

BREMER ECHOES

OUR FOREBEARS PAST YET PRESENT STILL



VOLUME 33 NO 2

JULY 2015

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Please address all correspondence to:
The Secretary, P.O.Box 323, IPSWICH Q. 4305

Phone 0491105184

Or email: secretary@igs.org.au

Website: <http://www.igs.org.au>

Editor's email: idbiddy41@gmail.com

Please check the website for updates

MONTHLY MEETING: SECOND Tuesday of the month at 9.30am [except January] at the Rooms of **Councillor Bruce CASOS Station Rd. Booval**

Shop 2 / 38 Station Rd Booval
Friendly Care Chemist Building

Dues are payable by 30th September.

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Annual Membership includes postage of Society's magazine

February, July, & November

Out of town members entitled to research on their behalf from Society records.

OPENING HOURS

Monday Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am to 2.30pm

Saturday 9am to 12 noon – Closed Sunday

Closed all Public Holidays

COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

“Mephisto” War Trophy brought back to Queensland in 1919, in a carcoon.
courtesy The Workshops Rail Museum. Story page 20

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The Journal of the IPSWICH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

The First Genealogical Society in Queensland 1977



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*Dawn Service 2015
Photograph courtesy
Bundamba ANZAC
Observance
Committee*

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FROM THE EDITOR: The Annual General Meeting will be held on 8th September, and Nomination Forms for positions on the Management Committee are available from the Society. Please give some thought to being part of the team, as we welcome new faces with fresh ideas for the future of the Society. Membership Renewal Forms may be downloaded from the new website:

www.igs.org.au

The Centenary Year of the ANZACs has passed the half way mark with many events marking this milestone. I am sure many of us have learnt a lot of things about that time that have shown how difficult it was for all service personnel. Those who remained at home suffered, as the burden of surviving day by day fell to the wives and the elderly, and then not knowing what was happening to their loved ones, would have been heart wrenching – the dread of hearing the knock on the door with the devastating news.

Brian Jeffrey has once again contributed an interesting family story, this time of his grand-uncles who fought in the Great War. The role the railways played in moving troops and equipment is shown in “War Time Railways” from Geraldine Mate, the Senior Curator at The Workshops Rail Museum at North Ipswich, the site of the former North Ipswich Railway Workshops. Thank you Geraldine and Brian, your willingness to share these stories with our Society is appreciated.

In the February edition of Bremer Echoes, the story was told of 21 Ipswich and District soldiers who died at Gallipoli. Another four men who were killed in the Gallipoli Campaign have been identified and some information can be found on page 10.

Irma



*Memorial,
Workshops Rail Museum
Ipswich
Editor's Collection*

**Welcome to the new
members and we wish them
well with their research.**

Lee ANDRESEN, Janet Clark-Duff, Janet DEVEREAUX, & Bronwyn SAUNDERS; Mr Allen & Mrs Judith DEGEN; Gloria HOLSWICH; Alice RANDALL ; Tanya JEN; Marilyn AYTON; Joanne FITZGERALD; Frances KEMPEN; Robert ELLIS; Gabrielle VIETHE; Robyn DALTON; Carmel BELL; Heather JEFFREY; Carol DAVIES; Christine DEVENTIER; Margaret WATKINS; Gale SCHREURS;

CAIRNS LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEE'S ROLL OF HONOUR

The Cairns Locomotive Employees Roll of Honour, is one of a number Honour Boards from Railway Stations and properties across Queensland, which are now at the Workshops Rail Museum North Ipswich

ROLL OF HONOUR



J. McDONALD	A. MAHER	W. MANSFIELD	H. NICHOLAS
G.A. DODD	W. QUAITE	H. DALZIEL	D. KILLORAN
J. ARBOUIN	J. BROPHY	W. MURRAY	R. SWANSON
J. COLBERT	W. HUNTER	J. QUAITE	S. WILLIAMS
J. HAREN	J.D. HUME	A. FORWARD	W. FRANCES
H. HUNTER	J. MURCHISON	F. CHAPPELL	A. ABBOTT
W. NORTHAGE	W. TIERNEY	R. CHALK	W. WOODS
W.R. HOLWETT	W. HUDSON	R. LOMAS	G. FLEMING
H. HAYBALL	S. LARSEN	J.M. KNOX	H. WHITING
A. GISLER	A. Le GRANDE	G.A. BALE	W.P. KEOGH
H. PEDERSON	M. FITZPATRICK	O. LEPINATH	W. MCGREGOR

War Started 28.07.1914

War Ended 11.11.1918

4years 3 months 14 days

LOOKING BACK

From Bremer Echoes volume 9, number 4, August 1991, "Christine's Corner" with information on "War Cemeteries within Australia" and reproduced below. Christine WEBB was a member of the Ipswich Genealogical Society for many years, and researched and wrote "Christine's Corner" for inclusion in Bremer Echoes. Sadly Chris passed away in 2007 after a number of years battling cancer. [Please note, some of this information may have changed, or more been added since this was written in 1991].

WAR CEMETERIES IN AUSTRALIA

Many Australians travelling abroad visit war cemeteries where Australian service personnel are buried or are commemorated. Unfortunately few Australians visit any of the 70 war cemeteries scattered throughout Australia.

The **Office of Australian War Graves** maintains 11,416 graves (half of which are in war cemeteries and the remainder are scattered throughout 900 different civil cemeteries). There are also memorials to 132 missing personnel.

In all Australian capital cities except Canberra, there is a major war cemetery containing the graves of Commonwealth service personnel and a limited number of Allied and enemy military dead. The German Military Cemetery at Tatura, Victoria and the Japanese War Cemetery at Cowra, New South Wales, contain the graves of 250 and 523 war dead respectively.

Throughout the world war cemeteries that have monuments such as a Stone of Remembrance, indicates more than 500 war graves. The Sydney War Cemetery is the only one with a Stone of Remembrance in Australia.

A Cross of Sacrifice is present in all cemeteries with 50 or more war graves, and the size varies according to the number present. Most war cemeteries also contain a Register of the names of those buried or commemorated, and a Historical Notice at each gives the origins of the personnel.

SYDNEY WAR CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING (NSW)

This is Australia's largest war cemetery and memorial and is located within the Rookwood Necropolis, and contains 734 war graves and the Memorial to the Missing honours 751. A further 199 men and women of the Armed Forces whose remains were cremated appear on the Cremation Wall.

The Sydney War Cemetery was entered in the Register of the National Estate on 21st October 1986.

LUTWYCHE WAR CEMETERY AND CREMATION MEMORIAL (QUEENSLAND)

This cemetery at Lutwyche, a suburb of Brisbane, contains 347 war graves, and a further 36 names are honoured on the Cremation Wall.

SPRINGVALE WAR CEMETERY & VICTORIAN CREMATION MEMORIAL (VIC)

This is located within the Springvale Necropolis and contains 611 war graves. The names of 72 servicemen and women whose remains were cremated appear on the Cremation Wall near the cemetery.

PERTH WAR CEMETERY AND WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CREMATION MEMORIAL, NEDLANDS W.A

The Perth War Cemetery contains 475 war graves from the Second World War, and 16 from World War 1. The Cremation Memorial honours a further 7 members of the Australian Forces who died during the Second World War.

Adjoining the cemetery is an enclosure known as the Perth War Cemetery Netherlands Annexe, where 4 sailors of the Netherlands Navy and 21 Dutch civilians are buried. They were evacuated from Java in February 1942 but the seaplanes carrying them were sunk by Japanese aircraft in Broome Harbour.



ADELAIDE RIVER WAR CEMETERY AND NORTHERN TERRITORY MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING

*Photo from Editor's
Collection*

A total of 434 war graves marked by bronze plaques are contained in this cemetery. The

Northern Territory Memorial to the Missing honours a further 287 servicemen and women lost in the north of Australia. The adjacent civil section contains the graves of 8 Post Office Staff killed on the 19th February 1942 and the civilian casualties of the Second World War including 31 Aborigines.

Darwin suffered more casualties and property damage from enemy bombing than any other Australian city. The area was bombed by the Japanese from 19th February 1942 on 63 separate occasions.

CENTENNIAL PARK WAR CEMETERY AND SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CREMATION MEMORIAL (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

The Centennial Park War Cemetery contains 198 war graves and the Cremation Memorial honours a further 9 members of the Australian Forces who died during World War 2.

CARR VILLA GENERAL CEMETERY LAUNCESTON (TASMANIA)

The cemetery contains 39 war graves, 16 are grouped together in a small war plot with the remainder scattered throughout the cemetery. The war graves are those of 4 Royal Australian Navy, 25 Australian Army and 10 Royal Australian Air Force personnel.

HOBART WAR CEMETERY AND TASMANIAN CREMATION MEMORIAL CORNELIAN BAY (TASMANIA)

There are 42 war graves and 9 post-war burials in this cemetery, and the Cremation Memorial honours a further 4 members of the Armed Services who died during World War 2

JAPANESE WAR CEMETERY, COWRA (NEW SOUTH WALES)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission accepted the maintenance responsibility in 1964 and recovers maintenance costs from the Japanese Government. The 523 Japanese graves are those of prisoners of war who died in the attempted breakout at Cowra in 1944, Japanese Air Crew shot down in Northern Australia and Japanese civilian internees who died in Australia during World War 2.

TATURA GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY (VICTORIA)

This cemetery contains the graves of 250 German servicemen and civilian internees. A further 44 names of German Missionaries are recorded on a special Memorial at the rear of the cemetery. It is maintained by the Office on behalf of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, for the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

OTHER WAR CEMETERIES AND WAR PLOTS

Smaller cemeteries and war plots in Queensland are:

Cemetery or Plot	Number of Graves
Atherton	164
Bundaberg	30 + 5 United States
Cairns	98
Charters Towers	33
Ipswich	68
Kingaroy	22
Maryborough	10
Rockhampton	36
Toowoomba	43 + 1 post war
Townsville	222
Warwick	21
Woombye	26

OFFICE OF AUSTRALIAN WAR GRAVES

This Office is located within the Department of Veteran Affairs and has a dual role – first to maintain and care for war cemeteries in Australia and it holds the burial details of all Australian war dead of World War 1, the Commonwealth war dead of World War 2 and the Australian war dead in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. The Office has established Gardens of Remembrance in all State capital cities and Launceston, but not Canberra or Darwin.

The second is to commemorate eligible ex-servicemen and women who have died post war, and whose deaths are accepted as being caused by war service.

Veterans eligible for Official Commemoration are:

- V.C. Winners
- Those on T&PI Pensions at the time of death, or those who are granted T&PI status subsequent to their deaths.
- Those on Section 27.1 maximum pension rate.
- Those whose deaths have been accepted as service related.



BURIAL PLACES OVERSEAS.

For those intending to visit overseas war cemeteries or Memorials, the Office of Australian War Graves is able to provide contact details, and locations of the resting place of the Australians killed in both World Wars and subsequent conflicts.

From Wikipedia on the internet 2015:

OFFICE OF AUSTRALIAN WAR GRAVES

“The OAWG is also responsible for the maintenance of some 20,000 graves of Commonwealth war dead in 76 war cemeteries & plots and in numerous civil cemeteries, as well as Memorials to the Missing listing over 3,000 names throughout Australia, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands”

Email: WarGraves@dva.gov.au

*Postal Address: Office of Australian War Graves
GPO Box 9998
CANBERRA ACT 2601*

WAR TIME RAILWAYS

Geraldine Mate, Senior Curator Workshops Rail Museum Ipswich

Stories of the First World War are everywhere at the moment. We hear about the bravery at Gallipoli the terrible carnage at the Somme, and the terrible effects of Shell-shock, now known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, on returned soldiers. Amongst these better known stories, some less well-known elements of the war are emerging such as the role of nurses at the front.

One of these little-known stories is the part that the railways played in the First World War. In June this year, The Workshops Rail Museum will be presenting an exhibition that looks at the operation of railways in World War 1. The exhibition examines the Australian Railway Operating Units that were recruited from railways organisations across Australia, and the different aspects of operating a railway in another country during conflict. But alongside this military focus is recognition of the part the railways played at home – the recruitment trains across the nation that pulled into country stations with flags flying, and displaying banners exhorting men to join up; the scenes of farewell at those same stations and later the more sombre, grateful return of soldiers.

Women also had a role in the railways. In Britain women turned their hand to working as Railway Porters and carriage washers. Women also went to work in the munitions factories. In Australia, the Railway Workshops established munitions workshops to aid the war effort, but despite the fact that women were working at the munitions factory at Footscray in Melbourne, the railway workshops here in Australia did not believe the “fairer sex” were up to the task. Instead, women turned to more “feminine” occupations. Some, like the Ipswich based Train Tea Society ladies provided tea and refreshments on railway platforms. Others were active raising funds – the Queensland Railways Patriotic Fund hosted entertainment evenings and boxing matches, with funds used for supporting the families of railway workers who had signed up, and providing beds for the newly formed Kangaroo Point Military Hospital.

Like many across the country, the men of the Railways signed up, over 2,000 from Queensland. They shared the experiences of the many thousands who went to war – injured, killed, frightened and weary – and it is the individual stories of these men that bring home the realities of war.

**“Railways 1914-1918” opened at
The Workshops Rail Museum 15th June 2015**



*Recruitment
Train at
Emerald, 1916*

*Courtesy
Queensland
Rail / The
Workshops
Rail Museum
Collection.*

*A party of
Australian
Pioneers being
transported by
rail to return to
their dugouts
on the Western
Front.*

*Courtesy
Queensland
Museum
Collection.*



LIVES LOST AT GALLIPOLI 1915

The following four soldiers from the Ipswich district lost their lives at Gallipoli in 1915. The research has been done from the National Archives web site the Queensland Times Newspaper and for Edward from family records.

Edward BOUGHEN [414: Private] was born in Rosewood near Ipswich in 1884 to Edward and Elizabeth BOUGHEN. He attended Rosewood School and was in the school cadets at the same time as Michael O'SULLIVAN, who also died on the 25th April 1915 at Gallipoli. His father was a carpenter living in Forest Hill in 1913, and his parents then moved to a farm at Southport. Edward was apprenticed to C. WILLIAMS a saddler in Rosewood for nine months, and then became a bread carter for Whitehouse Bakery in Laidley. He enlisted on 20th August 1914, and was a Bugler Drummer, in the 9th Battalion. According to the records from the National Archives Edward was killed as he ran messages on what was known as "Climbing Hill" as the troops landed at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial.

Victor Clarence CLANCY [Private 499] born in London, England on July 6th 1894. At the Macclesfield Industrial School in Cheshire, [for destitute or abandoned children] Victor studied tailoring. He came to Australia as a 15 year old in 1909 and boarded with Mr W.I. SEBLEY at the Boys Central School, Ipswich.

Victor enlisted on September 1st 1914 as a 20 year old, and was Killed in Action on the 28th June 1915 at Gaba Tepe Gallipoli, and buried in the Shell Green Cemetery.

Joseph William FISHER [Lance Corporal 880] born at Charters Towers on the 28th November 1892. The family moved to Raceview in 1913 when his father Roger James FISHER began work as a miner and train driver at the New Aberdare Colliery. Joseph was killed at Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli on 2nd May 1915, and he is buried at Shell Green Cemetery.

Oscar Thomas DUNN [Private 461] was born in Ipswich on March 4th 1890. His parents were Thomas and Mary Alice DUNN (nee CURRY), who had come from the United Kingdom and lived in South Street, Ipswich. After attending the local school, Oscar went on to study at the Gatton Agricultural College. Oscar and his brothers, Norman and Frederick, bought a farm near Kingaroy and worked the farm until they all enlisted.

Oscar enlisted in the 5th Light Horse Regiment, and was 24 years and 7 months old on the 4th November 1914, and embarked for overseas 21st December 1914. He was Killed in Action on the 28th June 1915 at Anzac Cove Gallipoli, and was buried in the field on Harris ridge, but later re-interred at the Shell Green Cemetery.

BROTHERS IN ARMS

By Brian Jeffrey

During the war of 1914-18 my grand-uncles Hugh, Donald and Archibald JEFFREY were among the more than 300 employees of the Ipswich Railway Workshops who enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces. Hugh was a boilermaker, Donald a metal polisher and Archibald a brass finisher. Donald had established a reputation as an international and inter-State Rugby League footballer, while Archibald, a keen member of the Workshops' rugby football team, had represented Queensland in an international match against the New Zealand 'All Blacks'.

By 1916, the initial enthusiasm with which young Australians had greeted the war was on the wane and the growing casualty rates had produced a shortage of men. Possibly inspired by then Prime Minister Billy HUGHES' fresh call for volunteers, Donald, 25-years-old and single, became the first of the brothers to enlist on 29 January 1916. He was assigned to the 25th Battalion AIF BEF (11th Reinforcements) and embarked with his unit on 31 March aboard the HMAT *Star of Victoria*.

Subsequent notations in his service file cover a scant three lines:

25 July 1916 – Proceeded to France;

8 August 1916 – Taken on strength, France;

14 November 1916 – Killed in Action.

Donald died in the so-called Battle of Flers, named after the village of Flers in the valley of the river Somme. By the time the Australian and New Zealand forces launched a series of attacks there in November 1916, the battlefield had been deluged with snow and rain. The advancing waves of troops were sucked down by cloying mud, making them easy targets for German machine-gunners and riflemen. Following one such advance, Donald was helping to evacuate the wounded on a stretcher when he was struck and killed by a shell. A few of his mates buried his body and marked the spot with a cross they had made.

Earlier that same year Hugh had married a local Ipswich girl named Mabel Mildred LARTER. Tragically, in June both mother and child died during childbirth. Possibly in a reaction to the loss, Hugh enlisted on 19 October 1916, just short of his 23rd birthday. Barely a week before, 28-year-old Archibald, already a married man with two young daughters, had also joined up. Both brothers were assigned to the 8/4 Pioneers and within a short time were on their way to a military camp at Liverpool outside Sydney.

Oblivious to their brother's death, which would not be notified officially in Australia until mid-December, Archibald and Hugh were at the military camp until the afternoon of 24 November 1916, at which time they and their fellow

troops were transported to the city by train. After inspection in Moore Park, they marched to the Sydney Show Grounds where they camped for the night before joining the troopship S.S. *Beltana* at 4am the next morning. The S.S. *Beltana* sailed at 2.30pm that same day and slowly made its way to England by way of Fremantle, Durban and Cape Town in South Africa, and Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone. The ship eventually tied up near the Devonport dockyard on 29 January 1917.

By then, back in Australia news of Donald's death had reached the family. As was the practice at the time, the first civilian to be informed was the Mayor of Ipswich, Alderman T.J. SMITH. He received a telegram on 15 December – fully a month after the event. Families with sons at the Front lived in perpetual dread of finding their local clergyman at the door with a telegram in hand. It fell to Ald. Smith, accompanied by the Rev. Cameron WOOD, to take the sad news to Donald's father, widower John JEFFREY who lived in Lawrence Street, North Ipswich.

A few weeks later John wrote to the officer-in-charge at the Base Records Office, Victoria Barracks Melbourne, asking for a death certificate to enable Donald's estate to be finalised. The Rev. WOOD also wrote on John's behalf seeking information, adding 'He desires to know if it can be ascertained (1) how his son was killed, and (2), where he was buried'. The reply was as unenlightening as it was succinct:

... the only information at present available ... is that contained in the brief cable message – which has already been transmitted to the next-of-kin – Killed in action on 14/11/16. Later official advice giving further details will, on receipt, be promptly transmitted to next-of-kin.

An undated form completed by the commanding officer, 25th Battalion and placed on Donald's file reported that he 'was killed by enemy shell fire during operations of this Battalion on [14 November 1916], death being instantaneous'. There is no indication whether the details were ever conveyed to John who, meanwhile, had gleaned some information from Donald's soldier mates. In January 1917, he received a letter written in France on 26 November 1916 by one Corporal D.J. CAMERON:

Just a few lines to you to let you know of your son No. 4477 - Private D. Jeffrey's, death. I am sorry for him and his people who are left in Australia. Don was killed in action in France on November 14. He was struck by a shell from the enemy. I regret to have to write these lines; but I am proud to say that Don has done his bit for King and country. He was in the battalion bombers the same as myself. He proved himself a man and a soldier - true to the colours. An Ipswich man (whose name is McCabe) and myself buried poor Don. His private belongings were taken from him and handed into the office, and will be forwarded on to his people. Poor Don was helping the wounded along on a stretcher after a big charge at the enemy. I have been lucky. So far I have been in six charges, and helped to stop many a German counter-attack, and I hope

my good luck continues, as I may be able to tell you a little more than I am allowed to write.

A precious few more details were contained in a letter Private E. McCABE sent to his wife:

I have not been too well lately. I have just come out of the trenches, and am in a rest camp for a few days. I do not get a chance to write much now. It is very rough over here, with the cold and snow and rain.

It is with regret I have to tell you of poor old Don Jeffrey. Poor Don! I was with him when he was killed, and he asked me to write home and tell them. I buried Don. His mates and I made a nice little cross and put it on his grave. Don was my best mate and a good fellow.

The news that Donald had been accorded a decent burial would have given his father some small comfort, but he still lacked any formal advice from the authorities. It would be August 1917 before he received Donald's personal effects: a wallet, testament, fountain pen, letters and photographs. Shortly afterwards John received a letter from a Private H. SKINNER, which had been written in England on 1 August:

Dear Mr. Jeffrey, - You will have to excuse me for not writing to you before this, as I have been in the hospital, wounded, and could not use my right hand. I am very sorry I could not write, as I was a mate of your son, Don. We went to school, and came over to France together. Poor Don was killed at Flers, on November 14.

The last time I saw him he was carrying the wounded out of the line. He was always game, and used to say to me - "I want to get a few Huns before they get me." Don was well liked in his battalion. He was offered stripes, but he refused them. He volunteered to go over and raid Fritz's trenches at Ypres. The last time he went to the trenches he was not too well, but he kept going. I had never heard him growl. He would always do his bit. He told me if anything happened, to write and tell them at home. The boys gave him a nice grave.

In England, meanwhile, Archibald and Hugh Jeffrey and their fellow recruits were finding the weather very cold and boisterous. They were taken by train to Exeter station where, despite the midnight hour, ladies were on hand to provide each soldier with a cup of tea and buns. From there, the train took them a short distance to Dinton Station, where they arrived at 1am on 30 January 1917. They were then marched to Sutton Mandeville Camp, six miles distant. The air under the moonlit sky was sharp and the frosty ground crunchy underfoot as the men swung along to the martial strains of the Marseillaise from their 'whistling band'. At Sutton Mandeville, having been supplied with blankets, the men were doubtless grateful finally to get some rest. They slept until almost noon.

It must have come as quite a shock for men who had not long before left Queensland's sunny climate and endured the heat of the Equator crossing to find a sheet of ice on the floor of the washhouse and water frozen in the taps.

‘We soon got to work on the taps’, wrote one Charles GRAY, a diarist in their midst, ‘and with the aid of a Brazing Lamp, managed to get a small flow of water. After this experience we took precautions and carried buckets of water up into our huts. And the man up earliest in the morning would light the hut fire and warm the water up.



*Larkhill Training Camp
1917[courtesy B.Jeffrey]*

On Tuesday 6th March, the troops transferred to the Larkhill Training Camp, one of a number of such camps on Salisbury Plain, but one which proved to be particularly unpopular with Australian troops. One described it as ‘a rotten place when it rains and a jolly sight worse if it keeps fine for any

length of time. The dust is that fine that it will get in anywhere...’ When the unit arrived it encountered – as diarist Charles Gray recorded - ‘mud up to our ankles and a very sharp cold March wind blowing’, making the unit’s first parade there ‘something to remember’. Not long before a sentry had been found frozen to death at his post. Heavy boots, issued towards the end of March, proved very welcome, especially as the heaviest snow the men had yet experienced fell overnight on 26th March and lay 18 inches (almost 46cm) deep.

On 17 April, the troops took part in a grand military parade before the King at a spot near Bulford Village. The activity must have been a welcome relief from what by then was becoming the boredom of camp life. That all changed on 24th April when the men of the 8/4 Pioneers embarked for France. They arrived at Etalles in the country’s north-west on 28th April 1917. At that time of year Archibald and Hugh would have avoided the worst of the rain, mud and slush of the Somme winter conditions that had brought fighting to an end the previous November. The New Year was to witness a number of hard-fought battles, including those at Bullecourt in April-May 1917 and Messines in June 1917. Archibald and Hugh’s service records do not detail the battles they were involved in; however it is reasonable to assume that they participated in fighting which took place at Ypres in July 1917 because all five Australian divisions were involved.

On 15 October 1917, Archibald was admitted to the field hospital suffering from scabies. He rejoined his unit on 26 November. Hugh had also been

admitted to the field hospital 'sick' on 18 November. He remained there until 31 December, when he was transferred to the field depot. He rejoined his unit in the field on 8 February 1918. On 19 January 1918, Archibald was again admitted to the field hospital. On 5 February he was transferred to hospital in Boulogne in northern France suffering from mild 'trench fever', a condition caused by body lice and marked by headaches, skin rashes, inflamed eyes and leg pains. While not itself particularly serious, prolonged hospitalisation amounting to several weeks was common and complete recovery could take up to twelve weeks.

On 8 February Archibald was transferred to Princess Christian Hospital in Surrey in the south-east of England, and a week later to the First Australian Auxiliary Hospital in the village of Harefield, just outside London. He was discharged on 20 February but remained in England, staying variously in Harefield, Hurdcott in Wiltshire and Weymouth on the south-west coast. This suggests that he may have been suffering from other, more serious, effects of his time in the trenches. Following examination of his case by a medical board on 22 March his service record was annotated: 'Permanently unfit general service; Temporary unfit home service'. He was returned to Australia aboard the *Brisbane* in July and discharged on 20 August 1918.

Hugh, meanwhile, had been granted leave in England from 17 August 1918. He returned to his unit on 4 September. On 21 December, some six weeks after the Armistice was signed, he was detached to attend an unspecified 'educational course' at the St Etienne Workshops, where he remained until 15 February 1919. On 4 June he was transferred to England and from there returned to Australia aboard the *Persia*. He arrived home on 13 July and was discharged on 11 October 1919.

In Australia, the JEFFREY boys found their father still awaiting further official contact regarding Donald's fate. It would come slowly, doubtless rekindling painful memories with each new development. Donald's identity disk was returned in August 1920. In June 1921, the AIF Base Records Office advised that his remains had been interred in the 'Warnlencourt [sic] New British Cemetery'. As John would doubtless learn in time, Warlencourt Cemetery is located near the infamous Butte de Warlencourt, scene of fiercely contested fighting throughout the war. Established at the end of 1919, it contains more than 3 000 graves. In acknowledgement of their service, the three brothers were awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ipswich was one of many districts which, even before the war's end, set about recording their district's contribution to victory on rolls of honour. Honour Rolls containing Archibald and Hugh's names and an In Memoriam tablet containing Donald's name were installed in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church. (They were later re-located to the Ipswich Soldiers' Memorial Hall for safekeeping and preservation.) In February 1917, the JEFFREY brothers were

also among a dozen men listed on an honour board unveiled by the Loyal George Lodge, P.A.F.S.O.A. at the Brassall Methodist Church. Those present were reminded that about 1 000 members of the Society had gone to the Front from Queensland, of whom 46 had paid the supreme price.

In July 1915 a mass meeting of employees at the Ipswich Railway Workshops had elected to erect a memorial to those of their colleagues who had enlisted for service. Donald JEFFREY was among 31 former members of the Workshops who had not survived. The memorial, the majority of funds for which had been contributed by the employees, was unveiled on 27 September 1919 by the Queensland Governor, Sir Hamilton GOULD-ADAMS.



*Loyal George Lodge No 76
Brassall Methodist Church
[courtesy B.Jeffrey]*

The honours bestowed on the memory of the men who had fought at the Front could never eradicate the grief felt by their families, nor the lingering effects of wounds, both physical and mental, endured by the men who had returned. Archibald JEFFREY, for one, never fully recovered. Following his

repatriation, he became President of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' League. On 18 September 1918, he returned to the Railway Workshops and resumed his old trade as a brass finisher, but resigned in May 1921. He moved his family to a corrugated iron house on a banana farm he had bought at Yandina on the Sunshine Coast near Bli Bli. On 30 July that same year he and his wife Ida had a third daughter whom they named Muriel. Sadly, the child would barely get to know her father: he died on 21 February 1922, reportedly as a result of illness contracted during active service. He was laid to rest in Ipswich Cemetery in an unmarked grave. The following month Ida wrote to AIF Base Records in Melbourne asking if there was any record of her late husband having made a will. She was advised that there was nothing on record to that effect. Reduced to surviving on a war widow's pension, she moved the family to the fruit-farming town of Dalveen, midway between Warwick and Stanthorpe, where they lived for a time with her grandparents. In 1925 the family re-located to a war service house in an outlying suburb of Brisbane.

Of the three brothers who went to the war, only Hugh survived into old age. On 27 October 1919 he rejoined the Ipswich Railway Workshops as a boilermaker. In 1921 he married Mary Maria WILLIAMSON and over time

they had six children. He retired from the Workshops on 31 December 1959 and died at his home in Pine Street, North Ipswich on 20 July 1968, aged 74. Mary survived him by 14 years.

References: The details of each brother's individual wartime experiences are based on their war service records held by the Australian Archives, Canberra. The details of their service with the Ipswich Railway Workshops are based on their employment records. The description of Archibald and Hugh's experiences at the military training camp in Liverpool (Sydney), aboard the 'Beltana' and at Larkhill training camp is based on the diary of a fellow recruit, Charles Edmund Gray, the text of which can be located at:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rogpol/CEG%20WW1%20Diaries%20-no%20pics.htm>. The quote regarding Larkhill Training Camp ('It's a rotten place when it rains...') is from an unpublished letter written by one W.J. Sinney, included in material at <http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-conflicts-periods/ww1/salisbury.htm>. Some other detail related to the reporting of Donald Jeffrey's death is based on an item in the *Queensland Times* of 16 December 1916. The text of the letters from Corporal Cameron and Privates E. McCabe and H. Skinner were published in the *Queensland Times* on 16 and 17 January 1917 and 3 October 1917 respectively. Some detail regarding honour rolls and memorials is based on information provided by Ipswich local historian Edwin Habben, which I gratefully acknowledge.

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The war horse which carried the Australian Light Horse through the campaigns in Egypt, the Middle East and France in the First World War was the Australian bred Waler.

From Australian Family Tree Connections November 2001

WAR HORSES

Kind permission Mr Lawrie J. ST HILL

[Extract from a letter written by Trooper Leslie Lancelot HILL 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade to his Mother in 1915, telling of the burden carried by the horses on the battlefields]

"The Trooper carried a haversack with 24 hour ration and emergency ration, water bottle, equipment with 140 rounds of ammunition, rifle. (The 24 hour rations consisted of a tin of corn beef, and four hard biscuits). The horse was saddled and carried three feeds *[for the horse]*, nosebag, canvas water bucket, the soldier's overcoat, (if not going into battle) a blanket and groundsheet, shaving gear, and writing material and any change of clothes the man was lucky enough to have; 90 rounds of ammunition around the horses neck, and rope to tie him up at night. There was not much room for the soldier".

“MEPHISTO – THE ONLY ONE

During the “Great War” Britain was the first to use tanks in 1916, but by late 1917 Germany had a fleet of 20 A7V Sturmpanzerwagens, which had been assembled by Daimler-Benz, and were in combat by 1918. “Mephisto” was one of them. Other tanks were Wotan, Siegfried, Herkules and Cyklop to name a few.

This huge heavy tank has seen many changes in its history, as during a battle at an area known as Monument Wood, near Villers- Bretonneux it became stuck and was abandoned by the German Army. In July 1918 Australian soldiers mostly from Queensland, of the 26th Battalion managed to drag the tank [while under enemy attack] back to Allied Lines, and eventually it was shipped as a war trophy to Britain and then on to Australia.

“Mephisto” the only surviving A7V in the world, arrived at Norman Wharf in Brisbane, in June 1919 and was towed by two Brisbane City Council steamrollers, to the Queensland Museum on Gregory Terrace where it remained on display at the entrance to the Museum for 60 years. Many adults have fond memories of climbing into and over the tank as children, and it was a well-known landmark.

*“Mephisto” arriving
in Ipswich, courtesy
Workshops Rail Museum*



The South Bank campus of the Queensland Museum was the next home, and the tank was moved there in 1986. It stayed until the devastating flood of 2011 when it was covered with flood waters as it was impossible to move it in time.

After conservation work, “Mephisto” was sent to The Workshops Rail Museum at Ipswich west of Brisbane, and has been on display since March 2013. For quite some time, it was contained in a huge plastic bubble for conservation purposes, called a carcoon.

Recently, another move for “Mephisto” to the War Memorial in Canberra for the Centenary Commemorations. It is proposed that the tank will return to the Museum at South Bank Brisbane in the future.

The following are extracts from the Ipswich newspaper, The Queensland Times in 1916 and concern local men who enlisted in the First World War.

"Local News" appeared in most editions of the Queensland Times and the articles often included copies of letters received either from the soldier, or his friends or Officers if the soldier was deceased. Information from the National Archives has been included.

DISTRICT SOLDIERS

Queensland Times 2nd September 1916

THE BROTHERS GALLIGAN



Mr James GALLIGAN, of Goodna, a retired Government servant, has recently received word that his three sons, all of whom are at the front somewhere, are in good health.

Trooper John GALLIGAN, who was in the Boer War, is with the Light Horse in Egypt; Private Isidore GALLIGAN is with the Infantry in France, and Gunner Edmund GALLIGAN is with the Artillery. A fourth son Private M. GALLIGAN is now at Enoggera. These soldiers are brothers of Mr. Robert GALLIGAN, of the Railway workshop, North Ipswich.

*The Four GALLIGAN Brothers -
Courtesy Picture Ipswich*

From National Archives:

2324 Gunner Edmund / Edward Andrew GALLIGAN b Goodna, employed at the Mental Hospital; Enlisted September 1915; Discharged 23rd January 1918;

1016 Trooper John Bennett GALLIGAN born Toowoomba; Enlisted Townsville 18th January 1915; Killed in Action Gaza, Palestine 26th March 1917; No known grave, commemorated Jerusalem War Cemetery.

3768 Private Isidore Vincent GALLIGAN born Goodna; Enlisted 18th September 1915 Killed in Action France 4th September 1916 buried Courcellette British Cemetery.

6750 Private Michael Galvin GALLIGAN born Goodna; Enlisted Brisbane 22nd December 1915. Discharged 13th May 1918



Queensland Times 15th September 1916

LOCAL NEWS:

Word was received in Rosevale on Monday evening last (*writes our Mount Walker correspondent*), that Private H. AHEARN, second son of Mr. and Mrs. H. AHEARN, of Rosevale, had been killed in action on August 17th at Pozieres in France.

Scene in Pozieres France 1916

Courtesy Workshops Rail Museum Ipswich

Queensland Times 28 September 1916

LETTER FROM FRANCE

The late Private H. AHEARN, writing from France, to his parent's home at Rosevale, gave the following information "No doubt you will be surprised to learn that I am in France, and arrived here about five days ago.

We left Alexandria at the end of May, and it took us seven days to come from there to Marseilles. We had a fairly good trip, although the boat was very crowded. She was a good boat to travel on, and I was glad to get out of Egypt, as I was full of the sand, and it was a terrible place for water. In France here, it is just the opposite. It is raining nearly every day, and it is a cold country. It is summer here now, and it is as cold as can be, day and night, so I would not like to be here in the winter.

We boarded the train on Friday night, about 11 o'clock, and it was very crowded. They were those box wagons that we travelled in, and there were 24 in our wagon, so we had to sleep the best way we could. We had plenty of food, and on some stations that we came to the French people had tea and bread and butter ready for us, and they gave us a great welcome, as they are very fond of the Australians.

The scenery is lovely coming from Marseilles, right to where we are. We are camped back of the firing line, and we can hear the big guns going night and day. We are waiting in readiness to be called to the front at any time. We are billeted in the French people's homes, barns, and hay sheds, but we make ourselves pretty comfortable. The French people are very friendly, and the old

men very kind and homely. I bought a couple of dampers from an old lady here, she makes very nice ones, like you used to make, and I enjoyed them very much.

The cultivations are very nice here, and everything is lovely and green. They grow wheat and potatoes, and all kinds of vegetables and fruit. It is a great place for grapes, and that is the principal crop on account of it being such a great country for wine.

The village that we are camped around was held by the Germans In October, 1914, just after the war began, but they were driven out of it, and the people told us that they stole everything out of the houses, and made the poor old women cook for them, and they killed all the young French lads up to 16 and 17, and what they didn't kill they cut off their hands, so that they would not be able to fight against them when they grew up. By this you will realise what brutes they are.

There are some splendid churches here, and if I am here on Sunday I intend going to Mass. A lot of the French people think that the war will be over in September, but the biggest battle has yet to be fought.

Well, dear mother, I hope you are well, as I am in the best of health. I hope to see this terrible war through, and get back to see all your dear faces again, as it seems years since I left. If I am spared, I will be able to tell you a lot of my experiences in the army. It does not get dark here till after 11 o'clock at night, so we get plenty of daylight.

(Private Hugh AHEARN was killed in action in France on August 7th 1916)

Queensland Times (Ipswich) Thursday 21st September 1916

DEATH OF PRIVATE HUGH AHEARN (Service no. 3002)

The news of the death of Private Hugh AHEARN came as a shock to the people of this district. The deceased was the second son of Mr and Mrs H. Ahearn, very old and highly respected residents of the district, and was 24 years of age. The news of his death was received on the 11th instant, the message just stating that he had been killed in France on August 7th.

Prior to enlisting, he was working in the railway workshops at Ipswich where he was a Blacksmith's Striker. He enlisted in Ipswich in July 1915, and remained in camp at Enoggera until December, and left Brisbane on the 30th of that month with the 25th 13 Battalion but has transferred to the 47th Battalion on arrival in Egypt. He left Egypt about the end of May, and arrived in France in June.

Widespread sympathy has been extended to the bereaved family, whose son and brother fell nobly fighting in defence of his country.

Hugh is commemorated on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneaux and the Railway Workshops Memorial at North Ipswich.



Corporal C. Davenport

Courtesy Picture Ipswich

Queensland Times 19 May 1916

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

[blanks are censored words Ed.]

The following letter from Corp. C. DAVENPORT, of the Australian Army Service Corps (a member of the Ipswich Veterans' Association), has been received by Mr. T. J. BARKER :--

We sailed for place unknown on the 30th of November, 1915, and arrived at Sydney two days later. We went ashore and had a good time. The sailors were very good to us; in fact too good. It made a man feel uncomfortable being made a fuss of.

We had a Dr HILL, of Queensland, in charge. He belonged to the Army Medical Corps. Next we had an officer and more men from New South Wales in charge, one of whom was Capt. SUTHERLAND.

The people of New South Wales gave us a send-off, and did everything to make us welcome. It knocked the patriots of Queensland in the shade, unless it was that we were a small body leaving Brisbane. I don't suppose there were more than a dozen to see us off from Brisbane.

We called at Melbourne, and misfortune overtook us here. We were going up the harbour when a wire rope broke and killed one of our sailors. He came from the Shetland Islands, and I believe leaves a wife and a number of children. We then went to Hobart, a beautiful place, with a good harbour. I think it would be far better than Sydney, if it was populated. We then went to Adelaide, a pretty place, and as fine a place as I have been in. I met a man, a great worker for the soldiers, named Sammy LUNN, who was full of fun. He was the first man to write to me out here, and sent me a little present, which I shall never forget. Receiving it makes a man think, when you meet men like this. He is too old to fight, but not too old to do something for those who have risked all to go away,

and do their best. It is an example to some of the young ones, who are at home, but who are either too weak hearted to go and do their bit or too ignorant to realise the privileges they enjoy as Britishers. It only wants a trip to Egypt to see what it means to the British. We next went to Fremantle, and had a trip to Perth, a lovely little place. We then said "good-bye" to Australia for a while.

We had a very good voyage - only a few rough days. We had the best of treatment on board, and enjoyed the sights en route. We meet many ships, a good number of which were hospital ships. Bad luck again showed itself. A young fellow was playing with a loaded revolver, when it went off and the bullet hit him in the stomach. I believe he is alright again. We called at ----- to seek medical advice, but were allowed to proceed on our journey.

Now we passed a few of our fighting man-of-war which were peaceful to look at. At night, they make sure who you are. They play on you with their searchlights. We had a bit of sport with the natives in their boats, and one of them came on board, and sold us tobacco. Then he tried to rook one of the men, and of course, he happened to have chosen a place where the potatoes were kept. Our boys started a bombardment, and I shall never forget it. I have many a laugh, when I think of it. The potatoes fell very briskly. We then went through the -----, and into the ----- . We saw many Biblical teachings confirmed. We arrived at ----- about the 12th of January. We then disembarked there when our job began.

ROBERTS and myself were escort for a munition train to ----- . We started away with very little money and less rations. We started soldiering to perfection. We arrived three days later at a place called -----, and went into camp. We were not long looking out for boys from Ipswich. We met A. CLARKE, BOX, TURLEY, MARTIN, DEVLIN, RICHMOND, DANIELS, CONNORS, and others. We remained here a few days and were transferred to our company at ----- . We then remained a few days, and were ordered away from here to proceed to ----- . We are after the Senussi, a mad tribe. We were here about a week and off to ----- another few hundred miles. Here a few days and again off to ----- .

We are still on the track of course. We see some very nice sights, and we have some very nasty things, to put up with, but it is all in the game. Poverty in galore! People at home would not believe that such things could be carried on in a civilised world as are carried on here. It makes you sick to see things here. Filth is the fashion I don't think anything is too low for the people here. Morality is unknown. I can hardly think that Christ ever lived in such a place as this. The people will work for a bit of refuse you like to give them. If you are too kind to them they abuse it, and are not satisfied. I have no more at present to tell you. All are well and we will be glad when it is over - that is, if we are the victorious army. I don't think there is a man who would come home otherwise. Let you know more later hoping you are in the best of health. *[end of article]*

IPSWICH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD

9.30am TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2015

ROOMS OF COUNCILLOR Bruce CASOS

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