4th Camel Corps in Claremont on 3 July.

George embarked aboard HMAT *Kyarra* (A55) on 17 September 1917 and arrived at the Port of Suez on 19 October, joining the Australian Base Depot Company at Abbassia the following day. On 22 December he was transferred to the 1st Imperial Camel Brigade of the 3rd Battalion where he continued training. The battalion consisted of 770 men along with 922 camels.

In June 1918, following the disbandment of his battalion, George was transferred to the 15th Light Horse Regiment and was involved in the Battle of Megiddo. In November he was admitted to the 14th Australian General

Hospital at Port Said with debility resulting from malaria.

In February 1919, George was discharged from hospital and, the following month, embarked on HT *Port Sydney* from Kantara, arriving in Fremantle in April. On Anzac Day he was discharged from service deemed ‘medically unfit’.

By early July, George had rejoined the Naval Cadets and returned to Albany, where he was among a group of servicemen entertained at a social dance at the town hall. Later that year he was engaged as a lumper on the wharf in Albany and continued in this work when he moved to Fremantle the following year.

George married Ellen Brandreth in Perth in 1927. That same year he was admitted to hospital as he had been suffering mild attacks of malaria on a yearly basis since his return. He was diagnosed with bronchitis. George was a life member of the Waterside Workers Federation of Australia (Fremantle Branch) and a member of the South Fremantle Football Club. In the late 1950s he was diagnosed with a degenerative health condition.

George Ralph passed away at the Hollywood Repatriation Hospital on 10 July 1969, aged 73. He is buried in the Fremantle Cemetery.

## ■ SAPPER WILLIAM SHAW



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<b>RANK</b>	Sapper 4388
<b>BORN</b>	14 September 1886, Gingin, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 15 May 1917 Discharged 2 February 1919
<b>DIED</b>	15 September 1954, Gingin, Western Australia

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**WILLIAM ‘GEORGE’ SHAW** was born in Gingin on 14 September 1886. He was the eldest of 12 children born to William Shaw, who was of Aboriginal descent, and Mary Ann Hill. He was the third son to enlist along with his brothers Roland and Claude.

In 1912, George married Sarah Butler in Gingin and the couple had nine children.

George earned a living as a shearer and, in 1915, injured two fingers on his left hand while shearing. He enlisted in Perth on 15 May 1917 stating his occupation as a ‘labourer’, having passed his medical examination in Gingin earlier in the month. He proceeded to Blackboy Hill for training and, on 1 June, was appointed to the 12th Reinforcements for the 2nd Pioneers.

George was moved on to Melbourne and embarked aboard HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 30 October, arriving at Devonport, via the Panama Canal, on Boxing Day. Three days later he was transferred to the 32nd Battalion for further training. The battalion was kept in reserve during the winter months.

On 1 April 1918, George embarked for France to reinforce the 48th Battalion. He was involved in action at Dernancourt before joining the final Allied Forces offensive around Amiens in August. George was then transferred to the No. 2 Australian Command Depot at Weymouth for medical examination. It was found that he was

unable to close his left fist or flex his fingers, making it difficult for him to hold a rifle and to dig. He was deemed unfit for service and, on 19 October, boarded HMT *Sardinia* in England bound for Australia. Shortly after leaving port, a mild form of influenza broke out and contingencies were initiated to contain the outbreak. As a further precaution, the 145 Western Australians on board were subject to additional medical examination at the Albany Quarantine Station on disembarking in mid-December.

George returned to the Gingin area where he continued to work as a labourer. He was discharged from service on 2 February 1919.

William Shaw passed away on 15 September 1954 in Gingin, aged 68. He is buried in the Gingin Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE JOHN OGILVIE



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<b>RANK</b>	Private 7114
<b>BORN</b>	c.1887, Tamala Station, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 18 May 1917 Discharged 2 September 1919
<b>DIED</b>	9 August 1947, Geraldton, Western Australia

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**JOHN 'JACK' OGILVIE** was born around 1887 at Tamala Station in the Shark Bay area. He was the son of Andrew Jameson Ogilvie, who was the owner of the adjoining Murchison House Station, and Venus, an Aboriginal woman. His brother-in-law Horace McMurray also served. Jack was raised and educated on the property where he also commenced work. By mid-1913 he had taken up a free Homestead Farm of 1,640 acres and an additional 1,840 acres of land in the Mid-West area.

On 18 May 1917, Jack enlisted at Geraldton stating his occupation as a 'farmer' and, following six weeks of training at Blackboy Hill, was assigned to the 21st Reinforcements of the 28th Battalion.

He entrained to Albany where, on 24 July, he boarded HMAT *Port Melbourne* (A16) disembarking at Liverpool in mid-September. During the journey, Jack was hospitalised for a fortnight with tonsillitis.

The battalion proceeded to Rolleston and then Fovant Depots where they underwent advanced training in preparation for the Western Front. On 23 January 1918, Jack was reassigned to the 16th Battalion around Ypres. Over the next eight months, he participated in action at Ancre, Amiens and at Méricourt, where 26 members of the battalion were killed and 76 wounded in one day. Following the armistice, the battalion

settled into billets to begin demobilisation and evacuation activities.

On 24 March 1919, Jack was transferred to the Australian Graves Detachment, a force of 1,000 servicemen who volunteered to scour the battlefields of France in search of fallen Australian troops. Two months later he was admitted to the 26th General Hospital in Etaples after an accidental injury and evacuated to England. In early June he boarded HMAT *Suevic* (A29) at Southampton for Australia.

After being discharged from service in Fremantle on 2 September, Jack returned to his property, where he had been exempt from rates and taxes 'during his time in service', and acquired a further 828 acres under the Soldier Settlement Scheme. In October 1921 he married Marion Mallard, also of Aboriginal descent, at Northampton. Together they had six children.

Jack was unable to meet the terms of his loans and the leases were repossessed by the Agricultural Bank in 1925. At the time he had spent over £300 on improvements. By the mid-1930s he was engaged in road work in the Northampton area and, by October 1940, had returned to Murchison House Station where he was earning a living as a kangaroo shooter — his wife having left him three years earlier.

John Ogilvie passed in Geraldton on 9 August 1947, aged 60. He is buried in the Utakarra Cemetery.

## ■ TROOPER FREDERICK HOLLAND




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<b>RANK</b>	Trooper 3940
<b>BORN</b>	1892, York area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 4 June 1917 Discharged 24 April 1919
<b>DIED</b>	30 July 1950, Pantapin, Western Australia

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**FREDERICK HOLLAND** was born in Greenhills, near York, in 1892. He was the fifth of 12 children born to Charles Holland (Snr.) and his wife, Jane Lomas, who was of Aboriginal descent. Two of his brothers, William and John Maitland, also served. His other brother Charles is believed to have enlisted in the eastern states under another name.

Frederick was raised in the Greenhills area and then in Dangin, where he attended the local school. In 1905 he was granted a Homestead Lease of 160 acres, 8 kilometres to the north of Quairading, stating his address as ‘Caroling via York’ and his occupation as a ‘farmer’. It appears that he did not develop the block as he strove to support his siblings through labouring jobs and clearing contracts.

On 4 June 1917, Frederick enlisted at the Claremont Depot and commenced his training at Blackboy Hill early the following month. Initially assigned to the Depot Squadron Light Horse, he joined the 15th Camel Corps Reinforcements prior to embarking from Fremantle on HMAT *Commonwealth* (A73) on 9 November. One month later he arrived at the Port of Suez, having spent six days in hospital on the voyage suffering from influenza.

In late February he was posted to the No. 2 Company of the International Camel Corp at Rafa prior to proceeding to the front.

On 2 April, while in action in Jericho, he suffered gunshot wounds to the right leg and was stretchered out by camel — a journey that took two days. He was admitted to the 75th Casualty Clearing Station and then on to the 14th General Hospital at Port Said where he remained for 12 weeks.

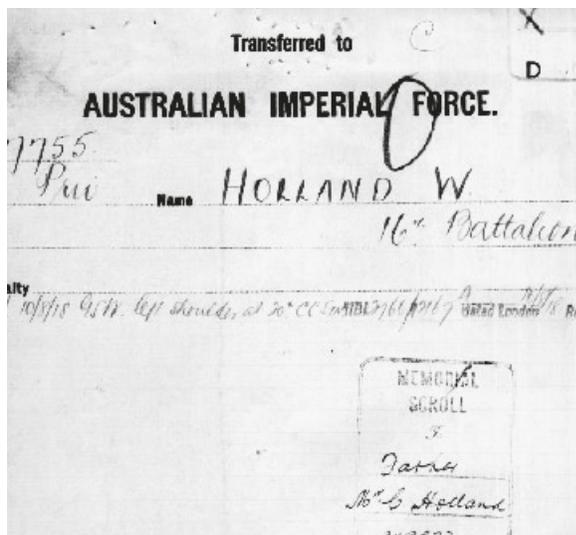
Upon being discharged, Frederick joined the 2nd Light Horse Regiment and was involved in a number of significant events including battles at Muger Ridge, Jerusalem, Jaffa and Amman. In October and November he was readmitted to hospital suffering bouts of malaria before being discharged to a convalescent depot at Boulac. In January 1919 he was granted ‘early repatriation’.

On 4 March, Frederick embarked from the Port of Suez on HMAT *Port Sydney* (A15), arriving in Fremantle on 31 March. He was discharged from service on 24 April 1919.

Following his return, Frederick resumed working on farms around the Quairading area. In June 1950 he applied for a disability pension from the Repatriation Department seeking compensation from the effects of the gunshot wound he had sustained while serving.

Frederick Holland passed away on 30 July 1950 from pneumonia, aged 58, and was buried in Quairading Cemetery. He never married. Three of his brothers, William, John Maitland and Charles, never returned home.

## ■ PRIVATE WILLIAM HOLLAND




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 7755
<b>BORN</b>	c.1885, York area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 4 June 1917 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	10 August 1918, Morancourt, France

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**WILLIAM HOLLAND** was born in Greenhills, near York, in 1885. He was the second of 12 children born to Charles Holland (Snr.) and his wife, Jane Lomas, who was of Aboriginal descent. Two of his brothers, Frederick and John Maitland, also served. His other brother Charles is believed to have enlisted in the eastern states under another name.

William was raised and educated in the Greenhills area and then in Dangin. In 1905 he was granted a free Homestead Lease of 160 acres adjoining the area granted to his younger brother Frederick. Three years later he relinquished the property.

A keen sportsman, he participated in athletic events throughout the Avon district, including in York in 1911 and Bruce Rock three years later.

William enlisted in Perth on 4 June 1917, stating his occupation as a 'farm hand'. A fortnight later he proceeded to Blackboy Hill for training where he was placed with the 26th Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion. After travelling to Sydney, he embarked on HMAT *Medic* (A7) on 1 August for Halifax in Nova Scotia, where he boarded SS *Orita* for Liverpool, arriving on 3 October. He was transferred to the 4th Infantry Battalion and then on to the 13th Infantry Battalion prior to proceeding to France on 16 January 1918.

Five days later, William was taken on strength with the 26th Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion in Le Havre and, for the next seven months, fought on the Western Front, including the successful attack at Vaire Wood in the Battle of Hamel and in the Battle of Amiens.

On August 8, while attempting to storm an enemy position at Morlancourt near Amiens, William suffered life-threatening injuries to the shoulder and was transferred to the 20th Casualty Clearing Station, where he died two days later. A fellow Western Australian who was with him when he was wounded later provided a graphic description:

*We were in a sunken road outside Morlancourt. William went over the bank, came back and said, 'I'm hit'. I cut off his tunic and could see he was wounded in the chest and lungs. He gave me his pay book and said, 'I think I'm done for'. The medics came and took him away and we never saw him again.*

William Holland was buried in the Vignacourt British Cemetery on 10 August 1918. He was 33 years old. On 9 January 1923, his sister Maud received his Memorial Plaque. William Holland is memorialised at the Australian War Memorial and at the Western Australian State War Memorial.

## ■ SAPPER JOHN FITZGERALD




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<b>RANK</b>	Sapper 8275
<b>BORN</b>	1889, York area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 13 June 1917 Discharged 9 September 1919
<b>DIED</b>	24 April 1936, York, Western Australia

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**JOHN FITZGERALD** was born in the York area in 1889 to John Fitzgerald (Snr.), a farmer, and Mary Isaac, both of whom were of Aboriginal descent. He was the eldest of 15 children. His younger brother Harold tried to enlist but was rejected for medical reasons.

John was raised in the Greenhills area where his father held a lease of 200 acres. As a young person he participated in events convened by the York Athletics Club as well as races in the metropolitan area.

John enlisted on 13 June 1917 in Perth stating his occupation as a 'farm hand'. Following his entry to Blackboy Hill he was placed with the 12th Reinforcements of the 2nd Pioneer Battalion. In August he was transferred to Broadmeadows camp in Victoria where he was attached to the 2nd Australian Tunnellers Company. He embarked aboard SS *Indarra* on 26 November, arriving at the Port of Suez a month later.

On 9 January 1918, John embarked at Port Said on SS *Kashgar* bound for Taranto, Italy. On 20 January he boarded a train for north-western France and, prior to arriving, was admitted hospital in Bordighera with measles.

On being discharged he proceeded to La Havre where he was diagnosed with mumps and hospitalised for four weeks. John then headed back to France where he rejoined his unit

on 20 May and was stationed in the Villers-Bretonneux area during the Amiens Offensive. He was hospitalised with influenza in late July and transferred to the Convalescent Depot at Le Havre, where he remained for five weeks prior to rejoining his unit on 3 January 1919.

Between February and May, John spent a further two weeks in hospital with influenza prior to returning to England for demobilisation.

On 12 July, John departed England aboard SS *City of Exeter*, disembarking at Fremantle on 16 August. He was discharged from service on 9 September.

The following month, John unsuccessfully applied for an exemption from the *1905 Act*, despite a recommendation from the Deputy Chief Protector that he 'bore a very good character'. He reapplied in September 1925 and was granted an exemption in October while working as a clearing contractor.

In 1936, John received a head injury while attempting to stop a fight and passed away two days later at the York hospital on 24 April. He was 46 years old. Members of the local RSL accompanied the funeral cortège to the gravesite where the 'Last Post' was played. He was unmarried.

## ■ TROOPER HUBERT LAWRENCE



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<b>RANK</b>	Trooper 3605
<b>BORN</b>	16 February 1899, York, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 15 June 1917 Discharged 27 August 1919
<b>DIED</b>	17 October 1970, Perth, Western Australia

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**HUBERT ‘PUD’ LAWRENCE** was born on 16 February 1899 in York to Aubrey Malcolm Lawrence and Martha Elizabeth Parker who was of Aboriginal descent. He was the third of six children. His older brothers Frank and Aubrey also served, as did two of his step-uncles, James and Harry Dickerson.

Hubert was raised and educated in the Northam area prior to enlisting in Perth on 15 June 1917, stating his occupation as a ‘farm hand’. He proceeded to Blackboy Hill in July and, four weeks later, was assigned to the 32nd Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse Regiment. Following further training he embarked from Fremantle on 9 November aboard HMAT *Commonwealth* (A73) for Egypt.

On arrival, Hubert proceeded to the Reinforcements Camp at Moascar. Twelve days later he was admitted to the No. 2 Australian General Hospital with influenza and mumps. He was discharged on 29 January 1918 and four months later he was transferred to the 10th Light Horse Regiment. On 20 May he was admitted to hospital with scabies and, for the next six months, spent periods of time in hospital in Gaza and at rest camps in Jerusalem.

On 18 November, Hubert was transferred to Australian Stores Depot at Ghezirah, where he remained until 2 March 1919. On 4 August he left for Australia aboard HMHS *Oxfordshire* and was discharged from service on 27 August.

Hubert began working with the Western Australian Government Railways in Northam on 26 March 1920, working in various locations including Southern Cross, Fremantle, Geraldton, Narrogin and finally in Kalgoorlie. During this time, he worked as a labourer, fuelman, and a fitter’s assistant. The following year it was found that his colour sense was slightly defective and he was unable to be employed in positions where moving or signalling of trains was required.

Hubert married Elizabeth Richie on 29 June 1929 in Fremantle and the couple had seven children.

In July 1937, in partnership with a fellow worker, Hubert won second prize in the lottery. During 1958 he had an accident at work that resulted in the amputation of part of his right leg and, the following year, was paid a lump sum settlement of £587. Hubert’s mental and physical health began to deteriorate during the mid-1960s and he spent time in Hollywood Repatriation Hospital.

Hubert Lawrence passed away on 17 October 1970, aged 81. He is buried in the Kalgoorlie Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE JOSEPH CLATWORTHY




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 62782
<b>BORN</b>	March 1897, Esperance, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 12 July 1918 Died in service
<b>DIED</b>	23 December 1918, Woodman Point, Western Australia

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**JOSEPH CLATWORTHY** was born in Esperance in March 1897, the second child to Robert Clatworthy (Snr.), a shepherd, and Margaret (also known as Maggie), who was of Aboriginal decent. Joseph was the younger brother of Robert (Jnr.), who also served.

Following the death of his mother in 1904, Joseph was placed at the Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission, where he was raised and educated along with his siblings Robert and Lilly. At the age of 16 he was sent out to work with a portion of his wages being retained by the home.

In February 1917, while working in the Greenough area, Joseph was a member of the local football team playing against Geraldton. The following year he was paid an amount of £13 5s 8d that was owed to him by the Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission.

Joseph enlisted in Geraldton on 12 July 1918, stating his occupation as a ‘dairy hand and horse breaker’ and giving his permanent address as ‘Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission’. Ten days later he was appointed to the 3rd Reinforcements at Blackboy Hill. This was his second attempt to enlist after being rejected once while suffering from influenza.

Joseph embarked aboard HMAT *Boonah* (A36) from Fremantle on 29 October 1918. The *Boonah* was to be the last ship to leave Australia with servicemen bound for the Western Front.

The vessel arrived at Durban in South Africa two days after the armistice had been signed and the commander received orders to return to Australia. It was during this time, while taking on supplies, that some of her passengers and crew contracted pneumonic influenza brought on board by local labourers. By the time the ship arrived at Fremantle on 11 December, 327 of those on board had been affected.

Joseph was one of 150 patients who were transferred to the Woodman Point Quarantine Station on 12 December, where he lingered on for 11 days. Joseph passed away on 23 December, aged 21. He was one of 26 servicemen and four nurses who died during this period.

Joseph was buried in the Woodman Point Cemetery. His remains were interred to the Military Cemetery at Karrakatta in 1958. His passing was acknowledged in the Manager’s Report of the Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission in 1918–19, where Joseph was recognised as their last recruit. On 12 August 1924 his sister Lily received his Memorial Scroll and Memorial Plaque.

## ■ PRIVATE ALFRED BOLTON

Artillery preferred M. W. G. W. W.  
 QUIRES MINOR DENTAL TREATMENT. G. W. W.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.  
**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**  
 Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 62776 Name in full Surname Bolton  
 Christian Name Alfred William  
 Unit W. 3. 1st Coy. 1st Bn. 1st Div.  
 Joined on 3/9/17

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? Alfred William Bolton  
 2. In or near what Parish or Town, street, yard, &c. is or near the Town of Meckering in the County of West Australia  
 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (If not, if the latter, papers to be shown)  
 4. What is your age? 18 years  
 5. What is your Trade or Calling? Farm Hand  
 6. Are you, or have you been an Apprentice? No, when to whom, and for what period?  
 7. Are you married?

PAY BOOK. No. 803156

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<b>RANK</b>	Private 62776
<b>BORN</b>	7 March 1900, Meckering, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 3 September 1917 Discharged 10 January 1919
<b>DIED</b>	13 June 1986, Southern Cross, Western Australia

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**ALFRED BOLTON** was born in Meckering on 7 March 1900. He was the fourth of eight children to William Harold Bolton, a shepherd who was of Aboriginal descent, and Ethel Mary Wilkins.

Alfred was raised and educated in the Northam area where, on 10 October 1911, he and two of his four sisters were placed at the Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission. He remained at the mission until October 1914 when he was sent out to work for Matthew Padbury — a farmer at Koojan, near Moora, who was to become the future President of the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia.

On 3 September 1917, Alfred underwent a medical examination in Pinjarra in order to enlist and, despite being diagnosed with a cardiac irregularity, was deemed fit to serve. Eight days later his application was approved at the Francis Street Recruiting Depot. In March the following year, Alfred enlisted again, stating his occupation as a ‘farm hand’ and a sister as his next-of-kin — his father having passed away five years earlier. His application was accepted and he proceeded to Blackboy Hill.

Alfred spent much of the next six months in training before being assigned to the 3rd General Service Reinforcements. During his time in camp he completed a riding test and was hospitalised with influenza. On 29 October 1918 he embarked from Fremantle aboard

HMAT *Boonah* (A36) bound for England. On berthing at Durban in South Africa, the commander was advised that the armistice had been signed, ending hostilities. The voyage was the last of the troop ships to leave from Australia for Europe.

While the ship was being prepared for the journey home, a number of those on board became infected with pneumonic influenza. By the time the vessel docked in Fremantle on 11 December 1918, 327 of the 1,095 on board had been affected, and by 7 January, an additional 147 had been diagnosed.

On 20 December, Alfred was transferred to the uninfected port at Woodman Point where he remained until 3 January 1919. Alfred was discharged from service on 10 January. Nine months later he was provided with assistance to clear land in the Cunderdin area, where he sought funding to establish a business trapping rabbits.

By the late 1930s he was involved in gold mining and woodcutting in the Southern Cross area, where he remained for the rest of his life. In August 1962, Alfred was granted a service pension and was a resident of the Southern Cross RSL flats by 1972.

Alfred Bolton passed away at the Southern Cross Hospital on 13 June 1986, aged 86. Alfred Bolton is buried in the Southern Cross Cemetery. His resting place remains unmarked.

## ■ PRIVATE LEOPOLD WEBSDALE




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<b>RANK</b>	Private 52118
<b>BORN</b>	26 December 1897, Pingelly, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 6 December 1917 Discharged 1 September 1919; Enlisted 17 May 1942 Discharged 15 October 1945
<b>DIED</b>	9 April 1969, Perth, Western Australia

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**LEOPOLD ‘LEO’ WEBSDALE** was born on 26 December 1897 in Pingelly. He was the sixth of ten children born to John Websdale, a farm labourer, and Julia Kingston, a woman of Aboriginal descent from the Geographe Bay area.

Upon the death of their father in 1903, Leo and two of his younger siblings, Bernice and Stanley, were placed at the Swan Orphanage where they were raised and educated. In June 1911 the two boys gave evidence at an inquest into the sudden death of a fellow orphan that captured the attention of the press. Leo remained at the orphanage until he was sent out to work for John Edward Wedge — a farmer in Gingin who had earlier been associated with the establishment of a number of pastoral leases in the North-West.

On 6 December 1917, Leo enlisted in Perth stating his occupation as a ‘cattle farm manager’. He entered Blackboy Hill on 3 January 1918 and, on the completion of his initial training, proceeded to Albany on 6 May from where he embarked aboard *SS Port Darwin* for Egypt. On 7 June he arrived at the Port of Suez, where he spent three weeks before continuing on to Alexandria by train, and then by boat, to Taranto in Italy. From there he entrained to Marseille but was hospitalised at Faenza en route. On being discharged he continued his journey to England and was assigned to the 28th Battalion on 29 July.

After 11 weeks of further training, Leo proceeded to France, joining his battalion at Berteaucourt-les-Thennes where they were being rested and reorganised.

Following the armistice, Leo was involved in demobilisation activities before being transferred to the 2nd Australian Divisional Train as a driver in early January 1919. He remained in France through to 6 June when he returned to England for his journey home.

Six days later Leo boarded *SS City of Exeter*, arriving in Fremantle on 16 August. After his discharge from service in September, he took up residence in the Gingin–Dandaragan area where, from the late 1920s through to 1940, he raised horses, sheep and cattle that were sold in metropolitan markets.

On 17 May 1942, Leo reenlisted in Gingin stating his occupation as a ‘grazier’. On 10 September he passed his medical examination and was placed in the No.13 Moora Battalion Voluntary Defence Corp after three months. Three weeks later he was attached to the Army Reserves, where he served until 15 October 1945.

Leo married twice, firstly to Clara Warrell and then to Nancy Dudley. He was the father of 10 children.

Leopold Websdale passed away at Nazareth House in Geraldton on 9 April 1969, aged 71. He is buried in the Fremantle Cemetery.

## ■ PRIVATE JACK CARTER



---

<b>RANK</b>	Private 16698
<b>BORN</b>	12 April 1900, Fremantle, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 12 August 1918 Discharged 24 December 1918
<b>DIED</b>	11 September 1929, Wooroloo, Western Australia

---

**JACK CARTER** was born on 12 April 1900 in Fremantle to John Carter, a labourer, and Jane Blanche Wallace, a woman of Aboriginal descent. He was the fourth of five children.

Jack was raised and educated in the Fremantle area where, in 1906, his father passed away leaving his mother with the task of single-handedly raising her young family. Eight years later, Jack joined the 86A Cadets where received basic military training and was a valued member of the football team.

On 12 August 1918, Jack enlisted in Fremantle, stating his occupation as a 'wool classer' and nominating his mother as his next-of-kin. Three days later he entered Blackboy Hill and, on completing eight weeks of training, was assigned to the 4th Reinforcements.

Jack remained in camp until Christmas Eve when he was discharged as 'his services were no longer required', the armistice having occurred six weeks earlier. During his time in service he had been 'admonished' on two occasions for petty misdemeanours.

On leaving he returned to the family home on Russell Street in Fremantle where his mother was living. In June 1919 she was admitted to the Wooroloo Sanatorium with pulmonary tuberculosis, where she passed away two months later at the age of 47.

By mid-1924, Jack was residing in the Geraldton area where he was sentenced to one month imprisonment. In February the following year, he reoffended in Carnarvon, serving another short period in prison. At the time he had been working in the Gascoyne Junction area.

In December 1927, Jack was admitted to the Wooroloo Sanatorium with pulmonary tuberculosis — as his mother had eight years earlier.

Jack Carter passed away on 11 September 1929, surrounded by fellow 'diggers' suffering from the same condition. He was buried two days later in the Wooroloo Public Cemetery, aged 29. He was unmarried.

## ■ PRIVATE MATTHIAS FEEHAN

14/2/18 2nd Lt. [unclear] [unclear]

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE**

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. [unclear] Name in full { Surname: [unclear] Christian Name: Matthias Unit: [unclear] Joined on: [unclear]

**DISCHARGED**

*Specimens to be sent to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.*

You are hereby warned that if after enlisting it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any question set forth in this Attestation Paper, you will be liable to be tried for the above.

1. What is your Name? Matthias Feehan

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

3. Are you a native born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (If not, state to what country you are subject.) British

4. What is your age? (Date of birth to be stated) 20th 8/8/1898

5. What is your Trade or Calling? Labourer

6. Are you or have you been an Apprentice? If so, when, to what, and for what period? No

7. Are you married, single or widower? Single

8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) John Feehan, Perth

9. What is your permanent address in Australia? 70 Percy Hamersley, Woodside, W.A.

<b>RANK</b>	Private
<b>BORN</b>	7 August 1898, Geraldton, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Enlisted 16 September 1918 Discharged 25 November 1918
<b>DIED</b>	13 February 1967, Perth, Western Australia

**MATTHIAS ‘MATTHEW’ FEEHAN** was born in Three Springs on 7 August 1898 to Matthew Feehan (Snr.), an Irish born labourer, and Sarah Jane Campbell, a woman of Aboriginal descent from the Irwin area. The couple had eight children.

Around 1905, Matthew and his brother William, were committed to the Swan Orphanage by the State Children’s Department, where they were raised and educated. In June 1911 he was one of a number of boys who gave evidence into the sudden death of one of their fellow orphans at an inquest in Perth. A report of the proceedings in the press described him as ‘small, but plucky’. Matthew remained at the orphanage until November, when he went to work for Major John Pidgeon, the Deputy Chief Engineer of the Western Australian Government Railways.

He enlisted in Perth on 16 September 1918 while working for Percy Hamersley, the part owner of the Woodside estate between Northam and York. On his attestation form, Matthew gave his occupation as a ‘labourer’ and listed the property as his permanent address.

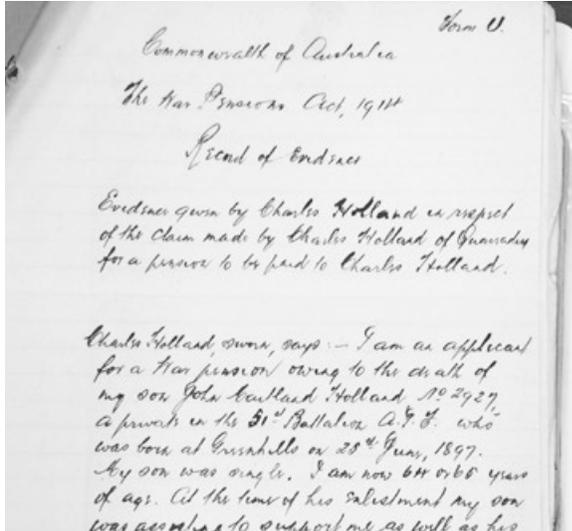
Matthew proceeded to Blackboy Hill where he was discharged on 25 November, as the armistice had been signed and ‘his services were no longer required’.

Matthew returned to the York area where he remained for the greater part of his working life. During the late 1920s he participated in tennis competitions throughout the district, playing for the Tipperary Club in 1926 and for York four years later. In the early 1930s he exhibited his horses at the local show and again two years later at Meckering. He continued to work as a teamster and labourer though to his retirement when he relocated to South Perth.

On 13 February 1967, Matthias Feehan passed away at the Sir Charles Gardner Hospital, aged 69. His ashes were scattered over the crematorium rose garden at the Karrakatta Cemetery. He was never married.

Matthew’s nephew, Royal Australian Air Force Group Captain James Gooch, was mentioned in despatches for ‘gallant and distinguished service’ in 1945 and, nine years later, was awarded the Air Force Cross by Her Majesty the Queen. James has the distinction of being the highest known ranking officer of a long and honourable line of volunteers of Aboriginal descent to have served their country.

## ■ CHARLES HOLLAND




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<b>RANK</b>	Unknown
<b>BORN</b>	1889, York area, Western Australia
<b>SERVICE</b>	Unknown
<b>DIED</b>	Unknown

---

**CHARLES HOLLAND** was born in the York area in 1889. He was one of 12 children born to Charles Holland (Snr.), a shepherd, and his wife, Jane Lomas, who was of Aboriginal descent. His older brother William and younger brothers, Frederick and John Maitland, also served.

In October of 1897 the family suffered great hardship with the loss of their home and possessions in a fire, emanating from a candle that ignited a bunch of dried flowers hanging from the thatched roof. Within days of the event, a notice was placed in the local press by a member of the community seeking subscriptions for his father Charles (Snr.), who was described as a poor ‘but very industrious’ man.

In order to make ends meet, his father placed his farm on the market and, by the turn of the century, was earning a living from contracts taken out with the East Beverley Roads Board. Around the same time, Charles and his older brothers were branching out on their own as farm hands and labourers, supporting the rest of the family who had relocated to Dangin, to the west of Quairading.

Further tragedy followed in July 1908 when their mother died from complications during childbirth. After her passing, Maud, the oldest daughter, raised her younger siblings with the assistance of her older brothers, who contributed

to the upkeep of the family with their earnings from clearing contracts throughout the area.

By this time Charles was living in the Brookton area where he had a relationship that resulted in the birth of a son. Prior to the outbreak of war, he moved to New South Wales where it is understood that he enlisted under another name giving no reference to his place of birth or next-of-kin.

In 1920 his father claimed that he had enlisted and had been wounded in action at Gallipoli in 1914. He went on to say that they never heard anything more from Charles and they assumed that he had died. This view was not restricted to the family alone, but shared among those who were previously associated with him.

It is unknown where Charles Holland rests. Two of his brothers, William and John, were killed in action.



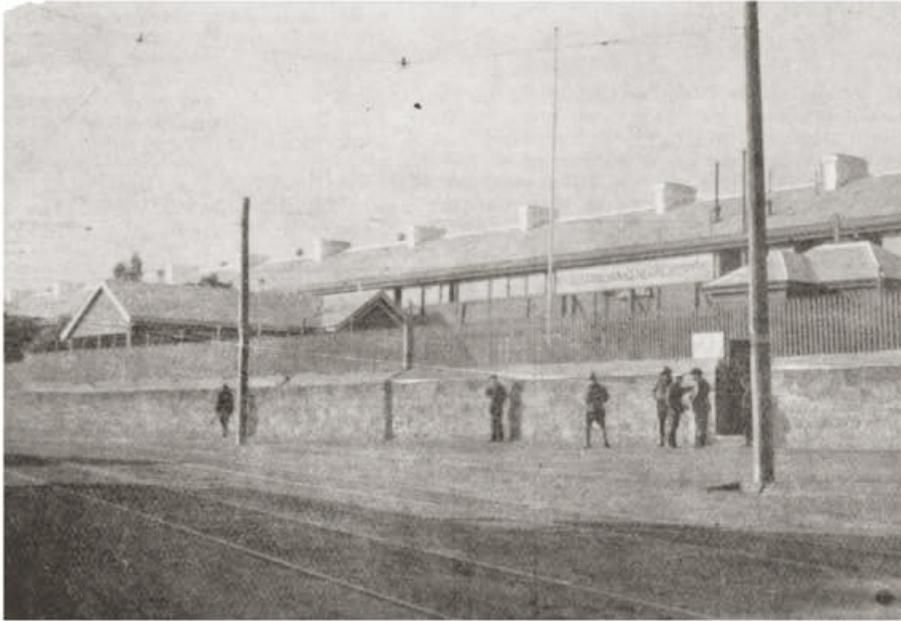
#### THE LAST WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT BOUND FOR THE WESTERN FRONT

Privates Joseph Clatworthy and William Alfred Bolton (unidentified) were among the last contingent of servicemen to leave Fremantle. Within fifty days of departing, their vessel HMAT *Boonah*, would be back in port carrying around 327 personnel (of the total complement of 164 crew and 931 troops) stricken with pneumonic influenza brought aboard by labourers replenishing supplies in Durban for the return voyage. Over the course of the next nine days a further 70 would be struck down and transferred to the Woodman Point Quarantine Hospital joining those previously admitted.

Four nurses, Hilda Williams (Western Australia), Rosa O'Kane (Victoria), Doris Ridgeway (South Australia) and Ada Thompson (New South Wales) were to succumb to the epidemic along with 26 others including Privates Joseph Clatworthy and Albert Sayers (does not appear in the picture as he departed from Adelaide). Three other Western Australian enlistees — Albert Ding, Albion Wilson and Thomas Hemsell also died.

Private Bolton was one of around 250 servicemen including 45 from Western Australia who were released from the Hospital on 3 January 1919.

Private Collection of Frank Bell.

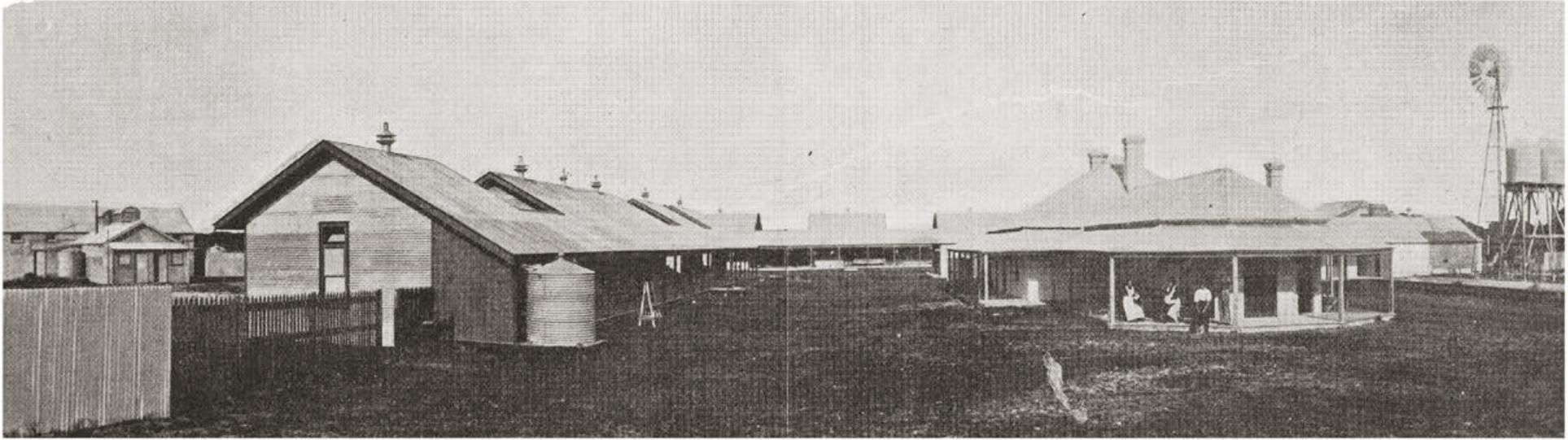


#### NO. 8 GENERAL HOSPITAL

Established in South Terrace in Fremantle in 1915 to accommodate volunteers injured whilst training and assess and treat soldiers on their return from the war front with health-related issues resulting from their time in service. The facility consisted of eight wards containing 420 beds and a dental clinic comprising a waiting room, surgery and work room.

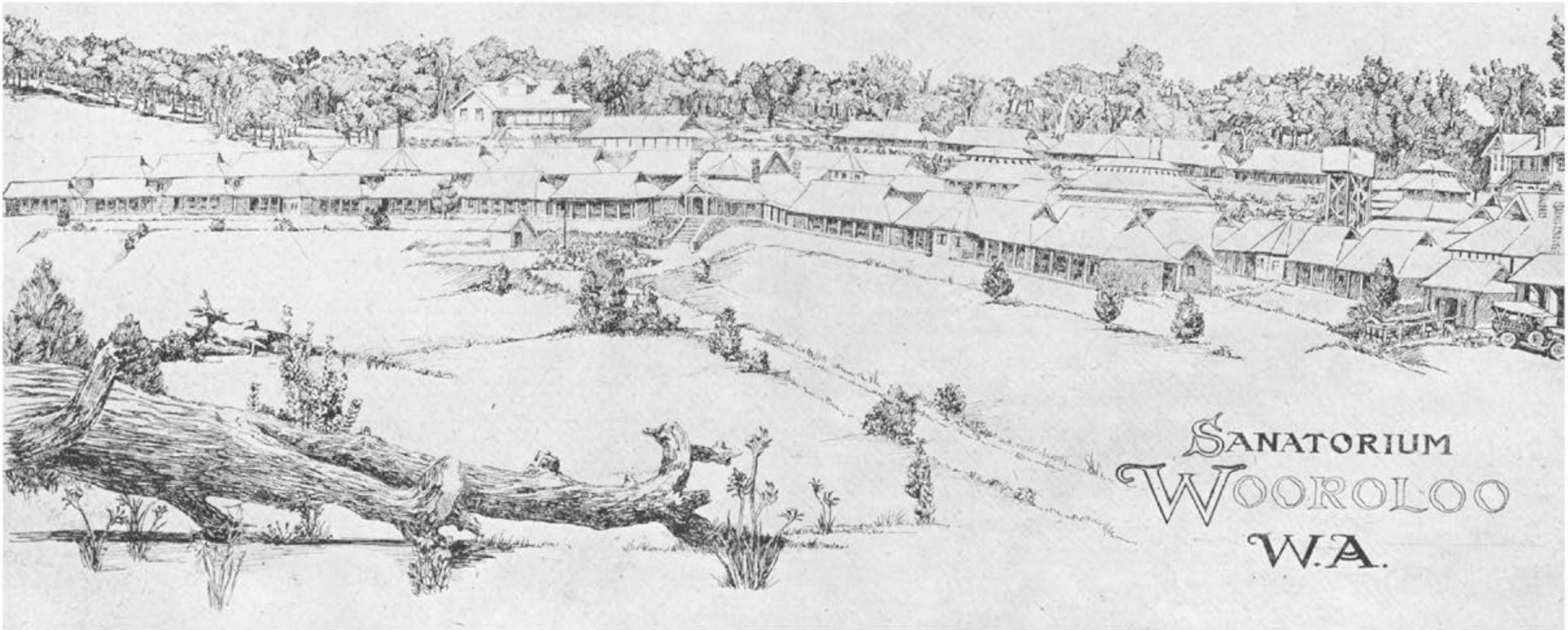
In January 1922, all patients in residence were transferred to the Perth Hospital (now Royal Perth Hospital) where a special wing had been erected for their recovery. More widely known as the 'Base', it was closed three months later when all of the contents were sold by public auction. The building was then utilised as a reception hostel for immigrants and in falling into disrepair was demolished during the early 1950s. The Stan Reilly Frail Aged Lodge now occupies the site where the hospital once stood.

*Western Mail*, 27 August 1915 [above] and 20 April 1917 [left], State Library of Western Australia.



### WOODMAN POINT QUARANTINE STATION

*Western Mail*, 18 July 1903, State Library of Western Australia.



### WOOROLOO SANATORIUM

*Western Mail*, 11 January 1918, State Library of Western Australia.

# THE GREAT WAR.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S RECORD.

Population (approx.) .. .. .	320,000
Embarked for Active Service .. .. .	32,244
Killed in action or died of wounds or disease ..	6,007

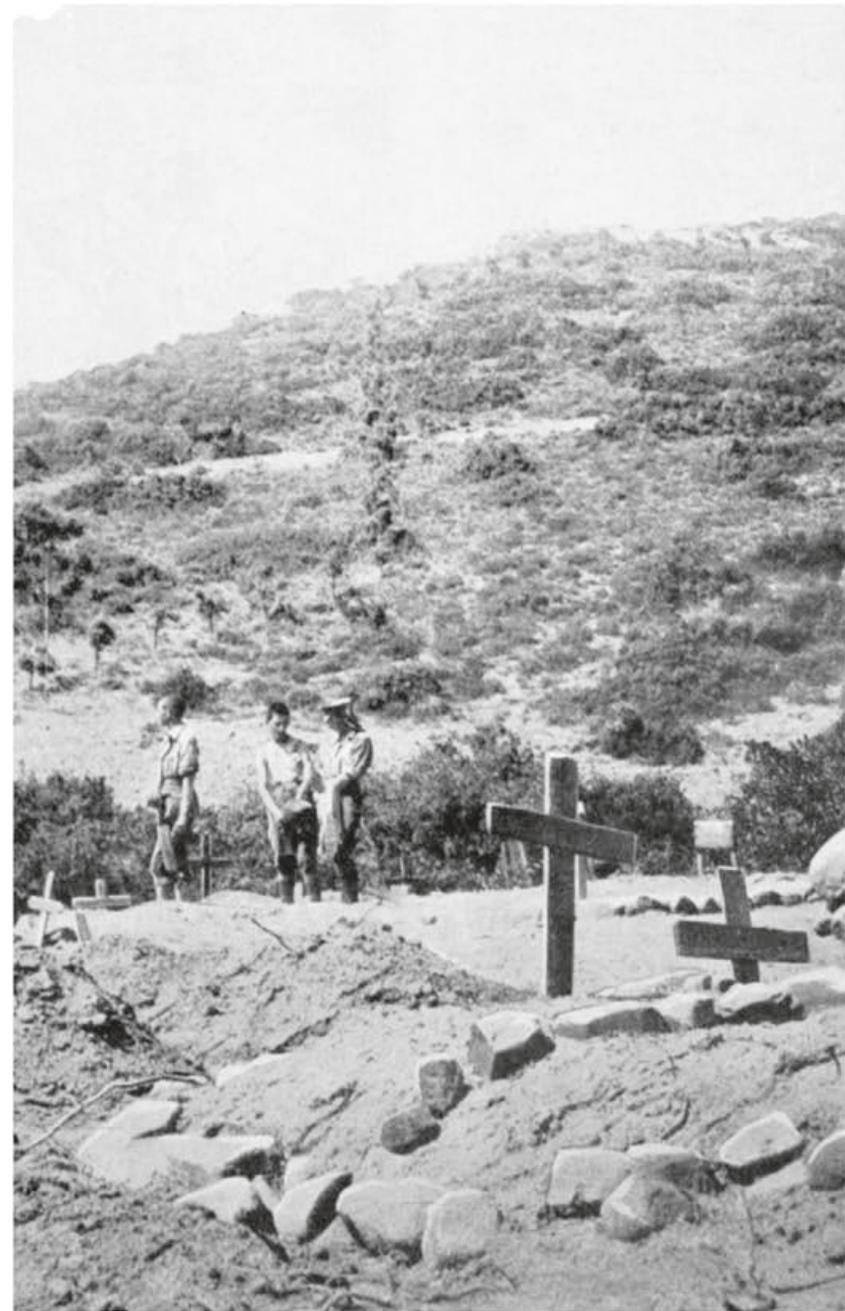
The figures testify with simple eloquence to the intense patriotic fervour spontaneously engendered and quickly developed in the isolated community of the West when the call to arms flashed along the cable to Australia. In their proper setting of Commonwealth comparisons the same figures occupy first place in the schedule of State enlistments per head of population. There was little hesitation anywhere in the Commonwealth; none at all in Western Australia. The State where compulsion was wholly unnecessary acclaimed conscription on two historic occasions. England, the Empire, the civilised world was in danger, and Western Australians, fit and unfit, flocked to the nearest enlistment office. The accepted were frankly envied by the rejected, and many are the stories told—some amusing, others with not a little of the pathetic—of ingenuity displayed by "rejects" in their endeavours to secure a footing among the chosen. Mid screeching of whistles and weeping of women the newly trained Western Australian soldiers sailed away from home that home might be made safe for those dear to them. In distant lands, under pitiless sun or searching blizzard, they saw the Hun and his devilish practices and helped materially to conquer him. Then they came back to their sunny home

in the southland—but not, not the thirty-two thousand. Over six thousand of them sleep under unfamiliar skies. A number with their feet on Australian soil will never again see the Australian sun. Others, of unblemished sight, press their native or adopted land with one foot alone. Many have learned to write with the left hand, hundreds incapable of further useful employment have been pensioned for life. Truly the Great Adventure exacted incalculable sacrifice from Western Australia. The half can never be told.

To the 30th of last month the movements of Western Australian soldiers were as shown in the appended table. Since that date the troopships Somali and Bremen have brought to Fremantle an additional 1,800 men.

Total embarked for active service ..	32,244
Total killed in action or died of wounds or disease .. . . . . .	6,007
Total returned to Western Australia .. . . . . .	15,395
Total yet to return .. . . . . .	10,842
Of returned men—	
Total discharged .. . . . . .	14,135
Total awaiting discharge .. . . .	896
Total re-embarked for other States	361
Total returned to duty in the permanent forces .. . . . . .	5
On home service at present—officers 52, other ranks 695; total	747

Western Mail, 21 July 1919, State Library of Western Australia.



### THE COST OF WAR

Burial ground of some of the fallen troops following the first engagement in the Dardanelles.

Western Mail, 26 November 1915, State Library of Western Australia.

# ON RETURNING HOME

‘THE DECKS OF THE TRANSPORT WERE LINED WITH LAUGHING, SUNBURNT  
FACES AND WAVING EMU PLUMES, AND THE BLACK AND GOLD SHOULDER PATCHES TOLD  
THAT THE “GLORIOUS TENTH” WAS RETURNING HOME FROM LONG AND  
STRENUOUS CAMPAIGNS IN THE SCORCHING DESERT.’

*(West Australian, 7 August 1919).*

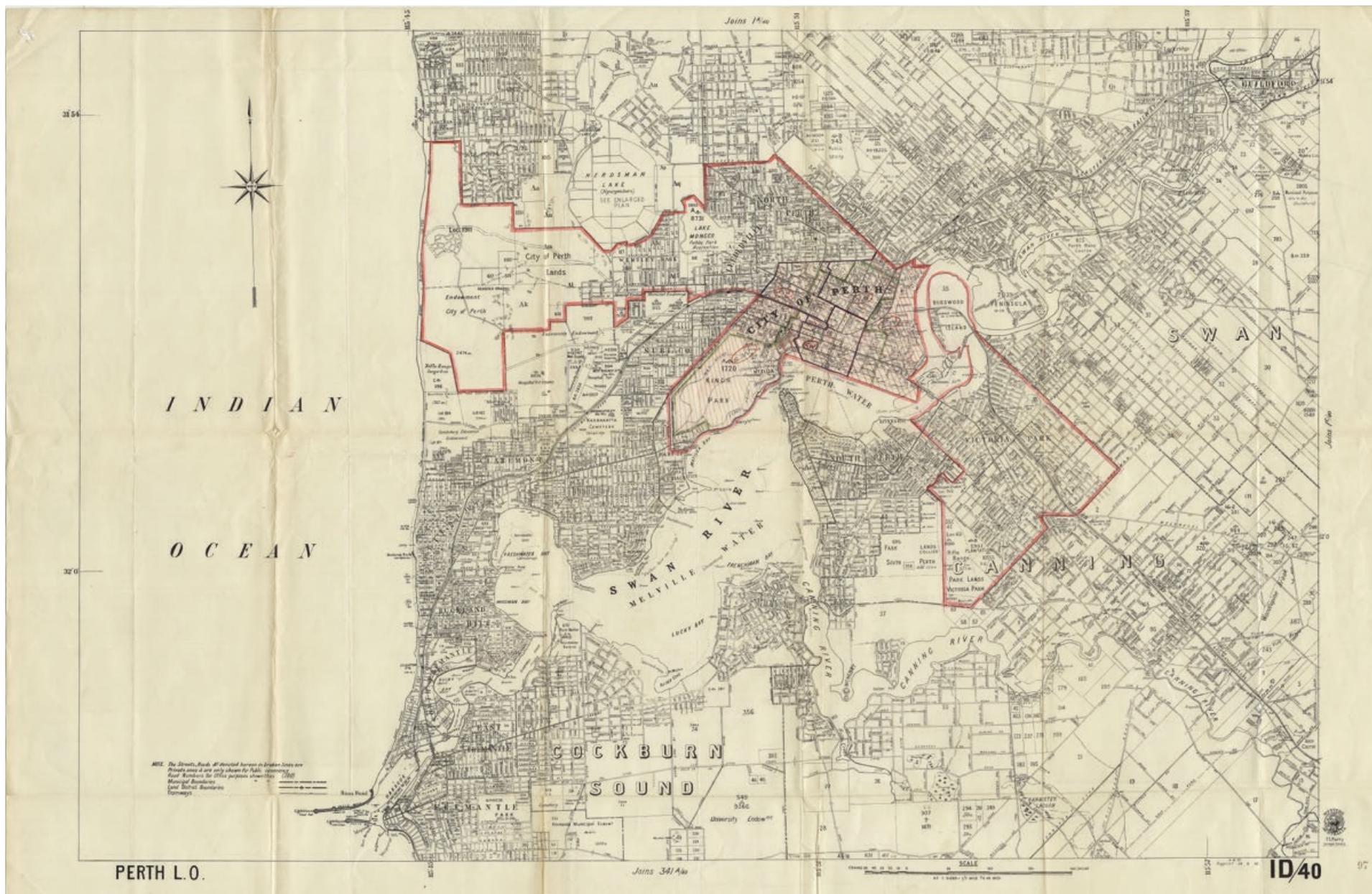
Though valued brothers on the battlefield, the sacrifices of Aboriginal servicemen have become a hidden part of this country's history. The conditions for Aboriginal people in Western Australia changed little over the course of the war. Upon returning home, those who served were subjected to the same legislation and faced the same discrimination they had experienced prior to serving. Their plight was no different to those who had been rejected.

By 1919, under section 12 of the *1905 Act*, the number of children and adults removed from where they were living and placed at institutions such as the Moore River Native Settlement and the Carrolup Native Settlement had increased. The Chief Protector of Aborigines maintained his position as the legal guardian of all 'half-caste' children under the age of 16. The position also regulated finances that were held in trusts under employment agreements and continued to enforce many other restrictive measures.

To circumvent the tight controls imposed under the *1905 Act*, Aboriginal people had to apply for a Certificate of Exemption. This certificate was required for returned Aboriginal servicemen who wished to enjoy a drink with their mates even at events such as Anzac Day.

In May 1938, Lewis Farmer, who was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal for his service in France, sought assistance to enable him and his brother Kenneth, also a returned serviceman, to be granted a Certificate of Exemption. Two of their brothers, Larry and Augustus, were killed in action on the Western Front. Lewis stated that he was prepared to return his war medals in protest at being treated like a second-class citizen. Whilst he was granted an exemption, an application made by a fellow returned soldier, Thomas Massey, was unsuccessful as he was reported to be 'consorting with fellow natives'.

Frank Corbett, who was rejected on grounds of descent, was also unsuccessful in obtaining an exemption as the Chief Protector of Aborigines at the time deemed that it would not improve his status in society. Similarly, Charles Gale, who was rejected for medical reasons, provided a three-page petition to the Chief Protector signed by over 80 residents of East Perth, in an effort to be granted an exemption whilst working at the Perth Racecourse.



### CITY OF PERTH PROHIBITED AREA

Between 1927 and 1954, the City of Perth was declared a prohibited area for Aboriginal people under the *Aborigines Act 1905*. This made it unlawful for Aboriginal people to be in this area after 6pm unless they were exempt from the Act or issued a special pass which could only be obtained by those who worked in the city. Those who were found in the area after the curfew without a pass or an exemption could be arrested. This restricted the movement of Aboriginal people in and around the city area, making it difficult to visit family and friends after this time.

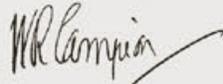
State Records Office of Western Australia (993, 38/1927).

THE ABORIGINES ACT 1905.

PROHIBITED AREA.

PROCLAMATION.

Western Australia  
To Wit



GOVERNOR.

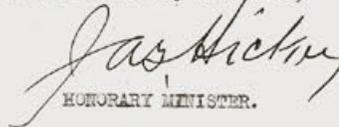
By His Excellency Colonel Sir William Robert Campion,  
Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of  
St. Michael and St. George, D.S.O., Governor in and  
over the State of Western Australia and its Dependencies  
in the Commonwealth of Australia.



WHEREAS by Section 89 of "The Aborigines Act 1905" the  
Governor may by Proclamation whenever in the interests of the  
Aborigines he thinks fit declare any Municipal District or Town  
or any other place to be an area in which it shall be unlawful  
for aborigines or half-castes not in lawful employment to be or  
remain: Now therefore I, the said Governor, by and with the  
advice of the Executive Council, do hereby declare the City of  
Perth to be an area in which it shall be unlawful for aborigines  
or half-castes not in lawful employment to be or remain.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the said State  
at Perth, this 9th day of March, 1927.

By His Excellency's Command,

  
HONORARY MINISTER.

GOD SAVE THE KING !!!

PROHIBITED AREA  
PROCLAMATION, 1927

State Records Office of Western Australia  
(993, 38/1927).

"The Aborigines Act. 1905." No. 078  
(Section 83.)

Certificate of Exemption.

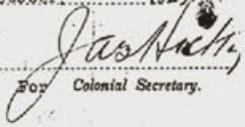
This is to certify that HARRY ISAACS,

PICKERING BROOK,

is exempt from the provisions of "The Aborigines Act. 1905."

This certificate may be revoked at any time by the Minister administering  
the said Act.

Dated the 27th day of October, 1925.

  
For Colonial Secretary.

HARRY ISAACS,  
CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION, 1925  
State Records Office of Western Australia (1351, 404/1927).

NATIVE ADMINISTRATION ACT, 1905-1936.

CITY OF PERTH No. 48

Native Pass.

Place PERTH

Date JUL 22 1927

THE HOLDER OF THIS PASS,

Native.....years,  
(native name and alias)

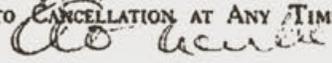
is permitted to be in the prohibited area of the  
City of Perth

Conditions .....

THIS PASS EXPIRES ON THE

30th September 1927

BUT IS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION AT ANY TIME.

  
Commissioner of Native Affairs.

e 386/37

NATIVE PASS

State Records Office of Western Australia (993, 38/1927).

# THEIR MATES THEY LEFT BEHIND

'THE EXCUSE WAS "NOT SUFFICIENT EUROPEAN DESCENT" AND YET THERE ARE ANY  
AMOUNT OF MEN FIGHTING WITHOUT ANY EUROPEAN BLOOD IN THEIR VEINS. NOW, I THINK THIS  
SORT OF THING IS VERY UNJUST IN A FREE COUNTRY LIKE THIS, AND IN OUR OWN COUNTRY,  
WHO IS MORE AUSTRALIAN THEN OURSELVES ...'

*(John Blurton, Sunday Times, 8 July 1917.)*



WANDERERS FOOTBALL TEAM, NEW NORCIA, 1913.

John Blurton (second row, fourth from left).

June Headland Private Collection.

## The home front

Noondie Bob Roberts and Frank Eggleston are just two of the many men and women of Aboriginal descent who contributed to the war effort in an unofficial capacity. This would include the partners and parents of the volunteers who willingly and unselfishly gave their time to ensuring the wellbeing of their loved ones through individual pursuits and communal activities.

Both Noondie Bob and Frank were associated with the Light Horse Depot in Guildford where they were more than likely included in the breaking-in and training of horses, activities that they were already well accustomed to.

In February 1917, the number would increase with the likes of George Marsh and other active servicemen who were discharged for being 'not of substantial European descent'. Undoubtedly additional volunteers would have followed as the war progressed.

Following the cessation of hostilities Noondie Bob and George (as well as the majority of those who were born in remoter parts of the State) returned to station work where they continued working with horses, the former spending more than a decade on Woodlands Station in Murchison and the latter in the North-East Goldfields region.



'BREAKING IN AN "OUTLAW"'

*Western Mail*, 20 January 1915, State Library of Western Australia.

FRANK EGGLESTON



**Born** unknown.  
**Enlisted** unknown.  
**Discharged** unknown.  
**Died** unknown.



‘BREAKING-IN HORSES’

Courtesy Bain family, formerly of Woodlands Station and employer of Noondie Bob Roberts.

‘NOONDIE BOB’ ROBERTS



**Born** c.1882, Millstream Station, Western Australia.  
**Enlisted** unknown.  
**Discharged** unknown.  
**Died** 24 June 1947, Carnarvon.

DUPLICATE Form 2 THE ABOIGINES ACT, 1906. N<sup>o</sup> 940 5 (Section 9.)

*RVR*

**RECOGNISANCE.**

Know all Men by these Presents that I, *Charles Alcorn* of *Perth*

hereby bind myself to the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the payment to him of the sum of *fourty* pounds

Sealed with my seal at *Perth* this *1<sup>st</sup>* day of *August* 1917

WHEREAS the above-named *Charles Alcorn* has applied to the Chief Protector of Aborigines for authority to remove *Noondie Bob - Charles Cooper & Paddy McElahan* aboriginals or half-bloods from *Perth* to *Pt Hedland*

NOW the above obligation is conditioned to us and in case the above named *Charles Alcorn* on or before the *21<sup>st</sup>* day of *December* 1917 returns the said *Noondie Bob - Charles Cooper and Paddy McElahan* to the place from which *they* to be removed and defrays the expenses of such return or else to stand in full force and virtue

Signed, sealed and delivered by the above named *Charles Alcorn* *Chas A Alcorn* in the presence of *John ...*

This document be forwarded to the Chief Protector of Aborigines immediately after issue of Recognisance.

NOONDIE BOB ROBERTS, EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR ENGAGEMENT, 1921

State Records Office of Western Australia (1326, 2024/1921).

# Those rejected on grounds of origin or descent

Of the 135 Aboriginal men who volunteered, 25 were officially rejected on the grounds of origin or descent. In some instances this occurred upon initial examination at recruitment centres, and for others, upon entering the Blackboy Hill training camp. The application of the ruling to exclude Aboriginal people under section 61(h) of the *1909 Amendment to the Defence Act* was inconsistent from one recruitment centre to another.

On 14 February 1916, some 44 Western Australian Aboriginal volunteers had successfully enlisted without being rejected on the grounds of origin or descent, when in an unprecedented and seemingly arbitrary move, 16 of these volunteers were discharged from various depots in Perth. Among them were Arthur Thompson and Tom Cooper, who had both been in training for over 60 days.

Later that year the discriminatory nature of the regulation was evident when Charles Sayers was rejected, while two of his brothers were in active service overseas at

the time of his attempt to enlist. A further six enlistees were rejected on the same basis before the cessation of hostilities despite a relaxation of requirements.

In May 1917, to address the appalling loss of life on the Western Front, a *Military Order 200* (2) was issued allowing for the enlistment of ‘half-castes’ providing that the examining medical officer was satisfied that one parent was of European descent. The final decision as to whether a person was eligible to serve rested with the District Commander. Following this order, the number of Aboriginal volunteers claiming to have only one parent of European descent led to an increase in the number of Aboriginal volunteers in Australia’s eastern states.

Almost all of the 25 who were rejected on these grounds were semi-skilled rural workers who would have been more than capable of enduring the hardships awaiting them had they been given the opportunity to serve. Many were valued members of the community and highly respected.

John Blurton and Joe Nettup, for example, were both champion sportsmen in the South-West, with Nettup pursuing a career in the 1920s as a professional runner in the eastern states.

The exclusion from serving must have been deeply hurtful, adding to the many injustices they experienced in their daily lives. This is no more apparent than the frustration expressed by George Marsh in 1937, seeking an exemption from the *1905 Act* in a letter to the Chief Protector of Aborigines:

*When the war broke out in 1914, I enlisted for service. I was in the 44th Battalion at Claremont, I was ready to sail away with troops. I got discharged, and was told that no half-caste[s] were to go. Some half-castes had gone before that. I had one step-brother ... his name was Stanley Hedley. He went away with the 28th Battalion and sorry to say he got killed serving for his King and country just as I would have done under the circumstances.*

## Recruiting.

As there is some uncertainty as to the enlistment of half-castes, the following particulars from head quarters are interesting. In all cases full particulars as to the intending recruit must be forwarded to head quarters, for approval, before enlistment will be authorised. While it is not desirable to alter the regulations to expressly permit the enlistment in the A.I.F. of half-castes, the Department will countenance their enlistment in cases where in the opinion of the District Commandant, they are suitable. There are usually two cases. The first is that of men who have mixed all their life with white people, and copied their ways. The other is that of the man who has lived all his life with his full blooded brother. The former might be suitable for enlistment, but the latter would certainly not be suitable. A good guide is to bear in mind that these people have to live with white men, and share the same huts, and the inclusion in the force of any applicant for enlistment may be judged from this stand-point: whether his inclusion will cause dissatisfaction to his mates.

N. 4.  
L. 6.

### APPLICATION TO ENLIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Original.  
Duplicate.

To the Recruiting Officer

(OFFICIAL STAMPING OFFICE)  
CENTRAL RECRUITING OFFICE  
PERTH.  
Register No. 39316

at Busselton

I, Charles Hector Sayers  
hereby offer myself for Enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service Abroad, and undertake to enlist in the manner prescribed, if I am accepted by the Military Authorities, within one month from date hereof.

POSTAL ADDRESS  
Post Office  
Busselton

Signature C. H. Sayers  
Occupation Farmer  
Date July 6<sup>th</sup> 1916

(For Identification purposes the above space should be filled in personally by the Applicant.)

#### CONSENT OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS. (For Persons under 21 years of age).

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I approve of the above application, and consent to the enlistment of my <sup>son</sup> ~~ward~~ for Active Service Abroad.

Statement regarding Death or Absence of either or both Parents.  
Father's Signature.....  
Mother's Signature.....  
or  
Guardian's Signature.....

#### PERSONAL PARTICULARS.

Age 23 yrs. 2 mos. Height 5 ft. 4 1/2 ins. Chest Measurement (fully expanded) 34 1/2 inches.  
Married. ~~Widowed~~ Single.

#### PRELIMINARY MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

Decision of Medical Authority { FIT for Active Service.  
~~UNFIT~~, for the following reasons:.....

Place Busselton, W.A. Date July 7, 1916  
Signature of Medical Authority E. Peter Thurstan

Place Busselton Date 2.8.16  
Signature of M.O. at Central Recruiting Depot

#### CERTIFICATE OF RECRUITING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that I have this day provisionally ACCEPTED ~~SELECTED~~ this applicant for enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force.

Place Busselton Date July 7<sup>th</sup> 1916  
Signature J. B. Hardy Recruiting Officer  
19081/10\* no duplicate Enrolling Officer

Half caste not eligible  
C.W. 2/8/16

## WILLIAM HAROLD SMITH

---



**Born** c.1884, Albany, Western Australia, to (unknown) Smith and Rachel Maher.

**Enlisted** 25 September 1914.

**Discharged** as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 13 June 1956, Collie, Western Australia

## THOMAS COOPER

---



**Born** 25 September 1897, Gindalbie Station, Western Australia, to Arthur John Hasthorpe and Nardie Bilbear.

**Enlisted** 13 December 1915, Kalgoorlie.

**Discharged** 14 February 1916 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 30 July 1951, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. Buried in the Kalgoorlie Cemetery.

## ARTHUR THOMPSON

---



**Born** 1 October 1893, Williams, Western Australia, to Billy Thompson and Judy.

**Enlisted** 17 November 1915, Geraldton.

**Discharged** 14 February 1916 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 26 April 1950, Coorow, Western Australia. Buried in the Three Springs Cemetery.

## GEORGE RING

---



**Born** c.1885, Sandsprings Station, Geraldton, Western Australia, to John Ring and May Morrison.

**Enlisted** December 1915.

**Discharged** 14 February 1916 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 31 January 1966, Geraldton, Western Australia. Buried in the Geraldton Cemetery.

Statement of Service of No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name *Cooper Tom.*

Date of entry into service	Rank	Regiment	Service No.	Remarks
<i>13/12/15</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>100th</i>	<i>10000</i>	
<i>14/2/16</i>				<i>Discharged</i>

*Not of substantially European descent*

I have examined the above and find it correct in every respect

*Clayton*

THOMAS COOPER, STATEMENT OF SERVICE  
National Archives of Australia (MT1486/1).

## JAMES ISAACS



**Born** 10 November 1898, Margaret River, Western Australia, to John Isaacs and Rose Harris.

**Enlisted** 28 December 1915, Bunbury; 12 June 1917, Perth.

**Discharged** 19 April 1916; and 12 June 1917 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 6 August 1943, Busselton, Western Australia. Buried in the Busselton Cemetery.

## JOSEPH NETTUP



**Born** c.1898, Benger, Western Australia, to Joseph Nettup (Snr.) and Elizabeth 'Eliza' Hill.

**Enlisted** 28 December 1915, Bunbury.

**Discharged** 14 February 1916 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 26 December 1984, Collinsvale, Tasmania. Buried in the Collinsvale Cemetery

## GEORGE 'FRIDAY' THOMPSON



**Born** c.1895, Subiaco, Western Australia, to Charles Thompson and May Merthyr.

**Enlisted** 29 December 1915, Northam.

**Discharged** as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 8 August 1958, Port Hedland, Western Australia. Buried in the Port Hedland Pioneer Cemetery.

## THOMAS HONG



**Born** c.1894, Carnarvon, Western Australia, to Ah Hong and Rosie.

**Enlisted** 30 December 1915, Carnarvon.

**Discharged** 14 February 1916 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** unknown.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Certificate of Discharge of No. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rank) *Private*

(Name) *Thomas Hong*

(Regiment or Corps) *12th Light Infantry Bn*

born at or near the Town of *Carnarvon*

in the State or County of *Western Australia*

Attested at *Blackboy Hill* on the *14th* day of *February* 1916 for the *A.I.F.*

Regiment or Corps at the age of *22* years.

He is discharged in consequence of *Not of substantially European origin or descent.*

Service towards completion of engagement } *40* years *40* days Medals \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Service Abroad } *0* years *0* days Decorations \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Officer Commanding Regiment or Corps } *Capt. A. P. ...*

Place *Blackboy Hill*

Date *14 Feb. 1916*

Discharge confirmed at *Blackboy Hill*

Signature *C. ...*

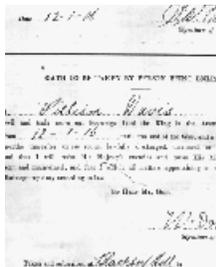
Date *14 Feb. 1916*

SHOULD THIS PARCHMENT BE LOST OR MISLAIN, NO DUPLICATE OF IT CAN BE OBTAINED.

THOMAS HONG, CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGE  
National Archives of Australia (B2455).

## WILLIAM DAVIS

---



**Born** 1881, De Grey River, Western Australia, to Bung Singh and Mary Duff.

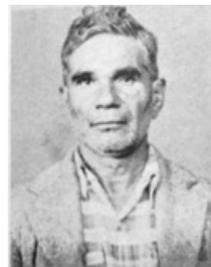
**Enlisted** 2 January 1916, Northam.

**Discharged** 14 February 1916 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 29 August 1932, Yarloop, Western Australia. Buried in the Cookernup Cemetery.

## FRANK HEDLAM

---



**Born** c.1892, Peak Hill, Western Australia, to George Hedlam and Kitty.

**Enlisted** 10 January 1916, Perth.

**Discharged** 14 February 1916 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 12 December 1955, Mount Magnet, Western Australia. Buried in the Mount Magnet Cemetery.

## ROY McPHEE

---



**Born** c.1895, Marble Bar, Western Australia, to Sam McPhee.

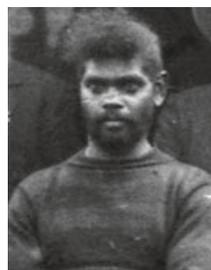
**Enlisted** 3 January 1916, York.

**Discharged** 14 February 1916 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 8 October 1957, Merredin, Western Australia. Buried in the Merredin Cemetery.

## EDWARD RALPH

---



**Born** c.1877, Busselton, Western Australia, to Ralph and Mary Jane Lowe.

**Enlisted** 13 January 1916, Bunbury.

**Discharged** 14 February 1916 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 17 July 1921, Perth, Western Australia. Buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## GEORGE MARSH

---



**Born** c.1890, Guildford, Western Australia, to Dan Marsh and Nancy Lee.

**Enlisted** 8 January 1916, Perth.

**Discharged** 19 April 1916; and 12 June 1917 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 17 March 1967, Meekatharra, Western Australia. Buried in the Meekatharra Cemetery.

## JOHN McKENZIE

---



**Born** 15 August 1891, Roebourne, Western Australia, to John McKenzie (Snr.) and Sophie.

**Enlisted** 14 January 1916, Geraldton.

**Discharged** 14 February 1916 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 12 June 1971, Midvale, Western Australia. Buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.



BRIDGETOWN FOOTBALL TEAM, 1907

Edward Ralph (middle row, third from left).

Bridgetown Historical Society (BHS 10-A1248).

## WILLIAM 'BILLY' HARDER

---



**Born** c.1888, Malcom, Western Australia, to unknown parents.

**Enlisted** 18 January 1916, Bunbury.

**Discharged** February 1916 'wrongly attested'.

**Died** unknown.

## THOMAS GASCOYNE

---



**Born** c.1888, Carnarvon area, Western Australia, to Judy and Mervyn Bunbury.

**Enlisted** 22 January 1916.

**Discharged** as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 3 June 1968, Carlisle, Western Australia.

## CLEM MURRAY

---



**Born** c.1880, Burketown, Queensland, to unknown parents.

**Enlisted** 24 January 1916, York.

**Discharged** 27 January 1916 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 17 May 1926, York, Western Australia. Buried in the York Cemetery.

## SAMUEL MORRISON

---



**Born** 23 November 1897, Katanning, Western Australia, to John Newman and Maggie Kya.

**Enlisted** 4 February 1916, Katanning; 29 May 1917, Katanning.

**Discharged** No discharge date; 21 June 1917 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 1 February 1971, Perth, Western Australia. Buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## HENRY ISAACS

---



**Born** 2 March 1887, Margaret River, Western Australia, to Samuel Isaacs and Lucy Lowe.

**Enlisted** 24 March 1916, Geraldton; 19 May 1917, Geraldton.

**Discharged** 24 March 1916; 14 January 1918 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 2 December 1962, East Perth, Western Australia. Buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## CHARLES SAYERS

---



**Born** 18 May 1893, Busselton, Western Australia, to Carinia Sayers and Flora Hasseldon.

**Enlisted** 7 July 1916, Busselton.

**Discharged** 2 August 1916 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 5 March 1975, Busselton, Western Australia. Buried in the Busselton Cemetery.

## SANDY JACKSON

---



**Born** c.1889, Marble Bar, Western Australia, to unknown parents.

**Enlisted** 3 January 1917, Narrabri, New South Wales.

**Discharged** 4 January 1917 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 17 July 1954, Wilcannia, New South Wales. Buried in the Wilcannia Cemetery.

## PHILLIP MORRISON

---



**Born** 14 April 1891, Katanning, Western Australia to William Morrison and Maggie Kya.

**Enlisted** June 1917, Katanning.

**Discharged** unknown as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 5 November 1950, Wooroloo, Western Australia. Buried in the Mount Magnet Cemetery.

## JOHN BLURTON

---



**Born** 23 December 1890, Bolgart, Western Australia, to Frederick John Blurton and Mary Ann Isaacs.

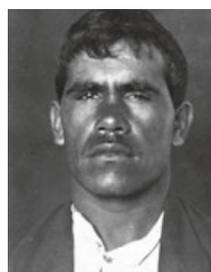
**Enlisted** 28 May 1917, Katanning.

**Discharged** 21 June 1917 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 17 April 1959, Perth, Western Australia. Buried in the Quairading Cemetery.

## STEPHEN JAMES

---



**Born** c.1896, Balladonia, Western Australia, to Fred Beard and Lucy.

**Enlisted** unknown.

**Discharged** unknown.

**Died** 28 February 1947, Norseman, Western Australia. Buried in the Norseman Cemetery.

## FRANK CORBETT

---



**Born** c.1899, Busselton, Western Australia, to Thomas Corbett and Mary Slee.

**Enlisted** 12 June 1917, Perth.

**Discharged** 21 June 1917 as 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 30 May, 1969, Busselton, Western Australia. Buried in the Busselton Cemetery.

## Those rejected for medical reasons

As part of the enlistment process, all volunteers were required to undergo two medical examinations. Some were rejected at the first stage upon enlistment at the local recruitment centre, whilst others were excluded on their secondary examination upon entering Blackboy Hill. Medical officers classified applicants into four groups: 'fit', 'unfit', 'temporarily unfit', and 'not substantially of European origin or descent'. In some instances, Aboriginality was cited as evidence of a disability. By 1917 the height requirement was lowered to 155cm from 158.5cm to encourage more people to enlist.

Medical conditions used to eliminate volunteers were varied and included 'problematic teeth', 'showing confusion and hesitation when answering questions', a 'hammer toe', the 'unlikelihood to stand the climate of war' and 'permanently unfit'.

Despite being classified as 'permanently unfit' John Ninnett had competed in athletic events as well as cricket matches prior to volunteering. Similarly, John Gascoyne was rejected for possessing an 'irreducible dislocation of [the] left shoulder' despite going on to become an accomplished cricketer and member of the Narrogin Country Week team where he was the opening batsman in the 1924 series.

Undeterred by the initial rejection on medical grounds, several men reapplied, as was the case of John Purvis a mill-hand and axe-man in the Pemberton area.



RECRUITS UNDERGOING  
MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS  
AT THE DRILL HALL

*Western Mail*, 18 February 1916, State Library of Western Australia.

## CHARLES GALE

---



**Born** 11 November 1888, Busselton, Western Australia, to unknown parents.

**Enlisted** 17 November 1915, Geraldton.

**Discharged** 10 August 1915 as 'medically unfit'.

**Died** 20 January 1939, Wooroloo, Western Australia. Buried in the Wooroloo Cemetery.

## MICHAEL COLEMAN

---



**Born** 26 June 1897, Ravensthorpe, Western Australia, to Patrick Coleman and Dinah Mason.

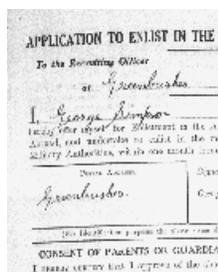
**Enlisted** 28 December 1915, Bunbury;  
12 June 1917, Perth.

**Discharged** 11 February 1916 as  
'medically unfit'.

**Died** 3 March 1951, Wanneroo, Western Australia. Buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## GEORGE SIMPSON

---



**Born** October 1891, Bridgetown, Western Australia, to George Simpson (Snr.) and Emily Reeves.

**Enlisted** December 1915.

**Discharged** 18 September 1915 as  
'medically unfit'.

**Died** 9 December 1924, Bridgetown, Western Australia. Buried in the Bridgetown Cemetery.

## RICHARD McBRIDE

---



**Born** 1871, Albany, Western Australia, to William McBride and Lucy Bradley.

**Enlisted** 28 December 1915, Bunbury.

**Discharged** 7 March 1916 as 'medically unfit'.

**Died** 23 January 1943, Albany, Western Australia. Buried in the Allambie Park Cemetery, Albany.

## GEORGE McBRIDE

---



**Born** 1874, Albany, Western Australia, to William McBride and Lucy Bradley.

**Enlisted** 13 December 1915, Kalgoorlie.

**Discharged** 22 January 1916 as 'medically unfit'.

**Died** 11 January 1955, Perth, Western Australia. Buried in the Fremantle Cemetery.

## JOHN SEARLE

---



**Born** 12 March 1873, Gnowangerup, Western Australia, to William Searle and Nancy Ann Gamble.

**Enlisted** 2 April 1916, Gnowangerup.

**Discharged** 2 April 1916 as 'medically unfit'.

**Died** 19 June 1950, Gnowangerup, Western Australia. Buried in the Gnowangerup Cemetery.

## HENRY SEARLE

---



**Born** 9 August 1880, Albany, Western Australia, to William Searle and Nancy Ann Gamble.

**Enlisted** 8 April 1916, Albany.

**Discharged** 8 April 1916 as ‘medically unfit’.

**Died** 27 December 1961, Mount Magnet, Western Australia. Buried in the Fremantle Cemetery.

## HAINES CAMERON

---



**Born** 1881, Gippsland, Victoria, to Donald Cameron and Bessie Flowers.

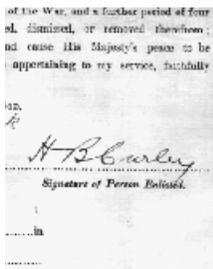
**Enlisted** 13 May 1916, Stratford, Victoria.

**Discharged** as ‘medically unfit’.

**Died** 9 October 1949, Orbost, Victoria.

## HORACE CURLEY

---



**Born** 25 July 1891, Northam, Western Australia, to Lizzie Lockyer.

**Enlisted** 7 June 1916, Fremantle.

**Discharged** 20 September 1916 as ‘medically unfit’.

**Died** 6 September 1952, Perth, Western Australia. Buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## DAVID HARRIS

---



**Born** 25 February 1885, Albany, Western Australia, to David James Denfield Harris and Priscilla Roberts.

**Enlisted** 20 September 1916, Perth.

**Discharged** 15 February 1917 as ‘medically unfit’.

**Died** 25 December 1947, Merredin, Western Australia. Buried in the Merredin Pioneer Cemetery.

## JOHN NINYETT

---



**Born** 1893, Brookton, Western Australia, to John Ninnett (Snr.) and Rose Smith.

**Enlisted** 4 May 1917, Katanning.

**Discharged** 1 June 1917 as ‘medically unfit’.

**Died** 24 April 1939, Brookton, Western Australia. Buried in the Brookton Cemetery.

## JOHN PURVIS

---



**Born** 6 August 1880, Busselton, Western Australia, to John Purvis (Snr.) and Matilda Herring Low.

**Enlisted** 11 May 1917, Perth.

**Discharged** 11 May 1917 as ‘medically unfit’.

**Died** 2 June 1937, Pemberton, Western Australia. Buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## HERBERT ISAACS

---



**Born** 1893, Brookton, Western Australia, to Samuel Isaacs and Lucy Lowe.

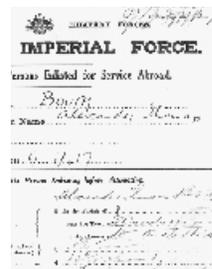
**Enlisted** 18 May 1917, Geraldton.

**Discharged** 28 May 1917 as 'medically unfit' and 'not of substantially European origin or descent'.

**Died** 14 May 1946, Busselton, Western Australia. Buried in the Busselton Cemetery.

## ALEXANDER BOOTA

---



**Born** 22 December 1893, Dandaragan, Western Australia, to Thomas Boota and Elizabeth Mason.

**Enlisted** 29 June 1917, Perth.

**Discharged** 9 July 1917 as 'medically unfit'.

**Died** 29 May 1976, Mount Magnet, Western Australia. Buried in the Mount Magnet Cemetery.

## GEORGE RONAN

---



**Born** 1889, Mount Erin, Western Australia, to John Ronan and Rosie Goldman.

**Enlisted** 22 May 1917, Geraldton.

**Discharged** 7 August 1917 as 'medically unfit'.

**Died** 13 February 1967, Geraldton, Western Australia. Buried in the Utakarra Cemetery.

## MARK RING

---



**Born** 1884, Katanning, Western Australia, to William Michael Ring and Caroline.

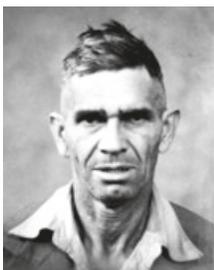
**Enlisted** 2 November 1917, Katanning.

**Discharged** 22 March 1918 as 'medically unfit'.

**Died** 4 February 1933, Kwobrup, Western Australia. Buried in the Katanning Cemetery.

## HAROLD FITZGERALD

---



**Born** c.1893, Dangan, Western Australia, to John Fitzgerald and Mary Isaac.

**Enlisted** 16 June 1917, Perth.

**Discharged** 3 July 1917 as 'medically unfit'.

**Died** 1953, Perth, Western Australia. Buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

## LARRY ROBERTSON

---



**Born** c.1900, Kookynie, Western Australia, to Andrew Balfour Robertson and Tilly.

**Enlisted** 22 December 1917, Kalgoorlie.

**Discharged** 24 December 1917 as 'medically unfit'.

**Died** 20 February 1959, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. Buried in the Kalgoorlie Cemetery.

JOHN PARFITT



**Born** c.1900, Bridgetown, Western Australia, to Harry Parfitt and Rosina Johnston.  
**Enlisted** 6 February 1918, Bunbury.  
**Discharged** 25 March 1918 as 'medically unfit'.  
**Died** 25 April 1934, Perth, Western Australia.  
 Buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

BERTIE GAUNT



**Born** 1896, Wagin, Western Australia, to Walter Henry Gaunt and Matilda Cowan.  
**Enlisted** 12 April 1918, Perth.  
**Discharged** 12 April 1918 as 'medically unfit'.  
**Died** 8 September 1987, Wembley, Western Australia. Buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

of my <sup>son</sup> (ward) for Active Service Abroad.

Statements regarding Death or Absence of <sup>both or both parents.</sup>

*Both parents dead.*  
 Educated at Swan Mission, Oldland Junction WA

Father's Signature.....  
 Mother's Signature.....  
 or  
 Guardian's Signature..... *Hugh Danvers*

**PERSONAL PARTICULARS.**

Age—18 yrs. 2 mos. Height—5 ft. 8 ins. Chest Measurement (fully expanded)—35 inches.

MARRIED.  WIDOWER.  SINGLE.

**PRELIMINARY MEDICAL EXAMINATION.**

Para. 45, War Regulations Act.

If any person, verbally or in writing, in any report, return, declaration, or application, or in any document signed by him or on his behalf, or which it is his duty to ascertain the accuracy of, knowingly makes or connives at the making of any false statement or any omission, with intent to mislead any Officer, or other person acting under the orders of any Officer, in the execution of his duties, he shall be guilty of an offence against the Act.

Date..... *12/4/18* .....  
 Signature of Medical Authority.....

I Certify that I have not comply with Section 4, 1917/29  
 Perth unlikely to stand climate.

Place..... *Perth* .....  
 Signature of M.O. at Central Recruiting Depot..... *J. Malcom St. C. M.O.*

Date..... *20/3/18* .....

**CERTIFICATE OF RECRUITING OFFICER.**

I certify that I have this day provisionally **ACCEPTED** this applicant for enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force.

Place *Bunbury WA* (Signature)..... *R. Arnell* .....  
 Date..... *12/2/18* .....  
**DUPLICATE RECEIVED.**

*REJECTED CHIAM.*  
 PERTH 25/3/18

JOHN PARFITT, REJECTED  
 'UNLIKELY TO STAND CLIMATE'  
 National Archives of Australia (MT14861).

ALFRED CHARLES RAWSON

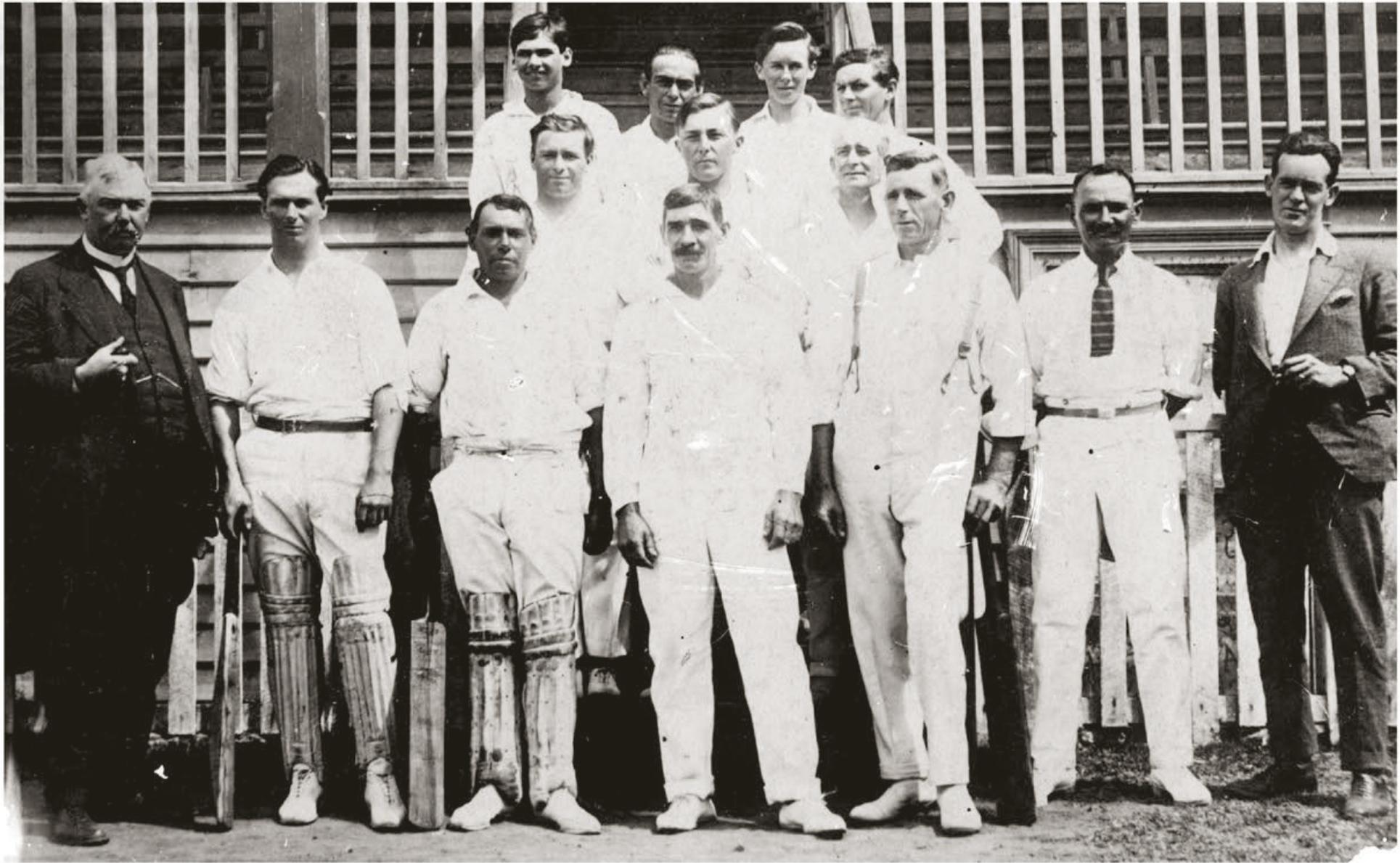


**Born** 15 April 1893, Kendenup, Western Australia, to Edward Rawson and Annie Mason.  
**Enlisted** 22 April 1918, Katanning.  
**Discharged** 22 April 1918 as 'medically unfit'.  
**Died** 30 August 1979, East Perth, Western Australia. Buried in the Karrakatta Cemetery.

JOHN GASCOYNE



**Born** 1891, Gascoyne region, Western Australia, to Mervyn Bunbury and Judy.  
**Enlisted** 17 July 1918, Cuballing.  
**Discharged** 17 July 1918 as 'medically unfit'.  
**Died** 2 March 1955, Bunbury, Western Australia.  
 Buried in the Bunbury Cemetery.



NARROGIN CRICKET ASSOCIATION COUNTRY WEEK, 1924

John Gascoyne (front row, third from left).

Shire of Narrogin Library Local History Collection.

# Those discharged for disciplinary reasons

Among those who enlisted and commenced their training at Blackboy Hill were a small number of men who were dismissed for 'disciplinary reasons'. Their offences ranged from leaving camp without obtaining permission and creating a disturbance. Fred Mead and Sandy McPherson were two such men, who were discharged for being absent without leave.

Fred, a somewhat exuberant character, was educated at the New Norcia Mission and advocated for the inclusion of Aboriginal people within the armed forces during the Boer War. Cricket enthusiast, buck jump rider, stockman and entrepreneur, he met with an untimely death in Collie in 1931.

Sandy McPherson, an equally colourful character, went on to achieve considerable fame as a professional boxer and one time movie star under the name of Sandy Wongal McVea, before passing away at the early age of 27.

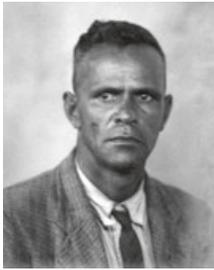


'WHAT YOU MUST NOT DO'

*The Camp Chronicle*, 20 July 1916, State Library of Western Australia.

## ALEXANDER FORREST

---



**Born** c.1899, Mount Margaret, Western Australia, to Thomas Forrest and Eva Trilby.

**Enlisted** 9 December 1915, Leonora.

**Discharged** 28 January 1916, Blackboy Hill, for 'disciplinary reasons'.

**Died** 11 August 1979, Western Australia. Buried in the Leonora Cemetery.

## FREDERICK MEAD

---



**Born** c.1865, Mundijong, Western Australia, to Robert Mead and Emma Webland.

**Enlisted** 13 December 1915, Northam.

**Discharged** 13 March 1916, Blackboy Hill, for 'disciplinary reasons'.

**Died** 19 December 1931, Collie, Western Australia. Buried in the Collie Cemetery.

## SANDY McPHERSON

---



**Born** c.1894, Laverton area, Western Australia, to King Billy.

**Enlisted** 28 December 1915, Bunbury.

**Discharged** 4 February 1916, Blackboy Hill, for 'disciplinary reasons'.

**Died** 4 February 1923, Broken Hill, New South Wales. Buried in the Broken Hill Cemetery.



CARICATURE ILLUSTRATING THE DOWNFALL OF SANDY McPHERSON AS A PROFESSIONAL BOXER

*Arrow*, 27 December 1918, State Library of New South Wales.

# GLOSSARY

## Military Acronyms

- AIF:** Australian Imperial Force.  
**AMF:** Australian Military Forces.  
**ANZAC:** Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.  
**ALH:** Australian Light Horse.  
**BEF:** British Expeditionary Force.  
**HMAS:** His Majesty's Australian Ship.  
**HMAT:** His Majesty's Australian Transport.  
**HMHS:** His Majesty's Hospital Ship.  
**HMS:** His Majesty's Ship.  
**HMT:** His Majesty's Transport.  
**ICC:** Imperial Camel Corp.  
**MM:** Military Medal.  
**POW:** Prisoner of War.  
**RAAF:** Royal Australian Air Force.  
**RAN:** Royal Australian Navy.  
**RMS:** Royal Mail Ship.  
**RSL:** Returned Services League.  
**SS:** Steam Ship.

## Fighting Arms Structure

- Artillery:** Branch of soldiers that use large-calibre guns.  
**Cavalry:** Soldiers who fought on horseback.  
**Infantry:** Soldiers who fight on foot.

## Army Structure

- Section:** 9–16 persons.  
**Platoon:** 30–60 persons (four Sections).  
**Company:** 100–255 persons (four Platoons).  
**Battalion:** 550–1,000 persons (four Companies).  
**Brigade:** 2,500–5,000 persons (four Battalions).  
**Division:** 10,000–20,000 persons (four Brigades).  
**Corps:** 30,000 persons (two or more Divisions).

## AIF Ranks

- Brigadier:** Commands an Infantry Brigade.  
**Commissioned Officers:** Highest ranking officers.  
**Corporal:** Commands a section of soldiers in an Infantry Battalion.  
**Field Marshal:** Commands many Infantry Armies.  
**General:** Commands an Infantry Army.  
**Gunner:** Soldiers and sailors with the primary function of using artillery.  
**Lance Corporal:** Intermediate appointment that recognises a soldier's potential before promotion to Corporal.  
**Lieutenant:** Junior commissioned officer and usually commands a platoon of Infantry. Captain: Second in command of an Infantry Company.  
**Lieutenant General:** Commands an Infantry Corp.  
**Lieutenant Colonel:** Commands an Infantry Regiment.  
**Major:** Commands an Infantry Company.  
**Major General:** Commands an Infantry Division.  
**Non-Commissioned Officers:** Junior officers that include corporals, sergeants and staff sergeants outranked by all commissioned officers.  
**Private:** New soldiers start as a Private although the title may be Gunner, Trooper, Craftsman, Signalman, Patrolman, Sapper or Musician depending on their Corps or Regiment.

**Sapper:** A soldier who performs a variety of military engineering duties such as breaching fortifications, demolitions, bridge-building, laying or clearing minefields, and other field, road and airfield construction and repairs.

**Signalman:** A trade category in use by the Royal Australian Navy, responsible for transmitting and receiving messages, such as flashing lights and flags.

**Sergeant:** The second in command of a platoon of up to 40 soldiers.

**Staff Sergeant:** A senior role combining human and resource management in administration and logistic roles.

**Stoker:** A non-commissioned officer in the Royal Navy who tends the fire for the running of a boiler or to power a steam engine, etc.

## Medals, Awards and Insignia

**The 1914–15 Star Medal:** Created in 1918 and awarded for service in specified ‘theatres of war’ including France, Belgium and Gallipoli between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915.

**The British War Medal 1914–20:** Instituted by King George V in 1919 to mark the end of World War I as a record the service given.

**The Victory Medal:** The Victory Medal was created in 1919 to commemorate the victory of the Allied Forces over the Central Powers. Each of the nations of the Allied Forces issued a Victory Medal to their own nationals.

**Military Medal:** A military decoration awarded to personnel of the British Army and other services, and formerly also to personnel of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land. The award was established in 1916, with retrospective application to 1914, and was awarded to other ranks for ‘acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire’.

**Distinguished Conduct Medal:** An extremely high-level award for bravery. The first official medal award to recognise an act of gallantry in the field by a member of the Allied Forces who was below the rank of officer.

**Overseas Service Chevron:** In January 1918 the AIF approved the wearing of overseas service chevrons (insignia) which had been adopted by the British Army. These blue or red insignia were embroidered, or woven inverted chevrons worn above the right arm cuff of the uniform to indicate each year of war.

**Memorial Plaque and Memorial Scroll:** From December 1918 until the mid-1920s the British Government distributed a commemorative plaque and scroll to families of all British and ‘dominion’ military service personnel whose deaths were attributable to World War I. The next-of-kin nominated on the Service Records received the plaque and scroll upon application to the Army Records Office.

## Other Military Terms

**10th Australian Light Horse Regiment:** Western Australian horseback troops with characteristics of both cavalry and mounted infantry, and the only AIF light horse regiment recruited in Western Australia for World War I. Training occurred at the Guildford Training Camp to the east of Perth, then moved later to Rockingham Training Camp, south of Perth.

**Allied Forces:** In World War I, this referred to the coalition of nations that opposed the Central Powers.

**Armistice:** A truce signed to mark the cessation of hostilities. This refers to the Armistice of Compiègne — the armistice signed by the Allied Forces and Germany (the last remaining nation of the Central Powers), on 11 November 1918 at Compiègne, France, preventing further conflict on the Western Front and bringing an end to World War I.

**Attestation papers:** Papers completed on enlistment that gave person’s next-of-kin, employment details, marital status, age, place of birth, and physical description.

**Australian Imperial Force (AIF):** The AIF was first raised in August 1914 for overseas war service in World War I. It was a separate and purely volunteer army initially with strength of one infantry division and one light horse brigade.

**Australian Provost Corps:** Police Blacksmith's Striker — assistant (often the apprentice) whose job is to swing a large sledgehammer in heavy forging operations at direction of the blacksmith.

**Casualty Clearing Station:** A military medical facility behind the front lines that was used to treat wounded soldiers. Its role was to treat a soldier sufficiently for his return to duty or to enable him to be evacuated to a base hospital.

**Central Powers:** In World War I, this referred to the alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empires and Bulgaria.

**Depot:** A temporary holding arrangement for volunteers pending allocation to a battalion. Whilst most volunteers in Western Australia were placed at Blackboy Hill, others underwent training at depots located in places such as Guildford, the Claremont Showgrounds, Belmont Race Course, Fremantle Barracks, Rockingham, Bunbury and Albany.

**Expeditionary force:** A military force sent to fight in a foreign country.

**Imperial Camel Corp (ICC):** Raised in 1916, the ICC was a camel-mounted, international infantry force that operated in the Middle Eastern and African deserts.

**Power Buzzer:** The name given to the wireless electrical telegraph system used as a communication system (one of the new technology developed during World War I).

**Reconnaissance:** Preliminary military surveying and observation of a region.

**Senior Cadets:** A system of compulsory military training for young men in Australia

**Shell shock:** The psychological disturbance caused by prolonged exposure to shellfire and bombardment

**War Gratuities:** The war gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in World War I for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. This was distinct from any pension.

**Western Front:** A strategically important front line that stretched through France to Belgium for several hundred kilometres.

## Legislative Terms

Prior to 1972, Aboriginal people were still categorised in legislation according to percentage of Aboriginal 'blood'. This subjected Aboriginal people to restrictive laws that excluded them from the wider non-Aboriginal society.

The classifications 'full blood', 'half-caste', 'quarter-caste,' 'quadroon' and 'octoroon' are outdated and inappropriate today.

**Aborigines Act 1905 (WA):** Legislation that defined the determination of Aboriginality, including a 'half-caste' who lives with an Aboriginal wife or husband, 'half-caste' who 'habitually lives or associates with aborigines', and 'half-caste children' whose age apparently does not exceed sixteen years. Under the Act, the Chief Protector became the legal guardian of every Aboriginal and 'half-caste' child under the age of 16 years. The Act also legalised the removal of Aboriginal children from their natural families and encouraged establishment of reserves and missions amongst other restrictive measures. Aboriginal people could be prohibited from certain areas, such as the Perth city area and town centres.

**Aborigines Protection Board:** A board established under the *Aborigines Protection Act 1886* to oversee the welfare of Aboriginal people across Western Australia. The board operated from 1887–1897 before being replaced by the Aborigines Department.

**Aborigines Department:** A department established under the *Aborigines Act 1897* replacing the Aborigines Protection Board. The Department was a sub-department of Treasury with a small staff under the supervision of the Chief Protector of Aborigines. Responsible for Aboriginal welfare from 1897–1909.

**Aborigines and Fisheries Department:** A department that replaced the Aborigines Department and operated from 1909–1920.

**Certificate of Exemption:** Formal exclusion from restrictions of the *Aborigines Act 1905* granted under Section 63 — 'The Minister may issue to any aboriginal or half-caste who, in his opinion, ought not to be subject to this Act, a certificate in writing under his hand that such aboriginal or half-caste is exempt from the provisions of this Act, and

from and after the issue of such certificate such aboriginal or half-caste shall be so exempt accordingly: But any such certificate may be revoked at any time by the Minister, and thereupon this Act shall apply to such aboriginal or half-caste as if no such certificate had been issued.’ That is, if Aboriginal people associated with their extended family who were still subjected to the *Aborigines Act 1905* the Exemption Certificate could be revoked.

**Chief Protector of Aborigines:** A statutory position created under the *Aborigines Act 1897* responsibility for the administration of the Aborigines Department and the operation of the Act. The power of the Chief Protector increased significantly following the passing of the *Aborigines Act 1905*.

**Defence Act 1903 (Cth):** Legislation that allowed the Australian Government to call up ‘unexempted’ males in time of war. A legislative amendment to the *Defence Act 1903* in 1909 prevented persons ‘who were not substantially of European origin or descent’ from serving, restricting Aboriginal people from enlisting in the war.

**Native Administration Act 1936 (WA):** Legislation that broadened the definition of Aboriginality even further and created the classification of quadroon (‘one quarter Aboriginal blood’) however they were not subject to legislation if they were under 21 years and ‘did not associate and live in the manner of natives.’ A non-native could be classified a native by a magistrate.

**Native Administration Act Amendment Act 1954 (No. 60 of 1954) (WA):** A legislative amendment to the *Native Administration Act 1936* granting Aboriginal people exemption from the Act for military service — ‘Natives of the full or less blood who have served in New Guinea or outside the Commonwealth or have for at least six months served in the Commonwealth as a member of the armed forces and have received or are entitled to receive an honourable discharge, are deemed to be no longer a native for purposes of the Act.’

**Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act 1944 (WA):** Legislation that allowed Aboriginal people to apply for a ‘Certificate of Citizenship’ which, if granted, meant the Aboriginal person was no longer considered a ‘native’ in law. They had to prove to a magistrate, among other things, they had adopted ‘the manner and habits of a civilised life’ and ‘did not associate with natives’.

**The White Australia Policy:** A set of policies in Australia’s history which racially discriminated against people of non-Caucasian background. The ‘White Australia’ policy included Acts such as the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*, which restricted ‘non-white’ immigration, and the *Pacific Island Labourers Act 1901*, which led to the deportation of Pacific Islanders working on Australian plantations.

## Medical Terms

**Arteriosclerosis:** The thickening and hardening of the walls of the arteries.

**Bronchitis:** Inflammation of the bronchial tubes in the lungs.

**Bronchopneumonia:** As pneumonia refers to general lung infection, ‘broncho’ affects the bronchi, or air passages in the lungs.

**Buboes:** A generic term for swelling of lymph nodes or blisters associated with infections such as bubonic plague, gonorrhoea, tuberculosis, chancroid or syphilis.

**Catarrh:** Excessive discharge or build-up of mucus in the nose or throat.

**Cerebra spinal meningitis:** An inflammation of the spinal cord that can become infected.

**Colic:** Sharp and strong intestinal or urinary pain that occurs in waves.

**Convalescence:** Time spent recovering from an illness.

**Debility:** A generic term for a range of conditions relating to fatigue and weakness which also included stress related symptoms such as shortness of breath, dizziness, tremor and rapid heartbeat.

**Dengue fever:** A mosquito-carried virus that causes sudden, high fever and severe headaches.

**Dysentery:** An intestinal infection that causes severe diarrhoea and dehydration.

**Enteric Fever:** A potentially fatal illness caused primarily by the *Salmonella enterica* bacteria species. It can be transmitted by either human carrier, unsanitary conditions or contaminated food or water.

**Hammer toe:** A deformity causing a toe to bend or curl downward.

**Hernia:** When an organ is pushed out of place.

**Jaundice:** A yellowing of the skin and eyes. Can indicate a range of serious problems.

**Malaria:** A life-threatening disease that infects red blood cells and is carried by mosquitoes.

**Mumps:** A virus that causes high fever and swelling of the salivary glands.

**Myalgia:** A term for muscle pain. Most commonly caused by overuse, injury or strain, but can also be caused by disease, disorders or medications.

**Myocardial degeneration:** A term covering various degenerative heart conditions.

**Neurasthenia:** An ill-defined medical condition characterised by fatigue, headache, and irritability, associated chiefly with emotional disturbance. Neurasthenia was a common diagnosis during World War I for ‘shell shock’.

**Nile fever:** A virus that causes fever and aches carried by mosquitoes

**Osteosclerosis:** A disorder that is characterised by abnormal hardening of bone.

**Pleurisy:** A painful infection of lung and chest tissue.

**Pneumonic influenza** (‘**Spanish Flu**’): A world-wide epidemic (that did not originate in Spain) caused by influenza viruses that led to between 50 and 100 million deaths worldwide from 1918–19 and severely affected soldiers.

**Pulmonary tuberculosis:** An airborne infection that destroys lung tissue.

**Pyrexia:** High fever.

**Scabies:** A skin infestation caused by mites that causes rashes and intense itching.

**Septic dermatitis:** Highly infected inflammation of the skin.

**Septic leg:** Severe infection of the leg that can cause organ failure and become life-threatening.

**Subphrenic abscess:** The accumulation of pus below the diaphragm caused by infection after surgery, appendicitis, perforated ulcer among other things.

**Synovitis:** Inflammation of certain joints, such as the hips.

**Tachycardia:** Increased heart rate.

**Trench fever:** A louse-transmitted disease causing high fever episodes, severe headaches, and anorexia.

**Trench foot:** Known as ‘immersion foot’ syndrome, it results from feet being wet for too long. Can lead to inability to walk and permanent nerve damage.

## General Terms

**Expiree:** A convict who had served the full length of their sentence.

**Homestead Farms:** Leases for 160 acres of land under conditions specified in the *Land Act 1898*. Homestead Leases would be granted provided the applicants pay a fee of £1 and achieve the improvements stipulated in the Act. These improvements included building a house, fences and land clearing for crops and vineyards.

**Industrial Schools:** Establishments designed for neglected, orphaned and abandoned children, or those that had been convicted of a criminal offence — implemented as the first comprehensive attempt at child welfare legislation in Western Australia following the *Industrial Schools Act 1874*.

**Mentioned in Dispatches:** One whose name appears in an official report written by a superior officer in which his meritorious action in the face of the enemy is described.

**Mustard gas:** A chemical weapon first used in July 1917. The gas remained as a pollutant in the environment, so troops could not stay in trenches. If not treated immediately, blisters would develop into large burns and, if broken and exposed, would promote blood poisoning. Many soldiers would die months later from after effects or suffer permanent lung damage leading to an early death.

**Recognisance:** A conditional obligation that a person enters into before a court.

**Repatriation:** The return of someone to their own country.

**Soldier Settlement Scheme:** Leases of land set aside for soldiers who had served overseas with the Australian Imperial Force or with the British Defence Service. The blocks were available through application.

## Measurements

**1 mile** = 1.6 kilometres

**1 kilometre** = 1,000 metres

**1 metre** = 100 centimetres

**1 hectare** = 2.5 acres

**1 chain** = 20.1 metres

**1 oz (ounce)** = 28.3 grams

**Ton (tonne)** = 1,000 kilograms

## Currency

**1 pound (£)** = 20 shillings (s)

**1 shilling (s)** = 12 pence (p)

## Military and Medical Locations

**Blackboy Hill:** An army training camp situated on the edge of the Darling scarp in Greenmount, used during World War I as the main training ground for Western Australia's contribution to the Australian Imperial Force.

**Claremont Showgrounds:** The grounds commandeered by the AIF for the raising and training of the 44th Battalion. The site was abandoned in favour of Blackboy Hill for the training of subsequent battalion reinforcements.

**Guildford Training Camp:** The grounds utilised by the 10th Light Horse Regiment after undergoing initial training at Blackboy Hill.

**Woodman Point Quarantine Station:** A purpose built isolation facility south of Fremantle built in 1886 to isolate victims of diseases such as 'Smallpox', 'Bubonic Plague' and 'Spanish Flu'.

**Woorooloo Sanatorium:** A hospital established in 1914, 65 kilometres east of Perth for the treatment of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis. It could accommodate up to 300 patients. It was closed in 1969.

## Missions

**Annesfield School:** Established in 1852 in Albany. The school was originally known as the Annesfield Native Institution and Albany School for Aboriginal children. Children were taught reading, writing and arithmetic and later were placed with settler families as servants and labourers. The facility closed in 1872 with the death of its founder Henry Camfield and the children were transferred to the Perth Native and Half-Caste mission.

**New Norcia Mission:** Founded in 1846 by Benedictine missionaries Bishop Dom Rosendo Salvado and Dom José Benito Serra in the Victoria Plains district, 120 kilometres north of Perth.

**Poonindie Native Institution:** Established at Poonindie in South Australia by the Church of England in 1850. Initially run as a training institution for young Aboriginal people from Adelaide schools, it later became a Christian community made up of Aboriginal people from various localities.

**Perth Native and Half-Caste Mission:** Established in 1871 in the grounds adjoining the Anglican Bishops' House in Adelaide Terrace for the education and training of both male and female students who were placed in employment as they grew older. This facility was also known as Bishop Hale's Institution for Native and Half-Caste Children. The male students were transferred to the Swan Orphanage in 1888.

**Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission:** Established in 1886 in Middle Swan for the education and industrial training of boys. It was originally known as the Swan Orphanage. In October of 1888 the male and female inmates of the Half-Caste Mission in Perth were transferred to the location where a separate facility known as the Swan Native and Half-Caste Mission was established. The two institutions ran side by side until 1920 when the mission closed. The Orphanage continued through until 1959 when it was known as Swanleigh.

**Vasse Native and Half-Caste Mission:** Established in the early 1880s on land set aside for Aboriginal people. It was situated in the Vasse region, three miles from the town of Busselton, catering for Aboriginal children who received 'elementary religious teaching' and industrial training. The mission closed around 1897.

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Mitchell Library

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National Library of Australia

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Returned and Services League  
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Shire of Morawa

Springvale Botanical Cemetery

State Library of Queensland

State Library of Victoria

State Library of Western Australia

State Records Office of Western Australia

Steve Wellburn

Swanleigh

South Australian Museum

Victorian Collections, Museums Victoria

Virtual War Memorial,  
Returned and Services League

West Australian Football Commission

Western Australian Museum



‘My grandfather is one of the Aboriginal ANZACs acknowledged in this book. He served at Gallipoli, France and Belgium and was seriously wounded.

The shade of his skin should not have controlled his life and made him a target to be moulded into a society that didn’t fully understand him or appreciate his culture.’

— DIANE BROWN  
Granddaughter of Private Charles Hutchins

# NO LESS WORTHY

ACKNOWLEDGING WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
ABORIGINAL MEN IN WORLD WAR I



Department of  
**Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries**

