



## Edgar Vernon BRADY (1882-1915)

**Plumber,  
Boer War Veteran,  
Husband,  
Hero**



### Birth and Parents

Edgar Vernon Brady was born on the 31 May 1882 in Kooringa, South Australia (a mining company town now known as Burra), 156 km North of Adelaide.

Edgar was the second of eight children born to Edward Foster and Harriet Ann BRADY. One of these however, a baby named Ray, died at just six weeks old.

Edward Foster Brady was a tinsmith and ironmonger by trade. He was born in South Australia in 1858 and grew up being very active in both sports and cultural activities. He was a member of the Burra Amateur Athletic Club, the Burra Football Team and the Burra Amateur Dramatic Society. Edward married Harriet Ann BRADY in 1880 and the couple began their family soon after. Edward worked hard to provide for his family and must have grown to be held in high esteem by those around him as he

was elected to the very first Terowie<sup>1</sup> District Council in 1887, also appearing many times in later years as one of two Auditors of the Council.

But it was Edward Foster BRADY's skills and ingenuity with the working of metal that would build a good life for his family and also provide a springboard for the livelihoods of four of his sons.

## Early Life

Edward seems to have worked across both of the towns of Kooringa and Terowie and built up a substantial business at first on his own and then in a partnership with Charles E. Williams. By 1890 this partnership had dissolved by mutual agreement with each man going their separate ways to continue work in the tinsmith and ironmonger trades.

**E. F. BRADY,**  
IRONMONGER & TINSMITH,  
**TEROWIE.**

Tanks. Portable Coppers, and Tinware  
MADE ON THE PREMISES.  
A GENERAL STOCK OF  
**Ironmongery, Crockery, Glassware, Wall  
Papers, and Ammunition**  
KEPT IN STOCK

Roofing curved and straight. Guttering, Water Carts, Baths,  
and Chimney Cows—a sure cure for smoky chimneys.

**SEND FOR PRICES**

gent for Hawk & Co's Seed Sower, and the Commercial Union Fire Assurance C

1892 'Advertising', Petersburg Times (SA : 1887 - 1919), 29 April, p. 1., viewed 02 Apr 2023,  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article110244499>

<sup>1</sup> Terowie was a neighbouring township to Kooringa, in South Australia.

In June 1893, Edgar's mother Harriett Ann BRADY died after a long illness and was buried in the Terowie Cemetery, Edgar was just 11 years old. Edward was left to bring up his seven children on his own.



**Monumental Inscription for Harriett Ann BRADY. Terowie Cemetery, South Australia**

*Courtesy of Sally Page, accessed on Ancestry.com March 2023*

It would have been very challenging to run a successful business and raise seven children in the late nineteenth century, so it is not surprising that Edward soon remarried. In December 1894 Edward married Ellen Adelaide WOOD, and three more children were born into the Brady family.

In July 1896 Edgar's father Edward was hurt in an accident<sup>2</sup> in his shop when an explosion occurred, and Edward suffered burns to his neck and face. The newspaper reports that the explosion narrowly missed his right eye. Understandably Edward was unable to work for a few days. But the incident may have also been a tipping point

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<sup>2</sup> 1896 'Accident to Mr E. F. Brady', *Burra Record* (SA : 1878-1954), 29 July 1896, p. 3, viewed 2 March 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36056541>

for Edward and his family as by September of the same year the local newspaper announced that there was to be a “Genuine Sale – Commercial st. Kooringa... with instructions from Mr E. F. Brady, who is going to Western Australia to sell by auction..., the whole of his Household Furniture, Tinware, Galvanized ware etc., ....”<sup>3</sup> Another newspaper from the time reporting on long term residents leaving the district also mentioned that “Mr E. F. Brady, who has been in business here [Burra] for some time as a tinsmith and ironworker leaves with his family for Perth, where he has secured a good situation.”<sup>4</sup>

## Moving to Perth

By 1898, the Wise’s Post Office Directory<sup>5</sup> lists Edward F. Brady as living in Perth and by 1899<sup>6</sup> the same Directory lists Edward’s occupation as a plumber, having a business in James Street, and a private residence in Moir Street, Perth. From this time on Edward’s business and notoriety would grow and with just cause as Edward seemed to be gifted with the skills of promotion and invention. This can be seen through the creation and selling of many devices such as ‘Brady’s Pneumatic Shower’<sup>7</sup> and ‘Brady’s Bath Heaters’ that could “give a continuous supply of hot water in 60 seconds”<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> 1896 'Advertising', *Burra Record (SA : 1878 - 1954)*, 23 September, p. 2. , viewed 5 Apr 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36057498>

<sup>4</sup> 1896 'MISCELLANEOUS.', *Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954)*, 3 October, p. 27. , viewed 5 Apr 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article87191549>

<sup>5</sup> 1898, *Wise’s Western Australia Post Office Directory*, p. 305, viewed 2 March 2023, <https://slwa.wa.gov.au/pdf/battye/pods/1898/0186.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> 1899, *Wise’s Western Australia Post Office Directory*, p. 324, viewed 2 March 2023, <https://slwa.wa.gov.au/pdf/battye/pods/1899/0199.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> 1902 'Advertising', *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902-1954)*, 21 December 1902, p. 6, viewed 2 March 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article257698259>

<sup>8</sup> 1902 'Advertising', *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902-1954)*, 7 December 1902, p. 11, viewed 2 March 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57219440>





Brady's Pneumatic Shower, Perfumed Hot or Cold. Baths of all kinds. Hose Fittings a Specialty.

**THE PLUMBER, E. F. BRADY,**  
581 Hay Street

Tel. 240.—Day or Night.

1902 'Advertising', The Sunday Press (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1903), 21 December, p. 6. , viewed 02 Mar 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article257698259>

**Business Notices.**

**60 . . .**  
**SECONDS**

**BRADY'S BATH-HEATERS** are Scientifically constructed, and give a **CONTINUOUS** Supply of **HOT WATER** in **60 SECONDS**

**BRADY'S** Cast Enamel Baths, Pneumatic Showers and Baths of Every Description.

**SHEEP & CATTLE TROUGHING. GARDEN HOSE FITTINGS BRADY'S KILTERS for the LADIES.**

**The Plumber, E. F. BRADY**  
581 HAY-ST.  
TEL. 240.

Day and Night.



1902 'Advertising', Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 7 December, p. 11. , viewed 02 Mar 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57219440>

Edward Foster Brady would continue on to be one of the forerunners of the plumbing profession. He was a strong advocate for public sanitation works such as the development of an adequate sewerage system for Perth and its surrounding suburbs and in many advertisements for his business Edward refers to himself as a 'sanitary engineer', and strongly advocated on the importance of pure clean drinking water and facilities<sup>9</sup>. Edward Foster Brady also became a Perth City Councillor in 1905 and continued in the role until 1909.



**Edward Foster Brady, City of Perth official councillor photograph, circa 1905.**

Courtesy of the State Library of Western Australia (B6370731/2)

It was amongst this skill and business acumen that Edgar Vernon Brady and his brothers and sisters grew up and would have been heavily influenced.

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<sup>9</sup> 1898 'Advertising', *The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1955)*, 21 September, p. 1. , viewed 2 Apr 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article82660028>

1908, 'Metropolitan Water Supply', *The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879-1954)*, 17 March 1908, p. 2, viewed 28 February 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article25718120>

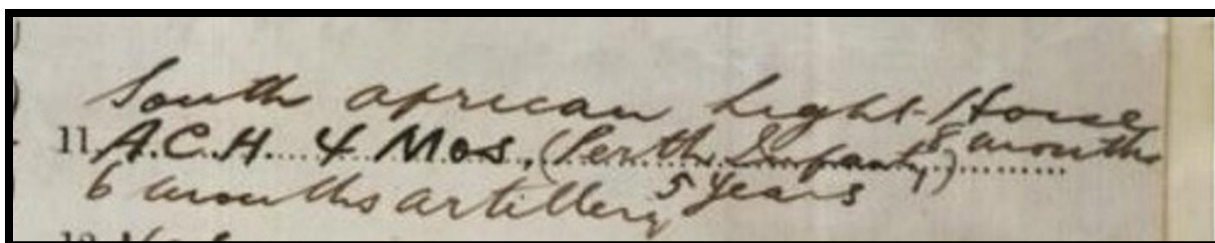
1909 'THE SEWERAGE SCANDAL', *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)*, 7 February, p. 8. (FIRST SECTION), viewed 11 Apr 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57590364>

1921 'METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY', *Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954)*, 13 March, p. 2. (First Section), viewed 11 Apr 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58041939>

It is not known if Edgar Vernon Brady would have continued in school upon moving to Western Australia in September 1896, as he was then 14 and a half years old, but by the age of 18 Edgar was off on what would have seemed perhaps at first like an adventure from a child's story book... War had broken out in South Africa in 1899.

## Boer War Veteran

A newspaper report from 1902, Edgar's attestation papers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Contingent for Service in South Africa and Edgar's later attestation papers for World War I, interestingly state that at age 19, Edgar was already a veteran of the Boer War having previously served in the 'South Africa Light Horse' for eight months<sup>10</sup>.



**Extract from Edgar Vernon Brady's World War I service record showing the answer to question 11 on the attestation form about prior military service.**

Courtesy of the National Archives of Australia

Prior to Federation in 1901, the responsibility for defence fell to each state and it was common for most young men to be part of local military units. So it was with Edgar who served in the Perth Infantry for five years, this service most likely taking place from soon after he arrived in Perth with his family in late 1896 and continuing up until 1902. It would have also been during these years that Edgar would have undertaken his previous service in the South African Light Horse. George Newbury in his book *The Australian Commonwealth Horse*, lists Edgar as serving in two units in the Boer War, that of the SALH (presumably South Africa Light Horse, but not clear) with the rank of Trooper, and number 2247. He also lists Edgar's subsequent service in the "4 ACH WA" which is 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse, D

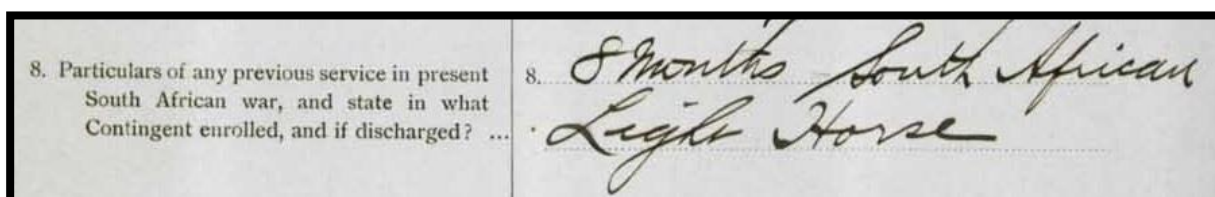
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<sup>10</sup> 1902 'SECOND FEDERAL CONTINGENT.', *Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1954)*, 8 April, p. 2. , viewed 02 Mar 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article89045823>.

1902, Brady, E. F. Attestation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Contingent for Service in South Africa, National Archives of Australia (B4418).

Brady Edgar Vernon : SERN 709 : POB Burra SA : POE Helena Vale WA : NOK W Brady Harriet Rose, Series No.: B2455, World War I service record, National Archives of Australia, <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3110561>.

Company (made up of men from Western Australia)<sup>11</sup> In the second listing, Edgar's service number was 2822. At point of writing, no other records could be found to shed further light on Edgar's earlier Boer War service.



**Extract from Edgar Vernon Brady's Boer War attestation papers showing the answer to question eight about previous service in the South African war (aka Boer War), January 1902**

Courtesy of the National Archives of Australia

As a member of D Company in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse, Edgar earned 5s per day as wages<sup>12</sup>. The battalion was kitted out with uniform and fully equipped with horse and saddlery provided. The company consisted of five officers and 115 others with 122 horses. The whole 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion consisted of "371 men with 401 horses, including 30 spare [horses]."<sup>13</sup>



**Hat badge of the Australian Commonwealth Horse (ACH), first issued in 1902.**

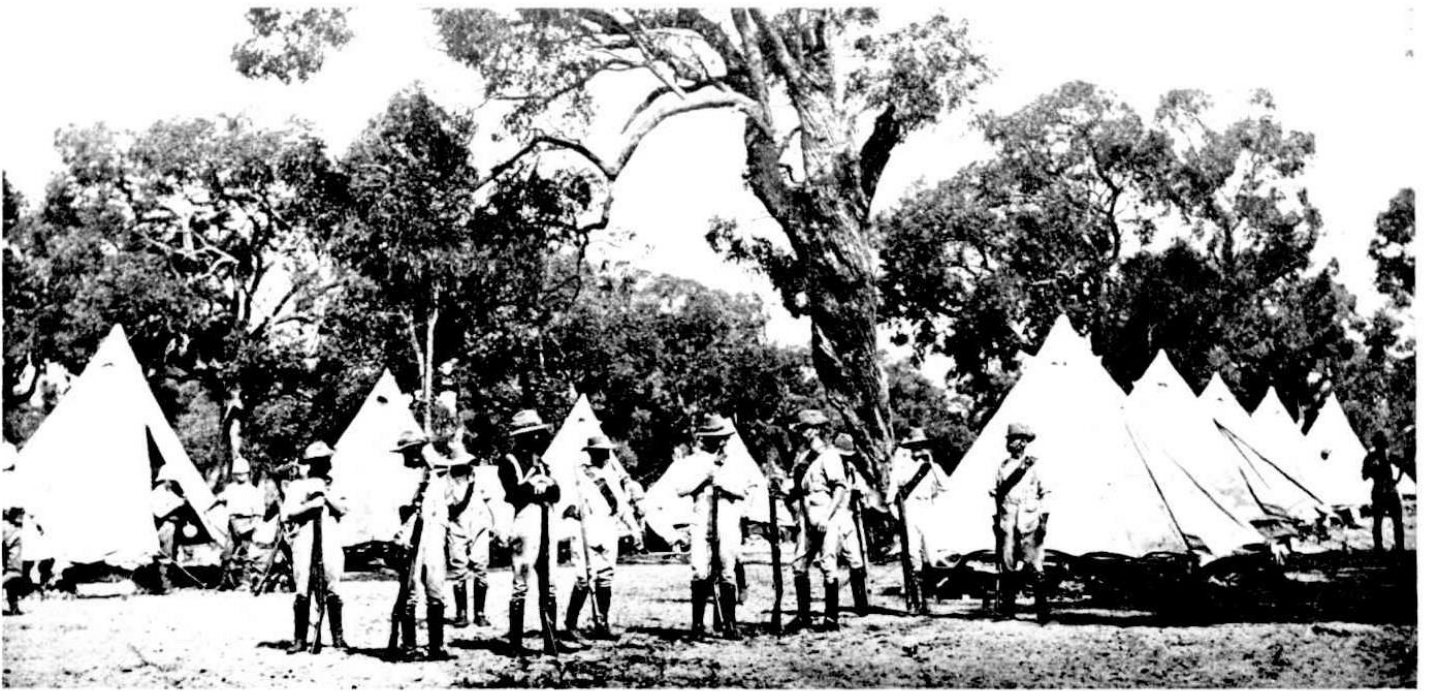
Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial

<sup>11</sup> Newbury, George 1990, *The Australian Commonwealth Horse*, G. Newbury, Daw Park, SA, p. 16.

<sup>12</sup> 5 shillings is roughly equivalent to 50 cents in decimal currency value. Reserve Bank of Australia, Pre-Decimal Inflation Calculator, <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

<sup>13</sup> Campbell, (Lieut-Colonel ret.) 1910, *History of Western Australian Contingents: serving in South Africa during the Boer War (1899-1902)*, Government Printer, Perth [W.A.].





THE CAMP AT KARRAKATTA

1902 'SECOND COMMONWEALTH CONTINGENT', Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 12 April, p. 30. , viewed 02 Mar 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article33219519>



PARADE AND INSPECTION BY THE GOVERNOR LAST WEEK.

1902 'SECOND COMMONWEALTH CONTINGENT', Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 12 April, p. 30. , viewed 02 Mar 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article33219519>



SIR ARTHUR LAWLEY PASSING DOWN THE RANKS.  
SECOND COMMONWEALTH CONTINGENT.

Photos by C. Walker, Forrest-street.

1902 'SECOND COMMONWEALTH CONTINGENT', Western Mail (Perth, WA :  
1885 - 1954), 12 April, p. 30. , viewed 02 Mar 2023,  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article33219519>

Edgar was a few weeks shy of his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday when he embarked for South Africa on the 7 April 1902 aboard the SS Englishman.



**Boer War  
troopship no. 60,  
SS Englishman,  
Fremantle, April  
1902**

Courtesy of the  
State Library of  
Western Australia  
(B1775451/1)



The war in South Africa had been raging for over eighteen months at the time of Australia's Federation in 1901 and official thought was that the conflict may well continue for some time yet. The newly formed federal government whilst making a fast decision to raise more infantry contingents to send to the fighting, were unable to prepare any of the battalions for embarkation prior to early 1902. As Newbury describes "The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions of the Australian Commonwealth Horse were the only units to see anything that resembled active service. They were engaged on general patrol duties and drives of the countryside carrying out sweeps for the Boers. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> contingents disembarked at the end of April 1902 at Durban and by the time they were organised and began to move inland to take up duties, peace was declared and they returned to Durban for the voyage back home. The remaining contingents [5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Battalions] did not even land in South Africa until after peace had been declared".<sup>14</sup>

Edgar, with his previous eight months service in the South African Light Horse and his time in the Australian Commonwealth Horse, would have received a Queens South Africa medal with the "South Africa 1902" clasp and others for which the records have at time of writing not been found.

## Football

At age 22 in 1904, records show that Edgar took on a well loved Australian past time, as his father had done before him, and played for his local Aussie rules football team. Edgar donned the 'black and yellow' jersey of the Highgate Hill Football Team in the junior state competition. Edgar was included in reporting as among the "most effective on the winning side"<sup>15</sup> Having started first as a player, Edgar went onto become a trainer for the team. The Highgate Hill team came second place in the league at least twice in the time Edgar was associated with the club.

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<sup>14</sup> Newbury, George 1990, *The Australian Commonwealth Horse*, G. Newbury, Daw Park, SA, p. 3.

<sup>15</sup> 1905 'FOOTBALL', *The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1955)*, 31 July, p. 8. (THIRD EDITION), viewed 2 Apr 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article82971677>

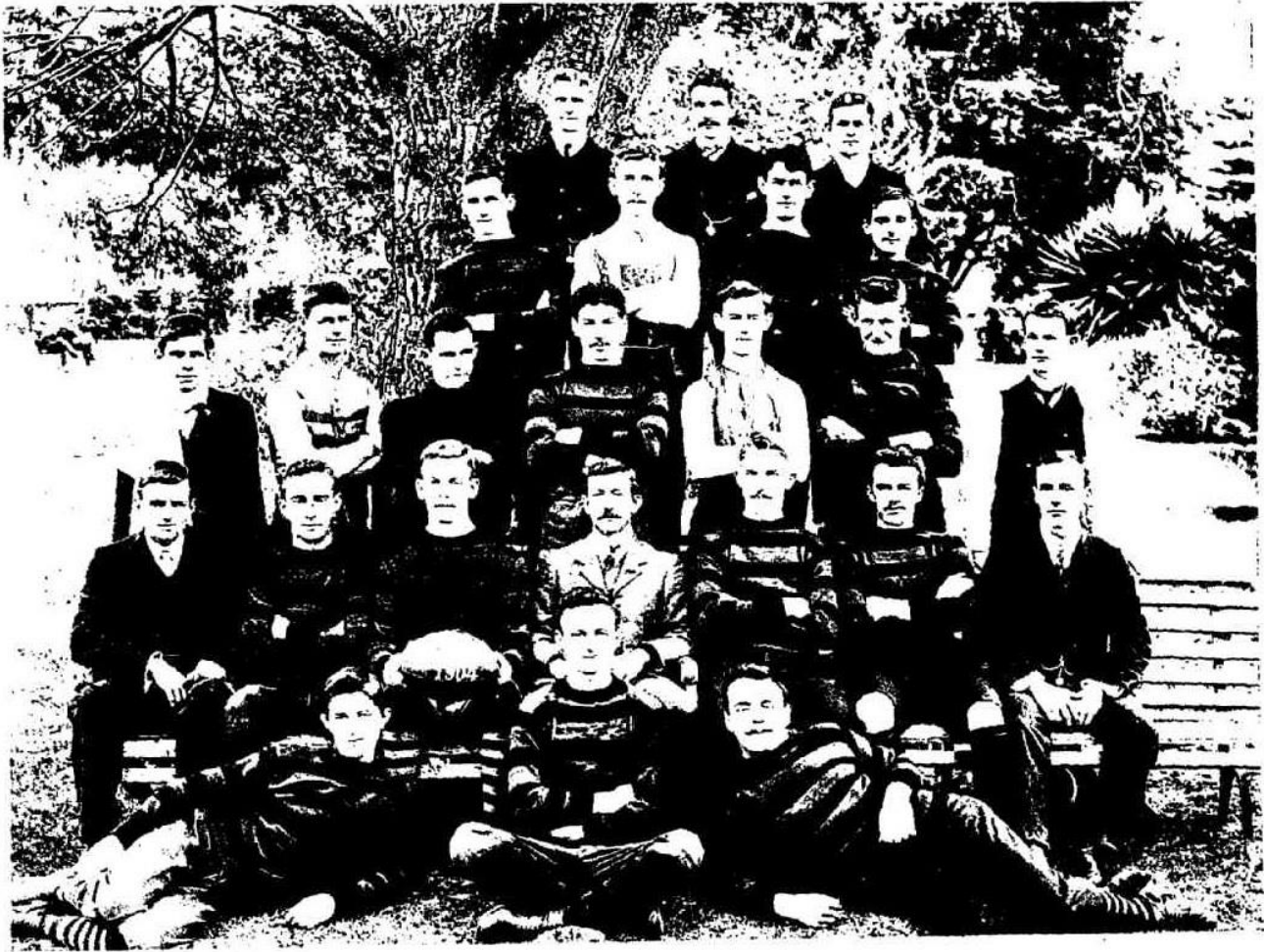


Photo by **HIGHGATE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB, RUNNERS-UP FOR THE FIRST RATE JUNIOR ASSOCIATION PREMIERSHIP.** (See Football.) A. J. Moulton, 501 Hay-street

Western Mail, Saturday 1 October 1904, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/3767308>.

### HIGHGATE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB.

(See Illustrations.)

We publish a group of the above Club, runners-up to the Union Football Club for the First-Rate Junior Football Premiership. The following are the names of the players. Front Row: L. Cherry, A. Jackson, O. Toll. Second Row: H. Jennings, A. Randall, A. Christie, F. Spencer, F. Hogan, B. Marshall, H. Bowley. Third Row: L. Gilbert (trainer), G. Hanna, H. Gregg, M. Gluck, A. Cleary, E. Brady, L. Hogan. Fourth Row: F. Strudwick, A. Gregg, R. Hanna, J. Bartlett. Back Row: R. Joyce, E. Parkinson, H. Sherwood.

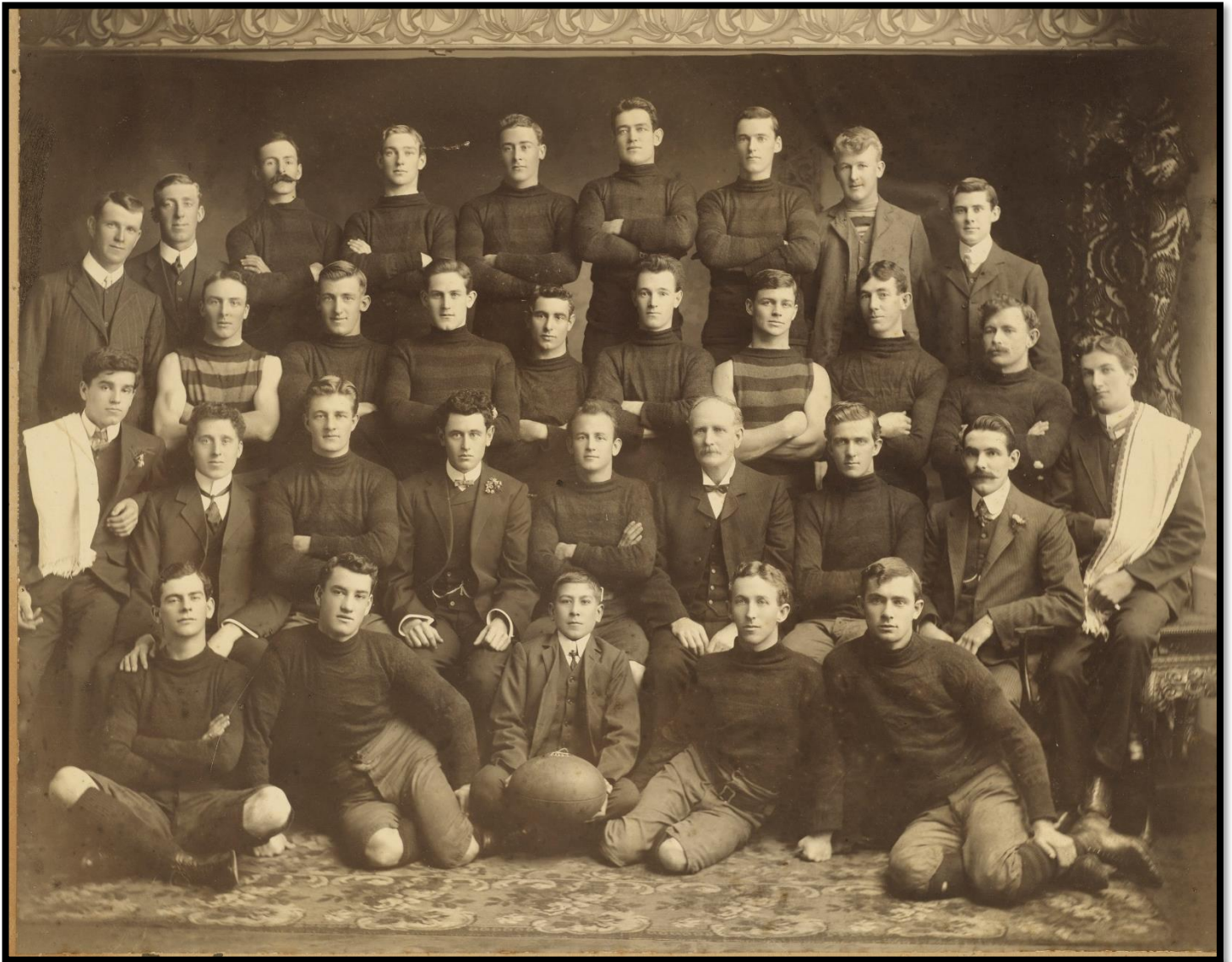
P. 38 of the same edition, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/38689110>





Photo by  
THE HIGHGATE HILL FOOTBALL TEAM, RUNNERS-UP IN THE FIRST RATE JUNIOR COMPETITION  
Bosker, W. street  
(See "Football.")

1906 'THE HIGHGATE HILL FOOTBALL TEAM FIRST RATE JUNIOR COMPETITION.', Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 13 October, p. 25. , viewed 04 Apr 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article38817728>



**Highgate Hill Football Club, Season 1908.** Edgar is in the back row, second from the left.

Courtesy of the State Library of Western Australia (BA2585)

***Right:* Close-up of Edgar Vernon Brady from the above photograph of Highgate Hill Football Club.**





## A Plumber's Life

The burgeoning plumbing trade in Western Australia was in the blood of the Brady family it seems, as the trade crossed at least three generations. Two of Edward's sons became plumbers and three of his sons became firemen, which at the time was a field closely connected to the development of plumbing in Western Australia<sup>16</sup>. Edgar and his brother Gilbert were plumbers and so was Gilbert's son Essington Foster Brady.

The work of a plumber in Edgar's time was very physical work, as brought to life in the book *In Good Hands: Plumbing in Western Australia from Settlement to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*:

"Plumbers typically supplied condensers, tanks and tools and equipment as well as providing services for the general public. Apart from working as employers or employees in private plumbing firms, plumbers also found work in industry and manufacturing, much of it serving the needs of the mining industry. These tended to be associated with tinsmiths, foundries and other metalworking trades.

"The choice of 'luxuries' for new buildings included galvanised iron sinks and troughs. These were built by hand, and then installed, by plumbers. By the 1890s, corrugated iron sheeting had begun to replace wooden shingles as roofing for buildings. Plumbers cut and bent the sheets for these new roofs, and also formed it into water tanks. Many of the plumbing tradesmen of this time simply camped onsite during the process of roofing and installing fixtures, only going home when the job was done. Plumbers also had a role to play in sanitation, even before deep sewerage came to Perth. Drains had to be constructed and maintained and sinks, baths and fittings had to be made and installed. The idea of having a room set aside as a bathroom emerged in the better parts of the town. By 1903, some business, clubs and private residents had installed their own septic tanks, but the substantial cost [of] £50 to £200 pounds meant that many people could not afford such services."<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Edwards, Sally 2004, *In Good Hands: Plumbing in Western Australia from Settlement to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of Western Australia, Maylands, WA p. 26

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*, p. 21.

1896, the year that Edward Foster Brady brought his family to Perth, was a preeminent year for the history of Plumbing in Western Australia, it being the year that the government began to take responsibility for water supplies and established the Metropolitan Waterworks Board. Under the auspices of which mains water supplies were extended to suburbs close to the Perth CBD including Victoria Park. 1896 was also the year that the first trade union for plumbers was established which was called the WA Plumbers Gasfitters and Tinsmiths Society, which was incidentally established only a year after Britain's first such establishment for plumbers, the English Master Plumbers Association. It would still take however until 1902 before the Perth Technical School established the first apprenticeship training course for plumbing.

It is not clear what official training was undertaken by Edgar, but his trade is recorded as being that of a plumber from as early as his 1902 attestation papers for service in the Boer War. Edgar's brother Gilbert declared on his World War I attestation papers that he had undergone a plumbing apprenticeship of five years in length with his father Edward Foster Brady. Presumably Edgar also trained under his father Edward, as the latter's business seems large enough to have supported more than one apprentice. The size and inclusion of illustrations in the advertisements for their father's business "The Plumber, E. F. Brady" also indicate that the business was doing well financially and reputationally.

Sources show that plumbers in the "latter half of the 1890s... would earn £3 per week, working eight hours per day, forty-eight hours per week. Municipal employees received slightly more. Apprentices received an average of 15 shillings per week".<sup>18</sup>

## Marriage

In 1909 Edgar married Rose Harriet HARDWICK and lived for a short time at 7 Glendower Street, Perth. By 1912 the couple were living in a house on a substantial block of land at the corner of Axon Avenue and Shepperton Road, Victoria Park. The property at the time was number 56, but is now 156, following the extension of Shepperton Road, to relieve the pressure of increased traffic on the parallel Albany Road.

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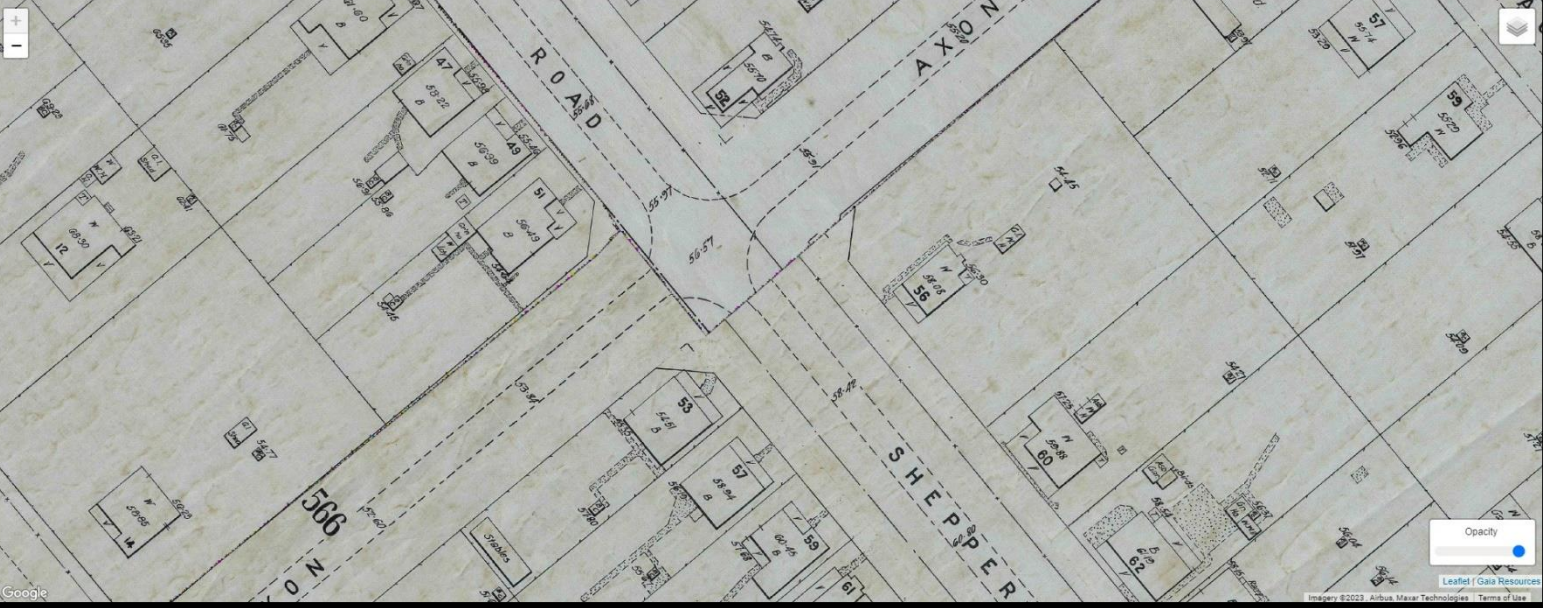
<sup>18</sup> Edwards, Sally, op. cit., p. 29.





Search for an address

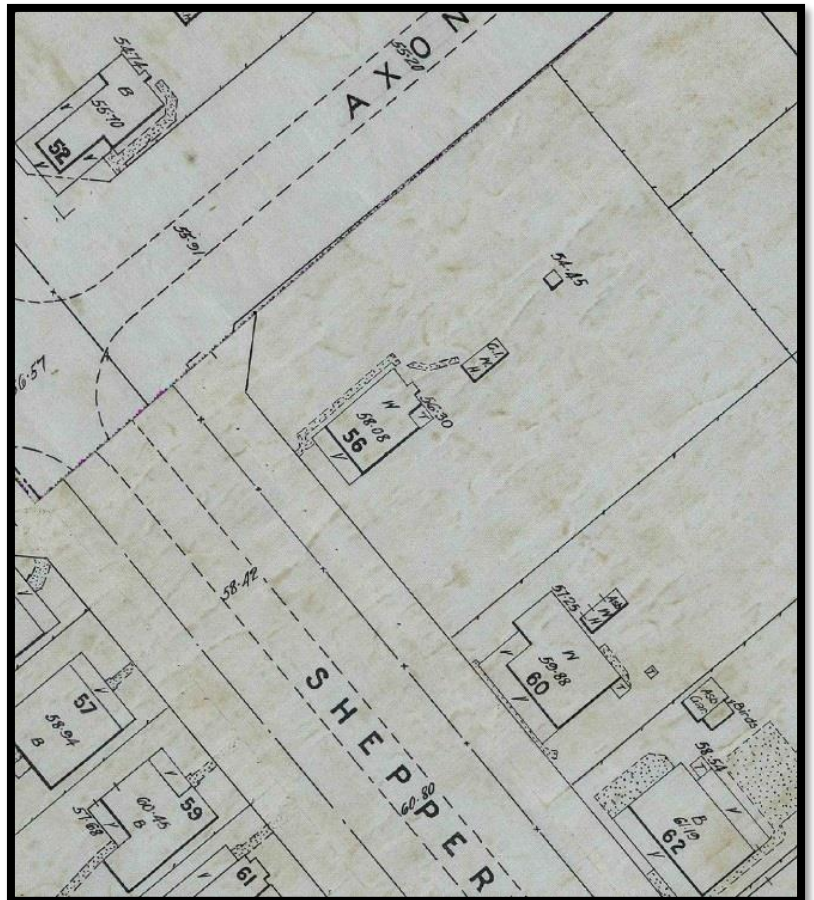
Address\*  
56 Shepperton Rd, Burswood WA 6100, Australia



**Above:** 56 Shepperton Road circa 1920's (now in 2023 cut into 2 Axon Ave and 156 Shepperton Road).

Courtesy of RetroMaps, created by the State Records Office of Western Australia

**Right:** Close-up of 56 Shepperton Road, Victoria Park as Edgar and Rose would have known the property.

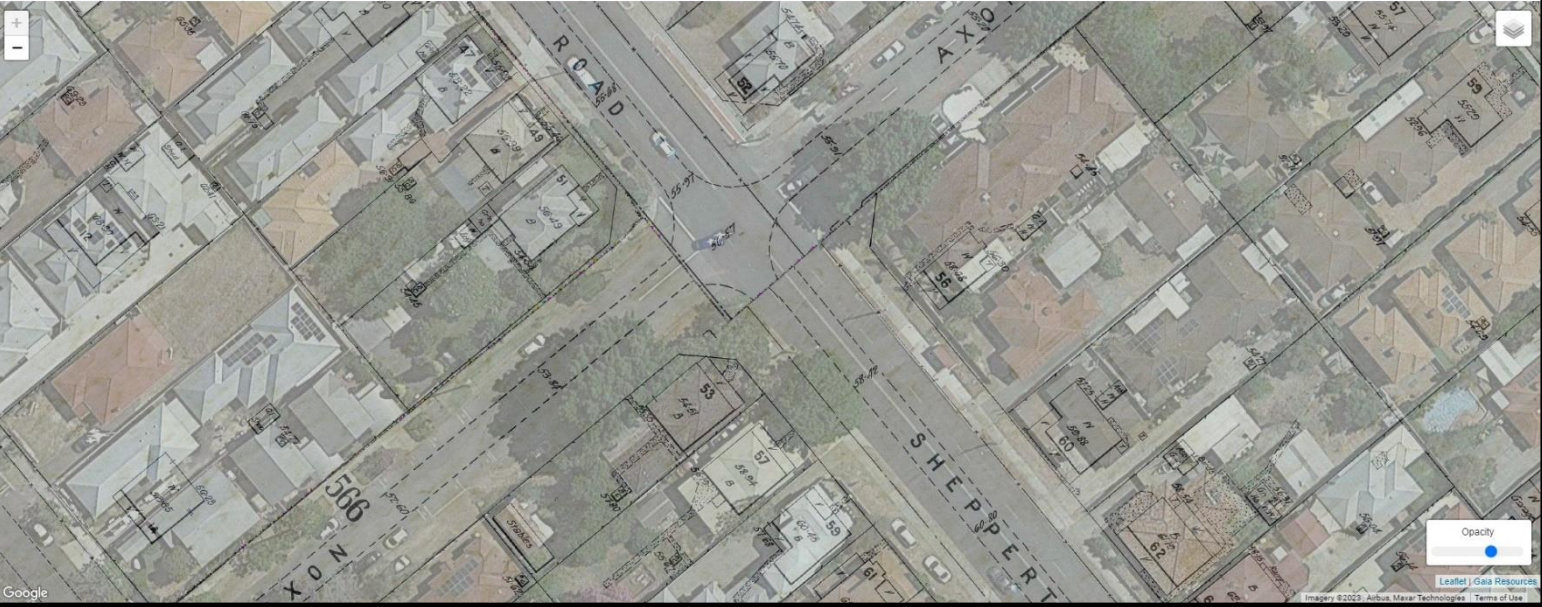






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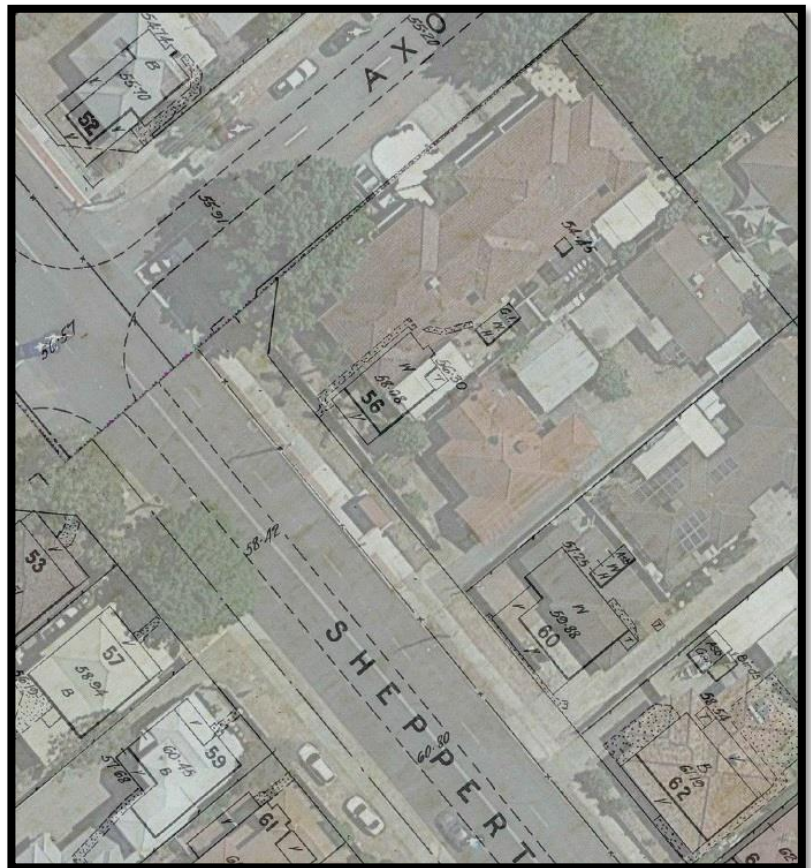
Address \*  
56 Shepperton Rd, Burswood WA 6100, Australia



**Above: 56 Shepperton Road, Victoria Park (now cut into 2 Axon Avenue and 156 Shepperton Road), with the opacity decreased to allow the underlaying of current aerial photography of the same area as the maps to be seen.**

Courtesy of RetroMaps, created by the State Records Office of Western Australia

**Right: Close-up of 56 Shepperton Road, Victoria Park, taken from above image.**





Sadly, no children were born to Edgar and Rose. They attended the Church of the Transfiguration in Victoria Park<sup>19</sup>, which was built on Harvey Street, circa 1896. Edgar is remembered on the church's honour board that hangs in St Peter's Anglican Church till this day.



**Church of the Transfiguration, Harvey Street, Victoria Park, circa 1914.**

Courtesy of the Local History Collection, Town of Victoria Park Library Service.

Edgar's affiliation with the Anglican church also extended to his being a chorister at St Georges Anglican Cathedral in Perth. The exact years of his membership of the choir however, is currently unknown.

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<sup>19</sup> This was an Anglican church and the building would be moved in 1922 to Leonard Street and be retained until the current St Peter's Anglican Church was built in 1935. Hunter, Lindsay 2004, *Town of Victoria Park Local History Collection Timeline*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn, Town of Victoria Park, Victoria Park, WA, p. 14.

## World War I Service

Edgar enlisted for service in World War I on 2 January 1915 he was 32 years old. He was given initially the rank of Trooper, regimental number 709 and was a member of the famed 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reinforcements. Also a member of this regiment was, the famed architect and first Mayor of the Municipality of Victoria Park, Captain Robert Thompson McMaster.

Trooper Edgar Vernon Brady embarked for training in Egypt onboard the HMAT A50 "Itonus" on 19 February 1915. His service record shows that he embarked for Gallipoli on the 16 May 1915. He was promoted to Acting Corporal during this time, but the exact date is not recorded, and this rank is only listed on one page in his service record, in every other instance he is referred to with the rank of Trooper.

Trooper Edgar Vernon Brady was at first declared missing in action following the Battle of the Nek on the 7 August 1915. This was the same battle in which Captain McMaster was also declared missing. In fact such was the horrific nature of the fighting in this battle, that 37 men were declared missing after the action. Not one body of these 37 men was found. A Board of Inquiry was held on the 9 August 1915, at Russell Top, Gallipoli Peninsula, by order of Lieutenant Colonel N. M. Brazier, the Commanding Officer of the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment. Major Alan Love, Captain H. B. Hamlin and Lieutenant P. P. Buckland heard the testimony of Lieutenant Colonel Brazier:

"After referring the matter to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Brigade Headquarters, he ordered the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment which he commands, to assault in 2 lines the Turkish trenches on the NEK, in an easterly direction from our trenches on Russells Top, although at this time, there [was] a murderous hail of shrapnel, machine gun and rifle fire from the enemy, and felt quite convinced few if any would return. He has personally seen with a periscope, a great number of dead outside our trenches, and has caused the recovery of all bodies, which up to the present he considers wise to risk further loss of life for.

"He is of the opinion that all the missing are dead, and further from the reports of the wounded who returned to the lines, and from personal observation with the periscope immediately after the assault that no single



individual of the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment reached the Turkish trenches. Subsequent to the assault the enemy were seen deliberately firing on the wounded"<sup>20</sup>

The unanimous decision of the Board of Inquiry was to declare:

"From the personal knowledge and belief of the two senior members of the Board, who took part in the assault, that no further evidence is required and are of the opinion that all those missing are killed in action"<sup>21</sup>

73 men in all from the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse were killed in action on this day, the 7 August 1915. Charles W. Bean, Australia's official war historian, writes of the manner in which the men at the Battle of the Nek died "In a hopeless situation after a failure in communications caused a supporting artillery bombardment to end seven minutes early, the men of the Victorian 8<sup>th</sup> Light Horse regiment had attacked first, only to be mown down by the massed Turkish rifles and machine guns which the communication breakdown had allowed to move back into defensive positions literally only a few metres from the Australian line."

"The 10<sup>th</sup> went forward to meet death instantly, as the 8<sup>th</sup> had done, the men running as swiftly and as straight as they could at the Turkish rifles. With that regiment went the flower of the youth of Western Australia, sons of the old pioneering families, youngsters – in some cases two and three from the same home – who had flocked into Perth at the outbreak of war with their own horses and saddles in order to secure enlistment in a mounted regiment of the A.I.F. Men known and popular, the best loved leaders in sport and work in the West, then rushed straight to their death."<sup>22</sup>

Edgar's wife Rose Brady didn't stay long at their home in Shepperton Road following his death, moving to Leederville circa 1917. Rose remarried in 1929 in Fremantle to a man named Edward FISHER, but they would sadly have no children either.

Edgar's brothers, Gilbert, Essington, Rex and Ernest Wood BRADY would all serve in World War I. Gilbert Brady served as a Private in the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Machine Gun Battalion, was taken as a prisoner of war in April 1917, but returned to Australia at the beginning of 1919. Essington BRADY served as a Sergeant in the 32<sup>nd</sup> AIF in World War I and then served also in World War II as a Captain, surviving both wars.

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<sup>20</sup> Brady Edgar Vernon : SERN 709 : POB Burra SA : POE Helena Vale WA : NOK W Brady Harriet Rose, Series No.: B2455, World War I service record, National Archives of Australia, <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3110561>, pp. 15-16.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid, p. 16.

<sup>22</sup> Bean, C.E.W., *The Official History of Australia In The War Of 1914-1918: Volume II, The Story Of Anzac: From 4 May, 1915 To The Evacuation*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1938, pp. 617-618, 616.

Rex BRADY enlisted for World War I in February 1918 and soon after deserted. He survived the war but little more is known. The fifth Brady brother to serve their country was Ernest Wood BRADY who was a Corporal in the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the AIF. Ernest sadly died of wounds received in action in France on the 3 March 1917.

## Legacy

Edgar's name is inscribed on The Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey which commemorates the 3,268 Australians and 456 New Zealanders who have no known grave. It also appears on other memorials within the Town of Victoria Park and in Kings Park in Perth. A memorial tree was also planted in the Avenues of Honour in King's Park in tribute to Edgar by his father in November 1920.

On Anzac Day in 1931, a stop on the pipe organ at St George's Anglican Cathedral in Perth was dedicated to 12 former choristers of the cathedral, of whom included Trooper Edgar Vernon Brady.

Following rebuilds and changes made to the cathedral's organ in 1958/59 and then in 1994 when it appears

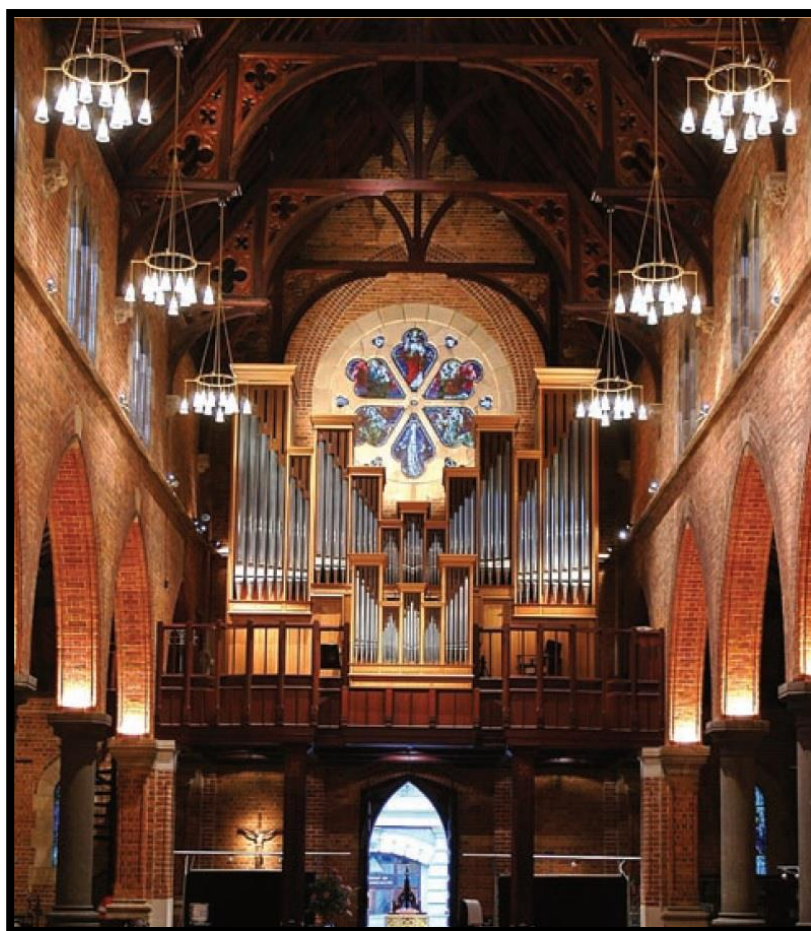


to have been replaced, a new dedication service for the edition to the organ of a 32' contra bombarde stop took place on the 5 September 2010<sup>23</sup>.

Joseph Nolan, the current Organist and Master of the Choristers at the Cathedral, writes in the commemorative booklet on the organ that was produced for the 2010 dedication that: "The gravitas of this 32' contra bombarde stop will honour the 12 fallen soldiers to whom it is dedicated each time its roar is heard – giving eternal thanks for their sacrifice to the glory of God." One can sit in the pews, close their eyes and feel the very floor rumble with sound at the same time as you hear the tremendously sized pipe that is the 32' contra bombarde stop. Surely this is a 'living' legacy in sound.

**The Great West Organ, installed in 1993, and recently refurbished, 38 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA.**

Courtesy of St George's Cathedral.



## Lest We Forget Trooper Edgar Vernon Brady

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<sup>23</sup> St George's Cathedral 2010, *Dedication of the West Organ Bombarde 32': In memory of 12 former Cathedral Choristers who died on active service during the Great War*, St George's Cathedral, 38 St Georges Terrace, Perth, Western Australia.



# Family Tree

## Edward Foster BRADY

Edward Foster BRADY Married Harriett Ann WHITE, 30 October 1880 (District: Burra, SA; Book/Page: 125/362) Groom's father: Samuel Henry BRADY; Bride's father: James William WHITE. Groom aged 21. Bride aged 18. At marriage Edward Foster's occupation listed as "Tin Smith"

Harriet Ann WHITE died 17 June 1893, Terowrie, South Australia

### Children:

- Foster James, born 26 July 1881, Kooringa, South Australia (District: Burra; Book/Page: 266/53)
- **Edgar Vernon BRADY**, born 31 May 1882, Kooringa, South Australia (District: Burra; Book/Page: 284/350)
  - **Married: Rose Harriett HARDWICK, Perth 1909** (Reg. District: Perth, Reg. No. 100269)
  - No children registered to the couple as having been born or died.
  - **Died:** 7 August 1915, Battle of the Nek, Gallipoli, Turkey. No known grave.
  - Rose Harriet BRADY remarries in 1929 - Edward FISHER, Fremantle, WA (Reg. No. 2700250). No children registered to the couple as having been born or died. Rose Harriet FISHER died: 1941, Perth W.A. (Reg. No. 102071), Father: George HARDWICK; Mother: Jane ROWAN.
- Gilbert, born 10 January 1884, Kooringa, South Australia (District: Burra; Book/Page: 318/210)
  - Occupation: Plumber, apprentice to his father E. F. Brady for five years.
  - Married: Harriet
  - Children: Essington Charles Richard Foster; Dorothy Harriet and Gilbert Isaac
  - WWI Service: Private Bert Brady (277) 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Machine Gun Battalion: 3.3.1916 – POW in Germany from 11.4.1917 repatriated to England 25.12.1918. Returned to Australia 10.4.1919.
  - Died: 1966, aged 82, Hollywood (Reg. District: Perth: Reg. No.: 101341; Reg. Year 1966)
- Ray, born 10 June 1889, Terowie, South Australia (District: Burra; Book/Page: 440/278)
  - Died 19 July 1889, (District: Burra; Book/ Page 179/494)
- Hilda White, born 25 June 1885, Terowie, South Australia (District: Burra; Book/Page: 354/401)
- Essington, born 29 October 1887, Terowie, South Australia (District: Burra; Book/Page: 406/336)
  - Occupation: Clerk
  - Married: Elsie May
  - WWI Service: Sergeant Essington Brady, 32<sup>nd</sup> AIF – 27.7.1915-
  - WWII Service: Captain (W244151) 8.7.1940 – 12.11.1943.
  - Died: 1948, aged 60, Hollywood (Reg. District: Perth, Reg. No.: 101565 (Reg. Year: 1948)
- Violet, born 19 August 1890, Terowie, South Australia (District: Burra; Book/Page: 464/121)
- Rex, born 17 May 1893, Terowie, South Australia (District: Burra; Book/Page 522/107)

- Ernest Wood, born 03 October 1895, Burra, S.A. (District: Burra; Book/Page: 572/371)
  - Occupation: Fireman
  - WWI Service: Corporal (2105) 8<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion. 22.6.1915 - Died of Wounds received in Action, 3 March 1917, France.

#### **Edward Foster BRADY second marriage after becoming a widower**

Edward Foster BRADY married Ellen Adelaide WOOD, 6 December 1894 (District: Hindmarsh, SA; Book/Page: 181/930) Groom's father: Samuel Henry BRADY, Bride's Father: William WOOD. Bride aged 22 at marriage. Groom aged 36.

#### **Children:**

- Ernest Wood, born 03 October 1895, Burra, S.A. (District: Burra; Book/Page: 572/371)
  - Occupation: Fireman
  - WWI Service: Corporal (2105) 8<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion. 22.6.1915 - Died of Wounds received in Action, 3 March 1917, France.
- Dorothy, born 1897, Perth W.A. (Reg. No. 2928, Reg. Year. 1898)
- Edward Foster, born 1912, Perth W.A. (Reg. District: Perth; Reg. No.: 1379, Reg. Year: 1912)
  - Occupation: Fireman
  - Died: 1990, aged 77, Nedlands (Reg. District: Perth; Reg. No.: 101052; Reg. Year 1990)

**Died:** Edward Foster BRADY aged 80, 1939, Subiaco W.A. (Reg. District: Perth, Reg. No.: 100846; Reg. Year: 1939)

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