# Stonequarry Tournal

DATE: MARCH 1994

VOLUME: 8



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### COMING EVENTS

APRIL 11 GENERAL MEETING - FATRICIA SHEFHARD

- MONUMENUS IN GRAVEYARDS AND CEMETERIES

MAY 7 BARGO SCHOOL 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

AT BARGO SCHOOL

MAY 9 GENERAL MEETING # TED ALDERSON - WORK OF A

STONEMASON

JUNE 13 GENERAL MEETING - SHOW AND TELL

NOTE: HARRY HOARE'S TALK IN MARCH HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO LATER IN THE YEAR.

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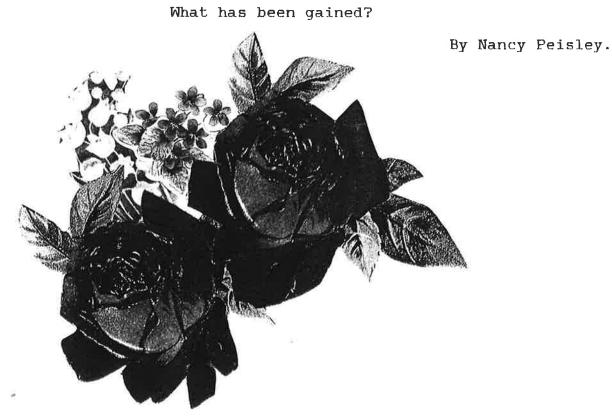
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### WHY IS IT SO?

We call it Anzac Day,
But call it what you may.

It is a day set aside to remember
Not one war but many,
Where nations have fought each other
What for, is it power and greed,
Or the want to possess another.
But when an amistice is signed,
What is left?
Devastation,
Homes without loved ones,
Broken bodies, and bitter thoughts,
And so many tears to shed.

Time passes, until it is repeated again.
Will it ever end?



### FROM THE SOUDAN TO THE TRENCHES OF FRANCE IN WORLD WAR I

In the 1860's, when British Regiments from Australia were sent to serve in New Zealand during the second Maori War, the Australian Colonial Governments saw the need for self-reliance in defence and authorised the formation of volunteer military forces. Within a decade the British Government had pulled out all its Imperial troops from the Colonies, leaving only a Naval presence.

Following the Jervois-Scratchley Report (1877-1884) on Australian Defence, Colonial forces rose from 9,423 in 1884 to 29,010 in 1901. These forces included a large number of volunteers, as well as a nucleus of permanently paid men.

In 1885 a New South Wales Contingent of 734 men (522 infantry, 212 artillerymen, and 200 horses) was sent to serve in the Soudan and became recognised as the first formal involvement in an overseas war by Australian soldiers.

Australian soldiers were also sent to the Boer War in 1899. Among these men were units of the Australian Commonwealth Horse who arrived in South Africa in March 1902. The transfer of State Armed forces to the Commonwealth had taken place in March 1901, and these units were the first time "Commonwealth" troops were raised and sent overseas on war service.

The following profiles are of two men (my husbands great uncles). One served in both the Soudan and the Boer War and was present at the Coronation of King Edward VII. The other was one of the many who served during World War I.

In Peter Stanley's introduction to the book, "But Little Glory - The New South Wales Contingent to the Sudan, 1885", he wrote:

. . . . the events of 1885 were literally only one lifetime away. But the New South Wales contingent seems to belong to a more distant past, one in which men could march off to war in red tunics and anticipate battle as 'the great adventure'. Similar sentiments were, of course, common in 1899 and in 1914, but the chasm of the terrible reality of Gallipoli, the Somme and Ypres separates the more unsophisticated attitudes of 1885 from those of 1985. (1)

### CHARLES HENRY MITCHELL

Charles Henry Mitchell was born in Maitland on 17 July 1857, the eldest son and third child of Charles Mitchell and Mary Anne Agnes McCormick. In 1879 he married Honoria Gertrude O'Brien. His paternal grandfather was an agricultural labourer from Kent who arrived in Australia on the "Westminster" in 1838, along with a brother, a wife and nine children. His maternal great grandmother was a convict girl sent to the colony in 1808 on the ship "Speke". (2)

When Charles Henry Mitchell volunteered for service in the Soudan he was a member of the 4th Administrative Regiment of the New South Wales Voluntry Infantry - Northern Division - 2nd Corps, Maitland.

The Nominal Roll of the NSW Contingent to the Soudan lists Private C. H. Mitchell as INFANTRY - Regiment No. 55; B Company. (3)

The contingent arrived in Suakin on 29 March 1885 and departed home for Australia on 18 May 1885 on the ship "Arab". The campaign lasted a mere 51 days.

In 1900 Charles Mitchell was a member of the First New South Wales Mounted Rifles (Regiment No.41, Squadron "D"), three squadrons of which embarked for South Africa on the transport ship "Southern Cross" in January 1900. He was invalided home, arriving on 24 November 1900. In 1901 he was chosen to be part of the contingent to represent Australia at the Coronation of Edward VII. His obituary in the Maitland Mercury on 14 November 1907 reads:

It was a fitting tribute to the memory of the Charles Henry Mitchell that his late Mr funeral this morning should have been a military one, for there was no keener military enthusiast than he, nor yet a more patriotic son of the Empire. . . . The coffin was borne a gun carriage from the Naval Brigade Headquarters, Newcastle, in charge of Petty Officer Leslie, and was preceded by a firing of 14 consisting men, Colour-Sergeant James, selected from B Company, of which deceased was a member. The coffin was covered by the Union Jack and the Commonwealth on which were placed the deceased's uniform, Coronation bearing his commemorative of the Soudan and South African campaigns, in which he took so much pride, together with his belt and bayonet. . . . .



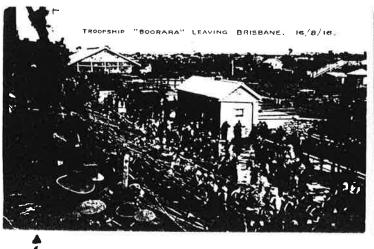
### **VILLIAM HENRY HAMMOND**

William Henry Hammond was born at Inverell in 1874, the son of William Henry Hammond, a carrier, and Mary Ann Byrne.

According to the Central Army Records Office, Corporal William Henry Hammond enlisted in the 1st Australian Imperial Force at Toowoomba, Queensland, on 18 February 1916 and was allotted Army mumbher 1848. He stated on enlistment that he was born in Inverell, New South Wales, and was 41 and 4/12 years of age. His next of kin was his mother Mary Anne Hammond of Goondiwindi, Queensland.

William Henry Hammond embarked at Brisbane, Queensland for service overseas with the 42nd Australian Infantry Battalion per H.M.A.S. transport "Boorara" on 16 August 1916. He served in France and England with the 42nd and 41st Australian Infantry Battalion. He disembarked in Sydney, from England per hired transport, "Themistocles" on 10 August 1919 and was discharged from the 1st Australian Imperial Force in Brisbane on 26 September 1919. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

William Henry Hammond was never married and died in a War Veteran's home in Caboulture, Queensland. The following are copies of items, still treasured by his niece, Ella. They were sent to her mother, Alice (Mrs W. E. Mitchell), by her loving brother William.





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- 2. Field Service Postcard
- Christmas Card from the Front.

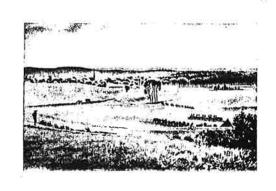
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To My Dear Sister al. with love

From her loving brother Colours 42

17.11.19



### REFERENCES

- (1) Peter Stanley. <u>But Little Glory. The New South Wales contingent to</u>
  <u>the Sudan, 1885.</u> Military History Society of Aust. 1985. p.1
- (2) Barbara Forbes, <u>The Mitchell McCormick Mitchell Wood Story</u>.
  Unpublished Family History Paper, 1985.
- (3) Ralph Sutton. <u>Soldiers of the Queen. War in the Soudan.</u> NSW Military Historical Society & The Royal NSW Regiment, 1985.

### REGINALD (REX) SYDNEY SMITH

Rex's father was a gardener and botanist who worked for Dr Jenkins at what is now known as St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park. He also had a property of several acres at Wilton, and it was here that Rex was born in 1878. After an adequate schooling, supplemented by his mother's teaching from her many books, Rex took about the only employment opportunity open to young men of the time, that of farm labouring.

Rex joined the Picton Half Company of Mounted Rifles prior to 1896 and became a first class shot as well as a more than average horseman. He sailed with "A" Squadron or the Mountd Rifles on 3 November 1899 as Captain Antill's orderly and saw action on 31 occasions, most of them at the side of his Captain. Rex was promoted to corporal before returning to Sydney on 18 January 1901.

He was home little more than a month when he volunteered again and served with the 2nd Mounted Rifles, departing from his home shores on 15 March 1901. He was awarded the Queen Alexandra Pipe for gallantry and distinguished conduct in the field, his citation reading:

For good scouting and conspicuous gallantry, 24 May, 19 August, 30 June, 27 October 1901 and 20 February 1902.

About March 1902, Rex was pomoted to Lieutenant and transferred to the New South Wales Imperial Bushmens. He returned home on 11 August 1902, one of the last of the Wollondilly men to arrive from the war. Whilst serving in South Africa, Rex met Amelia Volkman, the daughter of Colonel Volkman of the Kaiser's Royal Guard. Amelia followed him to Wilton and they were married there on 18 March 1903. They had two children, Ida and Rex junior.

Rex moved his family to Camden and purchased his own horse team, carrying ore between the Yerranderie silver mines and Camden. He later drove coaches for Butlers between Camden and Burragorang Valley. He was very popular with the people on the run as he would go out of his way to make small purchases for them. Amelia died in 1913 and Rex was left to do his work and tend two young children.

At the outbreak of World War I, Rex volunteered and became a Sergeant in the Light Horse. He served on Gallipoli and was badly wounded, subsequently dying of his injuries. He passed away on 19 June 1915.

 $\star$   $\star$   $\star$ 

The above article is an extract from the book 'From Picton to Pretoria. The Forgotten Men of a Forgotten War.' Researched and compiled by Colin Sproule and published by The Oaks Historical Society.

### NORMAN HAROLD WHITFIELD

by Margaret Augusteyn

Norman Harold's birth was registered in Picton, to Florence and Joseph Whitfield. At one stage he attended Thirlmere School.

Following the outbreak of the First World War the call to arms beckoned him and even though slightly under age, he rushed off to enlist. His distraught mother informed the authorities and he was recalled.

It was only a matter of time before he paid a visit to his grandparents, Elizabeth and William Whitfield of Upper Picton, to say goodbye. His young cousin remembers seeing him walking along to the little house. She thought he looked very tall and handome in his uniform, but he hardly noticed her.

I have been told that he fought in Gallipoli and was wounded in the arm. After looking into the war records in Canberra I found he was awarded three Military Crosses and mentioned in dispatches. Norman's Unit was the 5th Pioneer Battalion, 6th Australian Division, 1st Anzac Corps.

In 1916, near Gueudecourt on two occasions as a Lieutenant, he set out communication trenches leading to the front line. He was sniped at continuously by the enemy. As a result of his good sightings, the men were able to succeed in their digging. On another occasion he was in charge of the water supply from the front line to the captured positions. This he maintained under the most trying conditions. Through these actions he showed himself to be "a brave and courageous officer" and was awarded his first M.C.

In September 1917, east of Polygon Wood, Lieutenant Whitfield and his company were wiring the front line. Just as they were to withdraw an SOS signal warned them of trouble. Immediately shooting broke out and there were several casualties, including the Company Commander. The injured men could not gain their own line. Despite heavy fie, Norman went out to give assistance and brought back a badly injured man. He returned to assess for himself that there were no more wounded. Two others had assisted him. It was said, "Lieutenant Whitfield showed the greatest coolness and disregard of personal danger." For this he received a bar to the M.C.

In 1918 near Bullecourt, Norman led his company on urgent forward road work. His coolness and example were said to be responsible fo their initial success. Later, in dense fog and under heavy machine gun fire, he took forward a portion of his platoon and drove the enemy from the northern portion of Bullecourt, thereby allowing the road to go through. Later on, he organised a party to disperse the enemy. His courage, initiative, example and devotion to duty were largely responsible for getting the road through. For this he received another bar to his M.C. He returned from the war to a very proud and grateful family. However, he had not escaped the terrible effects of the dreaded mustard gas.

Ironically, after being exposed to so much danger, his life ended tragically in a train accident in the 1950's, but his memory lives on.

### COLIN KELSO

### 24 MARCH 1919 - 4 APRIL 1972

by his daughter, Dianne Irwin

Colin of Chipping Norton, the only son of William and Beatrice Kelso, enlisted on 13 February 1940 in the RAAF just before his 21st Birthday. His first posting was to Laverton, from there he went to The Central Flying School, Camden where he became a Flight Mechanic.

Colin married on 27 July 1940 to Elsie F R Ryan at the Soldiers Memorial Church, Cabramatta.

RAAF Headquarters, Bankstown was his next posting and then to Williamtown where he was posted to 457 Squadron which at the time had 87 members. They left Australia on 7 August 1941 for the United Kingdom for training on SPITFIRE MK1'S at Jurly, Isle-of-Man.

In March 1942 the Squadron moved to Redhill airfield, Surrey. They moved by train to Liverpool and embarked on the Liner 'Stirling Castle', calling in at Freeton, Durban, Mauitius and arriving in Melbourne 13 August 1942. They were granted 14 days leave and then reported to Richmond RAAF base.

On 25 July 1942 Squadron Leader K James made the first flight of a Spitfire in Australia, Colin Kelso was his flight mechanic.

Back to Camden in November, before part of the Squadron boarded 'M V Maetsuycker' at Glebe Island arriving in Darwin 25 January 1943. A small number of personnel flew to Batchelor N.T. The Spitfires left Camden 16 January 1943, flew via Mildura, Oodnadalla, Alice Springs, Daly Waters and Batchelor and their permanent home, Livingstone Airstrip. The Squadron saw constant action in defence of Darwin until September 1943.

In April 1944 Colin was posted to Bradfield Park Depot, then to Point Cook. He spent his last days in the RAAF at 2 Personnel Depot, Bradfield Park and was discharged on 1 November 1945.



References: These Eagles Victory Roll

Service Record RAAF

Certificate of Service and Discharge

A Brief History of 457 Squadron, RAAF Historical Section

Spitfire Over Australia

### FRANK ROBERT BAKER

The following article has been extracted from the written memoirs of Frank Baker of Picton who served in Vietnam in 1966/67 as a Regular Soldier.

In the April of 1961, my friend Arthur Richardson (formerly of Rockford Road, Tahmoor) and I were out work at the great old age of 17. He suggested that should try to join the Army. I agreed, knowing full well that if we were successful my father would not sign the required documents, I thought. Ater going to Pitt Street Sydney and inquiring about joining we were to come back at a later date which we did. We sat for various exams and had a full medical. At the end of the day we were both told to "go home and don't call us we would call you." Knowing in my heart that I would not get in because I did not have a good education, commenced a new job in Bargo on a poultry farm. two or three weeks later, guess what? My call up date, it was to be the 18th of July. Guess what again, not only did my father sign the required papers but my mate failed to get in. On 18 July 1961 I swore allegiance to Queen and country to serve both for six years.

Frank did his basic training at Kapooka, Wagga Wagga followed by infantry training at Ingleburn. He was then posted to Holdsworthy where he was attached to the Rocket Launching Team, First Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Not happy being in that Team, he applied for and was accepted into the Band.

I was stationed at 1 R.A.R. for two and a half years where I was taught music and the art of Corp drumming plus having the privilege of learning how to play all brass instruments. At that time in the army all musicians were taught advanced first aid and would be required to be stretcher bearers in war time.

Wanting to see more of Australia, Frank transferred to 4 R.A.R. in Woodside, S.A. During the 11 months he was there he also attended jungle training in Queensland. The Battalion was preparing to go to Malaya for two years and for Frank to go with them, he had to sign on for another three years. However, Australia's involvement in Vietnam was beginning to esculate and Frank was sent to 2 Recruit Training Centre at Puckapunyal, Victoria.

I then requested to come back to NSW as a musician and was posted to 5 R.A.R. at Holdsworthy. 1 R.A.R., my old Unit, had left Gallipoli Barracks for Vietnam and 5 Battalion was being formed out of the first lot of trained Nashoes (National Servicemen) and Regular Army men.

Again I became part of the Band which did very little work in the musical side. This was serious stuff, my Battalion was going to war. Most of the musicians' time was spent with the allotted Rifle Platoons with which we would be spending the next 12 months in Vietnam, serving them as Platoon Medics.

When I look back I am amazed at the frame of mind we went to war in. I don't think anyone in our position at

the time ever considered that we might be killed. The thought was deep in our subconscious but never allowed to be brought to our conscious state and dwelt on. In this situation I think, facing the unknown, a strange country, a different culture, to know that you had to kill or be killed and to be away from loved ones, our emotions were all over the place. It was exciting yet terrifying, but there we were fully trained and ready to go.

Frank's introduction to Vietnam was the sight of coffins waiting to be loaded onto an American plane for the dead soldiers return home and a ride in a bus with wire mesh in place of windows to avoid the vietcong throwing hand grenades into the troops. After a short period of acclimatisation, the soldiers were considered ready for action.

We were to go to Phuc Tuoy Province and make our permanent base camp from where we would start our search and destroy operations and to constantly send out area patrols or T.A.O.R. patrols (Tactical Area of Responsibility) to keep the enemy from getting too close to us and doing away with By our presence we were able to deter the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong from taking taxes and killing people and generally upsetting the local villages. So off we flew on our first operation, nicknamed Hardihood, American helicopters. The idea was to clear the the area around Nui Dat and dig in. The Op took about three weeks and we had secured the area. Sadly on that operation first National Serviceman was killed in action, a Private Noack, it was a very sobering time for us all. I think up till then, it seemed just like an exercise back at home where we were only playing soldiers. That op was my first taste of a two way rifle range. I didn't mind a one way range but when they started coming my way for the first time, I was absolutely terrified. All of my past training came into being in a flash. I hid behind a bamboo tree hugging the ground like I never hugged Mother Earth before while the bullets zinged over my head cutting the leaves about me. Thankfully that little skirmish didn't last That was the action that we lost Private Noack he was shot and I believe he died on the way to hospital in the medi-vac chopper. I think that day many boys became After operation Hardihood we set up base around the little hill, Nui Dat, which later on became the Australian Task Force area.

One of the problems I always had to be on the lookout for was Tinea, foot sloggers (Infantrymen) can't get too far without their feet. Again, after four or five days at a time in the same socks, after being constantly wet, then dry, then wet, etc., your feet absolutely stink. The colour came out of the socks onto your feet and every foot looked like a purple green prune. What a mess. Usually when the rations were dropped in by chopper we would get a sock drop as well but not always. After being out bush for a while new socks were something to look forward to so every night it was my job to check smelly feet and treat what I found wrong. You will be pleased to know that I never had to amputate.

The whole problem about the Vietnam war was you never ever

### ROLL OF HONOR

ANTILL. J M BATEUP. A.A. BLACKWOOD. J.

### 1914-1919

ARGAL. F. ASHFORD. A. CAMPBELL. W. COOPER. C.J.\*
JOHNSON. J.A. LEACH. E.A. PADDOCK. W.

STUARTSON. W.

BOER WAR 1899-1902 THORNTON. G.
(includes men from WHITTICASE. F.
The Oaks & WOODS. G.
Burragorang) WOODROFFE. A. Sgt WOODROFFE. A. Sgt.

# THIRLMERE SCHOOL

# 1914-1919

WHITFIELD. N.

### PICTON SCHOOL

### 1914-1919

ANTILL. J.M.
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BARNES. R.
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BLUMER. C.H. HOLMES. H.

JENKINS. H. KELSO. C.\* LITTLE.W. LITTLE. C. McGREGOR. L. McGREGOR. P. McGREGOR. P. McGREGOR. A. BLACKWOOD. J. 1914-1919 McQUIGIN. A.J.
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SELL. H.Y.
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PARRY. Nurse PARRY. Nurse
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HACKNEY. H. Driver HACKNEY. H. Driver

PICTON SCHOOL OF ARTS

1939-1945

ARMSTRONG. C. ASKILDSON. R. BAILEY. R.T.

PURCELL. L.

STINSON. McKINNON. I. BAKER. J. ★  $J_{*}$ BATTY. REX. McRAE. H. BAXTER. E.\* MALCOLM. I. BUXTON BAXTER. J. MAYNARD. S. BAXTER. L. \* MEREDITH. W. 1939-1945 BENTLEY. H.V. MOROGHAN. K. BILLINGTON. J. MURPHY. B. A.I.F. MURPHY. P. BOLLARD. G.J. BOLLARD. W. NASH. J. BEST. E. BROOKES. R. EASTLAKE, F. NEW. O. NICHOLSON. F. BROWN. G. HICK. A. BROWN. H. HICK. L. NOLAN. R. BROWN. K. JOHNSON. D. NORTH. F. BROWN. V. NORTH. H. ★ BROWN. W.F. R.A.A.F. O'CONNOR. R. OLSEN. J.N. BUCKLEY. C. PARKER. C. PARMENTER. B. BUCKLEY. E. DAVIDSON. R. CARTER. C.E. HICK. A. CARTER. G. PENNY. W.N. WARNER. A. CHANDLER. R. CHEETHAM. R. PENNY. J. PIKE. H. W.A.A.A.F. CHIDDY. W. POTTIE. H.A. CRACKNELL. F. PRIOR. C.W. DAVIDSON. H. DOWSE, R. PRIOR. D.P. GREETHAM G. DREDGE. E. RAY. J. DUNK. J.N. RISBY. L.\* TAHMOOR DUNK. M. RUTTER. S. EAGLES. A. SCOTT. H. 1939-1945 FARRELL. F. SELL. E.C. GASSON. A.B. SHELLDRAKE. K. ALLSOPP. R. ALLSOPP. F. GIBSON. N. SHIELS. B. GILLETT. L. \* SMITH. C. ASTLEY. L. SMITH. W.G. ASTLEY. W. GILLETT. R. GRAHAM. T. TICKNER. V. ATTWOOLL. F. GRAHAME. S.V. TODD. W. CHILDS. R. DAVIS. A. GWYN. A. TRINKS. E.C. TURNER. H.R. GWYN. T.P. DAVIS. B. HADDON. S. TURNER. J. DERRICK. F. HAMILTON. W.G. DEVRELL. W. VINE. R. HARVEY. L. VINE. W.B. DOUST. S. WALSH. R. DUNSMORE. D. HILL. A.R. HILL. L.E. WARE. J. DYMOND. R. HILL. M. WILKINSON. K. EARLY. W. GARRICK. L. HINES. A. WOOD. H.J. GARRICK. C. HUGHES. J. WOODS. A.S. HALLOP. C. HULL. E.S. WOODS. G.A. HALLS. D. ISBERG. F. SERVICE WOMEN HALLS. R. JEFFERY. B. JEFFERY. R. HILLIER. R. JORDAN. W. APPS. R. JEFFERY. W. LITTLEWOOD. H. KENNY. R.H. BROOKES. B. KING. K. BROWN. D. McDONALD. B. LINDSAY. R.C. CHEETHAM. L. MILLER. C. GWYN. R. OSBORNE. C. LOWE. L.E. LOWE. R. HAYWARD. L.A. PERRY. R. McDONALD. E. POTTER. J. LYNCH. M. McDONALD. E.V. McKENZIE. I. ROBERTS. M. McGREGOR. S. ROBERTSON. S. McLACHLAN. W. McGUIRE. F. MILNE, A. SAVILLE. N. NICHOLSON. M. SEEKOLD. V. McINNES. K. SHELLDRAKE. G. WHITFIELD. T. McINNES. R.

STINSON. I.

McKENZIE. R.

WILD. O.

SERVICE WOMEN

BARRETT. N. CREWDSON. D. KNIGHT. R. VAN DRAGT. M. WILD. D.

### VIETNAM

John Ashton
Frank Baker
Graham Chalker
Tom Crossman
Michael Fairfax
David Fratus
Ralph Mitchell
Les Payne
John Peachey
Jeff Scobie
Jeff Styles
Ray Sutton
Ian Thomson\*

### \* Denotes Killed in Action.

The preceding list of those who served Australia in the various wars is undoubtedly incomplete. A list of men killed in action during the First World War, recently published in the Telegraph Mirror, gave the following names which are not inlouded on any of the Rolls of Honour:

CLOUGH. Walter (Razorback)
CROTHERS. James (Razorback)
GRUNDY. Leslie J C (via Piton)
JONES. James B (Upper Bargo)
LARKIN. William J (Picton)
RYAN. Patrick (Picton)

Some names are duplicated on the School and School of Arts Rolls.

The names of those who served in the Second World War from Tahmoor were printed in the Picton Post of 18 March 1946.

It is not known at this time whether any local men served in the Korean War (1950-1953) or Malaya and Borneo conflicts.

No Roll of Honour exists for those who served in Vietnam. The names were obtained through the research of Marlane Fairfax.

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### PERSONAL DOSSIERS OF EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

Inquiries should be directed to the following organisations giving name, service number, unit or ship and any other information you may have. It is a requirement to provide grouf of relationship to an ex-member, reason for inquiry and whether the ex-member is deceased.

NAVY:

The Secretary,
Department of Defence (Navy Office)

Russell Offices CANBERRA ACT 2600

AIR FORCE:

DGPS Records

Department of Defence

Russell Offices CANBERRA ACT 2600

MERCHANT NAVY:

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Manager, Marine Crews

PO Box 1108

BELCONNEN ACT

ARMY:

WORLD WAR I

1st AIF Records Unit Australian Archives

PO Box 117

MITCHELL ACT 2911

WORLD WAR II AND AFTER

General Inquiries Section

CARO/SCMA

360 St Kilda Road MELBOURNE VIC 3004

VIETNAM CITATIONS

Army Office

Attn: Allan Oakes

DAAPA G - 3 - 49

RUSSELL OFFICES ACT 2600

### MEDALS

Inquiries relating to request for medal entitlement and confirmation of the original issue of medals for the Navy, Air Force and Merchant Navy should be directed to the above addresses. Army medal inquiries should be directed to Medals Section, CARO/SCMA, 360 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004.

### WAR GRAVES

For details of the place of burial (or in the case of those with no known grave the place of commemoration), write to:

> Office of Australian War Graves PO Box 21, Woden ACT 2606.

### ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?

Alfred Ernest Albert PEELL.
Born c. 1868.
Place Victoria. Australia.
Occupation. Tailor.
Married. 3-10-1895.
Where. Baptist Church. in the study.
41 Elizabeth St., Sydney.
Father. Edmund Henry PEELL.
Mother. Anna BREEZE.

Lydia TAYLOR.
Born 29-11-1871.
Place. Stoney Creek. Greet Western Railway Line.
near Bathurst, N.S.W.
Occupation. Saleslady.
Married. 3-10-1895.
To. Alfred. E. A, PEELL.
Father. Charles Arundale TAYLOR.
Mother. Susannah TAYLOR.

CHILDREN.
Florence --- born 1876. died --- 1876. Queensland.
Thomas Henry born --- 26-7-1900. Queensland.
John Arundale --- born --- 20-6-1902. Queensland.
Frank Stanley --- born --- 10-9-1904. Queensland.

Any information would be gratefully received.

Mrs. M. Mecham. 8/69 Ninth Ave., Campsie. 2194. Phone 7184935.

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CHUR. WISEMANS FERRY a PAUL'S Rds MARMITASH

26" JUNIE 1994

FURTHUR DETAILS
WHAR SMITH
LECHHARDT ST
LATOR PARK ALLY

gam onwards -



knew who was your enemy.

...one night in an ambush around Baria, the local hairdresser was captured. In the day he would cut our hair and shave us and at night, he would try and cut our throats. Nice fellow.

The next experience I will never ever forget. ...a section of the platoon had left us and I had gone out to the outside perimeter on another hot day to watch for enemy. must have dozed off because for a little while I remember being very tired and the section that had gone out on a recc had been gone for some hours. Anyway, after my little doze off, I looked up and out in front of me to see two figures standing near a tree, one person was getting a light from the other person's cigarette. I went cold all I picked up my Owen machine carbine and was aiming it at these enemy soldiers but I could not pull the trigger. The Platoon Sergeant came up and said "what it?" I quickly pointed out the two men, and he was just about to fire his 7.62 when he stopped and said "I think they're ours". When I had realised I had nearly killed two of my own men I felt violently sick. What had happened, the Section had finished its patrol and instead of coming right to the original perimeter they had gone further and not come to tell us they were back in. I know that if killed those young men who were 19-20 year soldiers, I would have been absolutely no good anything. My mother and father were both Christian people who belonged to the local Baptist Church who for the time I was in Vietnam were praying for my safety. When I look back on that year I see that every time my Company was in a major fire fight I was never there. I was either on R & R or on R & C.

There is much more to write but there are some things that are better left untold and I am sure I could go on writing. I will finish up by saying that in April 1967 we were taken from Nui Dat by Chinnook helicopter to the old rust bucket (H.M.A.S. Sydney) very thankful seasoned diggers. We were very pleased that we would see Australia again after being away 12 months 3 days. After taking 12 days to reach home we finished up in Sydney where we marched through the streets of that city to a heroes welcome. The ticker tape came down like snow from Martin Plaza and then we were off for six weeks holidays. I was met by my mother and father and sister at the wharf and after the march we were off home. On the way, the first stop at Liverpool was for a real milkshake. It tasted absolutely delicious.

It didn't take very long to settle back into life in Australia. On the 17 July 1967 I was discharged from the Army as a full Corporal having earnt my stripes in the field.

### PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

### PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY: \$7.50 PEEPS AT PICTON'S PAST by F B Knox 2.00 MEMBERS INTEREST DIRECTORY 10.50 BARGO GENERAL CEMETERY TRANSCRIPT 20.00 UPPER PICTON GENERAL CEMETERY TRANSCRIPT REDBANK UNITING (FORMERLY WESLYAN) GRAVEYARD TRANSCRIPT 10.50 ST MARK'S ANGLICAN PICTON GRAVEYARD TRANSCRIPT 15.50 20.00 THIRLMERE GENERAL CEMETERY TRANSCRIPT COACH HOUSE CHRONICLES 5.00 NO. 1 RAILWAY PRECINCT RAMBLE (Picton) by Jan Ross NO. 2 WILTON-EAST BARGO. A Brief History by Pat Shephard 3.00 NO. 3 LIEUT. GENERAL SIR THOMAS PICTON K.G.C.B. 2.00 by Cynthia Collison 2.00 NO. 4 VAULT HILL (Picton) by Jan Ross 4.00 NO. 5 HARMONY HOME (Picton-Thirlmere) by Jan Ross NO. 6 IT HAS NO DEFINITE NAME - A POSTAL HISTORY OF 2.00 TAHMOOR 1892-1916, by Marlane Fairfax NO. 7 ANTONIO MANOLIS, THE FIRST GREEK & ATHENIAN 2.00 BORN SETTLER IN NSW, by Jan Ross 2.00 NO. 8 PICTON COURT HOUSE & LOCK UP, by Jan Ross NO. 9 ST MARY'S TOWERS - DOUGLAS PARK. NEPEAN TOWERS -WILTON, EAST BARGO. PARK HALL - EAST BARGO. 5.00 by Patricia Shephard OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE: 5.00 THIRLMERE PUBLIC SCHOOL 1888-1988 HISTORY OF THE FORBIDDEN LAND - Wollondilly Shire Council 5.00 THE TRAIL BOSS. THE FAIRLEY FAMILY AND 12.00 PICTON HISTORY, by Joan Brown 8.00

CHRONICLES OF APPIN NSW, by Syd Percival