

Honour Roll 1914 - 1918

Department of Crown Lands and Survey &
Office of Titles



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We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



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Preface

A century on from the First World War, we're still uncovering stories to tell which help us all to better understand this horrific event and the impact it had on so many. This collection explores 127 men from the Department of Crown Lands and Survey and the Office of Titles who served in the Australian Imperial Force and the British Army during the First World War. Some of their names are familiar to us, either from Roll of Honour boards or from their work at the Department. Others will be new.

In this collection, you'll find the names of decorated commanders, famous battalions, and infamous battles. You'll also find stories of great courage, sacrifice, remembrance of mates, and the quiet attention to duty. These young men, whatever their background, war service, or post war lives, deserve our remembrance not only for what they did, but for who they were: ordinary young men who volunteered to serve their country in extreme circumstances. This collection tells us more than the stories of their war service. It places them in their context: fellow public servants, Victorians, loved members of families and communities, people.

As Chief Executive of Land Use Victoria, I'm proud of the dedicated research and care that has gone into telling the stories of these men. I hope you find this collection to be informative and engaging, and a fitting tribute to our predecessors.

Ian Ireson

Chief Executive, Land Use Victoria



Introduction

The Department of Crown Lands and Survey¹ was established in 1857, when the Office of the Surveyor-General Victoria and the Department of Crown Lands were amalgamated under the Board of Works. The Office of Titles opened in 1862, when the Torrens title system was introduced into Victoria from South Australia as a controversial reform.

The Lands Department had a broad remit, with responsibility for the survey, mapping, and administration of Crown Lands; assisted migration to Victoria, vermin and noxious weed control, the Royal Botanic Gardens, cemeteries, soldier settlements, and briefly, Aboriginal people. The Departments employed staff across a range of professional, clerical, and general roles, selected via the Public Service Examination. In 1913, the Lands Department employed 643 people; 288 temporary and 355 permanents. Staff at the Titles Office included legal examiners, clerks, draftsmen, surveyors and messengers.

Australians greeted the outbreak of the war in August 1914 with mass enthusiasm. Overall, some 400,000 men in Australia would enlist for service in the First World War, from a population of nearly 5 million people. The Australian Imperial Forces would fight from tropical heat of German New Guinea, to sands of the Middle East, the mud of the Western Front, and into the frigid post-war Russian campaign. Despite two bitterly contested referendums, Australia never enacted conscription during the war, leaving it one of only three belligerent nations to rely on an all-volunteer force.² Over 60,000 men were killed during the war and some 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.³ Nearly a quarter of all men killed during the war came from Victoria.⁴

Lands Department and Titles Office staff began enlisting within weeks of the outbreak of war. They would continue to enlist throughout 1915, with 27 men enlisting in July alone. By 1916, recruitment numbers began to drop, echoing the national trend as the horrific reality of the war became clear. By the war's end in November 1918, at least 98 men from the Lands Department and 29 men from the Titles Office had enlisted. Thirty-seven men would lose their lives to the war: either directly in combat, or succumbing to their wounds, or by illness. Others who returned home had their lives cut short by the physical and psychological effects of their service. Many were able to reintegrate to their lives, while some could not.

This report is a partial accounting of some of the experiences of the 127 identified men. While the Titles Office was not a part of the Lands Department at the time of the war, they have been included to reflect their position in the current Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. As temporary staff were not included in census reports and Titles Office staff not distinguished from the greater Law Department cohort, some men will have been missed. These stories have been reconstructed from publicly available records and databases, including their service records, the collection of the Australian War Memorial, and digitised newspapers. Birth, marriage and death dates, unless otherwise attributed, are from the Birth, Deaths, and Marriages records of Victoria. These men have been identified through a range of sources, including the Victorian Public Service Commissioner Reports 1914-1918; the Surveyor-General Victoria Honour Roll; the Victoria Government Gazette; and *Safe as Houses: the history of the Victorian Land Titles Office* by Robin Grow.

Any mistakes in attribution, interpretation or recording are that of the author.

¹ [NLA](#)

² [AWM](#)

³ [AWM](#)

⁴ [Shrine of Remembrance](#)

Glossary

AIF	Australian Imperial Force
AWM	Australian War Memorial
ABD	Australian Dictionary of Biography
BEF	British Expeditionary Forces
CWGC	Commonwealth War Graves Commission
DA	Discovering ANZACs
HMAT	His Majesty's Australian Transport
HMT	Hired Military Transport
MEF	Mediterranean Expeditionary Force
NLA	National Library of Australia
OA	Obituaries Australia
PROV	Public Record Office Victoria
RSL	Returned and Services League
VGG	Victorian Government Gazette
VWMA	Virtual War Memorial Australia

1914

Henry Bowen Walters

Henry was born on 3 March 1874 in South Melbourne to Agnes (née McInnes) and William Walters. He was their seventh child and fifth son. An older sister died in infancy and an older brother died as a young man. He was privately tutored. In 1904 he married Florence Emily Bowden; they had three daughters. He joined the Lands Department as a draughtsman in February 1902,⁵ and was a qualified architect and surveyor.

In 1909 he joined the nascent Australian Army and worked his way up through the ranks. He was promoted to Captain in April 1911. In 1912 he was appointed a Survey Officer for the Royal Australian Engineers.

With the outbreak of the First World War, Henry was seconded to the 48th Infantry Battalion in the newly formed AIF. He was promoted to Major in May 1915 and joined the new Tropical Force in October. He was sent to German New Guinea in January 1916, where he was promoted to temporary District Officer and Officer Commanding the Madang Garrison. In June 1916 he was sent to Australia with malaria. He was medically retired in January 1917, but in February was appointed the Commanding Officer of the troopship Morea for its voyage to Suez. He returned to Australia on the Bulla as its temporary Commanding Officer in July 1917. He remained with the Army on administrative duties until April 1919 when he resumed duties with the 29th Battalion.⁶

Henry resumed working with the Lands Department after the war. In April 1923 he resigned as the Comptroller of Buildings on the Close Settlement Branch.⁷

Henry died in Sandringham in 1955 at 81 years old.



⁵ VGG

⁶ NAA

⁷ VGG

James Prentice Cormack

Jim was born in 1893 in North Carlton to Catherine (née Prentice) and James Cormack. He was the second son and sixth child of seven in a Presbyterian family. He attended Princes Hill State School and Melbourne High School, where he was a cadet.⁸ He had taught at the South Brunswick State School.⁹ He joined the Lands Department in October 1911 as a clerk in the Immigration branch.¹⁰

Jim enlisted on 17 August 1914, just shy of 21 years old. He was allocated to the 7th Infantry Battalion and left Australia for Egypt in October 1914. When the Battalion landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 he was shot in the chest and leg. Although he was evacuated to Egypt his condition deteriorated.

Jim died of his wounds on 14 June 1915 at 21 years of age.¹¹ Jim was buried at the Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. His headstone reads: 'He honoured the work'.¹²



VWMA



⁸ [VWMA](#)

⁹ [Trove](#)

¹⁰ [VGG](#)

¹¹ [NAA](#)

¹² [CWGC](#)

Harold Arthur Fleming

Harold was born in 1892 in Collingwood to Emily Eliza (née Bowen) and William Fleming. He was the second son of their five children. The family was Methodist and lived in Malvern. Harold attended Wesley College, where he was a senior cadet and a keen athlete,¹³ rower,¹⁴ and excelled academically.¹⁵ After finishing school, he was a member of the Albert Park Rowing Club.¹⁶ He joined the Lands Department in 1910 as a four-year surveying apprentice with the Surveyor-General of Victoria.

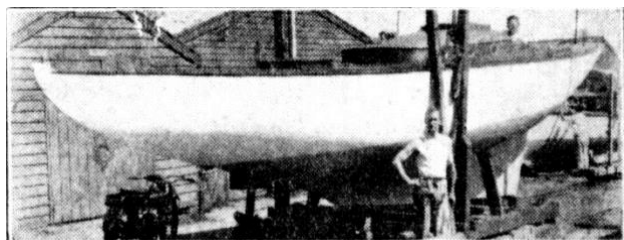


Trove

Harold enlisted on 17 August 1914 at the age of 22. He was allocated to the 5th Infantry Battalion and left for Egypt on the HMAT *Orvieto* in October 1914. He served at Gallipoli, where he was likely part of the landing on 25 April 1915. While at Gallipoli he distinguished himself and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. In September 1915 he was medically evacuated to England for illness.

By November 1915 he had recovered; he remained in England before joining his unit in France in June 1916. On 25 July 1916 at the Battle of Pozières he was wounded in action. Shot in the knee and leg and seriously ill, he was medically evacuated to England. He married Georgiana Phyllis Griffiths in March 1917, and in April his leg was amputated. After his recovery, he was transferred to the Military Advisers' staff in London where he served for the remainder of the war. After the Armistice, he sailed for Australia via Vancouver, Canada, arriving in Australia in January 1919.¹⁷

Georgiana and their infant son followed Harold to Australia. Their son died after their arrival.¹⁸ They later had two daughters.



Harold returned to the Lands Department as a draughtsman in 1921.¹⁹ In 1924 he started single-handedly building a yacht, a cherished boyhood dream. The *Sonia* was completed in 1928.²⁰

After his wife's death, he married Irene Norah Jones in 1943.

Trove

Harold died in 1971 in Heidelberg, at the age of 79.

His younger brother Wilfred also served and returned to Australia.



¹³ Trove

¹⁴ Trove

¹⁵ Trove

¹⁶ Trove

¹⁷ NAA

¹⁸ Trove

¹⁹ VGG

²⁰ Trove

Louis Edwin Trawin

Lou was born in 1895 in South Melbourne to Nora Kathleen (née Dagon) and James Trawin. He had two sisters. The family were Anglican and lived in Footscray. He had held the rank of Lieutenant as a Senior Cadet at State School. He passed both the telegraph messengers' exam and the public service exam. He joined the Lands Department as a clerk in October 1911.²¹ In December 1913 he passed the intermediate exam for the Victorian Institute of Accountants.²²

Lou enlisted on 17 August 1914, just after his 19th birthday. His colleagues at the Department presented him with gifts before his departure.²³ He was allocated to the 7th Battalion and left Australia for Egypt in October 1914. He was promoted Sergeant before the landing at Gallipoli; he was wounded that day with a gunshot wound to the hand. He was medically evacuated to England and returned to Gallipoli in September. He was promoted through the ranks and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in March 1916 and the same month left for France. He was again wounded in action with a gunshot wound to the leg on 29 July 1916 and returned to England for medical treatment. He attended Signals School in England and was promoted to Lieutenant in January 1917. He returned to France in June 1917 and was wounded in action with a gunshot wound to the right leg on 20 September 1917. He was taken to hospital in England and was discharged to prepare to return to the front in December 1917.

Lou went absent from his brigade in December. He returned in January 1918 and was court-martialled and refused to explain his absence. He was dismissed from service and returned to Australia in April. His case was reviewed by an Australian Medical Board review in August; they found that his absence was due to a combat stress reaction outside of his control rather than an intention to leave.²⁴

Lou died in the Spanish Flu epidemic in April 1919. He was 23 years old. He is buried at the Coburg Cemetery.



²¹ [VGG](#)

²² [Trove](#)

²³ [Trove](#)

²⁴ [NAA](#)

Frank Davidson Smith

Frank was born on 8 October 1894 in Clifton Hill to Margaret Harriet (née Muir) and Thomas Smith. The family was Presbyterian. He studied technical subjects in school before passing the State Public Service Exam. In January 1912 he joined the Titles Office as a Trainee Draftsman.²⁵

Frank enlisted on 19 August 1914, aged 19. He was allocated to the 4th Battery, Australian Field Artillery and left Australia in October. He served at Gallipoli and was evacuated for bronchitis in November. He left for France in March 1916 and by February 1917 had been selected for Office Training School in England. He was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in June and sent to the 1st Divisional Artillery Column in July. On 4 August 1917 he was shot through the right knee joint and medically evacuated back to England. While in England, he was promoted to Lieutenant and selected for a respite return to Australia in December. His appointment was terminated during the voyage due to his knee injury.

In July 1918 he married Gertrude Mary Sinclair. He had re-enlisted in the army and immediately left again for Europe. He served in an administrative capacity with the AIF until his discharge on return to Australia in March 1919.²⁶

Frank returned to the Titles Office after the war. Frank and Gertrude had a son and a daughter. In September 1945 he was appointed Assistant Registrar of Titles.²⁷

Frank died in Mornington in 1968, aged 73 years.



²⁵ VGG

²⁶ NAA

²⁷ VGG

Eric Leigh Iredale

Eric was born in Mildura in 1895 to Lucy Ada (née Lormer) and Leander Howlett Iredale. He was the first son and third born of their five children. The family were Methodist and lived in Mildura. He joined the Lands Department as a pupil surveyor in 1912 and spent two years with drafting before he commenced field work in 1914.²⁸

Eric enlisted on 16 September 1914 at 19 years old. He was allocated to the 5th Infantry Battalion, and left Melbourne on the HMAT *Orvieto* on 21 October. On the voyage, one of the escorting warships sunk a German cruiser and German prisoners were taken on board. He was placed in charge of a German Prince.²⁹ The Battalion landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 as part of the second wave. Eric was wounded in action before 4 May and was evacuated to Lemnos for treatment. He returned to his unit in June.

On 4 December 1915, he was shot in the right thigh. The wound was severe and caused a compound fracture and sepsis. He was medically evacuated to the 21st General Hospital in Alexandria and remained in hospital until May 1916. In July he embarked on the *Karoola*, a hospital ship. He arrived in Melbourne in August and was discharged as medically unfit in November 1916. In January 1917 he was granted a pension.³⁰

In 1920 Eric started studying engineering at the University of Melbourne on a Returned Soldiers' Scholarship.³¹ He passed his third year in Civil Engineering in 1922.³²

Eric died on 25 January 1923 at the Caulfield Military Hospital from unspecified causes relating to his war service. He was 28 years old and is buried at the Burwood Cemetery.³³

Eric's younger brother Lormer also served and returned home.



²⁸ [Trove](#)

²⁹ [Trove](#)

³⁰ [NAA](#)

³¹ [Trove](#)

³² [Trove](#)

³³ [Trove](#)

Rupert Henry Berry

Rupert was born in Brunswick to Selina (née Rosewarne) and James George Berry. He was the second son and middle child. The family were Anglican and lived at Elsternwick. He joined the Lands Department as a clerk in April 1912.³⁴

Rupert enlisted on 17 September 1914 at the age of 20. He joined the 14th Battalion, and his co-workers presented him with a wristwatch and smokers' outfit before his departure.³⁵ He proceeded to Egypt, joining the Mediterranean Expeditionary Forces on 12 April 1915 in preparation for the Gallipoli campaign. He served at Gallipoli, where he was wounded on 8 August 1915 with a gunshot wound to the right arm and a fractured back.

It was a severe injury, and he was evacuated to England for medical treatment. He remained there through to the end of 1915, and in March 1916 he returned to join his unit in Egypt. He was admitted to hospital twice again before returning to the divisional depot in June 1916.

The unit went to England in August 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Forces. He proceeded to France in January 1917 and was promoted to Corporal and Acting Sergeant. He was reported wounded in action on 11 April in France.

His friend, Corporal T. L. Morrison, wrote to Rupert's father at the end of April to let him know that he had not seen or heard of 'Rupe' since the start of the battle, but hoped he was a Prisoner of War as 'he was a fine (sic) soldier'.³⁶

Rupert was killed at the Battle of Bullecourt by a wound to the head on 11 April 1917. He was 23 years old.³⁷

He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France.³⁸

His brother Reginald served and returned home.



³⁴ [VGG](#)

³⁵ [Trove](#)

³⁶ [NAA](#)

³⁷ [AWM](#)

³⁸ [CWGC](#)

1915

Arthur William Bugg

Arthur was born in 1895 in St Kilda to Drusilla Martha Sophia (née Currell) and Henry Isaac Bugg. His mother was Henry's second wife; he had three older siblings and was the youngest of the family. The family were Methodist. Arthur attended the St Kilda State School.³⁹ Both his father and brother, Ernest Henry, were Lands Department Gardeners. In May 1914 he also started as a Junior Gardener at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens.⁴⁰

Arthur enlisted on 1 January 1915, just shy of 20 years old. He joined the 3rd Light Horse Brigade Train as a Driver and arrived in Egypt in February 1915. In June he was admitted to hospital with influenza and was discharged to the Base Camp at Zeitoun on his recovery.

On 2 November 1915, Arthur died from centro-spinal meningitis at the Heliopolis Camp. He was 20 years old.⁴¹ Arthur was buried at the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery. His headstone simply reads: 'Peace'.⁴²

His brother Ernest Henry also served and returned home.



VWMA



³⁹ VWMA

⁴⁰ VGG

⁴¹ NAA

⁴² CWGC

George Muir Grant

George was born on 18 March 1889 in Wellington, New Zealand, to Sophia and Thomas Muir Grant. The family was Presbyterian. He grew up in New Zealand and attended Wellington College. He apprenticed with an engineering foundry and was a qualified surveyor and civil engineer. His parents both died in his teens; George and his brother migrated to Australia where they had an aunt. He joined the Titles Office as a draftsman in October 1914.⁴³

George enlisted on 1 January 1915 aged 26. He was initially allocated to the Field Artillery before being selected for Officer training. He was appointed 2nd Lieutenant with the 8th Light Horse Regiment in May and left Melbourne for Egypt. He landed at Gallipoli on 27 July.

Two weeks later, on 7 August 1915, George was killed in action in the second wave at the Charge of the Nek.⁴⁴ He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial.⁴⁵

George was a friend of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Charles McDonald, and left his personal effects and money to him.



VVMA



⁴³ [VGG](#)

⁴⁴ [NAA](#)

⁴⁵ [CWGC](#)

Alfred Ernest Rasmussen

Alfred was born in 1890 in Fitzroy to Sarah Victoria (née Dunlop) and Alfred Rasmussen. He was the first-born son and second eldest of seven children. His elder sister died in infancy. The family were Anglican. He joined the Titles Office in November 1908 as a clerk.⁴⁶

Alfred enlisted on 15 January 1915 at 24 years old. He joined the 5th Reinforcements, 8th Battalion and joined the Battalion at Gallipoli in July. He arrived in France in March 1916. At Pozières on 26 July, he was shot through the right shoulder. After going on furlough in England, he was transferred to the Army Pay Corps in September. He returned to Australia in December 1917 and was discharged as medically unfit in January 1918.⁴⁷

Alfred resumed working at the Titles Office, and married Florence. In 1925 he completed a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Melbourne.⁴⁸ He stayed with the Titles Office, and Office and was appointed Chief Examiner of Titles and acted as Deputy Commissioner throughout the 1940s.⁴⁹

Alfred died in Heidelberg in 1963, at 73 years old.



⁴⁶ [VGG](#)

⁴⁷ [NAA](#)

⁴⁸ [Trove](#)

⁴⁹ [VGG](#)

Clarence Maldon White

Clarence was born in 1892 in Bendigo to Caroline Anne (née Warren) and James White. He was the second son of five children. The family were Methodist and lived in Golden Square, Bendigo. He joined the Titles Office as a clerk in December 1910.⁵⁰ He also studied to be a Sunday School teacher and was dux of his course.⁵¹

Clarence enlisted on 15 January 1915 at the age of 22. He joined the 6th Reinforcements, 6th Battalion, and left Australia in June. He arrived at Gallipoli on 6 August. The next day he went missing at the Battle of Lone Pine.⁵²

Clarence was killed while attempting to take the German Officer's trench in the early morning of 7 August at the Battle of Lone Pine, supporting the Charge at The Nek. A comrade reported that his last words were 'tell the boys in the Titles Office, Melbourne about my being wounded'. His body was lost on the field of battle.⁵³ Clarence is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial.⁵⁴

He was remembered as a 'sterling and promising young man'.⁵⁵ His mother continued to place memoriam notices for him for decades.⁵⁶



VVMA



⁵⁰ VGG

⁵¹ Trove

⁵² NAA

⁵³ AWM

⁵⁴ CWGC

⁵⁵ Trove

⁵⁶ Trove

William Patrick Cashman

Bill was born in Coburg in 1895 to Katherine (née Toohey) and John Joseph Cashman. He was the third born son in a family of six. His two older brothers died in infancy. The family were Catholic, and William was educated at Catholic schools.⁵⁷ He first joined the Law Department as a Clerk in September 1912.⁵⁸

Bill enlisted on 21 January 1915 aged 19. He was allocated to the 21st Battalion and left Australia in May 1915. On the way to Gallipoli he was on the HMT *Southland* when it was torpedoed. He came under heavy fire on numerous occasions and rescued wounded at risk to himself.⁵⁹ He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, and after the evacuation to Egypt he transferred to the Imperial Camel Corps as a Lieutenant.

He was awarded the Military Cross on 19 January 1917 for gallantry and devotion to duty, having 'led his company to the attack across an open plain with great gallantry. He has at all times set a splendid example'. He was twice mentioned in despatches for gallant services.

While in Egypt he undertook instructors' courses and volunteered for the Flying Corps in September 1917. He flew with T E Lawrence and learned to play golf.⁶⁰



Trove



AWM

He was commended to the Secretary of State for War by the Commander in Chief of the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces for distinguished service in connection with military operations under his command in May 1918. In April 1918 Bill joined the 14th Light Horse Regiment and was promoted to Captain.

Bill was at the Capture of Damascus, which he described in a letter home:

"we came in sight of the town at about 8 o'clock on a fine sunny morning. The minarets and towers of the mosques shone over fields of bright green fruit trees. The prize seemed worth the weeks of hardships.... many an Australian... emptied his water bottle down the throat of a dying Turk.... War is cruel; the instruments of war are hellish, but soldiers are only human. An enemy is a brother when he is wounded and helpless."

He was a strong supporter of harsh punitive measures against the Germans.⁶¹ In 1919 he married Marie-Fernande Santareilli in Cairo before they returned to Australia.⁶² Bill briefly resumed his position with the Titles Office before resigning in July 1924.⁶³ He would go on to become a successful bookmaker and was involved in numerous community organisations.⁶⁴

⁵⁷ Trove

⁵⁸ VGG

⁵⁹ Trove

⁶⁰ Trove

⁶¹ Trove

⁶² NAA

⁶³ VGG

⁶⁴ Trove

Bill died in Frankston in 1959 at 63 years old. He is buried at the Frankston Cemetery.⁶⁵

Bill's younger brother Thomas also served and returned home. His only son William was killed in April 1944 while serving with the RAAF.⁶⁶



⁶⁵ DA

⁶⁶ CWGC

Neil Henry Gibson

Neil was born in 1889 in Windsor to Embelin Georgina (née Blunden) and Neil Henry Gibson. He was the first son and oldest of their four children. The family were Anglican and lived in Caulfield. He joined the Victorian Public Service in February 1909 as a clerk.⁶⁷

Neil enlisted on 21 January 1915, just shy of his 26th birthday. He joined the 4th Reinforcements, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade and left Melbourne on the HMAT *Shropshire* in March 1915. The Brigade was present at the Gallipoli landing on 25 of April. On 6 August he sprained an ankle and the next day was wounded in action. He was medically evacuated to Egypt and remained in hospital until January 1916 when he returned to the field as Sergeant.

In June he left for France, where he joined the 14th Field Artillery Brigade. In July 1917, while at the Artillery School in England, he was selected to attend the Artillery Cadet School. Later that month he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and joined the Artillery in France in January 1917. He was promoted to Lieutenant and attended Army School in the field, where he saw out the end of the war. He returned to Australia in May 1919 and was discharged in December 1919.⁶⁸

Neil married Gladys Tweddel Dowling in 1919 and they had children. He returned to the Lands Department as a Lands Officer at Horsham after the war.⁶⁹

Neil died in 1960 in Camberwell, at 71 years old.



⁶⁷ VGG

⁶⁸ NAA

⁶⁹ VGG

Thomas Augustus Orr

Gus was born in 1895 in Gisborne to Mary Esther (née Johnson) and James Orr. He was the fifth son in a family of eight children. An older brother died in infancy. The family was Presbyterian and settled in Oakleigh. He joined the Treasury as a clerk in May 1912.⁷⁰ By the start of the war he was a clerk at the Titles Office.

Gus enlisted on 27 January 1915, aged 19. His fellow Titles Office clerks gifted him with a set of brushes and a money belt.⁷¹ He joined the 21st Infantry Battalion and left Australia in May. He served at Gallipoli, where he was struck in the left leg by a shell in December. He remained in hospital in England until March 1916; on his discharge he was transferred to the Pay Corps in London. While in London he experienced an air raid in which a Zeppelin came down near his street. He described it in a letter home:

“a huge mass of flame floating down gently from the sky, and as it got lower the flames died away and left what appeared to be the red-hot remains of a huge rocket, which kept getting gradually lower and lower until it finally disappeared behind the sky line”.⁷²

He returned to Australia in January 1919 and continued with the Pay Corps until his discharge in April 1919. While he had started officer training he was likely discharged as surplus.⁷³

In 1921 he married Martha Jane Cullis. They settled in Murrumbeena and had children. Gus returned to the Titles Office and was appointed an Assistant Registrar of Titles in 1937.⁷⁴ He was a member of the RSL and served as President during the 1920s,⁷⁵ as well as being an active Mason for decades.⁷⁶ In 1953 he was awarded the Queen’s Coronation Medal.⁷⁷

Gus died in 1959 in Murrumbeena, aged 64.

Three of his brothers also served: Francis and Alfred returned home, while Vincent was killed in France in 1917.



⁷⁰ [VGG](#)

⁷¹ [Trove](#)

⁷² [Trove](#)

⁷³ [NAA](#)

⁷⁴ [VGG](#)

⁷⁵ [Trove](#)

⁷⁶ [Trove](#)

⁷⁷ [Trove](#)

John Cedric Williamson

Jack was born in 1891 in Warracknabeal to Mary Jane (née Campbell) and Edwin Williamson. He was the eldest of five children and the first of four boys. The family were Presbyterian and lived in Lismore where his father was a farmer and grazier. He joined the Lands Department as a clerk in April 1912.⁷⁸

Jack enlisted on 2 February 1915, just before his 24th birthday. Two of his brothers also enlisted, and they all entered training at Broadmeadows. When their father fell ill in March, Jack was discharged to help in the harvest at home.

He re-enlisted later that year and was allocated to the Field Artillery and left for Suez. In March 1916 he was sent to France where he was promoted to Bombardier and attended the Artillery School. In January 1917 he attended Royal Artillery Cadets School in England and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant. After joining the Divisional Artillery Column in France in June he was promoted to Lieutenant.

On 4 October 1917, Jack was returning from a forward observation post when he was killed in action at the Battle of Broodseinde (Third Battle of Ypres). He was likely buried at Broodseinde Cemetery; however, the grave was lost.⁷⁹

Jack was 26 when he was killed. He is commemorated at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.⁸⁰ At a memorial service in Lismore, Rev E. A. Forbes said Jack had 'a wonderful love of life' and 'asked great things of the world'.⁸¹

His younger brother Harold was killed at Pozières in 1916. Their brother Angus survived the war and re-enlisted for home service in the Second World War.



⁷⁸ [VGG](#)

⁷⁹ [NAA](#)

⁸⁰ [CWGC](#)

⁸¹ [Trove](#)

Jack Archibald Gray

Jack was born in January 1895 in North Carlton to Rebecca Borland (née Fisher) and Archibald Kerr Gray. He was the elder of two children and the only son. The family lived at Elsternwick and attended the local St. John's Presbyterian Church. He played tennis and joined the Lands Department as a pupil surveyor.

Jack enlisted on 6 February 1915, just after his 20th birthday. He was allocated to the 1st Australian Field Artillery and joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Forces in Egypt in June 1915. He served at Gallipoli, where he was transferred to the Heavy Battery and promoted to Bombardier. He went to France in 1916, where he joined the 1st Divisional Artillery Column in May. He was promoted to Corporal and attended the Artillery Training School and the 5th Army Artillery School in mid-1917.

He served with the 5th Battery in Belgium at the Third Battle of Ypres (Battle of Passchendaele). At Anzac Ridge, near the village of Zonnebeke, he was hit by a shell in the right arm and leg. Jack was evacuated to the Dressing Station on Menin Road, where he died from his wounds on 23 October 1917.^{.82}

Jack was 22 years old when he was killed. He was buried at the Birr Cross Road Cemetery, Belgium. The headstone reads: 'for so he giveth/ his beloved/ sleep'.^{.83}

His family donated his medals to the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.^{.84}



VWMA



⁸² [AWM](#)

⁸³ [CWGC](#)

⁸⁴ [AWM](#)

William Trevor Long

William was born on 5 August 1893 in Woodend to Margaret Anne (née Lewis) and George Walter Long. He was the first-born son and eldest of seven children. Two of his siblings died in infancy. He grew up in Bendigo in a Methodist family and boarded at Wesley College.⁸⁵ In October 1911 he joined the Lands Department as a clerk.⁸⁶

William enlisted on 17 February 1915, aged 21. William was allocated to the 6th Reinforcements, 7th Battalion and left Australia in June. He landed at Gallipoli on 5 August; on 8 August he was hit in the right thigh by a bomb at Lone Pine. He was evacuated to England, where he worked for the remainder of the war in administrative positions. In August 1919 he was brought to the attention of the Secretary of State for War for 'valuable services rendered in connection with war'. In April 1919 he married Nora Graves in London; they returned to Australia in August.⁸⁷ They had children.

William returned to the Lands Department after the war, initially as a Lands Officer at Geelong.⁸⁸ In 1931 he was appointed to a Lands Classification Board,⁸⁹ and in 1939 joined the Settlers Inquiry Committee.⁹⁰ He reenlisted for service in the Second World War. In 1954 he was appointed to the Committee of Management for the Olympic Park site.⁹¹ In 1957 he was appointed Secretary of Lands.⁹²

William died in Hastings in 1975 at the age of 81.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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AWM



⁸⁵ Trove

⁸⁶ VGG

⁸⁷ NAA

⁸⁸ VGG

⁸⁹ VGG

⁹⁰ VGG

⁹¹ VGG

⁹² VGG

Charles Clifford Burge

Cliff was born in 1892 in Rushworth to Emily Jane (née Morris) and Charles Abraham Burge. He was the first son and eldest of a family of five. The family were Presbyterian. He lived at Elsternwick and joined the Lands Department in July 1910 as a clerk.⁹³ In 1912 he was at the Advertising and Intelligence Bureau of the Lands Department.⁹⁴

Cliff enlisted on 19 February 1915 aged 22. He joined the Army Pay Corps as a Sergeant and left Melbourne for Egypt in February 1915. In March 1916 he left for France and was then transferred to the 1st Australian Light Horse Regiment as a Squadron Quartermaster.

In July 1917 he attended Officer Training School in Cambridge. He returned to France in November 1917 as 2nd Lieutenant with the 24th Battalion. He was promoted to Lieutenant in February 1918. In early June 1918 he was gassed and spent two weeks in hospital before returning to duty in late June.⁹⁵



AWM

On 14 August 1918, his unit was moving forward to the line near Hervilly, France. He was killed by enemy shell fire at the Quarry. The Unit Diary records that it was a severe loss, and that he was 'one of the most promising and popular officers with the Battalion... [he] saw service on Gallipoli... His loss robs us both of a fine sportsman and a good soldier and comrade'.⁹⁶

His friend Lieutenant Frank Hurrey wrote to his grieving parents that Cliff 'knew what might happen at any minute, yet he was always cheerful. He did his job simply and splendidly, and I shall always be proud that he was a real pal of mine'.⁹⁷

Cliff was 25 when he was killed. He was originally buried in the Lamotten-en-Santerre Communal Cemetery Extension and was reinterred at the Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery in 1920. The headstone reads: 'Peace perfect peace'.⁹⁸

His younger brother Robert also served and returned home.



⁹³ VGG

⁹⁴ Trove

⁹⁵ NAA

⁹⁶ AWM

⁹⁷ Trove

⁹⁸ CWGC

Stanley Alfred Glover

Stanley was born in 1889 in London, England. His date of migration to Australia is unknown. He married Minna Suchting in 1913 and the couple lived in Toorak. He joined the Immigration and Labour Bureau of the Lands Department as a Shorthand and Type Writer in October 1914.⁹⁹ The same year, his daughter Vaida Edna was born.

Stanley enlisted on 1 March 1915 at the age of 26. He was allotted to the 8th Infantry Brigade Headquarters and was posted to Seymour as Staff Sergeant, before arriving in Egypt in December 1915. In June 1916 he left for France. He suffered from pneumonia in August after a gunshot wound to the arm. His pneumonia was serious, and he was evacuated to England. He was medically discharged and returned to Australia in February 1917.¹⁰⁰

He was a founding executive member of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Democratic League, a left-wing aligned rival to the RSL.¹⁰¹

His post war life and date of death are unknown.



⁹⁹ [VGG](#)

¹⁰⁰ [NAA](#)

¹⁰¹ [Trove](#)

John Austin Mahony

Austin was born in 1893 in Northcote to Mary Ann (née O'Brien) and John Mahony. He was the second son of their ten children. His father had been a dairy farmer and worked as an engineer in dairies and woollen mills. The family were devout Catholics; two sisters became nuns. He attended the Wangaratta Agricultural High School. A teacher remembered him as 'one of the brainiest and steadiest students that ever attended'. He was a keen athlete, playing with the Wangaratta Football Club. While he had initially started teaching at the Wangaratta state school, he took a position with the Immigration branch of the Lands Department.

Austin enlisted on 3 March 1915, aged 21. He enlisted with his close friend, Harry Fletcher: their service numbers are sequential. They had lived at the same boarding house and remained close even when Harry moved for his teaching career. They were both allocated to the 24th Battalion and left on the Euripides. Austin served at Gallipoli and left for France in March 1916. He wrote to his family that it seemed almost 'sacrilegious' to fight in France.¹⁰²

At the Battle of Pozières, he was near fellow Lands Department staff member John Jageurs when he was killed.¹⁰³ In August he was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant and shortly after was in charge of a trench digging party, only metres from the enemy at Mouquet Farm.



VVMA

A nearby battalion was in danger of being cut off and Austin led his men to support the other battalion, including bombing three enemy dug-outs on the way. He was awarded the Military Cross for this action. He was invested with the medal by the King at Buckingham Palace in December 1916.¹⁰⁴

In the new year he was promoted to Lieutenant before spraining his ankle while playing sport, requiring two months respite in England. He returned to the field in February 1918. He was promoted to Captain; Harry Fletcher was also made a Captain within the same Battalion.

On the evening of 4 October 1918 near Montbrehain, Austin and Harry sung duets in a dugout with other officers. The next morning, they led their companies towards the village. Austin was hit in the temple with a German machine gun bullet and was taken to a clearing station. Harry Fletcher was also shot and was killed instantly.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰² Trove

¹⁰³ Trove

¹⁰⁴ Trove

¹⁰⁵ AWM



(L to R Capt. John Harry Fletcher, Lt. Joseph Lindley Scales, Capt. John Austin Mahony)

[AWM](#)

Austin died from his wounds on 9 October 1918.¹⁰⁶ Both he and Harry were 25 years old and were killed in the last Australian action of the First World War. Austin is buried at the Tincourt New British Cemetery. His headstone reads: 'he wore the white rose/ of a blameless life/ R.I.P'.¹⁰⁷ Harry lies at the Calvaire Cemetery; roughly 25 kilometres away.¹⁰⁸

Their families remembered them as 'pleasant and lovely in their lives, and in their deaths, they were not divided.'¹⁰⁹



¹⁰⁶ [NAA](#)

¹⁰⁷ [CWGC](#)

¹⁰⁸ [CWGC](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Trove](#)

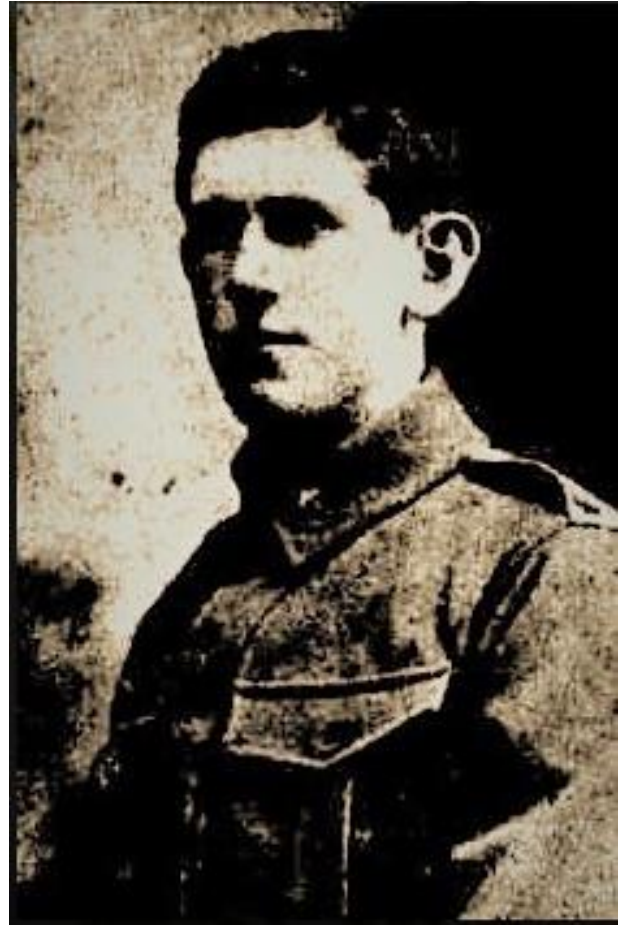
John Davitt Jageurs

John was born in 1895 in Parkville to Bridget Mary (nee Bartley) and Morgan Peter Jageurs. John was the first son and second born of their five children. Morgan was Irish born but migrated to Australia as a child and remained an Irish Nationalist. The family business was making gravestones and monuments. They were a prominent and devout Irish Catholic family. John attended the Christian Brothers School and was involved in Irish interest groups. He came 13th in the state public service exam,¹¹⁰ and joined the Lands Department as a clerk in August 1912.¹¹¹ On his enlistment he was given a gold watch by the Young Ireland Society.¹¹²

John enlisted on 8 March 1915 aged 19. His father had objected to his enlistment, most likely out of Irish nationalist sentiment. John wrote a 'lengthy and powerfully-written plea from the Australian national standpoint' to change his mind. He provided his consent and John joined the 24th Battalion. At a going away party he said that he was 'fully aware of the great effort required of him, and he promised that he would do his best to make the Turkey trot'.

He was sent to Gallipoli at the end of August. John wrote to his father that he had been injured in a shell blast.¹¹³ In mid-September he was admitted to hospital with shell shock and sent to Malta.

In Malta he visited historical sites, including the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, which he called 'the most beautiful sight I ever looked upon.'¹¹⁴ In November he was sent to Oxford for treatment for his shell-shock, and wrote to his family that 'although the weather is bitterly cold, I am quite at home.'¹¹⁵ He was offered the opportunity to remain in England in a clerical position but opted to return to front line service. He rejoined his unit in Egypt in March 1916 and left for France at the end of the month.¹¹⁶



VVMA

¹¹⁰ Trove

¹¹¹ VGG

¹¹² Trove

¹¹³ Trove

¹¹⁴ Trove

¹¹⁵ Trove

¹¹⁶ NAA

On 28 July 1916 at Pozières, John was killed instantly in a shell explosion along with his section commander at the front trench. He was 21 years old.¹¹⁷ He has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.¹¹⁸

After his death, the chaplain of his Brigade wrote to his father that ‘he was a very good soldier, attentive to his work, conscientious in discharge of his duty, and never gave any trouble to his superior officers’.

Captain Frawley wrote that:

“throughout our battalion he was loved and admired as a thorough gentleman and an excellent soldier, and from our colonel downwards his loss is mourned. I knew him not only as an excellent soldier, but also as a fervent, devout, and exemplary Catholic”.¹¹⁹



¹¹⁷ AWM

¹¹⁸ CWGC

¹¹⁹ Trove

John Joseph Walshe

John was born in Essendon in 1895 to Elizabeth Jane (née Healy) and John Joseph. He was the fifth of seven children and the second son. The family were Catholic and lived in Melbourne. He joined the Lands Department in April 1912.¹²⁰

John enlisted on 8 March 1915 at the age of 19. He was allocated to the 13th Light Horse and left Australia in May 1915. He served at Headquarters at Gallipoli. He left for France in March 1916. In July he was transferred to 1st Anzac Army Corps Light Horse Regiment with the 1916 reorganisation.

He was captured by German troops on 29 March 1917 while on patrol at Lonvernal. He had been captured on patrol:

“Finding the enemy in strength they retired. Halfway back Fritz put up a barrage which compelled them to split. He was never seen again but a week after I saw his horse dead on the main Cambrai road. It was killed by rifle bullets which rather points to the fact that he was not got by shell. There is a rumour that the infantry saw him leading his horse towards the German line and it is generally thought that he got shell shock and then went towards the German lines”.¹²¹ John interned at the Kriegsgefangener Lager Sennelager. He requested that fellow Lands employee Cliff Burge be told he was a POW. After the Armistice he was repatriated to England. He was admitted to hospital with influenza. He returned to Australia and was discharged in June 1919.¹²²

John returned to the Lands Department as a Lands Officer.¹²³ He married Hazel Best Milne in 1927; they had children. He was a member of the Board of Lands and Works in the 1950s.¹²⁴

John died in Pascoe Vale in 1971, aged 75.



¹²⁰ VGG

¹²¹ AWM

¹²² NAA

¹²³ VGG

¹²⁴ VGG

Bertrand Osmond Thomas Gibbs

Bertrand was born in 1896 in Northcote to Lillian Maud (née Osmond) and Sydney Herbert Gibbs. He had a younger sister. His father died in 1907; Bertrand was then put in the care of his maternal grandparents. The family were Anglican. His mother moved to New Zealand where she remarried and later entered hospital. He joined the Lands Department in May 1914 as a clerk.¹²⁵

Bertrand enlisted on 15 March 1915, just after his 19th birthday. He joined the 23rd Battalion as a Private. He left Melbourne on the H.M.A.T Euripides in May 1915 and served at Gallipoli. In late November 1915 he was medically evacuated from Gallipoli for asthma attacks; he was then admitted to hospital in Egypt in January 1916 with neurasthenia. This was likely a combat stress reaction. The same month he was scheduled for return to Australia, but this was cancelled, and he re-joined his unit in February 1916. He was reported missing in action on 28 July 1916. Bertrand was taken prisoner of war by German forces at the Battle of Pozières.

Bertrand died at the German War Hospital on 2 August 1916; he had likely been wounded in action.¹²⁶ He was 20 years old and was buried at the Caudry Old Communal Cemetery, France. The inscription on his headstone reads 'he gave his life/ for his country'.¹²⁷



¹²⁵ [VGG](#)

¹²⁶ [NAA](#)

¹²⁷ [CWGC](#)

Frank Peter Mountjoy

Frank was born in Brunswick in March 1895 to Robina (née McCann) and Edwin Richard Mountjoy. He was the elder of their two children. The family were Methodist and lived in Melbourne. He joined the Lands Department as a clerk in April 1912,¹²⁸ in the Advertising and Immigration Bureau.¹²⁹

Frank enlisted on 29 March 1915, aged 20. He was allocated to the Australian Service Corps and was attached to the Royal Naval Bridging Train. He left Melbourne for Egypt on the HMAT *Port Macquarie* in June and served at Gallipoli. After the evacuation and return to Egypt, he joined the 46th Battery of the 12th Field Artillery Brigade in April 1916. He was sent to France in June and promoted to Sergeant. In November he attended the Royal Artillery Cadet School in England. In April 1917 he returned to France as a 2nd Lieutenant and re-joined the artillery.



VVMA

He attended the 4th Army Signal School and returned to the artillery in Belgium as a Lieutenant. In March 1918 he was promoted to the Orderly Officer and was further promoted to Adjutant in October. He spent the Armistice in hospital with the Spanish flu. He was mentioned in one of Sir Douglas Haigh's November despatches. He returned to England, where he was awarded the Military Cross before leaving for Australia on the *Beltana* in June 1919.¹³⁰

Frank returned to the Lands Department and continued to work with the Immigration office.¹³¹ In 1924 he married Gladys Marjorie Oke; they had a son. In 1931 he joined the Department of Chief Secretary,¹³² and was appointed Secretary of the Transport Board. He was a member and secretary of the Legacy Club and worked on the 1927 Royal visit to Australia.¹³³ During the Second World War he was seconded to the Commonwealth government.¹³⁴

Frank died in 1974 in Box Hill, aged 79.



¹²⁸ VGG

¹²⁹ Trove

¹³⁰ NAA

¹³¹ Trove

¹³² VGG

¹³³ Trove

¹³⁴ Trove

William Hixon Leslie McDonald

William was born on 7 February 1888 in Corindhap to Christina (née McKay) and Samuel Hixon McDonald. He was the first-born son and oldest of their five children. The family were Presbyterian, and his father was a teacher. William also attended teacher training college in Melbourne before joining the public service. He was a survey draughtsman with the Lands Department.

William enlisted on 7 April 1915, just after his 27th birthday. He attended officer training school and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was allocated to the 8th Reinforcements, 21st Battalion and left Australia for Egypt at the end of December. In February 1916 he joined his Battalion but was transferred to the 57th Battalion in April and made Lieutenant the next month. In mid-June he left Egypt for France and by November was promoted to Captain. In February he was briefly admitted to hospital with the mumps, but quickly re-joined his Battalion. He served at the Somme. On 8 August 1918 he was shot in the right elbow and evacuated to England. He returned to his Battalion on 10 November 1918.



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AWM

In January 1919 he left to take temporary command of the 5th Australian Division Reinforcement Wing. In March he was mentioned one of Sir Douglas Haig's despatches. He returned to the Battalion in April; before returning to England to take a course in engineering and surveying. He returned to Australia in December 1919.¹³⁵

William briefly returned to the Lands Department before resigning in 1920.¹³⁶ In 1933 he worked on the census returns in Canberra.¹³⁷

William died outside of Victoria.

His younger brother Stanley also served, was mentioned in despatches and returned home.



¹³⁵ [NAA](#)

¹³⁶ [VGG](#)

¹³⁷ [Trove](#)

Raymond Dixon Howells

Raymond was born in 1895 in Ballarat to Alice Elizabeth (née Dixon) and John Howells. He was the second of their four sons. The family were Anglican. He attended Castlemaine High School and joined the Lands Department in October 1912 as a clerk.¹³⁸ His family lived in Yandoit.

Raymond enlisted on 14 April 1915, aged 20. He was allocated to the 1st Reinforcements, 21st Battalion and left Melbourne in late June. He served at Gallipoli from August to October, when he was medically evacuated to Malta for illness. He was then evacuated to England for further treatment. He remained in England until March 1916 when he proceeded to France. In late July he experienced an episode of shell shock and was transferred to England for treatment. He left the hospital in early November and joined the Infantry Depot in January 1917. He remained in England until late June, when he returned to his unit in the field in France. He remained in the field until January 1919, when he returned to England in advance of his repatriation. He was discharged on his return to Australia in September 1919.¹³⁹

He returned to the Lands Department after the war,¹⁴⁰ and married Rosina Ada Levick in 1934. They had two sons and a daughter. His letters and recollections of the war would later be compiled in a book written with his son.¹⁴¹

Raymond died in 1982 in Cowes, at the age of 87.

His brother Eric also served and returned home. Their youngest brother Elmer enlisted in 1918 and remained in Australia.



¹³⁸ [VGG](#)

¹³⁹ [NAA](#)

¹⁴⁰ [VGG](#)

¹⁴¹ [AWM](#)

William Richard Doolan

William was born on 12 January 1890 in Oakleigh to Annie (née Fleming) and Charles Doolan. He was the seventh of eight children, and the fourth son in an Anglican family. He attended Melbourne High School and completed the 1st year of a Law Degree at Melbourne University. He joined the Titles Office as a clerk in October 1908.¹⁴²

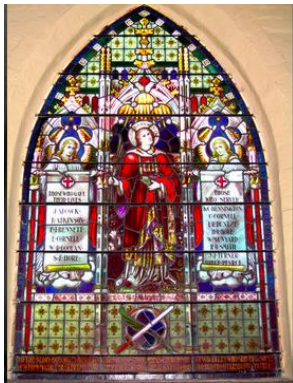
William was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on 16 July 1915. He was allocated to the 12th Reinforcements, 8th Battalion. He married Louisa Florence Price before he left Australia in late November 1915. William arrived in France from Egypt in April 1916 and joined his unit in the field in May.

On 18 August 1916 William was killed at the Battle of Pozzières.

He was 26 years old. William is buried at the Pozzières British Cemetery, France.¹⁴³



VWM



VWMA

William is commemorated on the memorial window at the St. Stephens and St. Mary Anglican Church, Mount Waverley.¹⁴⁴



¹⁴² VGG

¹⁴³ NAA

¹⁴⁴ VWM

Francis Josiah Whitfield

Frank was born in 1896 in Shepparton to Elizabeth (née Laidler) and Charles Whitfield. He was the second youngest of eight children and the fourth son. The family were Baptist and lived in Shepparton. Frank was one of the first students at the Shepparton High School and was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Senior cadets.¹⁴⁵ His father died in 1906 and an older brother died in 1913. Frank was a clerk with the Immigration and Labour Bureau of the Lands Department.

Frank enlisted on 28 May 1915 at 19 years old. He had already been working as a clerk at Victoria Barracks. Before he travelled to Melbourne for enlistment, he was farewelled by his friends in Shepparton. He was given a wrist watch and was commended as a young man who had 'made a success of every undertaking of his; and, also, had from the ranks diligently worked himself up to a commission in the Australian Army'.¹⁴⁶

He was allocated to the 7th Reinforcements, 8th Battalion and left Australia in July 1915 with the rank of Acting Sergeant.

He served briefly at Gallipoli. On his return to Egypt he was transferred to the 60th Battalion and promoted to Lance Corporal. He was then sent to France as a part of the 5th Machine Gun Battalion and was shot in the hand in July 1916. He attended Signals School and the Infantry School. On 29 September 1917 he was wounded in action by a gunshot wound to the back. He attended gas school in January 1918. In May 1918 he broke his left arm in an accident in France and was sent to England, where he remained until leaving for Australia in December 1918.¹⁴⁷

Frank lived in Melbourne after the war, where he was an active church singer.¹⁴⁸ He married Gladys Vera Wigg in 1928; they had children.¹⁴⁹

Frank died in Jolimont in 1973, aged 77.



DA



¹⁴⁵ [Trove](#)

¹⁴⁶ [Trove](#)

¹⁴⁷ [NAA](#)

¹⁴⁸ [Trove](#)

¹⁴⁹ [Trove](#)

William Major Olive

William was born on 25 August 1890 in Richmond to Ella Ada (née Coney) and Henry Thomas Olive. He was the oldest of their three children and the only son. The family were Anglican and lived in Kew. He attended Scotch College, where he was a prize-winning student.¹⁵⁰ He was a talented pianist.¹⁵¹ He attended the University of Melbourne on a scholarship, completing a Bachelor of Civil Engineering with Honours before qualifying as a licensed surveyor.

William enlisted in June 1915, just before his 25th birthday. He attended Officers Training School and was commissioned with the 5th Field Company Engineers in November and proceeded to Egypt. He landed at Marseilles on 23 March 1916.

A month later on 23 April, Easter Sunday, he was killed by a shell explosion at Bois Grenier, near the French-Belgian border. William was 25 years old. His father later wrote a letter requesting his personal effects, saying 'that they may not be of any great value, but to us they are very precious'.¹⁵²



VWM



VWM

William was buried in the Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension Cemetery, France. His headstone reads 'beloved and only son/ of Thomas and Ella Olive/ Father in thy hands'.¹⁵³

After his death the University of Melbourne conferred his degree.¹⁵⁴

A memorial window was dedicated to him at St. Mark's Church, Fitzroy, where he had been a chorister.¹⁵⁵



¹⁵⁰ [Trove](#)

¹⁵¹ [Trove](#)

¹⁵² [NAA](#)

¹⁵³ [CWGC](#)

¹⁵⁴ [Trove](#)

¹⁵⁵ [Trove](#)

Joseph Charles McDonald

Joseph was born in 1890 in Brunswick to Ellen Jane (née Murphy) and William Stephen McDonald. He was the first son and oldest of five children. The family lived in Melbourne and were Catholic. He completed a four-year surveying apprenticeship with the Lands Department and joined the Titles Office as a draughtsman.¹⁵⁶ In 1915 he married Blanche Rosa Dowling; their first child was born in 1916.

Joseph enlisted on 5 June 1915 just shy of his 25th birthday. He was allocated to the 8th Reinforcements, 8th Battalion and left Australia in November. In January 1916 he was transferred to the Imperial Camel Corps in Egypt. In early 1917 he was repeatedly hospitalised with lung issues, particularly bronchitis. He was then transferred to the AIF Canteens due to his limited service capacity. He returned to Australia in March 1919 and was medically discharged.¹⁵⁷

Joseph returned to the Titles Office.¹⁵⁸ He was active in the Public Service Union and would serve as the President of the Victorian Public Service Association.

Joseph died in 1953 in Fitzroy, at the age of 62. He was survived by his widow, five sons and a daughter.¹⁵⁹

His brother William enlisted and was killed in 1917. Their brother Owen enlisted just before the Armistice; his enlistment was cancelled.



¹⁵⁶ [VGG](#)

¹⁵⁷ [NAA](#)

¹⁵⁸ [VGG](#)

¹⁵⁹ [Trove](#)

Leslie George Robertson

Leslie was born in South Yarra in 1890 to Margaret (née Reid) and James Robertson. He was the third child and only son in Presbyterian family. He joined the Lands Department as a Boy Labourer at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens in January 1907.¹⁶⁰ In 1915, he married Ethel May Simmons; their daughter was born in 1916.

Leslie enlisted on 12 June 1915, aged 25. He was allocated as a Driver with the Australian Army Service Corps and left for Egypt in November 1915. In Egypt he was hospitalised for influenza and left for France in June 1916. He joined the 29th AASC Company in February 1917. He remained in France until January 1919 and spend six months with the 2nd Training Brigade. He returned to Australia in May 1919 where he was discharged.¹⁶¹

After the war Leslie retired from the Lands Department to work for as Garden Curator, firstly for the Brighton Council,¹⁶² and then the South Melbourne Council.¹⁶³

Leslie died in Heidelberg in 1964, aged 74.



¹⁶⁰ [VGG](#)

¹⁶¹ [NAA](#)

¹⁶² [Trove](#)

¹⁶³ [Trove](#)

William Jenkin

Will was born on 16 August 1892 in Richmond to Harriet Jane (née Carpenter) and Nicholas John Jenkin. He was the oldest of their three sons and two daughters. The family were Methodist and lived in Richmond. He studied for a diploma of geology at the University of Melbourne and passed the Junior Public Service exam.¹⁶⁴ In 1916 he married Enid Alston Beresford Martin.

Will enlisted on 20 June 1915, two months before his 23rd birthday. He was allocated to the 16th Reinforcements, 7th Battalion. He attended Officers' Training School at the AIF camp at Broadmeadows, and in January 1916 was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He arrived in Egypt in May, and within two weeks was in France. In July he joined the Entrenching Battalion before joining the 7th Battalion.¹⁶⁵

His division was sent to Pozières in August 1916. During action on 19 August, he was last seen going over the top of the trench on the Bapaume Road. On 22 August he was reported wounded and missing in action. A court of inquiry in 1917 determined that Will was killed in action on the night of 19 August and was buried where he was killed. One of his men remembered him as a 'dear little chap' and very popular.¹⁶⁶

Will was 24 when he was killed. He had been in the field for a little over a fortnight. He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.¹⁶⁷ Enid remarried after the war.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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AWM



¹⁶⁴ [Trove](#)

¹⁶⁵ [NAA](#)

¹⁶⁶ [AWM](#)

¹⁶⁷ [CWGC](#)

Leslie Oliver Forbes

Leslie was born in 1892 in Camberwell to Sarah Annie Elizabeth (née Hill) and Peter Forbes. He was the first-born son and eldest of seven children in a Methodist family. Leslie joined the Law Department in November 1909 as a clerk.¹⁶⁸

Leslie enlisted on 5 July 1915 at the age of 22. He was allocated to the 22nd Battalion and left Australia in late 1915. He spent the first half of 1915 in Egypt. He joined the 57th Battalion in France in February 1916 and was promoted to Corporal in August. In March 1917 he was promoted to Sergeant and was wounded in action in September 1917. In January 1918 he went to England to join the Training Battalion, where he would go on staff at the Bombing School. In August he returned to France, and on 6 October 1918 he was wounded in action with severe gunshot wounds to the eye, arm, and chest at the Battle of St. Quentin Canal. He was taken to England and then discharged to Australia in January 1919.¹⁶⁹ In 1918 his mother died.



AWM

Leslie returned to the Titles Office after the war. He was Assistant Registrar of Titles and Deputy Registrar General in the 1930s.¹⁷⁰ In 1921 he married Ilma Ruby Coon. They had one daughter, Lois.¹⁷¹

Leslie died in Melbourne on 29 September 1975, aged 82.



¹⁶⁸ [VGG](#)

¹⁶⁹ [NAA](#)

¹⁷⁰ [VGG](#)

¹⁷¹ [Trove](#)

Norman Burnett McWhinney

Norman was born in Hawthorn in 1896 to Catherine Elizabeth (née Waddle) and Henry James McWhinney. He was the youngest of their eight children and the fifth son. The family were Anglican. Norman attended the Glenferrie State School and Hawthorn College. He joined the Law Department as a clerk in April 1912.¹⁷² In March 1915 he served as a groomsman at his older brother's wedding.¹⁷³

Norman enlisted on 5 July 1915 aged 19. He was allocated to the 5th Reinforcements, 23rd Battalion and left Australia in late 1915 for Egypt. He joined the Battalion in Egypt then left for France in March 1916. On 28 July 1916 he was reported missing in action.¹⁷⁴

Norman was killed overnight on 28/29 July at the Battle of Pozières. He was last seen on a ration party with Privates Meade and Clifford, who also went missing. His family wrote desperately for information on his whereabouts.¹⁷⁵ They would continue to place in memoriam notices for decades after his death.¹⁷⁶

Norman was 20 years old when he was killed. He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.¹⁷⁷

His older brothers Percy and Rupert both served and returned home.



¹⁷² [VGG](#)

¹⁷³ [Trove](#)

¹⁷⁴ [NAA](#)

¹⁷⁵ [AWM](#)

¹⁷⁶ [Trove](#)

¹⁷⁷ [CWGC](#)

Claude Dewsnap

Claude was born in 1892 in Maldon to Mary Ann (née Adams) and John Joseph Dewsnap. He was the youngest of six sons and three daughters. The family were Anglican. He attended the local state school and spent seven years with the cadets. He lived with his family in Brighton and joined the Lands Department as a clerk in March 1911.¹⁷⁸ Claude was a popular member of the Melbourne Swimming Club and was engaged to Gladys Hazel Turner.

Claude enlisted on 7 July 1915 aged 22; his previous enlistment attempt had been denied. He joined the 24th Infantry Battalion and left Melbourne for Egypt in November 1915. He transferred to the 8th Battalion and left for France in March. He was hospitalised with dental problems in June and re-joined his unit in late July near Pozières. He was shot in the back of the left knee on an attack on German lines on 18 August 1916. He was sent to England and returned to his unit in April 1917.

On 20 September 1917, Claude sustained a bullet wound to the scalp during heavy fighting at Menin Road, Belgium. He was briefly sent to hospital and returned to his unit near Ypres.



AWM

On the opening of the Second Battle of Passchendaele (Third Battle of Ypres) on 26 October 1917, the 8th Battalion was at the front near Westhoek, Belgium when it came under an intense German artillery barrage throughout the day and night.

Claude was struck in the head by a piece of shell that fractured his skull. He was knocked unconscious. He died at the 10th Casualty Clearing Station on 28 October 1917 at the age of 25.

Claude was buried at the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. His headstone reads: 'So deeply mourned/ so sadly missed'.¹⁷⁹ One of his fellow soldiers described him as 'always pleasant, and popular with the boys'.¹⁸⁰ He left money for his mother, sisters and fiancée in his will.¹⁸¹

Claude's brothers John, George and Joseph also served. John was killed in 1916. Joseph and George returned home.



¹⁷⁸ VGG

¹⁷⁹ CWGC

¹⁸⁰ AWM

¹⁸¹ NAA

Archibald Forsyth Graham

Archibald was born in 1890 in St James to Elizabeth Annie (née Forsyth) and James Steele Graham. He was the second son and fourth of their twelve children. The family were Presbyterian and moved around Victoria. He initially joined the Education Department in 1905;¹⁸² he then transferred to the Correspondence branch of the Lands Department.¹⁸³

Archibald enlisted on 7 July 1915 before he turned 25. He was previously rejected on medical grounds. He was allocated to the 6th Field Artillery Battery and left Melbourne in late November 1915. In late December 1915 he was attached to the 18th Battery. In March 1916 he was transferred to the 2nd Divisional Artillery Headquarters in France. At headquarters he was promoted up to Sergeant. In November 1917 he was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haigh's despatches for 'distinguished and gallant services and devotion to duty in the field'. In June 1918 he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He returned to Australia and was discharged in early August 1919.¹⁸⁴

Archibald returned to the Education Department in 1920. He was Secretary of the Education Department from 1937 to 1942, when he was appointed to the Public Service Board.¹⁸⁵ In 1920 he married Ruby Agnes Davies; they had two sons and a daughter. Their eldest son was killed in the Second World War.¹⁸⁶

Archibald died in 1948 in Elsternwick, at the age of 58.

Of Archibald's eleven siblings, three brothers and one sister served. All returned home to Australia.



¹⁸² [Trove](#)

¹⁸³ [Trove](#)

¹⁸⁴ [NAA](#)

¹⁸⁵ [Trove](#)

¹⁸⁶ [Trove](#)

Harrie Richards Wilson

Harrie was born in 1894 in Ballarat to Henrietta (née Lane) and John William Wilson. He had a brother and sister. He attended the Ballarat Agricultural High School and the Ballarat School of Mines. The family were Anglican and district settlers. Harrie and his father were heavily involved in the Ballarat YMCA. Harrie was a draughtsman with the Lands Department.¹⁸⁷ He married Georgina Isabel Thompson in 1912; their daughter Joan was born in March 1916.

Harrie enlisted on 7 July 1915, aged 21. He was allocated to the 6th Reinforcements, 21st Battalion. He trained at Seymour and Bendigo before proceeding to Egypt. He joined the 7th Battalion in Egypt in February 1916 as a Corporal. In April he left for France where he was promoted to Sergeant. In a letter to his wife, Harrie described the landscape on the Western Front:

“great trees have been cut off by shells, and what was once a beautiful stream is now a lagoon of slimy water, choked with trees, which have been levelled to the ground by shellfire. It is no man’s land, and even the small grass has been withered down, because of the gas which we have given Fritz”.¹⁸⁸

On 18 August 1916, Harrie was killed at the Battle of Pozières.¹⁸⁹ Harrie was 22 when he was killed. He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.¹⁹⁰

His father gifted property to the YMCA as a memorial to his son. The YMCA remembered Harrie as a committed member who had a most promising future before him.¹⁹¹ The flag was flown at half-mast in memory of Harrie on the anniversary of his death in 1917.¹⁹²

Georgina remarried in 1921 and raised their daughter to remember her father.¹⁹³



¹⁸⁷ [Trove](#)

¹⁸⁸ [Trove](#)

¹⁸⁹ [NAA](#)

¹⁹⁰ [CWGC](#)

¹⁹¹ [Trove](#)

¹⁹² [Trove](#)

¹⁹³ [Trove](#)

William Malcolm Crawford

William was born in 1892 in North Fitzroy to Catherine (née Smith) and Nathaniel Crawford. He was the only son and youngest of four children in a Presbyterian family. His older sister died in infancy and his father died when he was five. His mother remarried a few years later. He won a mining and agricultural scholarship at school.¹⁹⁴ He joined the Lands Department in January 1910 as a clerk.¹⁹⁵

William enlisted on 9 July 1915, aged 23. He initially joined the 24th Reinforcements and left Australia for England, where he joined the 7th Battalion in September 1916. In November he went to France and transferred to the Australian Divisional Base Depot. In late November 1916 he was shot in the knee; he was medically evacuated to England. While in England he undertook additional training and was promoted up to Corporal. He joined the 59th Battalion in France in November.

In early 1918 he was promoted to Sergeant and selected for Officer Cadet School. He remained in England until late January 1919 when he returned to the field as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 5th Divisional Reinforcements. In April 1919 he was promoted to Lieutenant. He left for Australia and was discharged in September 1919.¹⁹⁶

William returned to the Lands Department. He took up at position as a Land Officer in Horsham in 1925.¹⁹⁷ He returned to Melbourne in 1935 and married Irene Ellen Gorman. They had a son and a daughter. William's career with the Lands Department flourished throughout the 1940s; he held a range of positions in key inquiry and management boards,¹⁹⁸ and was a trustee for the MCC.¹⁹⁹ In 1951 he was appointed Secretary of the Lands Department.²⁰⁰

William died in Fitzroy in 1973, aged 80.



¹⁹⁴ [Trove](#)

¹⁹⁵ [VGG](#)

¹⁹⁶ [NAA](#)

¹⁹⁷ [Trove](#)

¹⁹⁸ [VGG](#)

¹⁹⁹ [Trove](#)

²⁰⁰ [Trove](#)

Maurice Anthony Cronin

Maurice was born in 1890 in Richmond to Anne (née Halfpenny) and Maurice Cronin. He was the second child and second son of five children. The family were Catholic and lived in Richmond. He passed the public service exam in 1909 and joined the Department of Agriculture that year as a junior messenger.²⁰¹ His younger brother Jack also joined the Lands Department.

He enlisted on 12 July 1915 aged 22. He joined the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station and left Melbourne for Egypt in November 1915. In early 1916 he was admitted to hospital with myalgia then returned to duty in Somalia. In April he left Egypt for France. In March 1918 he attended officer's training in England, where he contracted the Spanish flu in July. He recovered and returned to France as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 27th Battalion in September 1918. He married in January 1919 in Aberdeen, Scotland,²⁰² and returned to Australia with his wife in May 1919.²⁰³

In 1920 Maurice and his wife had a daughter.²⁰⁴ In 1934 he was appointed a probation officer for Melbourne and Richmond.²⁰⁵ He was active in the Catholic church.²⁰⁶

Maurice died in McCrae in 1962 at the age of 68.

His brothers Thomas and John also enlisted. Thomas returned to Australia; John died in England in 1919.



²⁰¹ [VGG](#)

²⁰² [Trove](#)

²⁰³ [NAA](#)

²⁰⁴ [Trove](#)

²⁰⁵ [Trove](#)

²⁰⁶ [Trove](#)

Erle Falconer Munro

Erle was born in 1895 in Hawthorn to Isabel Aurora (née Chalmers) and Roderick Falconer Munro. He was the elder of their two children and the only son. His family was Presbyterian. Erle joined the Titles Office as a trainee draftsman in January 1912.²⁰⁷

Erle enlisted on 12 July 1915 at the age of 20. He was allocated as Acting Sergeant for the Army Service Corps at Broadmeadows, and left Australia for England in June 1916. He left for France in November as part of the 22nd Company, AASC and served there as a Driver until February 1919. He returned to Australia in May 1919.²⁰⁸

Erle resumed his position with the Titles Office after the war. In November 1943 he was appointed an Assistant Registrar of Titles.²⁰⁹ He married Evelyn Florence Lunt in 1929. They were keen golfers.²¹⁰ They had children and lived in Camberwell.

Erle died in Camberwell in 1975, aged 80.



²⁰⁷ [VGG](#)

²⁰⁸ [NAA](#)

²⁰⁹ [VGG](#)

²¹⁰ [Trove](#)

Gerald Thompson Little

Gerald was born in 1890 in Bacchus Marsh to Annie Mary (née Hanigan) and David Armstrong Little. He was the second son and third born of the seven children in a Catholic family. The boys attended St. Patrick's College in Ballarat; Gerald showed a strong interest in scientific subjects.²¹¹ He registered as a surveyor in April 1914. In October 1914 he was awarded champion all-round player of the Werribee Football club.²¹²

Gerald enlisted on 13 July 1915 aged 25. He was allocated to the 11th Reinforcements, 2nd Field Company Engineers as a Sapper and left Australia in October 1915. In April 1916 he was transferred to the 13th Field Company Engineers as a 2nd Lieutenant. The company left for France and were sent to the front line in June. He attended a training course in England; on his return to France he joined the 12th Field Company Engineers as a Lieutenant.



AWM

In April and October 1917, he was wounded twice, and required evacuation to England for treatment. On 5 April 1918 he was hit by a shell at the Somme, with injuries to his back, buttocks, and right leg. The foot was amputated on the same day in the field ambulance. He was medically evacuated to England but required the amputation of the whole leg two weeks later due to an infection.²¹³

He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty for his actions at Dernancourt in April 1918. General Birdwood summarised the citation:

"[he] volunteered to assist in laying out and supervising the construction of some trenches directly under enemy fire, while you made very daring reconnaissance of the vicinity in daylight. When the line was attacked by overwhelming numbers, and the situation appears critical, [he] collected some working parties and details and organised them for defence, and throughout set a splendid example of coolness and disregard for personal danger".

His men and NCOs sent him an inscribed gold watch, stating it was 'a slight mark of the appreciation and esteem' for their 'most popular officer'.²¹⁴

Gerald returned to Australia in September 1918 and was discharged the next year. He resumed his career as a civil engineer and surveyor and worked for the Wyndham Shire Council. In the 1920s he also qualified as an accountant and auditor. During the 1930s and 1940s he was a member of the Surveyors Board.²¹⁵ In 1945 he was appointed President of the Victorian Institute of Surveyors.²¹⁶

²¹¹ [Wyndham History](#)

²¹² [Trove](#)

²¹³ [NAA](#)

²¹⁴ [Trove](#)

²¹⁵ [VGG](#)

²¹⁶ [Trove](#)

In 1921 he married Kathleen Annie McCormack. One of their sons was Sir Thomas Francis 'Frank' Little, 6th Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne.

Gerald died in Melbourne in 1972, at the age of 82. He is buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery.

His younger brother Leo was also awarded the Military Cross and returned home.



Henry John Edgar Baker

Henry was born in 1893 in Clifton Hill to Elizabeth (née De la rue) and George Baker. He was the third child and second son. He was a school cadet and Presbyterian. He joined the Titles Office as a clerk in December 1910.²¹⁷

Henry enlisted on 15 July 1915 at 21 years old. He was allocated to the 10th Field Ambulance and left Melbourne in May 1916. In Egypt he was promoted to Lance Corporal before leaving for France in November. He was awarded Military Medal for bravery in the field on 12 May 1918.

Henry was killed during the night of 10/11 August 1918 at the Battle of Amiens.²¹⁸ He was 24 years old. He is buried at the Fouilloy Communal Cemetery, France. The inscription on his headstone reads: 'Only goodnight beloved/ not farewell'.²¹⁹



In Memory



²¹⁷ [VGG](#)

²¹⁸ [NAA](#)

²¹⁹ [CWGC](#)

James Mahony

James was born on 1 September 1888 in Donald to Elizabeth Agnes (née Sutcliffe) and Denis James Mahony. He was the first born of their four children and the elder son. His family were Catholic. He joined the Titles Office as a clerk in March 1908.²²⁰

James enlisted on 15 July 1915 just before his 27th birthday. After his enlistment he married Margaret McQueen. He was allocated to the 13th Reinforcements, 7th Battalion and left Australia at the end of 1915. In Egypt he was transferred to the 59th Battalion. He left for France in June 1916. In February 1917 he was sent to hospital suffering from trench feet, which required his medical evacuation to England. He returned to France in August and was hit with shrapnel in the back at Polygon Wood on 26 September. He was sent back to England and returned to France in May 1918. He joined his unit in June and was wounded in action again at Peronne on his birthday, 1 September 1918. He had been shot in the left leg and arm and was again sent to England for medical care. James was repatriated to Australia in January 1919 and discharged.²²¹

James resumed his career with the Law Department. He and Margaret had five children.²²² He rose to the Executive of the Law Department and acted in the absence of the Secretary during the 1930s and 1940s.²²³

James died on 14 September 1948 in Heidelberg, aged 60.



²²⁰ [VGG](#)

²²¹ [NAA](#)

²²² [Trove](#)

²²³ [VGG](#)

Bertram Harry Strong

Bert was born in 1893 in Port Arlington to Louisa (née Marshall) and Thomas Strong. He was the fourth of five children, and the second son. The family were Methodist and lived in Terang. Bert was a singer, praised for the 'quality and richness' of his voice.²²⁴ He won competition prizes and sung occasionally when he moved to Melbourne.²²⁵ Bert passed the public service exam in August 1913.²²⁶

Bert enlisted on 15 July 1915 aged 21. He was allocated to the 3rd Divisional Train, 22nd Army Service Corps and left Australia for England in June 1916. He arrived in France in November 1916 and in early 1917 was promoted up to Corporal. He remained in France until April 1919 and returned to Australia in June.²²⁷

Bert resumed his public service career after the war. In 1921 he married Catherine Denholm Sprague; they had two children. In the 1950s he was at the Treasury and often acted as the Receiver of Revenue.²²⁸

Bert died in 1968 in Canterbury, at the age of 74.



[Trove](#)



²²⁴ [Trove](#)

²²⁵ [Trove](#)

²²⁶ [Trove](#)

²²⁷ [NAA](#)

²²⁸ [VGG](#)

Hiram Rutherford

Hiram was born 1895 in Sunbury to Eliza Jane (née Millican) and James Rutherford. He was their only child but had three sisters from his father's previous marriage. The family were Presbyterian and lived in Sunbury, where he attended the local State School.²²⁹ His family would later move to Alfredton. He joined the Lands Department as a clerk in May 1912.²³⁰

Hiram enlisted on 16 July 1915 aged 20. He was allocated to the 12th Reinforcements, 14th Battalion and left for Egypt in late 1915. In Egypt he joined the 46th Battalion in March 1916 and left for France in June. He was wounded in action on 1 September but was discharged the next day to return to his unit. On 11 April 1917 he was reported missing in action.²³¹

A court of enquiry was held in November 1917, and it was determined that he was killed instantly on the morning of 11 April at the Ballet of Bullecourt. His body could not be recovered as the ground was taken by German forces.²³²

Hiram was 22 when he was killed. He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.²³³ Both of his parents died soon after him.



²²⁹ [Trove](#)

²³⁰ [VGG](#)

²³¹ [NAA](#)

²³² [AWM](#)

²³³ [CWGC](#)

Arnold Edwin Warnock

Arnold was born on 1 December 1895 in Benalla to Jane Ann (née Wallace) and Robert Warnock. He was the ninth of their twelve children and the fourth born son. Three of his siblings died in infancy. His family was Anglican and part of an extended Warnock family in the area. Arnold joined the Law Department as a clerk in November 1912.²³⁴

Arnold enlisted on 17 July 1915 at the age of 19. He was allocated to the 29th Battalion and left Australia in November for Egypt. He arrived in France in late June 1916. On the night of 19-20 July 1916, he was reported missing in action near Fromelles.

In October he was confirmed a Prisoner of War in Germany. In June 1918 he was sent to the Netherlands for interment. He found the conditions in the Netherlands to be better than those in Germany: there was 'plenty of milk and butter, and a fair supply of eggs... bread was a bit scarce'.²³⁵ After the Armistice he was attached to the office of the Red Cross and worked on the repatriation of British and Russian POWs.²³⁶ Arnold returned to the UK in August 1919 and left for Australia in October.²³⁷

Arnold resigned from the Law Department and returned to Benalla. He married Marion Florence Gertrude Freitag; they had children. They were involved in the local community and Arnold worked for the local Council.²³⁸ He re-enlisted for service in the Second World War.

Arnold died in 1986 in Parkville, aged 89.

His brothers Robert and Frederick also served and returned home.



²³⁴ [VGG](#)

²³⁵ [Trove](#)

²³⁶ [AWM](#)

²³⁷ [NAA](#)

²³⁸ [Trove](#)

Robert Frederick William Harris

Robert was born in 1885 in Fiji to Kate Marguerite (née Marshall) and Robert Frederick Harris. The family were Presbyterian. Robert joined the Department of Public Works as a clerk in January 1911.²³⁹

Robert enlisted on 17 July 1915 at the age of 30. After his enlistment he married Ivy Bell Forbes. He was allocated to the 59th Battalion and left Australia in May 1916 for Suez. He was then taken on strength to the 5th Divisional Details in July. In late August he was sent to the 1st Training Battalion in England. He remained there until January 1917, when he was taken on strength to the 59th Battalion in France. In February and March, he spent time in hospital with dental issues and influenza, returning to his unit in April. In September he was promoted to Corporal. In January 1919 he was sent to the UK on leave and was attached to the AIF Headquarters in London. In June he returned to Australia and was discharged.²⁴⁰

He returned to the Public Service and started a family with his wife. Robert headed the Government Labour Exchange during the Great Depression.²⁴¹ His removal from the Exchange in 1940, allegedly for calling for an overhaul of the system, caused a minor political fracas.²⁴² He was returned to the Labour Exchange.²⁴³

Robert died in 1957 in Melbourne, at the age of 70.



²³⁹ [VGG](#)

²⁴⁰ [NAA](#)

²⁴¹ [Trove](#)

²⁴² [Trove](#)

²⁴³ [Trove](#)

James Michael Dooley

James was born in 1882 in Corop to Ann Therese (née Hurley) and Jeremiah Dooley. He was the third child of seven and the first son. He grew up in Rushworth, where he attended the Catholic Sunday School.²⁴⁴ He joined the Lands Department in May 1900.²⁴⁵ Before the war he was with the Immigration Bureau.²⁴⁶

James enlisted on 19 July 1915, just before his 33rd birthday. He joined the 2nd Reinforcements, 60th Battalion as a Private. He was promoted to Sergeant. He remained in Australia until May 1916 when he left for Egypt. In August 1916 he arrived in France and joined the 15th Infantry Battalion.

He was then sent to London in September 1916 where he joined the Australian Army Pay Corps. He remained in England until June 1917 when he returned across the channel to 1st Anzac Headquarters. In April 1918 he was transferred to the Military Police and ranked Extra Regimental Sergeant. In late November 1918 he returned to the Anzac Headquarters in London, where he was detached for duty as a Red Cross Representative. James returned to Australia in May 1919. In June 1919 he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for valuable services with the Armies in France and Flanders.²⁴⁷

James returned to the Lands Department after the war.²⁴⁸ In the 1920s he was the officer in charge of the Government Labour Exchange.²⁴⁹ In 1925 he married Kathleen Anastasia Ryan. In 1934 he was appointed Chief Clerk of the Public Works Department.²⁵⁰ In 1937 James and Kathleen received the King's Coronation Medal.²⁵¹

James died in Camberwell in 1977, at the age of 94.



Trove



²⁴⁴ Trove

²⁴⁵ VGG

²⁴⁶ Trove

²⁴⁷ NAA

²⁴⁸ Trove

²⁴⁹ Trove

²⁵⁰ Trove

²⁵¹ Trove

Frederick Alfred Evans

Frederick was born in 1894 in Carlton to Anna Christina Elizabeth (née Kruse) and Alfred Evans. He was the first-born son of their two children. His family were Anglican. His father left the family during his childhood, and his mother died in 1907. Frederick and his sister Sophie were taken in by an aunt. He joined the Lands Department in October 1912 as a clerk.²⁵²

Frederick enlisted on 20 July 1915 at the age of 21. He listed his sister Sophie as his next of kin. He joined the 15th Reinforcements, 5th Battalion, and left for Egypt in March 1916. In April 1916 he was transferred to the 60th Battalion. He arrived in France in June 1916. He was briefly hospitalised in July and returned to his unit on 18 July.

One day later, on the morning of 19 July 1916, he was killed in action at Fromelles.²⁵³ He was 22 years old. Frederick has no known grave and is commemorated at the V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial, France.²⁵⁴

After his death his father requested his medals. Unusually, the military bypassed his request and granted them to his sister.



²⁵² [VGG](#)

²⁵³ [NAA](#)

²⁵⁴ [CWGC](#)

John Thomas Green

Jack was born in 1895 in Werribee to Agnes (née Mann) and John Thomas Green. He was the first son and middle child of their six children. The family were Catholic and lived around Victoria, before settling in Shepparton. He joined the Lands Department in March 1914 as a Lift Attendant at the Immigration Bureau.^{.255}

Jack enlisted on 20 July 1915 at the age of 21. He was allocated to the 29th Infantry Battalion and left Australia for Suez in early December 1915. In February 1916, Jack wrote to his family that he hoped they would 'be home next Xmas' and that they were 'in the best of health and are looked after well'.^{.256}

On 23 June 1916 the battalion arrived in France. Three weeks later, Jack was hit by a high explosive shell on 12 July 1916 at Armentières. He was killed instantly.^{.257}

Jack was 21 when he was killed. He was buried the same day by Chaplain T. King in the Brewery Orchard Cemetery, France.^{.258} The headstone reads: 'sacred to the memory/ of our darling son/ and brother Jack/ our hero'.^{.259}

After Jack's death, an Indian soldier named Bhan Singh wrote to Jack's father, saying he would 'never find another friend like him, and... [he would] avenge his death at the first opportunity'.^{.260}

His younger brother William Francis also enlisted and was killed.



²⁵⁵ [VGG](#)

²⁵⁶ [Trove](#)

²⁵⁷ [AWM](#)

²⁵⁸ [NAA](#)

²⁵⁹ [CWGC](#)

²⁶⁰ [Trove](#)

John Vernon Larkin

John was born in 1892 in Hawthorn to Elizabeth (née Gearon) and Michael Larkin. He was the first-born son and eldest of the five children. The family were Catholic and lived at Ballarat. He went to St. Patrick's College, Ballarat. He joined the Lands Department as a clerk in February 1909,²⁶¹ and was transferred to the St. Arnaud office. John was a member of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society, a church-based support society for Irish Catholics.²⁶² He was a supporter of Irish Home Rule but saw it as an issue separate from the war effort. The society threw him a party and gave him money on his enlistment: he asked for the money to be spent locally.²⁶³

John enlisted on 20 July 1915 aged 23. He was allocated to the 7th Reinforcements, 24th Battalion and left Melbourne at the end of November. He marched into to Camp Zeitoun, Egypt, on New Year's morning.

In a letter to his boss, John described the Egyptian railway system as 'very satisfactory, and [could] hold its own with that of Victoria.' He took the opportunity to see the Sphinx and the Pyramids and observed daily Egyptian life.

He was at camp with other young men from St. Arnaud and soldiers from around the British Empire but liked the New Zealanders the best.²⁶⁴ At the start of February he was transferred to the 8th Battalion, and left Egypt for France with the Battalion at the end of March 1916. In a letter home he described the south of France as 'beautiful beyond description' and related an incident in which German and British forces swapped floral wreaths for graves of pilots on the other side.²⁶⁵ On 26 July he was wounded in action and was transferred to England with a gun-shot wound to the right hand. He remained in England until November when he returned to his unit in the field. In May he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.

On 9 August 1918 John was killed in action at the Battle of Amiens.²⁶⁶ He was 26 years old. He is buried at the Rosières Communal Cemetery Extension, France. The headstone reads: 'in memory of the dearly loved son of Mr. and Mrs. Larkin R.I.P'.²⁶⁷



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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²⁶¹ VGG

²⁶² Trove

²⁶³ Trove

²⁶⁴ Trove

²⁶⁵ Trove

²⁶⁶ NAA

²⁶⁷ CWGC

After his death he was remembered as a 'exemplary young man, respected by everybody with whom he came in contact, either in business or socially.' The flags at the St. Arnaud Town Hall and Shire Hall were flown at half-mast in respect.²⁶⁸

His younger brother William also served and returned home.



²⁶⁸ Trove

Sydney George Samuel Body

Sydney was born in 1894 in Timor to Anna Maria (née Hill) and Ormond Body. He was the elder of their two children and the only son. The family were Methodist. He joined the Law Department as a junior messenger in July 1912.²⁶⁹

Sydney enlisted on 21 July 1915, just before his 21st birthday. He was allocated to the 12th Reinforcements, 14th Battalion. He left Melbourne in November 1915; after arrival in Egypt he was taken on strength to the 46th Battalion. He joined the 12th Field Artillery Brigade and was posted to the 45th Battery. In June 1916 he went to France and was promoted up to Bombardier. He attended the Australian Corps Gas School in March 1918. He was wounded in action in April 1918 but remained on duty. He returned to Australia in April 1919.²⁷⁰

He resigned as a messenger in October 1921.²⁷¹ In 1928 he married Catherine Yager.

Sydney died in Heidelberg on 17 March 1958, aged 63.



²⁶⁹ [VGG](#)

²⁷⁰ [Trove](#)

²⁷¹ [VGG](#)

Reginald Thomas Olney

Reginald was born in 1895 in Colac to Charlotte (née Harmer) and James Summers Olney. He was the first son and oldest of their five children. A younger sister died in infancy. His father was a Senior-constable with the Victorian Police and the family moved for his postings. The Olneys were Methodist. He joined the Lands Department as a clerk in May 1911.²⁷² Reginald was engaged to Em Keller.

Reginald attempted to enlist on 16 occasions and was rejected 15 times for dental issues.²⁷³ He was finally successful and joined the AIF on 24 July 1915 at 20 years old. He was allocated as a Gunner with the Artillery, and left Melbourne for Egypt in September. On arrival he was transferred to the Australian Records Section, where he worked until he became ill in late November and was taken to hospital. His illness was serious enough to require medical evacuation to England in December. He returned to Egypt in March 1916 and joined the 23rd Battalion as a Bombardier. He then left for France, where he joined the 21st Field Artillery Brigade.

In May he was taken to the Casualty Clearing Station with influenza and trench fever, a common illness caused by the unsanitary conditions in the trenches. Once recovered he returned to his unit and attended the 1st Divisional Gas School. He was shot in the head on 11 August in Belgium and evacuated to England for treatment. He returned to Belgium in January 1918. In April he began to experience lung issues, believed to be related to gas exposure. He was initially diagnosed with pleurisy; in May it was confirmed as tuberculosis and he was sent home. On 13 January 1918 Reginald died at the Military Sanatorium, Macleod.²⁷⁴

Reginald was buried at the Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery with military honours. He was 23 years old.²⁷⁵ The Secretary of Lands expressed the great pride the Department felt in him.²⁷⁶ As the first enlistee from the Department's Mallee branch, a parish in Mildura was named in his honour.²⁷⁷



²⁷² [VGG](#)

²⁷³ [Trove](#)

²⁷⁴ [NAA](#)

²⁷⁵ [CWGC](#)

²⁷⁶ [Trove](#)

²⁷⁷ [Trove](#)

Hugh Mitchell Clyne

Hugh was born in 1897 in St James to Mary (nee Anderson) and David Clyne. He was the second son of four children in a Presbyterian family. His eldest brother died as an infant. He joined the Titles Office as a trainee draftsman in July 1914.²⁷⁸

Hugh enlisted on 24 July 1915, just after his 18th birthday. He attended the Signals School and left Australia in late November 1915. After he arrived in Egypt in 1916, he joined the 5th Divisional Signals Company. In May he was re-mustered as a Sapper before leaving for France in June. In late February 1917 he went to hospital with the mumps and returned to the field in March. He remained in France past the Armistice and returned to Australia in April 1919.²⁷⁹

Hugh returned to the Titles Office and was promoted to Assistant Registrar of Titles in 1949.²⁸⁰ In 1947 he married Jane Westhead Arthur.

Hugh died in Blackburn in 1968, aged 71.



Henry Ronald Gray

Henry was born in 1893 in Hawthorn to Elizabeth Sarah (née Dann) and John William Gray. He was the third son and third surviving child of their five children. They were an Anglican family and lived in Melbourne. Henry initially joined the Attorney General in August 1910 as a junior messenger.²⁸¹ He then moved to the Lands Department in May 1912 as a clerk.²⁸²

Henry enlisted on 26 July 1915 at the age of 22. He was allocated to the Reinforcements of the Australian Army Service Corps as a Driver. He remained on Australian service until June 1916 when he left Melbourne for England. In December he left England for France. He spent the early months of 1917 with the 8th Field Artillery Brigade then returned to the 3rd Divisional Train. In August 1918 he was detached to the 24th Company, returning to his unit in September 1918, seeing out the end of the war with them. After arriving in Melbourne in mid-July 1919, he was discharged in September.²⁸³

Henry returned to the Lands Department and worked in both the Victorian and Australian Public Services.²⁸⁴ He was the Secretary of the State Development Division.²⁸⁵ In 1921 he married Grace Elizabeth Gray; they had children.²⁸⁶

Henry died in 1955 in Melbourne, at the age of 62.



²⁷⁸ [VGG](#)

²⁷⁹ [NAA](#)

²⁸⁰ [Trove](#)

²⁸¹ [VGG](#)

²⁸² [VGG](#)

²⁸³ [NAA](#)

²⁸⁴ [Trove](#)

²⁸⁵ [Trove](#)

²⁸⁶ [Trove](#)

Harold William Boyd

Harold was born in 1896 in Meredith to Florence Jane (née Law) and Samuel Boyd. He was the second son and the youngest of their four children. The family were members of the Church of Christ. He joined the Lands Department as a clerk in April 1913.²⁸⁷

He enlisted on 27 July 1915, at the age of 19. He joined the 4th Battery, 2nd Australian Field Artillery Battalion. He left for Egypt in late 1915 and was transferred to the Australian Records section in December 1915. He was promoted to Corporal by mid-1916. In late September 1916 he left Egypt for France, where he was attached to the Records section of the British Expeditionary Forces. He was transferred to the 1st Australian Divisional Ammunition Column at his own request; reverting to the rank of Gunner.²⁸⁸

The Division was sent to Ypres in 1917. On 22 July 1917, the battery dugouts were bombarded by the Germans. Numerous men were killed and wounded.²⁸⁹ Harold was struck in the head and evacuated to the 46th Casualty Clearing Station. Harold died two days later, on 24 July 1917, at the age of 21.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H05601

AWM

Harold is buried at the Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium. His headstone reads: 'In loving memory of Harold/ dear to Samuel/ Grace & Florrie Boyd'.²⁹⁰

His only brother Lieutenant Thomas Hewett Boyd was also killed in action at the Third Battle of Ypres on 4 October 1917.²⁹¹



²⁸⁷ VGG

²⁸⁸ NAA

²⁸⁹ AWM

²⁹⁰ CWGC

²⁹¹ CWGC

Reuben Herbert Wheeler

Reuben was born on 5 February 1896 in Hotspur to Charlotte (née Rundell) and David Wheeler. He was the fifth of eight children and the fourth son. His oldest brother died in childhood, and a brother died as a teenager. The family were members of the Salvation Army. He was a clerk with the Lands Department.

Reuben enlisted on 28 July 1915 aged 19. He was allocated to the 15th Reinforcements, 6th Battalion. While in camp at Bendigo he was injured in a car accident.²⁹² He left Melbourne in March 1916 for Egypt. In June 1917 he left for France and was promoted to Lance Sergeant. He was awarded the Military Medal for operations on Broodseinde Ridge on the night of 4 October:

“this NCO was of great assistance in consolidating on the objective. He also pushed forward and dug an advanced post under heavy M.G. fire. His conduct during the hostile bombardment prior to the attack was a splendid example to his section. After consolidation he led a patrol and searched portions of No Man’s Land in the Western edge of Celtic Wood under heavy M.G. fire”.



AWM

Weeks later he was shot through the right hand and evacuated to England. He returned to the field in March 1918 and was wounded again on 23 April 1918, shot in both thighs. He again returned to England for medical treatment and was able to return to France in August, where he saw out the Armistice. In March 1919 he was mentioned in one of Sir Douglas Haigh’s despatches for conspicuous services. He left England to return home in July 1919.

Reuben remained a reserve officer, taking a commission as a Lieutenant in 1921. He was promoted to Major in the early 1930s, and while eligible for the rank of Lieutenant Colonel he did not take it up. He served in the General Services Division in the Second World War.²⁹³

Reuben resumed his clerical position with the Lands Department until June 1927.²⁹⁴ He married after the war.

Reuben died on 6 October 1985, aged 89.



²⁹² [Trove](#)

²⁹³ [NAA](#)

²⁹⁴ [VGG](#)

Rex Raymond Neal

Rex was born in 1895 in Castlemaine to Elizabeth (née Crow) and Thomas Henry Neal. He was the second son, and second of five children. The family were Methodist and young Rex experienced personal loss: his younger twin brothers died as infants and his father died in 1906. He was a clerk in accounts at the Lands Department.²⁹⁵

Rex enlisted on 30 July 1915 at the age of 20. He had previously enlisted for eight weeks but was discharged for illness.

After being reassessed as fit, he was allocated to the 9th Reinforcements, 14th Battalion. He left Melbourne in September and arrived in Egypt in January 1916. He was promoted up to Sergeant and left with his unit for France in June.

In July 1917 he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and joined the 21st Battalion. He was then promoted to Lieutenant at the end of October and continued to serve with his Battalion. In late October 1918 he was seconded as a Signals Officer with the 2nd Training Brigade and remained with them until after the Armistice, when he was sent to Army Signals School.

He returned to Australia in June 1919 and was discharged.²⁹⁶



Trove

Rex married Muriel Thompson Morrison in 1920; they had two sons. He returned to the Lands Department and was the Assistant Secretary for the Closer Settlement Commission in the 1930s.²⁹⁷ In 1950 he was appointed Secretary for Mines, a position he held until his death.²⁹⁸

Rex died in Essendon in 1956, aged 61.



²⁹⁵ VGG

²⁹⁶ NAA

²⁹⁷ VGG

²⁹⁸ VGG

William Ross Reid

William was born in 1890 in Peterhead, Scotland. He was the youngest son in a Presbyterian family. The date of their migration to Australia is unknown. William apprenticed in Melbourne, and Melbourne and was a survey draftsman. On 22 April 1915 he married May Barlow in Bendigo and they settled in Toorak.²⁹⁹

William enlisted on 2 August 1915 aged 25. He was allocated as a Sapper to the 9th Reinforcements, 2nd Field Company Engineers and left Australia in October 1915. He may have briefly served at Gallipoli. He was wounded in France in September 1916 and returned to the field in November. In August 1917 he was evacuated sick to England. In September he was able to attend his brother's wedding in London.³⁰⁰ In December he left England for Australia with a medical discharge for heart problems.³⁰¹

William and Marjorie had two daughters after the war. His post-war career is unknown.

William died in Heidelberg in 1965, at the age of 75.



²⁹⁹ [Trove](#)

³⁰⁰ [Trove](#)

³⁰¹ [NAA](#)

Maximilian Geoffrey Frank Pardy

Max was born in 1896 in Portarlington to Ada Marie (née Von Schramm) and Alfred Pardy. He was the second born of their three sons; his older brother died in infancy. The family was Anglican, and Max grew up in Hawthorn. He was a member of the Boy Scouts troop at Balaclava.³⁰² Max joined the Titles Office as a trainee draftsman in July 1914.³⁰³

Max enlisted on 5 August 1915, two months shy of his 19th birthday. He was allocated to the 10th Reinforcements, 4th Field Artillery Brigade, and left Australia in November 1915. He left for France in March 1916 and proceeded with his unit in the field. In late November he contracted influenza but recovered. In September 1917 he again spent time in hospital with a fever, likely trench fever. While in the field on 21 March 1918 he was gassed; he returned to his unit a month later. He was gassed on a second occasion on 14 October and was evacuated back to England. He spent the Armistice in hospital. He was sent back to Australia on a medical discharge in March 1919. He remained with the militia and reached the rank of Major in the 1930s.³⁰⁴

Max resumed his position at the Titles Office. In 1922 he married Edith Mary Davies, a former nurse; they had two daughters. Edith was made a member of the Order of the British Empire in 1953 for her volunteer efforts in the area of mental health.³⁰⁵ In 1951 he was promoted to Assistant Registrar of Titles.³⁰⁶ In the 1950s he was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Militia.³⁰⁷

Max died in 1982 in Camberwell, aged 85. Edith died in 1989.



³⁰² [Trove](#)

³⁰³ [VGG](#)

³⁰⁴ [NAA](#)

³⁰⁵ [Trove](#)

³⁰⁶ [VGG](#)

³⁰⁷ [Trove](#)

George Allen

George was born in 1893 in Maryborough, Victoria to Louisa (née Honeycombe) and William Andrew Allen. He was the second of their five children and Anglican. He had been a school cadet and apprenticed with a Maryborough coachbuilder with his older brother William. In September 1914 he was appointed a clerical officer with the Lands Department.³⁰⁸

George enlisted on 13 August 1915 at the age of 21. He joined the 10th Field Ambulance, 3rd Division. He left Melbourne in June 1916, arriving in England in August. He proceeded to France in late November 1916.

At Armentières he was shot in the left side of the face on 27 February 1917. It was a minor injury, and he returned to the front line on 1 March.³⁰⁹ In April, the Division was moved up to Belgium, where they engaged in fighting at the Battle of Messines. The Division's next major engagement was the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge, which commenced on 4 October 1917.³¹⁰

George and Private Alfred Harris were serving as stretcher bearers at the battle. They had returned for wounded men near Zonnebeke when the stretcher they were carrying was hit by a shell. Both men were killed instantly. His men wrote that he was 'one of the best liked in the unit'. George and Alfred were carried back behind the line and buried.³¹¹ George was 24 when he was killed. He and Alfred buried next to each other at the Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium.³¹²



³⁰⁸ [VGG](#)

³⁰⁹ [NAA](#)

³¹⁰ [AWM](#)

³¹¹ [AWM](#)

³¹² [GWGC](#)

John Edward Hunter

John was born in 1891 in Donald to Clara Theresa (née Drought) and James Goldie Hunter. He was the first born of their three sons and daughter. The family were Presbyterian and lived in Melbourne. He joined the Lands Department in March 1911 as a clerk.³¹³

John enlisted on 26 August 1915 at the age of 24. He was sent to the 23rd Battalion Depot at Royal Park in September where he was the Corporal Clerk. He remained at the Depot until March 1916, when he was allocated to the 16th Reinforcements, 8th Battalion. At the start of April, he left Australia, arriving in Egypt in May. He was only briefly in Egypt before leaving for England. He was sent to the AIF Depot as a Private Orderly Room Clerk in August. He was promoted to Sergeant in November while at the Cyclist Training Battalion, before returning to the 8th Battalion as a Cyclist in June 1917. Throughout 1917 and 1918 he was attached to various Depots in the UK as a Clerk across ranks. He returned to Melbourne in November 1919.³¹⁴

John returned to the Lands Department after the war. He was appointed a Lands Officer in May 1925,³¹⁵ joined the Lands Classification Board,³¹⁶ was appointed Secretary of the Closer Settlement Commission,³¹⁷ and was appointed Secretary for Lands in 1949.³¹⁸ He worked on electoral boundaries reform in 1950.³¹⁹ John retired in 1951 and was succeeded by fellow veteran William Crawford.³²⁰ He was married and had children.

John died in Camberwell in 1956, aged 64.

His younger brother Douglas also served and was killed in June 1918.



³¹³ [VGG](#)

³¹⁴ [NAA](#)

³¹⁵ [VGG](#)

³¹⁶ [VGG](#)

³¹⁷ [VGG](#)

³¹⁸ [VGG](#)

³¹⁹ [Trove](#)

³²⁰ [Trove](#)

George Edward Longton

George was born in 1895 in Violet Town to Mary (née Nestor) and George Longton. He was the second born and second son of four children. The family were Catholic. He first joined the Victorian Public Service as a junior public library attendant in December 1912.³²¹

George enlisted on 28 August 1915 aged 21. He had previously been rejected because of his teeth. He was allocated to the 1st Divisional Artillery Column, 23rd Howitzer Brigade. The unit left Melbourne in May 1916 and arrived in England in July. In October he began to experience ill health and was admitted to hospital on three occasions. At the end of 1916 he was sent to France. He continued to experience health issues, with two admissions to hospital in February and March 1917.

In June he was transferred to the 30th Battery and was serving with them when he was wounded in action with a shell wound to the right thigh on 27 September. After recuperation he returned to the Base Depot and joined the 8th Field Artillery Battery. Just after the Armistice he was accidentally injured with burns to his face and hands and remained in hospital until January 1919. He left England for Australia in May 1919.³²²

He married Margaret Ruth in 1924. His post-war life is unknown.

George died in 1936 in Parkville, at the age of 41.



³²¹ [VGG](#)

³²² [NAA](#)

Harold Walter Groves

Harry was born in 1896 in Clifton Hill to Elizabeth (née Barnes) and Thomas Kilby Groves. He was the middle of their three sons. The family were Anglican, and Anglican and lived in Ivanhoe. His older brother Kilby was a draftsman at the Titles Office. Harry joined the Titles Office as a trainee draftsman in August 1912.³²³

Harry enlisted on 31 August 1915 aged 19. He was allocated to the Signal Engineers, 2nd Division and left Australia in November 1915 as a newly promoted 2nd Corporal. After six months in Egypt he left for France in June 1916. In November he was promoted to Sergeant. He was disappointed by the result of the first conscription referendum and advocated for a second.³²⁴

In May 1917 he was sent to work with the Field Artillery Brigade; he then attended Officers Training School in England. He returned to France as a 2nd Lieutenant at the end of 1917 and was rapidly promoted to Lieutenant with the 5th Divisional Signals Company. In April 1918 he was wounded in action but remained in the field. In a letter to his mother, Harry wrote that the newly arrived American troops were 'good, and I feel sure they will prove the same fighting and sticking stuff as the Britisher'.³²⁵

In September 1918, Harry was awarded the Military Cross for:

“conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in charge of the brigade signal section. He took over and successfully maintained communication with the forward units, and personally supervised and established a forward brigade cable head. Next night his able management enabled his forward section to open up communication with units and brigade head-quarters within 30 minutes of the commencement of the barrage. The rapid transmission of information throughout the operations, under most difficult circumstances, was a tribute to the excellent arrangements made by him”.

He spent the Armistice in the field, and in early January 1919 returned to London to work at Anzac Headquarters. He left for Australia in April 1919.³²⁶

Harry married after the war and had a family. His post war career is unknown.

Harry died in 1970 in Ivanhoe, at 73 years old.

His brother Kilby also served and was killed in 1917.



³²³ [VGG](#)

³²⁴ [Trove](#)

³²⁵ [Trove](#)

³²⁶ [NAA](#)

John Thomas Griffiths

John was born in 1897 in South Yarra to Ellen Margaret Mary Griffiths. He was her only child. They were Catholic and lived in South Yarra. Before the war, he was a Gardener at the Botanic Gardens.³²⁷

John enlisted on 31 August 1915 aged 18. He was allocated to the 14th Reinforcements, 14th Battalion. He attended Signals School and left Melbourne on the HMAT *Ballarat* in February 1916 for Egypt, arriving in March. In April he was admitted to hospital for two weeks with influenza before returning to duty. In July he left for France with his unit.

On 11 April 1917 he was reported missing in action at Riencourt, France. In June he was confirmed a Prisoner of War at the Limburg an der Lahn camp in east Germany.³²⁸ He was repatriated to England in December 1918. He returned to Australia in February 1919 and was discharged in August of the same year.³²⁹

He returned to the Lands Department after the war, resigning from his position in August 1928.³³⁰ His post-war life is unknown.

John died in Maryborough in 1946, aged 49.



³²⁷ [Trove](#)

³²⁸ [AWM](#)

³²⁹ [NAA](#)

³³⁰ [VGG](#)

Arthur Clarence William Knight

Arthur was born in 1893 in Majorca, Victoria to Margaret (née Semmens) and Arthur Knight. He was the only son and eldest of four children. The family were Anglican. Arthur took up a clerical position with the Lands Department in April 1912.³³¹

Arthur enlisted on 6 September 1915, just before his 22nd birthday. Although he was initially found to be fit and sent to the 24th Depot Battalion, Royal Park, he was discharged in May 1916 due of ill health.³³²

Arthur remained with the Lands Department.³³³ In 1924 he married Lilian Marguerite Leversha; they had children.

Arthur died in 1973 in Hawthorn, at 80 years old.



³³¹ [VGG](#)

³³² [NAA](#)

³³³ [VGG](#)

Herman John Whiting

Herman was born in Ararat in 1893 to Nora Agnes (née Canty) and James Whiting. He was the second son of nine children in a Catholic family. He joined the Public Service as a junior messenger in September 1909.³³⁴ He married Kathleen Patching in April 1915.

Herman enlisted on 22 September 1915 aged 22. He was allocated to the 29th Battalion and left Australia in March 1916. He arrived in France where he was promoted to Lance Corporal. In late 1917 he was sent to hospital and on his return in December was promoted to Sergeant. Before the Armistice he was transferred to the 32nd Battalion. In March 1919 he was attached to the AIF Headquarters in England, where he had been on leave.³³⁵

His wife wanted to live in the UK; Herman secured a job and arranged to move there. He was demobilised in January 1920 and he and Kathleen moved to Ireland. He resigned from the Lands Department in August 1921.³³⁶

His post-war life and details of death are unknown.



³³⁴ [VGG](#)

³³⁵ [NAA](#)

³³⁶ [VGG](#)

Robert Reuben Grainger Greenwood

Robert was born in 1894 to Margaret Ann (née Grainger) and Walter Reuben Greenwood in Carlton. He was registered at birth as Reuben Robert but appears to have gone by Robert. He was the only son and youngest of three children. One of his sisters died the same year he was born. His father died in 1911. The family were Anglican, and Robert was a member of the Melbourne Swimming Club.³³⁷ In March 1914 he successfully passed the Clerical exam and joined the Lands Department as a clerk.³³⁸

Robert enlisted on 1 November 1915 at the age of 21. He had previously tried to enlist but had been rejected for bad teeth. He was allocated to the 14th Reinforcements, 8th Battalion and arrived in Suez in late February 1916. After training he was transferred to the 58th Battalion in April, and in June left Egypt for France. After a month with the 58th Battalion in the field he was attached to the 15th Light Trench Mortar Battery and trained until late August, when he returned to the 15th and was promoted to Corporal.

On 7 February 1917 Robert was in command of the Trench Mortar Battery ahead of the trench line when he received a severe shell wound to his left hand and lost his left thumb. He was medically evacuated and sent to England a couple of days after the injury. Robert returned to Australia in July 1917 and was discharged.³³⁹

He returned to the Lands Department. In 1922 he married Doris Pascoe; they children. Doris died in 1930.³⁴⁰ In 1932 he married Myra Alma Balzary. In the 1940s he was an accountant with the Victorian Police Department.³⁴¹

Robert died in 1949 in Heidelberg, at the age of 53.



³³⁷ [Trove](#)

³³⁸ [Trove](#)

³³⁹ [NAA](#)

³⁴⁰ [Trove](#)

³⁴¹ [VGG](#)

Edmund Lindsay Gordon Creswell

Edmund was born in March 1890 in Adelaide to Adelaide Elizabeth (née Stow) and William Rooke Creswell. He was one of their six children, including a twin brother, Randolph William Creswell. He came from a distinguished family: his mother was the daughter of Randolph Stow, South Australian Supreme Court judge and parliamentarian.³⁴² His father had a distinguished naval career and is considered the Father of the Royal Australian Navy.³⁴³

Due to his father's career, the family moved around Australia, and Edmund was educated at private schools in Adelaide, Brisbane, and Melbourne.³⁴⁴ He attended the University of Melbourne.³⁴⁵ Edmund was a civil engineer and surveyor with the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and had registered as a surveyor in 1913.³⁴⁶ His younger sister died the same year.³⁴⁷

He enlisted on 8 November 1915 aged 26. He joined the 2nd Pioneers Battalion as a 2nd Lieutenant. He arrived in England in September and left for France the next month. He was promoted to Lieutenant at the end of 1916. The 2nd Pioneers Battalion participated in the Second Battle of Bullecourt in May 1917. Edmund was shot in the right side of the chest on 8 May. It was a serious injury and he was medically evacuated to England, before returning to Australia on a medical discharge in late 1917.³⁴⁸

In the early 1920s he was acting shire engineer at Healesville.³⁴⁹ In October 1929 he married Alison Irma Dearden: they had two children. In the 1931 he was appointed the engineer for Williamstown Council.³⁵⁰ They were active in the Ararat community and were keen golfers.³⁵¹

Edmund died in 1966 in Healesville at the age of 77.

His twin brother Randolph was killed in action in November 1917. Their brother Colin was also killed in action in August 1917.



³⁴² [ADB](#)

³⁴³ [ADB](#)

³⁴⁴ [ADB](#)

³⁴⁵ [Trove](#)

³⁴⁶ [Trove](#)

³⁴⁷ [QA](#)

³⁴⁸ [NAA](#)

³⁴⁹ [Trove](#)

³⁵⁰ [Trove](#)

³⁵¹ [Trove](#)

Charles Lachlan Mackinnon Templeton

Charles was born in 1875 in Brighton to Mary Anne (née Godfrey) and William Templeton. He was the ninth of their eleven children and the sixth son. An older brother died in infancy. The family were Anglican and moved to Melbourne. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1898.³⁵² Charles was an Examiner of Titles at the Titles Office.

Charles enlisted on 27 November 1915 aged 40. He was allocated to the 23rd Battalion at Royal Park, and then transferred to the 37th Battalion in March 1916. Which he had initially been certified as fit for service, his age and ongoing health issues resulted in his medical discharge in April 1916.³⁵³

Charles briefly resumed his position with the Titles Office. In 1922 he was appointed to the position of Master-in-equity and Master-in-lunacy. This position was responsible for the estates of deceased and incapacitated mental patients.³⁵⁴ He resigned from the position the next year and turned to private practice.³⁵⁵ In 1929 he married Thelma Trone; they had no children.

Charles died in Mitcham in 1940, at the age of 65.

His younger sister Olive served as an Army nurse and returned home.



³⁵² [Trove](#)

³⁵³ [NAA](#)

³⁵⁴ [VGG](#)

³⁵⁵ [Trove](#)

Dudley Ackerley Tregent

Dudley was born in 1897 in Jeparit to Alice (née Hall) and Fred George Tregent. He was their first born and had a younger brother and sister. The family were Anglican, and his father was a schoolteacher. He won a junior technical scholarship in February 1912³⁵⁶ and passed the public service exam in August 1914.³⁵⁷

Dudley enlisted on 13 December 1915 aged 17. He joined the 17th Reinforcements, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade and left Melbourne in May 1916. He left for France just before the end of 1916 with the 7th Field Artillery Brigade. Dudley served in the 107th Howitzer Brigade and saw action along the Western Front. On 11 October 1918 he was promoted to Sergeant.

On 17 October 1918 at the Battle of the Selle, Dudley was shot in the head. He was instantly blinded in both eyes and lost his sense of taste and smell. He was evacuated to England and able to be discharged in December. He lived at the Blinded Sailors and Soldiers Hostel in Regent's Park. Dudley spent time visiting his brother Percy, who had also been wounded, in hospital in Wales. The nurses placed the brothers in adjoining beds.

In July 1920 Dudley married Eileen Isobel Sharp in Chelsea, London.

They had met while Dudley was in hospital. Eileen was a Scottish-born American nurse who had served in France with the Harvard University Medical unit. She had the distinction of being the first American nurse mentioned in British despatches.³⁵⁸ They returned to Australia in August 1920.³⁵⁹

Dudley started Law school at the University of Melbourne in 1922. The Repatriation Board had been deeply sceptical of his ability to study but had been persuaded to fund the course provided he was given assistance. While he had tried learning Braille, he found it difficult to use and instead memorised as much information as possible during lectures. Afterwards he would borrow fellow student's notes, which would be read to him, along with textbooks, by family and friends. He credited his family and friends for 'his success. Each and every one of them, their sympathy and enthusiasm aroused, took great interest in his progress, and gave him every assistance'.³⁶⁰

His sister Alice learned to make artificial eyes to replace his poorly fitting pair. She would then take this up as a career in Sydney.³⁶¹ Dudley completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with First Class



Berwick News

³⁵⁶ Trove

³⁵⁷ Trove

³⁵⁸ Trove

³⁵⁹ NAA

³⁶⁰ Trove

³⁶¹ Trove

Honours in Political Economy and a Master of Laws with Honours as an equal second place in the class.³⁶² He was the only blind student at the University.³⁶³ He retired from the Lands Department in July 1926.³⁶⁴

Dudley and Eileen had three sons and lived in a specially designed house in South Yarra.³⁶⁵ He never used a cane or a guide dog. He founded his own law firm, in which multiple family members would later work.³⁶⁶ He was deeply concerned by issues of social justice, advocating for increased pensions for servicemen and widows. He defended a young girl who shot and killed her father after his abuse. She was found not guilty.³⁶⁷ In 1951 he received an MBE for services to ex-servicemen.³⁶⁸ He was the honorary solicitor to Legacy, and member of a range of returned soldiers' organisations.³⁶⁹

Dudley died in South Yarra on 10 August 1971, aged 72.

His brother Percy also served and returned home.



³⁶² [Trove](#)

³⁶³ [Trove](#)

³⁶⁴ [VGG](#)

³⁶⁵ [DA](#)

³⁶⁶ [Berwick News](#)

³⁶⁷ [Trove](#)

³⁶⁸ [Trove](#)

³⁶⁹ [Trove](#)

George Francis Murphy

George was born in 1896 in Collingwood to Mary (née Hurst) and James Murphy. He was the youngest of their six children and the third son. The family were Catholic and lived in Melbourne. George entered the Lands Department in March 1912 as a four-year draftsman and surveyor apprentice.

George enlisted on 15 December 1915, aged 20. He was allocated to the 5th Reinforcements, 15th Field Company Engineers and left for Egypt in March 1916. He was only in Egypt for two weeks before being transferred to England. He began to experience health issues which required hospitalisation, remaining in England until late December when he left for France. His health issues continued; when he returned to the field in January 1917, he joined the 5th Field Company Engineers. George experienced further health issues after the Battle of Bullecourt, including mild shell shock. He was diagnosed with heart problems and returned to Australia in late December 1917.³⁷⁰

George resumed his position with the Department and was appointed Draftsman in October 1919.³⁷¹ He left the Department in 1931 and later took up a position in the Census team.³⁷² He married twice, firstly to Jessie Elizabeth May Stuart in 1920 and after her death in 1955, he married Kathleen Gray Patterson in 1956.

George died in Hartwell in 1965, at the age of 69.



³⁷⁰ [NAA](#)

³⁷¹ [VGG](#)

³⁷² [VGG](#)

George Thomas Blore

George was born in 1880 at Heyfield to Sarah Jane Caroline (née Crowle) and George. He was the first son and third of their ten children. The family were Anglican. He attended Traralgon Public School and joined the Department of Lands as a clerk in May 1900.³⁷³ He worked for the Closer Settlement Board and also became a qualified electrician. He married Esther Grace Lyons in 1904, and the following year their son, Trevor George Vernon, was born. They lived at Albert Park.

He attempted to enlist not long after the outbreak of the First World War but was rejected due to ill health. He was successful on his second attempt on 22 December 1915 and was posted to the 22nd Depot Battalion. He undertook a signals course, and by May 1916 had been promoted to Acting Company Sergeant Major. He declined an offer to stay on home duties.

In August he was allocated to the 15th Reinforcements, 21st Battalion as a private and left for England in September. Esther was pregnant with their second child.



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AWM

While training in England George was made an Acting Sergeant. He left for France in January 1917 as a Private with the 21st Battalion. By March he had been promoted to corporal and had been serving in the field.

In the early hours of 3 May a second attempt was made to capture Bullecourt, as part of the final effort of the British Army's Arras offensive. The Australians broke into the German line but met determined resistance. At some point during the day, George disappeared.³⁷⁴

George was found to have been killed in action on 4 May 1917. He was 36 years old. He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.³⁷⁵

His brother Alfred had served at Gallipoli and had been discharged at the time George went missing. Alfred re-enlisted to try and find George's body but had no success.

Esther gave birth to their daughter Vivienne Lesley in 1917. She remarried after the war.



³⁷³ [VGG](#)

³⁷⁴ [AWM](#)

³⁷⁵ [CWGC](#)

1916

Murray Howard Gray

Murray was born in 1897 in Murtoa to Gertrude (née Liddicoat) and Alex Gray. He was the second son and fourth of their five children. The family were Presbyterian and lived in Murtoa during his childhood. They returned to Melbourne before his mother's death in 1905. He was a clerk with the Lands Department.

Murray enlisted on 12 January 1916 aged 19. He had previously been in the Senior Cadets and the Albert Park Militia. He was allocated to the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade, 19th Reinforcements. At the start of September 1916, he embarked on the *Port Sydney* for England, arriving at the end of October. In January 1917 he went to France and was allocated to the 1st Battery, 1st Artillery Brigade in early February. On 16 October 1917 he was gassed while in Belgium. He was quickly evacuated to England for treatment for gas poisoning. In June 1918 he was invalided to Australia.³⁷⁶

Murray stayed with the Lands Department after the war.³⁷⁷ In 1923 he married Elsie Vera Wood; she died in 1930. In 1936 he remarried to Mary Phelam.

Murray died in 1952 in Heidelberg, at the age of 54.



³⁷⁶ NAA

³⁷⁷ VGG

Norman Francis Watts Barnard

Norman was born in 1893 in Kew to Mary Rachel (née Watts) and Francis George Allman Barnard. He was their only son and younger child. His grandfather had been one of the earliest residents of Kew, and his father and grandfather were members of the Council. The family were Unitarian. He attended Kew State School, and the University High School, where he was an excellent student, and was dux of the school. He attended Melbourne University before he joined the Lands Department as a licensed surveyor and draughtsman. He was a Lieutenant with the Kooyong Citizens Forces.³⁷⁸

Norman enlisted on 14 January 1916 aged 22. He joined the Engineers as a Sapper and was quickly identified for leadership potential and sent to Engineers Officers Training School. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 3rd Reinforcements, 1st Pioneers Battalion, a light military combat engineering unit, in April 1916.

In April 1917 he arrived in France via Egypt, where he joined his unit in the field in May. The Battalion was moved into Belgium in advance for the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) in July 1917. While near Zillebeke Lake, at Ypres, Norman was near his dugout when he was hit by a shell on 11 August 1917. He was hit in the head, arm, and chest and was killed instantly.³⁷⁹ His men reported that he was 'quiet and reserved, a clever man, a fine fellow' and they were 'all very sorry when he died'. Norman was 23 years old.

A close friend, Lieutenant J. McCowen, had him buried with full military honours at the Reninghelst Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. His headstone reads: 'Only son of Francis G.A/ & Mary R. Barnard/ of Kew, Victoria'.³⁸⁰

His sister, Muriel, was an Australian Army Nurse at Rouen, France. The siblings had had time together in England before they left for France. Before she returned to Australia on a hospital ship Lieutenant McCowen was able to give her details of his death and burial.³⁸¹

Norman's fiancée, Irene May Williams also lost her only brother in 1916 at Mouquet Farm. Kew State School flew the flag at half-mast in his honour.



³⁷⁸ Trove

³⁷⁹ NAA

³⁸⁰ CWGC

³⁸¹ AWM

Herbert Cave

Herbert was born in 1893 in Richmond to Isadora Alfredia (née Kemp) and William Bruce Cave. He was the seventh of ten children, and the fifth son. Four of his brothers died in childhood. The family were Anglican and lived in South Yarra. Herbert joined the Lands Department in September 1911 as a Boy Labourer at the Botanic Gardens.³⁸²

Herbert enlisted on 18 January 1916 at Melbourne at the age of 23. He was allotted to the 3rd Divisional Signals Company as a Sapper and Driver and left in March 1916 for England. and after training left England for France in late November 1916. He served with his unit in France from November 1916. He returned to Australia in June 1919.³⁸³

Herbert returned to the Lands Department after the war. In 1924 he married Amy Elizabeth Brewster; they had one son. By 1934 he was the curator of the Albert Park Reserve, Melbourne.³⁸⁴

Herbert died in 1972 in Ashwood, at the age of 79.

His son Herbert Bruce Cave served as a signaller during the Second World War and returned home.



³⁸² VGG

³⁸³ NAA

³⁸⁴ VGG

Claude Edwards Chancellor

Claude was born in 1897 in Walhalla to Nina Lizette (née Machefer) and Norman George Chancellor. He was the second of four children in an Anglican family. His father was a mine manager and metallurgist, and the family lived in gold towns. Claude attended Bendigo Senior High School and was in the Senior Cadets. He joined the Department of Lands in September 1914 as a clerk.³⁸⁵

Claude enlisted on 27 January 1916 at the age of 18. He joined the 3rd Divisional Signals Company and attended signals school. He left Australia for England and then went on to France in November 1916. Claude won the Military Medal for bravery in the field in February 1918 for actions undertaken at Ypres and was promoted up to Corporal. He returned to Australia in July 1919.³⁸⁶

He returned to the Lands Department after the war. Claude married Gwendolyn May Lee in 1925; they had two sons. They lived in Mildura during the 1930s, where he was active in the Legacy Club³⁸⁷ and the Tennis Association.³⁸⁸ He returned to Melbourne in the 1940s, working on the Settlers Inquiry Committee.³⁸⁹

Claude died in 1980 in Heidelberg at the age of 82.

His brother Hilbert also served and returned home.



Trove



³⁸⁵ VGG

³⁸⁶ NAA

³⁸⁷ Trove

³⁸⁸ Trove

³⁸⁹ VGG

David Albert Baird

David was born in 1889 in Horsham to Mary Elizabeth (née Turner) and David Marshall Baird. He was the only son and middle child of three. The family were Presbyterian. He apprenticed at the Lithographic Printing Company in Ballarat before joining the Lands Department in November 1907 as a Junior Assistant Lithographic Printer.³⁹⁰ He was a member of the Esperanto Club.³⁹¹

David enlisted on 1 February 1916 aged 27. He joined the new 37th Infantry Battalion at Seymour, and left Australia in early June 1916. The 37th Battalion was part of Monash's new 3rd Division and trained in England, where David was promoted to Corporal. The Division left for France in November 1916.

The 37th Battalion served along the Western Front in France and Belgium, including at the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) and St. Quentin Canal. He was promoted to Sergeant in September 1918, and then transferred to the 38th Battalion at the end of October. After the Armistice he was detached to the 10th Infantry Brigade until late March 1919, when he re-joined his unit. They returned to England in preparation for repatriation to Australia in June 1919.³⁹²

David married Annie Smith in 1919. In April 1923 he resigned from his position as Draughtsman with the Lands Department.³⁹³ In June 1929 he was appointed a Trustee for Ultima Public Cemetery.³⁹⁴

David died in 1953 in Croydon, at the age of 74.



³⁹⁰ VGG

³⁹¹ Trove

³⁹² NAA

³⁹³ VGG

³⁹⁴ VGG

Henry Breakett Norton

Henry was born in 1891 in Carlton to Edith (née Breakett) and Henry Norton. He was their only child. The family were Catholic and lived in Melbourne. His middle name was also spelt Breakell. Henry joined the Department of Public Works as a Lift Attendant in 1909 and had joined the Lands Department by 1916.³⁹⁵

Henry enlisted on 8 February 1916 at the age of 24. He was allocated to train with the 38th Battalion in Bendigo but was medically discharged in April due to foot issues. He re-enlisted on 27 October 1916 and was allocated to the 23rd Reinforcements, 14th Battalion. His colleagues at the Department gifted him a fountain pen.³⁹⁶ The Battalion left Melbourne in December and arrived in England in February 1917 for training. He left for France in December, where he joined the 10th Light Trench Mortar Battery. He had influenza twice and served out the war in France. He left England for Australia in May 1919 and disembarked at Adelaide.³⁹⁷

Henry's fiancée arrived in Australia in 1920;³⁹⁸ they moved to Glenhuntly and had children.³⁹⁹

Henry died in 1960 on the Mornington Peninsula, aged 69.



³⁹⁵ VGG

³⁹⁶ Trove

³⁹⁷ NAA

³⁹⁸ Trove

³⁹⁹ Trove

Samuel Thomas Jennings

Samuel was born in 1887 Linton to Martha (née Bursey) and Jonathan Jennings. He was the sixth of ten children and the third son. The family were Anglican. He joined the Department of Treasury in June 1907 as a Junior Messenger.⁴⁰⁰ In 1913 he married Alice Pretty; their son was born in 1915. He was in the St Kilda Militia for seven years.

Samuel enlisted on 21 February 1916 at the age of 28. He was allocated to the 8th Field Artillery Brigade and left Melbourne for England in May. Before proceeding to France, he was promoted to Sergeant. On 24 April 1918 he was gassed and received injuries to his face. He was sent back behind the lines to hospital, and in July was transferred to England still suffering physical effects from the gassing. Samuel left for Australia on the Hospital ship *Medic* in late August 1918 and was sent to the Caulfield Hospital on his return in October.⁴⁰¹

He returned to the Lands Department after the war.⁴⁰² In 1928 Samuel married Catherine Ann Frankland Hughes, a fellow employee of the Lands Department.⁴⁰³ He would later move to the Department of Law and the Taxation Office.⁴⁰⁴ After Catherine's death he married Hester May Gwenneth Jones in 1947. Samuel was president of the Victorian Public Service Association until 1952.⁴⁰⁵

Samuel died in 1971 in Elsternwick at 83 years old.

His younger brother Leslie also served and returned home.



⁴⁰⁰ [VGG](#)

⁴⁰¹ [NAA](#)

⁴⁰² [VGG](#)

⁴⁰³ [Trove](#)

⁴⁰⁴ [VGG](#)

⁴⁰⁵ [Trove](#)

Francis Herbert Arthur Moon

Francis was born in 1881 in Buchan to Margaret (née Ross) and Robert Moon. He was the second son and third of eight children in an Anglican family. In February 1907 he joined the Lands Department as a Bailiff of Crown Lands.⁴⁰⁶ The same year he married Sabine Caraghers; they had three daughters.

Francis enlisted on 22 February 1916 at 35aged. He was allocated to the 5th Battalion and left Melbourne for England in July. He was transferred to the 38th Battalion, part of Monash's 3rd Division. In November the Battalion proceeded to France. On 13 October 1917 he was shot in the knee and returned to his unit a week later. He returned to Australia in June 1919 and was discharged in September.⁴⁰⁷

Francis returned to Buchan after the war and was the caretaker of the Buchan Caves.⁴⁰⁸

Francis died in 1967 in Orbost, at the age of 86.



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AWM



⁴⁰⁶ VGG

⁴⁰⁷ NAA

⁴⁰⁸ Trove

Thomas Herbert Blair

Thomas was born in March 1898 in Kyneton to Elizabeth (née Dickins) and William Thomas Blair. He was the only son and third child. William was a draper, and the family were Baptist. He was an able student, attending local schools, and was a prefect and an officer with the senior cadets at Kyneton High School. He was a member of the Australian Natives Association.⁴⁰⁹ In May 1914 he joined the Department of Lands as a clerk.⁴¹⁰

Thomas enlisted on 26 February 1916 at Melbourne, just shy of 19. He was allotted to the newly formed C Company, 38th Battalion and was promoted to Sergeant in May 1916. He embarked Australia for England in June 1916. After training in England, he joined his battalion in France in November 1916. The battalion conducted a number of raids on German held trenches during the winter of 1916-17.

He was well regarded by his fellow officers, who commented that he was committed to carrying out his duty. In May 1917, just a few months after arriving on the Western Front, Thomas was promoted to 2nd lieutenant. Eleven days later, he was part of a raiding party which entered the German trenches in the Ypres Salient in Belgium. Supported by the artillery, the party successfully reached the German position and brought back a prisoner. There were over 95 casualties, including Thomas.

Thomas was hit by a bullet in the lower part of his body and was quickly rendered unconscious. Although he was taken with little delay to a dressing station, he died shortly after arriving. He was 20 when he was killed.⁴¹¹

A friend of his, Lieutenant Alec Fraser, saw him just before he died, and wrote that “he looked just the same – young and splendid. Everything that could be done was done, but the case was hopeless from the first”. The principal of the Kyneton High School addressed his students with the news of their former prefect’s death. He said that Thomas was “manly in physique and manly in character – every inch a soldier; and life opened out before him a sweet and precious thing”.⁴¹²

Thomas is buried at the Strand Military Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium. His headstone reads ‘there remaineth therefore/ a rest for the people of God’.⁴¹³



⁴⁰⁹ Trove

⁴¹⁰ VGG

⁴¹¹ NAA

⁴¹² AWM

⁴¹³ CWGC

William Edmends

William was born in 1892 in South Melbourne to Edith Mary (née Edmends) and William Edmends. He was the first son and oldest of four children. The family were Methodist and lived in Brunswick. William joined the Lands Department as a clerk in December 1910.⁴¹⁴

William enlisted on 26 February 1916 at the age of 23. He was allocated to the 4th Depot Battalion as a Corporal and after training at Seymour left Melbourne for England in late October 1916. He arrived in England in early January 1917 and was allocated as a Driver as a part of the 2nd Australian Divisional Train. He remained in England throughout 1917 before going to France in April 1918. In early January 1919 he was promoted to Lance Corporal while attending the AIF Education Service. He returned to England in June 1919 and he was transferred to the War Records Office. He returned to Australia in August 1919.⁴¹⁵

William returned to the Lands Department after the war. He married Lily Emily Lowen in 1920. In January 1950 he was appointed to the Settlers' Inquiry Committee.⁴¹⁶

William died in 1965 in Ivanhoe, at the age of 72.

His younger brother Edmund also served and returned to Australia.



⁴¹⁴ VGG

⁴¹⁵ NAA

⁴¹⁶ VGG

Archibald Haddow

Archie was born in Kensington in 1893 to Annie Jean (née McColl) and Nathaniel Haddow. He was the first of their three children and the elder son. The family were members of the Church of Christ. Archie was technically minded, studying survey and engineering drafting and maths. He joined the Titles Office in August 1914 as a trainee draftsman.⁴¹⁷

Archie enlisted on 29 February 1916 aged 23. He was allocated as a Sapper to the Reinforcements, Field Company Engineers. He was transferred to Sydney and left there as Acting Sergeant in May 1917 for England. He went into training in England before leaving for France in November 1917. He served in the field and was appointed Lance Corporal in July 1918. On 13 February 1919 he returned to England to prepare to head home. Two days later he was admitted to hospital with Spanish Flu. Within the week he was dangerously ill, fighting bronchial pneumonia.⁴¹⁸

Archie died on 21 February 1919. He was 26 years old. He was buried in a full military service at the Sutton Veny (St. John) Courtyard, England. His cousin Captain James Haddow was in attendance.

The headstone reads 'Archie sleeps/ we shall see him/ in the morning'.⁴¹⁹



⁴¹⁷ VGG

⁴¹⁸ NAA

⁴¹⁹ CWGC

Vivien Wilfred Straford

Vivien was born on 19 February 1897 in Meredith to Marie (née Fitzgerald) and Herbert Claude Vivien Straford. He was their second son and third child. The family were Catholic and lived in Ballarat. He attended Ballarat High School, where he was a Senior Cadet, and was a clerk at the Lands Department and a member of the Citizens Forces.

Vivien enlisted on 29 February 1916 aged 19. He attended the AIF Signal School and left Melbourne in July on the Ayrshire.

After arrival in England he undertook more training and was transferred to the 39th Battalion. He left for France in November 1916. In May 1917 he was highly commended for 'meritorious and gallant service rendered during enemy raid on night 29/30th April 1917.



VWMA

During the very heavy bombardment of our lines, he assisted in patrolling the main telephone continuously, effecting many repairs, and eventually established communications. On previous occasions he has done fine work'. On 7 June 1917 he was shot in the right arm and sent to England. While it was initially recorded as a mild wound, the arm was amputated. General Monash sent a card to his parents saying that there was 'no word of regret, his only sorrow being his disqualification for further service'.⁴²⁰ He returned to Australia in July 1917 on a medical discharge.⁴²¹

Vivien returned to the Lands Department after the war. He married Wilfred Mary Sullivan in 1926. He was a member of the Victorian Astronomical Society.⁴²² He was the Chief Accountant at the Lands Department.⁴²³

Vivien died in Heidelberg in May 1971, aged 74. He is buried at the Brighton General Cemetery.

His older brother Claude also served and returned home.



⁴²⁰ Trove

⁴²¹ NAA

⁴²² Trove

⁴²³ VWMA

Alfred Richard Cross

Alfred was born in 1893 North Carlton to Annie Rosina (née Body) and Richard Cross. He was the oldest of their three sons. The family were Anglican. He joined the Lands Department in October 1912 as a clerk.⁴²⁴

He enlisted on 1 March 1916 aged 23. He joined the Field Artillery 3rd Reinforcements, 2nd Battalion. He left Australia at the beginning of August 1916 and arrived in England in September 1916. He undertook further training in England before he went to France in February 1917. He joined the 3rd Divisional Artillery Column in March, serving in the field until late October 1917 when he went to hospital sick. He returned to the field in late November 1917 and was promoted to Acting Bombardier in January 1918. He remained in the field until February 1919 when he went on leave to England. After his return from leave he was promoted up to Temporary Corporal in April 1919. He returned to England in preparation of return to Australia. He arrived in Australia in July 1919. ⁴²⁵



In 1922 he married Ada Kathleen Denehy. Alfred took up a position with the Department of Public Works in the Mercantile Marine Office in 1928.⁴²⁶ [Trove](#)

Alfred died in Glenhuntly in 1977 aged 84.



⁴²⁴ VGG

⁴²⁵ NAA

⁴²⁶ VGG

Clarence Murray Bell

Clarence was born in 1892 in Fitzroy to Emily Francis (née Studdart) and John Bell. He was the middle child of three sons. His family were Anglican, and heavily involved in the Holy Trinity Church at Thornbury. Clarry was a lay reader, member of the choir, and superintendent of the Sunday school, and a member of the tennis club.⁴²⁷ He lived with his widowed mother in Northcote. He started with the Victorian Public Service in December 1909 as a junior messenger at the Department of the Chief Secretary,⁴²⁸ and was working as a clerk with the Lands Department by 1916.

Clarry enlisted on 9 March 1916 aged 23. He joined B Company, 23rd Infantry Battalion. He left Australia in October 1916 and while on the voyage he was promoted to Acting Corporal. After arriving in England in mid-November 1916 he undertook training. Proceeding to France in April 1917, he joined the 24th Infantry Battalion on 20 April 1917.

On 4 May 1917 he was hit by a shell at the Battle of Bullecourt. He died from his wounds to the right arm and left leg at the 3rd Casualty Clearing station on the same day. He had only been in the field for 13 days.⁴²⁹

Clarry was 25 years old. He was buried at the Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. His headstone reads: 'There is a link/ death cannot sever/ love and remembrance/ last for ever'.⁴³⁰

The Preston Leader newspaper remembered him as 'conscientious and painstaking in all the duties he undertook he made a wide circle of friends.'⁴³¹

His younger brother Harold also served and returned home.



⁴²⁷ Trove

⁴²⁸ VGG

⁴²⁹ NAA

⁴³⁰ CWGC

⁴³¹ Trove

Samuel Henry Bennett

Samuel was born on 29 August 1898 in Bolwarrah to Maria Theresa (née Walker) and Samuel Bennett. He was the youngest of their five children and was shared his name with an older brother who died in childhood. The family were Catholic, and both his parents died when he was a child. He had served in the Citizen Forces and Senior Cadets and was a clerk for the Lands Department.

Samuel enlisted on 11 March 1918 at 19 years old, with his sister's consent. He joined the Australian Flying Corps as a 2nd Class Air Mechanic. He arrived in England in December 1918, proceeding to France shortly after. He served with the Australian Flying Corps in France until 1919, when he returned to England. He remained in England with the Australian Flying Corps and the Australian Imperial Force until his return to Australia in May 1920, where he was discharged.⁴³²

After the war he married twice and had two daughters.

Samuel died in Mildura in 1971, at 73 years old.

His brother William also served and returned to Australia.



⁴³² NAA

Percy James Cloke

Percy was born on 3 February 1894 in Maryborough to Bessy (née Nichols) and Benjamin Thomas Cloke. He was the first son and the second child of ten. The family were Anglican and lived in Maryborough. He spent five years with the Citizen Forces and was a Lieutenant. Percy joined the Victorian Public Service in July 1911 as a junior attendant at the Public Library, Museums and National Gallery of Victoria.⁴³³

Percy enlisted on 14 March 1916 aged 22. He joined D Company, 38th Battalion as a Private; by May 1916 he was promoted to Sergeant. He left Melbourne in June 1916 for England, arriving in August 1916. He was quickly promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and was seconded for duty with the 3rd Division Medium Trench Mortar Battery. In February 1917 he was promoted to Lieutenant, and then promoted as a temporary Captain as the Divisional Trench Mortar Officer reporting to the Brigadier General. The Battery was at Nieppe, France at the start of June 1917. On 3 June they came under medium fire, which killed and wounded multiple men.⁴³⁴ Percy was wounded and medically evacuated to England on 11 June with multiple severe gunshot wounds to the arms and right leg. He was awarded the Military Cross for his distinguished service on 3 June 1917. He returned to Australia in September 1917.⁴³⁵

Percy married Agnes Geraldine Longden in St Kilda in September 1918; they had a son in November 1919.⁴³⁶ He resigned from his position with the Lands Department in January 1919.⁴³⁷ Late in 1919 Percy took up a soldier settlement plot in Cosgrove, where he took up farming.⁴³⁸ Percy and Agnes were active in the Dookie community; Percy represented Dookie on the Shepparton Council.⁴³⁹ He reenlisted for service in WW2.

Percy died in 1978 in Heidelberg aged 84.



⁴³³ VGG

⁴³⁴ AMW

⁴³⁵ NAA

⁴³⁶ Trove

⁴³⁷ VGG

⁴³⁸ PROV

⁴³⁹ Trove

Frank Howard Bennett

Frank was born in 1895 in Ascot Vale to Matilda Theresa (née Stucky) and George Howard Bennett. He was the eldest of their three children. The family was Congregationalist. In 1909 he won a state scholarship in mining and agriculture,⁴⁴⁰ and had been a senior cadet and member of the citizen forces. He joined the Titles Office as a Trainee Draftsman in January 1912.⁴⁴¹

Frank enlisted on 15 March 1916, aged 20. He was allocated to the Australian Army Medical Corps and trained at Royal Park and the Australian General Hospital. He left Australia for England in October 1916. He left for France in June 1917 with the 2nd Divisional Supply Column and remained with them until March 1918 when he was transferred to the 2nd Australian Divisional Motor Transport Company. He returned to England in April 1919 and took a course at the School of Architecture at Liverpool University until September 1919 and shortly after departed for Australia.⁴⁴²

Frank returned to the Titles Office after the war. In 1921 he married Laura Steele; they had children. In 1943 he was appointed Assistant Registrar of Titles.⁴⁴³

Frank died in Chelsea in 1982, aged 86.



⁴⁴⁰ Trove

⁴⁴¹ VGG

⁴⁴² NAA

⁴⁴³ VGG

John Luscombe Pollard

John was born in 1898 in Woods Point to Emma Eliza (née Luscombe) and Joseph Pollard. He was the fifth born on their six children and the third son. The family was Anglican and moved to Ringwood. His father died in 1910. John joined the Titles Office as a trainee draftsman in July 1914.⁴⁴⁴

John enlisted on 15 March 1916 aged 18. He was initially allocated to the Medical Corps but transferred to the Signal School in May and left Australia for England in September. He arrived in France in May 1917 and was hit in the back with shrapnel in September. He was sent back to England to have it removed and was posted to duty there after his operation. In March 1918 he left for France where he served with the Australia Corps Signal Company through to the end of the war. He returned to Australia in August 1919.⁴⁴⁵

John resumed his career with the Titles Office. In 1922 he married Dorothy Alice Fisher; they had children. He was active in the RSL and President of the Camberwell branch.⁴⁴⁶ In 1944 he was appointed Assistant Registrar of Titles.⁴⁴⁷

John died in 1990.

His older brother Harry also served and was killed in 1917.



⁴⁴⁴ VGG

⁴⁴⁵ NAA

⁴⁴⁶ Trove

⁴⁴⁷ VGG

Charles Montgomery Ewart

Charles was born in 1896 in Brunswick to Margaret (née Montgomery) and George Alexander Ewart. He was the youngest of five children. A brother died at two years old and his father died in 1902. His family were Presbyterian, and unmarried Charles lived with his family in Brunswick. He was in the senior cadets for two years and entered the public service prior to his enlistment.

Charles initially enlisted on 20 March 1916, at the age of 19, and was transferred to the 5th Australian General Hospital from Royal Park. He returned to Royal Park at the start of 1917 until mid-April, when he was transferred back to the 5th Australian General Hospital until mid-June 1917, when his enlistment was completed. He then proceeded to the Clearing Hospital and left Australia at the end of August 1917. He arrived in Egypt in October 1917, where he joined the 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance. He attended Cookery School in June-July 1918. In April 1919 he was granted leave to Australia. He was discharged at the end of November 1919.⁴⁴⁸

After the war Charles resumed his career with the Victorian Government and studied accountancy and law.⁴⁴⁹ In 1921 he married Alma Irene Dickie; they had one son.⁴⁵⁰ Charles was active in early environmental causes, giving lectures as a member of the Save the Forests campaign.⁴⁵¹ In 1960 he was appointed as a Forest Commissioner.⁴⁵²

Charles died in 1962 in Parkville, aged 65.



⁴⁴⁸ [NAA](#)

⁴⁴⁹ [Trove](#)

⁴⁵⁰ [Trove](#)

⁴⁵¹ [Trove](#)

⁴⁵² [VGG](#)

Alan Ross McPhee

Alan was born on 12 February 1897 in North Fitzroy to Mary Elizabeth (née Morrison) and Duncan McPhee. He was the third of their five children and the second son. The family were Presbyterian and lived in Auburn. He was a Senior Cadet and member of the Citizen Forces and was a clerk at the Lands Department.

Alan enlisted on 27 March 1916, just after his 19th birthday. He was allocated to the 23rd Battalion for training. In May he was admitted to hospital for treatment for rheumatism; his enlistment was cancelled in late December 1916 as his condition made him medically unfit for service.⁴⁵³

In 1919 he resigned from the Lands Department.⁴⁵⁴ On 8 June 1929 he married Emilie Phyllis Bunbury. He completed a Diploma of Commerce at Melbourne University, and worked as a business manager in Sydney.

In March 1942 he enlisted for service with the Volunteer Defence Corps in NSW.

Alan died outside of Victoria.



⁴⁵³ NAA

⁴⁵⁴ VGG

Thomas John Smith

Thomas was born in 1897 in St Kilda to Margaret (née O'Farrell) and Laurence Smith. The family were Catholic and lived in St Kilda. He was the fourth of their five children, and the third son. Thomas joined the Titles Office as a Junior Messenger in September 1914.⁴⁵⁵

Thomas enlisted on 27 March 1916 aged 18. He was allocated as a Driver to the 8th Field Artillery Brigade and left Australia for England in May. He left for France in November, where he transferred to the 3rd Divisional Ammunition Column, where he remained for the war. He returned to Australia in April 1919.⁴⁵⁶

Thomas resigned from his position as a Junior Messenger in 1921.⁴⁵⁷ His post-war life is unknown.

Thomas died in 1955, aged 58.

His older brothers Patrick and Lawrence both served, were wounded in action and returned home.



⁴⁵⁵ VGG

⁴⁵⁶ NAA

⁴⁵⁷ VGG

Ernest Henry Bugg

Ernest was born on 26 October 1880 in St Kilda to Eliza (née Buhler) and Henry Isaac Bugg.

He was the first son and eldest of their three children. His mother died in 1885, and his father married Drusilla Martha Sophia Currell the following year. His father and step-mother had a further three children, including younger brother Arthur William. His father was a Gardener with the Lands Department The family were Methodist and Ernest was educated at state schools. He married Elsie Carol McInnes in May 1905; they had four children. and Ernest took up a position as a Garden Labourer at the Botanic Gardens in September 1910.⁴⁵⁸ His brother would also join the Lands Department as a Gardener in 1914.



Trove

Ernest enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 6 April 1916 aged 35. He had already been with the Citizens Forces for six years and had applied a commission in the Army. He was allocated to the Army Services Corps as a Warrant Officer and left Melbourne in early June 1916. On his arrival in England he was made acting Regimental Sergeant Major for the 3rd Divisional Train during their stay. In late November 1916 he left for France; in mid-January 1917 he was commissioned as a temporary 2nd Lieutenant. In May he was promoted to Lieutenant and attached to the 3rd Divisional Trench Tramways Detachment. He returned to the Training Depot in England in October 1917. He remained in England until May 1918, when he returned to the 5th Divisional Train in France. He returned to Australia in late 1919. His appointment was terminated in just before Christmas 1919.⁴⁵⁹

Ernest left the Lands Department after the war and moved to Werribee to take up a plot.⁴⁶⁰ Ernest and Elsie had two daughters in Werribee. He was active in the community; he was a member of the school committee;⁴⁶¹ was an active member of the Australian Natives' Association⁴⁶² and was a member of the Werribee Cricket Club.⁴⁶³ He was also a member of the RSL,⁴⁶⁴ and was involved in advocating for soldier settlers in Victoria.⁴⁶⁵ He was elected to the Werribee Shire Council in 1938.⁴⁶⁶ He joined the Volunteer Defence Corps during the Second World War,⁴⁶⁷ and was an advocate for the internment of naturalised British citizens from enemy nations.⁴⁶⁸ In 1944 he lost his seat on the Council.⁴⁶⁹

Ernest died in Heidelberg in 1971, at the age of 90.

His younger brother Arthur also served and died in 1915.

⁴⁵⁸ VGG

⁴⁵⁹ NAA

⁴⁶⁰ VGG

⁴⁶¹ VGG

⁴⁶² Trove

⁴⁶³ Trove

⁴⁶⁴ Trove

⁴⁶⁵ Trove

⁴⁶⁶ Trove

⁴⁶⁷ Trove

⁴⁶⁸ Trove

⁴⁶⁹ Trove

Samuel George Carter

Samuel was born in 1893 in Chiltern to Mary Ann (née Bell) and Robert Walter. He was the second son and the third of seven children. The family were Anglican. He joined the Lands Department as a clerk in April 1912.⁴⁷⁰

Samuel enlisted on 2 May 1916, just before he turned 23. He joined the 29th Infantry Reinforcements as a Private. He left Melbourne on the HMAT *Commonwealth* in September 1916, arriving in England in November 1916. In January 1917 he was sent to the Musketry School of Instruction at Tidworth, where he obtained a 1st Class qualification (Distinguished) on passing the 6th Rifle Course. At the end of February, he was admitted to hospital with influenza; he had recovered by mid-March and marched out to join the 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott. He was promoted Acting Corporal in the same month. He transferred to the Senior NCOs School for instruction. In June 1917 he went to France, where he reverted to the rank of Private and joined the 39th Battalion. On 4 August 1917 he was wounded in action and released back to the unit on the same day.

On 12 October 1917 he was wounded again, spending a month in hospital. This began a period of ill health which required his medical evacuation to England in February 1918. While in England in July 1918 he was admitted to hospital with an injury to his right shoulder. He returned to his battalion in August 1918, serving out the remainder of the war on the French front. In January 1919 he returned to England for medical treatment, enjoying a furlough in Dartford after his discharge from hospital. He returned home on the Shropshire in late June 1919 with a medical discharge.⁴⁷¹

After the war he resumed his career with the Department on Lands. He married Florence Ina Buckley in 1923 and they had two daughters. In 1935 he joined the Premier's department as the chief clerk,⁴⁷² where he received the King's Coronation Medal in 1937.⁴⁷³ He returned to England in 1948 as the Secretary of the Victorian Agent-General's department,⁴⁷⁴ where he died.

His sister Rose enlisted in October 1918 and served at a medical hospital in Bombay until the end of 1919. Their two brothers, Robert and Ernest also served and returned to Australia.



⁴⁷⁰ [VGG](#)

⁴⁷¹ [NAA](#)

⁴⁷² [Trove](#)

⁴⁷³ [Trove](#)

⁴⁷⁴ [Trove](#)

Norman Harty Malcolm

Norman was born on 21 August 1881 in Kerang to Mary Jane (née Blythe) and Henry Charles Malcolm. Norman and his twin brother were the first-born sons and eldest of five children. His father was born in Scotland.⁴⁷⁵ The family were Presbyterian and moved around Victoria for his father's job in the Victorian Public Service.⁴⁷⁶ Norman was a keen golfer⁴⁷⁷ and tennis player.⁴⁷⁸ He had previously studied law and had been a law clerk. In August 1911 he joined the Lands Department as a Draughtsman.⁴⁷⁹ In 1913 he married Elinor Humphreys Wallace; they lived in Camberwell.



AWM (L to R: Norman, Stella, Eric and Edith Malcolm)

Norman enlisted on 20 May 1916, aged 34. While he was initially enlisted as a Corporal, he was quickly promoted to Sergeant and sent to Engineer Officers Training School. In December he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 2nd Pioneers, the hybrid engineer/infantry unit. He left Australia in May 1917, arriving in England in July. In early October he left for France, where he joined his unit in the field. By December he had been promoted to Lieutenant. In February 1918 he was admitted to hospital with a fever from bronchitis. He was evacuated to England in April and after assessment found to have fibrosis in the lungs. He left England for Australia in June 1918 and was discharged in December 1918.⁴⁸⁰

He returned to the Lands Department after the war, where he was a member of the Closer Settlement Board.⁴⁸¹ He continued to be promoted to the board until the late 1930s.⁴⁸² During the Second World War he was the Assistant Deputy Director of Manpower, and after his retirement was elected to the Camberwell Council.

Norman died in Richmond in 1948, aged 66. He was survived by his wife and daughter.⁴⁸³

His younger sisters Stella and Edith served as nurses during the war, and younger brother Eric served in the Artillery. They all returned home to Australia.



⁴⁷⁵ [VWMA](#)

⁴⁷⁶ [Western District Families](#)

⁴⁷⁷ [Trove](#)

⁴⁷⁸ [Trove](#)

⁴⁷⁹ [VGG](#)

⁴⁸⁰ [NAA](#)

⁴⁸¹ [VGG](#)

⁴⁸² [VGG](#)

⁴⁸³ [Trove](#)

Eric Frederick Herman Singleton

Eric was born in 1897 in Pyalong to Elise (née Paterson) and Frederick Oliver Singleton. He was the middle of three children and the elder son. His father was a farmer and the family were Methodist. He joined the Lands Department as a clerk in November 1914.⁴⁸⁴ He was a Senior Cadet and member of the Citizens Forces.

Eric enlisted on 24 May 1916 aged 19. He was allocated to the 6th Reinforcements, 59th Battalion. He left Melbourne for England in October, and quickly arrived in France on New Year's Eve 1916. He was shot through the left hand on 24 March 1917 and sent to England for treatment. He returned to France in July and spent a month at the Base Depot before re-joining the unit in August. He was wounded in action for the second time on 2 September 1918 with a shell wound to the back. He went to England on leave in October and was admitted to hospital for illness. Eric returned to Australia in April 1919.⁴⁸⁵

Eric returned to the Lands Department after the war.⁴⁸⁶ He married Lilian Elsie Cooper in 1925; they had two daughters. He was awarded a 1953 Coronation Medal,⁴⁸⁷ and was a member and deputy chairman of the Soldier Settlement Commission in the 1950s.⁴⁸⁸

Eric died in Malvern in 1973 aged 76.



⁴⁸⁴ VGG

⁴⁸⁵ NAA

⁴⁸⁶ VGG

⁴⁸⁷ Trove

⁴⁸⁸ VGG

Norman John Hardy

Norman was born in Alexandra in 1882 to Mary Ann (née Pegg) and John Hardy. He was youngest son of four children in an Anglican family. Norman enlisted for service in the Boer War, but the conflict ended shortly after.⁴⁸⁹ He joined the Titles Office as a Trainee Draftsman in April 1911.⁴⁹⁰ The next year he married Nellie Maud Smith; their daughter was born in 1914.

Norman enlisted on 6 June 1916, aged 34. He was allocated to the infantry and left Australia in October. He joined the 24th Battalion in France in May 1917. On 9 October he was struck by a shell, which caused a spinal concussion. He spent the rest of October in hospital, recovering. In December he returned to his unit, with whom he saw out the rest of the war. He returned to Australia in June 1919.⁴⁹¹

He resumed his position with the Titles Office. In 1939 he was appointed an Assistant Registrar of Titles.⁴⁹² Norman and Nellie had two more children.⁴⁹³

Norman died on 26 October 1944 in Richmond, at the age of 62.

His son John served in the RAAF during the Second World War.



⁴⁸⁹ [NAA](#)

⁴⁹⁰ [VGG](#)

⁴⁹¹ [NAA](#)

⁴⁹² [VGG](#)

⁴⁹³ [Trove](#)

Oscar George Pearson

Oscar was born in Footscray in 1887 to Mary McDougall (née Chalmers) and Joseph Francis Oscar Pearson. He had two sisters. The family was Presbyterian and lived in Melbourne. His grandfather was an early Footscray settler.⁴⁹⁴ He attended Hawthorn Grammar School and was dux.⁴⁹⁵ In 1904 he successfully passed the University of Melbourne matriculation exam.⁴⁹⁶ He registered as a surveyor in 1912 and was a member of a temperance organisation.

Oscar enlisted on 26 June 1916, just before his 29th birthday. He was allocated to the 3rd Reinforcements, 3rd Pioneers Battalion, a engineers and infantry unit. He attended Engineer Officers Training School at Roseville from August 1916 to the end of January 1917. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 4th Pioneers in June 1917, and embarked on Medic from Sydney in August, arriving in England via Canada in October. In November he was placed in command of the Pioneer Training School in England and proceeded to France in February 1918. He was promoted to Lieutenant in May 1918. After the Armistice he continued to work in France on salvage duty before returning to England in mid-1919. He returned to Australia on the Suevic in September 1919 and was discharged in October 1919.⁴⁹⁷

In 1919 he married Hughlila Irene Gray in Sydney and they had three children. They lived in Casino for a time, before returning to Victoria where Oscar resumed work with the Lands Department. Oscar was appointed the Surveyor-General of Victoria in 1938; he retired in 1952. As the Surveyor-General he was involved in Victorian electoral boundary reform.⁴⁹⁸

Oscar died in 1957 in Camberwell at the age of 69.



⁴⁹⁴ [Trove](#)

⁴⁹⁵ [Trove](#)

⁴⁹⁶ [Trove](#)

⁴⁹⁷ [NAA](#)

⁴⁹⁸ [Trove](#)

Hugh Roy Currie

Hugh was born in 1889 in Macedon to Maud Ellen Frances (née Jacgung) and Thomas Ewing Currie. He was the first son and oldest child of four. The family were members of the Church of Christ and lived in Bendigo. His mother was the daughter of Chinese born interpreter, Lee Hing Jacgung, and his European wife.^{.499} His father was a Crown Lands Baliff;⁵⁰⁰ he and his brother Francis Thomas Currie both joined the department as clerks.⁵⁰¹

He enlisted on 14 July 1916 aged 26. He joined the 60th Battalion and left Melbourne for England at the beginning of November 1916. After six weeks in England he proceeded to France at the end of 1916 and was promoted to Acting Corporal in the new year of 1917. He joined his unit in the field in February 1917 as a private. In July 1917 he attended the Anzac Corps Infantry School, returning to his unit in the field in August 1917.



Trove

The 60th Battalion was moved forward to hold the line between the Somme and the village of Villers-Bretonneux on 4 April, as part of the defences against the German Spring Offensive.⁵⁰² On 5 April 1918 he was killed in this action.⁵⁰³

Hugh was 28 when he was killed. He is buried at the Crucifix Corner Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, France.⁵⁰⁴

Hugh and Francis are two of some 200 Chinese Australians to have served during the First World War. Their cousins Lindsay Lee Jacgung and Rupert Allan Wilson Jungjohann also served and returned home.



⁴⁹⁹ [Golden Dragon Museum](#)

⁵⁰⁰ [VGG](#)

⁵⁰¹ [VGG](#)

⁵⁰² [AWM](#)

⁵⁰³ [NAA](#)

⁵⁰⁴ [CWGC](#)

Edward James Hubble

Eddie was born on 15 August 1896 in Maryborough to Helen Paton (nee Matthewson) and John Hubble. He was the ninth of their ten children and the third surviving son. Their first three sons died in infancy; Eddie had three living sisters and three living brothers.

The family lived in Maryborough and were Methodist. Eddie served with the Senior Cadets and the Citizen Forces. He joined the Closer Settlement Branch of the Lands Department as a clerk before the war.⁵⁰⁵

Eddie enlisted on 27 July 1916 aged 19. He was allocated to the 2nd Reinforcements, 37th Battalion.

He left Melbourne for England in August 1916. After arriving in England in early October and training with the Battalion, he left for France in November. He attended the 3rd Divisional School and joined his unit in the field in February 1917.



Goldfields Guide

In March 1917 he was promoted to temporary Corporal and detached for duty with the 8th Army Corps Railway Construction Unit. When he returned to his unit he was promoted to Corporal in May.

On 8 June 1917 he was killed in action at the Battle of Messines, Belgium. He was two months shy of his 21st birthday. He was buried in the field near Bethlehem Farm, but his grave was lost.⁵⁰⁶ Eddie is commemorated at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.⁵⁰⁷

He was survived by his daughter. His family agreed to provide the medals to his daughter, and she was granted a pension.

His older brother Robert also served and returned home.



⁵⁰⁵ Trove

⁵⁰⁶ NAA

⁵⁰⁷ CWGC

Gerald Francis Griffin

Gerald was born in 1893 in South Yarra to Mary Jane (née Furey) and Stephen George Griffin. He was the second son and second eldest of seven children. One of his younger brothers died in childhood. The family were Catholic and lived in South Yarra. He joined the Lands Department as a Boy Labourer at the Botanic Gardens in August 1911.⁵⁰⁸ In 1914 he married Martha Margaret Cullen; their first child was born the same year and their second in 1916.

Gerald enlisted on 7 August 1916, just shy of 23 years old. He was allocated to the 16th Reinforcements, 24th Battalion. He left Melbourne in October, bound for England. He remained in England until February 1917, when he proceeded to France. In July he was promoted to Lance Corporal. He was wounded in action with a gunshot wound to his left arm on 4 October. The wound was serious; and Gerald was medically evacuated. In mid-December 1917 he left England for Australia. He was medically discharged in August 1918.⁵⁰⁹

Gerald returned to the Botanic Gardens after the war. He and Martha welcomed a third child in 1919. In 1937 he married Helene Gilroy. Both his sons served in the Second World War and returned home.

Gerald died in Black Rock in 1973, at the age of 79.



⁵⁰⁸ VGG

⁵⁰⁹ NAA

Henry Russell

Henry was born in 1885 in Creswick to Mary Ann (née Metzner) and Christopher Russell. He was fifth of their ten children and the third of seven sons in a Congregationalist family. An elder brother died in childhood. Henry joined the Victorian Public Service as a Junior Messenger in February 1903.⁵¹⁰ By the war he was a clerk with the Lands Department. In 1916 he married Mary McAksil Harris and they lived in Brunswick; their first daughter was born in 1917.

Henry enlisted on 1 September 1916 just before his 31st birthday. He was allocated to the 24th Reinforcements. He left Melbourne in November 1916 and arrived in January 1917 in England. He spent the year in training and left for France in November 1917. In May 1918 he was allocated to the 1st Divisional Signals Company as a Sapper. On 25 August 1918 he was gassed and medically evacuated to England. He returned to Australia in April 1919.⁵¹¹

Henry returned to the Lands Department after the war and had more children. He was appointed to a Discharged Soldiers Settlement Inquiry Board in December 1920.⁵¹² He struggled with the after effects of the gassing and retired from the public service in October 1929.⁵¹³ He took up jersey farming in Tatura.⁵¹⁴

Henry died in 1944 in Tatura, aged 58.



⁵¹⁰ [VGG](#)

⁵¹¹ [NAA](#)

⁵¹² [VGG](#)

⁵¹³ [VGG](#)

⁵¹⁴ [Trove](#)

George Leslie Wood

George was born in 1896 in Footscray to Nellie Frances (née Troy) and William Wood. He had an older sister from his mother's first marriage and was the elder of his parent's two children. The family were Catholic. He was a clerk with the Lands Department and was still serving with the Senior Cadets on his enlistment.

George enlisted on 2 September 1916 aged 20. He was allocated to the 4th Reinforcements, 38th Battalion. He left Melbourne in October 1916 for England via Sierra Leone. After his arrival in December 1916 he entered training with the 10th Training Battalion and attended the Officer Training School. He left for France in September 1917 as a Corporal and joined the 38th Battalion in the field. He was gassed on 13 October 1917 and spent some time in hospital before being sent to the Australian Veterinary Hospital, however he was found unfit for duties in Feb 1918. He returned to Australia in May 1919 and was discharged.⁵¹⁵

George returned to the Lands Department and held positions on Settlers inquiry committees. He married Ellen Leigh in 1926; they had children and lived in Hampton. In 1958 he was appointed Secretary for Lands.⁵¹⁶

His details of death are unknown.



⁵¹⁵ NAA

⁵¹⁶ VGG

Alexander Gordon Griffiths

Alexander was born in Castlemaine in 1898, to Rose (née Wilkin) and David Griffiths. He was the second born son and third of their four children. The family were Baptist. He joined the Titles Office as a trainee draftsman in July 1914.⁵¹⁷ Alexander was serving with the Collingwood infantry at his enlistment.

Alexander enlisted on 25 September 1916 aged 18. He was allocated to the 24th Reinforcements, 6th Battalion and left for Europe in February 1917. He joined the 21st Battalion in France in September 1917. In October 1918 he was re-mustered to the 24th Battalion, seeing out the end of the war in the field. Alexander returned to Australia in October 1919.⁵¹⁸

In 1922 he married Gwendoline Ruby James. His post-war career is unknown.

Alexander died in Box Hill in 1941, aged 43.

His older brother Rupert also served and returned home.



⁵¹⁷ VGG

⁵¹⁸ NAA

Clarence James Edward Pollock

Clarence was born in 1894 in Timor to Caroline (née Pascoe) and James Francis Maher Pollock. He was their only son and had two younger sisters. The family were Methodist. He was a senior cadet and member of the Citizen Forces. He first joined the Department of Public Instruction as a junior messenger in October 1911 but moved to the Lands Department before the war.

Clarence enlisted on 29 September 1916 aged 22. He trained with the Field Artillery Reinforcements through October before leaving Melbourne in December 1916. On arrival in England in February 1917 he undertook further training. He proceeded to France in October and joined the 8th Field Artillery Brigade. In April 1918 he was taken sick and sent to England. He was diagnosed with effort syndrome and returned to Australia in December 1918.⁵¹⁹

After the war he returned to the Lands Department; and was the private secretary for the Minister of Lands.⁵²⁰ In 1922 he married Amy Dorothy Mary Bragge. Clarence was a member of Committees of Management for Elsternwick Park and St Kilda Foreshore.⁵²¹ He was awarded the 1935 silver jubilee medal,⁵²² and the commemorative coronation medal in 1937.⁵²³

Clarence died in Brighton in 1969. He was 74.



AWM



⁵¹⁹ NAA

⁵²⁰ Trove

⁵²¹ Trove

⁵²² Trove

⁵²³ Trove

Francis Thomas Currie

Francis was born in 1894 in Oakleigh to Maud Ellen Frances (née Jacgung) and Thomas Ewing Currie. He was the third son and third of four children. The family were members of the Church of Christ and lived in Bendigo. His mother was the daughter of Chinese born interpreter, Lee Hing Jacgung, and his European wife.^{.524} Francis been in the senior cadets and the Naval Reserve. His father worked for the Lands Department;^{.525} he and his brother Hugh Roy Currie both joined the department.^{.526}

Francis enlisted on 1 October 1916 at the age of 22. While he initially joined the Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train, he quickly transferred to the Flying Corps as part of 2nd Squadron. He left Melbourne for England in late October 1916. He attended Riggers School in England in early 1917, and after a brief episode of influenza was promoted to 1st Class Acting Mechanic in March 1917. He was promoted again to Corporal later in the same month; and then selected for Officer Training School in August 1917. In November 1917 he graduated as a Flying Officer (Pilot) with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. In January 1918 he attended Flying School and was promoted to Lieutenant in February 1918.



Golden Dragon Museum

He went to France in April 1918 and suffered a second bout of influenza in June 1918. He served out the remainder of the war in France. In February 1919 he returned to England to attend the British School of Motoring until April 1919. He remained in London at the AIF headquarters until his return to Australia on the *Port Darwin* in June 1919.^{.527}

Francis married Ida May Dalley in 1925; they had two children. He stood for Coburg Council elections in the 1930s but was unsuccessful in gaining a seat.^{.528} He was an active Masonic Lodge member.^{.529}

Francis died in Cheltenham in 1986 aged 92.

⁵²⁴ [Golden Dragon Museum](#)

⁵²⁵ [VGG](#)

⁵²⁶ [Trove](#)

⁵²⁷ [NAA](#)

⁵²⁸ [Trove](#)

⁵²⁹ [Trove](#)

His brother Hugh Roy also served and was killed in 1918. Hugh and Francis are two of some 200 Chinese Australians to serve in the First World War. Their cousins Lindsay Lee Jacgung and Rupert Allan Wilson Jungjohann also served and returned home.



George William Saunders

George was born in Stawell in 1893 to Mary Ann (née Ormiston) and Charles Henry Saunders. He was the fifth born of their eleven children and the second surviving son of an Anglican family. Three of his siblings died in childhood. George was appointed as a clerk to the Titles Office in November 1910.⁵³⁰ His father died in 1915.

George enlisted on 27 October 1916 aged 23. He was allocated to the infantry reinforcements and left Australia in December. In England he attended the School of Musketry before leaving for France in July 1917. He joined the 58th Battalion at the start of August.⁵³¹

On 25 September 1917 George was reported wounded in action at the Battle of Polygon Wood. He was confirmed killed in action the next month. Eyewitnesses reported that he and a Private Blaney had been sheltering in a shell hole while under heavy bombardment at noon. The men were struck by a shell and killed outright. Only two men in the platoon survived the battle.⁵³²

George was 24 when he was killed. He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.⁵³³



⁵³⁰ [VGG](#)

⁵³¹ [NAA](#)

⁵³² [AWM](#)

⁵³³ [CWGC](#)

David Edward Bodycomb Worthington

David was born in 1892 in Avenel to Mary Rosina (née Bodycomb) and William Henry Worthington. He was the second of their three children. His older brother died in infancy. The family were Anglican and lived in Avenel before moving to Melbourne. His father worked for the Education Department.⁵³⁴ He attended Scotch College and was a prize-winning student.⁵³⁵ In 1914 David registered as a surveyor with the Lands Department.

David enlisted on 30 October 1916 aged . He enlisted in Tasmania; possibly due to his previous enlistment rejection because of his eyesight. He was allocated to the 1st Infantry Depot for training in Tasmania. In April 1917 he was sent to Sydney and was prompted to Acting Sergeant at the Engineers Officers Training School, which he completed in September. In March 1918 he left for England and acted as Sergeant during the voyage. On arrival in England in May he was allocated to the Field Company Engineers. He left for France after the Armistice and served briefly with the Engineers before transferring to the Australian Veterinary Hospital before the end of 1918. He remained in the field until April when he returned to England, serving in administrative functions in the Australian War Records Office. He returned to Australia on the Devon in October 1919.⁵³⁶

David returned to the Lands Department after the war as an assistant surveyor in 1920.⁵³⁷ He married Mary Rodda; they had one surviving son. He was a member of and secretary for the Glamis Masonic Lodge in Melbourne.⁵³⁸

David died in Caulfield in 1977 aged 84.



⁵³⁴ [Trove](#)

⁵³⁵ [Trove](#)

⁵³⁶ [NAA](#)

⁵³⁷ [VGG](#)

⁵³⁸ [Trove](#)

Kilby Leslie Groves

Kilby was born in Clifton Hill in 1895, to Elizabeth (née Barnes) and Thomas Kilby Groves. He was the first born of their three sons. Kilby was Methodist. He won a high school scholarship in 1910.⁵³⁹ He was appointed to the Titles Office as a trainee draftsman in January 1912.⁵⁴⁰ His younger brother Harry also joined the Titles Office as a trainee draftsman in August 1912.

Kilby enlisted on 8 November 1916 at 21 years old. He was allocated to the 8th Reinforcements, 60th Battalion and left for England in December 1916. After training in England, he proceeded to France in July 1917.

Kilby was killed in action at the Battle of Polygon Wood on 27 September 1917. He was 22 years old. His body was identified by a letter from a colleague at the Titles Office, who wrote that they all 'miss[ed] your bright smiling face around the office'.⁵⁴¹

Kilby was buried at the New Irish Farm Cemetery, Belgium.⁵⁴² His family continued to place in memoriam notices for decades after his death.⁵⁴³

His younger brother Harry enlisted twice and returned home.



⁵³⁹ Trove

⁵⁴⁰ VGG

⁵⁴¹ NAA

⁵⁴² CWGC

⁵⁴³ Trove

Westgarth Charles Walker Muir

Westgarth was born in 1879 in Melbourne to Jemima (née Fulton) and James Black Muir. He was the youngest their ten children and the seventh son. The family were Anglican and lived in South Melbourne. In 1909 he married Edith Parkin; they had two sons before the war. He was a clerk at the Lands Department.

Westgarth enlisted on 9 November 1916 aged 36. He was allocated to the 2nd Pioneers and left Melbourne in December 1916. He arrived in England in February 1917 and spent in the year in training. In March 1918 he was sent to France where he joined the 2nd Pioneers. In July he was gassed with mustard gas and spent a month in hospital. He re-joined his unit in August and saw out the remainder of the war on the continent. He returned to Australia in May 1919.⁵⁴⁴

Westgarth died in 1944 in Windsor. He was 65 years old.⁵⁴⁵

His brother Leslie also served and returned home.



⁵⁴⁴ [NAA](#)

⁵⁴⁵ [Trove](#)

1917

George Frederick Price

George was born on 21 July 1898 in Richmond, to Mary (née Pass) and John Price. He was the youngest of their three sons. The family were Anglican. George was a member of the Citizens Forces and a Gardener with the Lands Department.

George enlisted on 26 January 1917 at 18 and a half. He was allocated to the 7th Reinforcements, 38th Battalion and left Melbourne on the SS *Ballarat* in February. The *Ballarat* was torpedoed in the English Channel on 25 April, and while the men were evacuated, the ship was lost.⁵⁴⁶ George wrote to his brother that:

“the men were laughing and joking as if nothing unusual had happened. In a few minutes there were four destroyers on the scene, and every man was picked up without getting into the water, and not a man was missing”.⁵⁴⁷

After training in England, he left for France in October where he joined the 38th Battalion in the field. He developed trench foot and had to return to England for treatment and remained there until the next April. On 12 August was shot in the left side of the chest and was medically evacuated. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field in and returned to Australia in May 1919.⁵⁴⁸

In 1924 he married Milley Tonkin; they had children. His post war career is unknown.

George died in 1939 in Chadstone aged 70.



⁵⁴⁶ [AWM](#)

⁵⁴⁷ [Trove](#)

⁵⁴⁸ [NAA](#)

Hector Ernest Henderson Mitchell

Hector was born in 1897 at Lake Boga to Elizabeth Ellen Ann (née Henderson) and Thomas Campbell Michell. He had a younger sister. The family were Anglican and lived at Elsternwick. He was a clerk with the Lands Department.

Hector enlisted on 31 January 1917 aged 19. He had been previously turned down because of heart issues. He was allocated to the Army Veterinary Corps and left Melbourne in May for Suez. In Egypt he joined the Mobile Veterinary Section. In October he spent a month in hospital with gastritis. He left Egypt in May 1918 and was discharged on return to Australia.⁵⁴⁹

Hector returned to the Lands Department after the war. He lived in Portland,⁵⁵⁰ and married twice; in 1922 to Janet Grace McLay and in 1935 to Vera Maud Willison. In 1940 he was appointed to a Settlers Inquiry Committee.⁵⁵¹

Hector died in 1984 in Croydon. He was 86 years old.



⁵⁴⁹ [NAA](#)

⁵⁵⁰ [Trove](#)

⁵⁵¹ [VGG](#)

William Melbourne Campbell Somerville

William 'Melba' was born in 1897 in Carlton North to Christina (née Beattie) and Alex Somerville. He was the elder of their two sons. The family were Presbyterian. He was in the Citizen Forces at Elsternwick. William joined the Public Service in May 1914 as a clerk;⁵⁵² by April 1917 he was in the Accounts branch of the Lands Department.⁵⁵³ In July 1917 he was engaged to Connie A. Stoddart.⁵⁵⁴

William enlisted on 3 April 1917 just before his 20th birthday. He gave his age as nearly 22, likely because his parents were unwilling to give their consent. He joined the Field Artillery Reinforcements and after six months of training he left Melbourne in November 1917. After a transfer through Egypt, he arrived in England in February 1918. He left for France in May and joined the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade. He returned to England in May 1919 and undertook an accountancy course from June to October. He was demobilised in December 1919 and stayed in England with his grandmother.⁵⁵⁵

He returned to Australia in the 1920s. In 1927 he married Brenda Aloysius Cooper, and joined the Closer Settlement Branch.⁵⁵⁶ He remained working in returned soldier's settlement through to the 1950s. He was a member of the RSL.⁵⁵⁷

William died in January 1954 in Parkville aged 56.



⁵⁵² [VGG](#)

⁵⁵³ [Trove](#)

⁵⁵⁴ [Trove](#)

⁵⁵⁵ [NAA](#)

⁵⁵⁶ [VGG](#)

⁵⁵⁷ [Trove](#)

Charles Stewart Cronin

Charles was born in 1901 in Richmond to Cora Ann (née Greenwood) and John Cronin. He was the first son and third of their four children. The family were Anglican and lived at the South Yarra Botanic Gardens, where his father was a Gardener.⁵⁵⁸ He was in the Senior Cadets and Citizen Forces. He listed his occupation as an electrical engineer but was employed by the Lands Department as a Gardener.⁵⁵⁹

Charles initially enlisted in November 1916, falsifying his age. He was discharged; then re-enlisted in May 1917 and was allocated to the 37th Battalion. He left Melbourne in May 1917 for England, and after training left for France in January 1918. On 30 August 1918 he was wounded in action with a gunshot wound to the right shoulder. He was sent to England for treatment, and after the Armistice served with the 3rd Auxiliary Hospital. In February 1919 he contracted the Spanish flu and was dangerously ill before he recovered. He returned to Australia in September 1919.⁵⁶⁰

He married Beryl Crump in 1932. His post-war life is unknown.

Charles died in Noble Park in 1978, aged 77.



VVMA



⁵⁵⁸ VGG

⁵⁵⁹ Trove

⁵⁶⁰ NAA

Herbert Barton Wade

Herbert was born in 1898 in Alberton to Catherine Agnes (née Kinnane) and Thomas Barton Wade. He was the fourth born and third child of six. His youngest sister died in childhood. The family were Anglican and moved to Melbourne in the early 1900s. He was a clerk with the Lands Department.

Herbert enlisted on 15 May 1917 aged 19. He was allocated to the 32nd Reinforcements, Field Artillery and left Melbourne in November. He arrived in England via Egypt and Italy in March 1918 and left for France in August. He joined the 27th Battery in September and remained in France until May. He returned to Australia in August 1919.⁵⁶¹

Herbert transferred to the Department of Law in the 1920s.⁵⁶² He married Eveline Emily Eddison in 1925.

Herbert died in Creswick in 1989, he was 91 years old.

His brothers Edwin and Thomas both served and returned home.



VWMA



⁵⁶¹ NAA

⁵⁶² VGG

Ralph Hanslow

Ralph was born in 1892 in North Carlton to Emeline (née Beer) and Harry Hanslow. He was their fourth child and third son. A younger brother died in infancy. The family were Anglican and lived in North Carlton. He attended the South Melbourne College and joined the Lands Department as a clerk in November 1910.⁵⁶³ He was active in the Boy Scout movement,⁵⁶⁴ and passed the Institute of Accountants exam in 1912.⁵⁶⁵

Ralph enlisted on 29 May 1917 at 24 years old. He initially enlisted in the Australian Flying Corps but was transferred to the 10th Australian Field Ambulance. He married Estelle Ada Winter after his enlistment. In June 1918 he left for the UK and after training left for France in October. The same month his son was born. He remained in France until April 1919 and returned to Australia in October and was discharged for poor eyesight.⁵⁶⁶

After the war Ralph worked in the Office of the Curator of the Estates of Deceased Persons at the Titles Office.⁵⁶⁷ Ralph and Estelle had more children.

Ralph died in Mitcham in 1964, aged.

His older brother Frank also served and returned home.



⁵⁶³ [VGG](#)

⁵⁶⁴ [Trove](#)

⁵⁶⁵ [Trove](#)

⁵⁶⁶ [NAA](#)

⁵⁶⁷ [VGG](#)

Hedley David Tong-Way

Hedley was born on 2 April 1896 in Ballarat to Mary Kong and John Tong-Way. His Chinese-born parents had migrated in the 1880s and 1890s; their Chinese names are unknown.⁵⁶⁸ A Presbyterian mission was established in Ballarat to minister to thousands of Chinese migrants drawn to the Goldfields. John Tong-Way was appointed superintendent of the mission in 1905.⁵⁶⁹ He was the last Chinese-born Presbyterian minister to enter Australia before the introduction of the White Australia Policy after Federation.

There were nine Tong-Way children, including Hedley and his brother Samuel. The family was well-known in Ballarat, where the children attended Gold Point State School. Hedley passed the Public Service exam in 1913 and joined the Lands Department as a clerk.⁵⁷⁰

The *Defence Act 1909* required that enlistees must be of substantial European origin or descent. Hedley and Samuel tried to enlist twice in 1916 but were denied due to their ethnicity and Hedley's poor eyesight. Hundreds of Chinese Australians were rejected until the racial requirement was relaxed in 1917 as soldiers were desperately needed.

Hedley was finally able to enlist on 1 June 1917, after his 21st birthday. He was given special permission by the Commandant to enlist.⁵⁷¹ Samuel enlisted two weeks later, and the brothers were allocated to the 3rd Division Signals Company as sappers. Hedley left Australia in late November; after a two week stay in Egypt he left for England.



Federation University

⁵⁶⁸ CV

⁵⁶⁹ Scots Church

⁵⁷⁰ Trove

⁵⁷¹ Trove

In October 1918 he left for France, where he remained until June 1919 when he returned to England to work with Australian Headquarters. He returned to Australia in November 1919 and was discharged in January 1920.⁵⁷²

After the war he resumed work with the Lands Department and took up a soldier settlement plot at Lake Goldsmith.⁵⁷³ Like many soldier settlement plots, this would fail. He married and had children. Hedley died outside of Victoria.

His parents sought naturalisation after the war but were denied because of their ethnicity.⁵⁷⁴ As they were not naturalised, they had to register as aliens during the Second World War, despite their decades in Australia and Australian-born family.⁵⁷⁵

Over 200 Chinese Australian men served in the First World War. No Chinese Australian nurses have been identified.⁵⁷⁶



⁵⁷² NAA

⁵⁷³ Gold Museum

⁵⁷⁴ NAA

⁵⁷⁵ NAA

⁵⁷⁶ CV

John Leo Cronin

Jack was born in Richmond on 22 October 1898 to Anne (née Halfpenny) and Maurice Cronin. He was the youngest son of their five children. The family were Catholic and lived in Richmond. He joined his elder brother Maurice working at the Lands Department.

Jack enlisted on 17 August 1917 at 18 years old. He was allocated to the General Services Battalion for UK service and left Australia in June 1918. He joined the 8th Battalion in France in late November 1918. In January 1919 he returned to the UK, suffering from nephritis. On 7 April 1919, Jack died from post-operative shock after the removal of his right kidney. He was 20 years old.⁵⁷⁷

Jack was buried at the Brookwood Military Cemetery, UK with a full military service. His headstone reads: 'In loving memory of/ our dear Jack/ youngest son of M and A Cronin'.⁵⁷⁸

His older brothers Maurice and Thomas also served and returned home.



⁵⁷⁷ NAA

⁵⁷⁸ CWGC

Charles Joseph Kerr

Charles was born in 1896 in Patyah to Mary Taylor (née Gardiner) and James Kerr. He was the youngest of their seven daughters and three sons. The family were Presbyterian and lived in Edenhope. He played football, tennis and rode as a young man. He joined the Lands Department as a clerk in September 1914.⁵⁷⁹

Charles enlisted on 19 December 1917 aged 21. He joined the Australian Flying Corps as a 2nd Class Air Mechanic and left Australia in late February 1918. After arriving in the United Kingdom, he attended pilot training school; he then passed officer training and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in April 1919. He returned to Australia in November 1919.⁵⁸⁰

Charles resigned from the Lands Department after the war and returned to Edenhope.⁵⁸¹ In 1939 he married Joan Maud West. He joined the Voluntary Defence Corps during the Second World War.⁵⁸²

Charles died in Edenhope in 1967, aged 71.



⁵⁷⁹ VGG

⁵⁸⁰ NAA

⁵⁸¹ VGG

⁵⁸² Trove

1918

Arthur Crage Alexander

Arthur was born on 14 December 1896 in Camperdown, Victoria to Anna Sophia Maria (née Schloo) and Arthur Lionel Alexander. He was the second of their five children. His maternal grandfather was born in Germany. He was Presbyterian and lived with his family in Hawthorn. He joined the Lands Department as a junior messenger. In 1917 his father died.

Arthur enlisted on 14 February 1918 at 21 years old. He was presented with a watch on behalf of Lands Department staff by the Chief Clerk.⁵⁸³ He joined the 3rd General Services Reinforcements, and left Australia in June. He arrived in England in August and joined 39th Battalion Reinforcements. After a brief bout of influenza, he was sent to France after the Armistice, and served at the Australian Infantry Base Depot in February 1919. In June 1919 he returned to England in advance of his return to Australia. He returned to Australia in September 1919.⁵⁸⁴

Arthur returned to the Lands Department after the war.⁵⁸⁵ He married Vera Dale in 1923; they had children. He resigned from the Lands Department in 1962.⁵⁸⁶

His details of death are unknown.



⁵⁸³ [Trove](#)

⁵⁸⁴ [NAA](#)

⁵⁸⁵ [VGG](#)

⁵⁸⁶ [VGG](#)

George Vincent Stafford

George was born on 2 February 1897 in Coburg to Elizabeth (née Long) and James Charles Stafford. He was the third of their nine children and the third son. An older brother died in infancy. The family lived in Coburg and were Catholic. George had been a Senior Cadet and a member of the Field Engineer Citizen Forces. He joined the Victorian Public Service in May 1914 as a clerk.⁵⁸⁷ George had transferred to the Lands Department by the beginning of 1918 and was presented with a watch on his enlistment.⁵⁸⁸

George enlisted on 19 February 1918 aged 21. He was allocated to the 3rd Victorian General Services Reinforcements and arrived in England in August 1918 and was sent to France as a part of the 39th Battalion. He marched out to his unit after the Armistice and remained there until May 1919. He returned to Australia in July 1919.⁵⁸⁹

George returned to the Public Service after the war and worked for the Department of Health as the Secretary of the Mental Hygiene Authority,⁵⁹⁰ and the Law Department.⁵⁹¹ On 23 January 1926 he married Evelyn Francis Bourke; they had two children.⁵⁹²

George died in Coburg in 1963 aged 66.

His younger brother Patrick enlisted in October 1918; his enlistment was cancelled with the Armistice.



⁵⁸⁷ [VGG](#)

⁵⁸⁸ [Trove](#)

⁵⁸⁹ [NAA](#)

⁵⁹⁰ [VGG](#)

⁵⁹¹ [VGG](#)

⁵⁹² [Trove](#)

Louis Boyd Mercer

Louis was born on 1 November 1897 in North Fitzroy to Evelyn Annie (née Aumont) and Hugh James Mercer. He had a younger sister. The family were Anglican.

Louis enlisted on 14 May 1918 aged. He was allocated to the 16th General Forces Reinforcements. He embarked Sydney on 7 November; with the Armistice the troopships were recalled, and he returned to Australia. He was discharged that month.⁵⁹³

Louis returned to the Lands Department and worked across the Victorian Public Service.⁵⁹⁴ In 1926 he married Maude Priscilla Cayzer.

Louis died in 1984 in Heidelberg West. He was 86 years old.



⁵⁹³ [NAA](#)

⁵⁹⁴ [VGG](#)

Stanley Macfarlane Drew

Stanley was born in North Carlton on 24 March 1900 to Annie Elizabeth (née Macfarlane) and Albert Edward Drew. He was the second son and youngest of three children. The family were Presbyterian and lived in North Carlton. He passed the public service exam for a position as a junior messenger in 1916.⁵⁹⁵

Stanley enlisted on 20 August 1918 at the age of 18. He was allotted to the 15th General Service Reinforcements and left Australia on the HMAT *Boonah* in late October 1918. With the signing of the Armistice the troopship was recalled, and he returned to Australia. He was discharged in February 1919.⁵⁹⁶

His post-war life is unknown.



⁵⁹⁵ [Trove](#)

⁵⁹⁶ [NAA](#)

British Army

Peter Martin Leckie

Peter was born in 1890 in Learmonth to Katrine Macgregor (née Martin) and Walter Cowan Leckie. He was first born son and eldest of four children. The family were Presbyterian. He attended Wesley College and Melbourne University, where he won a scholarship.⁵⁹⁷ He registered as a surveyor in 1912.

Peter attempted to enlist in the AIF in 1914 but was rejected on medical grounds. He travelled to England where he was commissioned as an officer with the British Royal Field Artillery, reaching the rank of Captain.

In 1919 he married Mari Morris James;⁵⁹⁸ they had three children.⁵⁹⁹ In 1920 he left the Lands Department.⁶⁰⁰ Peter and Mari lived in the Malay states between the wars, where he worked as a surveyor and started writing.⁶⁰¹

Peter died in Ivanhoe in 1954, aged 64.

His younger brother Walter was killed at Loos.



⁵⁹⁷ [Trove](#)

⁵⁹⁸ [Trove](#)

⁵⁹⁹ [Trove](#)

⁶⁰⁰ [VGG](#)

⁶⁰¹ [Trove](#)

Chandos Eric Bone

Chandos was born in 1889 in Richmond to Ava (née Merton) and George John Bones. He was the oldest of their three children. He attended Wesley College where he won prizes and was involved in rowing and athletics. He was Fifth Form Dux in 1905.⁶⁰² He registered as a surveyor with the Lands Department in 1912 and changed his name from Bones to Bone in 1916.

In 1913 he went to the Federated Malaya States to take up a position as a surveyor with the government.⁶⁰³ He was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the British Army 39th Field Artillery Brigade and served at Salonika.⁶⁰⁴ Chandos reached the rank of Major and was awarded the Military Cross in 1919.⁶⁰⁵

Chandos returned to Australia after the war, where he married Blanche Speed in 1920. That same year he returned to the Malay States as Acting Superintendent of Surveys.⁶⁰⁶ Chandos worked in Malaya through to the late 1930s,⁶⁰⁷ returning regularly to Australia and retaining links to his old school.⁶⁰⁸ He enlisted as a Major with the Australian Army during the Second World War.

Chandos died in Malvern East in 1955 aged 64.



⁶⁰² [Trove](#)

⁶⁰³ [Trove](#)

⁶⁰⁴ [Trove](#)

⁶⁰⁵ [DA](#)

⁶⁰⁶ [Trove](#)

⁶⁰⁷ [Trove](#)

⁶⁰⁸ [Trove](#)