



2018: 100th Anniversary of The Great War

“THE BAYSIDE COMMUNITY AND
WORLD WAR I”

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2018: 100th Anniversary of The Great War

THE BAYSIDE COMMUNITY AND WORLD WAR I

WARNING

ABOROGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER READERS ARE ADVISED
THAT THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS IMAGES AND NAMES OF PEOPLE
WHO DIED. WE APOLOGISE THAT THIS MAY CAUSE DISTRESS TO
SOME READERS. PLEASE CONTINUE WITH PRUDENCE.



ARGENT

ARTHUR

ASHFORD

WHEELER

BAKER

BAKER

BAKER

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PART 1

PRELUDE TO WORLD WAR I

1914-1918



Daily Net Newspaper, England, 5th of August 1914 [7].



(Pictured Above) Troops during World War I hiding in the trenches and preparing to attack [9].

World War I

World War I, the world's first global conflict, the "Great War" marked the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire against the Allied forces of Great Britain, the United States, France, Russia, Italy and Japan. Even our beautiful country – Australia had fought in the battles of this treacherous war. The establishment of modern technology to warfare led to unprecedented destruction and affray, with more than 9 million soldiers shot, bombarded and killed by the end of the war in November 1918.

The battle of World War I disrupted the entire globe. It is believed that the causes of this brutal war revolved around many controversial things. A war referred as , a trade war, a war of empire, a family war, a war about nationalism, a war for democracy and freedom and even a war by accident.

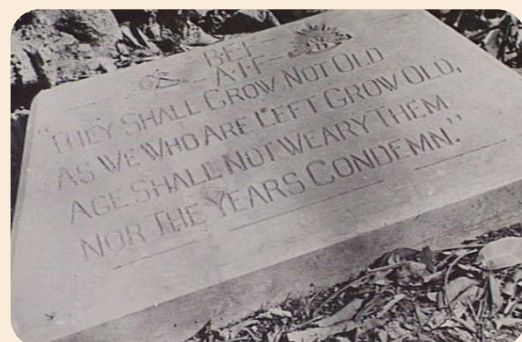
In fact, a most-known presumption speculates around the heir of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie. On 28th June 1914, the couple were murdered by a group of Serbian student nationalists in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. This assassination is what saw the war begin to expand.

In response to the murder, Austria/Hungary invaded Serbia, which also happened to be Russia's ally. After 6 weeks of political negotiating, Germany which had made a treaty with Austria proclaimed war on France and Russia. Belgium and Britain soon joined, which triggered the Ottoman Empire to be involved too. Later, USA and Japan also joined the war^[1].

***“Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.”***

From “Ode of Remembrance” Laurence Binyon’s poem, “For the Fallen” in September 1914.

During World War I, many people passed away. Poems, songs were all written to commemorate those who fought. A very common poem recited in association to those who fought in the war is Ode of Remembrance. Pictured below, are the lyrics of a famous poem. “Ode of Remembrance” was written in the early days of World War One (Figure 10). By mid-September 1914, less than seven weeks after the outbreak of war, the British Expeditionary Force in France had already suffered severe casualties. Long lists of the perished and wounded appeared in British newspapers. The verse, which became the League Ode, was already used in association with commemoration services in Australia in 1921^[2].



Memorial tablet in cemetery near Kubang, West Timor, where several Australian Second World War soldiers are buried [10].

Australia in the War

From its ideal fragrance of its appetizing confectionery, to its quintessential styles of numerous rituals and traditions. From its vibrant developing governmental procedures to its unique fusion of innovative landscapes and architecture. Australia is a country that is beautiful, rich and spontaneous.

But the nation's history is of bizarre and unexpected events. The invasion during 1788 by Captain Arthur Phillip, the gold rush during the 1850's, the unifying of Australia into a Commonwealth Country during 1901, our nation's capital, Canberra founded during 1911, The Great Depression during 1929, 1967, the year where Aboriginals were given the initiative to vote, 2000, the year when the Sydney Olympics were held, only to name a few^[3].

Australia's history lies within the political flaws of the past. On August 1914, when Britain declared war on Germany, Australia as a supremacy of the British empire joined the war. More than 410, 000 men enlisted, of whom 60, 000 were killed and 155, 000 injured.

Locally more than 2000 men from the Bayside local government area answered the call of King and Country and enlisted. It is in no doubt how we are such a lovely area^[4].

Ultimately, Australia's first action of the war was the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force's (ANMEF) landing on Rabaul on 11 September 1914. On 9 November 1914, the Royal Australian Navy made a significant contribution when HMAS Sydney annihilated the German raider SMS Emden.

On 25 April 1915, members of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) disembarked on Gallipoli in Turkey with troops from New Zealand, Britain, and France. This set off a crusade that terminated with an evacuation of allied troops starting in December later that year.

Throughout 1916 and 1917 losses on the Western Front were heavy and gains were small. In 1918 the Australians approached the peak of their skirmish performance in the battle of Hamel on 4 July. From 8 August they engaged in a series of decisive advances until they were allayed in early October. Only to discover that Germany acquiesced on 11 November during 1918. This marked the end of World War I^[5].

During World War I, regiments or battalions of men were sent to fight in the war. The number of men in each battalion differed in accordance to their role and battle that they would be taking part in. There were 60 battalions from Australia between 1914-1918.

The 60 battalions were numbered from 1 to 60 and known by their number, for example the 7th battalion^[6].

World War I was the first war in which media and propaganda played an important role in keeping the people at home updated about what was occurring on the battlefields. This was also the war in which the government strategically produced propaganda to target the public and change their opinion^[7].

Shown below (Figure 11) is an example of a propaganda used in Australia to persuade men to go to war. Poster shows a man swimming in the surf. On right side is emblem of Win the War League, I serve.



Whether these propagandas were the reasons that so much men from Bayside enlisted, or whether their national pride was just so strong, 2000 men being enrolled from such a small area is something we should be proud of. Those who served from our community not only helped to defend democracy and freedom but also in the maturing of our nation. Furthermore, it is with great pleasure that we reside in such a safe, happy and free place. We should continue to celebrate and congratulate those who endeared their lives to fight for their country-Australia. We should continue to congratulate them within our wonderful community, the Bayside Community.

Women in World War I (Images)



12. Digger, Alfred Lovett with his family. He fought at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm in France.

13. Women! Help Australia's sons win the War (Propaganda).

14. Women collectors near Macquarie Place in Sydney during World War 1, fundraising for Australia Day, 30 July 1915.

Women in World War I

When we speak of war, or World War I, we often refer to the men who endeared their lives, who fought for their country. But it is also the women who played a major role. The nursing of the wounded, the strength to look after children, the running out of resources in food and products and fixing the problem and simply the grief and fear of losing their loved ones are all just a few of what women in the war went through. Despite these heroic, intensifying actions, nobody truly acknowledges that women had a more stressful and difficult job during the war^[8].

ANZAC Biscuits

ANZAC biscuits are what we mention when we are speaking of World War I. They have become a national symbol of modern Australia, but the truth behind these delicious treats remain a speculation. At first the biscuits were called 'Soldiers biscuits' but after the arrival on Gallipoli in 1915 they were named Anzac biscuits. As the war unfurled, multiple communities like the Country Women's Association, churches, schools and other lady committees would allocate a great deal of time to baking these dry but worthy treats. They were later sent to the soldiers fighting overseas^[9].

The Nurses

Nurses were a notable part of World War I. More than 3,000 Australian women volunteered to travel overseas to look after the wounded in every corner of the globe. The women worked in hospitals, hospital beds, ships and trains. Some had received medals for bravery during their time and twenty-five passed away during service. From our Bayside area, Phyllis Mary Boissier was a remarkable nurse^[10].

A Botany Bay Sock Industry

Organisations such as the Red Cross and the Soldiers Sock Fund encouraged people from all walks of life to knit socks to send to soldiers. The socks were sent overseas by the Australian Comforts Fund (ACF). Without the means to wash or dry clothing, new clean socks were greatly needed by soldiers to ward against trench foot which was rife in the cold, wet mud of the trenches. Women knitted thousands of socks for the soldiers and even school students joined. The Soldiers Sock Fund of Sydney would send almost 21, 000 pairs of socks each year. The War Chest was the NSW division of the ACF and its depot was in Elizabeth St in the city. Daceyville, which was at the time part of Mascot, had its own War Chest Branch. It held its own contest in 1917. Entrants were told to follow instructions which were published in the Sunday Times on 15th of April 1917. The winners were the ones who would knit the most socks and would earn a reasonable amount of money. In 2015, the City of Botany Bay held the *Courage & Sacrifice* exhibitions at Mascot Library to showcase the "sock industry" of the past^[11&12]. On the following page, are images that associate with the "sock industry".



SOCKS FOR SOLDIERS

150,000 PAIRS WANTED FROM N.S.W.

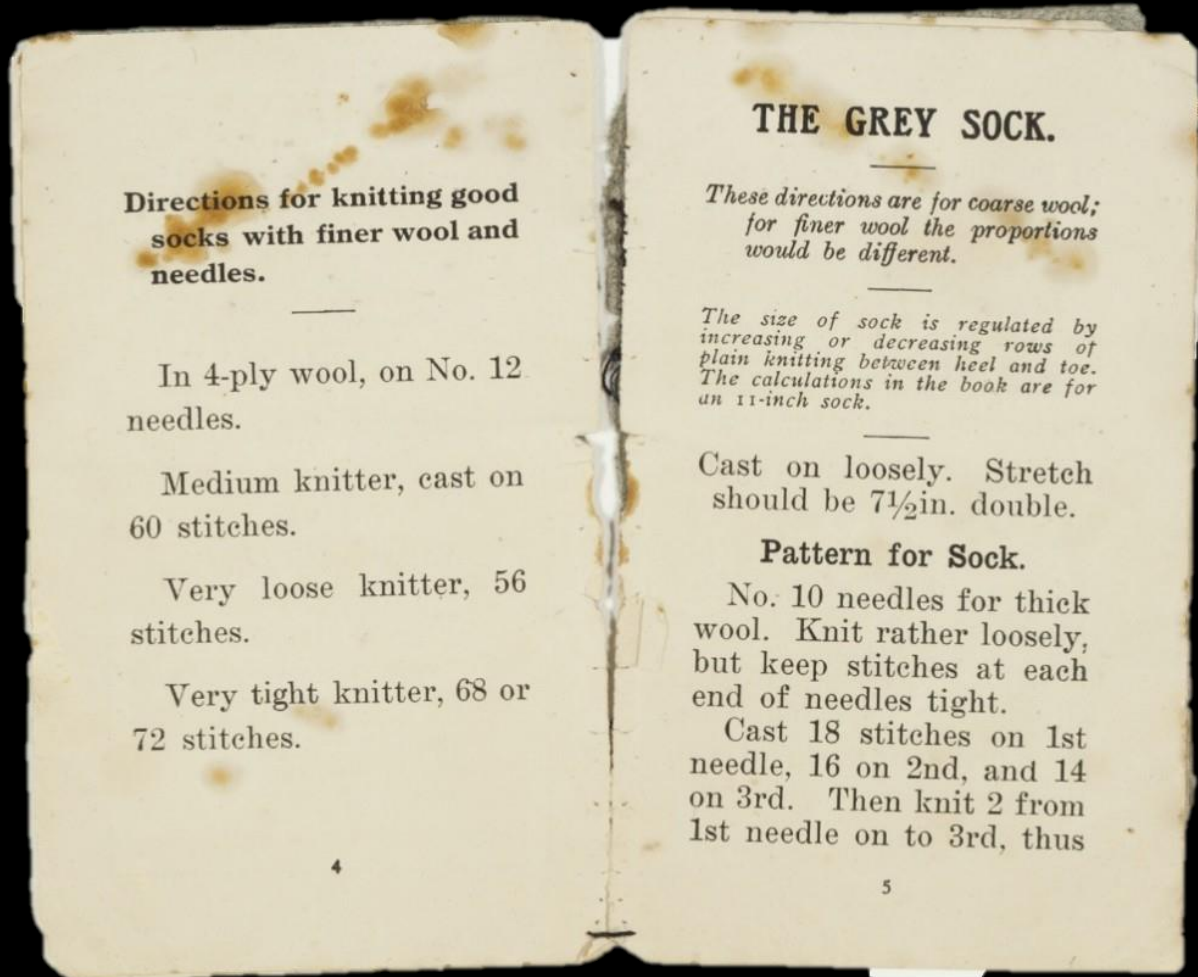
The secretary of the War Chest makes a call. Its commissioner in London has advised the local office that one-third of a million pairs of socks will be needed for our boys in the coming Winter. The contribution of N.S. Wales to the total requirement will be about 150,000 pairs, and an earnest appeal is made to the public to see that the quantity is provided in time to be sent forward.

Yarn for the knitters is to be obtained at the War Chest Depot, 68 Elizabeth-street. It is unnecessary to say more than that a full supply of socks make just the difference in comfort and misery to our gallants fighting in the mud of the Continental trenches. The appeal of the management of the War Chest is, in effect: "Do not put knitting off till to-morrow; get busy to-day."



[16] Image above portrays an order for NSW women to knit 150,000 socks for the soldiers. The depot here is in Elizabeth St. It advises on where to obtain the yarn and has a convincing quote at the end. "Do not put knitting off till to-morrow; get busy to-day."

[17] image above outlines the life of women during world war I. Bondi Public School – Spinning wheel, 31/10/1916. A few pupils with teachers in the courtyard knitting socks for the soldiers who needed the socks in the trenches



[18] Image above portrays "The Grey Sock" – Soldiers' Sock Fund booklet 1914. Instructions and requirement for knitters.

ANZAC Day: Lest We Forget

Brief (ANZAC)

ANZAC is the acronym formed from the initial letters of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. This was the emergence in which Australian and New Zealand soldiers in Egypt were assembled prior the arrival on Gallipoli in April 1915. The landing by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) on Turkey's Gallipoli peninsula on 25 April 1915 was Australia's first major action of the Great War^[13].

Where is Turkey?

Turkey is situated off the coast of Asia, bordering Europe to its north west and is encircled by nautical front. Its maritime boundaries are the Black Sea from the north, the Mediterranean sea from the south, the sea of Marma from the northeast and the Greek Peninsula from its east. It shares borders with: Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia, Syria and Iraq. The Gallipoli peninsula is in the southern part of East Thrace, the European part of Turkey, with the Aegean Sea to the west and the Dardanelles strait to the east^[14].

The Beginning

Before dawn on 25th April 1915, a huge fleet gathered in the inaudible dimness of the coastline of Turkey. Around 60,000 Australian and New Zealand men each carrying rifles and packs clambered into large row boats on the maritime shores of the Gallipoli Peninsula. A planned invasion was arranged to establish a sea route via the Black Sea. Turkish armies were aware of this sudden attack but had no evidence of its exact occurrence and location. After circling the shoreline, the Turkish quickly responded, becoming alert of the enemies on their nation's shore. The Turks were strategically able to navigate themselves upon the area, while the Australian troops failed to do so. The Anzacs suffered hardships, and, after months living in harsh conditions they retreated. 10,000 Anzacs perished in this cacophonous affray. In December 1915, the Allies admitted defeat and withdrew abruptly from what was referred as the worst battle in Australian history.

On what was one of Australia's most treacherous and bloodiest battles, was also regarded as a privilege. This is the battle that encouraged young Australian men to recruit and defeat enemies in the future and what helped them thrive with a sense of national identity and honour. Although, one of the most hazardous warfare's in its time, it certainly created a firm relationship between the two countries^[15].

ANZAC Day

From 1916 to 1938, Anzac day was celebrated on 26th January- the same day as Australia Day. However, it was a thought of cynicism for a holiday itself to be commemorated at the same day as Australia's national day. So, on the 25th April 1938, it was changed, and services were held to remember those who died from both sides. A poppy was worn to show approval to the brave sacrifices, rosemary was the symbol evoked to emphasise courage in Gallipoli and the last-post was played as a sign of deference. Nowadays, services across Australia are held. Bayside council commemorations are very special and even schools are involved^[15].





Image above: Front cover of the Bayside News Council ANZAC Edition 2018 [20]

*“At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them. Lest we forget.”*

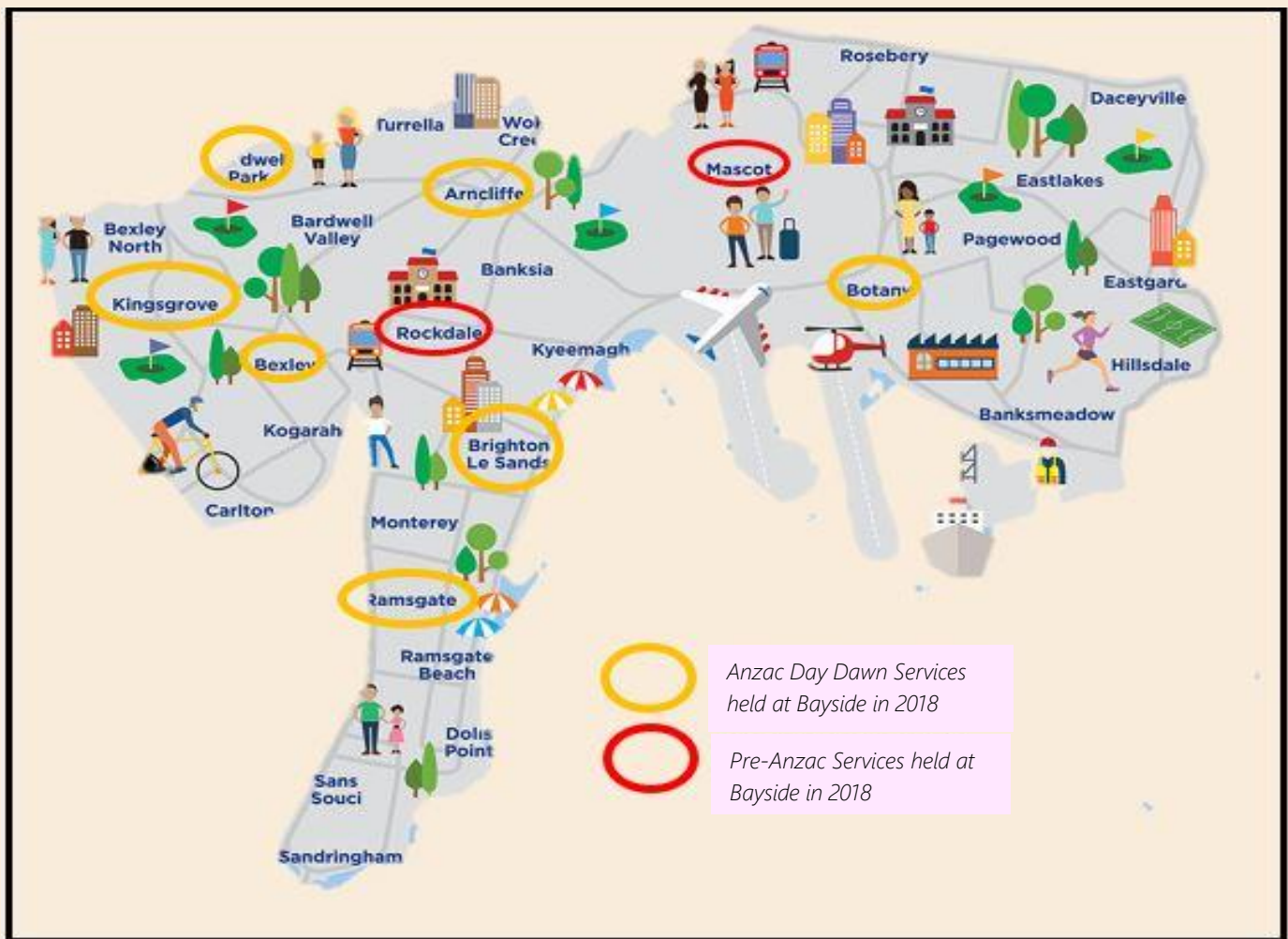
"Lest We Forget (phrase)", a phrase in the poem "Recessional" by Rudyard Kipling.

Bayside at Gallipoli

The Gallipoli Campaign is undoubtedly one of Australia's most treacherous but life lessoning battle. Of the 60, 000 Australians who took part of this battle, 7,594 were killed. From our Bayside area many soldiers engaged in this cacophonous affray and even a nurse from our very own area served in Gallipoli. The many heroes include; Thomas Burt (1893-1918), Jack Emanuel (1893-1952), George Hankin (1892-1969), Robert Edgar Willison (1896-1915), Frederick Charles Waine (1888-1915) and at last, the nurse Phyllis Mary Boisseur (1884-1976). All contributed strategically and effectively in one of the world's worst battle. Today, the Bayside community should continue to congratulate the bravery, the courage and the determination of these locals. Who with every move, portrayed the integrity and identity of their country – Australia^[16]. At each dawn service, we hear these words; *They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them. Lest we forget.* These words have helped us to commemorate. Commemorate Bayside's past successes with pride^[17].



Image Above: Matraville Public School school captains pose with a commemorative wreath while attending a Botany Bay dawn service in 2013 [21].



Bayside Council Map - Keys indicate which Dawn Services were held at which time [22].

Bayside Dawn Services

During ANZAC day, commemorations revolve around a minute silence while the last post is played. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes. An individual's story is told, and the Ode is recited by Australian Defence Force personnel. The ceremony comes to an end with the sounding of the bugle call that signifies the end of the day's activities. It is also sounded to go to his final rest and at commemorative services such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. At the Bayside area, Pre-Anzac Services are held. In 2018, the Pre-Anzac services were held at Mascot RSL (Returned Services League) Branch and Rockdale^[18].

Mascot

On 22nd of April, Mascot held its own ANZAC march at Mascot Memorial Park. Local Councilors, schools, scout groups, SES, Mascot Police, and the community were present^[19]. For the first time in 105 years, Mascot RSL Sub Branch Members raised the Australian Flag credit to Bayside Council for installing a flag pole at the cenotaph in Mascot Memorial Park^[20].

Rockdale

The commemoration service in 2018 was held at 2.30pm at Rockdale Uniting Church. It included a walk to the Rockdale Seven Ways cenotaph for the wall of remembrance in the memorial gardens for a wreath laying ceremony at 3.30pm. This was followed with a concert by Kogarah Concert Band^[21].

Botany

Botany too held a dawn service to commemorate the brave heroes of Bayside. It began at 6:00am, with school students attending at Bay St, Booralee Park. The service was a total success^[22].

Conclusion

Overall, the Bayside area has definitely been impacted by World War I. Our commemoration ceremonies have come to play a very important role to our community. It is a gratitude to be able to remember those who fought with bravery and intelligence as a unified body. On the next page are images of memorial parks and honourboards from all around the Bayside area.



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26

23. Mascot Memorial Park Honourboard after the 2018 Pre-Anzac Service.

24. Statue of a World War I Digger, originally at the Wollie Creek Tramway Depot War Memorial, now at the Kyeemagh RSL Club.

25. Booralee Park Dawn Service at Bay St, Botany

26. Rockdale Municipality Honourboard 1914-1919. Image from Bayside Library.

PART 2

OUR LOCAL HEROES



Soldiers returning to Australia on HMAT Medic, 1919. Private Douglas Grant is seated in the second row, second from the left [27].

Phyllis Mary Boissier

"Why is your name of French origin, may I ask?"

"My family came from France 500 years ago my majesty."

(Adapted from when Phyllis was presented her medal by King George V of England in London)

Brief

Miss Boissier was born on 22nd April 1884 in Woollahra. Phyllis Mary Boissier, lived in a diminutive house with her parents called *Bay View Hill* in Smith St, Mascot when she enlisted at the age of 30^[23]. Before the war, she was known as a trailblazer. Her family name of Boissier, is remarkably French meaning a person engaged in wood works and can also mean "beau" fair and "sire" sir; hence "beau sire", an address of respect or courtesy towards an important person^[24].

She was the first female of the JP in NSW (a JP is a judicial officer, of a lower court, elected or appointed to keep peace and stands for Justice for Peace)^[25], the first female to receive an MBE and also received the Royal Red Cross Medal (2nd Class). Her training as a nurse was conducted at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1905 and continued as a prominent staff member until 1912. In 1911, Miss Boissier amalgamated with 25 members of Sydney to join the Australian Army Nursing Service Reserve^[26].

Enlistment

Miss Boissier like many other women at her time, enlisted on 24th of November 1914 aged 30 for nursing services and stepped aboard the *Kyarra* just 4 days after her application was put forward.

She profoundly succoured the wounded from Gallipoli at Mena House (also known as the 2nd Australian General Hospital) and was one of the strategic among the nurses in Egypt. The Mena House was later relocated to Gezira Palace on the Nile River due to the overestimated casualties in Gallipoli. In April 1916, the Australian General Hospital was transferred to Wimereux, France. *"Tents were rushed up."* said Miss Boissier as she remembered the instant move that had to be undergone, along with 1000 wounded soldiers who also had to be moved. Miss Boissier was asked to "take over" as the leader of the nurses. She led her team incredibly, despite the strenuous circumstances. This phase in time is what saw Miss Boissier receive the Royal Red Cross 2nd Class medal, presented to her in England by George V on 24th of June 1916. On the next page is Phyllis's attestation paper of enlistment ^[26].



Copied from 2nd A.C.H. Daily Order
to 87 part 11 of 21.9.15

2nd M.I.

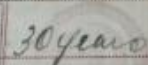
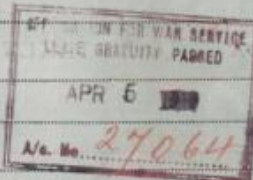
AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. Sister Name Boissier P. M.
 Unit 2nd A.C.H.
 Joined on Nursing Services *appⁿ 24/11/14*

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? 1. Boissier P.
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? 2. In the Parish of _____ in or
near the Town of _____
in the County of _____
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) 3. 
4. What is your age? 4. 
N/s. No. 27064
5. What is your trade or calling? 5. _____
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? 6. _____
7. Are you married? 7. _____
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) 8. (Mother) Mrs P Boissier
Bay View Hill
Mascot
NSW
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? 9. _____
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? 10. _____
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge 11. _____
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? 12. _____
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? 13. _____
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—
Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? 14. _____
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? 15. _____

I, _____ do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than $\frac{2}{5}$ of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife,* † and children.

Date 24/11/14

P. M. Boissier
Signature of person enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 15 years of age.
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.



Pre William-Jackson being congratulated by nurses for receiving a medal for his service. In the center, is Sister Bossier [30].

Of French Origin

For her audacity and fortitude, Phyllis Mary Boissier was a nurse with remarkable and astounding thinking. She was a woman who received many prestigious awards because of her consistent contribution to the war. On 24th of June 1916, Miss Boissier attended a ceremony in London to obtain her medal by King George V. The King was quite surprised of her French name and asked, "Why is your name of French origin may I ask?" Miss Boissier replied, "My family came from France 500 years ago my majesty"[26].

The Boissiers were descendants called the Huguenot which arised from the French and were Protestants who absconded religious prosecution. More than 250, 000 Huguenots left France during the 1680's for many nations including Netherlands, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, American colonies and South Africa. A lot settled in England, including Miss Boissier's father, Ernest Edward Boissier. In 1881, Miss Boissier's father left England on a ship named *SS Lusitania* which was bound to Sydney, Australia. With him travelled his wife, Laura Lee, aged 20. On their arrival to Sydney, they settled in Goulburn, then later moved to Waverly after finally relocating to Smith St, Mascot [26].

Home at Last

At the end of 1917, Phyllis acquired leave to return to Australia because her mother was in a chronical condition. She set sail to Australia on the *Karoola*. Unfortunately, her mother died a week before her daughter arrived (5 January 1918 whilst Phyllis arrived on 13th of January 1918).

After returning from the war in 1918, Phyllis turned in as a casual nurse at Prince Alfred Hospital. Half a year later, she was appointed as a permanent nurse and worked at the hospital until 1935 (the year of her retirement). During her time at the hospital, she accepted the Justice of the Peace service award in 1921 and became the first female to do so. Most of her JP work was linked to helping returned soldiers recover from shell shock.

When Phyllis retired, she had achieved things not many have, and she finally had the opportunity to pursue her lifelong dream and move into a house of her own in Anzac Avenue, Collaroy and do the things she had always dreamt of. She passed away on 22nd of July aged 90. A trailblazer, a nurse, a fighter but most predominantly, a champion. Phyllis Mary Boissier is a leader we must all remember. As part of our community, we must continue to salute her prospering efforts [26].



George Valentine Arthur during his time as mayor [31]

George Valentine Arthur

Service Number - 5904

Date of Birth - 14 February 1888

Place of Birth - Botany, NSW

Date of Death - ? January 1952

Occupation - Botany Bay Mayor, Sailor, Wool Scourer

Parents: John James Arthur (a fellmonger), Hannah Arthur (midwife)

Spouse: (m.1914) Ellen Arthur (nee Tolhurst)

Children: Kenneth Arthur, George Arthur, Phillip Arthur, Joyce (adopted)

Descendants: Dorothy Author (daughter in law of George Valentine Arthur)

[26 and 27]

Welcome on Valentine's

George Valentine Arthur was born in Botany on 14th February 1888 and is the eldest of five children. He was welcomed into his family with fondness and love, his birthday coincidentally falling on Valentine's Day. His middle name "Valentine", was given to him because he was born on this special day. His parents were, John James Arthur who was a fellmonger and Hannah Arthur who was a dexterous and deft midwife of Botany and helped deliver more than 2000 babies including George's youngest son- Phillip Arthur. George's parents were married at St Matthew's Church in Botany in 1887 [28].

Early Days

Much of the dominance of those who served in the Great War is given to the infantrymen who with every stride showed their country's identity and honour. But only a few, pay their deference to the skilled engagement of the naval officers during the war. George Valentine Arthur was a Botany youngster who would go on to join the navy at sea.

As a wool scourer, George joined the Royal Navy on 23rd of April 1907, for a period of five years, serving on HMS *Pyramus*, as an ordinary but clever seafarer [28].

A Naval Agreement

In 1903 the, *Naval Agreement Act* had been passed by the Australian government. The *Agreement* was a ten-year deal

between Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain. It resulted in The British Royal Navy to conserve a squadron in the Pacific, while Australia and New Zealand would act as financial supporters and personnel. The agreement led to the formation of the Naval Reserve (Australasian Branch) which gave Australian and New Zealand men the opportunity to receive training and become in charge of the ships of the squadron in the Pacific. The *Act* expired in 1913 so the Australasian section of the Royal Naval Reserve was officially given to Australia and renamed as the Royal Australian Naval Reserve [28].

A Maritime War?

The international conspiracy of loathe was all brought alive during the world's first global conflict – The Great War. On 4th of August 1914, people from all walks of life participated, enlisted and worked because of the war. During this time, the British cruiser HMS *Pyramus* was in the Pacific Ocean, where Germany superintended many Pacific Islands. In addition, it was also believed that two German ships (SMS *Scharnhorst* and SMS *Gneisanau*) were too in the shores of the Pacific. Believed to make things better, Britain advised Australia and New Zealand to seize and occupy the territories of which Germany had taken over to "protect their harbours". This was probably done as Germany and Britain

were against each other in the war. At the end of August, *Pyramus*, with ships HMS *Psyche* and HMS *Philomel*, a French cruiser were sent to guard two New Zealand ships, *Monowaia* and *Moeraki* to assist in occupying German Samoa (now Samoa^[29]). The New Zealand ships were carrying 1400 troops^[28].

On 29th of August, with the aid of the *Psyche*, *Philomel* and *Pyramus*, the New Zealand troops saw the Germans quickly succumbed and their governor was taken prisoner. The New Zealand troops remained at Samoa to protect it from further occupations by other colonies. *Psyche* and *Philomel* went to an island Tuituila (an island in present day American Samoa)^[30]. Whilst, on September 3rd, *Pyramus* had the chance to hand over the five prisoners of which were captured from the German colonies in German Samoa to the governor of Fiji in Suva. They included, the German governor of Samoa, his secretary, the commandant and two other crew members^[28].

Following this, Australia had vowed to Britain 20,000 troops to assist in a battle overseas. New Zealand proposed that the three ships; *Pyramus*, *Psyche* and *Philomel* could be used to help Australia meet their promise. It was successfully planned that these three transports would leave the shoreline of Western Australia on the 23rd of September. But it didn't go to plan. There was a warning that a German ship (*Emden*) was on its way to the Pacific and therefore could be a danger to the three ships leaving^[28].

Before the ships were bound to leave, the *Philomel* and her two transports were recalled. As it turned out, *Pyramus* was to replace *Psyche* in the convoy departing from Hobart for Fremantle on 21st of October. From Fremantle, *Pyramus* and *Philomel* sailed to Singapore and were advised to forage for the German ship the *Emden*. Within the space of only a month and two weeks, the *Emden* had been able to evade the more sizeable cruises as well as detaining or sinking more than 21 ships. She also bombarded Madras. She emerged perennial, unbreakable among the world's maritime forces. But on 9th of November 1914, the HMS *Sydney* resulted the *Emden* to sink^[28].

In the middle of 1916, the *Pyramus* needed renovation, her boilers requiring a further look at. She stayed in Bombay for 14 weeks. After two years in tropical conditions, most of her crew were eager for a rest. The New Zealand troops were sent home to rejuvenate, some were to go home, and others were shifted to other ships^[28].

George Valentine Arthur, who had experience the same ups and downs as the *Pyramus* was also to be transferred. This was because his enlistment paper wrote that he would continue to serve in the navy "for six months or till the end of the war." He was described as an electrician and a skilled seaman^[28].



Voyages of the HMS *Pyramus* January 21st 1914 to March 21st, 1914. George Valentine Arthur was present during these voyages [33]

George was sent to HMS *Cerberus* for just 6 weeks, finding himself aboard the HMAS *Una* from the 16th of January 1917 where he boarded the ship at Cockatoo Island along with 12 ranks.

Una began as a German vessel sent to German New Guinea (now known as Papua New Guinea)^[31]. It was built in Bremerhaven during 1911. On 7th of February 1919, *Una* docked again in Sydney. A month later, still docked at Sydney, the ship's crew were chronically ill. Nine men were reportedly on the sick list. The numbers were increasing as days came past. The sickness was known as Spanish Influenza^[28].

On 31st of March, George Valentine Arthur discharged from the *Una* at his own supplication. He returned to Botany, sadly to find his sister had perished only two days prior to his arrival because of the Spanish Influenza^[28].



HMS *Pyramus* ca. 1900 [34]

RECORD OF SERVICE. (PETTY OFFICERS AND MEN.)

NAME *Arthur George Valentine* OFFICIAL NUMBER *5904*

Date of Birth *14th February 1888* Place of Birth *Botany N.S.W. Port Division*

Next of Kin (Relationship and Address) *Wife Ellen Theresa, Botany Rd Botany N.S.W.*

IO 1890 *On D. "Harcourt" Botany Rd Botany N.S.W.*

ENGAGEMENTS.		MEDALS, CLASSES, ETC.		SECOND CLASS FOR CONDUCT (inclusive dates)	
Date of Commencement.	Period.	Date Received.	Nature of Decoration.	From.	To.
<i>28.11.16</i>	<i>6 months period of war which was which was longer</i>	<i>28.11.16.</i>			

WAR GRATUITY CLAIM No. *1738*

DESCRIPTION OF PERSON.					TIME FORFEITED.						
Occasion.	Height.		Colour of		Marks, Wounds, and Scars.	Date.	No. of Days.	P., C., C.F., W.T., or D.	Date.	No. of Days.	P., C., C.F., W.T., or D.
	Ft.	In.	Hair.	Eyes.							
On Entry as a Boy ..											
On Advancement to Man's Rating ..											
On Re-entry or on Entry after 28 ..	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>br</i>	<i>blue</i>	<i>fresh</i>	<i>Wole on neck in front</i>					
Further description if necessary ..						<i>tattoo marks: Japanese</i>					
						<i>left arm near shoulder</i>					

EXAMINATIONS AND NOTATIONS.				GOOD CONDUCT BADGES.		
Date.	Particulars.	Date.	Particulars.	Date.	1st, 2nd, 3rd.	Granted, Deprived, Restored.
<i>14.5.17</i>	<i>1917</i>			<i>25.5.17</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>Restored</i>
			<i>718 W. 116</i>			
			<i>Botany Rd</i>			
			<i>Botany rd.</i>			
			<i>Selected for account</i>			
			<i>for phone service</i>			
			<i>23</i>			
			<i>41</i>			
	<i>will not accept</i>					
	<i>payment</i>					
	<i>26/5/17</i>					

Paid Supplementary Share Prize Fund £ 1/3/5

Record of Service of George Valentine Arthur Image courtesy of National Archives of Australia [34]

After the War

Upon his sister's death, George Valentine Arthur returned to his wife Ellen Arthur of whom he married in 1914. He had three children – Kenneth Arthur, George Arthur, Phillip Arthur and an adopted child – Joyce. He took up his previous profession of an electrician and later became alderman of Botany Bay Council serving the community from 1938 until 1952 (the year of his death), and mayor in 1942. His wife, Ellen perished in 1963^[32].

Today, Dorothy Author, descendant of George Valentine Arthur still resides in Botany. Surrounded by her father-in-law's memorabilia she is astounded in the wonderful stories of the Great War^[32].

She is proud of her father-in-law's achievements. George Valentine Arthur's enlistment papers remain in good shape today. His daughter-in-law Dorothy explains that this is so because the documents were printed on waterproof parchment, just in case the crew (navy) ended up overboard^[32].

The document, almost 100 years old, is emblazoned with a Royal Australian Navy emblem^[32].

A Namesake

His bravery, his intelligence, his baldness, George Valentine Arthur's effort at sea is a legacy. Arthur Park which is located in the corner of Botany Road and Chelmsford Ave, Botany is registered under the War Memorial of NSW and is named in his honour^[33].

Developed as a living memorial after the Second World War, Arthur Park arised in 1946 to acknowledge the Botany servicemen who fought in the world's greatest of wars^[33].

The park is also home to a former baby health centre^[33].

At the park appears a plaque for Alderman George Valentine Arthur. This plaque records he was an Alderman of the Municipality of Botany from 1938 to 1952 and Mayor in 1942 and that he served in the AIF 1914-1918^[33].

George Arthur Valentine is an ongoing hero who should be applauded for his excellent service at sea. As part of our Bayside Community we should continue to commemorate his amazing intrepidity and success within the greatest of the world's wars.



Portrait of William Joseph Denison in uniform, ca. 1916 [35]

Gallipoli Lures

On 25th of April 1915, the Gallipoli Campaign came to an end. Casualties from the ANZAC's were huge (26, 000 wounded and 8 000 died). Many would think that the Australian troops would begin to decline after this fatal loss. But Australia's resilience and resistance saw numbers of those who enlisted in the next month just grow. During July on the same year, 36, 575 Australian men enlisted, the highest monthly total for any time during the entire Great War. Nowadays, many wonder if the Gallipoli Campaign is what truly encouraged the many Australians who were eager to engage in the battles of the world's first conflict^[35].

William Joseph Denison, from our very own Bayside area enlisted in the course of July. Born in the year of 1896, he was only 19 at the time of his enlistment. On 19th July 1915, Mr. Denison joined the 30th Battalion. At the outset, William had planned to join the naval reinforcements of the AIF (Australian Imperial Force)^[36], noting on his application that he was experienced in sailing medium-size boats on both Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay^[35].

Seafarer Debut

William was employed by Morrison & Sinclair, ship manufacturers of Balmain, who assembled many acclaimed ships. In 1913, they constructed a distinguished yacht, (the *Morna*) one of which will become a champion in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. It raged victorious in 1946^[37], 1947^[38] and 1948^[39] and became a prominent yacht^[35].

William Joseph Denison

Service Number – 147

Birth - ??/??/1896 in Mascot

Death - ??/??/1972 in Parramatta

Occupation – Carpenter, Baker

Parents – John Joseph Denison (a baker)

Spouse – Annie Denison (nee Hastie)

Children – Three daughters (unidentified)

Unit – 57th Australian Infantry Battalion

Rank – Private

Enlistment Date – 19th of July 1915

Date returned – 8th of April 1919

[34 and 35]

Bakers from Yorkshire

Originally from Yorkshire, William Joseph Denison's family are of professional bakers who when came here opened several bakeries. The Denison's family established their first bakery in Mascot. The bakery was on the developing street of Botany Road and in the corner of King St, Mascot^[35].

William's uncle, Sidney Denison also inaugurated his own bakery in Blucher Street, which was renamed Hicks Avenue by the Mascot Council as the name Blucher was thought to sound too "German" which would cause controversy during the Great War as Germany was an enemy of the Australian and British allied troops. Sidney later transferred his bakery to Rawson Street, Mascot^[35].

Bakers at War

William Joseph Denison was first assigned to the 30th battalion and embarked on the HMAT *Beltana* on 9th of November 1915, reaching Egypt on December. Following the retreatment from Gallipoli, the AIF reshuffled in Egypt in early 1916. There is an old adage that states "an army marches on its stomach", so The Australian Army Service Corps had the authority of providing Australian troops their daily nutritional needs. This is what saw the establishment of numerous field bakeries and butcheries. The 1st Australian field was developed originally on Lemnos Island (Lemnos is a Greek island in the northern part of the Aegean Sea)^[40] to supply

the troops with freshly baked bread. Typical shares for troops at Gallipoli included meat, biscuits, bacon, jam, sugar, tea, cheese, rice and dried vegetables. If bread was available, it was regarded as a privilege, a welcome extra to the troops^[35].

In January 1916, the 1st Australian Field Bakery was joined with the 2nd Australian Field Bakery and moved to Rouen in France during March. This phase in time, saw the 2nd Australian Field Bakery to lose one-third of its solidity to the 5th Australian Field Bakery. This newly formed bakery field comprised of 32 men from the 2nd Australian Field Bakery while the remainder were reassigned to infantry, reinforcements, engineers, artillery and lighthorses^[35].

William Joseph Denison was transferred from the 30th battalion to the new unit (5th Australian Field Bakery) as soon as his family were learnt to be bakers. To his disappointment, he was moved to Tel-El-Kabir in Egypt where the replacement of the 1st Australian Field Bakery took place. There was a shortage of utensils and lack of equipment in the unit which included: scales, weights, thermometers and even axes for cutting wood. The flies and heat of Egypt made condition worst, with temperatures soaring over 30 degrees. The ovens of which the bread was baked was preheated at 47 degrees Celsius resulting in stuffy and an unstable atmosphere. Only 1 in 5 of the men who were part of the 5th Australian Field Bakery didn't know how to play with dough. This wasn't a major problem. Although teaching them was difficult because of the dusty state^[35].

According to the unit's diary (a unit diary is a regularly updated official record kept by military units of their activities during wartime)^[41], the 5th Australian Field Bakery supplied 605, 409 rations during May 1916. On June 18th, the unit which consisted of one officer and 92 other ranks, embarked on the *Caledonia* at Alexandria. At the end of June, the ship and its crew disembarked in Marseille, France to re-establish a new bakery station in Rouen, France for the next two years. A railway track ran alongside the bread "factory". Routinely, two trains a day would carry the bread to the troops. Until the middle of 1918, the bread was hoarded in large bags each packed with 907g of loaves. This was heavy to lift. As a result, twenty men were assigned to packing the bags then loaded them onto the trains for the bread to be delivered to the troops^[35].

Each day, soldiers worked in three eight-hour shifts. Each would combine the dough to be proofed and then bake by the following shift. The work was overwhelming and drooping. And by the end of July in 1916, there was only 1 officer and 78 other ranks, a declining number compared to the 92 other ranks on the 18th of June. William Joseph Denison was sent to hospital during that month and was said to be suffering from laryngitis which is an inflammation of the voice box from overuse, irritation or infection^[35 & 42].

Women Join the Baking

In early January 1918, 90 Women's Army Auxiliary Corps bakers were added to the roster of the 5th Australian Field Bakery, providing superior support to the baking warehouses. By the conclusion of April that year, due to rearrangement of duties, the 4th and 5th Australian Field Bakeries merged. During that month, Captain Pye (Joseph Henry Pye), was sent to England to receive inspiration on the quality of bread the soldiers in France could produce for their troops. Upon his visits, he concluded that the bread baked in Rouen was 'much superior to any seen in England'^[35]. This was a relief to the soldiers who were baking.

A Transfer

On the 21st of May that year, the unit diary of the 5th Australian Field Bakery indicates the transfer of two men to the 57th Battalion via Le Havre^[43]. One of them include William Joseph Denison. In accordance to his family members, William had grown tired of baking bread and instead wanted to experience the true actions on the front line. After two long and immense years at the 5th Australian Field Bakeries, he was taken to the 57th Battalion on the 6th of June 1918. The Battalion, which had only ever participated as a supporting role or 'backup' in its first major battle- the battle of Fromelles was also in its debut. During its early start, it had also engaged in the counter-attack at Villers-Bretonneux in France^[35].

The Battle of Fromelles

The decisive battle of Fromelles which took place on the 19th of July 1916 in northern France was one of Australia's first battles of the Great War in the western front. The battle, occurred to prevent the Germans from reinforcing their troops on Somme, which is a city in northern France^[44]. Fromelles raged through the night, and in the morning of the 20th of July, the soldiers of the Australian division had a casualty list of over 5,500 men, including many of our local residents. These included: Herbert Bolt, Vinton Baker and Benedict Dunstan from Bexley. These three brave men lived within very close streets in Bexley before the war. Losses like this are evidence that the Bayside Community had served the World War with pride and resilience, overcoming every single obstacle^[45].

Image: Australian soldiers walking along duckboard track on their way to the frontline [36]

William and the 57th Battalion

On the 15th of June 1916, the 57th Battalion took over the remaining supporters in the Buire-Ribemont sector on the River Ancre. The trenches were undone, so the battalion subsisted the erection at night as it was too dangerous



Image: Distribution of soldiers' food on the month of November 1916 [37]

during the day. Barbed wire was constructed in order to use in the front line. In early July, the 57th Battalion was in Buire^[35].

8th of August, the battle of Amiens. The battle where William Joseph Denison first fought as part of the 57th Battalion. The battle involved tanks and artillery and would be the last of trench warfare in the Western Front during its time. The Australian troops were to fire against the Germans. The Germans were exhausted as they had been involved in the Spring Offensive which was series of attacks along the Western Front just days before^[35]. On the night of 7th of August 1918, a soldier, Gunner J.R. Armitage lay in readiness for the attack the following day. In his diary, he wrote^[46] :

"It was utterly still. Vehicles made no sound on the marshy ground ... The silence played on our nerves a bit. As we got our guns into position you could hear drivers whispering to their horses and men muttering curses under their breath, and still the silence persisted, broken only by the whine of a stray rifle bullet or a long-range shell passing high overhead ... we could feel that hundreds of groups of men were doing the same thing - preparing for the heaviest barrage ever launched."

Sure enough, on the 8th of August, the allies with a force of 75,000 men and almost 2000 aircrafts, appeared ominous to the Germans. The 57th Battalion was in position near Amiens. Despite their exhaustion, the Germans, who had sensed the motion of the allied troops which were led by Australian and Canadian forces opened a barrage to turn back the allied soldiers. Thankfully, only small damage was made to the Australian and Canadian army^[35].

At the planned hour of 4:20 am, the allies began their assault. The world seemed to be enveloped in sound and flame. The allies began from Villers-Bretonneux and Hamel, profusing the Germans. Their next position was difficult. Fog and smoke trailed from the barrage of which the Germans had set out and had made seeing for the troops extremely strenuous. For that, compasses were used as a guide. A mass of assembled Allied forces, including Australians, pushed through the German front lines to victory^[46].

It was success for the Australians and success for William Joseph Denison. In just over 3 hours, the enemy's front line had been demolished. Altogether, the Allied forces captured 29,144 prisoners, 338 guns, and liberated 116 towns and villages. To the Germans, that day was referred as "Black Day of the German army in the war"^[46].

The 57th Battalion was also involved in the St Quentin Canal (29th September – 1st October 1918), its last battle of the Great War. Strategically planned out, with the assistance of unexperienced American troops, the allies reached the front line with prosperity. They were (57th Battalion) disbanded from service in March 1919^[46].

After the War

William Denison returned to Australia on the *Tres os Montes*, and was discharged on 18th of July 1919. He married Annie Hastie in 1923. Moving to Paramatta, he cherished for three daughters and continued his former job as carpenter. As part of the Bayside Community, William should be congratulated on his outstanding efforts during the war^[35].



Sergeant Douglas Grant poses for a photo in uniform. Image courtesy of National Archives of Australia [38]

Douglas Grant

Service Number – 6020

Birth – 1885

Death – 1951, aged 67

Occupation – Mechanical Draughtsman, Wool Classifier

Parents – Unknown (Foster Parents: Elizabeth Grant, Robert Grant)

Honours – British War Medal, Victory Medal

Unit – 13th Australian Infantry Battalion

Rank – Private

Enlistment – 1916

Date Returned – 1919 on HMAT *Medic*

Memorials – Douglas Grant Memorial Park, Annandale

[47 & 48]

WARNING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this publication contains images and names of people who died. We apologise that this may cause distress to some readers. Please continue with prudence.

Indigenous Service and the Great War

From the 26th of January 1788, when Captain Arthur Phillip first landed in Botany Bay and 'invaded' Australia, to the meaningful Eddie Mabo case during 1967, from the taking away of half-caste children as part of the Stolen Generation to not counting the Aboriginal population as part of our census, the Aboriginal people of Australia have indeed been contended despite being the traditional owners of their land. But none of this interfered nor corresponded to the hundreds of Aboriginals who were eager to answer the call of King and Country and fight in the Great War to represent their country – Australia.

At first, recruiting officers only allowed those of Aboriginal origin in the war only if their skin was 'white enough' but as the war went on, with casualty rates rising and recruitment numbers dropping, the officers weren't as selective. This was primarily because *The Defence Act* which was passed by the Australian

Government in 1903 prevented those who were not of 'substantially European descent' from being able to enlist in any of the armed forces. It's not sure how many Indigenous Australians fought in the war, but it is believed to have been around 1000 and ongoing research is now trying to find answers [49].

Although enlistment records didn't directly identify soldiers by race, other methods of racism and discrimination lied upon the applicant's physical description. Many of whom enlisted during the Great War simply altered their nationality and details of their parentage. Nevertheless, Aboriginal soldiers were involved in the majority of the campaigns missing out on only two of the sixty-one Australian Infantry Battalions (8th Battalion and 44th Battalion)[48]. It is in no doubt, how the Aboriginal culture is one of the oldest living civilizations in the world [49].

Douglas Grant: Early Life

Douglas Grant was born into a traditional Aboriginal community in Northern Queensland called the Ngadjonni in the Bullenden Kerr Ranges in the early 1880's. Originally named Poppin Jerry, his early life was torn apart in 1887.

Douglas was found in the area of his birth by Scots immigrants Robert and Elizabeth Grant who were collecting bird and animal specimen for the Australian Museum where Robert was employed. Robert Grant decided that the best course of action was to care for the little boy (at that time 2 years of age) himself. The exact circumstances of Douglas's removal are still unknown, but an appropriate theory deems around his parents and much of his Aboriginal community being killed in what was believed to be a tribal fight^[50].

After moving in with the 'Grants' in a suburb called Lithgow in NSW, Douglas Grant with his step brother, Henry both attended the prestigious school of the Scots College in Sydney. At the Scots, he acquired a love of Shakespeare and poetry and his aptitude of drawing greatly developed. In 1897, Douglas won the Queen's Diamond Jubilee exhibition for a coloured drawing of the Bust of Queen Victoria. Provided all of this, it is no surprise how he became a mechanical draughtsman and developed a thick Scottish accent from his family^[50].

As a young black man brought up white, there are suggestions that he was at times diffident about his skin colour, though few suggest that it was the cause of any discrimination before the war. His foster mother remembers^[51]:

"He was very conscious of being black. Quite often he'd come in and grin after washing his hands ... then show me them and say, 'Ma, I think they're getting whiter.' He had a difficult time with girls, of course. He would never have contemplated marrying an Aboriginal woman, and his pride or his principles wouldn't allow him to become too serious about white girls. There was a girl in Annandale, Sydney, who became terribly fond of him and wanted to marry him – but he wouldn't have anything to do with the idea."



The Grant Family [39]

Douglas Grant: Enlistment

Though Aboriginal men were precluded from the army, Douglas was able to enlist with the 34th Battalion in January 1916. As he was about to vacate Australia however, the Aborigines Protection Board interceded, noting that

regulations prevented Aboriginals from leaving the country without Governmental consent. Remarkably, Douglas enlisted again, and this time successfully embarked with the 13th Battalion for France in August. At this time, he was 30 years old^[50].

His enlistment form had described him as 'mechanical draughtsman', 'natural born', with 'dark' complexion. For ten years Grant was a draughtsman at Mort's Dock & Engineering Co. in Sydney. In 1913, he resigned to work as a woolclasser at Belltrees station, near Scone^[52]. His enlistment also states that he had some experience with the rifle club^[48].

Douglas Grant: At War

After just two months of action in the front line, Douglas Grant was captured whilst in action at the first part of the Battle of Bullecourt. The battle was regarded as one of the most catastrophic and precarious battles of its time. Indeed, it was no surprise when 3000 Australian men were reported to have been dead or wounded, whilst an additional 1,700 were taken as prisoners in just the first part of the Bullecourt Battle^[50] (the second part resulted in 7000 deaths)^[48].

Mr. Grant was taken prisoner in a war camp at Wittenberg, away from the Australian comrades because of his 'dark' skin and later on transferred to Wünsdorf, Zossen, near Berlin^[52]. The camp was primarily reserved for North African and Middle Eastern prisoners, assisting in Germany's plan to form a jihadist army loyal to the Germans. With this, the camp housed the first ever mosque on German soil^[48].

At this camp, Douglas was an 'object' of fascination to the Germans, of which despite his dark colour, had a blurring Scottish accent and great knowledge in Shakespeare and poetry. He was a superior intellect, a mind changer to the Germans. Among his fellow prisoners, he was elected responsible for distributing and receiving Red Cross relief parcels to Indian prisoners. During this time, he was in regular contact with the Australian Secretary of the Red Cross department – Emily Chomley to whom he wrote to multiple times^[48].

Douglas Grant: Back to Australia

At the conclusion of the war, Douglas visited his family's foster relatives in Scotland where his racial features, combined with a richly burred Scottish accent attracted attention. In April 1919, Douglas embarked on the HMAT Medic only to find his foster mother had passed away in 1918. Back home, he remarked that 'in the trenches the colour line was not drawn' had disappeared. He received a part-pension but wasn't entitled to a soldier settlement because of his indigenous ethnicity. It was difficult for him, as a

returned soldier to settle back to a civilian life and to find a place of belonging where he was accepted by two cultures^[51].

During the early years after returning to Australia, Douglas Grant experience further personal loss, with the death of his foster father – Robert in 1923 and his foster brother – Henry in 1944^[48].

It was difficult for him to find an occupation, so he began multi-tasking. He worked as a draughtsman, a labourer in a paper factory and in Lithgow at the small arms factory. He lobbied for Aboriginal rights and the self-determination of his people. He joined his local RSL branch in Lithgow where he served as secretary for three years. He also served as both a patient and clerk at the Callan Park Mental Hospital in Rozelle. Here, he built an ornamental pond and Harbour Bridge as a soldier's memorial which was unveiled to the public on 4th of August 1931^[48].

In 1929, Douglas Grant wrote a potential and sincere article which was published on the 31st of July 1929 issue of Reveille, the official journal of the New South Wales RSL regarding the sacking of returned soldiers at the small arms factory in Lithgow. His words were meaningful and till this day impact and let us understand the past mistreatment of Aboriginal people. In the article, Douglas wrote^[51]:

"What we want most and above all is the pledging in every deed and work, the honouring of the pledges of the Australian Government of Australia to the returned soldier who gave his all in the honouring of the pledges he made when he carried the honour, integrity and fair name of Australia unblemished, untarnished through four years of horror, blood, and unspeakable hell."

Harry Gordon interviewed Roy Kinghorn, a war contemporary of Grant's, for his book The Embarrassing Australian. Kinghorn remarked he would see Grant every Anzac Day^[52]:

"He used to speak Gaelic fluently, and I was always asking him to stop using the wretched language. He used to enjoy himself at the reunions early after the war, but he became a sadder, progressively more dejected figure as each April the 25th went by. One day in the late 40s, I saw him sitting under a tree as the fellows from my old unit were marching into the Domain ... I broke out of the ranks and went across to him. 'What are you doing there?' I asked. 'Why aren't you with your old mates?' 'I'm not wanted any more,' Grant told me. 'I don't want to join in. I don't belong. I've lived long enough.'"

It was about then that Grant moved to La Perouse and applied as a job for an architect. His application was rejected. In 1949, Grant became entitled to a special rate pension because of a heart disease. For a while, he lived in the First War Veteran' Home at La Perouse, Bare Island. Born Aboriginal, raised white, Douglas Grant died as an Indigenous man at La Perouse in 1951. He is now buried in a military grave at Botany Cemetery, known as the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park. Nevertheless, Douglas Grant is a man whose contribution to the war must be applauded.



PART 3

THE AFTERMATH



People celebrate the end of war on a London bus [41]

The Aftermath

World War I, or the Great War officially ended at 11am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. Germany signed an armistice (an agreement for peace and no more fighting) that had been prepared by Britain and France^[53]. In further years, the day would be marked as Armistice Day, Remembrance Day, the day of Infamy or the Stab in the Back^[48]. 2018, will mark the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War 1.

When Germany signed the armistice and the guns fell silent, people in Britain, France and Australia all celebrated the end of war - a war that had lasted four years and four months. Even our renowned Bayside community had celebrated with the establishment of memorial parks, honour boards and the development of our local suburbs.

17 million had perished during the world's first Great War and non-fatal casualties were even greater – 20 million. The remains of the World War still lingered abroad, with approximately 100 million people being dead by the end of 1919 as a result of Spanish Influenza.

The Great War twisted the world and destroyed empires. Great empires were demolished while others arose. Nations were introduced while political systems were born. It was a changer; a war of which mankind will never overlook.

The Bayside Community

Back home, in our local Bayside area, multiple RSL branches opened for those who needed support after the war. Daceyville, a suburb which was at first part of Mascot, opened out its hands for the widows of those soldiers who have fought in the war and sadly never returned to them and established numerous classes for those widowed. In addition to that, the streets were named in honour of the soldiers who fought for their country and community – Australia^[48].

A closer look – Daceyville

The outcomes of the Great War led to original target of Daceyville to change and transform. During the war years, Daceyville's original aim of providing affordable housing for Sydney's working class, was restored with the concept that it had been erected as a Returned Soldiers' Settlement. The connection most likely arose when 50 war widows and soldiers were given homes of free rent. This link became even firmer when Daceyville's newer streets were named in tribute of war heroes^[54]. From a garden suburb to a soldier's settlement, Daceyville is surely a memorable suburb within our community. The war widows of which came to Daceyville affected the area of Daceyville for the next 30 years or so and many of whom lived until the late 1950's. They were courageous young women, who despite the loss they have experienced came through to the very end^[48].

The Rockdale Honour Roll

The Rockdale Municipal Honour Roll consists of two honour boards which commemorate those who served in World War One, specifically showing reverence for the local soldiers of the Municipal District of West Botany.

The Municipal District of West Botany (renamed Rockdale in 1887) had managed to construct its own honour rolls to commemorate and pay tribute to those who endeared their lives in the Great War. Falling within its boundaries during World War 1 were the renowned suburbs of Arncliffe, Rockdale, Banksia, Brighton Le Sands and Sans Souci, in addition to that, West Kogarah. To the west of Rockdale were the municipalities of Bexley and Kogarah. If united, these four municipalities compose of what we refer today as the St George district.

Dark timber board with gold engraving, list the member's name and unit. The designer of this honour roll is Mercer and Ramsay of Sydney. The honour roll commemorates the service of more than 250 soldiers. The honour roll was first designed and constructed during the war and names of local soldiers were added along the way of their enlistment. A problem here, was that some of the soldiers had died while at service, so the Council decided to use the simple addition of asterisks alongside existing names. Nevertheless, the Rockdale Honour Rolls certainly create an atmosphere of commemoration within our renowned community^[55].

Conclusion

From the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them. Lest we forget.

On 11am on the 11th November 2018, the world will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ending of the Great War. World War 1 was a war which signaled the humankind and appraised their decision making. It was a tragedy among mankind. A destroyer, a superficial global conflict, that changed many things.

Nowadays, it is not possible to travel back in time and alter our past, but we can always continue to commemorate those brave men and women who served strategically in one of the world's most dramatic conflicts.

Within the Bayside Council, contributions were significant, and we should do whatever we can to continue to congratulate and pay tribute to the courageous men and women and celebrate our prospering history. It is a pleasure to be able to reside in such a wonderful place. In order to pursue these successes, we must work together this November. *We will remember them.*



42. Music teacher at Matraville Public School pictured with the bugle wearing soldier uniform

43. Photographic Honour Roll : August -2014

44. Year 2 students at Matraville Public School wearing a poppy they had made in class. Picture taken on ANZAC Day, 2015 in the school hall where the ANZAC ceremony was held.

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I begin by thanking my former teacher, Mr. Daniel Judd for the dedication and assistance he provided to improve my quality of writing over the years. I also want to thank my family, for their patience and fondness over the years and in supporting me whilst I was writing my essay. I especially thank my sister, Yousra for picking up a few punctuation errors at the beginning of my essay. Thank you, to the Bayside Council's Community History Librarians, Kristen Broderick and Jenny MacRitchie for their ongoing help and support during the period of which I wrote my essay and would love to further congratulate their guidance and cooperation to not only me but their availability to help all who are willing to enter this wonderful Local History Prize. In addition to that, I would love to thank the Bayside Council altogether for their ongoing dedication to our lovely area.

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We will remember them!