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CITY COUNCIL

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...the loss of a son or husband who has made the supreme sacrifice. They can come home no more; never more will their step be heard on the threshold; no more will they hear the voice they love so well - they must walk all their days without the hope of welcoming them home 99



Nepean Times 24 August 1918, p. 2





1918 OUR FALLEN

These men have been remembered across our City in various memorials, on Honor rolls in parks, churches, halls and schools. This is our tribute to their lives and sacrifice for their country.







INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been written by Library Research Services Supervisor, Lorraine Stacker with the assistance of Research Services staff at Penrith City Library. It is the fourth instalment of a project to document the fallen servicemen from the First World War that have been remembered on Honor rolls and war memorials across the City of Penrith. The men listed here fell in 1918 - either in battle or as a result of wounds or illness. The men are listed in order of the day they died.

This is the final booklet in this series. In 2019, a combined publication will bring the Our Fallen together, along with stories of some of the men who returned and the local nurses who served

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FOWLER, LANCE-CORPORAL DARRELL ELWYN HODGSON

22 JANUARY 1918, AT BAGHDAD, MESOPOTAMIA (IRAQ)

1st Australian & NZ Wireless Signal Squadron, AIF. Service number: 14481

Darrell Elwyn Hodgson Fowler was born in 1890 at Bulli NSW, the sixth and last child of Frederick John and Annie Maria (nee Hodgson) Fowler. His father was a telegraph station master and postmaster in many country towns across the state before being appointed Penrith postmaster around 1900 for the last nine years of his civil service. While in Penrith Darrell Fowler completed his schooling at Penrith Public School. He also attended Miss Mabel White's music school and attained his accreditation (ALCM) with the London College of Music. His musical performances in the Temperence Hall are noted in the Nepean Times. His parents also interested themselves with many public organisations including the Penrith School of Arts where his father was Hon. Secretary for many years. After his father's retirement in February 1909, and owing to his mother's ill health, the family moved to Five Dock. After his schooling Fowler trained and worked as a telegraphist at North Sydney Post Office.

Notwithstanding a vision problem with his right eye, Fowler enlisted on 8 May 1916 and served as a sapper with the Wireless Engineers until 29 June 1916 when he was allocated to the 3rd Reinforcements, 1st Australian and New Zealand (ANZAC) Wireless Signal Squadron. On 25 July 1916, Fowler left Melbourne aboard the RMS Malwa, disembarking at Bombay on 14 August 1916. He left for Basra on 21 August 1916 aboard TS Muttra disembarking on 28 August 1916. Fowler was involved in the capture of Baghdad in March 1917. In September 1917, he spent a few weeks in hospital in Amara (Iraq) suffering vision problems.

On 14 January 1918, Fowler was admitted to a British Casualty Clearing Station suffering from smallpox, which was 'due to active service'. By 19 January, he was in the Isolation Hospital in Baghdad and listed as dangerously ill. He died on 22 January. Fowler was buried in the North British Cemetery and according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission it 'is located in a very sensitive area in the Waziriah Area of the Al-Russafa district of Baghdad'. Sadly for the family, two days before Fowler's death, his mother Annie had died after a long illness. Fowler's personal belongings, including his prayer book, watch, thimble, letters and photographs were returned to his father. Frederick Fowler passed away in July 1929.

- Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq
- Honor Roll, Penrith Superior Public School



GARNER, PRIVATE ATHOL

28 MARCH 1918, AT DERNANCOURT, SOMME, FRANCE

45th Battalion, AIF Service number: 2185

Athol Garner was born at The Cedars, Great Western Road, Quarry Hill, St Marys in 1895, the 15th of 16 children of William and Mary (nee Healey) Garner. William was a well-known and respected local timber merchant who was elected the first Mayor of St Marys in 1890. As a boy of nine Garner witnessed the tragic drowning of his friend Frank Hackett in a local waterhole. After attending St Marys Public School, he worked at Bales Tannery at Botany as a tanner.

Garner enlisted on 13 March 1916 and undertook training at the Bathurst Depot Camp before joining the 4th Reinforcements, 45th Battalion. The Daily Telegraph noted that Garner was the 68th soldier to leave from St Marys. Garner's parents signed a letter of acceptance on 2 June 1916 for his enlistment. Departing Sydney on 22 August aboard HMAT Wiltshire and disembarking at Plymouth England on 13 October 1916, Garner was accompanied by Penrith railwayman Reg Cheesman. After training at Codford, Garner left for the war front and marched into Etaples on 8 January 1917. His Battalion fought in the Battle for Messines from 7-14 June 1917. Garner suffered gunshot wounds to the back and lungs on the first day. In a letter home, he wrote that he had lain in No Man's Land for 17 hours before being rescued. His friend from Penrith, Luke Hughes, died by Garner's side. Garner was admitted to the 5th General Hospital at Rouen before being transferred to England. After a brief furlough, Garner returned to France in January 1918.

During 1918, the 45th Battalion were rotating in and out of the front line. On 28 March 1918 Garner was killed by a shell on the outskirts of Albert. Of 125 men, only 77 reached their target and held it. Garner and three others were buried on Easter Monday alongside the Sunk Road and later moved to Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres. Garner's personal effects were lost en route to Australia when the Barunga was sunk by enemy fire. His two brothers, William and Harold also enlisted. William was killed on 11 August 1918 and Harold returned to Australia in June 1919. By this time, the family were living in 'Athol', Third Avenue, Eastwood.

- Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France
- Honor Roll, St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, St Marys
- Honor Roll, St Marys Public School, St Marys
- Honor Roll, Victoria Park, St Marys



RILEY, TROOPER KENRICK CORY

27 MARCH 1918, AT AMMAN, PALESTINE

6th Light Horse Regiment, AIF Service number: 2420

Kenrick Cory Riley was born at the family estate, 'Glenmore' in Mulgoa on 2 April 1892 to Alick Charles and Louisa Ann (nee Cory) and baptised at St Thomas's Anglican Church in May. Riley's grandfather, James John Riley was Penrith's first Mayor and a local alderman and magistrate for many years. Riley's parents married in 1886 and soon after moved to a Warialda pastoral run. In the early 1890's, after their first three children were born, they returned to Mulgoa. By 1896 the family were at Ballala, Mullengrudgery, near Nyngan. Riley attended Newington College at Stanmore before returning to western NSW where he worked as a station hand, likely on his parents' property, Blue Nobby, and later in Queensland. In 1913 he wrote his will in Brewarrina. By the end of the war, his parents had moved to Fairview Station near Yass. After the war this station was purchased for the settlement of returned soldiers.

Riley enlisted at Liverpool on 27 January 1916 and joined the 16th Reinforcements, 6th Light Horse Regiment. His older brother James Cory Riley, a station overseer, also enlisted in the Light Horse on 8 February. Riley embarked for Egypt on 3 May aboard the Hymettus and was taken on strength at Tel El Kabir by the end of June. His brother disembarked at Suez on 23 November 1916. After several months Riley was transferred to the 2nd Light Horse Brigade, later transferred to the 6th Light Horse Regiment in October 1916.

In early 1917, Riley was part of the Allied advance on Palestine and Gaza. In August he transferred to the 1st Light Car Patrol at Marakeb where he was involved in reconnaissance. Sick with malaria from October 1917, Riley missed the charge at Beersheba. Rejoining his regiment in early 1918, he worked in operations around Amman (now in Jordan). On 27 March, Riley's regiment was part of an attack on the Amman Railway Station. Advancing on foot, Riley's troop sergeant Lionel Loveband was wounded and while bringing him back to safety Riley was shot and killed. Loveband later died and the two were buried together in a nearby wadi. Brother James returned to Australia in 1919 and married local girl Eileen Stanton in 1928. Aside from Riley and his brother who served in Palestine, four other grandsons of Penrith's first Mayor served in France. Riley's mother died in Yass in 1930 and his father in 1951 at Roseville.

- Damascus British War Cemetery, Syria
- Honor Roll, St Thomas Anglican Church, Mulgoa
- Honor Roll, Newington College, Stanmore

ROOKE PRIVATE GEORGE

28 MARCH 1918, AT HERBUTERNE, FRANCE

13th Battalion, AIF Service number: 6101

George Rooke was born in 1897 at Nobbys Creek near Murwillumbah NSW, the only child of Evans and Kate Ann (nee McMillan) Rooke. The family moved to Penrith in 1911 where they purchased a 35-acre farm from Cornelius Comyn in Batt Street, Jamisontown (York Estate). There they established a poultry farm. Prior to his enlistment Rooke worked as a farm labourer, probably on his parents' farm. The family appeared to have been supporters of the war effort. In December 1915 Evans Rooke contributed 5 shillings to the Gilgandra recruiting Coo-ee March reception fund. George had also spent four years in the cadets and eight months in the local militia.

Rooke enlisted at Bathurst on 23 February 1916. He was allocated to the 19th Reinforcements, 13th Battalion on 23 March 1916. He embarked from Sydney on HMAT Wiltshire on 22 August and arrived in Durban, South Africa on 15 September and was taken to hospital with mumps. After he recovered he then re-embarked on the Euripides and arrived in Plymouth on 26 October 1916.

Rooke joined his battalion in France on 21 January 1917. He received a gunshot wound to the right knee on 4 February in France and was taken to 5th General Hospital in Rouen and admitted to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital in Southall in March. Rooke rejoined his unit in Belgium on 5 August 1917. In March 1918 the 13th Battalion helped stop the German Spring Offensive near Amiens. George Rooke was killed in action near the village of Hebuterne on 28 March 1918. He has no known grave.

The family farm was sold after the death of Evans Rooke in June 1928. William and Maud Sheather purchased the farm. Maud would soon afterwards become famous in Penrith as the first female candidate in a Penrith local government election. Kate Rooke moved to Victoria Road Drummoyne and lived with a relative, Kate Briggs. She died at Nurse Reynolds private hospital in Sydney in 1936. Rooke's parents are buried in Penrith General Cemetery and a memorial to their son is also on their headstone.

- Honor Roll, Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honor Roll, Penrith Superior Public School
- Honor Roll, United Church, Jamisontown



THOMSON, LIEUTENANT COLIN LESLIE 04 APRIL 1914, AT VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, FRANCE 35th Battalion, AIF Service number: 2160

Colin Leslie Thomson was born at Woonona, NSW in 1895 to James and Maud Thomson. He joined the Commercial Banking Company as a junior clerk and was posted to Penrith in 1911. While in Penrith he made many friends and was fondly regarded and it was for that reason his name now appears on the Penrith Presbyterian Church Honor Roll. He was also associated with the Penrith School of Arts and acted as its auditor. The Nepean Times reported on 22 January 1916 that four former clerks of the Penrith branch of the Commercial Bank had enlisted. Following the death of his father on the day of the Gallipoli landing, Thomson was transferred to Wollongong to be closer to his family. He had spent two years with the CMF (Citizen Military Forces) before he enlisted.

Thomson enlisted in Sydney on 3 April 1916 and he embarked with his unit from Sydney on board HMAT Anchises on 24 August 1916. Before he left, Thomson made out his will with his mother the beneficiary. He arrived in Devonport England on 11 October 1916. A month later, Thomson was promoted to Sergeant and then proceeded overseas to France. On 5 March 1917, Thomson was promoted in the field to 2nd Lieutenant. On 29 May 1917 he received gunshot wounds to his arm and buttock and was evacuated to England for treatment. While in England he was commissioned as Lieutenant on 25 June. By December 1917 Thomson was back in France. He was killed in action in the vicinity of Villers-Bretonneux.

- Crucifix Corner Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Honor Roll, Presbyterian Church, Penrith
- Honor Roll, Presbyterian Church, Wollongong



FEENING, PRIVATE WILLIAM 15 APRIL 1918.

15 APRIL 1918, AT EBBLINGHEM, FRANCE

4th Battalion, AIF Service number: 1351

William Feening was born in 1880 at Rocky Ponds near Harden NSW, the son of John and Martha (nee Barker). William was educated at Narromine before the family moved to Kingswood in the late 1890s where his father, John, worked on the railway. A native of Holland, John was accused of being a German in February 1916. In a letter to the editor of the Nepean Times, he stated 'I have a son at the front and one in camp at Liverpool. I don't think I need say more'.

Feening enlisted on 16 November 1914 and was allocated to the 2nd Reinforcements, 4th Battalion and was listed as a municipal employee on his papers. He sailed to Egypt aboard HMAT Seang Bee on 11 February 1915 and took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April. In August, the 4th Battalion led the charge at Lone Pine. On 3 September, Feening suffered concussion from a shell and was admitted to the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station. He later wrote 'I got blown up and buried - had a very narrow squeak of being killed... I put in 21 weeks at Gallipoli'. Two days later he was transported to Imbros, a Greek Island used as a staging post for operations on the Gallipoli Peninsula, transferred to a hospital in Malta and then on to King George Hospital at Stamford, England on 24 September 1915. He loved his time in London and even visited the King's stables at Buckingham Palace. From London, he wrote a letter to his brother, which was published in the Nepean Times on 2 February 1916.

Feening left for the Western Front on 31 July 1916 and rejoined his Battalion at the Somme. On 6 November 1916, he suffered a gunshot wound to his foot and was again sent to England for treatment. Discharged, Feening went on furlough in March 1917. In April he transferred to the 62nd Battalion based in Andover to support the AIF's increasing commitments on the battlefield. In June, Feening fell ill and was hospitalised at Fovant. He returned to his unit and in October he proceeded overseas to join the 4th Battalion in the Ypres sector. By April 1918, the 4th Battalion was in place to halt the German Spring Offensive. That month Feening was found guilty of being drunk. On 13 April 1918, Feening, a stretcher-bearer, was severly wounded by a shell dropped in the trench at Strazeele, near Hazebrouk which buried some of the men. Feening was taken to the 9th Field Ambulance before being transferred to Ebblinghem where he died two days later.

- Ebblinghem Military Cemetery, France
- Honor Roll, Victoria Park, St Marys



WOODRIFF, LIEUTENANT GEOFFREY BESANT

19 MAY 1918, AT HEILLY, FRANCE 18th Battalion, AIF Service number: 753

Geoffrey Besant Woodriff was born to Francis Henry and Margaretta Mary (nee Tingcombe) of 'Combewood', Penrith on 7 January 1894. Woodriff's great great grandfather, Captain Daniel Woodriff RN, was granted 1,000 acres where Penrith now stands. Young Woodriff was educated at Lennox School Penrith and received his secondary education at Sydney Grammar School at the time of his enlistment.

Woodriff enlisted on 10 May 1915 and was originally allocated to the 7th Reinforcements, 4th Battalion, but later transferred to the 18th Battalion. Departing on the HMAT Ceramic in June 1915, Woodriff joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on 18 August and landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 20 August. Two days later he took part in a diversionary battle for Lone Pine (Hill 60). On 27 August, Woodriff suffered extensive shrapnel wounds and evacuated to Mudros and then to Hunt's Green Hospital, Hampstead England.

In January 1916 Woodriff rejoined his Battalion in Egypt. On 7 March and he sailed for France. He was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 26 June, just before their attack at Pozieries. In August he requested to return to Corporal. On 5 November, Woodriff was promoted to Sergeant. Soon after he was hospitalised suffering trench feet and later with influenza. He rejoined his unit on 28 February 1917. On 27 June, Woodriff attended Number 4 Officer Cadets Training School in Oxford England. On 29 September, he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and rejoined the 18th Battalion in France on 14 October. On 1 January 1918, Woodriff received his second star.

n 19 May 1918, Woodriff took part in an operation to straighten a bend in Australian lines. He successfully led his men in an attack on a heavily defended crossroad and established a post. A German machine gun fired on the platoon's position killing several soldiers. Woodriff and two of his men attacked the German post, destroying their machine gun. Woodriff was hit in the chest and killed. It was reported that Woodriff was buried in Heilly Military Cemetery, but by 1922 his grave could not be located. Woodriff's two brothers, Francis Henry and Daniel also joined the AIF and returned in 1919. After Woodriff's death, his father had an ongoing battle with the Department of Defence to obtain his late son's personal effects and pay.

- Honor Roll, Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honor Roll, St Stephen's Anglican Church, Penrith



EDWARDS, LANCE CORPORAL HAROLD

29 MAY 1918, AT BOURNEMOUTH, ENGLAND 54th Battalion AIF Service number: 2397

Harold Edwards was born in Penrith in 1897, the fifth son of George and Malvina (nee Player) Edwards. The family lived in Henry Street, Penrith where George worked as a railway employee. After attending school, young Harold worked as a baker. He had also served six months in the cadets before enlisting.

Edwards enlisted on 18 April 1916 and served with the Depot Battalion at Dubbo, NSW until 22 June, when he was allocated to A Company, 54th Battalion. On 30 September, Edwards left Sydney aboard HMAT Aeneas arriving in Plymouth on 19 November.

After a brief period of training in England, Edwards proceeded overseas to France on 21 December. His Battalion took part in the 2nd Bullecourt and Polygon Wood offensives during 1917. On 11 January 1918, he was promoted to Lance Corporal in the field. Edwards went on leave to England in March and on his return his Battalion took part in the Villers-Bretonneux offensive. On 17 April, the 54th Battalion was lying in readiness when the Germans unleashed a concerted gas barrage, including mustard, sneezing gas and phosgene, on the villages of Villers-Bretonneux and Bois l'Abbe. Edwards suffered exposure to mustard gas and was admitted to the 55th Field Ambulance before being transferred to the 61st Casualty Clearing Station. On 18 April, he was transferred to the 5th General Hospital at Rouen. His condition did not improve and on 23 May he was transferred to Boscombe Military Hospital in Bournemouth Hampshire England for further treatment.

Edwards died as a result of his exposure to mustard gas on 29 May 1918. He was accorded a military funeral on 3 June with a gun carriage, firing party, bugler and pallbearers. Edwards' brother, James, who was in 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford recovering from a gunshot wound to the thigh, was able to attend the funeral. James had enlisted in September 1915 and served with the 30th Battalion. He returned to Australia in 1919.

- Bournemouth East Cemetery, Hampshire, England
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honor Roll, Penrith Superior Public School
- Honor Roll, St Stephen's Anglican Church, Penrith



COOK, SERGEANT JAMES DAVID

8TH AUGUST 1918, AT AMIENS, FRANCE

19th Battalion, AIF Service number: 7007

James David Cook (Koch) was born on 25 April 1896 at Newtown, the son of Magnus Adolph (Alfred) and Isabella (nee Derome) Koch/Cook. His father was a Danish seaman from Koling, Denmark. Jim, as he was known, was the only surviving child of this couple. One sister had died as an infant and another, Isabella drowned in Haslems Creek, Lidcombe on her way home from school. After her death in 1913, the family worked a farm at Llandilo until the early 1920s when they moved to New Street, Lidcombe. Cook served as a Lieutenant in the Lidcombe Cadets and had studied at Duntroon Military College. In about 1915, he spent two years serving as a drill instructor and machine gun instructor at Seymour, Victoria with the rank of Sergeant Major.

Cook enlisted on 8 October 1917 with the rank of Sergeant. On 15 November, Cook was allocated to A Company, 1st Infantry Depot Battalion at Liverpool. He was later allocated to the 21st Reinforcements, 19th Battalion. On 28 February 1918, Cook embarked at Melbourne aboard HMAT Nestor, disembarking at Liverpool, England on 20 April 1918. On 25 April, Cook marched into the 5th Training Battalion at Fovant and was sent to the war front in France on 1 July 1918. Two days later Cook marched into the Australian Divisional Base Depot at Havre. On 10 July, Cook was in the field with the 18th Battalion. On 8 August 1918, his Battalion took part in the Battle of Amiens, a crucial Allied breakthrough counter-offensive. Cook was killed in action on on 8 August on the first day of the Battle of Amiens.

By 1923, Cook's father had left his wife and moved to Sussex Street, Sydney. She was living in Parramatta at the time and was upset that all of her son's medals and personal effects went to his father. Cook had also left his estate to his father. In April 1923, a letter written on Isabella's behalf, requested Cook's Victory Medal be awarded to her, considering her estranged husband had received his other medals. Base Records wrote to Cook stating 'it would be an act of grace on your part to allow Mrs Cook to have this one remaining war memento in memory of her son'. The husband consented to this and Isabella received her son's Victory Medal.

- Crucifix Corner Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Honor Roll, Llandilo Public School
- Honor Roll, St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, St Marys



GARNER, PRIVATE WILLIAM 11 AUGUST 1918, AT RAINECOURT, FRANCE 20th Battalion, AIF Service number: 5944

William (Willie) Garner was born at home at The Cedars, Great Western Road, Quarry Hill, St Marys in 1891, the 13th of 16 children born to William and Mary (nee Healey). Garner's father was elected the first Mayor of St Marys in 1890 and was a respected local timber merchant. After attending Kingswood and St Marys Public Schools, Garner served an apprenticeship with James Bennett, the coachmaker at St Marys. He worked as a coachbuilder for six years before enlisting. His send-off saw 200 local people from 'old St Marys families' gather to wish Garner 'God speed in true Australian fashion', according to the Nepean Times.

Garner enlisted on 26 June 1916 and was allocated to the 16th Reinforcements, 20th Battalion. He left Sydney aboard HMAT Ceramic on 7 October and disembarked at Plymouth, England on 21 November. When in England he met up with his brother Athol. Shortly afterwards, Garner embarked for the war front in France. By February 1917, he had joined his Battalion in the field. During 1917, the 20th Battalion was involved in advancing on German forces beyond the Hindenburg Line and was one of four battalions to have success at Lagincourt. The Battalion took part in the second Battle of Bullecourt (3-4 May) and Menin Road (20-22 September) in Belgium. On 20 September 1917, Garner suffered shell wounds to his right thigh and was admitted to the 6th Australian Field Ambulance before being transferred to the 17th Casualty Clearing Station. The following day, he was transferred to the 2nd Canadian Field Hospital for treatment. After convalescing in Belgium he re-joined his unit on 22 November. On 21 January 1918, Garner went on a fortnight's leave to England before rejoining his unit in early February.

On 8 August 1918, the 20th Battalion took part in the Battle of Amiens. Garner was killed by machine gun fire during an advance by his company on 11 August 1918. He was buried near Rainecourt. After the war, the Imperial War Graves Commission were not successful in locating his remains. Two brothers, Athol and Harold had also enlisted. Athol was killed on 28 March 1918 and Harold returned to Australia in June 1919. By this time, the family were living in 'Athol', Third Avenue, Eastwood.

- Honor Roll, Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Honor Roll, St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, St Marys
- Honor Roll, St Marys Public School
- Honor Roll, Victoria Park, St Marys



PASCOE, PRIVATE WALTER REUBEN

15 AUGUST 1918, AT VECQUEMONT, FRANCE

3rd Battalion, AIF Service number: 7558

Walter Reuben Pascoe was born in Dubbo in 1899 to Michael and Mary Ann Pascoe. The family lived in Gibbes Street, Dubbo. Mary Ann married Denis McAuliffe, a railway worker, in 1912. By 1915, his family had moved to Union Street, Penrith and by 1917 to Belmore Street.

Pascoe enlisted on 10 April 1917 in Sydney. At the time of his enlistment he was living in Riley Street, Surry Hills and working as a motor mechanic. He left for England on board HMAT Marathon on 10 May 1917 and arrived at Devonport on 20 July. He had a number of AWOL offences in England during his training. He transferred to the 3rd Battalion on 25 August 1917, but from January to March 1918 he was absent without leave, having a good time in London. For that he spent over a month in detention.

Pascoe was in France by June 1918. In the early hours of 14 August at Rosieres-en-Santerre in the Somme Valley, while Pascoe was at his Lewis Gun, a shell burst close by, badly wounding him in the head. He died at the 53rd Casualty Clearing Station near Vecquemont on 15 August. In his will, dated 2 May 1917, he left everything to his mother. On 21 September 1918, his mother inserted this poem in the Nepean Times in remembrance of her son -

He marched away so bravely
His young head proudly held
His footsteps never faltered
His courage never failed
His King and Country called him
The call was not in vain
On Australia's roll of honor
You will find our dear Walter's name.

Pascoe's brother Alexander enlisted in 1915. He spent most of his time either AWOL or in detention. In September 1919 he was 'despatched under escort' for his return to Australia. Upon return, his remaining sentence was remitted and his services were 'no longer required'. Another brother, Joseph, enlisted in January 1916 under the name Herbert Francis McAuliffe. However, at the end of February he was discharged with the remark – 'not likely to become an efficient soldier'.

- Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, France
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith



MULLIS, PRIVATE HARRY 31 AUGUST 1918, AT BARLEUX, FRANCE 54th Battalion, AIF Service number: 3680

Harry Mullis was born on 16 February 1899 to Richard Mullis and his second wife, Margaret Isabel (nee Rogers). Harry Mullis was baptised in St Stephens Anglican Church at Penrith. His father, born in Emu Plains, worked on the railway. By the early 1900s the family were renting in Warwick Street, Penrith. Mullis attended Penrith Superior Public School and received a bursary for Sydney High School. In June 1915 he was appointed junior clerk in the Public Works Department. Mullis was a keen footballer for the local Waratah Football Club. Before enlisting he had been in the cadets. By 1917, the family were living in Doonmore Street, Lemongrove.

Mullis enlisted on 10 August 1917, allocated to the 10th Reinforcements, 54th Battalion. He left Sydney on the HMAT Euripides on 31 October and arrived in Devonport on 26 December. He before proceeded to France in April 1918. In a letter home, published in the Nepean Times on 20 April 1918, Mullis was upbeat about his adventure, mentioning the numerous local men he had met, including Stan Colless, Laurie Stuckey, Cecil Fulton, Pat Haynes and Jack Shields.

By June, he was in hospital with trench fever. At the beginning of August, he was again sick and returned to his unit on 13 August. On 31 August, Mullis was killed at Barleux near the River Somme. He was reading a letter on top of a dugout with another soldier, O'Brien, when a shell fell close by and killed both. Concussion had killed Mullis. Both soldiers were buried in the field near where they fell. His unit then moved on with its attack on Peronne. His friend Fred Knight, who had arrived on the same ship, wrote that Mullis had 'resigned himself to the will of God'.

In his will, dated 19 September 1917, he left his estate to his mother. By June 1919, the Mullis family had moved to Belmore Street, Penrith where they named their home Euripides. In January 1920, the director of the Botanic Gardens in Sydney, Joseph Maiden, received a parcel of poppy seeds from France, sent to him by Ettie Rout, Secretary of the New Zealand Volunteer Sisters. The seeds had been gathered by the school children of Villers-Bretonneux. Maiden sent a letter to the Sydney Morning Herald writing 'I shall be very pleased indeed to send a tiny packet to the relatives of New South Wales soldiers in accordance with this lady's wishes'. And so, Margaret Mullis responded and received a packet of poppy seeds.

- Assevillers New British Cemetery, France
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honor Roll, Penrith Superior Public School



ABBOTT, SERGEANT FRANCIS ARTHUR

31 AUGUST 1918, AT PERONNE, FRANCE

36th/33rd Battalion, AIF Service number: 3170

Francis Arthur Abbott was born in Penrith on 29 January 1893 to English parents, Joseph and Mary Ann (nee Mitchell) Abbott. The family lived on Jamison Road on the York estate. Abbott was the only one of the four sons to enlist. Brother Joseph was exempt from military service to keep Frank's grocery business going and to look after their elderly parents. James and Albert Abbott worked on the railways like their father. Before enlisting, Abbott worked as a storeman for the Nepean Cooperative Stores until setting up a grocery business in March 1914. He also achieved the rank of Lieutenant in the local Citizen Military Force.

Abbott was keen to serve and joined the Instructional Unit at Liverpool in October 1915, becoming a musketry trainer and Acting Staff Sergeant Major. In October 1915, he joined the 3rd Australian Infantry Regiment as a staff instructor. Abbott enlisted in the AIF on 15 February 1917 and embarked aboard HMAT Benalla on 10 May, suffering bronchitis on the trip. Upon disembarkation at Plymouth on 19 July, he was attached to the 9th Training Battalion. By the end of December, Abbott was in France and was taken on strength with the 36th Battalion, stationed at Ypres, Belgium. On 30 January 1918, Abbott reported sick and was admitted to Middlesex War Hospital at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. He re-joined his company at Villers-Bretonneux on the Somme

When Abbott's 36th Battalion was disbanded in April his Company was transferred to the 33rd Battalion and rotated in and out of the trenches for the next few months. Abbott wrote to his mother about the exhilaration of going over the top. He referred to it as being 'in the game'. In August 1918, his Battalion was stationed along the Somme River. It was in the action of 22 August that Abbott was nominated for a Distinguished Conduct Medal for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty' while his officer and platoon sergeant were wounded. No medal appears to have been awarded however. The Battalion moved to Curlu in preparation for the next action at the Battle of Bouchavesnes on 31st August. On 31 August, just outside the town of Peronne, Abbott was killed. A letter from one of the men in his Company to his family told that he had been shot in the head and died instantly, and it is recorded that he was buried in the field though his body was never recovered.

- Honor Roll, Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honor Roll, St Stephen's Anglican Church, Penrith
- Honor Roll, Penrith Superior Public School
- Honor Roll, Lodge Nepean, Penrith



SKEEN, PRIVATE ALFRED

31 AUGUST 1918, AT MONT ST QUENTIN, FRANCE

17th Battalion, AIF Service number: 5416

Alfred Skeen was born in Penrith on 25 October 1894, the youngest son and child of Thomas and Mary Ann (nee Wilson) Skeen. The family had moved around the western districts of NSW before settling in Penrith around the time of Alfred's birth. Skeen's father worked on the railways and the family lived at Jamisontown and Kingswood. After attending Penrith Superior Public School, Skeen worked as a coal miner at the Oakey Park colliery at Lithgow. At the time of his enlistment, Skeen's mother had died and his father was living near Hartley.

Skeen enlisted at Lithgow on 5 January 1916, and trained at the Lithgow Depot Company until his transfer to Bathurst Depot Company on 18 January. On 9 March, Skeen was initially allocated to the 13th Reinforcements, 17th Battalion. After several months of training, Skeen embarked on HMAT Wiltshire on 22 August 1916 bound for England. While on board the transport ship, Skeen was hospitalised with mumps. He disembarked on 13 October at Plymouth and on 4 November, Skeen marched into the 5th Training Battalion at Rollestone, England. He embarked for France on 13 December and joined his unit on 18 December. From 17 April until 25 April 1917, Skeen was hospitalised in France with an unknown illness. He suffered gunshot wounds to his right arm on 3 May and was treated at the 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station before being transferred to the Military Hospital at Tooting in England. Aside from his wounds, he had trench fever and an illness caused by lice infestation in the trenches.

On 25 June 1917, Skeen was discharged from hospital and was sent on leave until 9 July. On 27 September, Skeen transferred to the Overseas Training Depot and he rejoined his unit on 27 October. Skeen was killed instantly by machine gun fire during the battle of Mont St Quentin on 31 August 1918 and was buried close to a trench just west of Mont St Quentin. In 1920, Skeen's father, who was by then living at 'Lambridge', on Castlereagh Road, Penrith, was informed that his son's remains had been exhumed and reinterred in Peronne Communal Cemetery.

- Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, France
- Honor Roll, St Stephen's Anglican Church
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honor Roll, War Memorial, Lithgow



COLLESS, MC, DCM LIEUTENANT STANLEY

1 SEPTEMBER 1918, AT PERONNE, FRANCE

3rd/55th Battalion, AIF Service number: 2808

Stanley Colless was born at Penrith on 19 November 1892, the son of Henry and Elizabeth Jane (nee Jordan) Colless of North Street, Penrith. He received his schooling at the Penrith Superior Public School and afterwards was employed as a wool classer by A W Davis and Company at Liverpool. Colless was a keen sportsman who played cricket and football. He was also a member of a rifle club and won a number of prizes in shooting competitions.

Colless enlisted on 19 June 1915 and was assigned to the 9th Reinforcements, 3rd Battalion. Stan's brother George enlisted on 22 August with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Stan Colless left Sydney on 30 September, aboard HMAT Argyllshire and after several months in Egypt was transferred to the 55th Battalion in February 1916. He guickly rose through the ranks from Corporal to Lance Corporal. In March he sailed for the Western Front. On 31 May, Colless was promoted to Sergeant and during the Battle of Fromelles (19-20 July 1916), he was singled out for mention by Captain Gibbons who stated 'Sergeant Colless doing good work - my officers also of course. Would like you to say something to his man. He is doing splendid work'. On 23 August, Colless was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and on 29 August, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for his bravery in the Battle of Fromelles 'For conspicuous gallantry during operations. He kept the teams of two guns working in the enemy's second line, from which he was finally driven out by overwhelming bombing parties. By his fine example he kept the team steady, and covered the retreat of a company, thus saving many casualties'. Colless spent time as an instructor at the Lewis Gun School in England during October 1916. In February 1917, he was promoted to Lieutenant and in March was again in training, rejoining his unit in October.

Colless was awarded the Military Cross after he led a raid destroying German pill boxes, and capturing German machine guns. On 1 September 1918 Colless was killed by a machine gun shot through the head near Mont St Quentin, during the Battle for Peronne. The next day, his body was carried to Herbecourt British Cemetery for burial.

- Herbecourt British Cemetery, France
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honor Roll, Penrith Superior Public School
- Honor Roll, St Stephen's Anglican Church, Penrith



BURROWS, CORPORAL HENRY JOHN

2 SEPTEMBER 1918, AT PERONNE, FRANCE 1st/14th Field Company Engineers, AIF Service number: 2157

Henry John (Jack) Burrows was born in 1893 at Penrith, son of Edward Charles and Rubena (nee Squires). Burrows attended Penrith Superior Public School before serving an apprenticeship with Henry Vale and Co, an engineering works at Auburn. Before enlistment he worked for the Railway Department at Penrith as a fitter. On enlistment, Burrows listed his occupation as mechanic and stated that he was a good horseman.

Burrows enlisted on 23 July 1915 and was allocated to the 11th Reinforcements, 1st Field Company Engineers and sailed for the war front aboard HMAT Port Lincoln on 14 October 1915. Soon after arriving in Egypt, he was hospitalised, rejoining his unit on 29 January 1916. Burrows spent a few weeks with the 1st Field Company Engineers before being taken on strength by the 14th Field Company Engineers, then stationed at Tel-el-Kebir. In March Burrows was admitted to hospital with sore feet. He was hospitalised again in May before rejoining his unit where he was promoted to Corporal.

On 18 June, Burrows embarked for France. In July, he was suffering from a sore throat and rejoined his unit on 22 July. On 6 November, Burrows suffered gunshot wounds to the scalp and thigh at Fleur Baix. He rejoined his unit on 13 December. On 10 January 1917, Burrows was admitted to hospital with an infection, rejoining his unit on 7 February. During April, Burrows was on furlough in England, but was again in hospital in October, rejoining his unit on 17 November. In January 1918, Burrows was granted leave in England. On 8 May, he was sent to Lewis Gun School, rejoining his unit on 11 June.

On 1 September 1918, Burrows suffered gunshot wounds to the abdomen. He was transferred to the 61st Casualty Clearing Station and died the following day. Two brothers also served - George, who after obtaining a commission, won a Military Cross and Bar with the 14th Field Company Engineers and Norman Charles who served with the 6th Field Artillery. After the war, Penrith requested the Amiens Gun as a war trophy, famously captured by Lieutenant George Burrows and his men, but was refused. Burrows' father worked actively to see Memory Park come to fruition.

- Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, France
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honor Roll, St Stephens Anglican Church, Penrith



FRANKS, CORPORAL EDGAR RUSSELL

2 SEPTEMBER 1918, AT PERONNE, FRANCE

19th/55th Battalion, AIF Service number: 3803

Edgar Russell Franks was born in Marylebone, London in 1894, the son of Edgar Charles and Mary Ann Franks. He arrived in Sydney on board the Moravian in 1910 and lived with his uncle in Parramatta. Before he enlisted he had spent three years' service in the colonial forces. Franks worked as an ironworks assistant at the Clyde Iron Works. According to his obituary in the Nepean Times, Franks 'visited Penrith a good deal, and attended the local Methodist Church'. He may have met his fiancé Maud Byrnes, the daughter of Henry and Rebecca Byrnes at this church. Maud later married Robert Kendall in 1934.

Franks enlisted on 25 October 1915 and was allocated to the 9th Reinforcements, 19th Battalion. He left Australia aboard HMAT Runic on 20 January 1916 and disembarked at Alexandria on 26 February. As part of the AIF restructure, Franks transferred to the 55th Battalion on 3 April. On 19 May, he was admitted to the 14th Field Ambulance with a fever and discharged the same day. On 9 June, Franks embarked aboard the Caledonian for the Western Front and disembarked at Marseilles on 29 June. His Battalion entered the frontline trenches for the first time on 12 July and fought their first major battle at Fromelles a week later. Although in reserve, the 55th was quickly committed to the attack and eventually played a critical role, forming the rearguard for withdrawal. After a freezing winter manning trenches in the Somme Valley, in early 1917 the 55th Battalion took part in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium.

On 6 August 1917, Franks was sent to Lewis Gun School, returning to his unit on 26 August, just in time for his Battalion's involvement at Polygon Wood on 26 September 1917. On 7 October, Franks was promoted to Temporary Corporal, with promotion to Corporal on 1 January 1918. On 30 January 1918, Franks was detached from duty and attended a course of instruction at No 1 Area Gas School from 2-9 March. From 4-18 April, he attended the 12th Lewis Gun Course at the Australian School of Musketry, Tidworth and remained with the 14th Training Battalion until 7 August when he rejoined his unit in France. On 2 September 1918, Franks was killed by shell fire during the attack on Peronne.

- Herbecourt British Cemetery, France
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honor Roll, Methodist Church, Penrith

HAYNES, PRIVATE CLARENCE WILLIAM

30 SEPTEMBER 1918, AT BELLICOURT, FRANCE

56th Battalion, AIF Service number: 3743

Clarence (Clarrie) William Haynes was born in Penrith in 1898, the son of James (Walter) and Stella (nee Dunstan). Walter, the son of Alderman Edward Haynes, was working as a warehouseman in Kent Street Sydney when he fell ill. He died at the Sydney Quarantine Station of bubonic plague. Stella was left to raise two year old Clarrie and their unborn daughter. The family were living in North Street, Penrith at the time. Afterwards, Stella worked as a housekeeper, and by 1916, for Magrath at Emu Hall. Haynes, who lived most of his young life with his grandparents, Edward and Margaret Haynes, completed his schooling at Penrith Superior Public School. Some time in his childhood, he suffered from an autoimmune disease known as St Vitus's Dance, that left him with uncontrolled blinking and movements of the face. Before his enlistment, Haynes worked as a coach driver for funeral director, Nelson Price. He also had served as a cadet for four years.

Haynes enlisted on 10 August 1917 with his mother's consent. He left Sydney on 31 October aboard HMAT Euripides. Haynes' cousin, Private Jack Shields, also left at the same time. Haynes marched into the 14th Training Battalion at Codford, England on 27 December. On 5 January 1918, he was found guilty of disobedience and sentenced to 2 days' field punishment. On 22 February, he was admitted to hospital with bronchitis, rejoining his unit on 8 April. On 6 May, Haynes embarked for the war front and joined his battalion on 10 June. He was again hospitalised in July through to mid September. The 56th Battalion had just taken part in the capture of Peronne and on 29 September, the Battle around Mont St Quentin. On 30 September 1918, while in his trench at Bellicourt, Haynes and two others were killed by a 'whizz bang shell'. They were buried nearby the next day.

In March 1920, Stella Haynes wrote to the Army querying whether her son may be alive and living in Sydney. A man, stating he was Haynes had telephoned his sister's former workplace, asking about his mother, and whether she was still living in Penrith. He stated he did not wish to go home 'as he was terribly knocked about'. The Army advised 'it is desired to warn you against building on hopes, which it is feared, cannot be realised'.

- Honor Roll, Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Honor Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honor Roll, Penrith Superior Public School
- Honor Roll, Methodist Church, Penrith



PARKES, PRIVATE HERBERT LESLIE

3 OCTOBER 1918, AT JONCOURT, FRANCE

17th Battalion, AIF Service number: 5706

Herbert Lewis (Leslie) Parkes was born at Hurstville on 28 February 1898 and baptised a month later in St Peters Anglican Church, Cooks River. His parents were Charles and Emma (nee Olson) Parkes. When Parkes was five years old his mother Emma died, leaving her husband Charles with three small children to raise. In 1905, Charles, a railway ganger, married Ivy Ellison at Stockton. Ivy had family connections at Emu Plains, which may explain why the family had moved to York Street, Emu Plains by 1907. After his schooling, young Parkes worked for a time as a porter at Emu Plains Railway Station. At the time of his enlistment, he was working as an engineer's assistant for Johnson Bros in Sydney. His aunt and guardian, Eva Smith, Emma's sister, gave her consent. She had also adopted his brother Arthur. This form also stated his parents were both deceased, which was not the case. His sister Amy (incorrectly recorded as Amelia), living at the same address as Eva Smith was recorded as his next of kin.

Parkes enlisted on 22 March 1916 and allocated to the 17th Battalion. He embarked on 9 September from Sydney on HMAT Euripides. On the voyage over, Parkes was charged with being late for parade and given extra fatigue duty. Upon arrival in England, he was transferred to Rollestone. However, on 30 December he was court martialled for being AWOL from 6-18 December with a forged pass. Brigadier General Sir Newton Moore, in charge of AIF camps and depots in England, remitted 50 days from his 120-day detention sentence. Additionally, Parkes forfeited 93 days' pay.

By May 1917 Parkes was in France. In June, suffering from appendicitis, Parkes was admitted to hospital. He returned to England, and was admitted to Reading War Hospital. While in England, he was again AWOL in August 1917. On his return, he was placed in custody and was then sent to isolation camp where he was found to have contracted scabies. In November, he proceeded to France. He was again in hospital with a fever in May 1918 and marched out to his unit on 19 August. On 21 August, Parkes was again AWOL and was sentenced to 14 days' field punishment. He rejoined his unit on 25 August. On 3 October, Parkes was killed in action during the Battle of the St Quentin Canal. He was among 22 Australian soldiers who were buried in Joncourt Railway Cemetery. In 1920, these soldiers were re-interred in Bellicourt British Cemetery.

- Bellicourt British Cemetery, France
- Honor Roll, Emu Plains Public School
- Honor Roll, War Memorial, Hurstville



BENNETT, SAPPER SYDNEY WILLIAM

21 OCTOBER 1918, AT DAMASCUS, SYRIA 2nd Signal Squadron, AIF Service number: 21660

Sydney William (Billie) Bennett was born on 22 December 1889 at home at Bronte, St Marys, the third son of James William and Mary Barclay (nee Shand) Bennett. James Bennett operated a successful wagon building trade in Queen Street. Young Sydney attended St Marys Public School and worked in his father's business as a blacksmith before enlisting.

Bennett enlisted on 26 November 1917, and on 4 December he was allocated to the Engineer Reinforcements, 2nd Military District Engineers. He then transferred to Signals as a sapper on 13 February 1918. Bennett embarked on the HMAT Port Darwin on 30 April 1918 and after disembarking at Suez on 7 June, marched into camp at Moascar, Egypt. On 9 July, Bennett was posted to the Signal Training Unit and a fortnight later was posted to 2nd Signals Squadron, Australian Mounted Division.

On 1 October 1918, British and Australian troops entered Damascus. On 16 October, Bennett was admitted to hospital in Damascus suffering from malignant malaria. On 21 October he was transferred to the Australian Divisional Receiving Station and died there the same day. He was buried the following day, alongside many who had died from an epidemic of malaria, cholera and influenza that had swept through Palestine at the time. During the second week of October, more than 1,800 new malaria infections were diagnosed and pandemic influenza had broken out. During the summer of 1918, it became apparent that when Allied troops moved into former Turkish controlled territories they would be exposed to high levels of malaria transmission. In order to prepare for this eventuality mobile malaria diagnosis stations were formed. After treating Allied troops, they were faced with treating thousands of sick civilians and Turkish soldiers.

In his will, dated 23 February 1918, Bennett bequeathed his estate to his sisters Elsie and Bertha. His younger brother, Harold Victor also enlisted and served with the 20th Battalion and after being wounded, was invalided home to Australia in November 1918.

- Damascus Commonwealth War Cemetery, Syria
- Honor Roll, St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, St Marys
- Honor Roll, Victoria Park, St Marys



WHINCUP, DRIVER JOHN

7 NOVEMBER 1918, AT DURY-LE-AMIENS, FRANCE

5th Divisional Motor Transport Company, AIF Service number: 13336

John (Jack) Whincup was born in Bradford, Yorkshire England in 1890, the son of Thomas and Hannah Whincup. In 1911 he was living with his parents and family in Bradford working as a chemist. When Whincup immigrated to Australia in 1912, arriving on the Orama, he stated he was a labourer. Soon afterwards, he worked as an instructor in a motor school in Sydney. In April 1915, Whincup moved to Mulgoa and went into partnership with William Parker in Parker's Motor Car Company, running a taxi service between Penrith, Mulgoa and Wallacia. In competition with Bale's service, they often found themselves in court breaching traffic and government regulations. When Whincup enlisted, William and Matilda Parker's daughter Lily, at 19 years old, stepped in and took his place until he returned from active service. She gained some fame for her driving and mechanical ability and during the Second World War, worked as a driver at the St Marys Munitions Factory.

Whincup enlisted on 25 September 1916 and was allocated to the 2nd Auxiliary Mechanical Transport Company. He embarked at Melbourne for the war aboard HMAT Persic on 22 December and disembarked at Devonport, England on 3 March 1917. After a period of training in England, Whincup proceeded overseas to France on 20 June 1917 and on 12 March 1918 was transferred from the 5th Divisional Supply Column to the 5th Divisional Motor Transport Company. In May 1918, Whincup was charged with contravening the speed limit and forfeited two days' pay. From 8-24 September, he took leave in England and presumably visited his family in Bradford before returning to his unit at the Front.

Whincup was admitted to the 41st Stationary Hospital on 31 October 1918 with influenza which developed into bronchial pneumonia. On 4 November 1918, he was placed on the dangerously ill list. He died on 7 November 1918 and was buried in the Hospice Military Cemetery at Dury-le-Amiens. In his will, he left his share in Parker's Motor Car Company to Lily Parker (later Lily Seawert).

- Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, France
- Honor Roll, St Thomas' Anglican Church, Mulgoa

STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION OF PENRITH CITY'S ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURAL HERITAGE

Council values the unique status of Aboriginal people as the original owners and custodians of lands and waters, including the land and waters of Penrith City.

Council values the unique status of Torres Strait Islander people as the original owners and custodians of the Torres Strait Islands and surrounding waters.

We work together for a united Australia and City that respects this land of ours that values the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, and provides justice and equity for all.





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Sources:

National Archives of Australia

National Library of Australia (Trove)

Australian War Memorial

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

NSW State Records

Penrith City Library

Nepean District Historical Society

St Marys and District Historical Society

Family members of these fallen soldiers

Cover image: Lieutenant Stanley Colless, MC, DCM















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