



# LANCE CORPORAL HENRY HOWARD RICHARDSON

SERVICE NUMBER: 7811  
UNIT: 16TH BATTALION (INFANTRY)  
DATE OF DEATH: 11 AUGUST 1918  
COMMEMORATED ON: PANEL 81 AT AWM  
CONFLICT: FIRST WORLD WAR, 1914-1918



Georgia Richardson  
Reynella East College

## *Early Life*

Henry “Harry” Howard Richardson<sup>1</sup> was born on the 15 September, 1878, in the country town of Pekina, South Australia. His father, Thomas Richardson, migrated to South Australia in 1859 and Harry’s mother, Eliza Messenger, migrated from Croydon, England, in 1849, on board the ship ‘*Marion*’<sup>2</sup>.

Harry’s parents married in Clare Valley before their ever-increasing family numbers of 10 children<sup>3</sup> forced them to acquire new land.

From Clare, they set out to take up new land in the Hundred of Pekina, where Harry was born.

At this time, it was announced to the South Australian government that land would be made available to pioneering families on the far west coast of South Australia. In true pioneering spirit, they took up the challenge and began the long and tiring trek through the Gawler Ranges. For Harry, who was 12, this was an experience of his short lifetime!

Harry and his family settled on their block of land in the Hundred of Bagster<sup>4</sup>. Tragically, the family lost everything in a fire. They relied on family and friends from the community for support. Harry began to learn the skill of what it means to watch out for friends and neighbours, in other words ‘your mates’.

By 1907, Harry decided to take land at Three Springs<sup>5</sup> in Western Australia. Now 29, Harry’s life experiences had shown him how to love and work to establish small communities in remote places and how people must rely on each other for their survival.



A map of Three Springs which is a small country town where Harry moved to start his own life on a farm.

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<sup>1</sup> Henry Howard Richardson is my Great Great Grandfather’s, Nathaniel G Richardson, eldest brother.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix I

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix I

<sup>4</sup> The Hundred of Bagster is an area of land that was formed by the government. It was created for people who were settling in the west of South Australia near Ceduna and Penong

<sup>5</sup>Reference for picture above

(<http://maps.travelmate.com.au/mapmaker/mapmaker.asp?Type=reset&Suburb=Three+Springs&state=WA>)

Georgia Richardson

## *Time on the Western Front*

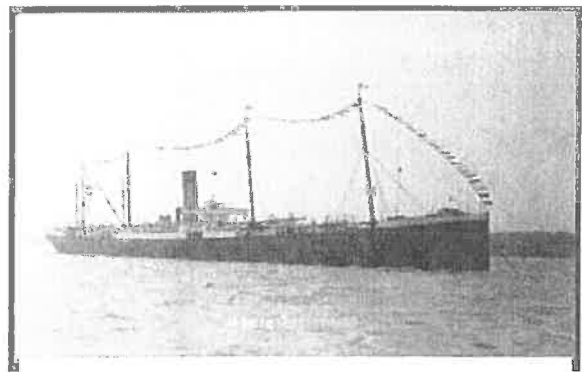
The Great War began in 1914 and many boys had enlisted. These young boys, some even having to lie about their age to sign up, did not have any knowledge of what war would be like, so they were just going for the adventure and excitement.

By 1917 the war was progressing badly in Europe for the soldiers and the “cry” went out saying that reinforcements were urgently needed. On 22 March, 1917, Harry successfully applied to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force in Perth, at 39 years old.

Harry would have known exactly what was ahead of him and how terrible the conditions were on the Western Front. He would have read the newspapers and he would have heard of locals dying in war. Putting that aside, he carried on to fight for his country, showing true “Aussie Spirit”.

On the arrival at the Blackboy Hill military camp, he was appointed to the 26<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements and the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

He embarked from Sydney for active service abroad on the HMAT A7 *Medic* on 1 August, 1917. He then disembarked in England and after further training in Codford, Wiltshire he proceeded to France on the 16 January 1918. He started as Private 7811 in the Australian Imperial Force’s 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France.



The HMAT A7 *Medic* weighed 12,032 tones. This ship was well known by the Australian forces because it was a key troopship for Australia during the war.

The Western Front was a field of muddy trenches caused by the torrential rains that would have been appalling to work in<sup>6</sup>.



There was a lack of fresh water, causing dehydration. Several diseases spread among the soldiers such as footrot and gangrene. The brave soldiers put up with the horrendous conditions and continued to do what they were there for.

The 16<sup>th</sup> battalion took part in a bloody warfare. They spent the majority of their time in Belgium advancing to the Hindenburg Line which stretched from Lens to Verdun in France. The battalion along with the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt, but Harry luckily survived. In mid 1918 the battalion had helped stop the German Spring Offensive.

July 4, 1918, was an important day for Harry. It was the battle of Le Hamel. This battle was planned by Sir John Monash who was Australia’s Military commander of the First World War. It included 7500 Australians who worked with Americans for the first time during the war. This battle lasted only 93 minutes, with the attack resulting in a brilliant success. Around 2000 Germans were killed or wounded and over 1600 were captured.

<sup>6</sup> Troops that were in the trenches suffered with the weather. The winter of 1916-1917 in France was the coldest and wettest winter in 20<sup>th</sup> century. The trenches flooded in the wet, sometimes even to waist height. (Baker, 1996-2010) The picture above gives us an idea to what it was like. (The Western Front)

The victory of Le Hamel was huge in Paris. Clemenceau, who was the Prime Minister of France at the time, went to thank Monash and the Australian troops. Clemenceau said,

*“When the Australians came to France the French people expected a great deal of you. We knew you would fight a real fight but we did not know that from the beginning you would astonish the whole continent”<sup>7</sup>.*

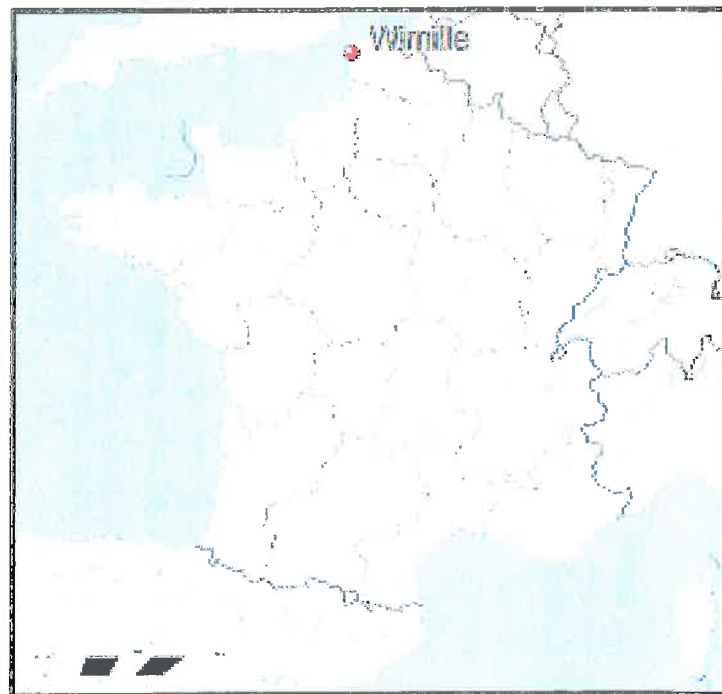
This proves how hard the Australians worked. They performed new tactics and skills to fight and actually win the ‘Battle of Hamel’.

Harry was promoted to Lance Corporal on 14 July, 1918. Only two days later on July 16 he was awarded the Military Medal<sup>8</sup> *‘for bravery in the field’*.

Harry was wounded in action in France on 8 August, 1918 and was admitted to hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound to his head.

Sadly, he died from these wounds three days later on 11 August in Wimille, France<sup>9</sup>. He was buried at the Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais in France.

Harry’s name appears on the Three Springs Honour Board<sup>10</sup> so we can still remember to this day how brave he and his fellow soldiers were.



Map of Wimille, Pas de Calais

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<sup>7</sup> (Government, Australian)

<sup>8</sup> See Appendix III

<sup>9</sup> Reference for picture above (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wimille>)

<sup>10</sup> See Appendix IV (War Memorials of Western Australia, 2000)

## *My Own Meaning of the ANZAC Spirit*

The ANZAC Spirit is something very special to me and many people. It is where we look back and remember the brave and courageous soldiers that fought for our country. As Australians it comes with courage, determination, loyalty and mateship and has given us the pride and laughter that is instilled in us today.

Recently I read a newspaper article talking about three Australian soldiers who were shot by a rogue soldier in Afghanistan.

It says in the article,

*'The trio will be remembered for their loyal leadership and kind nature, their dedication to the army, and their passion for life'<sup>11</sup>.*

Personally this proves to me that the ANZAC Spirit is still very much a part of our modern Australian Forces and this spirit will be carried on forever by our soldiers.

It amazes me to know that the Aussie troops do such a brave job, but they can still have a light hearted spirit about it. The sacrifices these men and women make to leave their families and to risk their lives for the sake of protecting our country and the world is truly exceptional. The ANZAC Spirit does not just live within our soldiers but it comes from within every Aussie. This extends on to our communities, schools and on sports fields. This is now a significant part of our Australian culture.

ANZAC Day is a day that always brings a tear to my eye and a shiver down my spine. Family and friends all gather around our local war memorials and pay respect to our soldiers who sacrificed so much. As we listen to the 'Last Post' and bow our heads for the minute's silence, we remember our soldiers who we have lost. The Australian flag is raised and we sing our national anthem with pride and unite together in honour of the fallen soldiers.

The following quote has a special place in my heart. I feel the spirit of the fallen soldiers want to be remembered for their sacrifices that gave us our world today....

*"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today" – Kohima Epitaph<sup>12</sup>.*

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<sup>11</sup> This is a quote out of a newspaper article I found in the South Australian Sunday Mail (Rosie Squires & Josh Whittington, 2012)

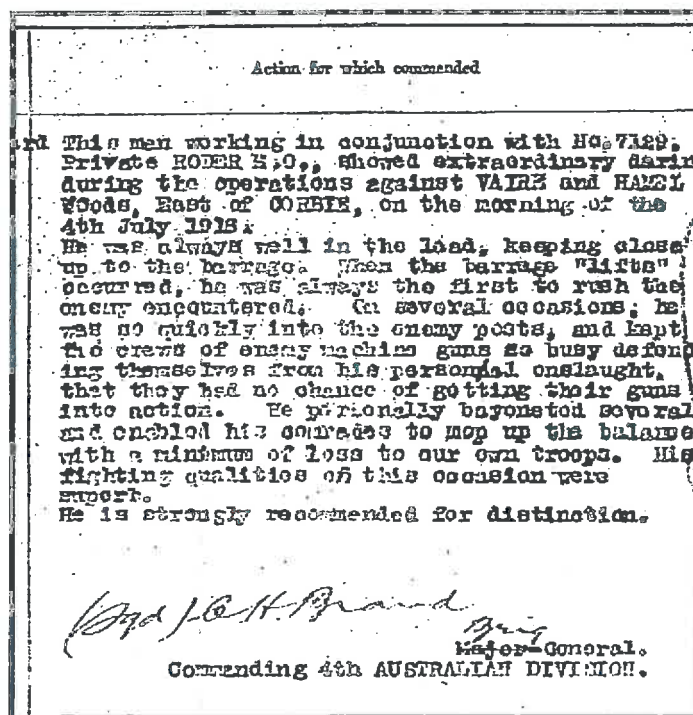
<sup>12</sup> John Maxwell Edmonds who was an English Classicist. He put them together as well as 12 other epitaphs for World War One in 1916. (Edmonds, 1916)

## How My Soldier Reflected the ANZAC Spirit

Harry and all the other Aussie troops showed great courage and mateship, showing a basic response to another person's need. This is what made the ANZAC Spirit such a traditional and special part of Australia and what makes us true blue 'Aussies'. It was such a courageous thing to do, to go late into the war knowing exactly what was going on and he was also at a much older age than the majority of the soldiers.

In Harry's citation it says,

*'He personally bayoneted several, and enabled his comrades to mop up the balance with minimum of loss to our own troupes. His fighting qualities on this occasion were superb<sup>13</sup>.'*

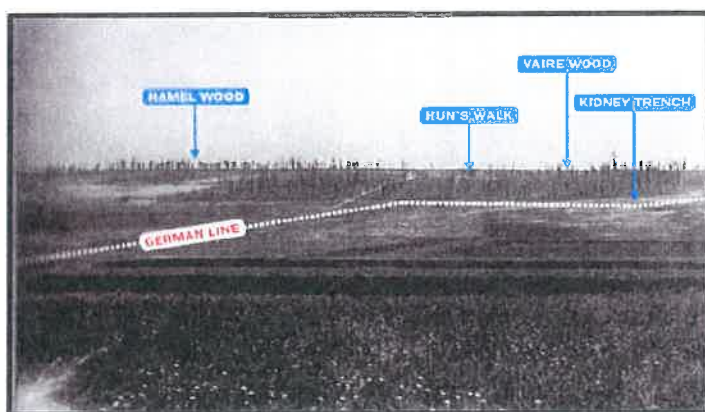


Harry's citation for the Military Medal

The citation makes it clear that Harry was a leader who loved to look out for his mates and take risks. He was a typical 'Aussie'. He went beyond normal response to plan a strategy of what was best for others.

I often wonder, 'Why would Harry want to go to war when he would have known what he was in for?'

I realise now he would have wanted to help his mates, he would have wanted to stand up proud and be able to say, "he fought his hardest for his country." This is how he reflected the ANZAC Spirit, and what a way to show it!



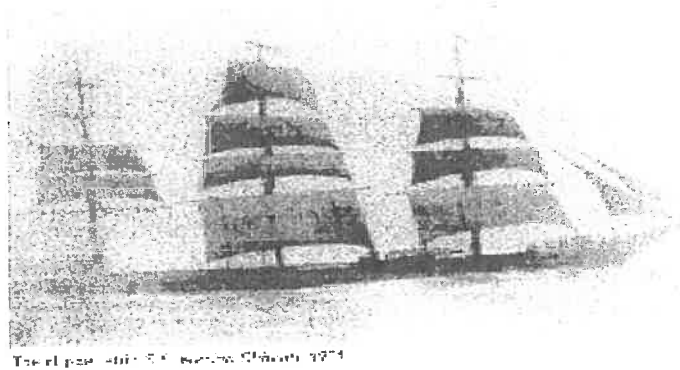
The area over which the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion assaulted (Pederson, p 365)

<sup>13</sup> This is from Harry's citation when he won his Military Medal. See Appendix III for more.  
Georgia Richardson



## Appendix I – Family & Early Life

Eliza Messenger was born on the ship '*Marion*'. It left from Plymouth, England in October 1848 and arrived in Port Adelaide, South Australia in February 1849.



Harry was one of 10 children. He had 6 brothers and 3 sisters.

William Hall Richardson  
20 Nov, 1868 - 21 Oct, 1945

Thomas Edward Richardson  
6 Jun, 1870 – Unknown

John Arthur Richardson  
31 Jul, 1872 – 8 Jul, 1928

Nathaniel George Richardson  
1 Aug, 1874 – 25 Dec, 1954

Rebecca Susanna Richardson  
3 Sep 1876 – 14 Nov, 1945

**Henry “Harry” Howard Richardson**  
**15 Sept 1978 – 8 August 1918**

Edward James “Jim” Richardson  
22 May, 1881 – 29 Sept, 1917

Louisa Olive Richardson  
14 Sept 1882 – 24 Nov 1897

Frederick Burnett “Fred” Richardson  
27 Dec, 1884 – 1 Jan, 1974

Alice May Richardson  
15 Aug, 1890 – 21 Dec, 1960

# Appendix II - War Records

*Handwritten:* No 4 Section, CENTALLY INT., AUSTRIAN, MILITARY FORCES.

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 7811 Name in full Richardson Surname RICHARDSON  
Christian Name Henry Howard  
Unit 26/16  
Joined on 21/6/17 26 Rfts 76 Btn

*Handwritten:* BLACKBOY HILL CAMP, 11/11/17

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? Henry Howard Richardson  
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? Blair  
near the Town of ...  
in the County of South Australia  
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) Yes  
4. What is your age? 37 1/2 years  
5. What is your Trade or Calling? Farmer  
6. Are you, or have you been an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? No  
7. Are you married? No  
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) Robert Richardson, Blair, South Australia  
The answer to this question shall not be construed as to the nature of a will.  
9. What is your permanent address in Australia? Blair, South Australia  
10. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge No  
11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous Service? No  
12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? No  
13. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother) — Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which, together with pay, would reach eight shillings per day? Yes  
14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small-pox and enteric fever? Yes

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

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date 22/3/17 H. H. Richardson  
Signature of Person Enlisted.

*Handwritten:* 22/3/17

\* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.  
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.



Description of Henry Howard Richardson on Enlistment.

Age..... <u>27</u> years..... <u>6</u> months.	DISTINCTIVE MARKS.  <u>mole behind</u> <u>at knee</u>
Height..... <u>5</u> feet..... <u>11 1/2</u> inches.	
Weight..... <u>180</u> lbs.	
Chest Measurement..... <u>37</u> ..... <u>39 1/2</u> inches.	
Complexion..... <u>Dark</u>	
Eyes..... <u>Brown</u>	
Hair..... <u>Dark Brown</u>	
Religious Denomination..... <u>Episcopal</u>	

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I HAVE examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz.:—

Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; hæmorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for active service.

Date.....22.....3.....17.....

Place.....Perth.....

[Signature]  
(Signature of Examining Medical Officer.)

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him

to.....26/16.....

Date.....26.6.17.....

Place.....Black Bay.....

[Signature]  
Major  
Commanding.....

For Camp Commandant

✓

$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-v^2/c^2}} \right) = \frac{v}{c^2} \frac{dv}{dt}$

Біженці в Україні

W. H. Richardson

劉先生說：

June 16, 1923

This slip to be returned to the Officer in Charge, Base Hospital, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, Victoria, within seven (7) days.

8.12.04/2.12.04—2.12.04

## Army Form W. 3121.

811-TV6378/A7M 500m 9/76 G & S E. 589. FORM W. 3121/3

44th Aust. Infantry Brigade. 48th Australian Division. AUSTRALIAN Corps. 5th July 1918. Date of Recommendation.

File No. (if any)	Unit	Regt. No.	Rank and Name	Action for which commended	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
16th Batta- lion, Males	16th Batta- lion, Males	101	Private Henry Howard HUGHARDSON	This man working in conjunction with HQ 7189. Private ROGER H.O., showed extraordinary daring during the operations against VALLEY and HARRY WOODS, East of COBBIE, on the morning of the 4th July 1918. He was always well in the lead, keeping close up to the barrage. When the barrage "lifted" occurred, he was always the first to rush the enemy encountered. On several occasions, he was so quickly into the enemy posts, and kept the crews of enemy machine guns so busy defend- ing themselves from his personal onslaught, that they had no chance of getting their guns into action. He personally bayoneted several and enabled his comrades to mop up the balance with a minimum of loss to our own troops. His fighting qualities on this occasion were superb. He is strongly recommended for distinction.	<i>W. G. H. Brand</i>	Military Medal	
11th Division Corps	11th Division Corps	11.7.18	Passed 10/7/18	17.7.18			



## Appendix IV – Grave Site & Honour Board



Harry's grave site



War memorial in Three Springs



War memorial in Three Springs

## Appendix V – Newspaper Article

The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 31 August 1918, page 5

### DIED OF WOUNDS.

Bennett, Beverley Laxton, Bedfordale, previously reported wounded.

Campbell, Edwin David, Moora, previously reported ill.

Cope, Arnold Samuel, Perth.

Harris, Carl Francis, England.

Gunner Hartung, Ernest, Pingelly.

Hayden, Alfred, York, previously reported wounded.

Lieut. Kell, Bertram Thos., North Fremantle, previously reported wounded.

2nd-Lieut. Lintott, Arthur Newton, Collie.

Sergt. Miller, Frederick Edward, England, previously reported wounded.

Richardson, Henry Howard, Penong, S.A.

Tyler, Chas. Havelock, England, previously reported wounded (second occasion).

Wheatley, Thos. Harold, England, previously reported ill.

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[http://www.dva.gov.au/commems\\_oawg/OAWG/war\\_memorials/overseas\\_memorials/france/Documents/Battle\\_Le\\_Hamel.pdf](http://www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/OAWG/war_memorials/overseas_memorials/france/Documents/Battle_Le_Hamel.pdf)

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